

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

MF026 Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine

July 2023

Albert Michaud, Walter Simon, Rand Trembly, and Ernest Dubay, interviewed by James Bishop, Part 4

Albert Michaud

Walter Simon

Rand Trembly

Ernest Dubay

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mf026>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Michaud, Albert; Simon, Walter; Trembly, Rand; and Dubay, Ernest, "Albert Michaud, Walter Simon, Rand Trembly, and Ernest Dubay, interviewed by James Bishop, Part 4" (2023). *MF026 Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine*. 30.

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mf026/30>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in MF026 Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

This tape is a remembrance among four friends who grew up on French Island. Our thoughts, our experiences, our background. In other words a walk down memory lane. Our interviewer is Jim Bishop from the Franco-American Center, also a French Island boy. We will start the discussion by asking everyone to give us their name and a brief history of themselves.

JB - Jim Bishop
AM - Albert Michaud
WS - Walter Simon
RT - Rand Trembly
ED = Ernest Dubay

I am Albert Michaud, eighth child of William Michaud and Alvine LaVoie. I was born May 6, 1929 at 61 Heald Street, which is on the west side of French Island directly across the river from the railroad station. I am married to Rita England also from French Island and we have eight children.

I am Walter Simon. I was the third child of six children and the son of David and Eugene Simon. I was born on French Island November 19, 1928 and married to Dolores Boutot of Frenchville, Maine and has one child Greg Simon who resides in Connecticut.

I am Rand Trembly the fifth of seven children born to Benjamin C. and Stella M. Trembly and was raised on Howard Street on the east side of Treat and Webster Island. As a matter of fact, we didn't even consider it to be the Island at that time. I was born on 28 December 1929 and am married to Dawn M. Russell. She and I have six children.

I am Ernest Dubay, better known as Earnie. I was born June 19, 1928 on Hayes Street which is on the east side of French Island. My mother was Etta Fogarty Dubay and my father Lionel J. Dubay. I am the fifth child of eleven children. I am married to Coral Babb Dubay and we have four children--One boy and three girls.

My name is Jim Bishop. My mother's name is Eva Bishop and my father was known by many as Donut--his real name was Frederic Bishop--originally Levesque, but he changed it at some point in his life before I came around--so it's Bishop. They had two children--myself and my sister Barbara who is a couple years younger than me.

JB I've walked in on this illustrious group here, right off the street. So I'm going to maybe try to kick off the discussion and then become a bit invisible, but I know I'll be wanting to ask questions along the way. Maybe we could begin by just talking--well, we could begin anywhere. Let's begin with what we were talking about--what we've just left off with which is--I'd like to hear maybe a little more about your memories of softball on the Island and your participation--and more than

softball too, if you were involved in sports on the Island in general. What was that about and what was your participation like and how did that go? Let's talk about that.

AM As I was saying, I was a good softball player and I don't remember playing. But I do remember the softball.

RT Maybe you played for the Old Timers.

AM Yeah. I played basketball. But softball--I remember the leagues very well but of course, I was away to school also--my high school years. JB What years were you away? AM I was away in '44 to '48. So, you know, that kind of leaves you out of some things. But I know that you guys played.

WS Yeah. Well, yeah--like you said there was the Red Sox team and then we had the Trotters. Remember the Trotters and they used to have the league there and they'd play them games and --hey, the games didn't end after the--when the ninth inning was over. They went over to the Shuffle Inn and they played and played those games over and over again. Which was known as Pearly Nadeau's then. And I'm going to tell you it was something.

JB Now, some people might==if they just went up on the Island now and hadn't seen it then--they might have some trouble understanding where you played these games--because it doesn't look to be a place to play.

WS This was right there by the Island School. And you had to be a good hitter to get a hit there.--RT Because down each foul line you had boundaries. Like down the first base line there was a fence oh about 25 feet behind first base--so if you pulled it over that fence in a certain position you were out. If it went further though it was ok. And the same way with left field--and don't hit the ball to left field because if it went over the fence in left field it went down into my Aunt Ozitte's yard and you lost the ball. ED I remember that. WS And I must say that had to be a pretty good, straight away center hitter because AM Of course, if you pulled pretty far to the left it might land in your house too. You were not too far. WS No--we were just beyond Ozitte's there. But Ozitte was getting all the balls.

ED Do you remember Harold St. Louis and Arthur? They were the only men that I ever knew that could bunt and get second base.

WS Well, the Baltimore Chopper there. Yes. ED They'd bunt and get to second base. They were both extremely fast. Little Bernie Cust was the same way. They played for the Old Timers and Harold played for the Red Sox. JB Harold St. Louis--he was Arthur's boy. ED Arthur's boy. Right. In fact, pretty

near--well, I know my father played. WS And my father played for the Old Timers and let me tell you something about this. The field wasn't level by no means. The outfield used to dip like this--drop down--and if the ball was hit deep enough you had to--come right up "I got it!" You'd never even see him catch the ball.

JB I used to go to those games as a kid. I'd watch them and I remember my father umpiring sometimes and stuff like that. Some funny stories I remember about that. Who started that? How did they get started?

RT Well, a lot of this took place after World War II when the people started to come back--when the boys started to come back from World War II. And, there just wasn't much going on except for the kids--I guess they saw the kids playing--us kids playing there in the yard and they thought well, let's have a league. So--and I think people like Louis Taylor and Arthur St. Louis and some of these older folks are the ones that really got this--Otis Labree--are the ones that got this league going actually. Somebody had to organize it and I think it was people like this that really organized it.

ED Donut had a lot to do with it. RT Oh, yes. ED He had a very lot to do with it. I remember. RT He used to referee a lot. I remember. WS Oh, you could count on him being there. ED And then see, at first that's all we had was that little Island league. And then after that they started a league downtown. Do you remember--I can't think of his name now--but anyway they used to let--we used to get together and have a tournament between --playoffs between the two leagues.

JB People from off the Island playing against people on the Island?

AM You mentioned Old Maine Trotters--is that what you mentioned? WS Yeah. AM But didn't they have a separate Trotter that Henry Levasseur pitched for--nobody could hit. That was a separate--WS No. No. This was the original Trotter team right there. RT Henry pitched on the Island. The Trotters started on the Island. WS There was Henry and Wilson Bishop. Wilson with his chunk you know he was pretty effective. Trying to hit against Henry's fast pitch and then what-his-name would come in there and toss them up to you. RT Something else I remember from that--we used to have the Bangor teams come up here--the Air National Guard team and Mel Medlow--and we used to have like double-headers on Sunday. And between the games we used to go--I won't say who the name is--but we used to go to a house and have our fill of beer.

AM Wasn't Van Geroux active then also? Van Geroux--he used to write for the Penobscot Times--and he was very active in those

leagues. RT Yeah. Bert Morin, the Treadwells. AM You know there's an old story that I remember. There used to be a hand pump there along side of the school. And I heard--it was either Puggy Simon or St. Louis--Bebe St. Louis not young Bebe St. Louis but the older Bebe--I don't remember which one it was, but he ran into that thing and instead of him hurting himself he broke it. Did you hear that? RT I remember it being broke. ED A few died. (laughed) AM Was it Bebe St. Louis or Puggy? Puggy Simon was crippled--I can't see him running.

RT You know another attraction at these games was--not my uncle--Georgie Moore. Georgie was kind of illiterate, and he used to keep score with rocks. One in each hand like--like he had this team and this team. "Hey, George, what's the score?" He'd look at his hands and "Three to two." You know.

WS And he hated the Trotters. If the Trotters would win, Oh, man! And it was all relatives on there practically--most of them--a lot of them. Rand, Bob, myself, Petrowski. RT It was a good thing--because you're talking about community. That was really community at that time. There were kids, the adults, the women even. We had two sets of bleachers there.

JB The school was still there. RT Yeah. The school was still there. I played third base and I ran into that school more times than not. JB What happened if the ball hit the school? Was that a foul? RT Foul. Yeah. AM Well the foul was all right on the left side it hit the school. But, on the right side if it went over the fence it was an out. ED Right side, to Rachel Morin's home. AM And it could have been a good hit. WS could have been a fair ball but it was an out because it was a shorter field. ED But, do you remember when they made that field? That field was a dump and they hauled leaves there for three or four years and we used to play on top of them leaves.

AM I don't want to contradict you, but I don't think that Dave was the superintendent then. ED No. He wasn't the superintendent but -- RT It might have been Murphy. AM Murphy. ED Billy Murphy. I think your father was working for him. Because I remember him hauling leaves there. RT Do you remember they used to haul snow there before they built it. JB When was this now? What period are you talking about--before the War, after the War? ED You're talking about in the 40's--45, 46. JB OK. It was when they were building up the leaves and the stuff for the field? ED They filled the field in--it used to be a dump. WS It's level now. It used to be the field was just like this and then it would take a sharp dip. And, this was what we played into until they hauled the stuff all in and kind of leveled it off. ED These leaves--and leveled the field and put that rock wall

along the side. RT Retaining wall there and--

ED Like that place next to Sibos where the city dump was--where the Old Town Park is now--that used to be the city dump.

AM Oh, yeah. My father was commissioner when they built that. Cause I was nine or ten years old--and I've said this before, he used to take me down there to make the cribwork for the--they went up to the Argyle Boom--the Argyle Bridge and they had scows or des batteau--scows they used to call them, and they were out there picking for logs. They'd pick the logs, bring them up, bring them to shore and they carted them down there and that's where he'd take me. He'd take me to work, put me on one of those trucks and I'd ride back and forth to Argyle delivering those booms. And, that used to be the city dump. But see, my father was road commissioner and then there was I think, Billy Murphy, WS then my father took over from Billy didn't he? AM No. I worked for the city my first year I was out of school--out of freshman year--and it was Mose Brissette, and your father took Mose Brissette's place. WS No. Mose worked for my father. AM Well, I'm at fault then. WS No. My father was before. My father took it from Billy Murphy and Mose was working for him at that time. And so wasn't Mr. Richards--Baptiste Richards remember. Baptiste was the sewer man. AM Old Baptiste Richard was there. Old Mr. Boucher and one of the Ledger boys. WS Yeah--what was his name--the one who used to dig the ditches all the time there. AM Albert Ledger. And there was two or three of us young guys. There was me, and there was --oh shoot--Clukey..Norman Clukey. And, there was a couple of other guys. Of course we were always separated from those old guys. They didn't want to bother with us young guys at all. So, they left us up in the pit--which the pit was up in Alton theN--the city pit. We were loading the trucks as they come in. So, there was no trucks coming in--so we'd go up top of the pit and jump down--you know jump in the pit and roll and that would make the gravel slide--cripe we practically buried the loader. They come in and they'd be madder then hell. The one time we took our boots off and we stuck them in the sand and our shovels and we went up hide. When they come out they went running they thought we were buried in there.

