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July 2023

John B. Skinner, interviewed by Arthur Ruston, Part 1

John B. Skinner Jr.

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Interviewer's tape no.: 11.17.77-1 NAFOH Accession no.:
 Interviewer: Arthur Ruston Address: Estabrooke Rm. 456, U.M.O.
 Interviewee: John B. Skinner Address: State Street, Veazie, Me.
 Place of interview: Mr. Skinner's home Date: November 17, 1977
 Other people present: _____

Equipment used: Sony TR 25
 Tape: Brand: Scotch Av 176 Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8
 Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of tape used: (Side 1): entire side (Side 2): _____

Brief description of contents: Mr. Skinner, 70 years of age, has lived his entire life in Veazie. The interview concerns his memories of Veazie.. He talks about the older houses in Veazie, notable people, sections of the town, and the geneology of his family. Mr. Skinner is a retired photographer.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
Red's Market Store (CR. OF Olive St & Judson)	066 073	066 073	Opening Announcement <u>Mr. Skinner</u> was born in Veazie in 1907. He was born in the house where he lives today. The house was built in 1905. His father was working at the Veazie Power Station at that time. He dug the cellar hole himself with a pick and shovel. His parents moved into the house, but did not finish the upstairs for a number of years because of lack of sufficient funds. When the money came along, they finished the upstairs. This was about 1921. They had lived in the town before this, down by the riverside. The house is now deteriorated..
	100 114	114	His grandfather died and left his grandmother with two boys, his father and his uncle. At that time, Veazie had no Power Station. It was a mill town. His grandmother ran a boarding house for the millworkers. His father had to help out there rather than go out and play when he was a child. The boarding house was the same house that his parents moved out of in 1905.
	129	129	A little story about the boarding house: There was a man from P.E.I. by the name of <u>Will Burleigh</u> . He came to Maine, as many Islanders did, because of the lack of industry there on the Island. He worked in the mill in Veazie and boarded at <u>Mr. Skinner's</u> grandmother's establishment. This was before <u>Mr. Skinner</u> was born. He earned enough money at the mill to go back to P.E.I. to buy himself a fox farm and an oyster bed. <u>Mr. Skinner</u> learned this on a vacation to P.E.I. when he was in his teens.

Veazie
P.E.I.

Interviewer's tape #

NAFOH Accession #

1132

Catalog pg. # 2

11.17.77-1

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
[A.J.R. gets a straight chair]		155	Another illustration of Maritimers who returned home after working in Maine: once, when he went to Newfoundland on vacation, about 18-20 years ago he met a man on the North Shore who had once worked in Bar Harbor as a young man. So they <u>do</u> return home.
Upton, Wisconsin	200	177	A little history of his mother's side of the family: His mother was a <u>Spencer</u> . The original <u>Isaac Spencer</u> house is the white house on Rt. 2, near Lancaster's Market. The main part of the house, not the "L", is the original house. It was originally located where the road runs now. The "L" part was built after the house was moved. The house on the north side of that was his mother's parents' house. His grandfather, <u>Gorham Spencer</u> , was a woodsman and a hostler. He went out to Wisconsin to work in the woods. There, he contracted a disease, something from horses, and died. His grandmother and his <u>Uncle George</u> went out there to bring home the body. His grandmother raised four children by herself. She was the local mortician, the laws were different then, almost anyone could lay out a body. She had no formal training.
[grabbing paper off table]		218	Mr. <u>Skinner</u> is now working on his family's genealogy. Most people don't realize that the Piscataqua area was settled just three years after the Pilgrims arrived. <u>Thomas Spencer</u> came over in 1630 as an indentured servant to Capt. John Mason. He settled in what is now South Berwick, Me. on the east side of the Piscataqua. <u>T. Spencer</u> was more a planter (colonist) than an indentured servant. Five years later, <u>Mason</u> died and left the colonist stranded. They took <u>Mason's</u> land in order to survive. <u>T. Spencer</u> got a sizable tract of land there. He did well and raised a big family. <u>Mason's</u> relatives tried to sue the colonists, but <u>lost</u> . His son was <u>Moses</u> who begat <u>Moses, Jr.</u> who begat <u>Freathy</u> who begat <u>Isaac</u> . <u>Isaac</u> came east to settle in Bradley, across the river from Orono. <u>Spencer</u> is an extremely common name in the Penobscot Valley.
Orrington Penobscot River Mansfield, Mass. England Orono Bradley Piscataqua South Berwick Skinner Settlement Association	300	278	On the <u>Skinner</u> side (paternal): <u>Thomas Skinner</u> came over from England as a Sargeant in the army about 1650 or so. Probably was a soldier in Cromwell's army. <u>King Charles II</u> was not favorable to the Cromwellians. <u>T. Skinner</u> also came over as an indentured servant. He worked off his indenture and opened a tavern in Mansfield, Mass. Bay. That became a family trade of the <u>Skinnners</u> . The first <u>Skinner</u> to come to this area was <u>Daniel Skinner</u> . He chartered a ship with his second cousin, <u>Dr. Elijah Skinner</u> , and came up the Penobscot. They settled in what was then Orrington. This was after the Revolutionary War.
Wisconsin Bar Harbor Newfoundland			

