- General discussion of ferry boats that serviced Walpole Island.

Burton: Maybe we can start off by talking about ferries. Nelson didn't really tell me very much about those ferries, although he should, you know, he worked very close. Well, I been wanting to find out when that ferry was moved, the (inaudible) Ferry.

Clarence: Oh...

Burton: Close, you know. You don't have to hit the exact year but approximate.

Clarence: I took (inaudible). I come over there and old (inaudible) had a... He come after me in a dugout and it was rotten one end and he made me sit in the middle of that thing, and he stood all the way across. He stood up and I sat down, and he paddled that thing across the river. Talk about a scared (inaudible) and I wanted to come over. And he landed me on Walpole Island finally and then a nickel. That's what I was told to give him, a nickel. He wasn't going to charge me anything. (laughs)

Burton: What do they charge for a horse and buggy in those days?
Clarence: Ten cents for horse and buggy, and 15 cents for a democrat or a wagon not loaded, you know, regular teamsters wagon that carries wood; 15 cents. Of course outsiders paid more. Now where James lives there's Indian land on the mainland side in there someplace. There's a strip of Indian land in there belongs to Walpole. I don't know whether you know that or not. Do you know it?

Burton: Well, Bill Dutch(?) told me about it.

Clarence: It's there. Man bought it. He liked the Indians so much that he thought that maybe the Indians would get trapped on the island so he bought piece of land for them, so they can get in lot of reserves; there's a piece of Indian land right there. There's a high strip in there somewheres. If you ever go over there you'll see it built up where the ferry used to be. I think that's where it is.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: That's where he bought the land so the Indians could land on it mainly. He thought maybe the Indians might be cut off at some future date, so he bought the land then. And finally they made some improvements so they brought it up here to the fair when I was... Well I worked on it when I was 12 years old. It was already run by a man named Solomon Hill; he ran it for a while. And I worked for him for 50 cents a day; that's all I got. Me and Simon Peters worked for him. Of course he was married to Simon's sister -- Solomon Hill. Her name was (inaudible). And Johnson Peters lived over here where Marty White's house is now. That's where Johnson Peters lived, north of one side there; that's where his log house was. And he served as a councillor for 35 years on the island, old Johnson Peters. I don't know how long ago that was. And he was there for quite a while, I don't know how long. I couldn't tell you the years -- there's no history on it, I don't think, chalked down no place. And by the time I was around about 14 or 15 years old they moved it up to where the paved road is now. They bought a piece of land, Walpole bought a piece of land there from, oh... Who was this Blackbird's wife? She owned that land. And Frank, (name)'s son, I don't know what his name was.

Burton: Frank Thomas?

Clarence: Frank Thomas, yeah. Well, she must have been a Thomas too before she married him. They owned that, they got paid for that. They got a fairly good sum of money, what it was in those days. They bought a road allowance and they could improve on that. They banked it up real good and they made it what is was as we seen it. Of course gradual improvements would come to follow after that. And they had an old wooden ferry there, wooden scow, and every year they pull it up on dry land just before the ice comes down. That was their job,
patching that thing, putting new ends, especially on the ends where it would bump up against the ramp. I remember going down there one time. The ferryman, Charlie Jacob, told me, he said, "Come and see this plank," he says. I said, "Why, what's wrong with it? I've seen planks before." "Yeah, but look at this one, you've seen this one before." It was only a quarter of an inch thick. That's from having the hole in it -- that's a three inch plank. That's how much it would have had, a few more bumps and the scow would sink right there on the job. Oh, he was scared.

When my mother died, oh, I don't know how long ago. When she died (name) was five years old. We come across that thing, we come across the ice. We walked over and they told us to hurry back because the ice could move any moment. We met (names) and somebody else going across. "Where are you going, to town?" "We're just going one way, we're not coming back." So we had this little girl with us, five year old girl -- that was my daughter Jean. We're going towards Tilberry(?). Well the next day, the next morning with her operation, she got an operation and of course she died on the operating table. They said she had a heart attack on the operating table. So when she died then we come back again to make some kind of funeral arrangements, and when we come back the scow was not in the river. So Charlie Jacob says, "I need some help." I said, "I got to have that scow in there. I bring my mother's body over." So, "Well, if you can find somebody to get that in." "How we got to get it in there?" I said. He says, "We need some jacks." "Well, get some jacks and I'll do the work," I says. So we swished her in there, then got a rope, put it on the cable and then we began to tighten that thing. That's how we handled that thing. We had a hard time swinging that scow around. Trying to get it in place and hook it on the wheels. A small chunk of ice was almost enough to shove us back, but we finally got it in the hole. And that was the first time I ever helped getting that old scow in there. It was a wooden scow.

