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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Describes his career as a hunting and fishing guide.
Gerald: I'm a guide and I live in Burleigh Falls.

Fay: When did you first start guiding?

Gerald: I started to guide when I was about 16. My father was a guide and my brothers. And I started off guiding at the Park Hotel along with the other natives around Burleigh Falls.

Fay: About how many guides were there at that time?

Gerald: There were about 18 guides at that time. And we, at that time we used to use just canoes. There was no motors, eh. Well, there were motors but there weren't quite enough to go around. We used to paddle the Americans around in the canoes, that's how they used to fish.

Fay: What time would you start in the morning?

Gerald: Oh, we'd go out about eight o'clock in the morning and be finished about five o'clock. We paddled about three hours in the morning and about three, four hours in the afternoon. So it really made you work hard for your money those days. You didn't drive a motor boat like you do now.

Fay: Where did you paddle?

Gerald: Oh, we paddled, we paddled from the top end of Stony at Burleigh Falls and we'd go right down to McCrackens Landing and sometimes to Crowes, and have shore dinner on the islands. We used to cook fish for the Americans on the islands there.

Fay: Can you describe a shore dinner?

Gerald: A shore dinner? Well, a shore dinner is very simple. We had, they'd give us lard and they'd give us bacon, and we'd use the bacon fat and the lard mixed together, put a little butter in it and we'd skin the fish, fillet them and fry them up. And we'd have potatoes, boil the potatoes. And sometimes they'd give us beans, eggs, fried eggs. We always had a big meal. Most Americans used to bring a cooler full of beer and the boys enjoyed that.

Fay: Would you have to cook the dinner or did they help you?

Gerald: No, they never helped us at all. They just sat around there and watched us.

Fay: So how much did you get a day or did that vary?

Gerald: Oh, wasn't... The guiding when I was about 16 years old didn't pay too much. I remember when I used to guide for \$4 a day. We make \$30 now. I'm telling you it's a pretty tough job. It's kind of easy and then sometimes it's kind of tough, it all depends who you're guiding. Some people are pretty easy, some people are nice.

Fay: What makes it tough?

Gerald: Oh, sometimes you guide some crabby people and they want to fish right away. And sometimes the fish are not biting and they think you're holding out on them and you know where the spot is and you won't take them there.

Fay: That's not a very valid judgment, is it?

Gerald: No it isn't. And some of them will pay you the full wage without questions asked and others will just hum and haw and they'll try to beat you. That's how it... Well, Indians were always being beat for something anyways, so we kind of got used to that.

Fay: Did you have your own canoe when you started to guide?

Gerald: No, I used my father's canoe. It was an old leaky canoe, and I tried to fix it up the best we could. We made it. I had a hard time when I was about 16 years old trying to guide. Had some good times too but there were some hard times.

Fay: Can you remember any of them?

Gerald: Oh yeah, when we used to, when we started off as... I started about 18 or 19 being a duck hunter. My brother give me an old taped-up single-barrel shotgun; I used that. And then I borrowed, I used to have to borrow his shells to go hunting. Borrow half a dozen shells here and maybe half a dozen decoys there, borrowed a canoe and an old shotgun. Didn't know if it was going to explode in your face or not. (laughs) So, well that's how it went. Gradually as I got older and the wages got a bit higher I accomplished a little more. I got so I bought my own shotgun. One time I almost drowned with a single barrel. My friend and I, Elmer Jacobs and I, were hunting down Stony one day and there was a bunch of ducks landed in Clarks Bay. You could see them going down. He said, "Let's go after them." I said, "Okay." So we took out after them. The ducks jumped up all right. I guess we both aimed at the one duck on the same side of the boat -- the canoe flipped over. (laughs) Canoe flipped over and the rice bed,

