

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ROSE IRONS
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: BURLEIGH FALLS
ONTARIO
INTERVIEW LOCATION: BURLEIGH FALLS
ONTARIO
TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11/18/77
INTERVIEWER: FAY TILDEN
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
SOURCE: ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO
TAPE NUMBER: #IH-OA.021
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC #128
PAGES: 15
RESTRICTIONS: THIS RECORDING IS
UNRESTRICTED.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rambling conversation which deals with her various neighbors.
Rose: Well, I'm Mrs. Irons from Curve Lake and I've been living here from '20 to '30 and from there on. I was around here before I got married too, like working. I forgot to tell you that in the first place. And I got right up to the part that you want is how the people lived around here and...

Well, I was working around. I used to see things, you know, white people coming in, putting Indians out of here. They had to get out and camp out in the tents. And taking pictures of the Indians. My sister-in-law and my brother, my brother was guiding that day when this man come up from Ottawa or someplace. And all the little kids were sitting along the outside of the tent and the mother was on the board. There used to be a board across from the, you know, the tent opened, you know. And her arms are looking out, she took a picture too. And my mother took a picture with my two kids on the back of Margaret (inaudible) way back there. We used to live back there ourselves when I was working in the summertime. And Marg's got that, my mother and Mavis when she was small, and my son was a little bigger. Mac Brown was a little bigger.

I've been asking Marg twice now for that picture, but she can't... "Oh, I'll come to it sometime," she says. I'd like

to have that picture of Mavis, you know. She's holding my mother's dress looking at the white man, you know, from behind. She's cute.

And I don't know how it come back, anyway they moved back and they got, picked this lumber up here and there and built some kind of a house. And I don't know, I was working, and when I'd come home I used to stay with my brother who lived there -- Buster is my brother, Buster Brown -- and there's just the two

of us. And I used to stay there from going to work in the morning, come back home at night.

Fay: Where would you work?

Rose: At the Park Hotel, the first. And then after that I worked for that Somerset Hotel for about two, three years. Jack Jacobs had it and his wife Ada and all the girls, and there was a chore boy there -- his name was John Irons -- and that was my husband when I married him. But I wasn't going with him yet that time when he was a chore boy here. And I used to be in the kitchen helping around and making beds. And I used to go across the road and go and clean up a couple of cabins down the road, across the road. Well, that one cabin is there yet -- somebody bought it. Where Norman Davis. You know Norman Davis? Norman Davis bought that place, like that spot where those cabins was. And last summer, I guess, or this spring, they tore them all down, they are not there now. But that cottage down below somebody bought it and they come in there every once in a while during the summertime. I used to make beds in there, yeah, used to be a cottage from the Somerset Hotel.

Fay: Did Archie Jacobs hire most of the Indian guides?

Rose: All the Indian guides. Well, some would go to the park, some would go there -- maybe three, four guides would go there -- and some of them would hang around, you know, not go out. Some of them just stay around, sit out on the veranda and walk around. Some of them would go out on their own like, just some would have guides. And then I don't know how the hotel burned right down to the ground, lost everything. And the

Jacobs went across the road here where the post office is now and Jack Jacobs built a house there for his family. And when they passed away, I don't know, the kids got married and left the place and that was torn down. And then put that school up there, that building that's there now. He didn't bother making another hotel or anything, he lost everything.

Fay: Who were some of the guides at that time?

Rose: Well, there was Burt Taylor, and Lloyd Brown, and Stanley Johnson, Gerald. When they wouldn't be guiding at the park, they'd be guiding there, you know, just back and forth, wherever they could get a job. Sometimes there wouldn't be that many at the Somerset Hotel, they'd go to the other there,

back and forth. And oh, there used to be a lot of people coming up the Park Hotel. There'd be some from Curve Lake come up and fill in, you know. Yeah, not enough guides around here.

Fay: How many guides would they hire at that time?

Rose: Oh... Well, all the guides around here, the old guys now. Well, some of them, they're all dead, except Buster is living now, and Sandy. The rest of them are all dead.

