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George Cobb tapes

Tape # 9 Transcription

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Side "A"

*George Cobb talks with an old river driver, **Moses Marsden**, in Lakefield on June 20th, 1965. He's 95 years old and was born on June 15th, 1870, in **Roseneath**. He starts by telling about his visit to the log church, north of **Minden**, which is being preserved. He first visited it about 1888 whilst on a river drive.*

Ah they've been talkin' about that ever since last year.

Yeah

I don't know how many letters I got through the winter and then they come out here three, four different times and talked about the church. So they said they want to give up some doings there and they, they want me; should be there.

Yeah

So they were here the other day and I asked them what was goin' on. Well, they . . . you be the one that's be goin' on, I said [chuckles]. Given up 'specially for you, he said. So I . . . they was so, they was so 'fraid that I wouldn't be . . . I told them I'd be there. I told them my daughter's comin' up from **Ottawa** and she's driving back on Monday, Monday morning. They was so afraid that I wouldn't be there, they sent a car out after me.

Right down here, did they?

I [unintelligible]. So we was just about ready to go, ah, I called on the phone, my daughter was out at the other daughter's [1]. She say we just gonna start. Just then I heard a car. It stopped out there. It was this car from **Minden**. [chuckles]

Oh, we had a lovely time.

Did you?

Yeah. We ah, it was the Chamber of Commerce that had this doings. There was quite a big bunch of them. We have a, have a beautiful building about 10 miles out of **Minden**, near **Little Lake**. Oh it's a lovely building—that's where we had the doings there. It's a big building too.

Is that anywhere near the church?

No, no we, we drove to the church afterwards. After we had the dinner there. Oh they had a big birthday cake for us. There was over 50 people there.

Well that was nearly your, was that your birthday then that day?

Tuesday was my birthday.

Tuesday was.

Yeah . . . we had it on Monday. So . . . after we had our dinner, why they had a few speakers and all the doings and then we went to the little church. It's just the same as it was 77 years ago.

And it just looks a little bit older.

Yes. Was it built of log?

Logs. Yeah, it was log house. Up, it was bigger than this room.

And have they got it fixed up now, there's pews in it or

Oh, it's just the same as it was when it was built. Pews and everything. And ah, a platform where the orators were. Oh yes, it's just the same as it was when it was built. It looks a little bit older that's all. And it hasn't been used for some time. But they're going to fix it up now . . . and clean it up, I guess. It looks just the same outside, but the country's so different.

I suppose it is.

Oh, there was no houses at all on the highway and now it's all settled. Cement roads different all together.

Were you ah, up there, what 70 years ago, 77 years ago?

We drove the river **those years**, we used to start away back north, bring the logs down what you call **Gull River**

*Well **Minden** was called **Gull River** in those days, wasn't it?*

Yeah, **Gull River** came right through it. Ah . . . we landed there, near **Horseshoe Lake** that's what makes [*unintelligible*]. We slept there, got that far on Sunday and ah, we slept there Sunday nights, Sunday evening . . . No, Saturday evening and stood there all day Sunday and one of the fellas said let's go down to church tonight. So I said all right, so seven-eight of us went. We . . . oh, they used us good.

Was there a minister there then?

Oh yes . We had, had the service. There minister was there. 'Course there was just a few settlers there then, you see. Had a regular service. So, that was . . . 1888. We ah, I guess after that they didn't use it very much. And I guess some of the older people died, you see. No one, they didn't use it and **Minden** was too close, that's where they, why they, went to the other church. Just neglected, you know.

And ah, so last year they wrote in the *Examiner* and had a picture of the church. Soon as I saw a little church in the *Examiner* I knew right straight because I could go right straight down the road from where I lived.

And I read it--sure enough, I was the one. They wanted to know if anybody could tell them anything about that church. If they could, write to **Haliburton**. So I got Tom to [*unintelligible*]. Why don't you write? Well, I said, maybe I will, so I, I wrote the Chamber of Commerce, told them I'd be at that little church at such a time.

So it wasn't long before I got an answer. They were awful glad for the information that I give them. And they said we're coming out to have a chat with you. So, sure enough, they came out a bit while after that and ah, I told them all about the places where I'd been back there and the lakes we'd go through. And the looks of the little church . . . and ah, . oh, and I describe it so they, they know that that was correct.

So . . . that's how it turned out and that they had a big reception for me last. They wanted to have it as near my birthday as possible. They had it, they had it on Sunday here for . . .

I drove by here on Sunday and I saw all the cars here. [86]

They had the party here and it went on the next day, next two days. So that's why we came on Sunday.

Were you born around here?

No, I was born down there near **Roseneath**. Do you know where **Roseneath** is?

Yes.

That's where I was born.

That was quite a while ago.

Ah, 1870.

1870 . . . *Ninety-five?*

Ninety-five last Tuesday.

When, when did you start logging?

