

Wally and Harry Ekelund and Perry Weckley

Interviewed by: Jacobs 03/12/1996

Transcribed by: Jennie Hakes 12/27/2005

Cassette tape label: *Wally, Harry Ekelund & Perry Weckley 3/12/96*

Note

This is another tape where the participants are identifying landmarks on a map. The tape starts in the middle of a conversation. It was hard to identify who was saying what – I took my best guess based on the voices, and I could be wrong. - Jennie

They are discussing sawmills and schools in whatever area the map is for (not identified, but they mention Turner, Cornish and Shamrock Townships). One of the schools is the Pine Needle School. There is also some talk about a local Indian man on Side B, and some funny stories.

Side A

Harry: ...they'd get the steam up before they could make the whistle blow. It wasn't near like the mills today – hit the starter and away it goes!

(Laughs)

It took a little time to get that thing underway, you know, after they get the head of steam up.

Mark: That's the one right down by the bridge there?

Wally: Just this side of...

Harry: South of the bridge in that slough hole there. There was a kind of a slough hole there.

Wally: The road is over part of what used to be that...

Harry: That road that forks and goes around... it used to be 75. And goes around the edge of that slough. It was down in that slough that they had that...

Mark: Right down in here. By the bridge, pretty close to where the resort is there?

Harry: Yeah, south of the resort. It was just south of that...

Wally: Yeah, just south of the resort...

Harry: South and west of that slough hole there.

Wally: They used to (unintelligible) to run the logs down that river, too.

Harry: I don't know how they got it...

Wally: Yeah, I watched 'em when I was just a kid, taking logs out of the river.

Harry: Somebody told me, years and years ago, where the gravel pit is up there now, that they used that little slough hole there as a turnaround years ago, to bring logs out there for

the river. On those sled roads. They tried to keep 'em pretty on the level. They couldn't go up and down those hills with those horses.

Mark: What year was that, about? Twenties, maybe?

Harry: I would say that would be, uh, because (someone's name, can't make it out) was born in 1912 or 13.

Wally: You mean that mill, there?

Harry: The mill, the mill was there in the early '30s. '31 or '2.

Wally: We were goin' to school up to (name of place is unintelligible, sounds like "bill horn")...

Harry: We started school in '48 up at (unintelligible).

Wally: Well, that mill was there then, I know.

Mark: That was Marcus Nelson's sawmill?

Wally: Yeah.

Harry: But all them other loggin' things were way before... they're just history, things you hear about.

Wally: Well that's with me. It's either... in this area he wants... it was either before that or after (laughs).

Harry: Did K.O. (or Kale or Gale?) work with Marcus Nelson?

Wally: I don't think so. Art (sounds like "Mern") used to work for him. That was over west of here someplace. They had a mill over there. (sounds like Lord Bairn, or Baron) worked on that one. There's a guy that would give you a few pointers, too.

Harry: The Murphy boys, I think, got a piece of property right there.

Mark: Up there in Hogan.

Wally: (sounds like Les Hart) told me that. That's where he used to work, with him.

Perry: They call it the K.O. Landing, I think.

Harry: Marcus Nelson must have been real heavy into loggin', because somebody said that he was one of the first guys to have one of them steam tractors that went all the way to Tamarack. And he had a whole train of sleds behind the thing.

Perry: There's a book with the pictures of that and a little history over that. Must be... I don't know which book it is.

Harry: ...the Sorenson property.

Wally: I have seen that.

Perry: I've seen the book, but I don't know what the name of it is. But there's history in that, about Marcus Nelson.

Harry: Sawed many, must have been three or four years up there on that site there south of the resort.

Wally: He was here a long time.

Perry: He must have sawed up there until 1940 or there.

Wally: Quite awhile, I think.

Perry: He had a big, big sled...

Wally: That would be four-forty, though. (sounds like Kooz Selser) used to live at Nelson's you know, and that mill wasn't there then.

Harry: Wasn't there as long as I remember, and I was born in '31.