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
Rebecca		312	<p><u>D. Skinner</u> lived in Orrington by the ferry. He built a log cabin outside of Bangor, in what is now West Corinth. That was the Skinner Settlement. He used this log cabin as a tavern. <u>D. Skinner</u> reassembled his grandfather's clock from three sections. Once, when <u>Mr. Skinner</u> was browsing around at the old Skinner farm, he saw a large round stone with a ring in it. He asked a female relative there what it was. It was used as a balance weight when carrying something on horseback. This is probably how <u>D. Skinner</u> brought the clock to the tavern. The clock is still there and still runs.</p>
		339	<p><u>Daniel's</u> son, <u>Mason</u>, helped build the present Skinner residence out there. This was circa 1790. First frame structure in the area. The log cabin burned, and they built another tavern, which is now a dwelling. Due to family bickering, <u>Mason</u> moved to Garland, Me. <u>Mason</u> was a handy man with wood. He and his wife are buried out there.</p>
VanAken house		360	<p>His son was <u>John B. Skinner</u> (Mr. Skinner's grandfather). He lived in Garland and married a distant relative, <u>Joanna Skinner</u>. They had two children, <u>John</u> and <u>Otis</u>. They died. <u>J.B. Skinner</u> went in the army during the Civil War. On the way home, he remarried; a widow named <u>Isabel Hathorn McDonald</u>. They moved to Veazie. They lived in the house which was the boarding house discussed above. His grandfather was a cooper. The cooper's shop sat where the road is now. <u>Mr. Skinner</u> used to have some of the old cooper's tools.</p>
		383	<p>The <u>Spencers</u> were all river drivers and woodsmen. A distant relative, <u>Moses Spencer</u> (not in his direct line), went to the siege of Louisbourg. He received his share of the spoils. Another <u>Moses Spencer</u> died at Valley Forge. His Grandfather Skinner was also a farmer during his lifetime (in the Corinth area).</p>
Mt. Hope	400		<p>The Hobson Road extended across the railroad track. There was a small house down there on the other side of the track, a family named <u>Prouty</u> lived there. The road continued down to the old Shore Road which ran along the river to Veazie from Bangor. Down on the Shore Road was <u>Aunt Hat's</u>. That house burned down there. The only old house on the right side of Hobson Ave. was her second place of business. He was told that she was a wicked woman. When she would come up the street when he was a little boy he'd run in the house screaming "<u>Aunt Hat's</u> coming. As far as he could see, she was a kindly old woman. She was of middle height, wrinkled, and somewhat bent with age. She was always sociable to him.</p>
<p>Veazie Garland West Corinth Orrington Bangor</p>		432	<p>A curious story: when he was working in an engraver's store in Bangor, he met a man who had lived in <u>Aunt Hat's</u> as a little boy - his mother was one of the girls there. Nicest man you'd want to meet.</p>

