



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



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Interviewers: *Jen Hembree and Pam Cressey*

Transcriber: *Jen Hembree*

Abstract: During World War II, Chinquapin Village was established as housing for workers at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Mr. Sare, his six siblings and mother came from Wyoming to Alexandria in 1940, when his father received employment at the Torpedo Factory. First living in temporary housing at Rosemont, the family soon moved into Chinquapin Village (located on the grounds of the present day Chinquapin Recreation Park). Mr. Sare recalls Alexandria and the close-knit Chinquapin community in the 1940s and 1950s. He provides descriptions and design layout of the Chinquapin houses and the grounds and relays humorous stories of being a teen in Chinquapin Village, including working at the grocery store, Halloween, swimming holes and innocent mischief. [The tape begins about 5 minutes into the conversation.]

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Jerry Sare (left) and Jen Hembree (right), 2001

Introductions

Jerry Sare:	...But John Campbell can give you all kinds of information that probably nobody else knows anything about 'cause he built the place almost. He was involved with everything that went on, every single day, and he knew everybody and everybody knew him. He knew who the trouble-makers were and who the trouble-makers were not.
Jen Hembree:	Let's see, I've brought this [showing biographical information sheet], which we can fill out at the end. I don't know if you want to do that now. And the other thing is called a Deed of Gift, which just says that our conversation and photos of you and I, or whatnot, become property of the Office of Historic Alexandria for research purposes.

Chinquapin and the Torpedo Factory in World War II

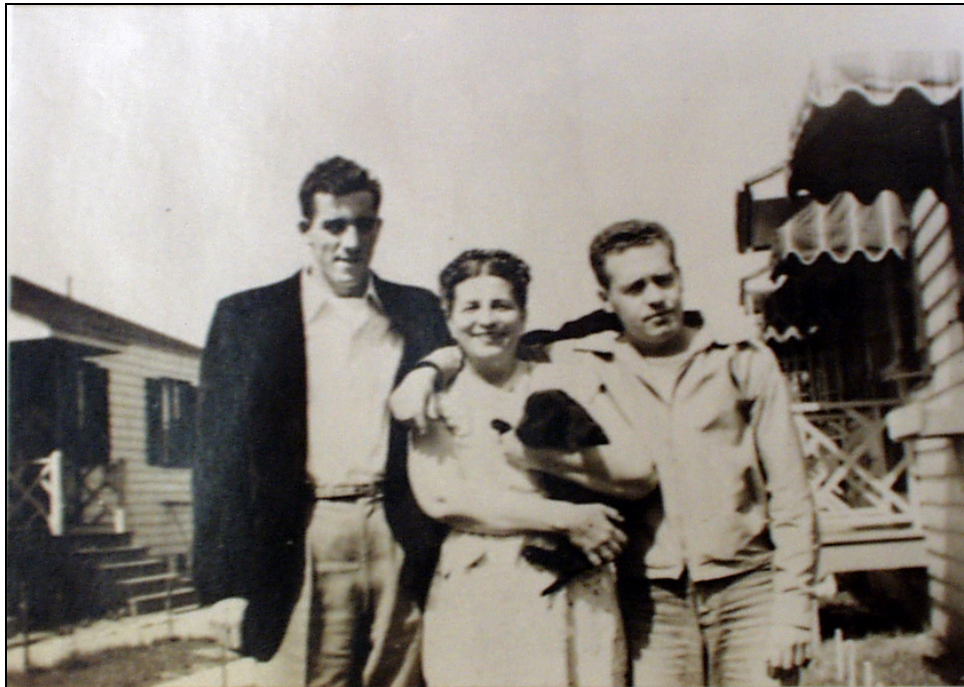
Jerry Sare:	I love to do things for the city. When we moved here in 1940, which was before Chinquapin opened up, this was just a little Southern town, not really terribly clean and exceptionally segregated. I think Chinquapin and probably Cameron Valley (Cameron Valley was for the people at Fort Belvoir who worked there), and when those two communities started doing things in and around the city, it sort of helped the city get out of their Southern doldrums I think 'cause so many people were here with so many different lifestyles and things. I think it kinda helped make the city something other than a little Southern town. It was quite interesting to watch the place grow. And it
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	was—and living in Chinquapin was just a great experience. We were not exceptionally well-liked by a lot of people in town. The young ladies that lived in Alexandria—their mothers always told ‘em, “Don’t go out with them guys from Chinquapin.” Matter of fact, the lady I married lived on North Fairfax Street, and we met through a blind date, and she had been brought up by the, “don’t go out with anybody from Chinquapin,” so...
J.H.:	”Wrong side of the tracks?!”
Jerry Sare:	We got married [laughs] after all that. It was a lovely place. And nothing exciting ever happened, except it was just a fun place to be.
J.H.:	That’s what Brice was saying. He said he couldn’t remember even a fire engine coming down the street.
Jerry Sare:	I can’t either. I remember during the war [World War II], I was thinking about that, everybody on their back porch had a bucket o’ sand and a five-gallon pump pail that you could put water in—in case they bombed Chinquapin, I suppose you could put the fires out. That’s what that was all about. We had a air-raid siren out right where the community building was, which was right down here (they don’t have that on there) [looking at map]. The community building was right down here, which was where John Campbell had his office—the maintenance shop where they repaired all the lawnmowers and any—all the heaters in the houses—right in the middle of the floor, between the bathroom, the living room, and the bedrooms, there’s a great big register in the bottom of the floor and you could see the fire underneath there. It was just an open flame.
J.H.:	Like a grate?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, the hot air came up. And they were always breaking down, so they had a shop down in the community building, and they had a big auditorium in there where they had the dances on Saturday night and they had a church in there on Sundays and it was just a nice place.
J.H.:	Multi-purpose.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, and when it was first built, the driveways, they were gated; they had a gate across here and the street that goes out the back, they had a gate back there. Now the gate back there was kept locked most of the time for several years. But the one in front, of course, they had to get it open so people could get in and out. And the bus company sent a bus up there every morning to pick the men up to go to work and brought ‘em back to their houses at night. And they dropped them off at their houses. And of course they worked right here in this building [the Torpedo Factory].
The Navy Sends in the Marines at Halloween	
J.H.:	I had a question regarding the Torpedo Factory’s [role]. It was everybody’s place of work...how else did it affect peoples’ lives—did the Torpedo Factory offer activities or events for the families?
Jerry Sare:	No, it was just a place to work. When they opened it up they had a

