

John Eckstine talks with Virginia Hulfish Lester, whose father, R.N. Hulfish, was the station agent at Marlboro.

Mrs. Lester: Well, he's the agent and freight — everything. Everything that run on the railroad — well, I mean he was telegraph operator and the ticket agent and so forth.

Everything that would work with a small agency like that. Express and freight; everything.

Mr. Eckstine: Was it just the one man in the station?

Mrs. Lester: Yeah, my mother helped him.

She could do most of it. Well, she couldn't telegraph or anything like that, but she could help do everything else — sell tickets and stuff like that.

And see, you got a ticket to there and we rode to the District Line. Then to get into Washington you had to get on the streetcar and ride up town.

You're asking me some questions I don't know whether you want to hear or what you don't want to hear.

Mr. Eckstine: Do you remember what kind of activities went on around the station?

Mrs. Lester: Not a whole lot. I mean, oh, there were people there. They had picnics and people would go on picnics. You would see the people coming in horse and buggies. And there was a house below us that they would keep a lot of the people's horses and buggies — lived right next door, you know, right down the road from us — oh, not a half a block; about from my driveway down the road, something like that.

And they would tie their — leave their horses with those people and go to the Beach on a picnic. And we had picnics then! Anything from — well, you just got a little bit of everything.

And it was — oh, there's so — and of course, now, we my youngest brother and I — see, there were six — my youngest brother, there was a little less than three years between he and I, but my next brother was six years older than I was. And the oldest brother was eight years older. So, the youngest one and I were the ones that were together most of the time.

And we were in and out of freight cars, helped — (Laughing.) actually, they had a side track. And there was a Standard Oil place right next. And all the oil was brought — I guess it was oil. I don't know what. Tank cars came in on that switch.

And Ferdinand Leitch was the man that run the Standard Oil place. And he had — now, I vaguely remember him having mules, but he got trucks, too. But I mean, driving a mule to take the kerosene around the country.

And we would get up on those tracks. And then when they built the — rebuilt 301, we helped build old 301 because we were on everything that came around. And we were there.

And they brought a lot of the — like cement and — things that they had to have for the road, and they were on side there was two sidings. One siding in front of the station and one in the back, which was the oil place.