And then when I got through with the hotel I was going to retire, I was tired working. Bringing my two kids up, you know, and I bought that house at Curve Lake and so my mother could own it. And when she was... She made a will, she gave me the house and seven acres, seven acres. And I went and sold that after she died and bought lumber with that money at Reed's Camp in Bobcaygeon and built a house up here so I'd be close to my brother, and raised my kids here. They used to go down to

Buster's when I'd go to work. And they didn't go to school here. Well, Mavis went to school, but my son was too big to go. Well, he's 46 now, going on 47, and he used to go to school at the village. Well, he stayed with his dad most of the time and that's how he got that house there at the village.

Now Mrs. Clayton McKeough is renting that house now. I could go home any time I want to, like instead of going up to Aurora with my daughter, but she doesn't want me to. Like where I am, when it's winter, cold weather comes, it bothers me. See, in the mornings now I have to, I got my heater in there going all night and I close that door. Sometimes I sleep on the couch, sometimes in the bedroom. And in the mornings I have to come out here and make fire here. It's kind of cold for me. It's all right in the summertime, I don't need fire. And then I'll be coming back in the spring again after Mother's Day if they want me to.

But I could say, to tell you the God honest truth, that the Indians around here had a hard time to get, to have what they've got now. Even the hunting was taken away from them, like they can't hunt around here without you got to have everything, you know, license and everything. Long ago they never used to have that and now you got to have it now -- gun license, guiding license, catch fish. Well, they're still doing it now, but they can't go out fishing in the winter. Sometimes they tried, but an airplane would go by and they have to run in the woods, you know. It's, they watch pretty close around here.

And the rice wasn't sold, that was a live wire who put that up. Like I say at the reserve, Curve Lake -- I don't know about around here, but it seems like it's around here too -- like it

is Curve Lake. And those Indian Islands over there, Russell has his house on the Indian Island that belongs to Curve Lake band. And there's some islands down Stony Lake belongs to Curve Lake Band. And when an Indian goes guiding down Stony

Lake, and if they go to this island to make fire and cook for their people that they're guiding, they're put out of there, out of that island. It still happened last year, this summer too. Now they can't do that, you know, put the people that owns them islands like that, you know. But I don't know, if I was them I would put a stop to this, you know, and keep on going to those islands because they're ours. But they claim the islands because they've got their cottages there and they think they own them. Many time I used to hear people next island, "Get off of there. Get off of there. Go and swim someplace else." Yeah, awful. Anybody can tell you this around here, not only me. And trying to put the Indians out of here, because Trent Canal is down there. I think this is... I just forget now what this, Lindsey, I pay Lindsey, Buckhorn, township of Harvey, I pay the tax and lease there. I send a lease in Lindsey, taxes in Buckhorn and I won't pay again until next fall. I don't worry about anything except water and... that's all I worry about. I'll be all right.

Fay: There's no well around here?

Rose: There's no well around here.

Fay: Do you have indoor plumbing?

Rose: No, I haven't. No, I go out in the cold.

Fay: So you have been in Burleigh since a small girl?

Rose: Yeah, yeah.

Fay: So you probably remember when the Indian people first came here.

Rose: Yeah, there wasn't any people around here when I come in like there is now, you know. Especially just like my brother and his family, Scotty Hogarth and his family, and Art Boothe with his family, and Sandy Jacobs and his family, Issac Johnson, Wilfred Johnson, that's about all. And when Mr. Day and Mrs. Day was going with each other they used to come on bikes and come and have Sunday school under the tree someplace where it's shady. I was here when they got married. But I just knew Marjory is her first name, like when she used to come up. She used to have a little organ, you know. She'd take it out of the car and play it and we'd be all singing. (Inaudible) be there.

Fay: Miss McLaren?

Rose: Miss McLaren.

Fay: Is that a school teacher?

Rose: Yeah, a school teacher that used to be here.

Fay: When the people first moved here there was no

education at all?

Rose: No, no, no. See, there was Louis's boys like George Hogarth, Don Hogarth, Helen, and Jean, and Clifford and all them, they went to school here.

Fay: Over at...

Rose: Yeah, yeah.

Fay: Maybe you could describe where the school was.

Rose: Where the school was, right down the road here right where this was up. And Lloyd and Verna, Agnes, and Grace, and Betty, they used to go to school down here, Vic and Albert.

Fay: Did they have Miss McLaren as a teacher?

Rose: Yeah, yeah. That was the only one teacher I know that used to come up here.

Fay: What was the first school like in Burleigh?