Wally: And that was about '39, when Kooz (or Wooz) was livin' up there. So that had to be... it was gone by then.

Mark: OK. So early '30s or late '20s. Where were some of those schoolhouses again, you guys were talking about?

Wally: There's one right over by the church, when Prairieland started.

Perry: Right in front of the church was the...

Harry: It was right off the road. Almost where that church sign is now.

Wally: Pine Needle school.

Harry: And the kids today, well... everybody had to walk to school. Our lunch buckets were sawed-down syrup cans! (laughs)

Harry: Pine Needle School. The teacher had to fire the stove, and keep peace in the church...

Wally: And keep kids from smokin' cigars back in that ice house! Ha!

Harry: As I recall (unintelligible). I had a good time goin' to school. I liked to hunt squirrels, play, and my uncle used to go duck huntin' with Len (?) Warner and Bill (sounds like Van). They told him, he said, well that nephew of yours is kind of dumb – he got put back to first grade from the second. Put back there, yeah. But from the second grade to the first grade, because he can't read. My uncle came home and told my aunt, and my aunt said, "Well, you better bring your reader home!" And I couldn't figure out why I had to bring a reader home. She said, "I think they're havin' trouble." It took me a couple a years, and I finally found out...well, she found out my uncle always said "a birdie told me" that it was them two birds that helped him hunt ducks all the time that was why I wasn't in school!

Mark: (laughs)

Harry: That was some of the things that went on. And then we used to carry, Lawrence and I used go down to (can't make out the name, sounds like Eckerbud's) to get two syrup cans full of water to drink. It was such a big deal when we went down there. Because that was one of the places that had running water. And we always figured Eckerbud was a rich man! He had a stucco house and a big, great big mansion, and lived down there on that lake, and he was real rich. The rest of us didn't have it all that good. It froze the water in the kitchen every night.

Mark: Well, the log church has been there for quite a few years, hasn't it?

Wally: '39?

Perry: '39, I think. It was dedicated when we were out west. It started in '39.

Wally: I helped build that sucker!

Mark: Oh, yeah?

Harry: What would be the last year that they held school at Pine Needle? Would it be about 1929?

Perry: That had to start in '29.

Harry: '27.

Perry: Ma said she was thirteen when she come up here, didn't she? She was born in 1900, so that would have been in 1913 when she come up here, and she went to school down there, so that school had to be there in, around 1913. 'Cause I'm sure Ma quit goin' to school when she was 16. So... it would have to been in that period of time between '13 and '16.

Harry: I can remember when I was in second grader, there was a Wakefield...

Perry: ... it wasn't in that exact spot, but it was very close.

Harry: Wakefield was teaching school there. There was a Wakefield, school teacher. He was part Indian.

Mark: You said there's one before '02, an old school?

Harry: Yeah. There was one over there... Well, Larry Bunge (not sure of spelling, pronounced BUN-GEE with a hard G) owned that land there. It's right in the corner there, where that road goes south to go to Horseshoe Lake there, on that flow (?) road.

Perry: Goes out to Marcus's?

Harry: Yeah, it goes out on the west end of Horseshoe.

Mark: Oh, way down.

Harry: West end of Horseshoe.

Wally: Whose farm was that on the north side of where, around...

Harry: It was all state land, I think.

Wally: No. There was a farm there once.

Perry: Oh, Ted Anderson had farm...

Wally: No, no, no, no. That's in Anderson Lake. I think Harry knows.

Mark: Which side of the road was that on?

Harry: The north side.

Mark: And that was... what was the name of that school, do you remember?

Harry: I have no idea what the name of that school was.

Wally: There was a farm house up in there, too.

Harry: I don't remember that. I remember the old school house.

Wally: And that was, ah, what was their names? There were (sounds like "divers") around up in that end. You know if I thought of it...

Harry: McGarvey's?

Wally: McGarvey's. McGarvey's lived up there by that school. Up on that hill. (unintelligible) could they live in places like that I don't know, but...

