

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: LILLIAN NAHDEE  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: R.R. #3,  
WALLACEBURG, ONTARIO  
INTERVIEW LOCATION: WALPOLE ISLAND (STORE)  
ONTARIO  
TRIBE/NATION:  
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 03/23/78  
INTERVIEWER: BURTON JACOBS &  
PATRICIA SONEY  
INTERPRETER:  
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discusses various storekeepers on Walpole Island.  
- Discusses the burning of the council hall.  
Lillian: ...said, "Okay." That was about 1951, and then 1953 we moved in here. It might have been '52 when I bought this land from you then. Yeah, some place around there. And then I didn't... Well, maybe my dad knew about it. And it's been good, you know, like the business was good before the bridge, you know. But since the bridge, you know, it's been handy for the people and you don't blame them, you know. But we haven't got no debts, you know, nothing. We just pay as we go. And I help my boys, you know, build their houses from the store, because I didn't have much. Albert and I didn't have much money on hand when we started. He made the shelves himself, but we bought second hand, you know, from that store across here, you know, where Murphy's used to be. There was a man there, he was a bachelor.

Burton: Oh yeah. I've forgotten his name. I did know his name.

Lillian: Yeah, me too, and just right now I don't know his name. But anyway we bought those things and that's how we started, and he made the store, him and Henry made the store part. So when he died, well, practically Pat has been handling it since Albert died. And that's why I got sick, that's why I got Jamie here now. Well, with the money I had I made a deep

well. That was expensive, yeah, but I'm glad I got the water.

Burton: How much did it cost you?

Lillian: Five dollars a foot. And they went 135 feet. And I'm glad I got that, because we got a lot of water and I supply my boy with it, you know.

Burton: He's piped into your well?

Lillian: Yeah. And we got a lot of water. And it's good water, soft water, and that's about it. That was 1965 when Albert died, you know, and then I kind of give up the store, so Pat said she'd take over. But I didn't change the bills or anything, you know. So, you know, she's my daughter and I just, you know, just put her in here, that's all. But it's not my store any more, it's hers. But they're keeping it up pretty good. And insurance is high. Yeah, (inaudible) insurance is high.

Burton: That must be a business insurance, eh?

Lillian: Yes, that's what it is, I've got to have that. But I've been helping them, I've paid insurance myself, you know. Well, that's about all that I can tell you.

Burton: Do you remember the old storekeepers when you were small?

Lillian: Yes, I know Jim Philip, Jim Kyack when he... and then Walden White had it, or Martha. I don't know who had it.

Burton: Well, they both had it, I guess.

Lillian: Yeah, and I even know the ones who used to live over by George Isaac over there. I used to run over there, you know, after school, recess, or school at noon, I used to go over there. And their names I don't remember.

Burton: McNabb?

Lillian: McNabb, yeah. That's the only ones I know. Is there anybody else that had a store?

Burton: Yes there's, they say that Smallman had a store.

Lillian: Oh yeah, Alan Isaac. That's Alan Isaac that... I don't remember Smallman having it.

Burton: Maybe he just helped out.

Lillian: Maybe, maybe. It could have been before Alan had it maybe. Alan had his before he died.

Burton: And up the other way, up front, it was Solomon, John Solomon.

Lillian: Yeah, John Solomon, yeah. And then, what you call, Joe Day they called him, and then Dorothy White. I think it was Dorothy that had the store, I don't think he was ever home.

Burton: Well, do you remember other businesses like that hotel that was sitting up at the front? Do you know much about that?

Lillian: Yeah, they were my relations, my mother's side. She used to tell me all of it, yeah. And right off I don't know their names, but I pictured it, you know, when my mother told me.

Burton: That's the Pontiac Hotel?

Lillian: Yeah. And you know it's too bad, we used to have a picture of Pontiac, you know. That disappeared -- the picture of him.

Patricia: Would you be able to tell us all that you remember about that hotel?

Lillian: About the hotel?

Patricia: Yes.