11.17.77-1

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
<p>Howland Martin</p> <p>Libby-Skinner Co. Pathé Agency</p> <p>Boston Orono Veazie Bangor</p>	<p>500</p>	448	<p><u>Aunt Hat</u> is buried in the Veazie Cemetary, ston reads Harriet Foyer. She had a son, <u>Clayton</u>, who did very well for himself out in the Midwest. <u>Addi Weed</u> could tell you more about the son.</p>
		462	<p>When he was a child, he had every childhood dis ease there was. He had polio when he was 3-4 yrs. old. They put him in leg irons, but when his folk took him to Boston, the doctor was furious becaus that was the wrong thing to do. He's alright now except for an awkward gait. He was nver athletic, but you had to be rugged to live at this time. Walked 3/4 mile back and forth to school. The sch house stands where it does today. The kids used to play a game called Duffy with rocks.</p>
		489	<p>The Ladies' Aid Society used to hold quilting bees. His mother used to make quilts, saving all the old scraps of material. They used to have Church socials. The present church was the Congre- gational. Another church was almost across the road from his <u>Grandmother Skinner's</u> house, but h doesn't remember the denomination. This no longer exists.</p>
		499	<p>When his father was 15-16 yrs. old, he worked in the Basin Mills in Orono. He'd walk along the railroad tracks to work from Veazie. His father worked on the dam for the hydroelectric plant there, incorporated the old dam from the mill. Hi father was one of the early employes. It was a very dangerous job. People were killed while work ing. <u>Seldon Martin</u> was his father's trusted helpe <u>Seldon</u> was very dependable. After working there 19 yrs., his father went to work for his uncle, <u>Otis Skinner</u>. <u>Otis</u> and <u>John</u> (his father) were the children of his grandfather's second marriage. His father helped to finance <u>Otis'</u> education as an optometrist. <u>Otis</u> was a pompous person. While his uncle was studying in N.Y.C., there was a mix-up in the mail, and an actor named <u>Otis Skin-</u> received all his uncle's mail. Later found out that this actor was distantly related to them.</p>
		541	<p>Anyway, his father went to work for his uncle. His father was in charge of the victrola part of the buidness, while his uncle worked as an op- tometrist in the same offices on Main Street in Bangor. His father eventually felt that he was just making the uncle rich, so he quit and went into business for himself. He and <u>Russell Libby</u> became partners in a victrola and piano store. He did that until his health failed.</p>
554	<p>There was no industry in Veazie except some farming at this time. <u>Rufus Dwelley</u> was a local character. "<u>Rufe</u>" <u>Dwelley</u> drove a jigger (Horse-dra <u>freight vehicle</u>) between Bangor and Veazie. <u>Ruf</u> was fond of dogs [<u>He laughs</u>]. He used to tie piec of meat to his heels to attract all the dogs.</p> <p>[He laughs]</p>		