Perry: It was all wild then.

Wally: That's right. There was no difference.

Harry: Then that other school I was talkin' about was the end of the road past Steve's place there, you know, as you go past...

Mark: In here?

Harry: Well, let's see. Let's get beyond the county road here. Ok here, here, over there (probably pointing at the plat). Would be just on this side of the road from Jerry Crystal's (not sure of the spelling, but that's what it sounds like) there was a school.

Perry: I have no idea what the name of that is, but I'm sure I can find it. (sounds like "Harper's) got some paperwork on it.

Mark: OK.

Wally: The school houses, there was supposed to be one in every township, but there was a lot more...

Harry: Seems like there was more of them than that.

Perry: That's because of the lake, I think, the lake's here caused them to have more schools.

Harry: I can't understand why they would... I mean, who authorized the starting of a school? Is it just people got together and...

Wally: I think they got together!

Mark: That's the way it sounds, I know. Even like over in Balsam and Hogan, there was about four schools in Hogan, all in different – by the way that Gunnar talked – you just had a bunch of families get together and hired a school teacher. (pause) Was there any logging camps you guys know of there? Up in Shamrock here, or way back?

Wally: You know about that old camp up at the dam, I suppose. There's history up there about that.

Mark: Up at the Libby dam?

Wally: Yeah.

Mark: Oh, I guess I didn't know about that.

Wally: There was a big camp up there. And I dug into part of that when I put a boat ramp in there, and dug up the blacksmith's shop they had there.

Mark: Is that right?

Wally: Yeah.

Mark: I'll be darned.

Wally: Ole... not, not Ole... what was his name? (laughs)

Perry: Ike?

Wally: Ike (can't make this out)! Puttin' all that stuff away, I found (unintelligible) But he said that was an old blacksmith's shop we dug up here.

Mark: I talked to her last night and she said he had a bunch of that stuff, and he give it to the Army Corps and they took that away, and that's sittin' somewhere in some dusty corner.

Perry: Nobody knows where it is.

Wally: Either that or he took some home.

Mark: That could have been, too. And that was right by the dam there?

Wally: Yeah. Just on the southeast side of the dam. Or just south of the dam, I guess you'd say. But I imagine that was spread all over there at that time.

Perry: I suppose that would have been a big...

Wally: In fact, it was a trading post there, too.

Mark: Um hm. OK. You don't know whose camp it was, or anything.

Wally: Oh, I have no idea on that.

Mark: What years, or way back...

Wally: No, that's way, way back. I would say 1900 or maybe before.

Perry: Let's see, that might have been... was that in Shamrock, at Elmer Lievester's (not sure of spelling) place?

Harry: Yeah.

Wally: Um hm. (unintelligible)

Harry: Your uncles must have told you about the mill that was there.

Mark: No, I don't think so.

Wally: What's the name of it? Our Dads worked at that mill.

Harry: And that was steam-fired, too. That was right by Elmer's or the CMAA camp, or the bible camp that was down there on the lake.

Mark: Oh.

Harry: There was a sawmill there. And Pa worked on that when he was livin' there at Stephan's place. He said he'd row to work. Rowed up the lake to work.

Mark: That was a big sawmill.

Harry: It was a sawmill, I don't know... evidently it was fairly good-sized.

Perry: Those old big (unintelligible). They were actually threshing machine engines that...

Harry: And that's when these guys were born. Wally was born in '19, and so it had to be in the early '20s that he worked there.

Mark: Who had...

Harry: I don't know the name of it. I know it wasn't Leivester's, though.

Wally: No, I don't think he was there then.

Harry: They started a little resort there.

Wally: There was also a – what did they call them camps there? The CCC when...

Perry: Twenty-one-nineties. They got 21 mills, and 90 cents a week. And they were...

Wally: That was - what'd they call them? Traction camps.

Perry: Traction camps, that's right.

Mark: There was one up... where's that at?

Harry: Just about where Mrs. Reed – what's her name now? – where her place is. Right in there. But that was for older men, they used to have those camps.