Lillian: Well that's about all. My mother, my mother, it was sitting there, you know, just lately.

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: Yeah. But... and I knew the people but I don't know their names now, just that mother was related to them. Now maybe if you dig around they might be Thomas, last name might be Thomas. But she was related to them. That thing was up, you know, when they used to have fairs there, the buildings up there.

Burton: Yeah, that's right.

Lillian: Yeah. I don't know whether they got burnt or tear it down.

Burton: It was torn down.

Lillian: Torn down. It was quite old and it was huge, yeah, it was huge, you know, like a hotel.

Patricia: Did it have two stories?

Lillian: Two stories, yeah.

Burton: I don't know who, what family owned it. I don't know whether... It wasn't Elgins, eh?

Lillian: Elgins, no. That was on... No, no, I'm quite sure it's Thomas. Because we weren't related to Elgins. No, I'm

quite sure it was Thomas.

Burton: Yeah, it must be Thomas.

Lillian: Yeah, because we weren't related to...

Burton: I'll have to talk to Dr. Thomas. One of them is a doctore now in Pontiac. Still remembers Walpole Island.

Lillian: Oh, I see.

Burton: Yeah, he comes around.

Lillian: Oh, to see the island, eh?

Burton: Yeah. Yeah, even if I could get a hold of a picture of that hotel.

Lillian: That old, yeah.

Burton: That's part of our work too, you know, collecting old pictures. We don't, we give them back, you know, we just get them copied.

Lillian: Yeah. I remember it had a big long porch on the front, a real long porch like, and then there was doors, you know, windows. Just a square, you know, single windows.

Patricia: Do you know who built it or anything?

Lillian: No I don't, no.

Burton: They must have built during that boom when the excursion boats came to Walpole Island.

Lillian: Yeah, that would be the time, yeah. I imagine a lot of people would remember it, you know, mostly the people at the front, the old people. You know, look at me, I can remember the house.

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: It used to face this way on the church grounds there, it used to face this way like, you know, towards that parish hall. It didn't face the other way, it was like this. Well, that's about all I can tell you.

Burton: Do you remember the last year that they had the fair there on the Anglican Church grounds where that hotel stood?

Lillian: Yeah, that would be around about 19--, well, say '29 or '30. That would be about...

Burton: Yeah, I think you're right.

Lillian: Yeah, '29 or '30, because I remember going to that

other fair. Well, I had the kids then -- to that fair grounds.

Burton: Yeah, the present.

Lillian: Yeah.

Patricia: You know that ferris wheel they had?

Lillian: Yeah.

Patricia: How did they operate that?

Lillian: The ferris wheel? Well, they had their motor.

Patricia: Oh, they had a motor.

Lillian: They had a motor, yes.

Patricia: Did they have any other rides?

Lillian: Merry-go-round, they had a merry-go-round, ferris wheel -- that was a big fair. They had horse races there, you know, coming from different reserves.

Burton: Did they have pony races?

Lillian: Yeah, they had chariot races. That was a big affair.

Patricia: They had all those stands. What kind of stands did they have?

Lillian: Oh, there was a lot of basket stands, and meals, meal stands. And, well, mostly baskets. They didn't make bead work like they do now. No, they didn't make too much of that, just mostly baskets.

Patricia: In this store, when you first opened here, did you have a wood stove?

Lillian: A wood stove? No, oil. And then I can say that I was the first one to have these propane.

Patricia: Oh really?

Lillian: Yeah, that's just like lamp. You just, there's no, the new ones now are automatic and they shut off. But these don't, you just turn them like a lamp. Yeah, I was the first one to have that.

Patricia: When did you get these?

Lillian: About 1953, '53, '54, like that. And now it's a good heat now all over the, there's a lot of it on the island now. It's nice heat. I like it better than oil, it's clean.

Patricia: So, was this store your first job?

Lillian: Yeah. Like I worked out before I was married. But after my married life, well, I made baskets and then this, and that's all.

