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July 2023

Maj. O'Dillon Turner (Ret.), interviewed by Jill Hansen, Part 2

O'Dillion C. Turner

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Interviewer's tape no.: NAFOH Accession no.:

Interviewer: Jill Hansen Address: 82 Little River Rd.
Hampton, NH, 03842

Interviewee: Odillion C. Turner Address: Main Rd. Orono, Maine 04473

Place of interview: Turner's home Date: November 9, 1977

Other people present: Turner's wife

Equipment used: Sony

Tape: Brand: Scotch Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): 7/8 (Side 2): None

Brief description of contents: Mr. Turner, 82, has lived in Veazie all his

life. He is familiar with the folklore in the area and talks about his own impressions of people and places in the early 1900's. He knew Dingbat Prouty personally, and had seen Aunt Hat when she was in her late 50's.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	<i>Taukberg</i>	<i>Taukberg</i>	
	035	035	Opening announcement
		045	He was born August 28, 1895, in Veazie. He has lived here all his life, except for a few trips around the country. Veazie has always been his voting residence. During his military service, he traveled extensively in the U.S. and Europe.
		060	He was born in his home. A hospital was the last place in the world to be born -- that's where people went to die.
		070	[Mr. Turner refers to some notes][Tape recorder is turned off while he gets organized] Veazie is the smallest town in Penobscot County. It was formerly the seventh ward of Bangor. It contained about four square miles -- 2,560 acres. It was first mentioned by Gov. Pownal of Massachusetts, before the revolution, when he visited the area while building Fort Pownal, the present-day Stockton Springs. He refers to cleared land on the left for more than four miles. This would be the area always known as the Plains. Legend says that this area was cornfields of the Tarratine Indians. It is very likely the ancient Indian town of Negas.
		095	During the last quarter of the 17th century, there was supposed to be a French trading post at the place, the English call Fort Hill. The early settlers found cavities of several cellars and the remains of stone chimneys. Later, various articles of hardware and cooking utensils were found, which must have been of European manufacture.
	<i>0100</i>		

*Mass.
Bangor
Penobscot County
Veazie
Europe*

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			Some reports say the place was destroyed by the Mohawk, others, by colonial soldiers. All descriptions agree that the location was the present Thompson's Point.
		110	The present village came into being because of the falls int the river, which offered abundant waterfalls for the saw mills. During the last quarter of the 19th century, these mills wer some of the largest on the river. The town was incorporated March 26, 1853, and was named for General Samuel Veazie who was the principle owner of the mills. The town at one time had four churches; congregational, methodist, free baptist and Calvinistic baptist. Fraternal Orders included the Knights of Honor, Veterans of Husbandry, that is, the Grange, Good Templers and the New England Order of Protection.
		130	<u>General Veazie</u> was a native of Maine, born over in the western part of the state, in the Portland area. In the early days, he was a seaman and he got h&s financial start dealing with merchan- dis, buying up mills in this area. He was at one time a personal owner of the Veazie Rail- road. He owned the mills in Old Town, Orono, and Veazie. His hom& was in Veazie and is still stan- ing, just above School Street.
		145	<u>Veazie</u> owned most of the town, particularly the mills. The town was quite set off from Bangor because of a matter of taxes. <u>Veazie</u> persuaded the legislature to allow it to be set off. Later on he moved from Veazie back to Bangor where he died. A very good description of him can be found in the 'History of Penobscot County' in the Bangor library.
		160	In 1860, there were 893 inhabitants serviced by six General stores, three cooper shops, a black- smith's shop, a carriage shop, a shoe-maker, a hotel, called the Everett House, and the lumber mills. A cooper shop makes barrels, parti- cularly for shipping lime, but they were also used for flour and apples. There was a differen- between the barrels used for flour and those used for lime, but they were all made by the same people.
		175	Three of the cooper shops were located as follow- [see accompanying map] #1 -- across from the river at the foot of Lemon Street. The building has been gone for a good many years. #2 -- The second one is at the end of Maple Stre #3 -- The third is on the river side of Veazie S All three of these building have since been destroyed.

Orono
Old Town
Penobscot County
Veazie
Portland

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	0200	190	In about 1890-95, the cooper trade started tapering off. The use of barrels went out of fashion in favor of wooden boxes, and cardboard boxes when the wood got scarce. Can goods, etc., were handled in boxes.
		200	In about 1890, the Veazie mills were sold to the public works company who built the present electric generating station. It was then partly a waterfall and partly a steam plant. At approximately the same time, the Morris Canoe Company was formed, which, during the early 1900's, was the largest of it's kind in the world later surpassed by the Old Town Canoe Company.
		210	The Veazie Railroad never was located in any part of the present town. There was also a <u>Thayer</u> Medicine Company there that was well-known throughout the state, G.M. Fogg Remedy Company. <u>Fogg's</u> home was the old General Veazie House, now occupied by his nephew, by the name of <u>Turner Robert Turner</u> .
		220	Veazie had many advantages as a place to grow up. The schools were small, there was no high school and there were nine grades instead of the present eight. Children were divided into three different schools; the primary, the intermediate and the grammar school. There were many dedicated teachers. When the children left the ninth grade then, they seemed much better prepared than high school seniors today -- at least <u>Turner</u> was.
		235	He had an outstanding teacher for his last three years by the name of <u>Nelson</u> . She was a large, tall, rather heavily built woman, in her early thirties. She not only maintained discipline, but she did it without ruffling feelings. She never pushed her pupils, but made them want to learn. Most of the teachers were women. From Veazie, <u>Turner</u> went on to Orono High School and the University. He graduated from the University with the class of 1918.
		255	<u>Turner</u> was in both the First and Second World Wars. He left in the spring of his junior year for military service, and served throughout the war. When he came back, he still had a semester's work before getting his degree.
		265	Transportation in those days was either by the steam trains that ran passenger service all the way to Mattawaumkeg, with a local between Old Town and Bangor, or by an electric railroad which ran right along Main Road -- the trolley. There was also horse and wagon. With all that transportation, they traveled all over the area. It only cost a nickle to go to Bangor and a nickle to go to Orono. During his high school days, it only cost a nickle to go both ways, to Orono and back.