Mark: That was kinda like the CCCs...

Harry: Yeah. Only it was older.

Perry: They weren't too good in them days. They didn't have that... they didn't have all those federal programs going.

Harry: That was a federal program.

Perry: Yeah, that 2190...

Harry: Did Benedict have his mill down there by us, before we went out west? Do you remember? It seemed to me he sawed for the war production. And I'm wondering if he was located there before we went out west, or...

Wally: I think just afterwards. 'Cause he has up by Pleasure Palace.

Harry: 'Cause one of them had a shack there before...

Wally: Yeah. But that was by Pleasure Palace he had the mill. You know, for many years up there.

Harry: See, that would have been during the Second World War, Benedict's Pleasure Palace. I don't even remember that.

Wally: Oh, I do. Well, I had to carry the stuff away from that! (laughs)

Mark: Across from the Pleasure Palace?

Wally: No, it was just to the south of Pleasure Palace, on that same piece.

Mark: Oh, OK.

Perry: Kind of a bridge there, the island thing goes out of there.

Wally: In fact, he run that Pleasure Palace at the time that we sawed up there. He had two mills there. He had his mill and Pa moved his in there.

Harry: There used to be a lot of them little mills all over.

Mark: That was during World War II?

Wally: Oh, it was before that.

Mark: Probably in the '30s then.

Wally: I wasn't married then. Yeah, it was in the late '30s, I'd say.

Mark: That was Harold Benedict?

Wally: Um hm.

Mark: And your dad, too?

Wally: Yup. He sawed for Harold and at one time, Harold had somebody else doing his mill and Pa has his up there.

Mark: What was your dad's name?

Wally: Richard. That's hard for me to remember, but... (laughs)

Perry: That's your name, too. I never called you Junior, though.

Wally: Hm?

Perry: They never would call you Junior. We all knew you, though, Walter.

Wally: (Unintelligible)

Harry: It wasn't a favorable word.

Mark: Do you know anything about... what was it... Herb Cyrus said that there was a camp Marcus Nelson had over by Camp Lake? You know anything about that?

Perry: Boy, I tell you, you should have been here when Ed was alive. Now Ed also worked as a cook in logging camps, and he... and it was in this area, you know. Ole Lang was the head cook, and Ed worked under him as a helper.

Harry: I'll tell you where he had another one was up by Remote Lake.

Mark: OK.

Harry: But I have no idea at the time of that one. But there used to be log piles up, left over from that mill when I first started hunting deer.

Mark: Yeah, right up by the access there.

B; Um hm. And there was slab piles there and sawdust piles there at that time. (long pause) Marcus, he was quite a goer evidently.

Harry: Marcus had... many years he worked at the timber and stuff, didn't he?

Perry: Where we logged in Section 36 of Shamrock, there was an old, they called it Harold Barrett's logging camp, and one of the log building was still there when we were in there in the '60s. It was a pretty nice lookin' log building.

Mark: Down by Round Lake, down in there?

Perry: No, along the Prairie River.

Mark: Oh, Turner.

Wally: 36, is that in the corner of the township?

Mark: Yeah, it's right down here.

Lady: (interrupting) You guys got enough coffee?

Perry: Yes!

(long pause)

Perry: I can't tell you exactly. Hogie could, though, because he's got the maps of where we logged up there.

Wally: He must have had logging tied in with this...

Mark: No, he hasn't been so far, but maybe I should talk to him.

Wally: He knows a lot of the stuff and hearsay, you know.

Harry: That camp was probably in there in the '40s, I would think. The '30s or '40s. We were in there in the '60s and it was just caved in. But the log walls, one log structure was there yet at that time.

Wally: Well, how about...

Mark: You don't know whose camp it was, though?

Harry: Well, they call it Harold Barrett's, so evidently Harold Barrett was the guy that done the loggin' in there.

