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RESTRICTIONS: THIS RECORDING IS UNRESTRICTED.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The informant discusses his working life.
Russell: ...like when we used to work the lumber camps, you know, that we'd leave here like in the fall of the year. Oh, say a couple of months before Christmas. Well, you have to leave here a couple of months before Christmas so you could get your... That time, you know, we was only getting, well, we'll say from \$12 to \$16 a month and our board. Of course we got our board out of that like, you know. It was a regular sleeping camp, you see.

Fay: What year was this, the 1920s?

Russell: No.

Fay: Was it earlier than that?

Russell: It would be around about, oh, I'd say... Well, I went out... Like I went to the army when I was 17, so that would be 17... Yeah, it would be around the '20s, around there when I came home. And then from there, oh, I didn't stay home very long, because I didn't belong to the reserve at that time. And I felt like... I knowed I wasn't a member of the band, and I felt, you know, just like I could see that I wasn't welcome in a way there. Like in one way like, you know, I had friends,

but this is the way I felt, like I didn't belong there. It was in my mind there that I didn't have no home, that's the way I felt. So I didn't stay around the reserve very long. Oh, I'd say maybe a month or a couple of months, like that and I'd go away. And I always worked out. Well, I just had to, yeah, out of the reserve. I just had to go out and work. And I'd always go around, I'd always go far enough away that I wouldn't come home, like every weekend or every night or anything like that. I always went up around Sudbury, North Bay, all up through there in the lumber camps.

And then so that's what we was getting. There was two prices -- you get \$12 a month, and the person who got \$16 a month, well that was for a teamster, for looking after horses. So I was, you know, even right now I like horses, like that, cattle and stuff like that. And of course I always went for... I didn't go for the big wages because it was a job there that what I like and that's what I took, looking at horses. So I got my \$16 a month then. So if we stayed there, like when we got up there for two months we'd get our fare paid up from Peterborough on the train and get paid on the train again coming home. They'd take that off of our wages, or they wouldn't take it off our wages, I should say.

Fay: They wouldn't, you got paid extra?

Russell: No. Yeah, we got that trip extra. So then I'd come home, like to see my mother -- that's about the only one I cared for was my mother. I had some sisters, half-sisters, and my brother he was in a different place. And so I'd hang around the reserve, you know, till after New Year's then I'd go right back to the same job again, probably go right back to the same camp again. So if you go back to same camp again, well you got your way paid up again. So if you stayed there, say right till three, four months, well that... If you stayed up there just like two months there you'd only get, like you'd get your fare back again. So if you stayed up there four months, well you got that extra -- whatever the train cost to go up there. You'd get that like double, and besides get your fare paid home again. That's the way it went. So then I'd come home, that would be more like in the spring. Then I'd come home to see mother again. And mother couldn't, like I couldn't stay with my mother because my step-father didn't like me. I don't know why, I never done anything out of the way. I'd come home and give mother some money, you know. She got most of my money,

because we had no place over there to spend it. No, it was way back in the lumber camp and all they had was just like tobacco. That's about all they had in there, there was no other stuff you could buy. So then I'd come home and stay with mother as much as I can. I couldn't stay up to her place, where she was living. I just had to like stay around here and there, you know, my friends. So then I'd come down here to Burleigh after that, you know. Like in the spring, you know, the work would be starting to come around again, so I'd come down here to

Burleigh and work down here at the hotel. Then I'd hang around here and get a job.

Fay: What kind of job?

Russell: Well, it would be like chore boy like, you know, do everything right in the hotel there, like doing chores.

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Russell: Oh yeah, after the guiding came in. Yeah, I went in guiding. Yes, I liked it really good. Of course, you know, it was, well, it was a little better wages.

Fay: Than a chore boy?

Russell: Yeah. Now when you're a chore boy around here you'd only get your, like you'd get your dinner and you'd get \$10 a month. And oh, there was lots of times there that I worked for 50 cents a day.

Fay: You wouldn't get far on that now.