Rose: Well, the first school was kind of hard, you know, coming up and... Well, they go into it, you know, and kids started behaving themselves and that, and they used to all talk English -- no Indian. Of course our parents talked English to them, you know. And that's hard for them to... not very many of them that are status Indian around here.

Fay: Where was the first school?

Rose: First school? Down over the loft there where... on that side. There's a big store there, Bob Brown's, and there was another addition put on this end, and that's where they used to have the school, first school, you know, all those little kids. What do you call her? Lillian will show you the picture of the kids that used to go to school, she's got a

picture. Yeah, about that big, my daughter is in there and Johnny Jacobs when he was at home, and Dave, and that Kenny Botic got hurt and killed on the road -- he's in there. And that other fellow that got killed on a truck when it turned over there one time, yeah.

Fay: How many pupils were there in the first school?

Rose: Oh, there was quite a few of them. They went to this ball game some place and that (inaudible) was driving the truck. And there's so many curves, you know, around that Buckhorn road and then he got off the road there and upset right on top of the rock. Some of them was taken to the hospital, and somebody was dead over there, some of Daisy's boys. Yeah, it was awful. My daughter was going to go that night and I wouldn't let her go. Good thing I didn't let her go to the ball game. I don't know where the ball game was,

Rockcroft, I think.

Fay: When the people first came up to Burleigh where did they camp?

Rose: Down on the camp ground like, you know, where you're going from Marg Spencer, you know, the houses there. That's where all the tents used to be. There was nothing up here except Art Boothe up where he is now. And there was no tents around there. All lived down there (inaudible) in a tent, (inaudible) and Wilfred -- that's a brother of Sandy's, that's Wilfred -- and they all lived there with their little kids.

Fay: Were the tents pretty big?

Rose: And Isaac Johnson. Yeah, they lived in a tent. Dawson and Stanley and they were all small, I remember.

Fay: Were the tents very big?

Rose: No, no. Maybe one was big and that was Buster's. They were all not too big.

Fay: And did they have any stoves, or were they...? What were their conveniences?

Rose: Well, some of them had box stoves in the tents, you know, and some of them didn't. They had to cook outside like, you know, outside. And they'd have lanterns in the house to keep, in the tent, to keep the heat from the lantern, you know, heat in there. And that's all over the floor like, you know, floor quite high from the ground in the tent.

Fay: It would be built with boards?

Rose: Yeah, and walls that high. And then the tent on top so they could walk around and they'd hang a lantern on that pole to reach each end of the tent. Put a lantern up there for a lamp. Yeah, they were poor, poor people, you know. Now they've got more than what I've got. Fixing their houses and fixing... Buster's got a nice place there now. If it had been like that when his wife was living and those people around here done that, you know, fixed their houses. Art Boothe's kitchen was torn down and made it over. Art's house was lined up inside and sealed nice and warm there now. Mine was like that. I'd stay home but it's too cold.

Fay: And you are a status Indian from Curve Lake?

Rose: No I'm not, I'm a Treaty Indian.

Fay: Treaty Indian.

Rose: See, if I want help I can't get it from there to here. No, I'd have to go home and get help, they'd help.

Yeah, see I don't know how Herman got that help there, got that house made and everything, and he belong to Curve Lake. And yet I didn't have the nerve. People asked down there, the council, to make me a house too, you know. There's houses coming up in Warsaw and Youngs Point and there's houses coming up here again. I wouldn't be bothered asking because I'd only feel foolish because, "Why the hell don't she go home to Curve Lake? She belongs to Curve Lake," you know, like that. That's what I'm afraid of -- they'd throw in my face. I know better than that.

Fay: You gained your status by marrying into the band?

Rose: Yeah, yeah.

Fay: And Buster moved down here for what reason, because he didn't belong to the band?

Rose: Well, I don't think we did, I don't think. See, our father was a different reserve, but the people was good enough to let us live in there them days, you know, over there. Curve Lake.

Fay: Where were your parents from?

Rose: Curve Lake. My mother was there, she was born there, but she married this guy that didn't belong to no band reserve, no reserve, no band like. And that's why we didn't get no money every month, I think, or every six months we used to get annuity money. We don't get now, you know. It's all gone to the highways, and the lights there is in Curve Lake. All gone. I don't get no money now. And my daughter was brought into the band, because she was out of the band. See I had her, you know, same as anybody else has kids around here that's not married, that doesn't belong to their husbands or like that, you know, that's the way I was. But they were good enough at the Curve Lake band to bring her in. There was lots of kids that was brought in there that was out, you know. So I'm thankful for that, that my daughter belongs to the band, but if she ever wanted to franchise we'd only be scratched off. We wouldn't get no money like the rest of those did, you know, like Geraldine and Daisy and Louise and Melanie. They were born getting that money, but we weren't. See, I just got it through marriage to get into the band.