RT You know there's another event that took place in this softball era that you guys probably remember. It was the annual--it started out as a donkey game for the Old Timers. But instead of donkey game it got to be just Old Timers game and I think all of our fathers might have played in that. I can recall--I'm not sure whether it was his father or not but they had a case of beer at third base and anybody that reached third base would get a beer. So I think it was his father--hit the ball and instead of running to first he runs to third.

JB Directly to third.

RT They say, "You've got to run to first." He said, "Oh, no. The beer's over here."

WS It's another thing too. It's a fact that they had a donkey game where you hit the ball and you run the bases with the donkey. Well, Fatty Cyr actually lifted the donkey and ran the bases with him. He did! ED Old Fatty.

AM Didn't they have that at the Victory Field. RT They used to have that up there too. ED They had it on the Island too. AM I don't remember that. Of course, I'm much younger than you guys.

WS Old Fatty Cyr lifted the donkey and he ran with him. Oh, boy. Yeah. And then, of course, sports don't end there. You've got to go back to the fights. AM Your father was involved in that. WS Oh, I guess. He ran them. ED I used to fight my brother--my little brothers. WS Let me tell you something. Your father ran the fights. But, the Langlais--remember kind of had the prelim there. They'd get--your father'd recruit a lot of fights from there. ED Bernard--Bernard Langlais. WS So, me and Buck Lagasse--we're fighting over there you know. So, gee, his father had somebody over there so they come over and they says to Buck Lagasse and me --Buck Lagasse had shoulders like this built like this and me--and we're fighting and we're giving it all we got you know. So, they said "Hey, boy we like this." So they signed us up for the fight over there. So, Buck Lagasse gets up there and fights and you know we fight and we fight three rounds you know, and then hey, at the end they put both arms up and they called it a draw. I don't know why they called it a draw. He beat the hell out of me. But anyway they gave us each fifty cents. We thought we had the world. I remember that. ED They had some good fights there.

JB Now that started when? Do you remember when the fights started.

WS Oh, boy. He ran them for quite a few years. ED Of course, my father died in '42 so that's-- JB Oh, really. In the '30s. It ended in '42. RT They used to bring in some good fighters too. WS Oh, yes. Sweet Pea Dalton. ED Cyke Violette. WS Cyke Violette and ah.. RT Skip Cormier WS Yeah. Cormier..but it's not Skip it's ED Pat WS Pat Cormier. Pat Cormier was real good--if it hadn't been for the booze he could have made the pros. ED Bobby Howe. WS Bobby Howe the Howe boys. JB Are these all people from Old Town? ED All people from Old Town. Most from the Island. WS Uppercut Roy. Diddie Daigle. AM I remember one fight--of course, with my uncle Rosaire...you remember this Flash Wise.

He never got knocked out, and I think he was from Waterville..he wasn't from Old Town. He was from outside. He came out and he fought Rosaire in the main bout and Rosaire knocked him out. And, all I can remember after the fight everybody was out and Flash Wise was sitting on the grandstand trying to get his head back. Didn't he plow him. WS Rosaire fought a lot of fights. He was a good fighter. RT Psycho Miller and Violette they knocked out Cyclone St. Louis and he was the referee. ED Yeah. That's right. I remember that. RT I can remember a little deception on this guys part too. We were just kids and he was much bigger than I was..so he's fighting up there you know and he's telling me "Rand you ought to come up and fight. He says, "Look I'll arrange a fight with you and I and I'll take it easy on you." OK. So I agreed and I went up there and he was kicking the hell out of me. So..what he forgot to tell me was. The winner got two cents instead of one. The looser got one cent the winner got two. WS So, I wanted the two cents. RT We were well paid in those days. JB Who was shelling out this big money? WS Boy, we fought...that fifty cents I got for that.. ED Sometimes the money that was thrown into the ring made it up thought. But, if you had five cents you were rich. Back in those days, really. WS That's what I said. That fifty cents that we got for that fight. I thought I had the world by the butt there boy. JB So, do you know if people fought for the money or just for the fun of it? WS Fun--it was entertainment and then of course, we had relatives of his and us too. Nelly Bouchard he used to make chips--sell potato chips and stuff like that at the fights. RT It was something to do. I think our era--we looked for things to do. We made things to do. RT I think we will all admit that up until the time we were in high school that was our life...down around our street and around that Island. That was our life. ED And, it was divided. It was segregated--whatever you want to call it--to a certain extent. You couldn't--if you was a stranger, you couldn't pick on no part of the Island--cause then you had the whole Island on you. It was a great place to grow up.

RT Like he and I and Donald Cossette and the Moreaus--we spent the whole summer in our swimming trunks. We were on the river. Who was that bakery? WS MacMillans. RT MacMillans. They used to throw the donuts over the bridge. OK? So we see the donuts floating down the river--there's nothing wrong with them. If we can get there quick enough--so we used to swim out and get them and bring them in. If they weren't wet--well sometimes even if they were wet we'd dry them out. But, we..I remember one time we took a boat and he always stopped in the same spot..so we took a boat..and the guy throwing them on..and we're catching them there, you know, until he saw us. Then when he saw us he threw them away from us. AM We'd hide under the bridge and five o'clock every day..I don't know if

it was every day..but they'd dump their donuts..it was always in the same spot. We were right there waiting. JB Which bridge were you under. AM The Milford Bridge. You know Rand they interviewed me for this project and I repeated just what you're saying now so I'm glad it's being verified. RT Of course, Donald...Donald Cossette was one heck of a good swimmer. He'd swim across back and forth on that river and never touch ground you know. He could really swim. AM We lived on the river. We weren't afraid..our parents weren't afraid. We knew the river. ED We all did. WS How many times did we go and jump into the river where Raynold lived and swim across there to the swimming hole. It was just about right--we'd jump in there and the current was pretty bad but if you was a half decent swimmer you'd be just about right and hit the swimming hole. AM You had a swimming hole on the Bradley side? ED Pit Barker we used to call it. Is that what you fellows called it? RT Right handy to Barker's Lumber Yard there. ED Raymond Moreau lived there. WS You know where he lived? Well right behind his house, you'd get out to the eddy and go straight across from his eddy there you could see the swimming hole. RT That's where I learned to swim. My father threw me in. My father threw me out of the boat and said, "You've got to swim now." WS And that's another thing..speaking of the eddy down there..I went down there one day and I wasn't supposed to go down there and my mother said, "You wait until your father gets home." So, my father comes home and she tells him about me being down there near the river, you know. And, my father said, "Well, I'll fix him." So he took me down--remember the ledges there..just around the bend..those ledges there. He took me off the ledges and took me feet first and dunked me in. He dunked me in like this and I said, "Again, dad..again, dad." I used to love the water, you know. He thought he was punishing me, you know. All the time I loved it. AM Just down from where you are..the ledges you're talking about is where the headwork used to be. And, that's where I learned to swim..they used to have a cord across there..and my brother threw me in and I had to swim to the cord..which wasn't a long way. That's where I learned to swim.

JB Did you guys all go to school on the Island.

ED I think I'm the only one went on the Island. WS Here's the school. We lived here and I never went there a day. We always went to St. Joseph's. AM I started..I did either one or two years on French Island and that was the practice of OUR families. And then from there we'd have to go to St. Joseph's.

ED I went right straight through the French Island School. All six years.

WS Now we didn't go there because we didn't think it was a good place to get an education. It's just that they sent use to the parochial school. ED We used to sing little songs to these fellows as they went by. "Convent bum, chew my gum, go to school at half-past one." AM That's right too. I haven't heard that for a long time. RT But you know you tell this..I don't know if you guys have ever recounted any of this stuff that we're talking about to our children. When I do, they think I'm crazy. Like I can recall rolling a barrel up and down the street for hours. ED Tires. WS Trying to stay on top of the barbell? RT Yeah. We looked for things to do. We entertained ourselves. WS We didn't have TV. RT That's right and that street was our life. WS We had discarded tires..car tires. We'd take a stick..we'd have more fun with a stick pushing a tire. AM And of course, playing cowboy we'd take the cans and hook them onto our feet and clop, clop, clop. WS Bang them. AM We used to play Odd or Evil a lot on our end. ED I was going to ask you that. WS That and hide and seek. ED What was the word? Pronounce it again. It's got to be French. AM I tried to trace that down and I couldn't. ED Is it Odd or Evil. AM Odd or Evil we used to call it. When I went to school mixing with a lot of other kids from Massachusetts and everywhere. They used to call it Releavil (sp??). But I never could figure out where it came from. What name..I don't think it's French. The game was..you used to pick two teams. You'd have a circle..you'd make a circle. One team would go hide and then the other team would try to find them. When they found one they'd put him in the circle and then you'd guard the circle. But if one of the team hiding could come over and run through the circle..whoever was in it was free. And we'd play hours and hours. It's a form of Capture the Flag which came up later on. When you were in the Boy Scouts and everything. ED That reminds me of Corum. Do you remember that game? You start with one man and we'd get a whole bunch of kids and we'd play on Mr. Langlais's lawn most of the time. And the idea was one fellow would start and he'd have to tackle another one and then you'd have two to tackle until everybody was caught. The first one caught..he was Corum. He had to start over and it was tackle football that's what it was. AM The game was try to be the last one. ED You won if you was the last one. AM We used to play that a lot on the ice too. Not tackle...but you had to stop them. You had to catch the guy. Oh, geez, I forgot all about that.

