

Esther McVey shares her memories of the High View Hotel with Bernie Loveless and Harriet Stout.

Esther McVey: But um, I remember when it was flourishing. I remember my mother taking us down the roadway, or near where the roadway is now a little alley, because this was an alley you know, where the High View Hotel had built steps - sort of terrace type of steps, boxed in and put sand there you know so people could walk down, and we used to, I used to love to walk down those steps as a little kid ,you know, and they lasted for many years, you know, even when the hotel wasn't really flourishing.

Bernie Loveless: Well, how large was it in terms of maybe rooms? Was it 10, 20, 30 rooms in that hotel?

Esther McVey: Oh no I don't think anything like that .

Bernie Loveless: No?

Esther McVey: Well I couldn't tell you I was never in the rooms. The only place that I remember being in was what they called the dining room and I remember the table was against the wall like this - out, and Mr. Burns who was the chauffeur - he was a white man, he sat here, my grandfather sat here, I sat here, and my grandmother over here.

Bernie Loveless: And you had your first crab cakes.

Esther McVey: My first crab cakes that I remember. Maybe, I guess I had some before that but they are the ones I really remember because, well, any way it was an occasion. I was out, you know, and my grandfather and grandmother took me and it was just an outing and it was something I remembered.

Bernie Loveless: Let me ask you one other question about the High View. When did it more or less become... was it torn down or burn down or caught fire or how did it disappear?

Esther McVey: Well, I don't real..... I remember when it burned.

Bernie Loveless: Oh, it did burn with a fire.

Esther McVey: It did burn with a fire. It did burn down. I don't know, but in my mind's eye and the way I feel, that somebody set it on fire the same way that they set the Marinelli's house affire I think because I remember when the Marinelli's house burned the smoke billowed out coal black and that is an oily smoke.

Bernie Loveless: Right.

Esther McVey: And somebody did something with oil down there to ignite the house and my feeling, I never really actually knew....

Bernie Loveless: Well, you know I've always said around the beach here that some of these landmarks were closed up you know in the winter and then eventually like you said they fall into a state of disrepair and the first thing you know somebody breaks in and then you suspect that it was set a fire – it's like the ballroom was burned too.

Esther McVey: Really?

Bernie Loveless: Well about everybody has voiced an opinion about how did that catch on fire and you begin to think well somebody set that a fire just like you said the High View, but the High View burned and you said so did the Marinelli.

Esther McVey: Yes it did.

Bernie Loveless: Both of them.