That's all I know about that thing and then now the modern improvement of course is the bridge. That was put in one time when the Conservatives were in there, they brought it in. They always said, "We gave you this bridge." But actually it's the people's money that they're handling. It's only the leaders that have the right to dole it out. They just happened to be the leaders at the time the bridge situation was up. Well, we got a bridge through them anyway. And that's our present day bridge.

It's makes a whole lot of difference, it's safer for children to and from school, because the other way we used to worry about them. We used to have bring them across. Many a times I rode my kids going to high school on the boat so they can come over to (name), catch a ride in the morning. It was a day's work -- I have to bring them in the morning and I have to come after them in the evening. It was dangerous. One time there was shore ice. It was about 30 feet wide, 25, 30 feet wide,
and it got this dislodged and it got jammed right there where Mrs. Demars lives. And it landed on Walpole and it laid right straight across the whole river. And them crazy kids if they didn't walk on that thing, they went over on it. They come over on Walpole. When they got to Walpole, they couldn't (inaudible) and I'm getting there, they beat me there. I'm just as scared as I can be. If I'd have found a plank... I found, slide a plank over there to them so they can come over.

So Garry come over first, then Beverly come over, then Georgie come over last, three of them. Yeah, they gave me a rough time, but they came home every night. That was really bad. I said, "Sure, lodged across that river and you're foolish enough to walk over on it." They would have drowned there, those crazy kids. So it was not easy the old ferry days.

Burton: I remember there was a lot of drowning, a lot of cars drove into the river.

Clarence: Well, this one woman, that (inaudible), she did that deliberately. She tried it before, once or twice before, so she drove in there by the pier(?) landing and she took... And she drifted down there about 150 feet, that's where they found her. There were no safety precautions out in those days, in the old days. People they (inaudible). There were caution lights, and red lights put up for safety. Safety slogans, they got them too. But before that there were no caution of anything. Then the Alginack ferry, the first ferry I think ever was run -- they didn't have no ferry. I think, well, it's the Sands' father ran a ferry, an open launch, and from

Walpole. One of those two cylinder, used to go "chug, chug, chug," that type of motor. I don't know what kind of motor. What kind would that be?

Burton: No, I don't...

Clarence: Used to be two cylinder.

Burton: Some of them were one lung and some were two.

Clarence: Yeah, well this was a two lunger I think he had. It ran smoother than the one lung. That's what he had for ferrying the Alginack. And finally the Affairs people they got to improve on that too. They were able to have launches. I remember they had one called Iola, it used to be tippy. It was all right but it was tippy. People were scared to ride in it, but it was all right, you get used to riding in it. If there were too many people there the thing begin to rock like a canoe. You begin to worry if you're safe in it. It was built narrow, but the wider stocky one, everybody liked to ride that stocky one. But that tippy one, nobody wanted to ride that one too much. And then only one I remember, Alan Cummings he ran those things. He ran them for quite a while. I was still a teenager about 16 years old when he was running them.

And... So when Alan Cummings got out Frank Bray and George
Isaac -- our own father-in-law -- he owned that, a share in that. I think he owned one-third share on that. I don't know who the other partner was, but it was Frank Bray, George Isaac, and another man, I think. Maybe just the two owned the ferry landing. And Henderson Shipman was the ferryman then. He was George's right hand man anyway, so he ran it. They ran it for quite a few years. And after he got through with it... Oh, Eddie Kiyosk used to ferry there too before that.

Burton: Yeah, I remember Eddie.