JB I remember your birthday's more or less. Were you in the same group as far as age? RT We were in the same classes. AM For a matter of fact here...I didn't know it then anyway...but we're all related. Ernie's grandmother and my grandmother and Rand's grandfather and Walter's grandfather were brothers and sisters. Now, as children, we were all friends..but I didn't know that we were...maybe they mentioned it but you don't pay

much attention to it. And later when you trace your roots... in fact..Rand is double related. RT His family tree runs into my father. AM His father's side and on his mother's side. RT I was question whether I was legal you know. AM So, if you look back there's a lot of people..if you go back far enough, all over French Island. All the roots when they came to Canada was all up around St. Anne, and Ramouski, and Cabano and they all came around there. WS I wish I'd have known that when we was growing up because Ernie when he threatened us there we could have told him, "Hey, we're cousins, you know." AM Yeah. Ernie talks about Convent School, Convent Bums...I used to consider Ernie a bully. He was always bigger than we were and of course, we didn't go to the same school.. But, after you get to know people. We used to hunt together..we used to go to his camp.

JB Now, tell me about that division. Was there a real division?

ED Yes. JB The parochial school kids and the Island School.. ED and the public school kids. I'd say it ended when you went to the Junior High. JB What was that like? ED Oh, we'd play together on weekends and that..but when they'd go to school, they'd go by and they'd go at half-past one and we're already at school. So, we'd sing them a cruel song.

RT But, I remember though. The community was stronger than that though. I can remember tragedies like somebody dying or something..it seemed like the whole Island would come to the aid of that person.

WS Let me give you a good example..we were playing ball in the field..remember we was playing ball with your Uncle Cuss and them when Pauline Cyr fell into the river and somebody came over hollering and the guy that got her out was Harvey...he couldn't even swim...Harvey Cyr..he jumps in and spotted her and he jumped in and got her and they worked on that girl for hours and hours...didn't give up on her. Down to Moreau's.. Ray Moreau's. I remember rolling her on a barbell to get the water out of her. ED Marquis used to live there at that time though. Remember? That was before Moreau moved there. His name was Marquis. WS Yeah. That's right. Moreaus weren't there then. ED They rolled her over a barbell. WS Right in that yard. AM When you were real young on French Island I didn't know much about the west side of the Island. You had your side when you were young .. of course, your parents didn't let you travel too much. But after you started getting fifth and sixth grade then you started .. WS Like you say, when you was younger we didn't know much about your end of the Island. AM Of all of you here, I think you were the one who was closer to me. When you were young you used to come over to my house. WS Yeah. I remember going there and you played that game you like there..cards.. RT Pitch. ED No. No.

Not the Pitch..Pinochle. Remember you guys used to play Pinochle. WS Oh, yeah. Yeah. RT Well, my mother was born and raised right on the corner of your street. Now she's ninety-one years old and she was telling me that. Right there on the corner. ED Boy Landry's side or the other side.. Martin? RT On the other side of the street from where your house was. ED OK. Martin. That's who I knew lived there at the time..Pat Martin. RT She told me things about your folks..well they were close. AM My mother and your mother were first cousins.

JB Were you all speaking English as kids?

WS Well, you spoke a lot of French in your house, didn't you Al?
AM All French in my house. We spoke both languages but in the house it was French. WS Early it was French. RT I was told I spoke French until I went to school. ED Yeah.

JB I spoke some French. But after you started school it was all English for you? RT Mostly. I'm returning to French now because my son's living in Quebec so. ED We never talked French at home. I could understand it because all my friends were French, you know. JB Do you speak any now at all? WS I speak some because I had to because when I was going out with my wife and I went up there they couldn't even speak English. You know very little--broken English. And so I had to speak French or I didn't get nothing to eat. ED I think when you get into that..when I was saying it was segregated..segregated or not..I don't want anybody to misunderstand. The Island was one whole community. WS There was no question. RT Kids..kids..like we had our territory. ED We had our gang..we had our territory..you know. Unless you was invited in to the territory you didn't go. AM You know a lot of questions asked in these interviews is..Do you think you were looked down on as living on French Island and being French by people that didn't live on French Island?

ED I believe we were. I say that honestly..by .. well, we used to say North End..Old Town. Because I remember as I got a little older fought a little more..let's say. We'd go over and challenge or they used to come over and challenge us and then we'd go over to Old Town and challenge them. And just as soon as we got to that bridge we....

TURNED OVER TAPE

ED We could start a four and I started at four..I started subprimary at four years old. My mother was trying to get rid of me..but I was.. AM I can see why. ED I could think, you know. So, I went to school and I told the teacher I was only four years old..I wasn't five. See. They had put me off as five..and that's what they used to do back then. So they

sent me home. Which I got another year that I could play. But, I thought the education there was really good. We had subprimary was alone. The first grade you was alone. And the teacher was Mrs. Wadleigh and I can remember we used to call her the old Indian. She'd put her hair in braids and she used the pointer and when you missed something..you got the pointer. She used to get you behind the knees..you know. And that stung. In the second grade, we had Mrs. OConnell. That was a grade by itself. The third and fourth was combined and the fifth and sixth was combined. WS You had six grades there, right? ED Yeah. We had six grades there. AM You have a good memory Ernie. I went a couple years and I don't remember any of it. ED Oh, yes. Oh. The subprimary the teacher was Mrs. Greenan. AM I remember the names but I don't remember the teachers. ED She married the Fitzgerald that had died in the woods with Doctor Theriault... son. Doc Theriault's boy didn't die but up Olamon they got lost hunting.. WS I seem to remember something.. ED Oh, fishing..they were fishing that's what it was. And he had diabetes and I guess back then they couldn't take care of it like they do now. But, as far as the education goes I thought we got one of the best educations that Old Town put out... there on the Island. For some reason or other..we'd get over..probably you went to the Island School. But, once we'd get over to the Junior High..that's when we found out that our education was good. Because we was right up with..we didn't care which school they come from..especially math and science. English we were a little behind everybody else.

JB Is that because of the language thing? ED I wouldn't dare to say. It seems to me we called them "convent kids", but the convent kids were smarter kids--they seemed to be better in English and the reading skills. Where we seemed to be ahead on math and science. And both of them take a lot of reading skills--it sounds funny don't it. AM The convent school wasn't known for sciences. ED Yeah. AM Languages at the convent school and math was pretty good also--but sciences were way behind. ED That's what we kind of thought coming off the Island.

RT I think one of the reasons of that would have been because a lot of the nuns were young. I can recall the people that taught us were young then. And they probably didn't have the experience. WS Look at Sister Nora there. Cripes. AM I know that's remarkable which---she's a good friend now--Nora. I see her often..my wife and I see her often..and you know when she was..I think we had her in two years. WS We had her in the seventh and we put a petition to to get her in the eighth and she followed us to the eighth. AM Now she looked quite old then when we were 13/14 years old. But, in reality she was only 19. So when we get 69 and she's 73/74 that doesn't mean much. WS She looks as young as we do today, I

think. RT She taught us at 19 years old? AM Yeah. She was 19 years old when I was in the seventh grade.

ED But as far as sports when we went to school...our sports was...we had an Island team, we played football and we played baseball..we used to play the convent. AM Oh, yeah. ED We played football. Now we used to line off my father's field. We used to line if off with sawdust. I call it a field, well, it goes from Front Street to Bosworth Street--it was our garden. And, he used to plow it and harrow it and the so kids--well, he didn't do it so we could play on it but we did. And, we'd line it like a football field and that's where we used to hold our games for the Island. WS I remember that. Steve live there now? RT Steve--he still has a garden there, doesn't he? WS No. No. I don't think he has a garden there. He's got it all fenced in. ED I don't think he has a garden. He built a big barn. WS Yeah. He's got a nice place there now. ED Yeah.

JB So. This was an actual team that...even football. ED Right. Oh. Sometimes we didn't have enough..so you know you didn't have the whole eleven men--you didn't have uniforms, and you used to use a stocking filled with leaves--stuffed with leaves. WS We didn't have no shoulder pads and hip pads either. ED No shoulder pads, no helmets. JB Forward pass must have been a little hard. RT Yeah. Yeah if you could throw them 20 feet you'd be lucky. ED Yeah. And we played baseball that way.. AM Of course you went right across the street--the Island School was right across the street. ED Right. Right across the road. But, when I first--see I lived on Hayes Street, I used to have to walk several houses. WS Same with us at the Convent. Remember we had our football team--and Ouellette coached us..remember Ouellette...we used to play the team down below..what's his name used to play without shoes. Cripes. ED Greatworks. WS Nobody dared to tackle him ..RT Dolly Duplessis was our ace in the hole. WS Maynard Ouellette. WS Yeah. Maynard Ouellette..he used to coach us. We used to play them down there in that field..that little field there. And, Geezum.. RT When we'd win we'd go knock on the Convent door..remember? WS Yeah. And Sister Nora... AM Something I remember..you and I..I used to go to Lewiston as a kid often with Father Ouellette..because my sister lived in Lewiston. He'd take us over. You know I think of that a lot..with the abuse you hear now..the priests and everything. I was around priests a lot..and maybe you were when we were kids..to me I've never..you know. I don't think people thought those things back then anyway. And maybe they didn't have reason to think them. ED But sometimes I wonder how many is really..you know...Cause when they say somebody holds it for 35--40 years before they say anything. And most of the time they are looking for money when they say it. That's why I wonder how much..sometimes this...can you

block that memory. I've had bad things happen to me, you know, that you'd just as soon forget..but you never forget them. You set them in the back and...I think it's human nature..you look for the good in things.

JB How was the Catholic School any different then? What was the difference between parochial school and ...