the rice was above our heads after we went down. We could see shore when we were sitting in the canoe, but after the boat tipped over we couldn't see land because the rice was about three feet over our heads. So we floated around there, we floated around there trying to find a stump to turn the canoe over, so we swam around there for about 25 minutes, maybe more. I always thought it was about three quarters of an hour. But anyways Elmer, he says, "I'll swim out and see if I can find a stump." So he swam out and when he let go of the front end of the canoe, his end went up and water came down to my end. So I give it another push and some more water come out so I called him back. We both got on at one end and we give it a push, pushed it some more and finally we got about three inches out of the canoe. So I said, "You get in your end and balance it and I'll try to get in and I'll scoop it out with my hands." So he balanced and I got in and I got enough water out so he could get in. We lost the paddles, we lost our guns, we lost our shells. At first when we were floating on the water there for about half an hour, starting to give up. I says, "Let's yell for help." He says, "Hell no," he says, "don't yell for help. We'll make out some way." He'd rather drown first than yell for help, I guess, that Elmer. So we ended up, he went into a cottage there and he got a rake. We prodded the bottom and we got his gun, I got my shells. We also got the duck that we shot -- we didn't know who shot it. I don't even know who eat it this day. So I've been hunting and guiding since I was that age. In fact I just come off the lake this morning. I got about 30 ducks this fall. I didn't do as well this fall as I have other years, but it's not too bad.

Fay: What kind of ducks do you go for?

Gerald: Oh, we get bluebills, whistlers, and mallards. I got some mallards earlier, but it's cold now. The summer ducks are gone, there's just a few of those northern ducks down. I

didn't get any this morning. I saw a big flock out there but they weren't going to come to the decoys so I thought, "The hell with it, I'll come home."

Fay: So, which are the northern ducks?

Gerald: I beg your pardon?

Fay: Which are the northern ducks?

Gerald: The northern ducks are the bluebills, whistlers, and buffalo heads.

Fay: And they'll come in November?

Gerald: Yeah, they come in November.

Fay: How late do you duck hunt?

Gerald: Oh, I'll duck hunt till it freezes over, just before it freezes over. I broke a little ice going up there this morning.

Fay: Why do you specifically duck hunt this lake?

Gerald: Oh, I don't know. I kind of like this lake. I guess every Indian likes to hunt. I guess that's in his, been like that all his life. I suppose this is one of the reasons my father moved to this place was that there was such good hunting. Many years ago when we used to live in Curve Lake -- I

don't remember that, I don't even know if I was even born yet -- but my dad moved from there. I forget exactly when he moved but it was before the Second World War, and...

Fay: Before the First World War?

Gerald: First World War, yeah, way before the First World War. My uncle used to be a great duck hunter -- he died overseas. Then when my dad moved down from Curve Lake Reservation, him and my mother franchised off of there and they took a place in Burleigh and this is where we settled. So it wasn't till about that summer, then there was other families came along with them and they also built places in Burleigh. At first we used to live in tents. Still have pictures in here of tents where we used to live.

Fay: So what did you do in the winter?

Gerald: Well, my dad used to, my dad used to like to... He had a lot here, he used to cut the wood off of, lumber. He used to lumber there for Jack Crew Company. He used to look after the camps and this; they gave us a place there to live.

Fay: And where is that? Was it in this area?

Gerald: Yeah, it was just above Burleigh. We used to call it -- it's old Buckhorn Road now but they used to call it the Oregon Trail. And the old house is still there, it's all falling down. I often go in there one time with the skidoo. I was telling you there a little while ago when I started off hunting, I had to borrow some things to go hunting with. I guess I should be kind of thankful for it, I've had a lot of guns since then. I was able to buy, I didn't have to borrow any more. I can go hunting with the best of them with a brand

new gun and things. I'm very thankful for the way things have been happening to me.

Fay: When you go guiding, what type of fish do you get?