Russell: No. Like, you know, I'd work for farmers. I had to, dear. I had to get out and work, because... Now take young

generation now. Well, they got their parents and they got a home, and they get money off their parents and things like that, so it makes a big difference now. But in my days, well, I had nobody to give me any money. I had to get out and earn it. And so then the river (inaudible) it came around, oh, I'd say maybe about, oh, I'd say around about the 1st of June. That's when they run the logs through the lakes, you know, and I got that job. And of course that was \$16 a month and your board. And that was a job I really liked.

Fay: What kind of a job is that?

Russell: Well, I don't know. It's pretty hard to, you know, to describe it to you, dear, that... When you're young like that you don't realize what it was like. Well, I'll tell you one thing, we'll just shut that off. Now this logging business, like it would come around about June and that would last probably about four months.

Fay: Around the end of October then.

Russell: Yeah. Then they'd them right down to Peterborough by the river, all through the lakes.

Fay: Where did they come from?

Russell: Well they'd come from, oh, right clean up to from, mostly from Finland Falls, all the way down the lake, see.

Fay: Down the Trent River?

Russell: Yeah. So and then you'd go up there and then you'd get a job up there. It was no trouble to get a job.

Fay: What did you have to do in the job?

Russell: Well that, see, you used to work on the logs and help them put them down the river. And like they'd, now what they call bag, now that would be like a bone sticks. That was lined up just like a bag, see. Well, you'd shove all those logs into this bag, what they call the bag, then you'd lock them up. That's when you come to a big lake. So we had a tug boat that would take them where the lake starts to get narrow, where they couldn't like draw them through with this tug boat. And, well, we'd have to work there again and shove them through to get on to the other side of the big lake again. And we came all the way down through here, all the way down the river right to Peterborough, and that was our main stopping place.

Fay: How did they get them through the docks?

Russell: No, they wouldn't go through the docks, they'd go through the dam. So you'd shove them through the dam and that's where my job was, shoving through the dam, or maybe they'd... I don't know. Tell you where you could get... Are you acquainted with Mrs. Bill Spencely?

Fay: A little bit.

Russell: Eh?

Fay: A little bit.

Russell: Maybe Margaret could take you down there then, because...

Fay: She knows quite a bit?

Russell: No, you'd see the pictures. Oh, she's got an awful bunch of them. I don't think you'd notice me, I don't think you'd know me. But there is places there, you know, right where the big bridge comes across. And just below that, that's where you'd notice me. That's where I always worked, right there, because it was a place where the logs would jam up, see. They'd get piled up there and then they'd have to shut them off here at the dam and we'd have to work down there. And there was only three of us that they'd send us out there. Now that was up to the boss, see. Now it's just like if you were working some place, you know, boss is always watching you wherever you work, isn't that right? If you are a good worker, understand you business, well you know you're going to get like... Well, take it now, you'd get a good job, wouldn't you?

Well, I can say now them days there was only three of us, three Indian boys. Well, the other two was... I'd say they must have been about maybe about ten years older than I was. But I was so light on my feet that I would get out there any place. And

I know the job so good and I know the dangers of what I was going into, so I'd always like, you know, I was always careful. I'd always pick my way how to get out there. I'd get out there in the centre and there's just nothing but white water on both sides, both sides of those logs piled up.

So the first thing you had to do was go down there and look at the front where it got bound, like where it got stuck. There might two or three logs down there that would standing up, like they were twelve footers, and tens, and eights like that. Well there might be two, three that would stick in a rock, see, and that would just jam up maybe 400-500 logs there in just half an hour before they shut the dam off. I've seen me work there two days, the three of us, before we could... Now when we go down

there to work, if it was, like if we couldn't tear it up in say four or five hours, anything like that, they'd stop the logs up here, see, at the dam. But we'd have to try and get out there some way where this bunch of logs were. And then we'd... So there was times that we had to use dynamite to break those logs off. That was like bind into the rocks and break them, see. Well, sometimes half of that bunch of logs, if there was 400-500 there, maybe a quarter of them would start and go right down to the water then. So that's where you had to be quick like, you know, to get up where you can either get off the shore or...