Orono
Bangor
Old Town
Mattawaumkeg
Veazie

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		275	<p>The electric railroad opened out in 1895, the year <u>Turner</u> was born. Their first cars were four wheels, which were rather close together. The bulk of the trolley extended out over the wheels, making it teeter [<u>Turner motions with his hands</u>] The track wasn't in too good shape either. A particular trolley car went up to the University at 8:00 each morning, which teetered worse than the others. At night, this trolley car was left in Old Town, in the car barn. One night the trolley car and the car barn went up from a charge of dynamite. He'd rather not say who was responsible for the incident. It was a college prank. No one was ever caught for it or did time. It was a talked about event. A modern car was soon bought.</p>
	0300	295	<p>In the mill days, Veazie was known as a tough town. The mill crowd gave the town a bad name. As soon as the mills closed, and there were regular, local inhabitants, the town changed completely. It became a desirable town to live in</p>
		310	<p>There was no great competition between the mill workers and the farmers. The mill workers were a come-and-go group. Like the woodsmen, when they went on a tear, they might do most anything. About halfway between the Electric Plant and Oliv Street, there was a big boarding house. It was sort of a 'beehive' but it's been gone a good many years. Some mill workers boarded around with different families.</p>
		325	<p>Everyone seemed to know everyone else, although the mill crew was always coming and going. The local inhabitants went back three or four generations -- their ancestors had been there. There were fraternal organizations for entertainment, as well as the churches. There were theatres and organizations in Bangor. Fraternal organizations were taken more seriously.</p>
		335	<p>In theory, there were no taverns or drinking saloons. In practice, there were about three places. The Everett House, <u>Billy Townsend's</u> over on School Street and <u>Aunt Hat Foyers</u>, next to the river and opposite the cemetery, were all frequented by the locals.</p>
		340	<p><u>Aunt Hat's</u> was a notorious place. <u>Aunt Hat</u>, as <u>Turner</u> remembers her, was a woman in her late 50's or early 60's. She was one of the biggest hearted women that ever lived. A man off the drive or out of the woods who got drunk was likely to get rolled for his money. On the other hand, she would take care of men who were down and out or sick, until they were back on their feet. He's heard many people say that regardless of her debits or sins, <u>Aunt Hat</u> had credits enough to balance them.</p>

Bangor
Veazie

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		355	He never knew <u>Aunt Hat</u> in her earlier life, and was an old lady when he first saw her. She was a very impressive person. He remember some of the turn-outs she had with a span of black horses and silver mounted harness and a two-seated open carriage -- it was a millionaires outfit. She died in poverty after her house burned down, around 1912 or 1914. She lived a number of years after that.
		375	There was a slight class difference in Veazie. Some were a little better off economically or better educated than others. Some were well-bred and some were not. Distinctions were never carried to any extent. When it came to something affecting the entire town, it was one for all and all for one.
	0400	385	There were two ways to get to <u>Aunt Hat's</u> place. Just below <u>Sandy Ives</u> is a canoe factory -- just 25 or 30 feet below that beyond the new house is a road that went down to her place. The present name of the Road is Hobson Ave.. [<u>Mr. Turner</u> was unsure of the name, but his wife confirmed i. <u>Mrs. Turner</u> says that streets didn't have names posted back in <u>Aunt Hat's</u> time. The other way to get to <u>Aunt Hat's</u> was by the Shore Road. [<u>He</u> locates <u>Aunt Hat's</u> with an X, marked #4]. The old Shore Road was the original road that the settlers put in, before the main road was put in. It followed right along the bank of the river. The Shore Rd. crossed the railroad [at #5] and came right up by the new power plant on Thompson's point. The Shore Road finally hit the Main Road again above Lemon St. [approximately at #6]. This last section was gone during <u>Turner's</u> time, but from the end of Veazie St. [###] south, it was well-traveled.
		420	The ice business was only a local affair. Several people cut their own ice and one of the stores made a business of delivering ice, but it was a one-man business.
		430	From 1900 to about 1905-06, the lots were laid off across from the Veazie cemetary and they had auctions there. This was Veazie Park and there was a great deal of fanfare, and people from all around bought house lots and streets were laid out. Only one was ever built, called Hobson Avenue. There was only one house built there, just north of the railroad. People lost interest in Veazie Park and it petered out. In later years there was considerable legal maneuvering to establish title to the various lots, where they were and who owned them. Most people just abandoned them.
		445	He remembers hearing the older people discuss