Gerald: The biggest fish here in the lakes are the muskies. The Americans who come over here, they always want to catch muskie. Some of them come up here for 20 years before they catch muskie. And other fishermen they just started and they catch muskie right away. I've got about, I think I have about seven this summer. The biggest one is about ten pounds apiece -- I got two of them. I got a lot of pickerel. I got some pickerel in the freezer now. I guess there's a lot of ducks in there.

Fay: And you carved the duck decoys too when you hunted?

Gerald: Yeah, I make my own. I make a lot of my own decoys.

Fay: When did you start to do this, when you were smaller?

Gerald: I learned to carve decoys because my uncle he used to carve axe handles, and my dad made axe handles. And I guess I liked, I used to see them making stuff like that so being a duck hunter I seen other guys make decoys so I followed the same.

Fay: How do you make a decoy?

Gerald: I make it out of, usually carve them out of cedar. That cedar is pretty easy to carve. I use that stuff, that's about 100 years old, real old buildings. That's been sticking up for years. Well, we cut them up with a chainsaw and then we split them. It's pretty hard but it's fun doing some. Like I like doing it in the winter -- I've got nothing else to do here.

I do a lot of skidooning in the winter. Go places where you can't go in the summer. I cover maybe 60, 70 miles in a day. Ride around Catchawma, Apsley way. Usually ride with somebody -- in case something happens to your machine there's always somebody there to go for help. Two years ago Moose come down and he says to me, "Gerald," he said, "I want you to do me a favor." I says, "What?" He said, "My machine is broken down." Well, I only have a small machine, it a Polaris, eh. Moose, he

weighed about 300 pounds, so he's pretty big. I said, "What happened?" He says, "My machine is back up in (inaudible) Lake. And," he says, "I broke an axle in it. Would you give me a ride back?" Gee, I looked at him, I looked at my little machine -- it was only a 250, small thing, and I thought, "How in the hell am I going to get up there with that big fellow?" Finally he jumped on and away we went, no trouble. That little Polaris just push, push, pull us around a pretty good speed. Gee, all the way up there I was worried. Finally we got up there, we got up there about... We left early in the morning and we got up there about ten, and he says... And we start to jack it up. I sat on my machine and finally we jacked it up and we got the parts so we put that part on and started back. I didn't ever think that my little machine would make it, but it carried that great big man and me and the new axle he brought. That's the only time that I ever... I've never broke down myself, hope it don't ever happen. If I break down I hope it's around Burleigh Falls.

The pickerel here in Burleigh is a good eating fish. I'd sooner, I believe I would just as soon eat a pickerel as I would a trout, and I've eaten lots of trout. You get those pickerel and you cook them in bacon and grease and butter and they're pretty good. Cook them up real nice and crisp. And the best time to catch those pickerel is in the spring of the year.

Well, not before the season -- a lot of us do, I've been caught a few times too, paid a few fines. But that's not what I'm driving at. What I'm driving at is anybody who likes pickerel, the season usually opens here around about 12th to 14th of May and that's when the best time is. From then on till about the end of May. Then they're just in the earlier part of the year spawning, so they haven't moved out yet. But the end of May they start moving out and they're going to the deeper waters and they're harder to catch. And they come back again, in the fall of the year they come back. They come back in October, back in the fast water again, just like our whitefish. We got whitefish here that weighed about 25 to 30 pound, whitefish. They call them jumbo whitefish. A lot of people never heard of them but they're that big and they're not carp, they're whitefish. We eat a lot of it, give lots to our friends too.

Fay: When is the muskie season?

Gerald: Oh, The muskie season opens around June. They start to spawn around the 15th of May too, for about ten days. You see a lot of muskies in the spring. And a lot of those, some of the guys around here spear the odd one. I've speared the odd one, I've shot the odd one, just for food. I don't like a big muskie. I like one around about seven pounds, they're not too bad. But you get a great big thing it's not good. I usually let a great big one go by if I'm poaching.

Fay: Is there a difference in taste?

Gerald: Yeah, a big muskie is dry and strong. But you take a

small one, about seven pounds, it's pretty good.