Patricia: How much would you get for your baskets when you made them?

Lillian: Hamper, you know those clothes hampers -- \$1.50.

Patricia: What year was that?

Lillian: Oh, that must have been... Well, I started making baskets when I got married. I didn't have, you know... I was married in 1935.

Burton: Now they want \$15, \$20 for a hamper.

Lillian: Yeah, they are a good price now. Oh, used to get \$1 for a market basket.

Patricia: And where were you married?

Lillian: On the Island. No, I'm Anglican.

Patricia: Oh, you're Anglican? Your husband was Anglican?

Lillian: Yeah.

Patricia: Do you remember the minister?

Lillian: Yeah, Draper.

Patricia: Were there, like did all your family come and all his family, just like it is now?

Lillian: No, no. We got married privately.

Patricia: Oh.

Lillian: It was just like, you know, at the rectory.

Patricia: Oh really?

Lillian: We didn't have no meals or anything, it was just a quite wedding.

Patricia: And what was your maiden name?

Lillian: Pardon?

Patricia: Your maiden name?

Lillian: Isaac, Lillian Isaac.

Patricia: And when were you born?

Lillian: 1908.

Patricia: What date?

Lillian: December 27th.

Burton: Did you ever live in Wallaceburg?

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: That was before the First World War, eh?

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: Your dad worked in one of the factories?

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: What street did you live on?

Lillian: I imagine that was the sugar factory he worked on. I don't know what street it was, but it was right... You know, where that mailman Sogerts lived? We lived right at the back. And then Aldridge and the family had a house right on the side, right next to us there. McGacky, Isaac McGacky? Yeah, they

lived right next to us. See, that was like a front street over there. That's where the Sogerts, you know, Ted Sogert's father.

Burton: Yeah, we lived on that street, that's Foreign Street.

Lillian: Oh, Foreign Street. And there was three houses, like out at the back.

Burton: On that road that goes...

Lillian: That goes, you know, on the...

Burton: The Sogerts lived right on the corner.

Lillian: Yeah, and then we were just behind.

Burton: Oh yeah. And who lived on the other side of you? McGacky?

Lillian: Yeah, right on the side, on the left side, right back of Sogerts. And then we were the... There was Sogerts, then McGacky, and then my dad. It was just my dad and the family that was there -- my mother was home with the other kids. See, they were too small to go to school so she stayed at home here while us school kids went over there.

Burton: Did you go to school in Wallaceburg?

Lillian: Yeah, Wallaceburg.

Patricia: Is that where you started school?

Lillian: No, not exactly, no. No, I started here. But it was just that my dad was working over there and he took us down; there was Alice, Liza, and Fred, and myself, and then my mother stayed home. I think Freddy was home, Freddy wasn't there, Freddy and Evelyn, they were home. Just my dad, my dad took us down there. And I remember coming on the main road there with horse and buggy, yeah.

Burton: From Wallaceburg?

Lillian: Yeah, from Wallaceburg, that's the way we travelled. Yeah, like come home on weekends sometimes, you know. But we had a nice home over there. It was, you know, just natural, you know. We liked it and we stayed there. It was just on occasion we would come home, or my dad would come home and get some stuff, you know, vegetables.

Patricia: How far did you go in school?

Lillian: Well, like on the Island they used to have books so I went up, like on the fourth and fifth book. I took the two because I was kind of smart. And then William Day, he was on the fifth book. See, they used to have books not grades. And then, well, I did some of what Bill did, he could tell you, you know, I did some of his subjects. But I wasn't right up there so I must have quit on the fifth book, I would say.

Patricia: Was that in town?

Lillian: No, that was over here.

Patricia: And how far in town did you go?

Lillian: Well I, I must have went like two, three books over there because I finished here and then I went to Mount Pleasant after I finished here. Yeah, I was asking Clarence, I says, because I went to school with Clarence and I says, "Oh, did you go to school after that?" And he says, "No, I started looking for girls," he said to me. But I went to school, I went to Mount Pleasant after that. I went two years over there.