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			<p>something about a man dropping land deeds from a balloon over Veazie. It was a get-rich-quick scheme.</p>
		455	<p>The overhead bridge in Veazie now, near the church came in to being because the Main Road crossed the railroad track in two different places. One, just below the village [#8], and again down at the Bessel crossing [#9]. There was a watchman on about 18 hours a day up until midnight. Not only horse traffic, but electric cars had to cross. They had a red ball on a 20-foot pole which the watchman raised when a train was coming. Everyone was supposed to stop until the train went by. There were two or three near misses, and as traffic increased, as well as the expense of hiring a watchman, the Main Central Railroad, the Town of Veazie and the State of Maine got together to build a by-pass. The overhead bridge that is there now was a second-hand bridge used over in the western part of the state by the Maine Central Railroad. They renewed the bridge over there and brought it to Veazie to save money. The present road that turns off State Street [Main Street] that goes into the village was built between 1900 and 1905. <u>Turner</u> remembers it distinctly because he used to ride with one of the men who helped build the present roadway. They had to haul a lot of fill to raise the level of the road high enough to get over the tracks.</p>
	0500	480	<p>Between 1900 and 1905, they replaced the original manned crossing [Mr. Turner begins to refer to some notes] On November 29, 1932, a man was killed at the curve on the Bangor end of the bridge, followed by several more accidents in the next few months. On April 25, 1934, two men were killed at the private crossing to the Jones Farm. That crossing was closed off immediately. The Jones Farm was located down a road, which was two houses up from the present church [#10] The Jones Farm was the recently demolished stone house.</p>
		495	<p>The death of the first man started the idea for the by-pass, which is the present State Street. In the Fall of 1934, the new road by-passing the village opened as a Maine Highway. The upper crossing [#9] above Lancaster's Store, lost the watchman at that time.</p>
		500	<p>His first car was in 1920 -- an Overland. He used to do a great deal of hunting, but deer didn't seem any more plentiful. They seem to come into the fields more these days, for some reason. [He gestures] Deer come into the fields right behind his house, across the brook.</p>
		515	<p>His family did not grow most of its own food.</p>

Bangor
Veazie

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			<p>They bought their groceries, stocking up in the Fall. His old cellar always contained a bin of potatoes, a barrel of salt pork, a 5-gallon jug of molasses and flour was bought by the barrel. He can't imagine his mother buying less than a barrel of flour. Usually, his family had one or two cows and a horse or two. They had their own milk and cream, as well as a pig butchered in the Fall. His father bought things that needed to be grown. His father was a mill-wright. He didn't have time for gardening.</p>
		530	<p>His mother spent most of her time at home. <u>Mr. Turner</u> had a half-brother and a half-sister, but he was the only child of a second marriage. His siblings were much older than he, and were married and gone by the time he was 10 or 11.</p>
		535	<p>The biggest fire that he remembers (or has at least been told that he was there), burned several houses on a very windy day. One caught fire and swept a path down through the village. That was in 1897 or 1898. The old folks told him he stood and watched it, but he doesn't remember.</p>
		545	<p>The second large fire was when the Morris Canoe Company burned. The fire wiped the establishment out completely. Everyone was satisfied that the fire was accidental. But, there was a boy down there who was mentally deficient and everybody believed that he set the fire. Nobody could prove it. However, he was placed in the insane asylum shortly afterwards. The fire was in about 1919 to 1920.</p>
		555	<p>He knew <u>Dingbat Prouty</u> -- too well. He lived near the boat factory below <u>Sandy Ives</u>. He had a little house of his own. When <u>Turner</u> knew him, he was in his late sixties or early seventies. He lived by himself in his little two-room house, which was by no means a shack. He kept the place clean and did all his own cooking. People didn't care for him much. He was often referred to as the man who killed the Injun, or the man who drown the Injun.</p>
		560	<p>Up on the West Branch, above Millinocket, there's some very dangerous, fast water called rips. On the drives in those days, they had boat crews with one man in the stern and one man in the bow. They worked together like a team. Because it was so dangerous running those rivers, they had to know exactly what the other person was going to do and when he was going to do it. On this particular day, there were two Indians in one of the boats. He thinks the stern man's name was <u>Sabattus</u>. There was another Indian whom he had worked for a long time -- but for some reason, this other Indian didn't make the run. <u>Prouty</u>, who was a young man at the time,</p>

West Branch Pen. River
Millinocket

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			was a very cocky sort of chap. He kept accusing the Indian of being afraid to run the falls. Finally, he volunteered to take the other Indian place, but he did the wrong thing at the right time -- the batteau tipped over and the man in the stern drowned. The crew ran down the river and found <u>Prouty</u> sitting on a log filling his pipe, although he knew at the time that the other man had drowned. They always held it against him.
	0600	580	The most accurate version of this story can be found in <u>Fanny Hardy Eckstrom's</u> 'Penobscot Man'. She knew these people personally.
		585	To the best of his knowledge, <u>Prouty</u> was never married. There were alot of <u>Proutys</u> in Veazie. He was, however, one of <u>Aunt Hat's</u> customers. [tape is turned off while interviewer contemplate
		595	There was quite a bit of drinking. Prohibition was theoretically in effect, but Bangor was fille with saloons and dives. They were periodically raided and in business again the next day. Most of the liquor was shipped in from Massachusetts. The Prohibition was very much laughed at. Only a very few people supported it. He's sure the great majority did what they would have done anyways. He doesn't think anyone brewed their own until about World War I. It was wide open down at Haymarket Square in Bangor, in back of Freeze's store. Every other door was a liquor shop then. Just beyond that was what they called the 'Devil's Half-acre', which was wide open -- everything that the river drivers and lumbermen desired was available.
		615	There was always a dance going on somewhere. If it wasn't in Veazie, it was in Orono, Old Town, or Hampden. They were very popular and usually held in various halls, particularly the Grange. <u>Frank Hall</u> had an orchestra and he used to run a series of dances, in Veazie one night and somewhere else the next -- he covered the entire area.
		620	There were four churches in the area. However, people in the town weren't particularly devout. A few persons supported the churches by regular attendance, but a great many more supported the church financially and were irregular in attendar This was when various religious organizations were popping up everywhere throughout the state-organizing a new religion was the popular thing to do. O ther than the present Congregational Church, the others lasted only a short time. The old Baptist Church, [#11] was down on Olive Street and that was eventually taken over by the New EnglandOrder of Protection as a Lodge Hall.