WS Well, we had religion. We had a segment of religion. AM Right. WS There's not pulling any punches..Sister Nora she tried to make a priest out of him and she tried to make a priest out of Gene Beaulieu..she tried to make a priest out of me..and that would have been a job-and-a-half right there. She gave up right there. AM She gave up early on that one. WS She had good reasons. (???) AM I remember you and I, you came with us once--came with me to Lewiston. WS Yeah. AM We stayed at my sister's for a couple days..and then he picked us up and come back. He used to..we used to play games in the car with him and he wasn't the...Father Ouellette was not an easy man. He was ugly. All the nuns were afraid of him. In fact when it came time for report cards they didn't even dare to go tell him it was time...cause he had to give the report cards out. She'd get one of us...go tell Father Ouellette it's time for report cards. He liked us so .. WS Being an alter boy for him was a chore. JB You were alter boys? WS Yeah. Yeah. AM We used to go there for 5 o'clock masses, 5:30 masses. Sometimes one of the priests at an early mass would give us a nickel or a dime. RT I can recall going to 6 o'clock before school. WS I can remember getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning to go serve mass at the Convent for the nuns. AM That's the one thing I never understood. One of the alter boys when they'd pass a collection--there was a bag--you know..they'd pass the basket and when the basket was full they'd empty it in a bag. And the alter boy was there holding the bag. But, whenever I did it..Father Ouellette would always put something in my hands--and then after he'd look to see if there was... It was just an old joke. He used to tell me that.

JB When you had religion--you said every day--what form would that take?

AM It was religion..you studied the dogma--the Old Baltimore Catechism. JB Because we'd go to Catechism..that's what we'd do. AM Then you used to have a lot of religious things..RT We'd have as a class. Yeah. AM The Crusaders..do you remember the Crusaders? RT Mary's Best Pals. MBPs. WS And then on Sundays, of course, we'd have Vespers and all that. Yeah. Sunday we had our Catechism and Vespers and all that, you know. RT And we used to have to go to the 8 o'clock mass--quarter or eight mass at the time--and we used to have to sit by classes. And another thing about our education

was..we always went there to learn to sing the songs that we were going to sing the following Sunday. And we'd sit by groups. And if you weren't good you sat along side of the sister. And I sat there quite a few times. AM If you happened to be talking..you know..all of a sudden you'd look up to the side and there was the sister. She sat right in back of the group and she'd come up and she'd stand in the same row and she'd fold her arms and just look at you. WS That's all she had to do..look.. yeah. AM Then you'd get up and you had to go sit with her. WS But, what I like about..like you said there AM Discipline was.. WS The math was good down there and all that..but one thing I can honestly say I loved down there was when we got into that oral arithmetic...do you remember when we used to have that? She'd throw a problem at you and .. AM Gene Beaulieu was too fast for that. WS Yeah. But we got in there. AM You were good ... I wasn't. I never got one. WS I got in a few there. AM I didn't understand how you did it. Knowing you today, I don't understand at all. WS Hey, Al, I can't get into this cause it's on the tape.. AM You knew your math..and when we were picking blueberries..then we were playing blackjack (?????) WS You can't get that on tape now..that ain't got nothing to do with Mr. American here. AM Well, it's our childhood..when we were growing up. WS Oh, yeah. Remember when we was making the move there, huh. Oh, you and Raymond..there was me. AM Tipped over in the jeep. WS Tipped over in the jeep they did..they were lucky them guys. WS Tipped over in the jeep? AM Walter, we were playing Blackjack..no money..but, IOUs. So I was about \$40 in him something like that..so we started crying..so they.. WS We were kids. AM Eighteen-nineteen years old. WS Well, it's a strike. WS Remember we did good picking blueberries..we bought our rakes the first day. RT Learning to play baseball..we can attribute that to Bob--my brother Bob--and Buck Mitchell. Because they had the... WS What's that...RT Learning to play ball..as a matter of fact, they used to supply us with the balls. AM Yeah. That's right. RT Because, we used to take and roll stuff up in a tape because we couldn't afford baseballs. Occasionally, my brother Bob..who had a good paper route, and Ken Mitchell..I don't know where he got his money, but, they'd buy us a ball and we'd play right there...we played a lot of ball right under that tree. WS Kenny Mitchell supplied us with a bicycle, too. He always had a bike..he'd come down to see his brother Bob and he'd park his bike and we rode that and rode that. RT As a matter of fact, they taught us how to play cribbage. WS Yeah, that's right. RT Yeah, when we had pickup teams you had to try to find somebody to pick up that had a ball and a bat..or a football. ED You were always sure to be able to play if you had a ball and a bat. AM Remember we had a basketball team..the Island had a team called the Flying Frenchmen..do you remember? RT There was a team that was

subordinate to them, however, it was a team...all family...there was Gene, myself, Bert, Dick, John.. AM See you not talking..I'm talking about..I'm familiar with the Flying Frenchmen basketball team. RT Yeah. That's what I say..they were one team and we were another and we used to play them occasionally. They always whipped our butt but we used to play them tooth and nail. AM I used to play with the Flying Frenchmen. RT And my brother, Dick,..like we used to go up to Olamon..there was a stove in the corner of the.. and my kid brother Dick was left handed..and he could shoot..he could really shoot. So, we'd say whenever we get the ball, Dick, you get behind the stove. So, we'd get the ball..we'd get the rebound..we'd get the ball and Dick'd go behind the stove and we'd work the ball around and he'd be standing there behind the stove..we'd feed it to him and..swish. Until they caught on to him and they assigned a man right to him. And if the Flying Frenchman we played up there several times. AM We used to play in the city hall then..the old city hall. They used to have a city league in the city hall. And I remember as a kid..you know..things are out of proportion..Dickie Fournier's barn..there was an upstairs in it..and we used to play basketball in the upstairs. If you went up there today, you'd have a hard time to crawl..and we used to play basketball up there. ED It's amazing what you do. AM See, the Flying Frenchmen was John Bouchard, Dickie Fournier, Kenneth Fournier, Arthur Mercier, Merle Bouchard, Stanley Simon, Fred Tredwall and I. And, I used to play just when I was home from school..that's all. And we won the city league. Do you remember.. WS We..when you say we...wasn't that when you were gone? AM No. Fred Tredwall and I were the back..we were the dirty jumpers. The boards and everything. And Arthur, well he was always a scorer. And Dickie Fournier..holy, Geez..all he had to do was out there and break wind with one of those beer things he had there and then the others couldn't do anything. Oh, my God. Old Times. We played in Olamon too. And that stove you're talking about..somebody pushed me and over went the stove. RT Did you ever play on Indian Island. AM No...oh, yes. RT On Indian Island, if you went in for a layup..when you layed the ball up you had to turn because they had bar doors and you'd go right outdoors..and you come running back in..No kidding.

JB You played against Indian Island? ED Oh. Yeah. JB Is that right? RT As you went in to lay one up you used to have to roll your back because you'd be going to hit those doors and out you went..outdoors. Come running back in. AM The Indians..I always remember Red Sappiel. Boy he was rough playing ball. WS Them Sappiels were rough. They were rough in softball too, baby. RT Red and I played city league and we were about the same age as WS Sammy..Sammy Sappiel. RT He was 43 years old and still playing city league. I used to chum with a lot of those Indians when I was a little kid. ED

So didn't I. But I used to with.. Ben Gunn..remember old Ben Gunn? I don't know if he ever went over three-and-a-half feet. WS Oh, he was small. ED I used to spend all my time up North End there..up..well there was no airport there then..the old lady Weeks had an old farm up there..you know where the airport is now? Alright, they used to be an old farm up there..and he used to take me up there fishing and there was a railroad bridge that went across from where the airport is over onto Orson Island. And we used to cross that trestle and we'd go over and there was a little logan..I believe it's still there today...on the left-hand side. Boy, didn't we used to catch the pickerel there. AM Well, the little logan..I was surprised, I was taking a walk..and that's opened up now..it's opened up into the main river. ED Yeah..you're talking about right there by the airport.. AM Yeah. ED But, you could cross the bridge and get on Orson Island and there was another over there. AM Oh, I see. RT You know, another thing that was prevalent in our time..It seemed like all the kids had nicknames. ED I believe so..Pitou, WS No, no...Ter..originally it was Ter..Like let me go through my family quick like. Pauline was Nin, Randolph was Duff, Bert ..well Robert was Bert. Me was Ter, and Gene was Bougon..see we all had nicknames. AM Bubs.. WS Bubs..we used to call him Bubs too. RT They still use those names. AM I never heard those of your brothers. I remember..

JB How early did they get those names? Were they real little.

WS Yeah. Real little..you know when you can't talk..like Randolph..you know..you cut it short..like Randolph..Duff. And Pauline..Nin..Nin.. you know. Things like that to. RT I think our parents might have given us those nicknames. ED Sometimes. AM I think it was a habit on the Island anyway..there was a lot of them..you know..Moxie and Five Inch and Fatty Cyr. ED Yeah. There was a lot of them. AM Bebe..I don't know how many Bebe's there was. Donut..your father.

JB Yeah. Did you feel..I don't know how to ask what I'm thinking. Was there a sense that you were a group and there was a difference between the Island and the off-Island group.

ED Oh, yes. Definitely. AM But as you got older... RT I think until we started going to the public school..like at the high school and we started to make friends with other people..like I can remember..George Deschane was a good friend of mine and he often spent time..and myself at his house..and Bob Morin..as a matter of fact he pulled me out of the ice one time and took me up to his house to dry me out. WS That's right after that began to.. RT It isn't anything that .. you know we didn't hold any grudges or anything..we were just kids

back then. AM There was a division during parochial school..you had your school and you didn't bother much with the others. But as soon as parochial school went to the public schools.. ED Then you become all one on the Island. Because I used to go down to Donald Cotes..chummed with the Cotes all the time and..but, off school..when school was going on I think where you got that little separation that the parochial school kids hung together and the Island school kids..we'll say more or less hung together. WS And getting back to parochial school..like we said that we had a segment of religion in our educational program..and to me, it was kind of..well, I got the idea that unless you was a Catholic you wouldn't go anywhere. If I saw a Protestant walking the street, I'd cross the street. I didn't even want to be in contact with a Protestant..let alone. AM Well that was wrong. That was your upbringing also..you couldn't attend any Protestant services.. You couldn't take part in any marriages or you couldn't be best man. WS Because, let's face it, no matter what religion you're in..you're going to get there as fast as I am if you're.. AM And it was a bad time for the Catholic Church. I think it was all wrong. And they preached it also. They didn't.. They didn't preach they were wrong..they preached that you can't go here..you can't associate with this. WS That was wrong. ED I think that's what happened for a lot of Catholics that have drifted let's say. AM That all changed in the 60s though. In the 60s, you know everybody was just as good as anybody else. RT I think a lot had to do with ethnic ties too. I think when we were,,,in my early years ethnic ties were very strong. AM Oh, yes. RT Like the French were Franco-Americans..we dealt with Franco-Americans. We chummed with Franco-Americans. It isn't that way anymore..I don't think. RT Oh, it isn't. You go up North and it is. Ethnic ties up there are..in the St. John Valley are still very, very strong. But, it's loosened.

