

Tape #2, Side A

NG: ... or wife, if we are married?  
ML:

NG: How about WEDDING, was there a separate sign for wedding?  
ML:

NG: Probably, I don't know ... was there a separate sign for DIVORCE? I don't know as there were many so long ago, but..  
ML: Ah, something like this:

NG: Breaking apart. How about UNCLE? Can you can MY UNCLE?  
Or AUNT?

ML: There again, must of spelled it.

NG: And so, you probably wouldn't know the term for nephew or niece?  
OK. Lets go on to something different than that. How about buildings? Was there just a general sign for a BUILDING?  
ML: ...

NG: How bout for HOUSE?

ML: Well, there was BUILDING, and then one other sign which comes next which I don't remember:

NG: Ok. Was there a sign for HOME?

ML: There again, say like:

It almost looks like baby, doesn't it, I don't  
NG: I could be, you know, I..  
ML: Domicile...

NG: Um, could you say 'WELCOME HOME'?

ML: Well, I'd probably go out with out stretched arms...

NG: By the way, I forgot to ask you, how did you say 'HELLD' and 'GOODBYE'?

ML: Hello:

Goodbye:

NG: How bout PLEASE and THANK YCU?

ML: Thank you:

Please, I don't know, I'd probably say:

NG: How would you say EXCUSE ME?

ML: How you'd happen to think of that? *Bye*

NG: It's just, that's one of the things on the list?

ML: Where'd you get the list, you compiled it?

NG: Well, I compiled some of it, because some of these things are unique, and because, in a minute, I'm going to ask you about fishing terms, which...let me finish then - do you know, was there a term for BARN?

*part of the same contact reel.*

Mabel Lock

ML: Ah, yes. But I'm not sure if it's like this - that may have been it, like the stanchions that the cows....

NG: How about SEHCCL, was there a term for school?  
ML:

NG: Was there a sign for teacher?  
ML: Yes, but I'm not sure of it.

NG: Was there a sign for FENSE?  
ML:

NG: Would that be stone fense, too?  
ML: I don't know.  
NG: How about, was there a separate sign for a room?  
ML: You say room, r-o-o-m?

Bedroom:

NG: Kitchen?  
ML: I'm not sure about that to say...

NG: How about, was there a sign for FLOOR?  
ML:

NG: WINDOW?  
ML:

NG: DOOR?  
ML:

No, they're all out of my...didn't have any of that.  
NG: You don't remember a sign for WELL, you know, some people used to have the old outdoor wells?  
ML: Water, bubbling up...

or pump:

that's as close as I can come.  
NG: Let's go on to something else then...How would you say COCK?  
ML: Cook:

NG: How bout EAT:  
ML:

Mabel Look

ML: Smell:

NG: How about stuff like BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER?

ML: To eat at noon:

to eat at night:

to eat in the morning:

NG: How about a SNACK? How would you say snack?

ML:

NG: And Clean you gave me.

ML: Clean:

NG: Oh no, you didn't, you gave me WASH. What was CLEAN?

ML: If you'd say it's a clean dress, for example?

ML:

I can't come any closer. I'm washing it.

NG: How bout DIRTY, do you remember.

ML: DIRTY:

*under lip*

Pig and dirty are pretty close to each other. (Laughs).

ML: (You getting tired, Larry? You can get a chair, if you want to...

LK: No, I'm fine.

NG: How bout GARDEN?

ML: Garden - you're no New Yorker. Ah:

I can't quite recall it.

NG: By the way, how would you say GOOD and BAD? Like a Good Garden?

ML: GOOD:

BAD:

NG: Is that the same thing as EVIL?

ML: I suppose so. Ah, let me go back to garden for a minute,

Plant:

Potatoes:

Onions:

That's as close as I can come...

NG: You mean to say garden, you might say 'I'm going to plant potatoes and onions? And that would convey the idea of a garden?

ML: I guess so, I'm going to plant Potatoes and onions

Mabel Lock:

4

ML:

NG: You know, you're a linguists dream. I have a whole bunch  
of things on foods and

ML: APPLES AND BANANAS:

Bananas, that's wrong, but I..

NG: How about ORANGES?

ML:

NG: PEARS?

ML: I'd spell that.

NG: How about COFFEE?