Clarence: Yeah, little Eddie. He's about the size of Jasper John, eh. He look like Jasper John too. Yeah, he remember him too, I think. And then they made more improvements and then they finally... Del Gettes owned it. They bought it and they began to run it in more recent years. They run it for quite a while (inaudible). Car fares (inaudible)... When they landed and they'd whip them around (inaudible) and they'd catch them from the other side, catch the rope and tie up the rope. (Inaudible) pull us all the way in, land the cars that way. Held four cars, I think. I don't remember how many cars.

Burton: Yeah, I think it was just four.

Clarence: I think it was just four. But they're a good sized scow, they handled four. One of them pulled a launch, carried cars across the river. And I think he made a little bit more money, he went out and bought a steel ferry landing, which is our present ferry landing. That thing's not new, it's about 30 years old, or 35 years old. I remember Del Gettes was small, he was just a small boy when that ferry was brought to Walpole. (Inaudible) Down here by the water works. One reason why (inaudible) two landings on account of the trees on (inaudible) island. You couldn't see how to make landing. They begin to plant trees there. That's what it is, there was no trees there then, it used to be bare there. Now there's all kinds of trees there. You could see all the way to Alginack until they planted trees. (Inaudible) landing up the river, that's how come it was (inaudible).

Then they first made a big long dock. I remember driving my car off the end of the dock. I turned it around out there at the corner and wasn't able to turn around and come back out. But they don't stop that when they see me driving, they put a steel post there where you can drive in. You can't drive in there no more. So I drove up there once with my car. I had a small Ford at that time -- that's about 1936. I took that one out there. I think that dock's been rebuilt twice since that time. And they put rocks in there and they built a smaller area. Now what they got now is those newer ideas. That's all I know about the ferries.

Burton: There was one area of (inaudible) for a very short time.

Clarence: Oh, they used to run quite a while. When I was a
small boy that ran all the time. There was always somebody. Only trouble with that, there was not too good a living at it. What council should have done if they were smart, they should have subsidized the ferryman, then he would have made a decent living on it. Usually the ferryman was half starving up there, because maybe some days nobody crossing over there. And (name) was a ferryman up there one time, he run it. And after he got off then Sam (name) had it. Of course being (inaudible) he devised a Model A. Old motor and put some kind of winch in it. And he had a mechanical ferry. So Freddly heard about it. By this time he owned the lower ferry, pulled this thing by three, four men if he would get them. He'd have them there all day long, you know. He come around there from Walpole one time and he was there and he wanted to see what that thing looked like. That's all he went across over there for, was to just get a bird's eye view of what this... "Hey, that's quite an outfit," he says, "quite an outfit. Where did you get the idea for that?" "Oh, I had it in my head." Used to get the idea. Of course, being a white man he had little bit more backing, pull, more money. He devised a better outfit so that made the lower ferry a better service, because Sam (name) was actually giving better service up there for a while than Freddly, you know. He was cutting him out of his business. You see, the people going to Sarnia would take the Highbanks ferry. That's what was happening. I think a whole lot more would have taken it if this here road hadn't been built -- that goes right up to Highbanks. If that was not built, a lot more people would have went that way.

Patricia: (Inaudible)?

Clarence: No, they didn't, because when Clifford Roy sold it he said, "Walpole should have bought this and kept that ferry," he said. Well, we don't need it now. That time he thought maybe it would have been all right for Walpole to buy it. He sold some of that land. Oh, he bought it and he wanted to sell it to Walpole, but I don't think Walpole bought it. So that was the end of that ferry up there. There was no land, no place to land on the other side, and that was the only place to land right there, right on that lot line.

Burton: One accident that I know of, fatal accident, that Calvin's dad was moving (name)'s scow...

Myrtle: In Highbanks.

Burton: Yeah. And a lady, I forgot her name now, and the lady he married...

Myrtle: Lizzie.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: She saw that in her dream, didn't she? She predicted that. She's going to die off the end of a dock. She didn't know where or how, all she knew was that she saw that she was
going at the end of a dock.

Burton: Well, we still have one ferry to (inaudible) too, I guess, actually in (inaudible) island. I heard one of them sank there, got a lot of them folks in the bottom right now -- couldn't get out.

Ronald: At the lower end or the upper one?

Burton: No, it's the one down below. They had to get a diver to hook it up properly so they can hoist it up.