JB That's what I meant when I asked the question about..say when you went from eighth grade where you were with a lot of Francos .. mostly Francos whether you were on the Island School or the... RT The parochial school. ED Yes. JB Then you go to whatever it was..ninth grade. WS Junior High. ED Helen Hunt..right here. Right up the street here. JB So you go to Helen Hunt and then all of a sudden there are all these non-Franco kids. Was there any--did you feel any difference there. WS Oh. The first year I went there I felt a big difference. Oh, yeah. I was a little reluctant to go as a matter of fact. ED In fact I had it thrown at me a good many times. Well, probably I wasn't the best behaved student there--that's why. I was one of them ISLAND kids. You know-- I had that thrown at me a lot. Probably because we weren't used to being bullied. JB By the teachers or by the ED By the teachers and by some of the students. WS Yeah. ED I got thrown out the second story window. This is the God's

honest truth. It was the Junior High--I called it the Junior High. WS Helen Hunt there, yeah. ED Into a coal pile. JB By the teacher? ED He was a man teacher. Yeah...and that guy was nothing but the best. But I was pulling a girls pigtails and he told me to stop and I said, "What are you going to do if I don't?" you know. And he opened the window and he said, "I'm going to throw you out the window." And I said, "You don't dare." He said, "Pull her pigtails." Lois Phelps was the girl's name..Duddy Phelps sister--oldest sister. I yanked her pigtails. Boy, he come up and he grabbed me and out through that window I went just a flying. Right in the coal pile. And you now I didn't dare to go home and tell my parents. That's the trouble today..I say...with the school children. You didn't go home and tell your parents because you got another beating. RT That's right. WS That's right. ED You got it worse to home. WS Now something like that the parents go to the teacher and blame all the teacher. They'd have hung him, you know, today. RT As a matter of fact, weren't you the one..one time..we was late in school going..Mr. Billings was the.. JB Oh, I remember him. RT And if you were late you went to his office. And wasn't it you that said, "How come you're late?" And you said, "I can't help it if they start the school before I get here." ED Yeah, right. RT And you and I sat on the stairs. JB Well, you had more guts than I had. I wouldn't have said that to Mr. Billings." ED Oh, yeah. Probably that's why we got that, "Oh, you're one of them Island kids." Probably as they come from the Island they were a .. JB So there was some sense of that. ED Yeah. And I think you felt it. And then after..I think after I got through the ninth grade then there was Gus MacPherson.. WS Oh, yeah. After that then you made a whole bunch of friends. I mean..and then it changed. That first year was rough. RT Another group of friends we noticed after we left St. Josephs is the girls. WS Yeah. RT We finally realized the girls were built just a little different than the boys. AM You didn't associate much in the convent school...we were segregated. WS As a matter of fact..at the convent we used to use it as a...you know, "If you ain't quiet we're going to sit you with the girls." JB As a punishment? WS A punishment...they used to use it as a punishment. I wish they'd used that up the high school. AM Do you remember the reunion we had..the Convent School. Last year, was it? And Connie Thibodeau stood up and said how all the nuns preferred the boys all the time. And I think she was right. I think the nuns were a little partial to the boys. JB I've heard that before too. ED I think back then anyway..I think all the teachers did. It was my feeling..I think they spent more time teaching the boys because the girls were just going to go get married.. Probably that was it. I ain't sure, but I seems to me that they spent a little more time with the boys trying to pound something into our heads. WS That could have something...what you're saying there..it could have something

to do. ED Where the girls was just...going to get married and have children so WS Why waste our time educating them. AM They did stop school most of the time anyway. WS Back then. Yeah. Now there's a lot of career women, so it's different today. AM See, I didn't witness any of that you guys witnessed leaving the Convent School. Because I went right to another Catholic School. I really regret that. I never regretted going to school..I liked school and everything. But, I regretted going to high school and playing the sports that they...we used to play sports but it wasn't organized sports where I went to high school and everything..and not being with girls and everything. See, I went another four years where I had nothing to do with girls. JB Where was that? John Bapst? AM No. Down to Bucksport ..the Seminary. JB Oh, you went there. AM So, you know that's a part of your life that's real interesting ..you know, it's part of your bringing up. And I lost that. We weren't allowed to have anything to do with girls. No radios..no newspapers. JB Oh, boy. AM It's stiff. JB Was your intention to become a priest at that time? AM No. The first year it was..but after that I knew that I wanted to make my high school...I really liked the school and I liked the training and everything..but I don't know..if I would have been older I think that maybe I.. You know, I was thinking back to the Convent School. We didn't have buses carrying us to school. WS No. You walked. I guess we walked. AM And that was a long. AM It wasn't long in the wintertime or the summertime. Most of us crossed in boats or crossed the ice and everything. And I remember a lot of times leaving the Island and the train was there. If the train was going by we'd hop up on the train and when we get off up near the railroad station and go to school. If you see your kids doing that today.. JB Oh, I know. AM And a good many...well my father used to have rabbits..and a good many time I used to go up in boxcars and sweep out the grain ..and I'd get a great big box of grain and sometimes we even open the door where ED The grain door, right..yeah. AM Dig in there and get some. WS See the kind of priest he'd have made. AM I picked up coal. RT I think another thing helped me to acquaint myself with everyone is...we had a paper route like when Bob quit the paper route he gave it to John and we had over 100..we had the whole Island..so I used to help John. JB The Bangor Daily News? RT The Bangor Daily News. And we used to get up and..remember that little house they used to have at the bottom of the hill there...the gate house. Well, we used to pick our papers up there..and COLD..you think this winter is cold..we had winters like this all the time. ED Back then, yeah. And SNOW. AM There was old Mr. Forest Martin. ED Forest Martin and old Mr. Preble..old man Preble. WS Back then we had the evening paper too..remember The Commercial. JB The Commercial that's right. WS Which was an evening paper..you remember that. AM I was doing some work in that

house over there...in the stairway there was some building paper there..and I was going to put a switch in there and I took the building paper out and there was a 1912 Commercial. RT Did you save it? AM I don't know. I brought it here. I don't know what Rita done with it. It wasn't a whole paper it was just a piece. When I was looking at it.. green beans ..canned green beans 2 cans for a quarter. Good ones 2 cans for a quarter...not so good 2 cans for 15 cents. WS If they were dented maybe..you remember..wasn't it The Daily Record to that they had. RT You bought cigarettes..you bought it in bulk. You bought lots of things in bulk. ED Molasses. AM Of course we had a lot of stores on French Island. Mr. Landry, O.G., course for us it was Mr. Landry. Yours was T&K. ED T&K, right next to the house. AM And Union Street was IGA. And then there was Lavasseurs. JB Where was Lavasseurs. WS Right on the corner..where Shorty Richards ran his store there. You know where Short Richards ran his store? JB Was that on Front Street? WS No Bosworth Street. JB Yeah. Bosworth Street. WS Right on the corner there. AM Facing Union Street on the east side. RT And then Arther St. Louis ran it. That's where we used to go play the punch boards. ED Yeah. JB Oh. The punch board. I forgot about that. AM I used to play downtown at Morin's too. WS Either a punch board or..if you remember they had a board too where you punch out..if you got a red piece of gum you win something. It was all white gum and red gum. ED Robert Dubay had that little hot dog stand on the end of the bridge. Yeah and he used to have a punch board that we used .. he used to let us... WS Oh, yeah. The hamburger stand.

JB Now, what was the most actual working stores that were going on at the same time on the Island. Now you've named four or five..but were they all operating at the same time. ED Oh, yes. RT Especially the IGA and the T&K. Those were long-standing stores. JB I remember Arthur St. Louis' store. And then Louis Taylor used to have a store. ED Yeah. WS Well, he ran the T&K for awhile. And then he had his own store. JB So there were four or five grocery stores all at the same time. WS There was Shorty ran a grocery store, and then Desjardins. RT Short didn't have his store when the IGA was going. WS The IGA wasn't it Desjardins? ED Desjardin run it. WS Desjardin, Louis Taylor and Shorty were going at one time all together. RT It must have been towards the end of it because at one time there were two stores..the only two stores I vividly remember is the T&K and the IGA. AM Mr. Landry was there.. ED Mr. Landry was there for years and years. Old Frank Landry. RT Yes..but.. I think one of the reasons that you would remember one is that everybody ran a bill...and us was the IGA.