Interviewer's tape #

NAFOH Accession #

1137
1195 1 Catalog pg. # 5

11.17.77-1

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
Freeland Jones	600	567	They had streetcars in Veazie very early because of the power station. The railroad station in Veazie was located at the intersection of School Street and the tracks. The winter of 1918-19, was bad. A streetcar was stuck in front of the house for a week after one storm. They got it out with a rotary plow. His father used to snowshoe up to the railroad station and take the train into Bangor.
General Veazie		580	The sawmills pulled out around the turn of the century. Then, Veazie became a "bedroom" for Bangor except for a few farmers. The <u>Proutys</u> , the <u>Davis'</u> were two families who farmed. <u>John</u> and <u>Tom Davis</u> are 80 yrs. old, and they've always been great farmers until they aged. They've now sold much of the farm for land development. The <u>Jones fam-</u> ily were farmers. It was mostly dairy farming.
		595	<u>Proutys</u> related to <u>Dingbat Prouty</u> . There was a section of Bangor called Doughtyville. There were many <u>Doughtys</u> and <u>Proutys</u> down there. They were fighters and characters. One time, the Veazie Railroad got to Doughtyville on the way to OldTown and they came upon a big fight there. The train stopped and the passengers watched the fight. After a while, the train went on its way to Old Town. When it returned the fight was still going on. He does not know if that was <u>Dingbat</u> or not. [noise of chair] Maybe it was some relatives of his.
wangan		616	He has known two old riverdrivers in his lifetime. One was a boss named <u>Smith</u> . He was a kind, soft-spoken man, but <u>Mr. Skinner</u> has heard stories of what a terror <u>Smith</u> was on the riverdrives. The other one was a man named <u>Gilbert Perry</u> . He was soft-spoken as well. A little story about <u>Perry</u> How he almost killed a thief until someone stopped him. In later years, he was a very quiet man. [laughing, chair moves]
		632	Veazie kids were called "Veazie Lemons" because they'd shoot rocks at Strangers (beaus and their girlfriends) when they passed through Veazie. The rocks were the Veazie "lemons". This was when his father was a little boy. It was still pretty rough when he himself was a boy. [noise from passing cars]
		644	There were poorer sections of town. The better houses were on the Main Road. These people had higher incomes. In the village, there was "Paddy Knoll" near School Street. Down near his <u>Grand-</u> mother <u>Skinner's</u> house (in back, down by the river was "Dunghy Lane". The Irish lumbermen lived around the Paddy Knoll. <u>O'Brien</u> was a coffer dam (temporary dam) builder. There were also <u>Campbell</u> Town was mostly of English ancestry though. The English settlers from Puritan New England came to Maine earliest. The Irish came later, many

Old Town
Bangor
Veazie

Interviewer's tape #
11.17.77-1

NAFOH Accession # 119321 Catalog pg. #

6

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		667	during the Potato Famine, though some came earlier. There were also Scots. [pause 5 sec.] A story about a trip he took to the Gaspé Peninsula, a place called Rivière au Renard (Fox River). At an inn where he stayed, he saw some fisherman speaking French, but looking very Irish. He found out from the landlady that they were the descendents of victims of a shipwreck. The ship had come from Ireland during the famine. [laughing]
		690	The Basin Mills provided jobs for the people of Veazie after the sawmills shut down. The hydroelectric plant took some of the people. Most of the people worked in Bangor. Veazie has not lost a great deal of population. Very few of older houses have been lost.
	1700	704	[Table moves] In his grandmother's house, the parlor was used very seldom. He saw it once when his grandmother was waked. He used to have to saw and split the wood when he was little. In his house though, entertaining was done in one of the two parlors because of the pot-bellied stove.
	1706		END OF INTERVIEW

Bangor
Ireland
Rivière au Renard
(Fox River)
Gaspé Peninsula
Veazie

Interviewer's tape no.: 11.22.77-2

NAFOH Accession no.: 1132
1195 2

Interviewer: Arthur Ruston

Address: Estabrooke RM. 456, U.MO.

Interviewee: John B. Skinner

Address: State Street, Veazie, Me.

Place of interview: Mr. Skinner's home Date: November 22, 1977

Other people present: _____

Equipment used: Sony TR 25

Tape: Brand: Scotch Av 176 Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): _____ (Side 2): entire side

Brief description of contents:

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
<p>McPhetres Hathorns "Johnny Mack's Brook"</p> <p>Frank Todd</p>	<p>098</p>	069	Opening Announcement
		080	The <u>Isaac Spencer</u> house: the main part of the sat where the present Rt. 2 runs. It was moved back and an "L" structure was added on to it. This was back in the early 1800's. This house is one of the oldest in Veazie.
		094	He couldn't think of anymore stories about his grandmother's boarding house at this time.
		101	Story of the first murder in Veazie. Involves the murder of one of <u>Mrs. McPhetres'</u> sons by a certain <u>Isaac Spencer</u> . The argument started over the price of rum sold by <u>Mrs. McPhetres</u> . <u>Spencer</u> hit the victim with a shovel and killed him. <u>Spencer</u> ended up in prison in Thomaston, Me. Distantly related to <u>J.B. Skinner</u> .
		143	There were taverns in Veazie. one sat up in the are of the present University housing in Veaz (old motel). Can't tell much about it since it was before his day. It did burn down though. This was called the Pumpkin Tavern. Veazie was so near to Bangor that they did not have as many taverns as a more isolated town would have.
		162	The poorer section of the town was refered to as Dunghy Lane.
167	The older houses had to parlors, one of which was shut off from daily use. This one was used only on special occasions. In <u>Mr. Skinner's</u> house both were used. The "Front Parlor" was generally set off by double doors. This room was used for wakes, visits from the minister, and other formal occasions. The best furniture was put into this room. The other parlor was used for daily use.		
<p>Bangor Thomaston Veazie</p>	<p>200</p>		