Clarence: Oh, you mean the present ferry sunk?

Burton: Yep.

Clarence: Oh? We was thinking about going over there. We have to wait till they get it up, Momma. Ah, those things got to be pulled up once in a while and rechecked, replace it, and patch. It's probably on the ends, you know, where they hit. How about Josh's, I mean Cecil's old ferry? Not floatable, is it? Too old, eh?

Burton: Some contractors used to rent it to put their machinery on, but I don't know how good it is.

Clarence: Probably not too good. Now that thing is old. Yeah, we got a lot of ferries here now. The only thing we don't have is no ferry from Squirrel Island to Sansusie(?)

Burton: That's right.

Clarence: Yeah, I think if they'd have subsidized the ferryman, Highbanks could have lasted quite a bit longer. A lot of people try to make a living but they couldn't, just about starving over there. Fred (name) he did all right, he was up there and he made money -- he bootlegged. (Laughs) Ask for a bottle a beer, "Yeah, what do you want? Reach in that sandbox for as many as you want." He had them right in that sandbox. Yeah, "How many do you want?" He make money. That's the only way. He won't make no money honest living. Alvina's ferry was over there one time too. We crossed there one time and we got off there. We didn't know who was going to come out and take us over; Alvina took us over. I remember that. If there was nobody running it, she was running it to save time. I don't know who ran it at night. Well, we sure had a hard time getting kids from school. Many times we used to bring them home by Highbanks. Well, when the kids going to come home from at night.

Burton: There were times when we had to go by way of Alginack to the American side to get home.

Clarence: That's right. And sometimes had to sleep out too. George said he slept at Tupperville someplace, sometimes.
Burton: Well, that's a lot of help. I think we've got enough information on the ferries.

Clarence: Yeah, well... Yeah, the ferry was here for a long time, right straight across here. The ferry house (inaudible). Solomon Hill, he had his barge over where you live.

(Inaudible conversation)

Burton: Yeah, that was actually church land. Yeah, well, where I live now.

Clarence: Is it?

Burton: Yeah, old mission grounds.

Clarence: Oh, that used to be some kind of a church there, eh?

Burton: No, that's where the minister lived. I don't think there was a church. There might have been a church.

Myrtle: Was that church over at the corner, wasn't it? (inaudible).

Burton: I don't know, I've never heard about that one. Yeah, I've never heard of a church being over there.

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Burton: Well, do you remember seeing that red school house that used to sit over there by Number Two school?

Clarence: Yeah. I went to school in it for a while. So did my wife, just for a little while maybe.

Burton: Well we got a picture of one. I don't know whether that's the front red school or the back red school. It's got an entrance facing the west.

Clarence: Oh, if it was facing the west it's the front school. The front school was right out by the parish hall. There used to be kind of a lane there, like in front of our church, goes straight back to Harry Williams' old house, where he used to live. He used to be a (Indian). I think the Catholic Church was at Highbanks someplace.

Burton: Yeah, I heard that.

Clarence: (Indian) I know it but it's the truth. We don't know if it's true or not, but we know when they got burned out.

Burton: Yeah, I've heard that. That's nothing wrong with that.
Clarence: Nothing wrong with it.

Burton: Yeah, I've heard that.

Clarence: So, they found out they were burned out deliberately by the Indians that belonged to the Catholic Church there. And the Indians that settled there, they moved out. They went way up to French River, I think, up that way, way up, northern Ontario there someplace. That's where they went, so there must be a bunch of Roman Catholics up there and they're Indians, and they came from Walpole originally. That's around about 1875 maybe, somewhere around there, 1860. And they went from Walpole to over there. (Indian) That's why they went away, somebody burned them out.

Burton: Yeah, Warwick told me that same story, but he said that it was the chief that set that little church on fire.

Clarence: Well, nobody knows for sure. It's quite possible. Hey, the Pentecostal Church was burned down here on main road too.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Well, I even remember that church was there, just now I think about it. (Indian) He saw a vision when he went in that church. (Indian) He got out of there, he was scared, going in there. (Indian) I don't think he lived ten years after that. (Indian)

Burton: That Number Two school was built around 1922, 1921?