	lottery here and they—you told ‘em how big a family you had—and they drew names out for different sizes of houses. I guess ‘til they filled up and if you still didn’t have a house you had to go someplace else. But that’s how you were assigned all the houses to start with. By a lottery at the Torpedo Station. There wasn’t anything that the Navy did for the people outside of having a job here.
J.H.:	Okay. So...
Jerry Sare:	One thing they did do. It was either the first or second Halloween. I can’t remember...it was the first...I suspect it was the second Halloween we were there. They sent out the Marines to patrol.
J.H.:	The streets?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, every streetlight around the circle they had two Marines and I think they were afraid we were going to tear the place down.
J.H.:	Two Marines at every street corner!
Jerry Sare:	Yes, as kids are on Halloween, they are mischievous. And the first Halloween I know they were still working in some of the areas out here [pointing to map—interior circle] in what we call the center court here, which was just sort of a park—all grasses and trees. And they had some pipes out there and they had an outhouse out there for the guys who were working. And of course all those things got tipped over and stuff. And they had guards out there to sort of protect all that stuff. But some minor damage got done. The next year they sent the Marines out to stand under the streetlights. And how we got around the Marines was that young ladies—the older girls in the Village—would talk to the Marines while the guys would sneak around. Of course, you couldn’t see them from the street to the back of these courtyards ‘cause there were no lights back there. You could walk around the back of this whole thing and never be seen.
J.H.:	Was there a fence out in the back?
Jerry Sare:	Well, there was, yes, and there still is, as matter of fact. But it was way back here by the woods. And you could walk around here and never be seen. And that’s, of course, what we did. Sneak around the back out of sight of the Marines or whomever was there. We were a little mischievous.
J.H.:	Well, that sounds like fun!
Jerry Sare:	But that only happened one year. I think they thought it wasn’t worth the effort to put the Marines out there to protect anybody. So that went by the wayside. But it was a fun place to be. There are a lot of people that after they grew up, they married and stayed around here. A lot of people. I would almost bet that half of the people [who] lived there are still here. And a lot of them married right in.
J.H.:	Right from the Village?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah. I see a lot of people that I grew up with out there. Off and on I’ll run into somebody who’ll recognize me and I don’t necessarily recognize them, but they’ll stop and say, “Aren’t you so and so? And

