

**Victor Knott talks with Bernie Loveless and tells of living in a caboose when his father worked in Chesapeake Beach.**

**Mr. Loveless:** Yeah, I think you mentioned something about the railroad car.

**Mr. Knott:** Well, during the time when Daddy was working down here in the early years, he and I — he was fortunate enough to get the railroad company to place an old caboose on a side track over here. And that was our home for four or five years in that — what some people might call a box car. Of course, it wasn't. It was what they call a caboose or a smaller.

And he had made two rooms out of it. Had a kitchen and a bedroom. And that was our home, I guess like I say for I don't know, three, four, five years. And then finally — well, in the wintertime we'd sleep in the — like I say — in the old jail; I mean up over the old police department — up there a couple years.

And then they wanted us out of there, so they sent us down here. Then in later years after that my father got permission from the railroad company and Chesapeake Beach Hotel Company as it was known then — that was the other branch was Chesapeake Railroad Company and then the other — well, Chesapeake Beach Hotel Company which operated the concessions.

So they let him build a two-story house right across from the Rod 'N Reel on that point over there. We lived there for — I guess we were there for eight or ten years. Quite awhile.

When he built it with the understanding that if they ever wanted the land back, he'd tear the house down which they I think — I don't know. Seven years, eight years, some- where along in there they come to him and told him that they — I guess it was about the time when all this was happening — financial problems is what I'm thinking about. And they said that he'd have to go because it was on Chesapeake Beach property. So then he had to tear it down.

And he built a little place up at my grandmother's up here. Right the other side of my grandmother's. A little house. And, somebody says it burned down, but I still think it's that house up along right-hand side coming down. You used to — right off the field there, there was a little teeny house with a porch? Well, that's what it looked like. And we lived there. My daddy lived there.

**Mr. Loveless:** So you've lived here at the Beach in several places?

**Mr. Knott:** Oh, yeah. Yeah.

**Mr. Loveless:** You lived in one of the restored cabooses that they had?

**Mr. Knott:** That's right. Well, we had a right nice place. We were comfortable. It was comfortable.

Of course, in the wintertime and so forth and going to school —

**Mr. Loveless:** You were going to school then?

**Mr. Knott:** Yeah.

He was night watchman and hostler here at the place. Had that big old potbellied stove down there in the station downstairs there on the first floor. And he and I used to sit there and I'd go to sleep on the floor a lot of times. I'd sleep in this old building right here; many times slept on that floor down there.

**Mr. Loveless:** Now, where we have the exhibits downstairs now was the waiting room.

**Mr. Knott:** That's right. That was a waiting room.

**Mr. Loveless:** Was the potbelly stove roughly where we have the one now?

**Mr. Knott:** Yeah, right in the same place; same location.