Fay: What other kinds of fish do you catch?

Gerald: Oh, we catch bass. I think you were with me last spring when we caught some mudcats. I think they're pretty good. Next to pickerel they're... oh, I don't know, it's a toss-up. I like pickerel and mudcats.

Fay: Mudcats taste like frog legs, don't they?

Gerald: Yeah, they taste like frog legs a bit.

Fay: And you catch frogs too?

Gerald: Yeah, catch frogs.

Fay: Can you describe that a bit?

Gerald: Frogs?

Fay: Yes, how you catch them. You call it frogging?

Gerald: Oh, we get the frogs, we go after frogs in June. We go after them when they're abandoned. To catch bullfrogs all you'll need is about four sets of flashlight batteries and about ten bags. And you go up to a place called Conroy's Marsh -- that's where we catch a lot of them. I've been out there, oh, about twelve years now. I go up now every June for frogs up there. I'd be ashamed to tell you how many we get, because there's... Oh, we get about ten grain sacks full, maybe fifteen grain sacks full. Then we bring them home, skin them, then we sell them to the Chinese restaurant.

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Gerald: Yeah. I got some frogs in the fridge, fridge there now that I got this fall. The lake here went down, the water

went down in the lake. The frogs moved out of the bays out to the middle of the lake. So one evening this year I went out. I saw them there earlier, so one evening I went out, took my flashlight out, and I think I got about 35 or 40, I guess. So that's all you need is a flashlight, because I never ever catch them with a line very much. In June we get them, just put the light on their eyes and it kind of freezes them. They're sort of hypnotized by the light, so all you got to do is reach down -- keep the light in their eyes and reach down and put your hand over top of them, grab them and bag them. That's it. You can catch them with a long pole, and we have a little frog, smaller frog for bait, about an ounce, I guess. And we'd dangle that in front of the big frog and he'll grab that and he'll hang on. He'll grab that and close his jaws and his jaws are locked and you just have to just lift him over towards you.

Get them like that.

Fay: How much do you get for frog legs?

Gerald: Frog legs? Oh, we got \$5 a pound. I got anywhere from \$3 to \$5 a pound. There's a person here in Burleigh -- well, she's not here but she's here in the summer months -- and I usually sell to her, keep her in frogs for the summer. (inaudible). I don't think the wind has anything to do with it. I think it's... You know, if the fish feels like biting he'll bite. Sometimes you can get your limit. Sometimes you go on for a week at a time without any fish.

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Gerald: No. But if a person misses a muskie, like if he's casting for a muskie, muskie comes up and makes a dive for the boat -- for the plug -- and he misses the plug a little bit, you go back to that spot day after day he'll do the same thing.

He'll follow the bait up but he won't bite. But if you keep after him one of them days he'll bite. I've had that happen to me quite a few times. I go out there, I've had this American and casting to the spot there. The muskie would just swirl at it, but then we'd keep going back to that place day after day. He'd be around there, he'd do the same thing every day. Finally he'd get sick of looking at the plug and he'd grab it and you'd hook him. Some of them are a pretty good size too. Got one about 18 pounds like that.

Fay: (inaudible)?

Gerald: No, no. Guiding is business, like. Guiding is not like it used to be. I don't know, the Americans don't have the money any more, I guess. In fact I guide more Canadians now than I have Americans. Even I guided all my life down at (name) Hotel, guided there I don't know how many years, back and forth to (name) and McCracken's Landing and Park Hotel. I guess I've guided all the lodges on the Kawartha, on Lovesick and Stony.

Fay: Do they contract you in the spring? Do you have to sign a contract?

Gerald: Yeah. No, you don't have to sign no contract. They'll let you know when your customers are coming. So I've seen back a few years ago there when the guiding was pretty good, we'd get short of guides. This asshole from Peterborough he used to bring up these guys from Peterborough that didn't know anything about the lake at all. They're even worse than the ones that... They would call themselves guides, they couldn't cook. All they did was sat around drinking the Americans' beer. I think there should be a time... A few years ago we used to pay a license to be a guide. I think the government should bring the license back in for guiding.