Oh, I was about 16, I guess. Sixteen years old. The years go back. Drove the river for about 3 years. And the last time I went back it was in the fall. We went way back near **Dorset** We spent the day at **Nichol & Diamond Company**. I used to drive for the **Rathburn Company**.

The shanty **Nichol & Diamond**. Just went there the one fall.

Well that was the shanty in the camp, was it?

Yeah, when you cut logs in the winter [100].

Did you cut logs too with them?

Oh yes. That's what I did that time when I went in the fall.

What was a day like when you were cutting logs like that? You'd get up early in the mornings and . . . ?

Oh yeah, oh yes 5 o'clock in the morning. Yeah. Work 'til dark. The days weren't so long in the winter. Oh, ah eight or nine hours, I guess

it would.

Well, then you'd got a good breakfast

Oh yes. We wasn't too far away from the camp in the bush. The camp was right there. If it was too far away, why you'd have to take your dinner? Make a fire in the bush.

Did you have any fresh food or was it all hard tack?

Oh, all hard tack.

They didn't keep any cattle up there or pigs.

No . . . the shanty was way back in the bush. Long ways from settlements.

*Well there was one man I was talking to the other day and he said the **Manorama Camp** took up cattle in the fall and kept them in a barn up there so they'd have fresh meat.*

Yes.

You weren't lucky enough then [laughter]

No. No. I don't know. I never heard of anyone doing that. That might have been some small place. Maybe a farmer might have taken the job.

What happened when you, when you drove the logs? You had a crib did you?

Oh yes. We lived on a crib.

You lived on it?

Yes, camps on the cribs.

Well that was in the spring then, wasn't it?

Yeah in April and May. We used to start back there oh, the first of May, then we'd drive all summer, all the way down to **Peterborough, Rice Lake** down to Hastings. We'd head up about the last of September in **Campbellford** then we finished for the, for that year.

*Did you take those logs right down to the lake? Or only as far as **Campbellford**? Or right on down to **Lake Ontario**?*

Oh no, no. No, down the **Trent River**.

*What happened to the cribs when you got to, say **Lakefield**? Did you have to take the cribs to pieces or did you . . .*

Oh no, we locked them through.

Oh you could lock them through?

Oh yes. Locked them all. Down the canal.

Did you have them, horses on the cribs?

One, one horse

And you used that to . . .

On a capstan[2]

On a capstan?

On the lakes we used that, on the river why we didn't have to use that . Then when we got out to **Cameron's Lake**. We [unintelligible] . We generally had a boat to help us from there.

So an alligator?

No. Just more or less just a steamboat.

A steamboat.

It was nice work. T'wasn't hard work, you know and . . . you got lot better wages than on a farm.

I suppose you did.

Yeah.

What were the wages that you'd get?

A dollar a day at the time.

Did you?

It was big wages that time.

That seemed fairly general, didn't it?

A farmer would only offer you about sixteen dollars a month.

'Course you got your keep as well, didn't you?

Oh yeah, oh yes.

Everything.

The very best. We always had good cooks on the drive.

You had a cook on the crib, did you, with you?

Oh yeah

And what, five or six men?

No, just one man would help.

Just one man?

Yeah, he had a helper. Just the cook and the helper.

That's all there was?

What the big gang was, sometimes was 30 men on the drive.

Oh, there were

On one drive.

Where did they live? on the crib too?

Oh yeah, all together. yeah, it's a nice life.

Did you have much trouble with the logs? Did they get jammed up at all?

Oh, some of the rivers like **Burleigh Falls**. That was a bad place for jams. We never had no trouble, just . . . after they all through then we'd clean 'em up as you go along.

*You had to sorta take the boom to pieces, did you to get them through **Burleigh Falls**?*

Oh yes, yes. Off the rocks. When we come to the river, we just caught the rocks and let the logs all go down.

And then catch them again?

Catch them way down from the straight. [unintelligible] won't come right around the boom

Was that mostly saw logs you're bringing down?

Yeah, oh yes.

They still weren't cutting any masts for boats, were they?

What?

They weren't cutting any masts for boats in those days?

Ah . . .

The big stuff? Big pines?

Oh yes. Big timber! Big timber! Oh yeah! That's the logs over 3 foot two. (diameter)

Did you?

Oh yeah!

Well how long would they be?

'Bout ah, 12 to 18 feet.

That was pine?

Yeah, all pine, mostly. A lot of pine them days, the logs all gone.

There isn't, is there. No. Must have been a wonderful sight, seeing all that pine.

Well sir, there used to be a wonderful sight up that ah, where that mine is and just along the lake.

Nepheline[3]?

Yeah!

Oh yes, there was a lot of . . .

Where that, where that pine was cut at . . . that's before your time. Oh, the pine on that mountain! You could see that for miles and miles.

Yes, so high.

Yes-s-s-s.