	didn't you do so and so?" And I'll say, " Yeah," and we'll talk and that's it. Just a little town...a little ole town.
Community Activities in Chinquapin Village	
J.H.:	Do you remember the boxing ring, by any chance? Brice said there was one originally when it [Chinquapin] first opened up.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, they had a boxing club.
J.H.:	A club?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, and one of my best friends, matter of fact, was a very, very good fighter. And I'm trying to think of the guy's name—Clark. Mr. Clark was the boxing instructor, and they had—John Campbell, as a matter of fact—set up a boxing ring down in the Village in the community building, and they'd learn to box down there and they went down to the Armory that used to be over on Royal Street—South Royal Street—did you ever get up there?
J.H.:	No.
Jerry Sare:	It was in the 100 block of South Royal Street on the river side. I think there is a little park there now. And that's where the Armory was and they'd have basketball in there and I guess they did a little boxing down there at the Boys' Club—St. Mary's Boys' Club—they'd box and they went over to the D.C.—the Uline arena and the Turner arena up on 14th Street. And they would box and my friend actually fought one boxer that went on to fight one of the welterweight champions of the world back in the [19]40s.
J.H.:	That's exciting!
Jerry Sare:	They did all those things. It was a very active place to be. They had Boy Scout troops, of course. I don't think—I guess they had Girl Scouts—I don't know. And one of—the father of one of my friends was going to put on a little acting group 'cause he'd been associated with a little theater in Tennessee and he was trying to get a little theater group together, which he never did do, but he had one play in mind he was trying to cast. But every Saturday night they had dances and people from Alexandria—we knew everybody—I mean we went to G.W. [George Washington] High School so you knew everybody and a lot of the girls—my sisters dated guys from town—and they'd come out and go to the dances at the community center down there. A very nice place. And they had right over on the side, at the front gate, they had a Safeway store, right here [pointing to Chinquapin plan].
J.H.:	I heard that you were one of the first employees.
Jerry Sare:	I was indeed, yes. Myself and friend Jack Skelley were the first two clerks that worked there. I had to lie about my age to get the job, but yeah, we worked there for, I guess, a couple years. And then they closed that one up and they built one up in Fairlington over by where the Lindsey Cadillac is, right in that area. And so we just went up there and worked at that store and worked up there for a year or so. We just quit and got other jobs during the summer. We had to—that was during

	the war, and when we had to count ration stamps and things and little red disks we had to count for meat and things. So as you checked out the bagger had to keep track of all that stuff .
J.H.:	To make sure they weren't getting more [than their ration]...?
Jerry Sare:	...And the coupons. Well, then you had to collect the coupons after you bagged them. I was never quite sure if I ever counted things right or not. But they always came up with the coupons. But it was—working that store was a lot of fun.
J.H.:	It probably serviced most of your community and then, I guess, others, people near Fairlington? Or was it mostly Chinguapin?
Jerry Sare:	Well, actually Fairlington was hardly there. They were building Fairlington and Parkfairfax, both from the very early [19]40s for several years. But, yeah, I don't even know if the people up on King Street, the black families, came in the shop. I think it was—I don't know if it was totally the people of Chinguapin or not, but everybody [from Chinguapin] certainly did shop there all the time. I would guess that other people could come in there and shop, but I don't have any recollection of any of the families on King Street coming in the shop, 'though they certainly could have I guess. They [the Safeway] were always busy.



The Sare Family at Chinguapin, early 1940s

Houses in Chinguapin Village

J.H.:	[looking at photo] Off the top of my head, I was just wondering, what color were the houses painted? Or were they all the same color?
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Jerry Sare:	I think that everyone was the same color. Yeah, probably an off-white I would guess or maybe a—probably a yellowish color I suppose, yeah. They were all wood siding and no insulation in the walls. And they were all sheetrock inside. Very cool, very drafty. [laugh] It was—the kitchen was right here and...
J.H.:	Did you walk into the kitchen [from the entrance]?
Jerry Sare:	It was a very large kitchen. Yeah, it came in on the back right off the [porch]—you came down some steps [pointing to photo]. You came down this walk here and then there's a little sidewalk that came right into the back door. And the kitchen was—you had to eat in the kitchen. There was a hot water tank in the kitchen. You had to light it with a match when you wanted to get hot water. And I guess the kitchen was probably—we had a big table—we had to get everybody around our table—I'm going to guess it was probably, maybe ten feet wide and fifteen feet long, maybe something like that. And then they had the living room, which was just another big room. And then three bedrooms which actually were all pretty good sized bedrooms—surprisingly they were all reasonably good sizes compared to today's bedrooms—they were about the same size you get in a big house today. But they [the houses] were thrown up very quickly. They were military housing. For military housing they didn't do anything special. You could hear everything that went on in your neighbor's house—no matter what it was—you could hear it. But it was a comfortable place to live. [Looking at photo] I guess my dad put awnings up there on our house. That was not part of the original house.
J.H.:	This one doesn't have it [an awning] [pointing to photo]. It just has an overhang.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, just a little overhang on the front porch. And none at all over the door. But here is the steps for the next door, going up right there. So you can see how close—you could lean over the rail and touch the rail next door. The doors were just that far apart.
Swimming in Summer and Skating in Winter	
J.H.:	Let me see if I have any specific questions, although I think you've addressed most [of them]. I have a question about the woods or the forest behind here [pointing to map]. I know that some of the children walked to elementary school through them.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, well you'd go out the back gate here and there was a road that went—I think it's Yale Drive—that goes all the way over to Quaker Lane. It was just a gravel road. Now there were some people living over in the woods over here. There was a couple of doctors had big houses over here. But it was just a gravel road that went over to Quaker Lane just between Janney's Lane and the entrance to the Theological Seminary there, and it came out about there and you could do that, or you could just walk through the woods, which is what everybody did—just walked through the woods over to Janney's Lane and the school. They built the school—golly, I didn't go to MacArthur School—they