ML:

NG: TEA?

ML:

NG: You remembered the sign for milk and cream before, how about  
WATER?

ML:

Oh, I might do this:

NG: How about SEA WATER, SALT WATER, as opposed to drinking water?

ML: Ocean is something like:

Thought I had it , but it slipped away. Otherwise, I'd spell  
it, salt water...

NG: Was there a sign for PEPPER?

ML: Close enough?

NG: Sure. There's no right and wrong in this, it's just what  
you can remember.

ML: Well, today I'll confuse it with other things. There again,  
if it came out of the blue..

NG: Well, considering you haven't spoken this language in 25 or 30  
years, you've done a phenomenal job of

ML:

NG: Was there any sign for hard liquor - not that anybody on the  
island ever drank much, but...

ML: Yes. I don't know, there's a whole category.

NG: Ah was there a sign for FOOD, just a general sign for..

ML: This is eat..

NG: And that's food too.

ML: I guess so.

NG: Ah, was there a sign for ICE BOX? REFRIDGERATOR?

ML:

NG: Do you remember a sign for PANTRY?

ML:

NG: How bout FLOUR:

ML:

NGL BREAD?

ML:

NG: Like you were kneeding bread, ok. Um, how about butter, was there a sign for BUTTER?

ML:

NG: Was there a sign for VINEGAR?

ML:

something sour.

NG: (I think she means a general catagory 'sour'). How about OIL?

ML: No, we didn't have oil. (Laughs).

NG: Was there a sign for BEEF?

ML: Well, if you were talking about beef, then you'd say Cow, or pig, I don't know.

NG: OK, I was wondering if like; we say cow and then there's beef, pig and pork, I was wondering if there was this...was there a general term for meat?

ML: Probably, but I can't...

NG: How about, do you remember TOMATOE?

ML:

NG: How about a can of food, was there a sign for can off the shelf?

ML: I'd spell can and then I'd go on with the vegetables

NG: How about BEANS:

ML:

NG: And this is one last thing on vegetables, it's not really a vegetable.. how bout something like BEACH PLUM?

ML: Yes, but it has something to do with..

sour berry, but.. Yea, I guess that was CRANBERRY see, now I'm into berries.

NG: Both of them are very regional, so if you can remember either one...

ML: Well, my mother used to talk about..

ML: (Cont.) but it wouldn't be used on all occasions, because we used to talk about CRANBERRY DUMPLINGS alot, and she'd say, this is what she'd do:

pushing in the dough, and she used that sign. But for cranberry sause, I don't remember.

NG: Even that's a help so.. OK, I'm going on to place names now, we'll just run through some. You said there wasn't a general term for Martha's Vineyard, that you can remember..

ML: They had no occasion to use those.

NG: That well could be. Like sometimes you'll go to someplace and say 'what's the name of that mountain', and they'll say 'well, that's the only mountain we have, we just call it the mountain.

ML: Yes, yes..

NG: New Bedford, you said was just an 'N'?

ML: I think so, I'm not positive about that...

NG: And Boston was..

ML: Boston:

NG: How bout Cape Cod, was there a sign for Cape Cod?

ML: Spell out Cape...

NG: How bout Nantucket?

ML: I don't know if that's..now there again, the 'N', could of been for Nantucket, instead of New Bedford...

NG: You mean it might of depended on context, rather than..

ML: Probably. I'm not positive of it.

NG: How bout Nomansland?

ML: Ah something comes first and then you'd do this: you'd point out that way, but...

NG: So there was, even if you don't remember, there was a real sign for Nomansland...

ML: Oh, we talked about it alot. My father and I went there once, it seems to me,

NG: Was there a sign for Tisbury?

ML: Vineyard Haven, you mean?

NG: Yeas, I guess Vineyard Haven would be that...

ML:

NG: And Oak Bluffs was?

ML:

NG: And Edgartown, you don't remember..

ML: No, whether it was this was, this doesn't look right to me...

'W' might be West Tisbury, I don't know. This is 'W' and something about this:

somebody else'll have to tell you what it means.

Mabel Look:

NG: You don't remember, like Menemsha Pond didn't have a special name..

ML: Um, there's a word for Menemsha, I don't remember what it is...

NG: I should of actually just sent you one of these things and just let you look throught it. Um, how bout something like Washington, D.C.?