*Where was it you were doing, the logging then? Up around **Minden** or farther over? You said **Dorset**.*

Yeah, around **Dorset**. Not far from **Dorset**. We'd have about forty-five logs in one gang, you see.

Well . . . in one cutting you mean from the winter? Or um . . .

Yeah. Yeah.

And then you'd have to bring those down?

Yeah. Well there was a different, different gangs . . . the one batch was cutting all wood and hardly ever went back to the drivers they shantied.

Were they then . . .

Cute up the timber. And the, the river drivers, they were, they were drivers, they weren't

They didn't do the cutting?

No. It might be the odd ones you know.

Well they don't do too good a job on a farm in the summer?

Most of them . . . yeah, most of them

There must have been good days in the shanties, were there?

Yeah, oh yes.

A lot of fun.

Yeah . . . yeah . . . yeah, a lot of **fun ????????**

Do you remember any of the old songs they sang there? [206]

O-o-o-h used to be some good singing there.

Do you remember any of them?

No, no I never . . . I never done no singing

How many men lived in a shanty then?

In the winter?

Yeah

Oh there'd be 50 or sometimes some, some cabins; depend on the size of the cabins. Yes Loggin' and skidding, see?

And they had a separate team, er gang that did the skidding, I suppose.

Yeah. There was . . . there were men that were cutting. There was ah, . . . hauling, skidding up the logs . . . and there was men that was building the skiddings oh, whatever worked, you know.

Did the men use their own horses for skidding or did they

No . . . No.

Belonged to the lumber company?

Sometimes the farmers would get a job in the winter with a team.

Mostly they were the lumber company's horses.

Yeah How long did you say you stayed in **Warsaw**?

About 12 years.

Oh.

*Did you know **Jim Robertson, Robinson** that lived there?*

I know of him. I never met him.

He died a couple of years ago.

Yeah. I used to know ah, the, the a constable there and the blacksmith was ah, **Clement**.

*Oh, **William Clements***

Yeah **William Clements**

Yeah, I didn't know him.

No, he was before your time.

I know his son, where he lives?

Oh yeah. Yeah, I know him too. That **Chance** . . . storekeeper. Old **Chance** used to [chuckles]. I got a quite a lot of work old **Chance**^[4].

Did you?

Yeah. I built a cottages for him once . . . **Star Lake**.

Where he had a post office up there too, didn't he?

Yes, a big store.

There's still a sign up there for it, isn't there?

Yeah, the way I guess the . . . it's quite a quite a {*unintelligible*} place there. What's it called? Has it now? I ah, **Norm** Oh, I don't know

Oh, what is his name? I know the man too.

He, he used to live just over here. **Morrison, Norm Morrison**.

Yes.

He's makin' money there.

*I should think so. Do you ever see **Howard Choate** in **Peterborough**?*

I haven't seen **Howard** in a long time. When he left the hardware; he used to work for **Kingans Hardware**. I haven't seen him since he left there. He's, he's crawling up there too, I guess.

He must be. What is he? He's eighty, I suppose?

Yeah, he must be.

But he's very active. He works around the photo studio, although I haven't seen him very much this year. I think he's slowing down a bit.

Yeah. No, I haven't seen him. I often thought he wasn't . . . Oh yes I know him well.

*Well **Warsaw** was a lively spot wasn't it in . . . in those days?*

Oh yes. Yes. I Oh I used to know someone . . . **Rob Connor**? who got the, a fellow I used to know down I[unintelligible]. I remember the **Paynes** that lived around there.

Oh, Rolly Payne?

Yeah, he's dead.

He died? Gosh

His brother, **Jack**.

He's got two brothers are still there.

Has he?

Yes. [Unintelligible]

*Do you know ah, **A. O. Payne** up at the saw mill? Up farther north?*

I don't . . . oh, oh yes! Yeah!

'Cause he's there now, you know

[both speak together; unintelligible]

Oh yeah, I know him well.

He's in hospital now. He's pretty old.

Is he?

Yes, he's very ill, I think

Well . . . He hasn't been too well for some time.

No

Oh, yeah I, I used to buy wood from, slabs from him when I got, I got [unintelligible] hardwood this year, last year. I bought from him. But this year I've been buying hardwood.

It's a job to get it, isn't it?

Yes, I, I got a chance for some lumber . . . half a cord and that's all I can get, I guess.

What sort of wood do you want?

Hardwood. Big ones. Big ones.

That's what you like, is it?

Oh yes. Yeah.

I don't know where's there any around.

I don't know what that anyone's that has wood or not around **Warsaw**.

*There is some, they've um, the conservation authorities cut some off from, **Jerry McCracken's** place.*

Oh yeah

I know they've got ah four or five cords of softwood there, that's all.

Hm. if they want to get rid of it.

What did you do after you left the logging?

I did carpenter work.

Oh, did you?

Yeah, I built log buildings. I got into the log building trade and paid myself.