Clarence: No. That white one?

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Yes, I was a pretty good size, I was about ten years old, about ten years old. It would be... I was born in 1912, that would be it, ten years old. All that timber come from public bush, I guess. They made it from Walpole lumber.

Burton: And Mr. Watts was the last teacher that taught in that red school?

Clarence: Yeah, Harold Watts. Joe Sampson taught in there for while too.

Burton: Oh, before.

Clarence: Before that, yeah.

Burton: Who preceded Mr. Watts? Who taught before Mr. Watts?

Clarence: I don't know. When I started school he was already in there.
Burton: Oh yeah.

Clarence: I think it was a woman that taught. White woman. And my mother-in-law, Nancy Isaac, she taught Allan Isaac. Couldn't handle him, you know, kind of rough, wouldn't do any work. One time I got brave -- I was scared of him. I run to the door (inaudible). I know he was going to run to the door. He jumped out of his chair to get up to run to the door, I run to the door and I locked the door on him before he got there. And I said, "Now you're going no place." I didn't even smile at him when I said that. I was scared as scared can be. He was way bigger than I was. He stood there in front of the door and he just stood there and he bawled. My own brother-in-law, he bawled like a little baby. I said, "Now go sit down and go do your work." From then on he obeyed me after that. When I told him to go get to work that's what he done, run to the door and go run home. Well, they got good pay. I think he said, Nancy, $10 a month, or $12 a month, it wasn't much. I run to the door and beat him to the door, and he's bawling, great big bully.

Burton: Well, I think that when Mrs. George started teaching she didn't get any more than $700 a year she got.

Clarence: That's all they got. Indian Agent, Archie Highfield, he was getting... Well, about that time, a little bit later maybe, he got $750 for one year. When he first came here he was not married to Margaret yet either, not for a while. He didn't marry her for maybe two, three years and then she married him. Yeah, I think Rigum (?) died around about 1925.

Burton: Yeah, that's what I hear.

Clarence: Somewhere around there. I was about... How I remember, we had Christmas dinner at their house, at the church rectory. We was invited over to eat for dinner, me and momma. When we went over there there was a girl in there cooking a turkey, Mary Warner; she was watching the oven. And little Timmy was just a little wee baby sitting in a highchair. That's how come I know, that's how big he was, sitting in the highchair. And Mrs Highfield says, Margaret says, "All Timmy gets is a drumstick." So Simpson being that way he was carving the turkey. He carved a leg off that turkey and he says, "Well, there it is. You promised a drumstick." And he got that great big turkey leg with all the meat on it. She said, "I didn't mean that." I remember them taking that leg away from... Talk about a kid that cried and cried. He wouldn't forgive his dad for taking the leg away from him. I remember him crying, sitting in the highchair crying away, on Christmas day. So is there anything else you want to know, Uncle Burt?

Burton: Well, those two white schools, they were built around about the same time, eh?

Clarence: Yeah, about the same time, approximately 1922. And there was a store down (inaudible) Lake. Of course one burned
several years ago. Now we got modern stoves. And we had a pre-fab school. I don't know what they're doing with that pre-fab building. What is it, a warehouse now?

Burton: Well, they were using it for an opportunity class. That's for slow learners.

Clarence: Oh, give them a little extra time in there?

Burton: Well, they separate them from the rest, you know. So they got a class by themselves.

Clarence: My wife, she's gone.

Burton: Silas was telling me that there was one school over there right on my lot, you know, on the other side of the ditch. I used to see pillars sticking out there when I was a kid.

Clarence: On your lot?

Burton: Yeah, on across the ditch there towards the south. Where they were getting that fill, that's where it was. He said there was one school there and... I don't know where the other school, I suppose they were situated where the schools are, where the Number Two school was and alongside that Anglican Church. I don't know whether there were any more than that, I've never heard of.

Clarence: No, I never knew nothing about more schools. Must be just a little bit beyond my time. That's all I know of. I know that little red school used to face parish hall right out, it was just a little further. Well, not quite where Gerald has his stand. Around in there someplace. That's where it was, and a little bit over on the other side where Gerald had his stand. That's where the sisters lived, Catholic sisters, nuns, whatever you want to call them. They lived there.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: And further down there by Harry's, someplace around there, they said used to be a hotel there years back. There used to be another building over there where the Mounties live on the other side of that bench there, where those big trees are. Used to be a great big building in there. I don't know what that was, a house or...