Fay: How much was a license?

Gerald: A license then was only about \$2 or \$1. A guide now should take a test to be a guide. I've been a guide all my life and I figure I'm still learning. There's always something different.

Fay: What kind of a test? What would you include in the test?

Gerald: Well, like some of those guides that would come up from Peterborough, they couldn't cook. And I think that if they were left on the lake, if they didn't follow you back I think they'd get lost. If they didn't follow you back to the lodge they'd be lost. And they should know how to...

(END OF SIDE A)

Gerald: Yeah they should know all the back lakes as well as the inland lakes as well as the Kawarthas. Half of them they don't know. They just call themselves guides and they collect guide's wages. That isn't right.

Fay: Are these white men that come up?

Gerald: Yeah, these are white fellows. But there are those that have been living around here all their lives, like Webb Woodcocker. He's been living here all his life, he's just like one of the natives. He knows this country just as good as an Indian does. But the ones I'm talking about is people that have been picked off the street in Peterborough, come up here and act as guides. They don't know nothing.

Fay: Do they still do that?

Gerald: Well, not so much now but there's a lot of them been doing it. I was wondering what your views would be on hunting because a lot of people think that hunting is cruel, especially shooting ducks. What do you think about it?

Fay: Well, I really like to eat ducks. And if I know how to shoot a gun then I will go duck hunting. Not as far as it was not in excess.

Gerald: Well, my purpose is for meat and I enjoy it because it's a good sport. I don't normally shoot a duck sitting in the water like, that comes in to your decoy. They'll come in to your decoys and they'll land. A lot of them just waits till he comes and land there and he thinks he's in a flock of other ducks. And you fooled him that far, making him think that they are really ducks, and you sit up and you shoot at him sitting in the water there. I don't think that's right. I did it when I first started. They'd come in and I'd wait till they all

gathered up and then let blast. The sport about it is to see him flying and take him as he's coming in and take them as they're going out. I've shot three out of three in the air -- that's pretty good with three shots. Shoot one coming at you, shoot another one, get another one. That's pretty good shooting, I would say. You know, there's a lot of good hunters, they do the same. I don't figure myself the best, but I would say I'm one of the best because that's all I've been doing all my life, hunting ducks. And deer, I'm not much of a deer hunter. There's a lot of good duck hunters, but I don't know of anybody that's spent more time on the water than I have. When it comes to duck season I'm usually out there, helping looking after them kids at the Centre. Well, when duck

season comes in I wasn't there any more, so I don't think I'll be there with them until this duck season is over. I imagine it'll only take about two or three days and this lake will be frozen so hard I won't be able to get out. I'll have to go back to my kids again, looking after kids all winter. Then it will be... it won't be long. Then come spring I'll go set up camp up the lake again and we'll take them camping again. They usually take about three different ones a week. I think they've all went out, they've all been out with me, like three different bunches. There's a smaller group, then a bigger group. I even take kids from the campsite out to here. They enjoy it. John Henry, John Henry is only about, how old would John Henry be?

Fay: Ten.

Gerald: Ten years old, he's a good little kid. He really likes to camp out. And I told him the right kind of wood to start a fire, he'd get the right kind of wood.

Fay: What kind is that?

Gerald: Oh, little dried twigs, maple twigs, get some paper. He done pretty good. He's pretty clean around the camp. He washes his own dishes -- I liked him for that. Some of the kids are a little lazy (inaudible).

Well, I think that 10 year-old kids know by now how to start a fire. I asked Terry one day, I says, "It's your turn to start the fire." I said, "I'll go peel the potatoes and you start the fire." She says, 'All right.'" I watched her and she done the exactly the same thing as I done. She went and got some little maple twigs, and she got a bit of paper. I give her one match and I said, "Now here's one match. That's all we got."