ML: D.C., I might spell out...

NG: And Hartford was just an 'H'.

ML: 'H', yea.

NG: Was there a word for Ocean or Sea?

ML: Yes, but I don't have...

NG: Was there, even if you don't remember, was there a word for Atlantic or Pacific?

ML: No.

NG: How bout a city or town? You know 'I went to town'?

ML: There was no occasion for city.

NG: So there'd be no occasion for a word for Country?

ML: No...

NG: This is marvelous. How about North and South, East and West?

ML: Well, if I were in my own home talking, I'd point to the North West,....

NG: How about, was there a word for LAND? as opposed to sea?

ML: I don't know, I'd have to spell it.

NG: OK, how bout beach, was there a word for beach?

ML: You know, Ocean is something like this:

NG: Towards you and just like...

ML: You talk about Beach, I remember talking about, you know, high tide and low tide:

NG: What would that be?

ML: Ocean, something about high, just like calm and, I don't know, it's a little bit mixed up in my mind.

NG: Well, ok, even the fact that they did have a word for these things, is important, so maybe well get it in a little while...

ML: You can go back to Gale Huntington from here..

NG: Well no, I've pumped Gale dry with words...

ML: Well maybe when he sees this, he'll be able to...

NG: Hopefully so. I'll go back to him, but he only remembered some 15, 20 words altogether...

ML: Did you go through this list with him?

NG: With him? Yea. And it was one long continuous blank stare. He said 'Gosh, I must be getting old', and of course, It wasn't that at all. Do you know a word for RIVER?



Mabel Look

ML:

NG: How bout a LAKE?

ML: Well, you might say water, enclosed by a ...

NG: So that's how, you'd use the same word for pond too.

ML: Yea.

NG: And was there a word, you don't remember a distinction between salt water and freash water,

ML: Just have to spe'll it out...

NG: How bout a HILL?

ML: Wait a minute, you were asking about LAND, this is like SAND:

NG: Sand or just Earth?

ML: Because my mother used to talk about going to the ocean and getting the sand all over..

NG: Ch, ok, I hadn't even thought about asking about sand, of course...

ML: The more you talk about lakes, the beach, the more things are coming out.

NG: How bout SWAMP? Was there a word for swamp?

ML: Oh, it was like water, muddy, or something:

Stick your feet in it...

NG: That was the term for muddy?

ML: Something like that:

NG: Was that term for..

ML: Stick your feet in, can't get em out.

NG: How bout a road? What was the word for ROAD?

ML:

NG: OK. How bout a forest? What was the word for FOREST?

ML: This was trees:

Unless I went like this as if it was..

NG: Lots of trees. It wouldn't be something like this and Many trees?

ML: Yea.

NG: It might be. Did you notice variations on the island - different people use different terms, or was it usually consistant, like between you mother and your aunt and your uncle...

ML: You mean signs? Oh no, well, the only people I talked to were my mother and aunt, and anybody else would of - there was nobody else. My grandfather I don't remember enough and there was nobody else for me to talk to...

NG: How bout fields, as opposed to woods? An opened field..

ML:

NG: By the way, was there a term for CORN?



el Look

It's easy to understand where they came from when you analyze them a little bit.

Well, some of them, but a lot of them are very arbitrary and you know, people just decided that this was a term - and that's what makes the Vineyard language so unique, they didn't decide with the rest of the country, they decided by themselves...

Ch. That's why I can't understand people when they come from

Yea, right. Actually because the Vineyard's sign language is such, much older.

It is?

Yea. At least two hundred years older than the regular sign language. OK, you said, you didn't remember sun and moon, you got star. Was there a term for the WORL呢? The whole world?

Well, I don't know, it's just..no it doesn't mean anything...

OK, and this is was sand, with two hands. Was there a different one for earth - you know, for dirt as opposed to sand. Well,

Well, you could say the sand was R\*I\*C\*H

Rich sand.

? for gardens...

That's right, on the Vineyard they don't have, they just have sand, it's just relative degrees of sand. How bout STONE, can you remember a word for stone?

That doesn't sound right either. No, I'd just have to spell it out, like I'd...

How about boat, do you remember a word for boat? How bout Sail Boat? Some thing like:

Was there a term for MOTORBOAT, as opposed to I guess an engine...