Burton: I think that was the hotel.

Clarence: That was the hotel?

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Oh, that was big.

Burton: Pontiac Hotel.
Clarence: Oh, that was a great big thing. I know it was, because I remember going to the fair grounds and Paul (name) hit a ball right over top of that roof and as the ball went over the roof a couple came out, and it was still going. The fielders just turned their heads around and looked over there; nobody ever looked for the ball, that was the end of it. He had his home run and the ball was gone for good. A couple came out. He was a strong young man.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Yeah, I seen him play ball here, wrap his hand right around that and it look like a little golf ball in his hand. He was a pretty good runner too.

Burton: He was a pretty good runner too.

Clarence: Oh yeah, look at the legs on him. (laughs) I took him home one time quite a few years ago, maybe forty years ago. Say about his hand like that, upside down. "Do you want a drink?" "Yeah, I guess so. I'll have a little swig." He was pouring it with his thumb underneath his hand. I didn't see it. He had one of those little four ounce jobs in his hand. He's got such big hands you couldn't see that thing. Well, he must have been old when he died. Yeah, he must have been 80 years old.

Burton: Yeah, he was pretty old. I was trying to find out from Matt -- we saw him this morning -- something about Henry Ford giving some equipment to Walpole Island but he didn't remember too much about it. Well, he remembered those three tractors, that's about all.

Clarence: Well, they went to school over there in Detroit to learn how to operate those things. There was three of them when to school, Matt, 'Lij, Bill Fisher. They were taught how to operate those things, how to take care of them. All this and that and they were given to Walpole so that Walpole could start farming. Did you hear about that time? About the same time Henry Ford used to come to Walpole and land his yacht in front of Johnny Solomon's door and walk around Walpole Island without guards. He's walking around there by himself, nobody bothered him. Well, I suppose you couldn't do that in more recent years, you'd have to have a small army all around him. That time he could come there and walk around and enjoy himself. Yeah, used to bring his yacht there. I'll bet he was the one that built that dock of Johnny Solomon's. It was a good dock there. Maybe you remember it.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: A big one. Yeah, I bet he's the guy who built that thing. He come here and he'd enjoy himself. And later on, years got by and things got tighter, he's not about to enjoy
himself, even here.

Burton: Do you ever hear of anyone saying that he also gave a steam engine in the saw mill?

Clarence: No.

Burton: You didn't hear that story, eh?

Clarence: No.

Burton: Well, I don't know about a saw mill, but a steam engine.

Clarence: No, he didn't give no steam engine. When he give those tractors he give a threshing machine big enough for foursome to turn over, a little foursome tractor could turn it. That's how small it was. Well, just the right size for Indians for farming, little farming they did. They only thresh maybe 150 bushels. He even had a lot of threshing to do, about 300 bushels maybe. When it got down to our place we kept them a day and a half sometimes. Yeah, that threshing machine, threshing machine was run by tractors. No, I don't remember a saw mill, not in that time anyway. I was just a little boy then, about 10, 12 years old. Lenny Fisher ran it. Oh, they had the right idea, they had the wrong idea. There was a problem with that thing. They started a farmer's club, several of them, two, three of them. One (inaudible) and when they want to use the tractor it belonged the club. So when the guys wanted, that didn't belong to the club, want to use the tractor they couldn't use it. They were the last ones down the line, that's what happened. So there was grievances over that thing. They were powerful, they could plow seven, eight acres a day, I guess. Oh, one more thing you guys don't know, maybe, perhaps. A tug boat used to land on Walpole Island, oh, around (name), around in there. What you call, (name), used to raise sugar beets when he was a young man, when he was about 25 years old. When I was a boy, when I was a baby, I guess, he was raising sugar beets. Used to be a little wee tug boat. Maybe you remember when you were in Walpole, it was called Mudhen. Do you remember that little tug boat?

Burton: No, I don't. I saw several. I just don't know...