Patricia: Is that high school?

Lillian: No, I went to seventh. That was grades over there. I went to seventh grade over there.

Burton: There were a lot of Indians living in Wallaceburg, you know, in the First World War.

Lillian: Yeah, there was shanties, you know. Well, you know, by that last factory there, you know, not very far, there were



shanties lined up.

Burton: Yeah, I remember. See, Sammy White used to, and his dad and mother used to live in there, and Elijah Sword. Well, there might be some others but those...

Lillian: Yeah, they might have been ambitious people, I don't know. Maybe they were just searching for work.

Burton: No, they were working.

Lillian: Yeah, well search for work then.

Burton: Yeah, we used to live right opposite the glass factory, right where...

Lillian: I know Moses Shipman lived close by too.

Burton: Yeah, across the street.

Lillian: Yeah. Well, that's about all I can tell you.

Burton: Well, who was your teacher on Walpole Island?

Lillian: I think, you know, when I was small, what you call, Joe Sampson. Because I used to watch him go home at noon. He used to go home at noon and we used to bring our lunch, used to walk, you know, walking fast. Yeah, and then after him there was Mr. Watts and that's all I know. And then... but some more come after that. Mr. Watts was there for a long time.

Patricia: When he'd go at noon would you be in the school all by yourselves?

Lillian: No -- yeah. The kids, yeah. I don't know whether he locked, you know -- she wants to get out. I don't know whether he locked the door or I don't know what. How old are you, Burton?

Burton: Sixty-six.

Lillian: Sixty-six.

Burton: I wanted a little information on John Notty, you know. You don't know where he lived when he came from, well after the War, I guess (inaudible)? You never heard where he settled?

Lillian: No. Albert never mentioned it, just about those medals, that's all. He used to tell me about those.

Burton: But they never said whether the police wanted to borrow them or not?

Lillian: Well, I imagine that was their intention.

Burton: But they never...

Lillian: But they never come back with them. I imagine that was their intentions of doing. It was the Mounties, Mounties, yeah.

Burton: Would that be very long ago?

Lillian: Well I imagine, because Albert... Of course he was five years, five or six years younger than me, but he knew. I don't know how big he was and he knew that those Mounties come there, and then he asked his father, you know, what those Mounties were there for. Kids, you know, wonder, you know.

Burton: Did (name) live your way? Where his house now is?

Lillian: Yeah, that I know of, yeah.

Burton: How about his grandfather? Where did he live?

Lillian: He lived right beside on this side now, where Sandy's house is now. That's where his father lived. You know how those old-fashioned houses, you know, upstairs, one room like.

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: Yeah, that's the one he lived.

Burton: Who is mostly related to those Nahdees that I could talk to? Is there someone?

Lillian: He never told me his relations. You know, there's a lot of Nahdees and he never told me, you know. He never told me his relations. It's just Lloyd that I know now, you know, that was his brother, you know, Albert's brother; but he's a lot younger than I am, you know, Lloyd Nahdee, but he wouldn't know.

Burton: Well, there are quite a number of Nahdees on Walpole Island. I was just wondering, are they all related?

Lillian: No, I don't think so. Just like my dad and, you know, that Isaac Isaac? He wasn't related to him, no. He wasn't related to them. Like this Isaac that used to live here, he wasn't related, so I guess not. They wouldn't be all Nahdees, you know, they weren't all related, no.

Burton: Was Albert a descendant of John Nahdee?

Lillian: No. Norris is. Norris, you know, they were brothers.

Burton: I mean, let's see, I'm thinking of what they call (inaudible).

Lillian: Oh yeah, I used to hear that, yeah. That's not John Nahdee lately, that was John Nahdee Wade(?).

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: Yeah, he was related.

Burton: So, Albert didn't have any papers, you know, showing his relationship with old John Nahdee?