	<p>built MacArthur School to take care of the kids in Chinquapin and Cameron Valley primarily. But my two young sisters went over there. It just was a fifteen-minute walk over there—anytime you wanted to go “That” way, you just walked through the woods. And King Street is down here. And the First Baptist Church sits up here on top of this hill. Now all this, this whole thing was just woods. And there’s a creek that runs—the creek runs down here and wanders through the woods this way. And there used to be couple of nice holes down there in the creek where we could swim.</p>
J.H.:	Swimming holes?
Jerry Sare:	<p>And they had big cliffs that went up to the top of the hill over this way—come up to King Street—’cause King Street’s here—and there was, oh, a little piece of ground here and then it would drop way off down in the flats where the creek was. And we’d get ropes up in these trees and swing around and drop down. And the bigger guys did that. But that was kind of a summertime activity—swimming. When we weren’t playing ball we’d come over here in the woods and swim and just have a good time. And of course there was woods all around the back, all the way from back here out to Quaker Lane and over to Janney’s Lane over this way. But it was...nobody ever worried about going out in the woods.</p>
J.H.:	It wasn’t “scary”!?
Jerry Sare:	<p>No. There wasn’t anybody around except the people lived here and Cameron Valley, so you’d go out there and just have a good time. Shoot squirrels and stuff like that. And then over at Janney’s Lane there used to be a swimming hole right where the creek went underneath Janney’s Lane, which is where there’s a little bridge there now, at um...I want to say Fort Wilderness Park, but it’s right where Janney’s Lane goes down into a little hollow. But there was a stream at the end. There was a real nice swimming hole there that we used to go in and swim. Seeing that we had no pool out here, unfortunately, and we didn’t necessarily want to go to Alexandria all the time. So that’s what we’d do. Of course, up there at the Episcopal High School, around the corner, is where we’d go up there in the wintertime and ice skate ’cause they used to flood right by the gate of the Episcopal High School. There’s a little island under the big tree growing—a little concave—they used to fill that up with water and they did it for the kids at Episcopal, but everybody went around there to ice skate. They didn’t mind. Until sometime after the war, when different kinds of people started coming around and then they started having troubles, so they just closed the whole thing up. But that was our winter activity—going up to the Episcopal High School there and ice skating, day and night, up there ‘til ten-eleven o’clock at night. We’d go up there and they’d build a big bonfire. The people at Episcopal were very nice. They’d never bother us. Just let us come in.</p>
J.H.:	Was that a private school? Episcopal High School?

Jerry Sare:	Yes. Very private. Very wealthy school.
J.H.:	So you had ice skating and sledding also in the wintertime, right?
Jerry Sare:	Oh yeah, we could sled down this big hill here. We had all sorts of winter and summer sports.
J.H.:	Were you able to ride bikes? Did you ride bikes around this [pointing to the circle], it looks like the perfect place for kids—no traffic.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah. Well, this creek that goes underneath here, it almost goes underneath the swimming pool that's there. It starts way back up here and came down and went behind all the black [families'] houses on King Street and ran down and it came right between this—the first court—and the back of the Safeway, and after about four or five years, they came in. I mean it was just a great big gully and they ran concrete pipes down there about five feet high and got rid of the open stream. When it would rain real hard this area down here would flood. The first court (they called everything a court), this whole first court, would be flooded and you could actually go swim in it. It would be up almost to your waist sometimes. And a kid that lived right here at the time [pointing on map], one of the girls, matter of fact, that lived in this house [pointing to same house on map], married my first wife's brother—they met many years after getting out of school, at a reunion—but he, this kid, Mansel, got sucked into that drain pipe up here, or actually way back up here, and went all the way through and then it came out way down below where they swimming pool is. Spit him out and he bobbed up!
J.H.:	And he was okay?!
Jerry Sare:	Yeah. Very, very frightened, but he was alright and he went all the way, and that's, I guess, it was easily more than a hundred yards through that pipe, so. But this whole thing would be flooded several feet deep down there. This whole place in a nice heavy rain. And, of course, this creek was almost raw sewage 'cause a lot of people lived up there and had outdoor privies. It was not the kind of creek water you'd wanna be swimming in, but nobody cared actually. And, of course, there was no air conditioning and so you sat outside 'til all hours of the night trying to stay cool in the summer.
J.H.:	There must have been a lot of mosquitoes, too, I would think, in the woods.
Jerry Sare:	Well, I'm sure there was. There's always mosquitoes in the summer. It's not the kind of thing you worried about too much.
The Chinquapin Community	
J.H.:	I know you've already talked about this, but I don't think it's on the tape. In your view, do you think the members of Chinquapin community considered themselves a member of a big family?
Jerry Sare:	Oh my goodness, yes. It was a big family. Small town family. Any small town, if you've ever been in a small town, that's what it was. When you walk down the street you could speak to everybody, 'cause