There aren't many people doing that now, are there.

Oh no, there's not many carpenters would tackle a log building. Now I got, I was at that prinear 40 years.

Were you?

Yeah Oh yes, that was a long while ago, back into **McCracken's Landing** ah, what you call it? **Stoney Lake?** And ah.
o-o-o-h **Gull Lake**. and ah I know, I've been goin' there. I can't remember the names of the lakes.

Chandos

Ah no, it's a big lake, just north of **Gull Lake**

*Not **Jack's Lake***

Ah

It's on the other side of the river

Yeah. No, it's not **Jack's Lake**

Long Lake?

A-a-a-h that's funny, I don't know the lakes as well as I did. It's ah you go up **Buckhorn Road**, north of **Buckhorn**^[5] 'way back; the last big lake along way back. Oh, I don't remember Yeah, that's several big buildings back there, back there from [unintelligible]. And I built someone's ah that ah at that **Chemong Lake** over there and down by **Buckhorn**.

I don't know very much, no.

Well it's between, between when you leave, when you go to **Buckhorn** you come down the foot of the lake. **Mud Lake?** And there's kinda of a marsh as you're goin' through . .

Oh yes, I know that pond

Well before you get there, there's a big log building in the, in one of the trees

Yeah

I built that. There's a lot of rustic fence in the front.

Is there?

Yeah

Did you build those from cedar? . . . or pine? or ?

Yes. Yes, often . . . often with cedar . . . that, that, that was an old barn on the **Chemong** on the **Bridge North Road** between **Bridge North** and **Peterborough**. The great big, . . there was a great big log barn there. Oh, logs that big around [indicates size to interviewer]. Long, too. It was a barn. So this man bought that and he got it moved over there and that's what I built the house on.

Yeah

I had to shave logs along all sides 'fore it's a level place. You ever have a chance to stop, just go inside, they'll show you around. All varnished inside.

Is it?

Yeah.

Was that pine, I 'spose, was it?

Yeah, some of it's pine, some cedar I even built one for that great Secretary of the States, **John Foster Dulles**[6].

Did you?

Yeah built one on **Lake Ontario**. They want, they could tell ya. He was a nice man. Yeah. He was a fine man. I build several around lake, **Lake Ontario**, on the north shore . . . I built one down in **Brockville** oh, I was all over.

How long would it take you to build one?

Oh, it'd depend on the size and what the way they want it built.

Did you use an adze to shape the logs?

Most of it. Most of it axe, that's what.

There aren't many doing that now, are there?

NO! I, I could be building one for this room [unintelligible] Yeah, there was several last year wanna know if I could still build. But I, I can't figure out as how

It too much, is it?

Yeah. My hips is oh, I can hardly walk

Is it rheumatism?

Yeah, yeah . . . my arms are all right, just my legs and my back. My shoulders gets bad once in a while.

Does your son do some of that work now?

Well, they helped me for a while. But they got . . . after they got married they left . . . started workin' for themselves and they, the youngest son[7], he, he had ah, has a business in **Detroit**. He gets a lot of work. He's a good carpenter and he gets a lot of work. He . . . he moved, eh? and they live all together. He bought a lot there.

Where he's living down there?

Yeah. . . . **Fred**, he goes and works for them in the winter' two winters now. Here, when he get through up here, he'll go back work with him again in **Detroit**. He gets such big wages there now.

That's [unintelligible]

Yeah

That's on carpentry work too.

Yeah. Both good carpenters . . . more fancy carpenters.

Do they do any work with the log companies now?

No.

Either of them?

No. No there's no boys around that I know that's doing that. I have one son[8], a printer. He's over there, lives in the States, too.

Yeah

[unintelligible] . We had that for years. And I have an oldest son[9] who lives in **California**. He was a printer too, but he's, he's retired now. He's quit.

Well, spread around, doesn't he?

Yeah . . . yeah, he's getting' to be an old man too; he's 69 year old.

Is he?

[chuckles]

Did they have any of those alligators^[10] up on the lakes when you were up there?

That was after I quit. We had, we had we used them. I don't think they proved any too good.

Didn't they?

I don't think so.

The horse was better, was he?

Yeah

I've got a picture of one here. [shows picture]. There.

Oh yes, yeah. Yeah, they, they had several round the lakes, but there were quite handy, I guess.

They must have been.

Sometimes.

There are a few others in there that

Yeah, there's

_____??

Yeah

*Oh, do you remember that? Do you know where that is? That's the dam at **Young's to Young's Point** where they're building it.*

Oh yes.

Do you got any idea when that was?

No, I haven't. It was a long time ago, I guess.

It must be. And this, this is, this is the old saw mill there.

Yeah. It's not there now, is it.

No. No.

No that's gone before my time.

Was it really? How long ago was that?

There was no saw mill. It was way back in behind; you couldn't see it.

Well this is the house where they live now.

Oh yes.