Hampden
Old Town
Orono
Mass.
Bangor
Veazie

Interviewer's tape #

NAFOH Accession #

Catalog pg. # 9

1199 1

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			When they disbanded, it was sold and torn down and a private house was built on the lot. The other two churches hired their places. One was down on the Shore Road, to the north of the hydro-electric plant. This was later taken over by the town and made into a fire station. [#12] Calvinistic Baptist was held mostly in private houses. The Baptist Church on Olive Street had a belfry. The fire station was changed to a private residence. [tape is turned off while he gets his magnifying glass]
		650	The Depression didn't hit Veazie too hard. Most of the people were in permanent jobs, although they might have gotten a reduction in pay. There was no great hardship. There was unemployment in Bangor, but not to the extent that one reads about in mill towns. Veazie was very fortunate in the 1930's
	656	660	Closing announcement.

Bangor
Veazie

Interviewer's tape no.: NAFOH Accession no.:
 Interviewer: Jill Hansen Address: 82 Little River Rd. Hampton, N.H.
 Interviewee: O'Dillion Turner Address: State St., Orono
 Place of interview: His home Date: 11/29/77
 Other people present: His wife, Elizabeth
 Equipment used: Sony
 Tape: Brand: Scotch Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8
 Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of tape used: (Side 1): (Side 2): All

Brief description of contents: Mr. Turner, 82, elaborates on his first interview, and also introduces a few new stories about Aunt Hat. He speaks of the ferry to Eddington, Veazie house types and Veazie in general. He also talks about his own marriage, related customs and the treatment of Canadians in the area.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		040	Opening announcement
		050	[Questions are started, but he asks the tape to be turned off while he gets some notes]
			The G.M.Fogg Remedy Co. manufacturing plant and home were just north of School St. in the big two-story house, on the river side of the main road [#13 on map].
		070	He spent 30 years in the army as a reserve officer. He served in two world wars. Going off to war was the 'only' thing to do -- <u>Mr. Turner</u> volunteered to go. In World War I, he went as an enlisted man, but he decided if he ever had to go again, he'd go as an officer. He earned his commission and was a National Guard officer with a dual status -- he was also a reserve officer. In World War II, he was a National Guard officer, a captain. They were taken into the service as National Guard troops and from there went overseas with the Eighth Bomber Command.
	0100	095	At that time, the air corps was very small, but it ballooned overnight to enormous proportions. They had no administrative officers with any experience to do executive work. <u>Turner</u> was immediately transferred, because he had a great deal of schooling -- he's graduated from 6 different army schools. He did administrative work at the headquarters of the Eighth Bomber Command, and did much staff work. After the war, he still holds his commission, although he's retired.
		115	Veazie has always had a reputation for sending a large number of enlisted men into the service.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			[He flips through some notes] To the people to- there is no comparison of emotional involvement the people felt in the two world wars. The men didn't stop to decide whether they 'believed' in what they were doing, nor did they take time to think it out, they just went. That was the thing to do. Even as far back as the Aroostook wars, there was a large company of men mostly from Veazie. This war was in 1838-39. <u>Capt. Fish's</u> company from Veazie participated with 3 officers, 14 non-sommissioned officers and 64 privates. Their pay began on the 20th of February in 1839 and ended on April 1, 1839. It was a short war. Previous war, such as the War of 1812, show no records of men from Veazie, because the town was then only a part of Bangor. In the Mexican War, there's no separate record of Veazie, but in the Civil War, the town furnished 115 credits. A credit could be either a man who went into the army personally, or a man who was hired to go as a substitute for someone else.
		140	
		160	A census of 1860 polled 146 and a total populati 893. The difference between the 115 credits and <u>Turner's</u> list of 78 men who served is explained by unlisted sustitues. Many of these substitute and enlisted men, <u>Turner</u> knew personally.
		175	He had many friends, but no one he would parti- cularly call a best friend.
		185	Some of his information is from the history of Penobscot County, and he also checked some names in the Veazie cemetary.
	0200	200	Veazie changed from an independent mill town to its present state, as a bedroom town for Bangor, in about 1890, 5 years before he was born. His father was a mill-wright, who built mills, insta ed machinery and helped with maintenance- what today would be called a mechanical engineer. Hi specialty was water-wheels. He's installed them from Caribou to Bangor. When a company wanted to build a mill, they would hire their mill-wri
		215	His father started with the old Veazie mills, just above the power station. He stafted to learn the cooper trade, but there wasn't enough money in it, and he saw better chances as a mill-wright. He worked as an assistant to the old mill-wright and later took his place. He learned the job on the job. Then he moved to the Morrison Company for 28 years. These were lumber dealers in Bangor, operating their own mills on Kenduskeag Stream. His father was hired out from time to time when other mills needed installation of water-wheels or machiner. He was sent to Caribou, Bull's Eye Bridge and other places. [The "Bridge" is located by the sight of the Subaru dealers in Bangor, near Freeze's Dept. store.]