	you knew everybody. Of course, there were 300 families and you could easily have 1,500 people, with all the kids and stuff.
J.H.:	Relatively, did people who arrived when it first opened stay through its entirety?
Jerry Sare:	Well yeah, they stayed 'til the war ended, at least. And then after the war. Well, I left in 1950—December—to go into the service.—I came back in [19]54—my parents were still here, but probably in [19]56 or [19]57 they moved out because it was going to be taken over by the city for, I want to say low-cost housing. It was a different name than low-cost housing, but that's in effect what it was, and then the people who lived there—the ones that worked in the Torpedo plant—most of the people that lived there were there working—worked down here [at The Torpedo Factory]—had pretty much gone, and the city had rented the houses to—selectively picked people. We paid, I'm trying to think of what we paid for our three-bedroom house. It was twenty-one dollars a month, is what we paid, for the privileges of living there. And then, as the years went on, it went up a couple or three dollars a month.
Pam Cressey:	May I take your photograph, sir? I don't want to do so without your permission. My name is Pam Cressey.
Jerry Sare:	You can. Yes ma'am. Jerry Sare.
P.C.:	Thanks for coming in.
Jerry Sare:	You bet.
P.C.:	Appreciate it. Just keep on [talking].
Jerry Sare:	Okay. Now there were a few people during the war that came and went before the war was over, but most everybody that moved in there between probably May of 1941, and whenever it filled up shortly after that, pretty much stayed there until the war was over. In some cases they moved around inside the Village, like Brice started out over here and then ended up over here [pointing on map], and other people did the same thing. When you got settled, you were pretty much there. And as soon as the war was over some people just went back home and did whatever they wanted to do. It's amazing how many people lived out there are still in town.
Chinquapin's Relationship with the City of Alexandria	
J.H.:	Alexandria left a good impression.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, and well, I think, by and large, they sorta got where they liked it. Alexandria is a nice place to live. I think the people who lived there contributed an awful lot to the city, even though sometimes the city didn't think so. I guess they kinda thought we were not quite as good as the people who lived here—we weren't from here...we were from every place else, but we weren't from here. And that's kinda what Alexandria was then. If you're not—if you weren't born here, you didn't belong here. You could travel through, but don't stay! And we had to stay, so...
J.H.:	Hopefully, you've helped change the philosophy.
Jerry Sare:	Well, we did, and brought a whole new vision to the city.

Living in Chinquapin Village	
J.H.:	Do you remember, by any chance—I found this photo of a parade from the early [19]40s where they marched down the street some of the torpedoes from the factory. Do you remember attending anything like that?
Jerry Sare:	I know they had parades, but I don't specifically remember. I'm sure they would have done that 'cause that would have been the patriotic thing to do—sell war bonds and all that stuff. They were very proud of their torpedoes and they had a very good record of accomplishment. They used to have an anti-aircraft gun up on top of the building here. On all the buildings they had anti-aircraft guns up there with Marines manning them. I don't know what they were worried about 'cause nobody could fly over across the ocean. They just went about every day, went to school, came home, played, and had a good time. People went to work. That's kinda what it was. This was very unique little community and I've always felt that it was—and I had a lot of friends that lived in Cameron Valley—I always kinda felt that Chinquapin was a little bit better community than Cameron Valley was.
J.H.:	Why, do you think?
Jerry Sare:	For no particular reason! It just seemed to be. 'cause Cameron Valley had civilians and it had...
J.H.:	The military?
Jerry Sare:	It was Army officers—a lot of junior officers lived in Cameron Valley, and civilians. But I always thought we were a closer community. I think—it just was a more friendly place, I think, than Cameron Valley.
J.H.:	The mix of people was just right.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah. It was a very good mix. One of our people who lived right across in this house right on the corner here [pointing to map], they moved in a little bit later, but they were from Mississippi, and the wife could not read. She was almost totally illiterate—very nice lady, but she couldn't read or write, which I had thought was very strange for somebody in that day and time.
J.H.:	And you said you were from Nebraska?
Jerry Sare:	Well, we came here from Wyoming. My dad had worked in Nebraska and Iowa and Missouri, and every place on the railroads. We moved here—we got here in December 22nd, 1940. My mother and seven kids on a Greyhound bus came from Wyoming.
J.H.:	Did you have temporary housing then?
Jerry Sare:	Well, we lived at 31 East Linden Street over in Rosemont from December until the first part of July when we moved out. They were still—they didn't have the road completed when we moved out there [to Chinquapin], they had half of it paved and they were working on the other half—going around the circle when we moved out there. Then it was a wonderful place to ride a bike, 'cause it was just smooth as glass. But it was a nice place. And John Campbell, he can tell ya, he used to

