

Bernice West talks to Mildred Finlon, telling her about her grandparent's photography studio on the Boardwalk.

Mrs. Finlon: Bernice, who are some of the people that you knew on the old boardwalk?

Mrs. West: About the earliest recollection I have is getting up early in the morning, getting the canoe at the — bathhouse owned by Wickersham, and getting the canoe and going on out and canoeing around by myself at the age of seven or eight, and being back in time for the gallery, the photograph studio, to open when the first train came in.

Mrs. Finlon: Who owned the gallery?

Mrs. West: My grandmother. And we would have to have everything in order about 10 o'clock, I think, when the train came in. And I had to be back by then.

Mr. Wickersham was very nice letting me have the canoe. He also furnished me with a bathing suit.

The side of the gallery had a walkway that went right into the bathing park there, so that people could have their pictures taken in their bathing suits.

Mrs. Finlon: And you had some very old, funny ways in which they could take the pictures, too.

Mrs. West: Well, the same as they do now in any of the malls with the old fashioned costumes or the head sticking through a moon.

Mrs. Finlon: What kind of materials did your grandmother use? Were they the old tin-type pictures?

Mrs. West: No, that was before my time.

Mrs. Finlon: That was when your grandfather used to take pictures; wasn't it?

Mrs. West: Yes, he took the tin type, but we — the ones I remember were postcard.

Mrs. Finlon: Postcard.

Mrs. West: And you could stick a stamp on them and mail them.

Mrs. Finlon: And your grandmother took most of those?

Mrs. West: Yes.

Mrs. Finlon: Where did she have them developed?

Mrs. West: She did her own developing.

Mrs. Finlon: She developed them in the back of the photograph —

Mrs. West: Yes, that's right. She had a darkroom.

Mrs. Finlon: What do you remember of the stands that were on the boardwalk at that time?

Mrs. West: We had all the stands. Both you and I will remember the orange stand where we got orange ice all the time. And that was on the crab house side of the gallery. The other side was the Derby. And then we had the string game, and we would knock the milk bottles down, and a candy wheel. One place there we had a bowling alley, too, where we first learned to use ten pins.