*Kenduskeag Stream
Caribou
Penobscot County
Bangor
Veazie*

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		250	There weren't many Canadians in the area, but there were a few "P.I.'s", or Prince Edward Islanders. They were also called Bluenoses. They were mostly woodsmen or river drivers who came down seasonally. They could be distinguished by their diction -- poor English, and needed to say only one word [Tape is turned off while he tells a short anecdote].
		265	It was a farming community on Prince Edward Island -- a beautiful place. It's still rural, and being 9 miles out to sea, it doesn't have much communication.
		270	It wasn't at all dangerous for women and children to travel in the early 1900's. People today might not believe that women and children were treated with great respect in those days. A woman could walk down Exchange St. in Bangor and across the bridge to Brewer and never have a disrespectful look. She wouldn't dare to do that today. There was a time, not too long ago, when the lower end of Exchange St. changed very rapidly. From 1870 to 1910, a woman was perfectly safe.
	0300	290	The men coming off the drive would gather at the foot of Exchange St.. They'd get drunk, and chances were they'd get rolled before they sobered up. The native people -- respectable women and men -- had no part in it.
		300	It was desirable to own a house instead of renting. The first thing a man did after he required a family was to also require a house. As far as the location, the desirability was determined by the character of the neighborhood. For example, the center of the village was considered the best part of the town. There was a group of people who lived "out back" out on Stillwater Ave. and on the Chase Rd., who were considered "a step down the ladder." [15]
		315	The oldest house in town is a matter of opinion. There are some very old houses in town, but everyone has a different idea about the oldest. There are two distinct types of houses in the town: Those started and built like a Cape Cod house, and those that came later and were two stories. As people accumulated wealth, they bought a house. Two-story houses are scattered about the town. <u>General Veazie</u> probably had the most elaborate house in town. His son, on Olive St., probably had the next most elaborate house.
		340	The houses will either be parallel to the street or end to the street. The older Cape houses have the door in the center with a hallway through the house and a room on each side. In time, an ell is usually built on the backside. The later houses were rarely parallel to the street.

Cape Cod

Interviewer's tape #

NAFOH Accession # 1199 2 Catalog pg. # 4

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		350	The later houses were end to the street. In probably nine out of ten of them, the door will be on the right-hand side. The parlor was to the left as you went in the front door, and the stairs to the right. Next to the parlor, going to the back, was the sitting room, then the dining room, and a kitchen at the very back.
		370	Sometimes newlyweds moved in with his or her parents, but usually the house wasn't big enough for the two families and they soon moved into their own quarters. If a man didn't have a house when he was married, they rented an apartment or a house. A house was the first thing a couple would buy as soon as they had the money.
		380	He met his wife in High School and they were classmates. They were in the class of 1914, and in 1918 he got orders for over-seas. They were married before he went over-seas. They've been married almost 60 years.
	0400	390	There wasn't a local newspaper in Veazie, but there were two in Bangor, what is now the Bangor Daily News and the old Bangor Commercial. In his childhood, the Commercial was the number one paper, but it went out of print 30, or 40 years ago.
		400	There is no comparison between the discipline he had when he was a child, and the discipline today. In those days, a child was expected to respect his parents and learned very early in life to do that. The disrespect that children show now just didn't exist in those days. If disrespect did crop up, it was taken care of immediately [<u>Claps his hands together</u>]. They weren't cruel, but discipline was maintained. He has very little patience with young people today. There isn't any discipline today.
		415	There were no lawyers in the town, but there were many in Bangor because it was the county seat. Arguments were usually settled without resorting to the law. Lawyers were used for clearing title to property. There were many home remedies used, although there were doctors in Orono and Bangor. They frequently made house calls, but people very rarely went to the hospital -- usually just for an operation. His maternal grandmother had a remedy she used on her children and grandchildren. It was a colic medicine made by gathering a ground shrub and boiling it with molasses. It was extremely effective.
		435	