Interviewer's tape #
11.22.77-2

NAFOH Accession # 1132 2 Catalog pg. #
1195

2

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
<p>Red Bridge Bangor Floral Co.</p> <p><i>Orono Veazie Bangor</i></p>		195	<p>Most houses had dining rooms also. For a time, one of their family's parlors was used as a dining room. Never ate in the dining room unless they had company; otherwise they ate in the kitchen. Dining room was used on holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, or sometimes on Sunday dinner.</p>
		208	<p>Christmas was the biggest holiday. Believed <u>Santa</u> and his elves till he grew older. He did not go caroloing since he did not have a good voice, but other people did. His family was not very musically inclined. His family did not have sing-a-longs or the like. Played the piano for a time as a child, but quit the lessons. Did not know of any local songmakers. <u>Madeleine Duffy</u> used to play the piano for the silent films in Bangor.</p>
		236	<p>The <u>McPhetres'</u> house is another of the oldest houses in <u>Veazie</u>. This is on the present Rt. 2. This is the battle-ship gray house <u>[on the right side of the road coming from Orono]</u>. The first mill in Bangor was built by two <u>Hathorn</u> brithers. The site is marked, put op by the D.A.R. The <u>Ha-thorns</u> were fairly well-to-do. The Todd house is the old Hathorn house. The original one sat down river , but that burned. It was built in the 1800's sometime.</p>
	297	262	<p>There was a fair amount of churchgoing in Veazie. His mother was very devout. He had to go to Sunday School as a child. The town was mostly Protestant but there were a few Irish Catholics. The Catholic went to either Bangor or Orono to attend Mass. His father was not very religious, and after <u>Mr. Skinner</u> got older, he followed his father's example. His mother was sick for a while and was helped by <u>Christian Scientist</u> teachings. <u>[Short pause for 20 sec. while he shuts off heater, recorder shut off]</u>.</p>
		280	<p>There were not many hired hands or servants in Veazie because it wasn't that large of a place. The <u>Davis</u> family probably had some, but the <u>Prout</u> farms were probably small enough for the family to take care of. The <u>Skinner</u>s got milk from the people next door. They had a cow. One time, the man who delivered milk came over; he was a very tiresome man. His father pretended not to be the but the man saw that his rocking chair was still rocking. Rocking chairs were near the stove so that you could warm your feet. When <u>Mr. Skinner</u> was older he had a route delivering milk, he was about eight or ten at the time.</p>
	308	<p>They used to eat plenty of Penobscot River salmon. Used to be caught with a gaff, and then steamed. Ate potatoes and vegetables. Many people had gardens and canned the produce. He used to have to work in the garden as a child.</p>	