Wally: How about Ryan, what's his name? He used to live over here. He had a big mill. Remember, with that old 18-horse single cylinder? (unintelligible)

(unintelligible – everyone talking at the same time here)

Perry: Art. Art Ryan?

Wally: Art Ryan.

A No, Clyde Fackler (spelling?)

Wally: No, Art Ryan, I'm talkin about.

A Oh, I didn't know Art ever run a sawmill.

Wally: Oh, yeah. He had one... when we first lived here, off and way over there.

Harry: When I was little, Clyde Fackler had one...

Wally: Well, that was a portable...

Harry: Yeah, he had a portable, but I think that was...

Perry: The thing that stuck in my mind about that Harold Bare's camp, it was right in a stand of beautiful white pine and Norway, and there was this little – you could just picture when it was being used, you know, with these nice, tall pines around it, and that

little log building sittin' there. I can see it in my mind just as clear as... with the snow comin' out of the chimney. (chuckles)

Wally: How did they survive that?

Perry: I think there was even a horse barn there yet, where you could make out where they kept the horses and where they had the shack.

Mark: You don't know what year or anything that could possible be?

Perry: I have no idea, but I would say it was, had to be in the '40s, I would guess, but it was still log walls standing there in the '60s. '30s or '40s, somewhere in there.

Wally: Must have been in the '30s.

Perry: And what they were takin' outta there, I have no idea, because it was logged pine in that country, but there was still a lot of it left around the buildings.

Mark: What about maybe some of the old resorts? Some of those that aren't in existence anymore?

Wally: Locke's (sound like, can't make it out) is...

Perry: Well, resorts, I can tell you about quite a few of the resorts. Shady Oaks don't exist anymore. That's right across from your mill. And that...

Harry: Breezy Bluff was just down the road.

Perry: Yeah. Breezy Buff was where your grandfather built that log... way down log cabin, that was...

Harry: That's still standing, in pretty good shape yet. Still a bit of livin' in it.

Mark: So that Shady Oaks was where Gordan's is there, somewhere in there?

Harry: Shady Oaks would be right on the lake here across from the mill.

Mark: Oh, right there.

Harry: Right on the lake.

Perry: Good grief, there must have been what – 40, 50 resorts?

Wally: About 35.

Harry: Was there?

Perry: And I think there's only about four left. Aitkin Lake, Ole's, and Gilchrist's... Tower Pines was one of the bigger resorts that sold out one cabin at a time. My dad, he was in it for 40 years, in the resort business.

Harry: ...before Tower Pines got in it, wasn't she?

Perry: Last time I had anything to do with the resort business was about '57, and we separated the property and relatives took over then.

Wally: Your Uncle Frank had a resort.

Perry: Yeah, he's... this Lunge (pronounced LUN-GEE with a hard G, not sure of spelling) he called that, and then Julia run that until they passed away and the county took

over and then, I don't know, but the guy who owned it last, he just passed away this last January. His name was Francis (can't make out the last name). And Andy (or Auntie?) Linch's father had that. Mr. and Mrs. Don Linch, and Andy Linch – it was her father who owned the resort that my uncle had.

Wally: That was in later years, though.

Perry: Oh, yeah. I think my uncle passed away in the '40s. '42 or '43.

Mark: What year did that Shady Oaks start?

Perry: Oh, I think they just slotted up those cabins and they had about five or six of them cabins. Turnroad's (not sure of spelling) owned some of 'em and they sold out to (can't make out the name). I can't remember the peoples' name that run it, exactly, but they were real aggressive when it come to running a resort.

Mark: That was probably in the '30s or '20s?

Perry: Oh, no, this was in the '40s and '50s.

Wally: We gotta get J.C. Hill in there somewhere.

Perry: You betcha! J.C. Hill was one of the pioneers in the resort business!

Wally: Well, I can remember when he built his!

Perry: I can remember him...

Wally: I can remember him puttin' electricity right out there, and we all got it after that.

Perry: He didn't want anybody else to be able to tie onto that electric line but him.

Wally: But they made it!

Mark: Where was that at?