Clarence: Well, the one I seen, remember coming to Walpole and pick up the beets, (name) had to load up there down there by (inaudible). He'd haul his beets there and that's where they load up, loaded up the scow so they could take the beets into the sugar house. See, I don't think there was too many chugs that hauled beets in those days. As a matter of fact I don't think those bridges would have been strong enough. Because I remember when I was 10, 12 years old that bridge there by Kilbright was a wooden bridge, just the ones we had in Walpole. So I don't think they had heavy trucks, really, like not even tree trunk size. They might have like a pickup truck, but I
don't think they any big trucks. Just more recently we've developed into a great big (inaudible). I remember that bridge there, it was a wooden bridge, just like we got here on Walpole. And wooden bridges, you know, with a great big bolt in the middle, that braces to it. That's the way that one was made. Then we begin to have cement bridges. Yeah, there have been a lot of improvements around here. (Inaudible) a sign there by Gordon (name), population 4,000.

Burton: That is very interesting. A little history about him...

Clarence: Just right around here.

Burton: Yeah, having him haul sugar beets by tugboat.

Clarence: Yeah, by tugboat. Murray Johnson, I think he raised sugar beets too. He owned that land there (inaudible).

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: He raised sugar beets.

Burton: Uncle James used to tell me that, well, a tugboat-like thing used to land by his... just right above his place there.

Clarence: Oh, where the (inaudible) are.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Passenger boat used to land there. That's what the old Indians used to say.

Burton: Yeah. Yeah, he used to tell me the boat would pick up some stove wood to burn. You know, big long four foot cord word.

Clarence: Yeah, I guess so, that's...

Burton: And he told me that the Indians paid ten cents to go to Wallaceburg on a boat ride.

Clarence: Ten cents?

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Well, that's something, that's news. Never heard that one. Of course he's along the river. Yeah, used to be five cents, ten cents for horse and buggy, fifteen cents for team of horses, you know.

Burton: Well, this boat ride -- I used to steam passenger boat right from Wallaceburg. And said it was ten cents, that was pretty cheap.

Clarence: Well, I remember riding from Alginack to Belle Isle,
I guess, for 45 cents. I was a pretty good sized boy. I don't know how old I was, about 12 or 14 years old. Of course it didn't last too much longer after that. Yeah, I was 12 or 14 years old when they dismantled the (inaudible). But the ones that Indians used to charter to go to Belle Island with was Wakeena, small one. It used to have looked like a pump on top of the roof. Used to be like a barge or something, they would turn that thing as a cylinder, it will pump like an oil well. You can see those things going up and down. I could see that old boat -- it wasn't too small, about 500 feet long I think it was.

Burton: Would that be one of the arms that operated the side wheels?

Clarence: It operated the propeller but there was no side wheels. Kashmoe is the one that had the side wheels on the side, like propellers. No, this operated propeller, but it was actually on top. I don't know, some kind of cylinder on top of the roof. I could see that thing chugging down the river with my eyes shut. That thing would just be rocking up and down, up and down.

Burton: I'll have to ask Bill Fisher. He'd probably know what that gadget was.

Clarence: Oh (inaudible).

Burton: Yeah. Yeah, I remember seeing that too.

Clarence: Didn't the Thousand Islander have one like that too?

Burton: I think so.

Clarence: That rock up and down?

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: That was a small boat.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: And it used to come to Wallaceburg.

Burton: Yeah. I think there were four boats that went to Wallaceburg in my time.

Clarence: Yeah. I know after I got bigger we used to go over there and play with Jack White. And the Thousand Islander would be going back from Wallaceburg and every time he goes back he slows down there to a crawl in front of Ackland. Well, Ackland would be over there on top of the bank drinking water from a glass upside down and you should see the people going like this, you know. I didn't know that things were built with a counter balance, and I wondered why all the people, when they come to the side, it don't tip over. You see half the crowd
coming to the side of the boat, see what's going on, and the boat is still in balance. They got a built-in counter balance for that reason. I bet you that thing is heavy, whatever it is, counter balance.

Burton: Yeah.

Clarence: Some people shift to one side, they shove this thing over. That's really something.

(END OF SIDE B)

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