Interviewer's tape #
11.22.77-2

NAFOH Accession # 1132
1195-2

Catalog pg. # 3

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		338	<p>A butcher cart would come through town. These horse drawn vehicles, and they resembled a small covered wagon. The trimming or cutting board would flip down and the ladies could make their selections. There was also a travelling grocer. It was the same type of vehicle as the butcher. There was also a man who sold vanilla essence for seasoning purposes, not medicinal purposes.</p>
		362	<p>There were a lot of home remedies for illness. When he had a cold, he had to have a piece of flannel on his chest with some grease concoction.</p>
	400	369	<p>The sawmills went out of business in Veazie around the late 1880's or the early 1890's. His father worked at the Veazie Powerhouse before he married in 1905, and this power house was sort of an outgrowth of the old mill. They incorporated part of the old dam.</p>
		379	<p>The heating of the house: the upstairs was not heated. Downstairs, it was heated by the kitchen stove which burned wood and the big pot-bellied pilot stove which burned coal. The two stoves heated the entire downstairs. There is not any attic in the house because the house is only 1 1/2 stories, so the attic is nothing to speak of. There is a cellar. There was never a barn with the house. They had no animals outside of pets. Once though, he had chickens-raised them for food. The house always had indoor plumbing.</p>
		399	<p>There was a Grange Hall in town. It was located on Corporation Hill, the same hill where his <u>Grandmother Skinner</u> lived. He doesn't know exactly where on the hill though. He doesn't remember too much about the social gatherings there because he was too small. Town meetings were the biggest events when he was a kid. They occurred once a year. The old ones were much better than the ones they have now. <u>Peter Davis</u> the father of the two Davis brothers, was a very eloquent man. He had been in the seminary but he left and got married. Nonetheless, he was a very educated man. He was quite a figure at the town meetings, quite an orator. The meetings were lively, but he was too young to remember any specific issues. Everybody brought their children and the Ladies' Aid Society would put on the supper. <u>Peter Davis</u> was first selectman for a number of years.</p>
		432	<p>News was obtained by newspapers- The Bangor Daily News and The Bangor Daily Commercial- the first was the morning paper, the latter was the evening paper. The Commercial was more easily delivered, coming up by streetcar, and the newsboy would throw it on the people's lawn [noise of a plane] and the <u>Skinner's</u> dog would</p>

Veazie

Interviewer's tape #
11.22.77-2

NAFOH Accession # 1132
1195.2

Catalog pg. # 4

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		442	<p>bring it to the house.</p> <p>During World War I , his father worked for his uncle. On the Armistice, his father took the Ford pick-up truck, took the plaster RCA dog in the truck and put it with a sign saying: ever dog has his day, the Kaiser's had his. <u>Mr. Skinner</u> rode in the truck in the Armistice parade. He was twelve years old.</p>
Bangor High School		453	<p>He graduated from high school in 1926. He had lost a half year of school during the flu epidemic. He doesn't remember too much about the roaring twenties. The Depression hit the area pretty hard. He worked for Weed's garage. <u>Mr. Weed</u> owned a truck and he built a trailer. With this set-up. he could haul 3 ton of potatoes in the truck and 5 ton in the trailer. In order to brak the trailer, someone had^{to} ride in the cab with a hand brake. <u>Mr. Skinner</u> used to help load the truck with potatoes in Aroostook, and on the way down it was his job to ride in the cab. They'd start out from Veazie, go to anywhere in Aroostook and then go to Searsport, where the potatoes were put on ship to be shipped out. From there, they'd return to Veazie. They'd be on the road for 24 hours. They'd get some sleep, and then start out again. He'd be paid \$3.00 for each trip. This was <u>Addie Weed's</u> brother whom he worked for.</p>
	500	479	<p>His father was in failing health during the depression. He died in 1939 just when <u>Hitler</u> was marching into Poland. he mentioned " Get some sugar" before he died because of the sugar shortage during the first World War. His father's business partner, <u>Russell Libby</u>, went to Florida and opened a furniture store. He and his wife were later killed in a Railroad accident.</p>
		495	<p>Veazie was a fairly self-contained town. there were occasionally visitors to the different families[<u>pause, 5 sec.</u>]</p>
		499	<p>Paddy Knoll, the Irish section of Veazie, was not a poor section of town. It was nicknamed only for the fact that a lot of Irish lived there. Dunghy Lane was a poor section of town. HE can't remember exactly who lived in Dunghy Lane. The people who lived there were usually no-goods who didn't work. If he remembered the names, he would not quote them for this reason.</p>
		508	<p>The people who lived on Main Road were the relatively more well-to-do. They were known as Main Roaders. The <u>Hathorns</u> lived here. When he was in his early teens, the bungalow diagonally across the street was built by a man named <u>Larry Sullivan</u>. <u>Sullivan</u> was quite an influential lumberman in Bangor. Directly across the street was a house owned by the Hathorns. Going up to the next house, skipping the stone house, was <u>Frank</u></p>