JB OK So that was like three grocery stores. And then there was the Shuffle.. WS There was the Shuffle..and his father's The

Island Cafe.. JB The Island Cafe was which one. ED Right on top of the hill. JB Later became Bill Russell's, right. ED Yeah. My mother sold it to Bill Russell. WS And at the foot of the hill we had Petit Landry. AM Right across from Petit there we used to have Guago. WS Yeah, Guago..well half-way up the hill. RT Oh, yeah. AM Then we used to have Pete Taylor where Raymond Bouchard used to live..right across from Arthur St. Louis. JB Where was that now? AM Right across from St. Louis' Market..Pete Taylor..I was in the service that was '49-'50 something like that..he started a little lunch counter there..hamburgers and hot dogs and..Pete Taylor. ED And then Blondie Bouchard took it

TURNED THE TAPE

JB Let me just say that we're moving from the past statement and we are talking about all of the going concerns on the Island at the same time. And we've named a number of stores and a number of taverns..there was Petit's and what was..I remember as Bill Russell's. It was what before that? ED Dubay's. The Island Cafe. WS Peanut Dubay's. AM There all Peanuts. ED My father was the original Peanut. Jerry they called Peanut. AM There's another one..Jerry had a poolroom. And a little lunch. ED Little lunch place there. JB What relation are you to Jerry? ED He's my uncle. JB Is that right? ED Francis is the one...people call him Frank now..but Francis Dubay ran Dubay Auto Parts...that's first cousins..his father was Jerry. JB I remember a guy about my age who was Louis Dubay. ED My brother...he passed away. AM What nickname did he have. ED Didu. JB That was your brother? ED Yeah. AM And Bob Dubay's place on the end of the Island..that was..we were 17 - 18. I was 17-18. WS Bob Dubay's hamburg stand, you mean? Yeah. That was across the bridge. AM We were about 17 - 18 at that time. WS Yeah. teenage. RT What a great location though. Everybody that lived on the Island when they went home from the movies there..they'd stop in there to get their hamburgers or hot dogs. AM Then you had Petit Landry down--that's French Island. ED You had three bar rooms there. All going at the same time. RT That's where I had my first beer. WS Me too. My first legal beer. ED My dad called the crowd in by running the fights. If you remember. AM You know getting back to the fights..that started out as an entertainment for French Island. But it was easily New England. They were getting fighters from New England. And we would get people from New England. ED Good fighters. WS Oh, we had some good fighters. AM Uppercut Roy..he was my neighbor. We used to spar together. I never fought..but I fought with Uppercut a good many times. WS I fought with Uppercut a lot. ED See Arthur St. Louis trained the whole bunch of us. AM So Arthur St. Louis was kind of a trainer..wasn't he. ED Yeah. He was the matchmaker for my father. That's where a lot of people

got that he run the fights. He run a few over in the town hall of Milford. But he was running them for my father. But he was the matchmaker. RT He fought under the name of Kit Candle...one blow and he was out. AM A lot of people remember the night that Sweet Pea Dalton lost his trunks there. WS Yeah. That's right. I AM He's still around you know. JB He lost his trunks while they were fighting? AM He's the security officer down at the college. RT Cyke Violette knocked out Cyke St. Louis who was the ref. AM I see him once in awhile. WS You meant .. Sweet Pea had a brother did upholstery..remember him? AM No. I don't. WS Yeah, he had a brother did upholstery. I don't remember his name. ED They had young Ronnie St. Louis blackened himself all up...if you'd done that today they throw you in jail. You know when he was supposed to be Joe Louis. And my little..my younger brother Bebe.. Robert..he fought him. I forget who he was supposed to be back at that time..but he was supposed to be the white. .. One as Joe Louis and the other as the white fellow..I forget who it was. JB So he blackened himself and fought that way. ED Oh, yeah. Now I'm talking about 8 - 9 year old... AM And another that was real popular was Tarzan Howe..ED Oh, Wally. He was good. AM And another one used to fight a lot .. The Canvas Kid.. was Wally Gallant..Wally Gallant fought quite a bit. Never won I don't think. ED No. And Sweet Pea.

JB I'm interested.. before, I know some of you are going to leave pretty soon..so there's a couple of things I want to hear a little bit about if you don't mind talking about it. One is other kinds of community things that families did on the Island together..as a community...and the other thing is the kinds of work that the men especially did on the Island. You know, what you guys did for work and other on the Island.

ED Like our parents done for work. JB Yeah. ED My father..he worked most of the time either in a restaurant or a beer joint. He worked for Johnny Cyr downtown before he started that store on the Island. He bought it from Mrs. Weeks.

AM I had two sisters worked for Johnny Cyr a long time. Adeline and Doris I think. JB Is that the bucket? ED No. Oh, no. That was down in the old Fransway Hotel. AM Wasn't he up North End for awhile too? ED Yeah. Johnny, yeah. That's in the latter part..years. He ran a taxi service and he froze his legs going out there to Morrison Pond bringing lumbermen out there. JB So he pretty much was always in his own business, right? ED Yeah. And back them times were hard. I remember my dad..I remember going out with him at night and he used to bucksaw wood for people... you know, 50 cents a cord. With a bucksaw..and I used to sit on the wood..you know to hold the wood..you know it made it easy to saw. AM I think we all witnessed that sawing wood.. ED You know they had a

foot up on the sawhorse to hold the wood. So if you had a young one with you that would sit on the wood for you it was a big help. I used to go around... AM Your job was to sit on the wood and push it over.. ED Push it over when he sawed one piece off.. AM And when he sawed the middle you had to hold the end. RT But you know the community..particularly in the depression years..was very strong. I can recall my uncle delivering wood with his truck and ... Lawrence..used to have that big saw..he was a woodsman.. But, anyway, he used to take that saw down and he probably sawed lots of wood for people on the Island and didn't charge them. AM I remember the Labrees having a saw.. WS Almond... AM Almond, and he used to go around. ED I remember that too. RT He used to be a pool shark...God I can't think of his last name. But, you know, I recall people coming .. like, my father was a painter and he wasn't employed. And, I can recall going to the city hall, remember, they had excess food that you used to pick up. WS Apricots, peanut butter, cheese... RT And you look in that line and I can remember standing in line with my father and I was just a tyke..and I saw people who were so proud..didn't want to be there..not by a damn sight did they want to be there..but they had to be there for their kids and their wives. AM Who was the overseer of the poor? Harry... WS Hoos? ED No. That was later. AM Hoos was quite a while later. Harry King. RT Harry King..that's right. JB Overseer of the poor? ED Overseer of the poor..that's what they used to call him. AM He was the one to see..giving out this food. All the kids used to go with wheelbarrows. JB Is that right? ED City Hall in Old Town. RT Another thing that was interesting too..in the wintertime the Island..most people on the Island lived on rabbits and venison. And we had a game warden..Mose Jackson..he knew exactly who needed to snare rabbits. Because I remember my father and I going to snare rabbits..I probably shouldn't be saying this..but, to go snare rabbits..and I remember Mose Jackson saying, "Charlie, I got to hand it to you. You are the best shot with that 22 pistol I've ever seen with my life." Every one of those rabbits was shot in the head. WS That's what they used to do. AM I remember them going around with them selling 25 cents apiece for rabbits. RT He knew who needed them and who didn't. He turned his back on a lots of that. AM Back then it wasn't much of an offense anyway. They knew that people needed it for eating. Look at Boy Landry. He always had two or three deer in his garage. People would go in there.. "I want steaks." He'd cut some off. RT But the '30s was tough time. Tough time and you didn't have too many people living on the Island who were well off. AM What amazes me to..in time..like deaths and everything. Didn't people get together! I remember you and I at my father's wake..somebody had to stay up..you didn't leave the body alone. And you and I stayed all one night so that the others could get sleep and everything. I remember that like yesterday..some things I can't remember.

Walter come down as a friend and we were 23-24 maybe and we stayed up all night..he didn't have to do it..It was nothing to him. JB All in the home, right? WS It used to be in homes then. AM And people used to food..all kinds of things. Everybody..I remember when my father died your father was road commissioner...no it was Dickie Lacadie.. and it was slippery..he died in the winter time. And he come up there especially and sanded all the street and everything..It's things like that...you know. It wasn't a duty or something..it was something he was doing on his time. He knew there was going to be a lot of people..no cars..hardly any cars back then anyway..but for walking..you had a hard time to get cars enough for the funeral..you had to go around.. "You got a car, can we use it for the funeral." Everybody..RT Like the flood of '36 there. My word. Anybody on the higher land would open their homes to people..like I can recall lots of people when we were flooded out..you know, offer their homes. ED Yeah. '36 we had to move..you had to move..we lived in the same place there. AM Yeah. And like I say a lot of the Island was related..just like, you guys were all related far off but..just like myself..I had my grandmother was across the street, I had an aunt next door, I had an aunt on top of the hill, and an aunt next street over, an aunt over that way.. we had relatives all over..close relatives. And then you had second degree relatives and everything..they were all over. And there's no doubt that if you look at the genealogy you're going to find that you all came from the same place..everybody up there. But like the Island today..it's not the Island anymore. ED Not the Island. RT Hardly know anybody now. AM There's very few of the old people. RT Very few.

JB Do any of you live on the Island?

AM No. ED Used to.

JB Now my sense of the Island as far as the work goes is that it was a very working class. WS Oh, yeah. ED Definitely. JB Most of that..correct me if I'm wrong..going back, was factory workers. Is that right? RT Yes. ED Oh, definitely. My mother worked in the woolen mill. RT Back our time there weren't too many people from the Island because..you might call it segregation..but was not too many people lived on the Island, because it was predominantly Catholic, that worked at the PCF. AM That's what I was going to...our time was mostly factory workers...but when you go back to your father's time they had a hard time to find employment..mainly because of what Rand said. Well, PCF they didn't hire..well sometimes they'd hire you as a laborer..but you'd never get .. ED You had to be a Mason. AM You had to be a Mason. You'd never get. WS For example my uncle, Charlie Miller, he always had a pretty decent job down there..and that's exactly what he

was, a Mason. ED That's what I say..it was a AM The only one who ever broke the ranks down there, that I remember, was Darkie Thibodeau. He became a yard foreman..and he was the first one of the Franco-American group from French Island that got any authority down there and that's a long time ago. WS That's right and then it started changing a little bit after that. AM Old Mr. LeBlanc used to have a store right down here..you remember that? LeBlanc's Store. I used to talk to him a lot. And, he told me that a lot of people that you see change their names, you know from French to English..you know the LeBlancs became Whites, the Couturier became Taylors. He said, "If you want to apply for a job" .. now he'd be maybe 104 now, maybe older than that, I don't know.. "If you went to apply for a job and you'd leave an anglicized name like he was LeBlanc..he used to give it White.. he said your chances of getting that job were 50 percent more..just because you gave an English name. JB You think that's about right? AM Oh, yeah. There's not doubt..I heard a lot of people say that. That's why they changed their names.