*Veazie
Bangor*

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		435	<p>The winter of 1917 and 1918 was the worst one he can remember. That's the year the lower Penobscot Bay froze over so they could travel with a horse and sleigh from Castine to Rockland. The river near Veazie was frozen solid and the snow was extremely deep. In his high school days, the winters seemed much worse. He went to school on the electric cars that passed in front of his present house. He has seen times when, from the seat of the electric car, the level of the road was right even with his eyes. They didn't plow the roads in those days, and when the electric car went through, they threw part of the snow one way, and part of it the other. The horse teams and big, heavy sleds packed it down. In every storm, the level of the road rose. By February, the level was nearly up above the electric cars. It was a mess in the spring. For three to six weeks, traveling was really a chore.</p>
		455	<p>In 1918, his mother died in the flu epidemic. It was really rough, called the Spanish Flu, and was spread all over the country. He had it himself, and was in the hospital for several days. People were dying like flies right and left. A man in his outfit came into the barracks one noontime and in less than 48 hours, he was on the slab in the morgue. [Tape is turned off while he gets some notes]</p>
<p>Orono Penobscot Bay Castine Rockland Veazie</p>	0500	470	<p>There was a road from the main highway, across the railroad, down to <u>Aunt Hat's</u> establishment. Electric cars took care of most of the traffic in the area. There was a station in Veazie, but it didn't serve her purposes. She built a waiting room of her own, just below <u>Sandy Ives'</u> house in the hollow. He was about 6 or 7 years old, standing in his living room, when a gang of whooping, yelling students went by pushing a hand-car they'd gotten from the railroad -- a flat-car used to move rails and heavy material. They took <u>Aunt Hat's</u> waiting room, set it on the car, and went back up to campus. The waiting room was about 6 by 8 feet. There were about 20 students in the gang. The waiting room was set beside the track on campus in Orono. They made such a racket, that by the next morning, <u>Aunt Hat</u> knew where her waiting room was. That afternoon, she got out her horse and buggy, with the top set back, and went up to the campus. She went directly to the president and told him what had happened. She persuaded him to get in the carriage and go down with her to identify her waiting room. Evidently, it was all set up</p>

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		505	On the way from his office to the waiting room, a student snapped a picture of the two of them, with the sun shining brightly in their faces. He's seen a copy of the photo, but hasn't any idea who might have a copy of it. He saw it 50 years ago, and wasn't old enough to understand the implications of the photo. He's been told that it was published in the local paper, but he's not sure. The university president found himself in a very embarrassing situation. Everybody who lived in this area, including the president, knew who <u>Aunt Hat</u> was. She got her waiting room back.
		510	There was a much higher percentage of high school drop-outs in the early 1900's. For example, his class started out with 72 students. 28 graduated. Of that 28, five went on to the University and three graduated. This drop-out rate was typical. In those days, there were a great many more opportunities for kids right out of high school to get a job. Most young women went from job to job until they were somewhere in their twenties, and then married.
		520	When he was a child, there were many booms and peers in the river. All the logs went to nearby mills and were sluiced at the dam in Veazie. All those booms had to be maintained -- taken up in the sp fall and replaced in the spring. There are still remains of the piers in the river. At that time and earlier, he's seen as many as three rafts of sawed lumber go down in one day, through the sluice to Bangor to be broken up and loaded on to vessels. They tapered off until there were two a day, then one then three a week, and finally they stopped all together, when the mills in Orono and Webstersid went out of business. There were all kinds of lumber including deals, which were boards. This lumber was shipped all over the world.
		540	There were at least half a dozen men who spent their entire summers doing nothing else but picking up fire wood, along the shores and from the river. They took anything that would burn, and logs with no marks. This was illegal, but they took broken up ma logs, or shopped the mark off. Today, so far as he knows, there isn't a boat on the river. When he was ten years old, there must have been 30 or 40 boats up and down the shore.
		550	Between the present Grove St. and Veazie St. was what was called the Old Grove [#14]. There were huge, old, mature oak trees with no underbrush around. The kids used to pick up acorns in the area and eat them raw. The grove is pretty much gone now and the trees are past their prime. Many are rotten.

Orono
Veazie

Interviewer's tape #

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		565	Back in the early mill days, there were alot of Irish immigrants that settled on the south end of Grove Street. Since then, the area has been know as Paddy Knoll. This also included part of the present Oak Street.
	0600	570	The place where the undesirables lived, "out back" is presently one of the best residential sections of town. There was once another settlement started in the area, with access off Grove Street, where the new Veazie Villas are located, near the trail camp -- about half way between the Main road and Stillwater Avenue. The remains of the old cellar holes still can be seen. Nobody ever lived out there in his day. It was known as the Cotton Field. He and friends used to go out there and pick berries and flowers. It's all grown up now. He could find the place himself, but doubts if he could direct anyone else there.
		590	Veazie has also been noted for gravel pits. On the north side of the overhead bridge, they're hauling out gravel now. [#16] Where they're digging, there was a hill in his childhood that went up 150 feet high. The ridge ran all the way to the Congregational Church and then sloped off. That's all gone now. In his childhood, there were still railroad tracks and most of the Maine Central Railroad was graded out of there. The hole where the fill was taken from is deeper than the hill was high, and they're still digging.
		610	There's another gravel pit on State Street in Veazie that used to be called Palmer's Siding. There was a switch to the north that serviced the pit, and he's seen them haul all one summer, loading flat cars. The railroad went clear down to the "Pit". The generating station, when they first built it, aquired the name of the "Pit" [#17]. That was built both with water-wheels and with a steam plant, but in order to put the building in, they had to dig out right at the edge of the river. All the old-timers referred to it as the Pit. Later on it got other names, such as the Station. After the plant was built, they put another siding from their original track all the way down to the Plant, to take care of any of the heavy hauling. [Track started just above Veazie Municipal building, #18]. They could run machines in on the electric cars. It followed the bank right to the Plant. After the railway was taken up the track was abandoned. The Maine Central and the electric track were taken up. Houses are built now where the track used to lay.
		640	Just below where the railroad track and the main line cross each other now, that bank had a spur track running there. It was built up probably