So the canal goes up next to their house, doesn't it? So thist must have been the river then before the canal was even . . .

Yeah The old mill the old mill is gone, I guess, all, all together now.

*Among other ones, yes. Do you know what this is? Do you remember this? the old **Empress**?*

The old **Empress** boat?

Yes.

Um-hum.

*There is the **Rainbow***

Yes [unintelligible]

*Do you know **Doug Simpson**?*

Yes. Is he still there?

Yes.

I haven't seen him for years.

I was talking to him on Friday.

Is that so!

Yeah.

[Chuckles] Is he able to do anything?

He lives by himself. Looks after the house and everything.

Well. [Chuckles]

*Well, he gave me a long story about the boats; the opening of the **Kirkfield Lock***

*Yeah . . . I haven't seen him for o-o-h dear knows when . . . , when he used to be on the old **Beaver**? . . .*

Rainbow?

***Beaver** used to call it in them days.*

Oh did they?

*Yeah and then they turned it to **Rainbow** . . . I don't know how long a time ago that boat was changed*

They kept on lengthening it, didn't they?

[Chuckles]

He's getting um . . . he finds it a little difficult to get around now.

Oh yes.

But he comes uptown on the bus and

Does he?

Walks around and does his shopping. . . .

*Well I can remember when there was over a dozen boats on **Rice Lake** that's, that's what I was lookin' for I ah, I thought I had a clipping of that the steamboats that used to be on the lake.*

Yes. Do you remember those?

*Oh yes! Farmers use ta do their shopping in **Peterborough** every week and there used to be an excursion right up to **Peterborough** from **Hastings** all, all the places along the river and **Rice Lake**. And we'd have excursions on the boat. There was ah, one time . . . if you looked down the, where you could see **Rice Lake** . . . there's a time you could see two or three boats at once.*

Could you?

Yeah.

They were really busy down there.

Oh they were, years ago. We used to ship grain, . . . timber. . . . yes, used to be

Someone is coming here.

Should be my daughter.

You said you were what, living down in um **Roseneath** when this explosion^[11] happened?

Yeah.

1885

Yeah, that's right. 1885.

Could you hear it right down there?

Oh yes! Shook, shook . . . windows and stuff like that down there.

Did it?

Yeah . . . oh yes. My men were threshing on the horse bar back in the old horse barn, not, not a . . . steams. Horse bar [unintelligible]. And ah they stopped a few us to change the [unintelligible]. We were threshing peas. And ah, they stopped us to change the Case^[12] and that's when that, that's when we heard that. Oh [unintelligible]! We thought it was an earthquake somewhere.

Well that must be what? Twenty miles?

Almost that.

Did you come up and see the hole afterwards?

No. We didn't know, didn't know where it was.

No.

In them days there was no telephones. We didn't know and didn't hear for a long time after what, what happened. And

That must have been really something.

It happened just you know where [unintelligible] lives down here?

No, I'm not too sure. Is, is that the road that goes sort of through to **Warsaw**? ^[501]

Sixth, Sixth, the Sixth Line

Sixth Line, is it?

Yeah. Starts up here at the **McFaddens, Tom McFadden's**? It goes straight south and ah, after you, ah [unintelligible] cross that creek from **Buckley's Lake**, that's, that's, well that's your [unintelligible] you pass that; you go through a little swamp; well it's just, just up the end of that little swamp.

Oh is it.

There's a house right there on the left hand side of the bank. It just come on to that, down that . . . little grade there and at that time the [unintelligible], the swamp road was, ah, logs.

Yeah, corduroy roads

Yeah, that's what that's what those called because it was all soft I guess when that [unintelligible] little soft. That was got down [unintelligible] and got down onto that corduroy road and it's bumpy. I guess, and the logs, you see? That's what set the dynamite off.

Yes. . . .

It never found any, any of them. Pieces [unintelligible]. Someone found a finger. And ah, somebody, someone else found pieces of the horses. A man found a horseshoe up in a tree pieces of a tire, the wagon, pieces of the tires were found somewhere else oh, it must be terrible.

It must, mustn't it?

Oh yes, [unintelligible] It must be terrible, to, to, to [unintelligible] things up that quickly.

'Course they'd have never known anything about it, would they?

On no, they'd never known.

There were two men, weren't there?

They come from, I dunno, they had their . . . they had their dinner I thought it was **Indian River**. Some place down that way. I

think it was **Indian River**.

Was it?

I think so. . . . and ah, someone asked them where, where their supper [*unintelligible*] so we may have their supper at Hades [chuckles]

Guess they did [both laugh]

*Can you remember the names of any of the other logging companies up there, besides **Red Fern**?*

There was **Gilmore**. **Gilmore Company** and there was ah, . . . there was ah, oh, **Boys, Boys** in **Bobcageon**. They were a big company at one time. And the **Peterborough Lumber Company**

*Well they were **Dickson's** then, were they?*

Yeah, there was a **Dixon/Dickson Lumber Company** too. too. Yeah, I think that's all I remember round here.