Fay: So Buster moved out of Curve Lake?

Rose: Yeah, and moved up here and he stayed then right the whole year round, and he hardly ever goes home. When the Curve Lakes would come up here now they'd go over and see him. But me, anything happened there I'd try and get there, you know, and show my face in there.

Fay: So, but Buster can't go home to Curve Lake any time?

Rose: Well, he can go home. Like I mean a visit, you know.

Now he's got a home here he wouldn't go and live there. He's got a good home here now and everything will have to fall on his kids now whenever anything happens to him, you know. They were all born here except Verna and Lloyd was born at the village, and Mac was born at the village but the rest was born. I had to run around for a woman down here when Margaret Brown was going to born -- Mugsie they call her. She's in the village living with Steven Taylor's boy -- Everett Taylor -- she's in there living with him.

Fay: There were no doctors close?

Rose: No. I had all my kids without doctor. Even up here, when they'd have babies here, no doctor, just woman doctor. Mrs. Spencley, Ernest Spencley's mother used to be a woman doctor. And Nelly Abraham, I call her Nelly Abraham, Abraham Taylor's wife, she used to come as a doctor like, help the woman have the baby. Them days they were all here when I was around. Now, soon as a woman is pregnant you have to go every month, and the doctor looking at you every month till the baby is born. Them days we didn't have all that stuff that the woman has now.

Fay: What happened when the kids would get sick?

Rose: Well, the kids would get sick then they'd have to take them to the doctor in Lakefield around here. And the kids never got baptized either. That's another thing around here, until they were about as big as that biggest girl that went by here -- that's Art Boothe's granddaughter. Maybe a little bigger than that. The mothers took them all down to the Youngs Point and got baptized. They didn't get baptized while they were small babies, you know. I did at home when they were

born and the next day I'd have the minister over to the house to baptize. Now I don't know how old they were when they were baptized and they don't know how old they are now, just through that. It's hard to know how old they are. Now I know Agnes Dowdy, she was born on the 10th of September, 1930. My son was born 1930 on the 6th of August, and Agnes was born next month, September 10th. Now she's about one month, my son is one month older than her, I think. No, she is, eh? Just one month between them. I know her age, Agnes. And I know Clyde was born 1928, 23rd of February, that's when he was born. He's about 56, or 57 now, something like that. Yeah, and Verna was born on the 25th of December, 1923.

Fay: Oh, Christmas Day. That would have made a nice gift.

Rose: Yeah. But I wouldn't remember now how old she'll be this Christmas. She'd know herself.

Fay: So there was quite a village around here for ten or so years.

Rose: Yeah. There wouldn't have been that many kids, only

Abrahams family -- like daughters, they all had large families, you know, like... But anybody else outside... Isabelle only had three -- Dave, Marion, and Margaret. And Josh, he had Ruthie, Shirley, Dorothy, Jimmy, Joe, and that young Dorothy, and Georgie, about six or seven. She had quite a large family. Ruthie is getting a house there with the Johnsons, a house there too. And Shirley had one. Kenny Downey is having one. Brenda and her husband having one. Eliza Niels is having one. This house up here is up for sale, \$39,900 they want for it. Quite a bit, eh? Because there's the big wood lot too, you know. I don't know how many acres, quite a bit.

Fay: So do you remember Burleigh when they put the dams across and the locks through? Do you remember when they were constructing this?

Rose: No, just the bridges. Like that bridge when you come to the stop where the bus stops over...

(END OF SIDE A)
(END OF TAPE)

PROPER NAME INDEX

PROPER NAME	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
BURLEIGH FALLS, ONT.	IH-OA.021	ROSE IRONS	128	6,9,15
CURVE LAKE, ONT.	IH-OA.021	ROSE IRONS	128	2,4-6,11,12

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
EDUCATION				
-day schools	IH-OA.021	ROSE IRONS	128	8
HUNTING				
-regulations	IH-OA.021	ROSE IRONS	128	5