And Billy's got some, or poor Bill, or Mrs. Spencely has got some pictures down there. Bill was going to give them to me and you'd see my picture there. I was kind of small, you know, like not as big as I am now. But I don't think you'd know me though. I don't know if Margaret would know me either. She might.

Anyway we'd get that cleaned off then we'd be into Stony Lake again. So then we'd have this what they call a bag again.

Fay: What's a bag?

Russell: Well, that's a bag. There would be like what those bone sticks I'm talking about, they'd be about 20 feet long. Well, there would be a chain on this end and a chain on this end. So there would be another log down here another 20 feet long. Well, you put that chain through that one and you just keep going around just like that till you make a great big bag, oh, from here to the highway over there. That would hold about maybe 1,000 logs or maybe more. Then we'd have a tug boat that would like draw the (inaudible) down some other place where you couldn't go right through with them. There was some places where we used to draw them right through but there would be a bunch of men there, you know. They'd keep crowding them out

and put them through that way. But when we came to a dam that's what we had to do. Like what we'd say now, we'd cut that bag, what I call a bag, we'd cut that boom sticks there, take the chain off -- that was before you opened the dam. So there's a ring on this side of the dam where the water goes

through. There would be a ring there -- that's where you'd snub one of your boom sticks and you'd snub the other end down this way. So you'd clean this bag right out, see. That's only far as Youngs Point. So when we get down to Youngs Point we didn't have to do that then. It was all running water right through to Peterborough. Of course when you got to Peterborough -- what they call Lily Lake, is it? Well, we'd have a bag there and that's where we kept them. Then they take them out to the mainland. Of course they'd keep (inaudible). Of course we didn't no tug boat there then. They had a winch there, like you'd have to along this log here, this 20 foot log. After you get there, well you'd take a cable out there. You'd leave this log -- it would bend, like with a chain -- the log didn't bend, it was just the chain. You'd make it loose so it would give -- same way with the other one. You keep drawing that up all the time with the (inaudible) till you get the other end up to the other one. So at the same time that you are piling those 20 footers, maybe, oh, I'd say...

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Russell: Oh, it would take about ten logs. So like when you're through with them you could push them up through the logs then and take them all the way up to maybe Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Lindsay, get another bunch like that.

Fay: Then start all over again?

Russell: And then start all over again.

Fay: How many would you do in one summer or in the four months?

Russell: In the four months?

Fay: How many times a week would you come down?

Russell: Oh, sometimes it takes one whole month to get one bunch down. Yeah, you know, there was a lot of work to it. So when you get that done, well, you were through with that job, so then you'd have to hunt around for another job.

Fay: Did you have a place to stay the night, or did you stay in the tug boat?

Russell: No, we had to camp all the time. We had like a floating camp, you know, on the river. Yeah, it was all built up like a... It was a crib, just something like this table here. Well, you'd have a tent on this thing. Well, there would be a tent all the way across this table, we'll say, but in the centre is where they had two tables. So one side was our sleeping camp and one side was our cookery where the cook stays. So those two tables that was set there, well, that's where we'd have our meals. Well, you know, it was kind of a rough life, but, you know... Well, like if you were looking at them you'd say it was a tough life and a rough life but we didn't think so. In the morning, you know, when you get up and

you were right on the lake... I'd say the place would be as big as this house where we had the tents, cookery, and of course you could go any side of the place and just dip the wash basin right into the lake and clean up like that. And if you wanted to have a bath, well, you just go ahead and jump in. (laughs)

Fay: Sounds nice.

Russell: So that's the way we done it when we was on the river. And after we were through, well, we had to go and look for another job. You'd either work for a farmer, or maybe you'd get a job in Peterborough some place. Maybe a building starting up or something and you'd work there till you get tired of it and then go and work some place else. Now you got to stick to one job, you know, if you get a job. (laughs) But them days you could stay there as long as you liked as long as you done your work.

Fay: What was your job as a teamster like?

Russell: Eh?

Fay: What was your job as a teamster like?

Russell: Well, teamster... Like a teamster... Now take an ordinary man that was getting his \$12 a month, he'd be through like, oh, we'd start at six o'clock in the morning. Well, an ordinary man that was cutting logs and cutting trails like that so he could skid the logs, he'd be through at five o'clock...