OK, I'm sure you didn't do that much sailing, but was there a term for like schooner as opposed to sloops.

No.

How bout a row boat?

How would you say two boats?

How bout 4 or 5 boats?

How many you want?

Just four or five,...

This was..

How bout MANY BOATS?

ML: Any?  
NG: Many.  
ML: Lots ...

NG: OK. How bout a boat sinking?  
ML: Oh boy.

something like that.

NG: How bout, do you remember a word for buggy? Horse drawn carriage?  
ML: No. You'd say horse:

these are the riens, sI

NG: And ox-cart you don't know. That was before your time...  
Was there a term for CAR?  
ML:

NG: That was the term for car? Ok, How would you say 'A CAR GOING  
OVER THE HILL?'  
ML:

NG: or 'A BOAT GOING OUT OF SIGHT'?  
ML: Well, you could say something like, see..way off...

NG: You don't remember a term for train, do you?  
ML: Yea.

NG: Ch, OK. was there a term for airplane, or was that....  
ML: Yea, but I don't remember it. Reach up in the air and then  
do something...

NG: How bout fly, was there, like, 'THE BIRD FLIES OFF?'  
ML: Well, that would be this way, with wings...

not associated with airplanes, no.

NG: How would you say FISH?  
ML:

NG: How bout FISHERMAN?  
ML:

NG: And harpoon you remember, or spear for the eels.  
ML:

NG: How would you say SHARK?  
ML:

NG: How bout SCALLOP?  
ML:

NG: How bout QUAHOG then? Is that the same sign?

ML: Quahog chowder we always used to talk about...

NG: How would you say that?

ML: Ch...

(Larry asks if we would like to take a rest. Mabel says she'd rather get the interview over with as she doesn't want to tie up the living room.)

NG: How bout, was there a word for crab?

ML: I'd spell it.

NG: How bout Cyster?

ML: Don't know.

NG: Swordfish?

ML: It was something about fish with ah,,,

NG: How bout LOBSTER?

ML:

NG: How bout COD FISH?

ML: C\*C\*D

NG: Ok, you never saw this sign for cod fish?

ML: No.

NG: How about WHALE?

ML: I don't know, there is no sign for whale.

NG: How bout sink

ML: Stink?

NG: Sink, you know, something sinks...

ML: Ch, sink:

NG: How about SWIM?

ML:

NG: Is that the same thing as FLOAT?

ML: Ah...

NG: For parts of the body, would you just point, like leg, arm

ML: (Yes...)

NG: How would you say SMELL?

ML:

NG: How about TASTE?

ML: Taste?

NG: And BREATH?

ML:

NG: How bout TEETH and TONGUE, you'd just point to, I assume..

How would you say stomach?

ML:

NG: Just point to it. OK. How would you say like HEART?

*I wanna see how she says...*

ML:

NG: Liver?

ML: No.

NG: No more. Ok, how bout BLOOD?

ML: Spell it.

NG: Bone?

ML: Spell it also..

NG: Ok, and was there a term for the body in general?

ML: I don't remember. I can't answer that.

NG: Um, how would you say 'BEHIND MY BACK'?

ML:

NG: How bout colors, how would you say like RED?

ML: Let me do some of the others first and then maybe I can remember...

Yellow:

Green I'd have to spell...

Red is something like this:

NG: How bout BROWN?

ML: Spell that...

NG: Black?

ML:

NG: How would you say that someone was poor?

ML: I'd go like this:

NG: And rich?

ML: I don't know it. I'd have to spell that.

NG: How would you say minister?

ML:

NG: How bout CHURCH?

ML:

NG: Was there a term for GOD?

ML: Yes, but what is it...

I don't know, it might be like this, or something...

NG: How bout Devil, was there a term for the Devil?

ML:

You knew that all along, didn't you?

NG: That's one, the only sentence that Gale could put together for me is 'My wife is a Devil'..

Mabel Look

NG: Was there a term for Bible?

ML: I suppose so...

NG: Or TEACHER?

ML: Something like this:

You asked me before and I couldn't think of it, but it would have to be, it was a

NG: And the term for school was..

ML:

This sounds like Sunday School teacher... Sounds like, Looks like, Sunday School teacher, I don't know why, but...