And I said, "I want to see you start that fire with just one match." By gosh, she got it all gathered up the way I laid it. Anyway, within minutes she had a bonfire going. She was jumping and clapping her hands and she was saying, "Gee, I really did it, didn't I?"

John Henry is the same way. See, John Henry have to be the smartest kid for his age for boys that I've seen around

Burleigh. Terry is a little older -- she's a little girl but she knows about outdoor camping and what to do around a fireplace. The bigger boys are not as smart as the littler ones. I've taken the bigger boys, teenagers, out this summer and they weren't near as smart as the small ones, because it would take them about 15 minutes to get a fire going. Whereas I taught those little ones and that will stick right in their minds how to build a fire. Them big boys was using (inaudible) wood, you know, old dead trees. Try to get it going with that and it would just lay there and smoulder, it just wasn't going for them. I wasn't even going to tell them about it. I got kind of browned off with them. That's the native kids. But I've had kids from across the lake, campsite across the lake. I invited them over to camp one weekend and they had a good time. Of course at that time I had a Coleman stove, we didn't need any wood any more.

Sometimes, you know, when you're duck hunting, you're sitting in your blind. You put your decoys out before daylight, and you have flocks and flocks of ducks flying back and forth, wish the hell they would land. Then you figure, "What the hell did I do with my decoys? I didn't put them out right." And then you check them over again, you go out there and straighten them out a little bit and still the same thing happens. That's something, sometimes I wonder. It's just... I guess the ducks are just moody, just like people. They have a notion to land,

they'll land. Like people, if they have a notion to stop someplace they'll stop and talk. I guess birds are just like people.

Fay: Maybe you could describe what a duck blind is and what kind of decoys you use.

Gerald: I have three duck blinds on Lovesick Lake and they're made like a little house. I had a Coleman stove in there this fall. I go out there and make my tea there. One morning I went out there, I was out there before daylight, and I had my decoys out. I pumped my Coleman stove up. I was just, the tea water was just starting to boil and it started to boil and a couple of ducks flew into my decoys. So it was hissing like everything so I grabbed for my gun. By the time I grabbed my gun they were in the air. They hadn't gone out 25 feet and they were both down. I knocked the two of them down and that's all that I saw that morning. It was a new hide. The water went down, you know. Remember when the water went down?

Fay: Yeah.

Gerald: That water was right... The lake was really shallow, must have been around four, five feet. And my nephew Joe, he brought up some plywood from working. We built a hide on this rock and we thought the water would be, that the lake would stay the same. No, the water was gone up to almost back to

summer level again and our duck hide was in the water. The water was right over top, it went right over, half way, about half way up the little duck shack we made. We had a couple boxes there that you could sit on to look out, but I'm afraid you couldn't shoot in there now, it's all full of water. So I've been shooting from another place. Had quite a few from this other place. It was just behind a tree -- no hide at all

-- just hide behind the tree with my decoys out. We got some whistlers there last week but this morning I didn't get nothing.

Fay: How come hunters always use a hide and duck blind?

Gerald: Well, the reason why is... Well, first they make a kind of a little shack with the open front and we cover it all over with dry limbs and green trees and whatever, trying to make it look as natural as possible, like some brush. We have a roof on them so that if it rains or snows the snow won't get at you. But as I say some of them just hide behind a tree and just throw their decoys out on the lake and that works all right. But I like making a little shack up there because might as well be comfortable, put boxes in there. The last hide we made you could sleep in there. One of the duck hunters come in off of the lake to see our hide. He says, 'Gees, you could sleep in there.' They got quite a few too.

Fay: Did your father used to hunt ducks here, or did you just start hunting ducks when you got older?

Gerald: I started hunting ducks because everybody else was doing it. I was around 18, I guess, I started to hunt.

Fay: So they've always hunted ducks then?