Lillian: Well, I don't... See, he did have papers and I don't know where they went to. And I never read them, never touched them, you know. He used to read them out to me but it was like a land claim mostly, yeah. And I wasn't interested, you know, my kids like him, you know, and I wasn't interested. But he used to take a pride on those papers. He said they were really, you know, something, you know, to...

Burton: Well, they were real valuable.

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: Well he, I remember him taking them to Mr. Ferris, Mr. Ryan, when they were opening up that Tecumseh monument in Thamesville.

Lillian: Oh yeah, yeah. Yeah, he showed them to different ones, and I imagine there's copies around. Maybe they just read them and, you know, because I never was with him, you know. But I know they are not in this house, you know, those envelopes, those big long envelopes. I looked in there and they're not in there. Because, you know, the Walpole Island council wanted to borrow them and when I did look, well, they weren't there. You know, it seems like Willy Nahdee used to advertise that and it's funny the people weren't interested. He used to advertise that, didn't he?

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: But the people weren't interested at that time, you know, and he used to advertise about those papers. The people didn't seem to care -- just like me, I wasn't interested in them. And I didn't know they were that important, you know.

Burton: Oh, that John Nahdee, he was a famous...

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: Very famous Indian chief, only the people don't know it around here. Where he moved to Morris (inaudible) they've got a, they erected that \$20,000 monument to him.

Lillian: Really!

Burton: Yeah, John Nahdee. And there's been books -- I don't know how many -- they've written about him.

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Lillian: Maybe Bessy, if you go to Bessy Kyosh, maybe she'd know a little about it.

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: She's the oldest girl.

Patricia: You had chickens and cows?

Lillian: My dad, my mother, not us. Well, I start having chickens here but there's too many dogs. Too many dogs, you can't have no chickens around here.

Patricia: When you first started your store, where did you get your supplies?

Lillian: Oh, we went to the National Grocery. You know, wholesaler.

Patricia: Where was that?

Lillian: Sarnia. And then they quit in Sarnia and now they're in Chatham and we still deal there, it's a wholesale house. You have to have a permit to have a store, you know. You don't have to pay for it, it's just a permit from the retail.

Patricia: So you went in horse and buggy to Sarnia?

Lillian: Oh no, that was mine, that was my, this store.

Patricia: Oh, this store. What about your first one? Did you have one?

Lillian: Yeah, we had the National Grocery from Sarnia.

Patricia: So you went like that over there, by horse and buggy?

Lillian: No, no, they delivered, they delivered.

Patricia: Oh, they had a truck then?

Lillian: It was modern then, you know. Yeah, they delivered. And pretty soon, you know, when they know that you have a store, well all these... I used to have a lot more salesmen but now the salesmen are dwindling, it's just that they go to

these wholesale houses. And then the (inaudible), everything is delivered. You don't have to go after anything.

Patricia: How were their prices? What were their prices like then when you first started, can you remember?

Lillian: Oh they were, what you call, oatmeal -- that five

pound was 39 cents, and now, it's... I don't know how much it is now. And then at that time you could, they trust you, you know, you could go for like a week and pay for your stuff the following week. But now you got to have cash, everybody, you know.

Patricia: Did you have any refrigeration?

Lillian: Yeah, right away when we...

Patricia: Oh, as soon as you got the store?

Lillian: Yeah.

Patricia: How would you keep your food before you had a refrigerator?

Lillian: We had refrigeration here.

Patricia: But when you were small.

Lillian: Oh, you mean from my childhood. Well, I remember we had sauerkraut by the barrels. My father made it and my mother. And we had salt pork -- we must have had pigs. And I remember we had cows, horses, we had guineas, you know, those chickens like, you know. We had ducks, yeah, because we lived by the (inaudible), you know. We used go home, you know, there was ducks there so they come home.

Burton: What are the guineas used for? For the eggs, or do you eat them?