	hire some of the older kids who lived here to cut the grass in the summertime, paying them fifty cents an hour or two dollars a day or something.
J.H.:	Did you ever work, Brice said he worked, for the recreation department?
Jerry Sare:	They had a recreation area down here, and Brice ran that for a couple of summers for the city. He did indeed.
J.H.:	That was taking care of the fields?
Jerry Sare:	Well, they had a big box of equipment down there and he'd just make sure the kids got their equipment and got it all back. This was just, well, where you see the swimming pool, all that from the street that goes up the hill around the pool, all the way down to the woods, and the hill that goes behind the swimming pool, that was just an open playground, and that's just where we did everything. The city set it up and somebody out there just maintained things for the city, and that's what Brice did for several years, among other things. He was also a counselor at the Kilmarnik Police Camp for several years.
P.C.:	Didn't you have air raids?
Jerry Sare:	Well, we had to do the alarm once a month. Yeah, we had to go down, and my dad was one of the air raid wardens. He had his little helmet. He'd go out. We had to turn our siren on after we could hear the one at the Masonic Temple. We were next in line going that way to turn our sirens on. Which I got to do one night. I think Brice and I maybe—we got the privilege to turn it on.
J.H.:	Was that because your dad was a warden?
Jerry Sare:	I guess. We just got to do it.
P.C.:	And how old were you?
Jerry Sare:	Maybe 15 or so. I don't know.
P.C.:	Pretty grown up.
Jerry Sare:	Well, semi. I wasn't a little teeny kid and I wasn't a big kid, so. One of the things myself and two of my friends did. There were 300 addresses out there and everybody had a clothesline in back of their house. Every single house had a clothesline in back of their house.
J.H.:	How were the clotheslines set up? Do you mean on free-standing poles, or from house to house?
Jerry Sare:	Well [drawing] if your house was here you'd have a pole here and a pole here and the line.
J.H.:	So free-standing.
Jerry Sare:	And myself and a fellow named Jack Skelley and a fellow named David McClane went around one night and cut every single clothesline, including our own [laughs]!
P.C.:	Did anybody ever know it was you?
Jerry Sare:	Well, I think people were suspicious, but nobody...They even collected 500 dollars reward if anybody could...
P.C.:	That's a lot of money!

Jerry Sare:	Yes, right it was.
J.H.:	You didn't turn yourself in or rat each other out?!
P.C.:	Was there anyone who you think thought it was you?
Jerry Sare:	Not really.
J.H.:	And you said there was no excitement!
Jerry Sare:	I think John Campbell knew who did it, 'cause one day—this happened on maybe a Friday night. Monday or Tuesday of the next week, I was walking down to go to school or store or something. John Campbell came out of one of the houses and he had a tool in his hand, and it was a semi-rounded thing with a sharp edge and he says, “Do you know what this is?” And I said, “No, I don't” [John said,] “This is what's used to cut ropes with.” And I said, “Well, I've never seen one of those before.” And I never had seen one. We'd just used a pocketknife. So I think John knew. I'm very suspicious John knew. They never could prove anything. And he never said anything. Everybody put their clothesline back up. But they did have that 500 dollars reward they gathered from people. I think we would have gotten in considerable trouble. We might even have been asked to move. I don't know! That's probably...
The Family's Living Arrangements	
P.C.:	Can I photograph this photo? Is this your family?
Jerry Sare:	Sure. Yeah. That's three members of a nine-member family. This is my older brother, my mother, and myself. This is about 1947 maybe.
P.C.:	And so all nine of you fit in one of those houses?
Jerry Sare:	We did. My brother went to the service in the summer of 1942, which left eight of us in the house. My mother and father slept on the daybed in the living room. My two older sisters slept in the first bedroom. My two younger sisters slept in the middle bedroom. And my older brother, myself, and my younger brother slept in the last bedroom. And then, when my older brother went to the service, just my younger brother and I slept in the last bedroom and one of my—my older sister left—about two years after Bill left and got married. And I guess my other sister had the bedroom to herself 'cause Mom and Dad stayed out in the living room on the daybed until she left and got married in probably [19]47 or [19]48, and then they got out of the living room.
P.C.:	Finally got their own bedroom. They were pretty nice parents.
Jerry Sare:	Oh yeah. Well, they had no choice. My dad worked a lot of midnight shifts down here.
P.C.:	Down at the Factory?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, he worked here.
P.C.:	Do you look like him?
Jerry Sare:	A little bit I guess. Yeah, I probably do. I'm several inches taller than anybody else in the family.
P.C.:	You got the height.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah. My mother—one of her brothers was about six foot three or so,

