

Elisha Smith  
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Page 2 of 15

driving down the road by Oakdale, you can see a little stream that runs out of the pond up in there. They used to grow cranberries, but all them fields was all hay fields or pastures, all through there, when I was a boy.

Then, where the Post Office is, that was another farm right in there. That was, people name of Sylvie had it earlier and then Raymond Walker bought it. He was one of the owners of the Harbor View Hotel down there. That was in the twenties and thirties.

Then you get out to heading out to Katama, there was -- oh, before I get there, at Peases Point Way and Clevelandtown Road, there was three farms along that road there. That was the Norton Farm, then John Prada Farm, up the other end where it's Bittersweet now, and across the street there was the DeBettencourt farm. He used to milk eight or ten cows.

Then there was a few people around Edgartown that kept cows right in town, right on Pent Lane, different places. They had pigs in their back yard everywhere. Even in Oak Bluffs, everybody had pigs in their back yard, and chickens. [laughter] And nobody complained like they do today.

Then as you get heading out to Katama area, there was a chicken farm there, that was Ox Pond Farm. Those are the fields now where the Land Bank there owns the first field you come to. Then the other ones out there that are growing up pretty good, a lot of houses in there, that was -- they had around twenty thousand laying hens there, at that place. I used to haul their eggs up to the egg auction in Avon, Mass. there. That was back in the late thirties and forties.

Down at Katama, there was a sheep farm. They kept around six hundred sheep there, which later I bought the farm. Across the street, along Katama Bay, was Ed and Harry Smith there. They had sheep and cows. That all was open country down through there. Even where Ernie Boch's place is, you know. I cleared a lot of that for him there and everybody hollered, "You can't do that! Keep it like it was!" I said, "Well, the whole shorefront was wide open. When I was a boy I cut hay everywhere around there, and the same down by the Eel Pond. That was all hay fields and just once in a while an old house down there.