*And were they cutting up in **Haliburton** were, they?*

Yes. Most of the [*unintelligible*] were around here—**Peterborough**, **Coffey** and **Haliburton Pine** **Cook, H. H. Cook**, they were . . . a big company; they, they went more on west of **Georgian Bay** 'way back in that way. I shantied for them one winter in ah **French River** . . . we went up in the Fall, November, the last trip the boat make, the **Northern Bella** went to **French River** and the last trip we made that year. There was no more boat until next, the 6th of May that work in winter. Just tug boat.

That's late, isn't it?

[Chuckles] Yeah. Well the lake was all open then on . . . we, we had been through the shanty about a week. We'd be boarding out in a hotel in **French River** village for about a week, I guess. And ah, we couldn't get out. We had to stay 'til the boat came in. So when we saw that boat comin' why, I guess we wanted to get out.

So one day, when they landed, [*unintelligible*] evening, so I went back. It was a little tug boat. And they weren't allow to take passengers. The law said they were not, the captain said. Well I said that we'd like to get outta this, this' there's four of us. . . . I said . . . what would it take to take us out? Take a chance? I think he said two dollars apiece. . . . take to you **Midland-Penatang**, that way.

Now he said ah . . . two of ya's come early so you can get down in the hold and stay down there without; don't want to see ya. And he says two of ya, two of ya's can come and help load the boat. And we did that. Oh! it was a lovely day. And that lake was just as smooth as glass.

When we went back in there, we thought we'd never get off that boat. Oh, it'd rock, say I never was in such a storm. Snow! It'd snow and they, they arrive in **Thunder Bay** on **Georgian Bay** at **The Grave**, they call that one place. They had to run in there on account of the snow storm; they couldn't see; they couldn't see.

So we stayed there, I think we stayed there one night. And they had to go around by **Parry Sound**. And when we left **Parry Sound** for **French River** why, I says it's terrible. And that old boat had been condemned before that [*unintelligible*] passengers.

Really?

And there was one [*unintelligible*] of us and one then, I guess. Musta been 20 men, I guess.

Was it a wood-burning boat?

Huh?

Did she burn wood?

Oh, I dunno . . . what? . . . I dunno . . . a cord of wood; must have been coal, I guess. And ah, we got there all right [chuckles]. The old **Northern Belle** [*unintelligible*] terrible.

So we got to **Penatang**. They, they couldn't land there—ice had been broken up but, it filled that bay then, so they said they could get in at **Midland**. And he said give us 25, ah, 75 cent increase more and we'll take you down to **Midland**. So we did.

You were glad to get back.

Yeah! Give some more money. Land us at **Midland** that night and ah . . . then a crowd of people come runnin' out to the boat when they land, you know. So, he phoned . . . he phoned . . . for a bus to come and get us . . . from the boat and take us to a hotel . . . so we sneaked outta there [chuckles].

When was that? Do you remember the sorta date it would have been?

Oh 19? . . 18? 1893, I guess. It was 1893.

Yes, Was it settled down there at all, then?

Hm?

*Was it settled up there um, near **Thunder Bay** [13] when you went up there?*

Oh, no. no.

Nothing there.

No.

Side "B"

Down the west more than that, I guess. Must been more than 20 men, I guess.

Was it a wood burning boat?

Huh?

Did she burn wood?

Oh, I don't, what? I don't know [unintelligible] a cord of wood. Must have been coal, I guess. and ah, we got there all right [chuckles] the old **Northern Belle!** Ice, ice was terrible so when we got to **Penetang** they, they couldn't land there . . . ice . . . had been . . . broken up but it filled that bay then. . . . so they said they could get in at **Midland** . . . he said give us 25, ah seventy-five cents increase more and we'll take you down to **Midland**. So we did.

You were glad to get back.

Yeah! Give some more money. Landed us at **Midland** that night and ah, a crowd of people came running out to the boat when they land, you know. So, he phoned he phoned for a bus to come and get us from the boat and take us to a hotel. So we sneaked out of there [chuckles].

When was that? Do you remember the sorta date it would have been?

Oh, oh, nineteen, eighteen nineteen 1893.

Yeah. Was it settled down there at all then?

Huh?

*Was it settled up there . . ah, near **Thunder Bay** when you went there?*

Oh no, no.

Nothing there.

No, there's nothing there. No. We didn't get off the boat; just, just pulled in there

When you drove these longs down south, um, how did you get back up to the lakes? Take the next drive down?

We all went back on the train.

On the train, did you?

Back to as far as **Kinmount** and the walks in every camp.

Actually, there were more trains running then, then there are now?

Oh yes

'Cause all the lines have all been

Oh yes.

pulled out, haven't they?

Oh yes. They used to be a lot of trains running them days. no, no trains anymore, I guess. Lots of [unintelligible] now.