RT The canoe shop, the mills..of course a lot of them worked in the woods. AM My father worked in the woods a lot. ED My dad did too. AM My father did a lot of things, I guess. They did what they had to. Mother was in the woods with him a couple years..two of my oldest sisters were born in the woods..he was RT Log drives..we used to have log drives..I lost two uncles going down this river. ED On the log drives. RT Yeah. WS Like us there..One thing I can say when we were growing up us kids..we were fortunate..my father always did the type of work where...now like, if you remember right..remember the WPA days? Now, my father took charge on that..he did good..he did well. He always like..he'd take charge building airports..I remember he'd go to Dexter and take charge building airports. He was always involved in that type of work..construction. AM You always had a lot more than we did. WS Seriously, it's true. No family..like my father..I can remember my father in WPA days he was making 24 bucks a week. That was BIG bucks back then. Because he was taking charge of the crews. So we were comfortable. RT His family was feeding our family many times. Oh yeah. AM Us as kids and everything, I don't think that you realized that ..that you know one was having a little better than the other. WS No. No. AM Because, you know you talk about it today and we were POOR. I didn't know we were poor. I was happy. We had what we wanted. ED We didn't have any money. I don't think we were poor. We didn't have any money. I think we were very rich. WS We ate well. ED I think we were richer than most people in the whole area..just them people on the Island. AM Well, I don't know. I think we were considered poor by Old Town residents. ED Old Town residents..let's put it that way. AM We were poor but we were rich.. WS Monetarily poor. ED Because, nobody ever..you'd come sit

down at the table. I remember when my dad..Sunday dinner was the only time he had time to eat with us. And, we'd sit at the table and he'd count. "Who do you belong to?" he says. Sometimes there'd be three or four other kids that just happened to be there..you ate. You know..there was none of, "Well, you go home." Like today..wait outside until we're done eating. WS Well, getting back..well your father's trade was painter. You can only paint so many .. you know. And, you couldn't find work then. When you got done painting..you just couldn't find work. AM Painting is a job that people got to want to have it done. If they don't have the money to have it done, they do it themselves. WS See, he worked..you remember Pat Grindle.. ED Oh, yes. WS His father worked for Pat Grindle for years..they painted a lot of houses. That's what they used to do. They mostly..their work was painting houses..right, Rand? They did more of that then they did inside painting. RT I remember my mother having to work..she finally got a job and she used to go there with migraine headaches like you wouldn't believe and she used to spend half the morning in the toilet heaving from migraines. And still go to work. But I can recall..we weren't monetarily well off..but most people around my neighborhood..the probably the whole Island..didn't sense that as children. AM No. No. That's what I was getting at. RT We were rich in heritage I think. WS That's a fact. AM And we were rich in love..more than there is today. Family love..I mean. WS Yeah. AM You didn't see this guy..he's got more than we got or something. You didn't see any of that. There was never bragging or.. WS You never measured anything in that way. AM Today the kids are measured if they've got a snowmobile and if they've got (????). ED Yeah. AM We didn't have that stuff anyway. ED Yeah..we used to go to the lumber yard and steal the boards and make ourselves a punt. WS Yeah, Yeah. Slide it over the banks. ED I don't know if you know what a punt is..alright. WS Slide them down over the banks. Jeepers creepers.

JB One thing is..did any of you work in a factories at all?

WS I worked in the shoe shop until the time that they called for a strike and do the things.. ED Me too. JB When was that now. WS The strike was.. ED '49. WS And we went on strike and then after when we were out on strike they hired us back for a couple weeks..just to clear the law and then they let us go. And then we couldn't get a job. So finally, I got a job down to Viners in Bangor..and I was in the Guards at this time..so we got activated and I went on active duty with the Guards. And then when I got off active duty with the guards I applied for a job down the base as a civil servant and I was only out two weeks when they called me in and I worked there ever since..and I retired from there. JB At the base? WS Yeah, I retired from the base. So I worked most of my life

down there. RT How about as youths? Remember we worked at the lumber yard? WS Yeah. Oh, yeah. RT Sixty cents an hour. WS Sixty cents an hour! Forty cents an hour. RT My job was that conveyor belt that put the sawdust up there. I used to have to keep a hold down there. WS Barker Lumber. RT That's all I want you to do. Keep that going..I don't want that belt stopped because of you. AM Raymond Marquis worked there a long time too. WS Yeah. AM My first job was working for the State tarring roads. Remember how they used to tar the roads? I was fourteen years old. They used to put piles of sand all the way around. And then they'd drop the guys off you had five piles of sand and you're responsible for. The tar truck would go by and you'd have to throw that five piles and then the truck would pick you up and take you further up the road. Old Romeo Messier..he used to be head of that. And that was 40 cents an hour. RT We used to take...I used to get \$19.09 and we used to go to the store to cash our check..the drugstore remember? And, for a dime we used to be able to get a soda..so then we'd flip pennies for that extra penny so that I wouldn't have to break a dollar. And it was \$19.00 I'd give my mother, I think, \$17. And I'd keep the two for a week. Two dollars..I was a millionaire. ED Two dollars was.. RT But I was able to help the family. AM Do you guys remember anything..any big holidays when you were younger. What was your big holiday? I remember Mardi Gras mostly. ED Fourth of July. WS Fourth of July. ED My dad used to have the fireworks remember at the Island School. WS What I used to like about the Fourth of July is...you used to have your "petors" and all that. But, my father'd give every one of us kids a buck..the Fourth of July..we'd get a buck apiece. WS We used to get a dollar. And, Mr. I'd stretch that dollar some.. ED I think most of the kids on the Island used to get a dollar. RT I used to get a cap gun and some caps, maybe. WS No sir, we used to have some good..that's true though..that's one of my best. AM It's the same thing in our family..father used to give us all a dollar. That was a lot of money. RT I don't know if you people remember this..but on the Fourth of July one of the things that we did we used to always pack a lunch and we'd go to Auto Rest Park..in Milford..WS We used to do that too. RT And we'd have a picnic there. And we used to walk there. We had no vehicles. WS Another place we used to go too was on the road to Carmel..Auto Rest Park. RT Not Auto Rest..I'm talking about the one in Milford. AM They had some monkeys there and everything. WS Yeah, yeah. One was The Pines and that was an Auto Rest up there too. RT Some devil ham sandwiches and some root beer and some homemade ice cream. Or you'd go to some swimming place. ED The Pines..that's what they called The Pines. Now up above there..no. George Cote lived with the old..Bing St. Louis and George Cote..did they live in the same place? WS Sure. ED Well, that used to be the Auto Rest there..went right back to the river..that's where they

had the monkeys and the bears. AM Bing St. Louis or Bing Bouchard. ED Bing Bouchard. RT Mardi Gras used to be big to. AM Oh. I used to like Mardi Gras. ED Well, we used to get a lot of candy then. AM Yeah. WS Remember..they used to make "la Tire". AM Yes. JB Oh, taffy..is that it? WS They used to make that..boy you'd make that ..then you'd have to work that and work it. And then after you got it you'd cut it with scissors in chunks you know. La Tire! AM I don't know if you're thinking the same story I am..I don't know if you were there. But I remember the Mardi Gras we played an awful trick. RT The bag? AM No..worse than that. I.. JB Come on. AM Oh, it was terrible. JB OK. Let's hear it. AM There was Raymond Martin and I think you were there. WS No. No. If it was terrible..I wasn't there. AM Talon..or Heal..RT Maurice. AM Maurice. Well. Some of us made number two in a plate..and pushed it all out and made little lines in it like fudge. JB Oh, my God. AM Put it in the shed..and when ..we went and got Raymond Martin.. "We know where there's some nice fudge." He went in there took that..put his hand right in it. WS Geez. Oh. AM Oh, my goodness. And remember Madame Margaret that used to live where Lacadies lived..do you remember Mr. Landry's store and the Lacadies used to live with the big porch on it..there was Madame Margaret lived there..she was awful ugly. Cause when we were kids we thought she was... ED Well, we used to think a lot of people were ugly and they really weren't. They made us candy and they'd make pies and they'd put them on the windowsills and we used to steal them. You know. You weren't really stealing them..you thought you were..but they used to make.. AM Yeah. But she was a woman never done anything like that and we used to harass her you know..Ring the bell and we'd run. And sometimes we'd walk by there she'd be on the porch with some water and she'd throw on us. One of those..you know. Maybe she was a nice lady. We're the ones that got at her. And look at..getting back to some of the things like..look at poor Mrs. Blair..do you remember her apple tree? ED Oh, my God, yes. They were good apples. RT That was a favorite on French Island. ED They were good apples. Fantastic. AM Everybody used to go there to steal her apples. JB Which Mrs. Blair was that? AM Oh, she used to live right on the corner of Front and Bodwell Street. JB Front and Bodwell.. AM The house is torn down now.. ED Yeah. AM It would be..ah..you've got the Shuffle Inn going south and then you've got Prebles..the house existing now and hers would have been the second one. Blair was related.. ED That was her mother wasn't it. Nazaire Blair. Wasn't that his mother. RT I think so. ED I'm pretty sure. AM Wasn't she related to Dubay too. ED Yes. Well she was related to Juliet. WS Yeah. Juliet. That's right. AM Juliet's grandmother or something. WS Cyr tree. ED Cyr tree..transparents there. Oh, boy..them were good apples. AM So there was a lot of that stuff..raiding gardens and apple

trees. ED But we didn't destroy them..today they destroy gardens. WS My grandmother had quite an orchard there where the house was..me and "mon petit (Narizing?)" WS We had a garden and we'd raid somebody elses garden while somebody else was raiding ours. WS We used to raid that and she'd give us old hell.

JB So, was that the two holidays? Mardi Gras and Fourth of July?

AM Well, that's just the ones that I remember. WS Yeah. Me too. Of course Christmas was always a great one.. and Easter.

RT Christmas was big. But Christmas wasn't just a one day affair. WS Like it is. RT Christmas was a whole week or more..because we used to travel to relatives. We'd walk down to Bradley to see my aunt. We'd walk here and there all the way up to North End to see you know relatives up there. ED And it wasn't to see how much you could buy. I remember we used to get one toy or one plaything and the rest was clothes. AM Mostly hand-me-downs. ED Yeah. Most of the time. RT But that's how strong the ethnic ties were back then. You know you never forgot your sisters and brothers and aunts and uncles and.. AM New Years too. They had the get togethers.. midnight. I remember my house, my grandmother's house everybody would come over at midnight and it was all everybody kissing and "Happy New Year"..and everybody. WS But the big thing with Christmas with me was..back then..lord I used to enjoy going to midnight mass. ED Well, I think we all had to back then. RT High mass and low mass. JB I don't remember a Mardi Gras. AM You don't remember Mardi Gras. I think Halloween kind of took over Mardi Gras. Because I don't remember Halloween. I don't remember trick or treat. ED Oh, I remember Halloween from school because we used to have a box and you brought....Oh, Halloween. RT You're thinking of Valentines.