NG: Ok, how bout LEARN?

ML: I wouldn't...

something about learn and Know... I got them mixed up.

NG: How bout BOOK?

ML: Well, there again, I don't know if it's like this:

or if that's school...

NG: What about PAPER?

ML:

NG: Was there, if you wanted to say 'HE'S AN INTELLIGENT STUDENT', what would the term for INTELLIGENT or BRIGHT be?

ML: Well, I'd point to my head and spell out S\*M\*A\*R\*T.

NG: And the same for DUMB, you'd point to your head and go dumb?

ML: Yes...

NG: By the way, was there a separate term for Methodists?

ML: Yes, but I don't know whether I know that. Let me see...

Catholic: *...*

Baptist *...*

something like that...

NG: Ok. Was there a term for DOCTOR?

ML:

NG: How bout NURSE?

ML: 'N'

NG: OK, How about 'OPERATION'? When someone went to Falmouth for an operation...

ML: Appendix...

NG: Was there a term for Falmouth?

ML: Falmouth?

NG: How bout SICK, if someone was sick?

ML:

*Sick*

NG: What if someone DIED? Going to the drastic...

ML:

*die*

NG: OK, was there a term for JUDGE?

ML: Yes, but I don't know it.

NG: Sheriff?

ML:

*cop*

Something to do with a badge, but there again, I don't know.

NG: Can you think of any other professions...

ML: I think this was, this was a policeman with a badge...

*im not sure  
Cops*

NG: Ok, how about other professions... how bout STOREKEEPER,

ML: This, this is smething to do with a store...

NG: How bout if someone was a sailor?

ML:

NG: Let me move on, now you gave me the sign for tree, was there a sign for flower?

ML: Flower?

NG: Or specific kinds of flowers like roses or..

ML: Roses:

Daisys

Apple Trees

This was a fuschia:

we used to try to grow fuschias..

NG: How bout Grass, was there a sign for grass..

ML: No...

NG: Or SEED..

ML:

NG: Or LEAF?



Mabel Lock

NG: How bout RCCT.

ML: Roots:

No, I usually did like this, trees and roots..

NG: Or BARK?

ML: Don't need bark.

NG: OK, just one last...

ML: You on the last page?

NG: Yea, ok, you all set? How would you say RUN, 'I RAN'..

ML: Something like this:

NG: By the way, how would you say things in the past tense?

Like insted of 'He runs', 'I ran'?

ML: Yesterday, ran.

*can't hear*  
NG: Oh, so you'd start off alot of things with Yesterday, and then have it in the present tense? OK.

ML: Yes...

NG: How about ~~Hear?~~ Was there, by the way, was there a term for DEAFNESS?

ML: Well, you'd just... *As in*

NG: Now bout WALK?

ML: *pl*

NG: GO?

ML: Same thing.

NG: How about 'GO OVER THERE'? When you'd tell someone...

ML: You don't need all that..

NG: Ohm you don't need..ok, might I just ask you to repeat a few of the numbers again, and then we'll wind it up.

ML: (Counts from 1-1-20, 30,-100, 1000, 2000, 10,000.)

*30 W*

*13 = W 10*

*141 = 4*

*30 = 1*

nabel Look

NG: Could you say 100,000?

ML: Yes, but I don't know whether I'd get it across. I'd say:

but I don't know whether it would come out that way.

NG: You probably never needed terms that big.

ML: I never got that far, (laughs).

NG: Ok, and year, like you'd say 1905

ML:

1910

NG: Could you say 100 years ago?

ML: Years I don't know. I'd probably spell years to make sure

I got it across. I thought I could do it.

NG: Oh, could you tell me how you'd say something is 'right', 'correct' and something is 'wrong'?

ML: That's right:

- STOP -

I don't know how to say wrong.

NG: How about right and left, like sides?

ML: Left and right...

END OF SIDE A, TAPE # 2

HEAVY

LIGHT

HIGH

LOW

FULL

WORK = DO

PLAY

LONG

SHORT

MAD = ANGRY

CRAZY (w/caw)

GOOD (THINK UP)  
never said to mom

WET ASC

DRY (ASC)

FIGHT = ASC

GIVE

TAKE

BREAK = ASC

FAR

NEAR

PUSH = ASC

PULL