What do you do in **Warsaw**?

Well, um

I [unintelligible] together nice yeah I [unintelligible] the **Scotchman** the Irish man? how, how [unintelligible] was. So the Irish man said you see that church steeple on there? He said yeah well do you see that fly on it? . . . **Scotchman** says sh-h. He said I can hear him walkin' [laughter].

[unintelligible] told stories. [laughter]

Once he was a constable too, you know

Of William Clements

Yeah

He arrested a murderer once, I believe, didn't he? Did you ever hear that story?

I, I don't know, I don't think

Didn't have a gun or anything . . .

[unintelligible] quite brave, _____ There's a Lodge down there, I believe.

Orange Lodge

Oh yeah!

Yeah

Well what are they gonna do what's the Orangemen going to do . . with the if the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church, join, join union?

The United Church?

The United Church and the ah in fact, all the churches are talkin' about

Well, I supposed they'd, they'd still keep on with their parade, wouldn't they?

Well ah, You wouldn't think, you'd

They'd all have to be one I think they'd let everybody keep their own special things like that.

Looks kinda foolish, don't it? Orangemen marching on 12th of July? 'Cause they had that ah fight in **Ireland**, now

Yes

What the, the Protestants licked the Catholics in **Ireland**. That has nothing to do with us here.

No.

I dunno why they wanna come here

*Well they come from **England** and we never even heard about them over there at all. It wasn't 'til we got here that we found that happening.*

Well that's . . . I often, I often think of that now whats . . . How foolish it looks. We wasn't interested in that . . . in that battle and

Well it was years before even before the first Irish settlers came here, wasn't it?

Here's another thing that I think, that I think

BACKGROUND NOISE DROWNS OUT CONVERSATION

the . . . the Orangemen in certain ways they're against the Catholics . . . against the certain rules and regulations. And ah, in all the . . . the Catholic Church changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first **of the week**, did you know that?

No.

Yeah 'Twas 'twas changed through the Catholic Church. The Bible says the seventh day is the Sabbath. But they, they changed it; the Catholic Church changed it to first day of the week . . . Sunday. Called it Sunday. Well now, they ah, the, the Orangemen is

[unintelligible]. They, they honour that Sunday [unintelligible]. They ah,

The Catholic Sunday

Yeah. As much to say that they worship the Pope the Pope is the head of the Catholic Church.

Yes.

Well, Christ is the head of the Sabbath, proper Sabbath. But they, they they discard the proper Sabbath and they accepted the Pope's Sabbath, first day of the week. So, I don't know [unintelligible].

When ah, yes. When was that changed then?

I . . . eighteen . . . no [unintelligible]. I got it right here.

Oh don't bother to get to get up and

Yeah, [unintelligible]. I, I'd like to show it to ya. He was the son. And ah, His worship day was on the first day of the week He called it Sunday. That's how it got its name sun, sun worship.

Yes

Sun's/son's Day he called it the Sun's [son's] Day, that's where it got it's name . . . Sunday.

Oh I say just [unintelligible]. The first time it was changed

[Search for literature]

There's another locker down there, is there?

[Reading] *Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Nicaea in A D 336 transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.*

Yeah, it is.

What was done at the Council was that one of the steps by which the change of the Sabbath was effected. See under under Christmas?. The date usually given about this [unintelligible] is 364 A D

[unintelligible] used to drive the ah,

No, I spoke to um oh, Matt McMann in Peterborough

Yeah

And he was on the lumbering but he never did any driving.

No. No. Well that's what I say this no, there, there was a bunch that went to the shanty in the winter; worked all winter, but they didn't drive the rivers.

No, No.

Then there was the drivers that didn't work in the shanty, just on the river. Used to be ones from **Hastings** did ah, go in the fall in the camp, work all winter come home and have a good spring and all go back to the drive in the, in the summer. [chuckles]

To a bit more money.

They'd drive all summer and get through in the fall, have another good spring [chuckles], go back in the, the [laughs] in the winter [laughs]. Yeah, I knew them all too; they were from **Hastings**. The, the **Carters** There, there was two of them . . . two of them were foremens; **Paddy** and **Jack**, the **Carters** were foremen and then they had a brother . . . **Jim** he, he was from **Campbellford**, used to go on the drive too.

Oh, used to be an awful lot, used to be all these **Curve Lake** fellas

Yeah

Used to be [unintelligible] watch men go every, every year. The time that we went to that little church there was eight of us went I think. Well, some of them was from **Curve Lake** but there isn't one alive today that

Isn't there?

Not one.

You were bringing a drive down then when you went into

Oh yes. That's, that's as far down we had come to **Minden**. Then we stayed the . . . oh, it was Sunday and then we had nothing to do. One fella, one, ah, **Turk, Turk Sindless** said let's go to church tonight. So the service did all right. Well, he turned out to be a minister after that, that same lad.