	six two, and I guess her dad was little bit tall. My dad was about five ten, five eleven. My brother about five nine. And everybody else was just short.
J.H.:	Since your father was working a night schedule, was your family on an unconventional dinner schedule or...
Jerry Sare:	No. He would alternate. He would work a month of nights and then two or three months of daytime and then a month at night. They got a little bit more money for working at night. But he'd come home around seven thirty or eight a.m. and go to bed and sleep 'til three in the afternoon and get up and do things. He loved to work. He was always trying to find some place to work. He had trouble just sitting around. And of course when you lived out there—there was nothing you could do around the house—they did everything for you. He would do things himself—had a plumbing problem he'd go fix it himself. Normally, if we had a problem, we would just call John Campbell's office and say I need so-and- so and they'd come to the house—they'd send someone out to fix it for him. Which was the beauty of living out there. We had a little lawnmower. We would cut that little teeny patch of grass. We had a little teeny patch of grass that went around the side. And we had a—my mother found a stick which she stuck in the ground by our back door. And it turned out to be a mulberry tree and it grew enormous. Mulberries would drop out of that dang thing all summer on the street and in our back porch there—it was just a horrible mess. But it was the biggest tree in Chinquapin I think—it was a huge thing. Course our house was easy to find—by the mulberries juicing all over the ground.
Design of the Houses and Layout of Chinquapin Village	
P.C.:	Those trees that are around the circle now, those are newer?
Jerry Sare:	Oh, they have been there forever.
P.C.:	Are they mulberry?
Jerry Sare:	No, no, no, no. I guess they're Chinquapin.
P.C.:	They have the jagged edges. The ones he [Mark Kelley] thought were Chinquapin, but they're something else. Sawtooth or something.
Jerry Sare:	I don't know what all the trees—no, we had the only mulberry tree and it was just 'cause my mother found the stick someplace and stuck it in the ground so we had that.
P.C.:	When you go over by the playground behind the rec. center, there's concrete and steps and things like that. That's a part of the back wall?
Jerry Sare:	That's where you walked down to go into those courts. Every—
J.H.:	These courts? [pointing to map]
Jerry Sare:	Yeah between...yeah you'd walk right down between these houses here. Here is the front steps, and the back steps were right here going into the kitchen. And there's about four steps going down from the street. Not everyone—these on this side didn't 'cause —
J.H.:	Those were level.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, this was on flat ground. Yeah, but all the ones on this side had

	some steps to go down.
J.H.:	So let me see if I understand. This duplex here was on level ground, but you went down steps to get to this one.
Jerry Sare:	Here's your street level and you have three or four steps to the sidewalk. You'd have a house over here and a house on the other side and you'd go down eight or ten steps there'd be a house down in the bottom. These houses down here would be down below, actually, the roofs actually came up to about here and then behind them was just a—there was a drainage—a concrete drainage trough—when the water came off it would collect in there and run down the storm sewer going down to the creek that came through here and it was all—it was just a very steep hill. It had trees and shrubs and stuff and a lot of gravel, but that's what it was. Everybody had three steps to get up into their house and a little awning on top of their front door, and a window here, a window here. A door in the back. Now, their door was back here in the kitchen and our door was out here in the kitchen.
J.H.:	Would you mind drawing the layout of your three-bedroom house?
Jerry Sare:	Sure. Let's get this located properly. There. Now this would have been the kitchen, about like that, and this was the bathroom—the bathroom was here. This would be a—this would actually be smaller like that. The hot water tank—where all the hot water comes—was right there and the stove was right here and the sink was right here. We had a—my dad got an old Bendex washing machine somewhere—I don't know where he got it from—the washer was there. We had a big table for all of us to eat at and this was a doorway. And my mother had a pantry there and there was a bedroom back here and a bedroom here and—this is not very much to scale—and then the other bedroom over here. Actually, the grate where the heat came up was right there. The bathtub was on this wall here, the toilet and sink were right there. This, pretty much—this was it. [words muffled]
J.H.:	Did each bedroom have a window?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, it had a window in the back. And this one probably had a window here and the kitchen had a door here and a window here and you had a window. Yeah, there was one window in the kitchen. And the doorway and the steps...and the steps. Where were the steps? I'll put them in the middle [muffled] over here. That's kinda what it was. And the next house adjoined here. And they were all made exactly the same—one, two, or three bedrooms. That's kinda how it went.
J.H.:	So over here, the one bedroom [house] would look just like that basically [drawing].
Jerry Sare:	Actually, the living room—I think the living room probably went right back maybe this far. So part of the other house shared your bedroom and behind. So let's make that like that. Then the other house—their doorway would be here and our doorway would be here. That's more like it. Then this—there was no door here [pointing to interior plan of house]—you could see into this bedroom and you could see in the