Lillian: We ate them. But my mother used to say it scared off the hawks, because, you know, they were always making noise. That's why she kept it, it scared off the hawks, you know, chicken hawks, because she had a lot of chickens. She was real patient with chickens, you know. In order to survive maybe, I don't know. But anyway, it's different now. Everything it seems like it's easy for people now, they don't want to bother raising little chicks and putting them on, you know. It's not that it's different.

Patricia: Like gardens, you know, vegetable gardens.

Lillian: Yeah, they had, that's what we live on is garden. And we used to can, and people don't do that now, even can. They don't can, they just come and buy tomatoes when they, you know, corn and stuff like that. But long ago we had to put up our canning, used to have cans and cans of fruit and vegetables. And they used to dry a lot of stuff, used to dry apples, the fruit, mostly apples, but the peaches we canned. And then we used to dry corn.

Burton: Is it squash or is it pumpkins that you used to dry?

Lillian: We used to mostly pumpkin. And then the squash we'd keep it, you know, like through the winter, put it any place at

all. And, you know, they used to patch clothes long ago, you go to school with patch -- now they make fun of you when you wear patches, they say. You know, my kids, when they went to school they couldn't wear patches. And when I went to school

we didn't think nothing of it. It's a little different. And I think now they just throw stuff away just like that, without mending or patching. You hardly see patches now, just those stamped jeans that they wear now, but they are not really patches.

Patricia: Do you speak Chipewyan?

Lillian: Yeah, Chipewyan. I'm a Potawatomi but I speak Chipewyan. (laughs)

Burton: What peddlers do you remember way, way back that used to come to...?

Lillian: I used to remember a fellow -- he was a foreigner, you know, he was a white man. And he used to come down this road here and we'd sort of, you know, watch out for him, because he had goods, he had thread, he had scissors, you know. I imagine he carried more, maybe he had a little cart, now I don't remember. I think he used to push this suitcases, yeah. And I never did know his name, you know. We were kids and mother used to say, "Oh, watch for that man, that peddler." That's the only one that I know of.

Burton: Do you remember seeing that gentleman that used to go around buying wood ashes?

Lillian: No, I don't remember but my mother used to tell me. (Indian) they used to call him.

Burton: Yeah, that's right.

Lillian: But I used to remember, you know, that... He was a butcher, he was famous. He used to slaughter cattle, you know, on the Island. He used to have a big wagon, you know, he'd sit way up, you know.

Burton: Casey?

Lillian: No.

Burton: Before?

Lillian: Before that, yeah. Oh yeah, before that. He used to buy mostly cattle.

Burton: What was (Indian)'s real English name?

Lillian: I don't know that. That's all they used to call him that I know of.

Burton: Yeah, Nelson was telling me about him.

Lillian: Nelson Charles?

Burton: Nelson James.

Lillian: I remember the camp meetings, you know. They used to have the camp meeting down this way more.

Burton: Yeah,

Lillian: By (inaudible) over there, and then over here, I remember those. And then they had it over there too, Waldon White's there, some place there. They had those camp meetings all over. They were good camp meetings, yeah, really good. But they're getting small, camp meetings are getting small, you know.

Burton: Yeah. Do you remember crossing over the (Indian) ferry?

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: It was quite a ways back, eh?

Lillian: Yeah. It was shorter for these people back here.

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: Yeah. That was the only ferry, though, they had to go through there. But they had mostly horses and wagons and buggies at that time.

Burton: How about that Union Hall? You ever remember seeing that when it was in use?

Lillian: You mean Temperance?

Burton: No, that Union Hall that used to be over on the other side of James Kyosh, right in the corner.

Lillian: No, I don't remember that. I must have went to school, you know, must have been school age. I don't remember that. It was sort of some organization or what?

Burton: No, that was... That's where the council used to have their meetings, you know, I think the Potawatomis.

Lillian: No, I don't remember that, no.

Burton: You know, they had two chiefs in those days.

Lillian: Yeah, I remember that. I remember when Moses (name) had it, chief.

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: And his brother had it, and Alan, different ones, you know.

Burton: Who is Moses (name)'s brother?

Lillian: That's, what's his name...