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Russell: ...four o'clock in the morning to go and fix up your horses. Have to feed them, clean them, harness them and then by that time you'd be ready for your breakfast. And they get your breakfast, and as soon as you get your breakfast the

first thing you do is feed your horses. While they're eating you'd be cleaning them and putting the harness on them. So by the time you go and get cleaned up, washed up and get your breakfast, they'd still have an hour anyway. Then we'd all pull out and go to work. In the evening, well the teamster would be the last one that would come in. Now sometimes you'd pass some of the fellows, you know, that was working, just like underbrushing or stuff like that, see. Them is the ones that was getting \$12 a month. And by the time you got in, with your horses, well, you had to unharness them, clean them up, then feed them and then, well, you go and have your supper. Well that would be, say, maybe an hour and a half. Then you'd go out to the barn again, look after your horses again. Like you'd have to clean them, and bed them. We used to use straw, you know, to bed the horses, and feed them again. And then by that time you'd be through around about nine, half past nine at night. So that's the kind of a day we had. But I enjoyed it.

Fay: Why did you enjoy that job?

Russell: Why did I enjoy it?

Fay: Yes.

Russell: Well, when you had that job there, you didn't work around the bosses. See, you were more like your own boss. And of course you had to keep going, that was the main part. Like you couldn't just go and get a log, drag it over to the dump so the people would roll it onto the, the other men would roll it onto what they call a skidway. You had to keep going all the time. So as far as that goes looking, facing the boss all the time, that was out of your question with the team, when you went with a team of horses. It was a long job then, and besides, you know, that... Well, \$16 was quite a bit then.

Fay: Did you always have the same horses?

Russell: Oh yeah, every day, yeah.

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Russell: Yeah, whatever. Like whenever I went into the camp the boss would ask you, "Well, what can you do?" Well, with me, well with mostly every man that went to the camp there, like they could pretty near do anything, any kind of job. But there was a lot of people, you know, didn't want, they didn't want to bother with horses. Maybe they didn't like horses or something like that. But for me I always enjoyed horses.

Then they, well by the time you'd get ready and get all through, by the time we get into camp it was bedtime. And the lights went out at half past nine. There was like, what they had chore boys, you know. He'd be up all night look after the fire, have it nice and warm all the time. And then in the morning he'd come and wake you up, tell you it's time to get up. But he'd always, at four o'clock in the morning he'd wake the teamsters up first. Like you wouldn't hear him, he'd just come and shake you up, tell you it's four o'clock, see. Well, you had to get up. The only (inaudible) we had...

It didn't matter how cold it was or how much snow there was. And then of course the ones that was just working, like different jobs, underbrushing, well he'd let them sleep till maybe an hour, hour and half before breakfast anyway. There's some of them used to get up just half an hour before breakfast, then they...

So when we got, like when I got through with that job then I went... I'd always come home to Burleigh, I don't know why. I don't know why I liked Burleigh.

Fay: I like Burleigh.

Russell: Yeah. I don't know, I always... You know, I always

think of it, how did I like Burleigh? You know, I've often thought of it.

Fay: Would you think (inaudible)?

Russell: Well, I couldn't figure it out. Well, till I got married here, you know. Of course this is where I found my wife, Vera, in Burleigh. Her sister was living here -- she was married. She was married to a Jacobs. And I don't know, like I got, I was a great friend of the Jacobs. Maybe that's the reason, that's the only reason I can find. Well, that would be Wilfred's dad. Of course they were only...

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Russell: Jack Jacobs.

Fay: That's Jenny's dad too?

Russell: Yeah, the same. They used to live up here where the post office is. That's where they lived. And they were just buried up here, up around here, just about a mile, half a mile, I guess. Well, when we buried Jack Jacobs, like at the foot of his coffin -- in the box, you know -- you could still see the box. There wasn't enough dirt on account of the rocks, yeah.

Fay: Did you mark it?

Russell: Well, it was marked. But I know where they are as far as that goes.

Fay: The highway doesn't get there?