	bathroom. There was a hallway actually that came down to here so you could—you walk through this bedroom to get to this bedroom and there was a door—it's all coming back to me. There was a door going into this bedroom here and a door here, but you go in that door and walk through this bedroom to get back to that bedroom. And this bedroom had a door here and the bathroom had a door. I should do that over for you shouldn't I?
J.H.:	If you want to, sure! Let me give you a plain piece of paper. You can just put it on the back.
Jerry Sare:	I have to look at the other picture so I can remember how we get. [paper shuffling] I'll put the last bedroom over here. It was a smaller bedroom. We'll say this was the living room. Their bedroom in this case would be right here. And this is our bedroom. There was a door here. I still have it all out of scale. I'm sorry. I sorta do drawings and things for a living. The other bedroom would have been—see if I can do this—I'll do this over again for you. I just have to get it all located in my mind. The bathroom was right here and the kitchen was extended out to here and a wall to there and this would be the living room and this was just the hallway to get around other places. That's better. And our front door would be here—their front door would be here. I'll say this is [number] 171 and this is [number] 172.
J.H.:	Was it numbered one through three hundred?
Jerry Sare:	300 was actually...inside...probably, might have been that house, might of been. They started here at number one and worked around this way and then started here and went in this way. I think that house right there was number 300. I'm almost positive I believe. [drawing] Neighbor bedroom. And that's kind of what their house was like. That's pretty much what it looked like. And this distance from here to the street—in our case we had—we came down—we had a little hill that came down, a gentle hill and our house right here...And the back steps right here, I guess, and a walkway and then it just started going uphill. This was probably, from here to here, was probably not much more than five feet. And then another five feet out to the curb.
J.H.:	And the back door faced the street, is that right?
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, our backdoor faced the street and their backdoor—their kitchen—part of this would have been the kitchen—would have been down here, over the bank down here—that was this bank right here—they would look out here.
J.H.:	So the front doors faced car parks?
Jerry Sare:	No, actually front doors—there was always a parking lot between each court and the houses were put facing each other like this. One, two, three, four—this would be 175, 176, and this was probably a two-bedroom. And 173 was down on the hill and 174 was down on the hill. These two down here would be 173, 174. Yes, that's right. That's where I lived. 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176. And there was a walkway that went here between 'em and this distance across was probably not

	much more than ten feet and that's kind of—I'll have to give 'em a bathroom and a kitchen here don't I? That's kind of what they looked like.
J.H.:	Let me draw this for myself. The road is this way?
Jerry Sare:	Yes, this is what we called Chinquapin Circle.
J.H.:	Then for the clotheslines, you'd have them out back.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah, then you had here—there was a parking lot for people to park their cars in. Every—this was a parking lot. This is a parking lot, this is a parking lot, this is a parking lot, that's a parking lot, this is a big parking lot.
J.H.:	That's one of the bigger ones.
Jerry Sare:	Well, this was a court here—this is all grassed in here. This is all grass. You just park in these little squares. The bigger the court, the bigger the parking area, obviously. This was a very, very big piece of ground in here. There was a hill that went right about through here—this dropped off very severely so probably the change in elevation maybe eight or ten feet from here down to there.
J.H.:	That's probably why they made it so large.
Jerry Sare:	Yeah.
J.H.:	Thank you. Thank you very much.
Jerry Sare:	You're welcome. I think I should have thought about that before I came in. Would have had a better picture of it. That's sorta what it was like.
J.H.:	It's a great picture.
Jerry Sare:	Every house was exactly the same, except the number of bedrooms you had in it. You either looked on the street or looked on the woods. That's it.
J.H.:	I think that's it for me too.
Jerry Sare:	I don't know what else I can tell you. Let me fill this paper out for you. You want all these [answered]?
J.H.:	Only what you want to.