Gerald: Yeah, my mother used to tell me that my uncle was a great duck hunter.

Fay: Who was that?

Gerald: Oh, that was my uncle that was killed in the First World War. I never saw him. She told me that he was quite a duck hunter.

Fay: I wonder what makes a good hunter.

Gerald: Just practice. You have your off days. You have your good days and you have your off days. Sometimes you just can't miss if you're jump shooting. Jump shooting is when a guy sits in front of the canoe and the other guy paddles and they take the first one that comes up, sometimes they take two. I've missed quite a few of them, I haven't hit them all. But I do my share of hitting, lots of experience.

Fay: So when you get the ducks back here you clean them?

Gerald: Sometimes they clean them out there. Sometimes they'll sit in the hide. If I got nothing to do in the duck hide, sometimes I'll just pluck them right in the hide. While I'm sitting concentrating on cleaning the ducks there will be some more flying in so I drop the duck and pick up my gun and start banging away. Sometimes I clean them, but most of the time my brother cleans them, bring them home.

Fay: I could sense that you were tired.

Gerald: Tell you a story about Joe, my nephew. He bought a new shotgun exactly like mine only his is a 12 gauge, and I got a 20. So we went out hunting this year, he wanted to try his gun. So he didn't have too good, we didn't see too many ducks opening morning so we thought we'd portage over into (name). I paddled us into the bay, four or five bays and doing pretty good. These ducks would jump up right in front of him 35, 40 feet away and "BANG", he'd miss (inaudible) empty his gun. I never said nothing to him. So we go into another bay, he'd start shooting away again and missing ducks like a little bugger. In the meantime I'm getting angry, them jumping so

close and he's missing them. So I think after three, four times I said to him, I kind of scolded him, I said, "Get in the back here." In the meantime his 12 was in the front, his 12 gauge, his new gun was in front, and my gun was in the back. "Use my gun," he says. "No," I says, "I'll use my own." So we went into the last bay, I think. I believed that there would be some mallards. One lone mallard jumped up. First shot I missed him -- of course that was first shot of the year -- first shot I missed, second shot I dropped him stone dead. He never said any more to me till we got back and finally I heard him talking to one of the boys here. "My God," he says, "I thought I could shot good." So he was so proud of the duck we got, talking to somebody from across the lake, and before I knew it he had given my duck away to this person across the lake. He made me mad.

Fay: It wasn't even with his gun.

Gerald: It wasn't even with his gun. (laughs) He gave my duck away, big mallard. Remember that duck that used to... He gave that away to that guy that was standing there talking. I could have kicked him.

I was starting to tell you about the time when, you were asking me if I ever flipped a boat over when I was guiding -- no. I remember one time there was an American flipped a boat over that my brother was guiding, and we were guiding in canoes then. And the American he was guiding with a big heavy set old man and he went to reach out to take the weed off the end of his hook and the boat flipped over. Lucky they were right close to shore. Anyway they hung onto the boat, the old man hung onto the boat and brother (inaudible) he was guiding, they

pulled the old man to shore. That's the only time I ever heard

tell about anybody flipping the boat. But it was the American's fault. He shouldn't have been out in the canoe at all that age. He must have been 60, I guess. There was another time when... there's a funny story I'll tell you about. This time Art Boothe was guiding, guide these Americans at the Park Hotel.

Fay: I didn't know he used to guide.

Gerald: Yeah, he used to guide. He took this American up and they went up to Lovesick and he dropped his anchor too close to the dam. And he wasn't watching what was happening and the boat backed into that backwash, the water was coming over the dam, water kept pouring in the boat. And I guess he lost control of the boat. The boat tipped over, old Art went over the side and the American went down on the side. Lucky there was some fellows working there at the dam at the time, you know. Put their boat in, they pulled old Art and his American out of the water. So two years ago, three, four years ago we were fishing down at the, we were having a coffee at the trading post and old Art was sitting there. This American walked in and he says to Art, "Hello, Art." Art says, "I don't think I know you." He says, "You should know me, you son-of-a-bitch," he says, "you pretty near drowned me in the Lovesick." Poor old Art, I guess he felt pretty foolish. He never guided too much after that either. I think that was his last time he guided.