JB What did they do for Mardi Gras?

AM Mardi Gras is Shrove Tuesday. It's the day before Lent. As a kid you're supposed to be giving up candy and stuff like that..so you really got your fill Tuesday night. That's why people would make stuff and put it out for the kids to go around take. They'd put it on the porch..or somewhere you could find it easy. And the easiest thing.. RT And again it was a sign of the times. The people who had ED Made for the have not. RT They'd set it out and they knew that the people that didn't have would be around. ED Now Mrs. Madore..that was a store that we forgot. They were right across from us. And she made sure us kids always had..that was AM Of course, she had a store down my way for quite awhile too. ED She did? AM Right across from Mrs. ..oh, the apple tree.. ED Blair? AM Blair. Right across from

Mrs. Blair. Freddie Dionne used to own that house. She was .. ED He used to own it then. She run that store for quite a few years. And I know back..like you used to say about this mean old lady..you know, we used to think she was really mean. She'd come out and beat you with a stick and everything. If she caught you stealing her milk, you know. But she would put the milk out there for you to steal so she could chase you and beat you with a stick. Really, you weren't stealing it. She was putting it out for you. But like you were saying about being proud..people didn't want to say here's some milk for you.. We used to drink the milk and bring the bottle back..because the bottle was valuable. RT They were returnables. ED They used to deliver the milk. And she'd bring some out of the store beside what was delivered..she'd take some out of the store and she used to put it in them little bottles. WS Them days are gone forever ..the old milkman going around dropping off about four or five quarts of milk at the doorstep, huh. AM They're starting to put it in quart bottles again. RT They are starting. AM Back in glass..And it's not homogenized milk..so it's going back to the old times.

JB I remember when they had the little ones for the school kids. ED Oh, yeah. Half pints..I used to look forward to that. WS I'd always get the strawberry..I used to love the strawberry. We used to have milk break. JB Now, there was a Dubay .. by the way, when I went to the Island School there was a Mr. Dubay who was the Janitor..a wonderful man. I remember he was a wonderful man. ED Charles Dubay..Yeah. He lived right next to me on Hayes Street. I remember him well. Old Charlie Dubay. AM Who was the guy who we used to go for the driving exam. WS George..George..they was brothers weren't they? ED Brothers..they was brothers. And then there was Evelyn, one of the girls worked for W.T. Grant for years..I see her just the other night..she must be God 75 or so. WS Old George he gave me my test right around French Island. You know the street he lived on there..went down that street and back around up this street and that's it. "Good enough. You did a good job." he says. That's how I got my license. AM I remember my father..he was chummy with George Dubay and my father hadn't driven for quite awhile and he bought an old truck..he had this camp in Olamon..I was teaching him how to drive. He had an old truck. Come time to go down and get his license..I took him down there and it had a floor shift on it..he was so nervous..my father he must have been 63-64 then or something like that..He was trying..the guy was in with him trying to make him go forward...crank, crank--he couldn't make it go..the guy didn't even take him around. I felt so bad for him..I took him home and the next day I come in again and he shows he's got his license. I said, "Where'd you get that." He said, "I went and see George Dubay." George just give him a license. That's the way they did it in those days.

JB What was George..did he have?

AM He was the head of that.. ED Yeah. At that time. But I remember when he was the first motorcycle cop in the State Police. AM George Dubay and then the motorcycle cop was Labree..RT Otis AM Otis Labree. WS Yeah. He bacame one. AM He was quite famous..as a.. you see him in an old picture walking down the street with Margaret Chase Smith. He was a young trooper..he was always big..always had a motorcycle. JB He was from the Island. RT Yeah. AM Otis Labree WS Brought up there. JB Where was he brought up. AM He was on Hildreth .. no. ED He was on the street where the donut shop was..down in there. Right next to Labrees..right across from Lagasses.. Lagasses and Geroux. AM You know every city has its Petit Canada, right? What was considered Petit Canada on French Island. WS That street down by where a..you know the Island School..and instead of going on Bos..you go down there..Hayes Street. AM I always thought it was the one way down where Mrs. Cote lived and Fred Brilliant.. WS No. No. It was AM Somebody told me the other day that it was Hayes Street. WS It is. RT That's where the funeral parlor used to be..Baillargeon's. ED Yeah. Right across the road from where we lived. JB Why would you think of the one street as Petit Canada instead of the whole Island? AM Every French district has its Petit Canada. You go to Lewiston..there's a Petit Canada. It's called the French District. JB Yeah, but why wouldn't the whole Island be? AM I don't know. There was always one street that was named Petit Canada. JB Is that right? And people knew it as that? AM Maybe my street was more Petit Canada than that one..but that one was Petit Canada. JB Is that right? ED Well, I remember from being young and living there practically everybody talked French except

TURNED THE TAPE

JB Just tell me that one thing that you were talking about..about the language. That's good. You say you think you were the first generation that spoke more English than French on the Island..or is that? WS I think that we spoke French when we..growing up..up to a certain point..but I mean..when we got into 12, 13, 14 in there in that area..we started going the other way. RT We're probably the generation that switched. ED Right. We are the generation that switched, I'd say. AM I think it started when we went to public school. When we started going to public school we lost our French. ED We married we didn't...double French and English, you know. AM It all depended if you married a French girl or not..if you retained it.

JB And all your parents were primarily French speakers..RT Oh, definitely, yeah. ED No. My mother was Irish. JB Oh,

really. RT Both my mother and father were French. AM See, we're all second cousins. ED Yeah. AM So our grandparents were all brothers and sisters. JB But your father was fluently French, right? ED My father was French, yeah. RT Well, we spoke French at the Convent School. WS That was part of our education. AM That's what I mean. When you left Convent School and then you start losing your French. RT As a matter of fact, my children today are displeased with me for not teaching them French..although there were times I tried. But they weren't receptive to it. Now, especially the one that married the Canadian girl. "How come you didn't teach me?" I said, "I tried." ED Well, don't they all say that? JB Are they living in Maine? WS Oh, yeah. AM I think that's another product of the times..everybody wished they had a second language and they're sorry that they didn't take it when they had a chance. And that's what my kids all say ...Mike is all ?? RT It's amazing how it comes back..your French. Listening to him talk there..boy everything..and then times when you have to use it and get in a conversation..if you don't stop and think it will come to you. I remember the first time I was going up across the St. Lawrence River now with a boat and I stopped at a garage and a guy said, "Je parle pas Anglais." "Je cherche la batteau." If I'd have thought to ask about the boat, I would have never come up with it. But I didn't think..and I just said it..and it come out. ED All my children got their second language before they went to college..going into college they had to have. WS Yeah, yeah. You had to take a language. ED Some took French..some took Spanish. WS Spanish is the common one because it's easier. ED But I had two..two of them took French. WS Is that right. RT I heard you took English once. ws I took English.

AM Let's talk about some of the times at the Carnival and the Circus. WS I'm leaving now. AM What about the Circus when we were helping the guy with the acorn shells. WS Oh, yeah. That was terrible. Looking back at it that was terrible. AM It was terrible what you did. That's it. WS What do you mean? You son of a gun. What do you mean? AM Cheating all those people. Somebody you know..and we know they're being cheated..we wanted to tell them "Get out of here!" WS You was in on it..what are you talking about me? AM I was with you. WS Oh, yeah. But that was crazy..what we'd do just to get in for nothing. That's what it was. AM The guy settled with us so we wouldn't leave. He wanted us to go back after. WS He'd be behind us, you know, and he'd hand us a twenty dollar bill and we...course they'd let us win. Right? But he was quick to grab the money back. AM Were you with us the time we went to the circus too and we were watching the animals. And then it was time for the circus to start and we come out and one guy was pushing us.."Hurry up, hurry up. Get out of there." You weren't there with us that time? WS No.

AM And this is all us kids you know. WS I don't remember that one. AM But I think the best one with you Wal, was you that carnival in .. WS Yes it was, Al. Yeah. That was a corker. No, Al. Keep that one to yourself, Al. AM We were young guys again and we're knocking down the cats you know. And the guy let us try it for nothing. We knocked three of them down and everything and when we put some money down we'd knock two down and the third one would never go down. Walter.. "That thing's crooked. That thing's crooked!" Every time we'd try.. Walter'd tell him "That thing's crooked!" The guy told him, "Hey, you'd better shut up or else." "Or else what?" POW. WS So we went to management didn't we? We wound up going there. AM Oh, yeah. We made out all right that time too. JB The guy hit you? WS Yeah. God darn well he hit me. My knees buckled. AM We took him out of there quick. Walter said, "Why didn't you leave me alone.. I'd have fixed that guy." RT Right. Old Kid Campbell here, right? WS I was getting four that day. AM We had good times as kids thought. My God. WS That's what I say. We had good times cause we had to make our good times. AM We had good times too. We used to go to your camp. ED Yeah, Oh Yeah. I was 16 when I built that camp. AM Is that right? ED Yeah. AM I spent a lot of nights up there at that camp. ED Yeah. We had a lot of fun up there didn't we? WS At Sunkaze. AM Sunkaze yeah. ED I taught them all how to set snares.. some of them set them that high. I thought they were.. WS Snaring deer, huh? AM Remember that night.. I'll never forget that.. we were all meeting at your house. We were going out to camp.. oh, there must have been ten or twelve of us that time anyway. We all met up there.. a bunch of guys going to camp.. a couple night.. weekend maybe. We got there.. in come Donald Taylor and he brings his wife. We was all kids and he happened to be married. So here we go.. twelve of us and he brings his wife out to camp. WS Who's that? AM Donald Taylor. WS Oh, yeah. AM My God. Everybody was fighting.. they wanted to sleep in the same (??bed?, bunk?). WS Do you want to keep these here? RT No. You can have that.

JB Are we wrapping up? AM Yeah. I guess so. Walter's got to go home. JB Walter's got to go home. WS Well, I think you've got a pretty good tape.