Burton: Not John?

Lillian: John (name), yeah, that's the one. He married a white woman at (inaudible).

Burton: Yeah. I don't remember the (Indian) ferry although I should remember it. I think what happened is that when we came to Walpole Island, weekends, I slept on the bottom of the carriage.

Lillian: Oh yeah.

Burton: So I don't remember that.

Lillian: Well, Nelson's father run it. He got the job or owned it, I don't know. He was the one that used to run it.

Burton: There's been a lot of changes even with cooking tools, eh?

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: From long ago.

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: Do you remember the Jim Kicks(?), the saw mill business?

Lillian: Yeah, I saw that. They used to (inaudible). That must be around 1918, '17.

Burton: Yeah, that must be, but I think he continued right up to...

Lillian: Oh yes, he had that. Yeah, he had that pulp about '29, eh?

Burton: Somewheres around there.

Lillian: Yeah, he had that full swing. Then he had a saw mill after that, didn't he? After (inaudible)?

Burton: Yeah.

Lillian: Oh, I remember quite a ways back and I'd stop and think, you know, the Indian names too, you know, like... There's still a lot of Indian names. But they had other names



too, they had white names, you know, besides their Indian names, I seems to notice.

Burton: Well, a lot of people travelled by water too, eh? They used this dredge cut to go to Wallaceburg?

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: And they rowed all the way.

Lillian: Yeah.

Burton: With a rowboat. Some of them had launches too.

Lillian: Yeah. I often wonder how they survived, but they did, you know, they get around.

Burton: When this Potawatomi Hall got burned up did you know about it that night?

Lillian: No, but oh, you know... See, I have the boys here, you know, my grandchildren and I kind of noticed. You know, they put me in that middle bedroom and I kind of noticed, you know. "My gosh, the clouds seem red," I said to myself. Didn't think nothing of it until that boy that sleeps in the back over there -- it's got all venetian blinds, you know -- and he noticed this red sky. And I saw him put on his clothes, you know, and I said, "What's going on?" "Oh, I think the Potawatomi Hall is on fire," he said. And so we all got up. And my gosh, I just couldn't bear to look at it -- that was a trade mark. I was sorry for that building. It was really too bad.

Burton: Yeah, they could have turned it into a museum, you know.

Lillian: Yeah, that's really too bad. But they were tearing it apart. It didn't have no roof and maybe just somebody threw something there, you know, fire. It didn't have no roof on it -- they were rebuilding. No, we didn't have no imagination that until, you know, it was pretty near all in flames. I

don't know when it started, I don't know what hour the fire trucks come, I don't even know. I didn't -- it happened so quick.

Burton: I heard that, the crackling, all the way down to where I live.

Lillian: I didn't even hear that. It was the color of the sky I noticed, but I didn't think anything of it.

Burton: Well, I felt it, you know. The wind must have been from this direction, and my window was open. Oh, it must have been about two or three o'clock in the morning and by morning there wasn't very much left of it.

Lillian: We lived so close by and we didn't... I don't even think Winston and them, I don't think they even knew. Yeah, that's too bad. I think, you know, they didn't hurry with the roofing. If they had the roof on maybe it wouldn't have happened. You see they were lowering that, I heard after. So they were going to get it shingled and then they didn't, and then they decided they'd lower it. I don't know why, it was all right if they just shingled it. But there was no roof on it. Maybe that's why it started, you know. Maybe somebody just throw something in there and that's how it started. You wonder, you know, how it went so fast. I think we were sleeping, you know, when... And the boys went to bed after the news -- that was about 11:30. So as you say, around two o'clock, that must have been about the time. So that's that, eh?

Burton: Yeah, I think that's good. This is just a consent to use your tapes, that's all.

Lillian: Oh yeah, okay, that's fine with me. So you make it up nice, you know, make it... There you are.

Patricia: And how about these two on top?

Lillian: Okay.

Burton: So Willy Nahdee's father...

(END OF SIDE B)  
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