Did he?

The Turk? yeah. Yeah, he preached, he preached for quite a long time and he's dead. And

I supposed the drives were, were quite good, were they? I mean there wasn't too much work to do?

No, no.

Except when you took the boom through um, . . . the were falls or anything.

No.

What about breaking these um log jams. Did you have to go out on the logs then?

Oh yeah, yeah. Well, not necessarily. If it, if it worked at from the shore. It was the real big jam, you, sometimes you had to go up onto, into the log and get the bottom log, you see.

Yeah. Well that was risky.

That was risky, yeah. That's the only place it was risky. But if you're careful, why as soon as you got . . . lots of times you'd, you'd, one log that's holding the others back, you see. But if you get that log out, then just one side, why the logs won't go, you see.

Yes. And the ones on the side probably wouldn't move

No, that's it.

Give you a chance to get farther over.

Yes. Oh it was dangerous some places you know. Risky on the rapids, like, like that where, they fall, rapid; that was the bad ones. See, it's quite steep.

That was a long rapids was it before they put the . . .

Yes

dam in there?

Yes. Well, ah, no the dam was in then, but it was right from the bridge; that's where the old bridge was . . . right down to the lake, you see. It was all down . . . ah down grade you see. Falls.

Well did you have to go down there on the logs?

Well

You didn't, didn't

It all starts from the top, you see.

Yeah

_____? go down, go down and keep doin' it and the ones on the top go down, keep goin' down.

Yeah. Well how did you get the crib down there?

Locked through.

Oh you did?

Oh yeah we had to go down the canal.

Oh the canal was there then, too?

Yeah the canal. The boats were running up and down that time, see

Oh I see

The canals are just for the boats.

Well I thought that was before the canals.

Yes. Oh no. Eighteen eighty-five they were building that dam in, when that explosion . . .

Yes. Would they have the canal there as early as that?

Oh yes.

Oh they did.

Yes.

Well those canals were built for the logging then, not for the boats, particularly?

Well, no, I think the boats were running then. That was, that was the main traffic then.

Oh I see

The boats, you see

Yeah, but that was before the lift lock, wasn't it? Well before the lift lock that was nineteen four

Yeah that was, I forget when the lift lock was built.

Nineteen four.

Was it?

Yeah.

Well that's

So, I suppose they had these so they could get up into the other lakes.

Yes, yes they had different dams, more dams I guess that time. . . . before the lift locks were built, see. They had more dams, you see.

Well that was all rapids down from here down to **Peterborough**, wasn't it?

Yeah

[1] Daughters **Elsie** and **Ruby** attended

[2] A spindle through the centre of the raft was turned by horses, winding a heavy rope which was anchored ahead to the shore. The boom was attached to the back

[3] Now **Unimin Mines** at **Nephton**. **Unimin Blue Mountain Mine** near **Stoney Lake** mines nepheline syenite. **Town of Nephton** existed from 1935 to the 1980's when all the buildings were removed.

[4] "Chance" could possibly be "George".

[5] Possibly **Catchacoma**?

[6] John Foster Dulles served as U.S. Secretary of State under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953-59. He purchased **Main Duck Island** in 1941. It was purchased in 1976 by the Canadian Government as part of the **Hastings-Prince Edward Land Trust**. It is located in Lake Ontario, very close to the International Boundary line.

[7] Youngest son was **Percy Aylwin Marsden** [1914-1981] and **Frederick James Marsden** [1912-1984].

[8] **Lawrence Clayton Marsden** [1909-1997]

[9] **Cecil Wellington Marsden 1898-1972**

[10] The **Alligator Steam Warping Tug Boat** was a workhorse in the forestry industry from 1889 to the 1930's. It combined steam engine technology with the warping drum,. The process of kedging [cadging] of log booms replaces the winding of the hawser rope around a capstan to haul the boom forward where there was little or no current.

[11] **Warsaw Explosion**, also known as the **Douro Explosion**, took place 4 September, 1885. **James Simmons** and **George Morton** were hauling a load of dynamite from **Tweed** to **Burleigh Falls** to be used for opening the **Trent-Severn Lock** at **Burleigh Falls**. The load exploded and **Simmons** and **Morton** were never seen again. Ten -foot deep craters were found at the explosion site. The horses and wagon were found lying 50 feet on each side of the craters. The blast was heard in **Lakefield**, **Peterborough**, **Warsaw**, **Young's Point** and **Madoc**.

[12] **J.I Case** built his first portable team engine in 1869. It was used for farm threshing equipment. This could be a possible reference to **Case** farm equipment. Threshing machines were run by horse whell and horse power. The wheel was on the ground and the horses walked

around it moving the tunnel shaft that ran the machine in the barn. The horse wheels went from farm to farm.

[\[13\]](#) **Thunder Bay** is off of **Georgian Bay** in **Tiny Township**.