Russell: No, no, the highway, no, it's off the highway. You know where the spring is, dear, where we get the water? Well it's on that road. And you go up there, there's a white house on the right hand side. Well, it's just about 100 yards from that house into the woods there, that's where the Jacobs are buried. Margaret's grandmother -- her mother was buried in Curve Lake -- but her grandmother and...

Fay: Why was that place chosen?

Russell: Maybe they had no other place.

Fay: But why not around here at Burleigh?

Russell: Well, I suppose... Well, I couldn't say, dear, to tell you the truth. Maybe there wasn't enough dirt around here to bury them. So I think that's the reason why they were buried up there in this farmer's... Well, I guess he was a farmer, not a real big farmer. So I suppose he gave them the privilege to bury them there.

Fay: What year did Jack Jacobs die?

Russell: What year?

Fay: Yes, just approximately.

Russell: Gee, dear, I couldn't tell you.

Fay: Was it before the Second World War?

Russell: No, after. Yeah, after that.

Fay: In the '50s?

Russell: Yeah.

Fay: Did you know Jack Jacobs pretty well?

Russell: Well he'd be my, we'd be brothers-in-law because I married his wife's sister. So we'd be brothers-in-law. So maybe that's the reason I stuck around there, because, you know, I liked my wife's sister. I didn't know my wife then but I knowed her sister and that was Mrs. Jacobs. And I chummed around with them so probably that's the reason I always came home here. And then I got to like it, you know, thinking, you know, this was my home.

Fay: How come Jack wasn't buried at the reserve?

Russell: Well, dear, that's a pretty hard question.

Fay: Because that's where all his family got buried.

Russell: Yes, that's where all his family was.

Fay: Did he not want to be buried there?

Russell: Well, I wouldn't like to say, "Yes," dear.

Fay: I just wondered if he ever talked about (inaudible)?

Russell: Well, I know all about it, dear, but it was, you know... Because you're a great friend of Margaret and I wouldn't... I don't know, if Margaret would ask me I suppose I would say, yeah.

Fay: What was his wife's name before she got married?

Russell: Morrison.

Fay: Morrison. But she wasn't from Curve Lake?

Russell: No.

Fay: She was from (inaudible)?

Russell: No, she was from... Like they came from Georgina in the first place when they were young.

Fay: Georgina Reserve?

Russell: Yeah. That's up at Lake Simcoe. And so they moved... Now this is when they were kids, they weren't married. Like then they moved to Scugog Island -- that's up at Port Perry. That's where their mother came from, at Georgina -- my wife's mother and Jack Jacobs's wife. But my wife was born at Scugog Island, but Jack Jacobs' wife was born in Georgina Island. And their dad belonged to Scugog, yeah. And...

Fay: So he was a Treaty Indian, wasn't he?

Russell: Yes. There wasn't very many of them. I think there was only about, there must have been only eight families there.

Fay: At Scugog?

Russell: Yeah, like when I first knowed them. And, but they had an awful bunch of land.

Fay: Is it still there or is it gone?

Russell: No, it's still there, yeah. There's quite a few of them there now. They're all Edgars now, most of them, yeah, there's a whole bunch of them. There's only... I think there's only about three families now different name. But the rest of them... Now my wife's sister had, I think, 13 children, yeah, 13. There was two of them died when they were little babies. And I don't know if you know Alice, Alice McKeough?

Fay: I've heard of her.

Russell: Yeah. Well, that's my wife's sister's daughter. She's dead and gone, that's the one that had the 13 children. So she had 10 boys -- well, she had 11 boys and 2 girls. So there was a boy and a girl that died. And so all... Like they didn't, their dad was a non-Treaty Indian. I don't know where he came from, Rama, I think, Rama Reserve I think, if I ain't mistaken.

Fay: Was he like a non-native person?

Russell: Yeah.

Fay: But he just lived on Rama Reserve?

Russell: Yeah. Like after he got married to Marsden -- that's my wife's sister -- well, he made his home right on Scugog Island. But he always rented a home on... See, there's farmers there too, in this reserve. It's a big reserve, like a big island. I think it's seven miles long and, well in one place it's four miles wide, so it's a good sized island.