*Bangor
Florida
Searsport
Veazie
Aroostook*

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			<p><u>Beal's</u> house. Across the street from this was <u>Frank Lyford's</u> house. <u>Lyford</u> was a clothier; he didn't own his own clothing store, but he worked in various clothing stores throughout his career. He was moderately well-off. None of the Main Roaders were rich, but they were a little better-off than the townspeople.</p>
		516	<p>There wasn't too much interaction between the townspeople and the Main Roaders, except if the townspeople were having some sort of Money drive and wanted some money from the Main Roaders. There was interaction between the children since they all attended the same school in Veazie. [Pause; noise of paper rustling]</p>
		525	<p>The winters were very hard. He refers to the story of the streetcar in the previous interview. [Another story: concerns the "Kicking sled"]. Up in Piscataquis County, there's a town called Monson where there was a slate quarry. A lot of Swedes settled there, some right from the Old Country. They brought over the kick sled. This was two long steel runners with a chair in front, with handlebars coming up over the chair. The handlebars were flexible, and you were able to steer it. You operated it by putting your left foot on the left runner in back of the chair, and just swung your right leg in a kicking motion. When it was icy, <u>Mr. Skinner</u> could take this sled and go to Bangor in no time at all. It wasn't tiring. His father was up in Monson selling phonographs, and brought one back for him. He had a certain amount of prestige among the rest of the kids because of this possession.</p>
		552	<p>He used to shoot squirrels when he was a kid with a .22 caliber. He had his share of slingshots. Used to play mumble-peg. The fourth of July was a big holiday for kids, especially because of the fireworks. For himself, it was a bigger event than Christmas. People used to congregate at one another's houses and pooled their fireworks. Used to buy the fireworks at the store in VEazie.</p>
	600	578	<p>There were dances, but he didn't dance much, never learned, because of his polio. They'd hold them in the town hall. Out to Pushaw Pond, there would be big dances at the pavillion. Usually you go there or to East Corinth on the streetcar. The place at Pushaw Pond was called VillaVaughn. [noise of plane].</p>
		590	<p>Talks about the trolleys in Veazie. Had them ve early because of the electric power plant. Had a line as far as Charleston, Me. Went through East corinth. Ran for about 32 miles. Remembers when it only cost a nickel to ride the trolley. Had two men on the streetcar, a conductor and a moto man.</p>

Sam Seguay
Gilman's

Charleston
VillaVaughn
East Corinth
Pushaw Pond
Bangor
Monson
Piscataquis County
Veazie

Interviewer's tape #

NAFOH Accession # 1132

Catalog pg. # 6

1195 2

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
not sure if it is McCollins		606	<p>when he went to high school, they broke up the classtime into two sessions. The token card that you'd buy to ride the streetcar would be punched by the conductor. This card was good for about ten trips. The kids used to take the punch-outs home after the conductor punched them, and pound them back into the token card with a hammer so the conductor would never know the difference. This way they got free rides. All the kids did this. The card was purchased first from the conductor at a cut rate. [Pause- noise from the street]</p>
		627	<p>More conversation concerning the Depression; the W.P.A. kept a lot of families together by providing a livelihood. When WWII broke out, prosperity returned.</p>
		641	<p>The first job that he had when he graduated from high school was in McCollins garage. This was in a very tough part of Bangor around lower French Street. This was during Prohibition. He was the nightman. There was a speakeasy right next door run by a Polish man. He used to come over in the evenings to the garage and the two of them would chew the fat. He worked in Mt. Hope Cemetary mowing lawns with the old push mower one summer. Then he worked for Mr. Weed.</p>
		660	<p>Worked as a photograprer during WWII. He was 4F because of his handicap resulting from polio. He ran the studio in his house. If he could have gotten more materials, he could have cleaned up since every girl wanted her picture taken to send to a husband or boyfriend overseas. Went into an engraving shop after this, on the camera end of the photo-engraving. He was there 14-15 years before he went back to photography. Learned about photography by trial and error and reading books. Did photo-finishing for drug stores before he opened his own studio [noise of the heater]. Anecdote about Karsh and <u>Winston Churchill</u>.</p>
Bangor	700	712	END OF INTERVIEW