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			30 feet, between the river and the road. That's all been hauled away as gravel. For about two years in the 1890's, just after the plant was built, there was a pulp mill operating there. Grinding stone used to lie off to one side of the track, because they had to renew the stones from time to time, These were reserve stones. These were like grind stones, but much larger -- about 3 or 3 1/2 feet in diameter. Pulp went in between them and was ground up. He doesn't know if there are any still there. The mill went out of business within a couple years due to financial difficulties. That's about the time th Orono Pulp and Paper Co. was built. The competit got too keen for the Veazie mill.
		655	There used to be a ferry from Thompson point across to the Eddington Bend [#19]. The ferry was unique in that it was operated by hand., when the water wasn't too high. They used oars and paddles. When the water was high, for safety sake, they had a big wire rope strung across the river from Veazie to a big pine tree in Eddington. They had two big cables attached to the boat-- one that was solid and one that could be let out attache d to the back end. By setting the bo at an angle to the current, they got across.
		670	[Tape is turned off to check questions]. This was before the fish wier was built. The salmon could get over the Bangor dam alright. Several people in the town were noted salmon fishermen.
		675	Tom Johnson was one of Veazie's characters. Johnson had seven wives. He was a woodsman-river driver. The unique part of it was that his first wife and his seventh wife was the same woman. He married her at first, they were divorced. He went to New Hampshire and Minnesota for awhile. He came back to Veazie in his old age and they got married again.
	0700	685	There were old-fashioned carbon ^{arc} street lights in Veazie, 24 to 30 inches tall. On the bottom was a globe, about a foot in diameter. The rest was a mechanism whereby two carbon rods were kept at the proper distance from each other automatically. The light that they gave was from the resistance between the carbon rods. There were hung on an arm from a pole by a cord -- an arm probably 6 feet long. It was wound up with a gear arrangement on the side of the pole. They had to be serviced almost every day. Some- one checked them often because the carbons burned out. He has parts out in his garage.
		700	At one time, Veazie was considered to have some of the most beautiful elm trees of any town around. They were probably planted very soon after the town was settled, because when he was

*Veazie
Minnesota
Eddington Bend
New Hampshire*

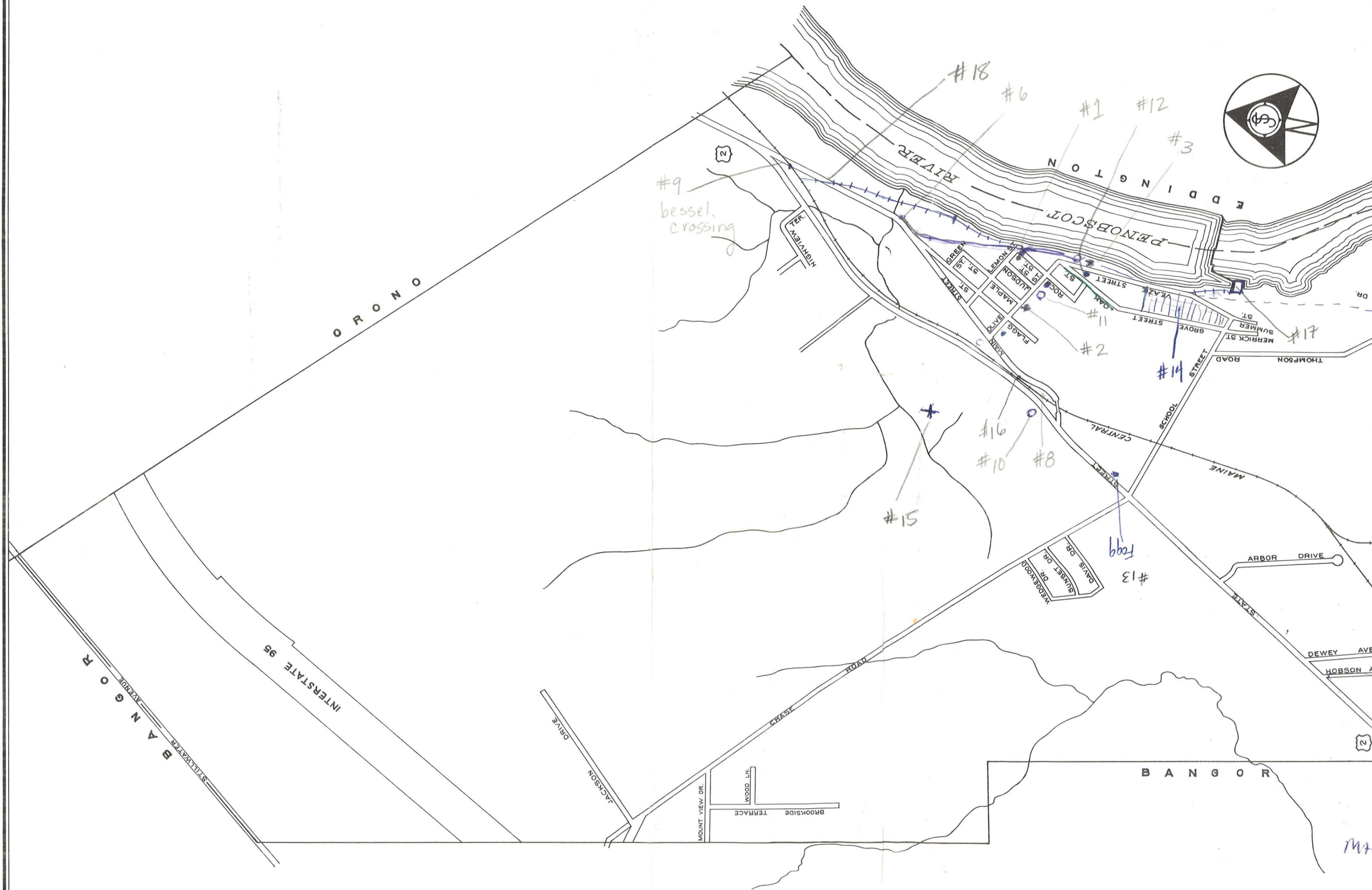
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	699	710	six or seven years old, they cut one down and there were more than 90 rings. There are still a few of these giant oaks around. In the last few years, the Dutch Elm disease has taken a terrific toll and most of them are gone. End of interview.