Fay: (Inaudible)?

Gerald: I think that guiding is now a thing of the past. I don't think it will ever come back again, not like it used to. Like 35 years ago there was a great call for guides then. I

was lucky to guide about seven weeks this summer, maybe not even that, six weeks. I'm glad I get a bit of a pension from the government to help survive without that guiding; I'd have a hard go.

Fay: (Inaudible)

Gerald: Yeah, they're going to lose all this. There are never going to be any more guides. Well, there's lots of fish here yet though. I don't know, I guess the Americans haven't got the money to spend any more for this kind of thing. When I was around about, when I first started to guide I was 17, I guess. I used to go around with old fellows. I was just like (inaudible) take out camping and all that, I taught them a few things. I never used to know anything about frying fish out on an open fire. I think the one that taught me how to cook fish

properly was Russell Taylor. He didn't tell me how, I watched him. I did exactly what he did when I started to guide alone. I'd get a good hardwood fire going, cook my bacon first, cut off a half pound of butter and throw it in there, then I'd salt and pepper my fish and I'd wait until my grease started to boil before I threw my fish in, and I just leave it sit there for a while. Then I shake my pans so it wouldn't stick, every once in a while I'd work the grease back and forth in the frying pan. I'd leave it for about 10, 12 minutes before I turn it over, done exactly what he did. I looked over and my God, it turned out, looked just as red and brown just the same way as he did. Then I'd finish it off with the other side same time. I got to be a pretty good cook. I got those older guys to be thankful to because they taught me all about cooking outdoors and little things like that.

I reminded Russell, I says, "Russell, did you know that you taught me how to cook fish?" He says, "I did?" I says,

"Yeah," I says, "I watched you. You didn't tell me anything, but I watched exactly what you were doing. Whatever you done," I says, "I kept in my mind and I did it the same." Well, he started to laugh.

There's no school here at all. Of course my older brothers they took their education towards Buckhorn. There's a schoolhouse up there, they called it Deer Bay School. That's where they went to school. When I started to school here there was no school at all. I used to walk out. I was about 7 or 8 years old, I'd walk three miles one way, three miles back -- that's in the winter. I had to break my own trail too. I used to go up to Coon Lake Road and that's where that school was. There used to be a man there with horses. He'd sometimes take his daughter to school and we'd jump on his sleigh and ride along with him. That's where I got some of my education. Well, most of my relations took it through correspondence course and then after a few years there was a school in Burleigh. Started off in an old store house; seven or eight of us went there. And after a few years they made us a school and I had some of my education there too.

Fay: Where was the other school?

Gerald: Oh, the school now, the last school now is a post office here in Burleigh Falls. So they closed that up, the government closed that up, and the kids now they go to Youngs Point in Lakefield. Oh, it wasn't till I was around 22, 23, I took on this religious bit. I took some more education in Toronto and then I went to C.B.C. where I took up a bit of theology. Then I went on the road as an evangelist, travelled through the States with a singing group and I travelled that for a while. I done it for about two years and I got fed up

with it. I thought to myself, "Well, this isn't what I want. I want something else." I couldn't even find my purpose in life till later.

Well, Burleigh Falls, the Burleigh Falls (inaudible) just a part of the store and it wasn't nearly two months. That was in the summertime (inaudible)... a small restaurant, In the wintertime they changed over and they made it into a school house. That was known as Miss McLaren's school. She was quite an elderly lady at the time. That's about it, that's about all I know about that school. I don't know too much. Well, I remember a lot of it, but it was just an ordinary thing.

(END OF SIDE B)
(END OF TAPE)

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