



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MH) Maggie Holtzberg. ()

Accession Numbers:

MH-04-08-FN

Fieldnotes

MH-04-08-D

Audio recordings

- - -CS

Photographic documentation

- - -M

Additional materials

Initial Contact: _____ Contact Date: 5/6/2004

Related Accession Numbers: MH-04-04, - - - -

Individual/Group/Event: Interview with retired Pile Drivers John "Jack" Sullivan and Paul Butts

Address: Pile Driver Local Union #56, 22 Dry Dock Avenue

City: S. Boston Zip: _____ County: Suffolk

Phone: Daytime: [REDACTED] Evening: [REDACTED]

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Contact person: Dan Kuhs

Title: _____

Location of Interview: Classroom at Pile Driver Local Union #56

Street Address: 22 Drydock Avenue

City: S. Boston Zip: _____ County: Suffolk

Special Needs (including translation): _____

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): Pile driving and tunnel work

Traditions noted for follow-up: _____

Other Possible Contacts: _____

Summary Description: I arrived at Local Union 56 shortly before 9:00 a.m. and was greeted by Dan Kuhs. He invited me to return to the classroom where we had met before. Tim introduced himself - asked if I needed anything. Shortly after Dan and Dave Woodman came in, followed by Paul Butt. We all chatted informally until Jack Sullivan arrived. Then Dan and Dave left us to do the interview.

Both Jack and Paul are recently retired - and were obviously good friends. Much of the interview was a conversation between the two of them, remembering fellow co-workers, various jobs, dangerous situations and how things had changed since they had first become pile drivers. Jack seemed particularly at ease - making good eye contact. He was dressed in jeans, a Boston Celtics tee-shirt and tevas. Paul Butt also wore jeans - the two enjoyed each others company. In fact, when I asked them what they missed about working they said it was the people, definitely not the work. "I miss the guys." When I left, Dan asked if they could have a copy of the audio recording. I'd given them compact discs of the interview I'd done with Dan and Dave.