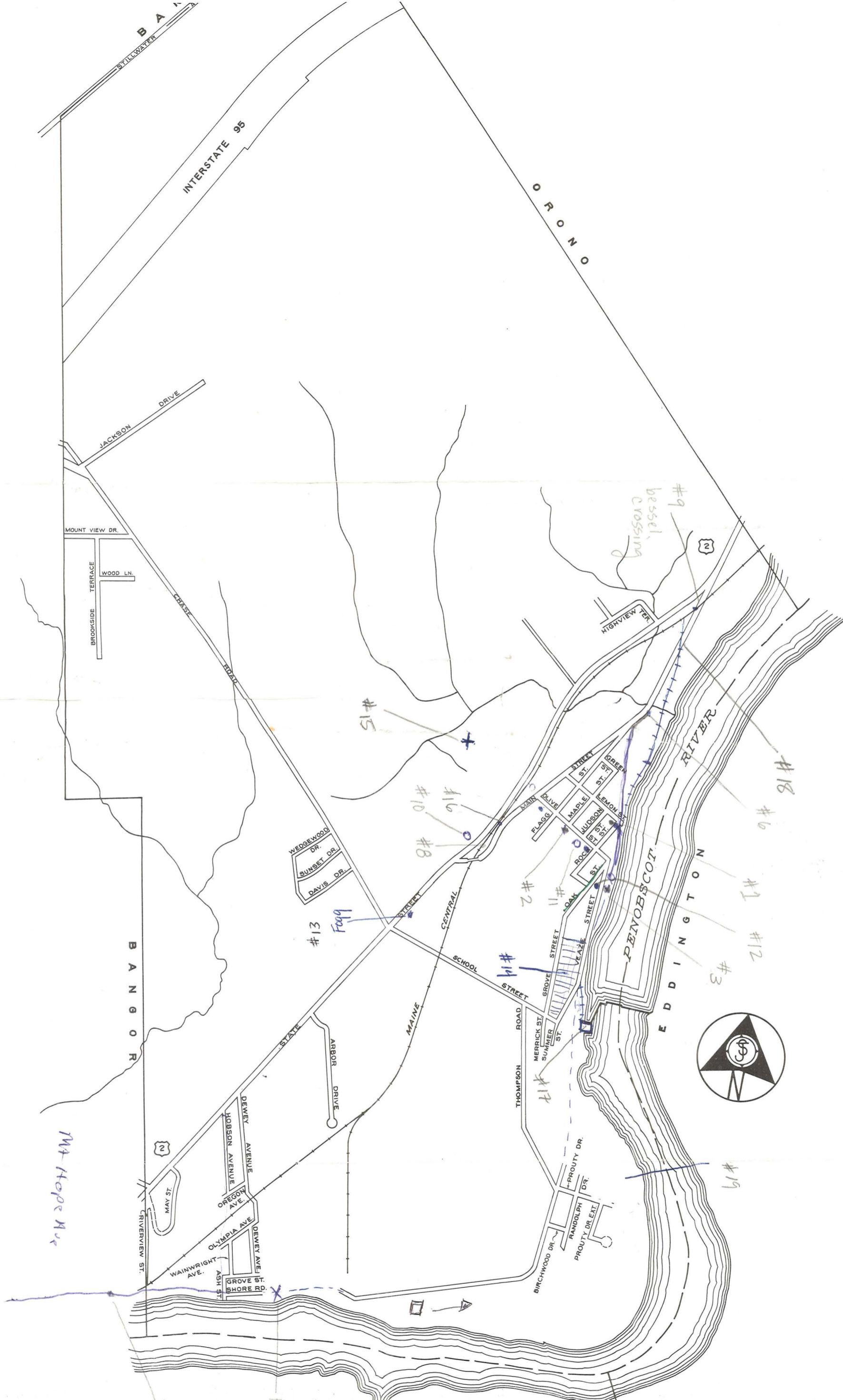
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#9
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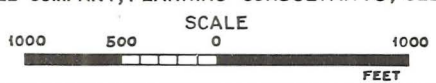
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PREPARED IN PART UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING GRANT FROM THE H.H.F.A., SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954 AS AMENDED

Odillion Turner

VEAZIE
 PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE
 VEAZIE PLANNING BOARD
 1960

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, PLANNING CONSULTANTS, OLD TOWN, MAINE



Mt Hope Ave

Punt Hats

Bessel Crossing

#5

#4

#13

#15

#8

#10

#16

#2

#11

#17

#19

#3

#12

#11

#6

#18

#9