Fay: Well, how did Jack Jacobs come to lose his status

then?

Russell: Who?

Fay: How did Jack Jacobs come to lose his status?

Russell: (laughs) Okay, dear, I'll tell you. Well, we'll shut that off. Well, I don't know, he, Jack Jacobs was a stubborn man. Now this is before I belonged to the reserve, and in our days at the reserve, like we had no road in there, see. But we was trying to build a road that... Like the road we got now it was just... you could just drive in there with horses them days. Me and the wife was the first couple that went in there with a car. And this Jack Jacobs, from Burleigh Falls here... Me and the wife wasn't married then yet so we went up there just for a trip. And the wife told me, "You'll never get me to come to Curve Lake again." So I says, "All right." (laughs) But after I got married she had to go in. (laughs) Wasn't I mean? (laughs)

So them days, dear, we had what they call statute labor. You got no money for it, see, and we had to do three days work for nothing. Well, like trying to fix the road, we didn't get no money, nothing. But you had to go out there and do your work. And it took, oh, it took around about I'd say about a couple of weeks. Now like them days it was pretty hard and if you didn't have enough stuff -- I mean grub for your family -- like you could put it off, see, till the next couple of days after till... You'd have to fish around and pick up what grub you could with trading fish off to the farmers. And when you get that then you had the three days work to go to. You could do that, see. So it took about two weeks to go through with the whole thing.

So Jack Jacobs wouldn't do that. He said he wasn't going to work on the road, so that's how he got put out of the reserve, the reserve that belonged to him. And they still belong to the reserve, as far as that goes. Sandy and his wife, Dave, well all those Indians here, they belong to the reserve, as far as that goes. But as far as, like Buster, you know, like I never... Well, I guess I didn't, I don't know how I could say that. I don't know how he got put out. I knowed his grandfather and I knowed his dad -- I was pretty small, I was pretty young. I remember just his dad when he was like in his bed, you know, just ready to pass away. So me and Buster is about the same age, I guess, pretty close. And Rosie Irons up there, and then there was another girl -- she got married up at Rama. And, but I don't know how they got put out of there. But anyway Buster married my sister, like my half-sister, and I guess that's how he come to live down here at Burleigh.

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Russell: Yeah. And so, like when... Now Jack Jacobs has... There must be about five of them up there in that woods. That

would be Jack Jacobs and his wife, and there was a pair of twins. Do you know Elmer, Elmer Jacobs?

Fay: Yeah.

Russell: That would be Sandy's brother, they were twins. There was a pair of twins and one of them died and it was buried up there, and another one. And there must be about four of them up there. But he could have been, you know, they could have been buried at the reserve if he wanted to. But he got put out of there and he didn't want to have nothing to do with the reserve after that. But it was his own fault, you know, the reason why he got put out.

Fay: Well, why did he refuse to do the labor?

Russell: Well, he didn't want to work for nothing. But that was our law in the village. I didn't belong to the reserve yet... That was the law they had.

Fay; That was put out by the band?

Russell: Yeah.

Fay: So that's why you think you've always stayed here in Burleigh?

Russell: Yeah. I was five years old when I first came to here. Of course I haven't been here all that time, but I don't know, I just seem to...

Fay: It's always felt like home.

Russell: Yeah, it always felt like home. And it's just the same way now at Curve Lake. Well, I'm right at home there. Of course I got all my children up there and my grandchildren now, and I guess that's the reason why I love it up there too. So I'm kind of stuck now when I haven't got a car. I used to go up pretty near every... well, maybe twice a week or... I'd always go up pretty near in the evenings or something like that. If I want to go for a drive, well we went, me and the wife. But I don't know, both of us seem to... Well, I built that little home over here at the island. The first one I bought it, because me and the wife and Margaret we used to work down here every summer. And I think that's the reason why, you know, it was nice and quiet over there at the island. I think that's the reason why the wife liked it so much. Then I built

the other one then, me and Margaret built it. Margaret give me a hand in building it. Then I worked for farmers. I worked wherever I could get a job.

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