Perry: Right where it's at today. Hill Crest Resort.

Mark: Oh, OK.

Wally: That was Hill Crest. There wasn't even a road in there when he started that.

Mark: What year was that?

Wally: Oh, boy...

Perry: I'd say it must have been 1921. That old J.C. built that...

Wally: It was later that that, Perry, because I remember it. Would that be right around (unintelligible)?

Perry: Maybe not. Because it was.

Harry: You'd have been nine years old. 11 years old.

Wally: Yeah, I know, but I can remember it quite well. I remember 'em makin' that road in there and getting' the power out there to that. Nobody had power out here until after that.

Perry: That was the old McGregor utilities that he brought in. He brought it in and sat the store here, and he figgered he owned it all the way down because he paid for it. The

DMU (?) didn't seem to think so. At that time, they just put the (unintelligible) in, and they paid for material and the poles, and...

Wally: It isn't that far (unintelligible), didn't we? No, I know we didn't.

Perry: I don't think the power...

Wally: Ma had that old Maytag with the gasoline engine on it, she got when you guys were born.

Perry: Most of these places...

Harry: As long as I remember, we had power. I never...

Wally: Well, yeah. By the time you realized it, we had it.

Perry: Is any of these old land developers of any interest to the community? Like Willett, that used to own all what we call the Big Island up there now?

Wally: Indian Point.

Perry: CYC, or Indian Point. He owned the whole thing, you know. And he sold it. He was a developer. And Willett at one time, owned what is the (unintelligible) now. He's one of the founders. Your uncle...

Wally: Our uncle built it. Don Ekelund.

Perry: ...built it, and...

Mark: Was Isle View an earlier resort?

Perry: Yeah. (unintelligible) for quite some time.

Wally: I was tryin' to think of the name of the first buy I remember, was a Clark.

Perry: Bill Clark.

Wally: Bill Clark was the first one I remember.

Harry: ...the Narrows goin' off to Windsors. Johnson's. Ponderosa Point, before you hit the Narrows.

Wally: That's an old-timer there.

Mark: Straight up in here. (pointing to map?)

Harry: (unintelligible) every once in awhile.

Wally: They did a couple of times. Jewel (that's what it sounds like) Clark.

Harry: He was here last summer once. I told him to come down and see us. But he never did.

Mark: And that Isle View was what year was that, approximately?

Perry: Seems like the way everything sounds, things start goin' in the '30s.

Mark: Yeah.

Wally: Yeah. Most of 'em did.

Perry: Wasn't much before that.

Harry: Some of them cabins are still standin' up there, I think. He rebuilt them... I guess most of 'em...

Perry: Grampa bought his land somewhere around 1910, and there wasn't nothing.

Wally: Well, he bought a lot of it out there. He kept a lot of resorts from goin' in.

Perry: There was nothing else around there.

Harry: He had several sections, didn't he?

Perry: Two hundred and some acres there on the lake (unintelligible).

Harry: He bought it directly from the railroad, the way I understood it.

Perry: Yup.

Harry: And then Phil (?) developed it, developed a lot of that land.

Wally: Well, Pa and Phil...

Harry: My folks bought from your folks when they come to this country. You said you lived in Hopkins for awhile. That's where my father... My father, where he lived, worked for Avery Tractor Company in Hopkins before he moved up here.

Perry: ...landing sites. Mill sites out on Sandy Lake, too, that we don't...

Wally: There's no question about that.

Perry: ... so it had to be...

Wally: Before our time, I mean...

Perry: I know where there is an old log dump where they dumped logs in the Prairie River.

Mark: Yeah, where is that?

Perry: Behind (unintelligible)

Wally: There's one right here! Between (unintelligible). There was evidence of it when we built here.

Perry: Well, this was a high bank there, and Ed said that's where they dumped the logs so they could get a big pile there for the journey down the river.

Mark: Right in here someplace?

Perry: There's a section corner right by that.

Harry: It's a possibility, let's see...

Perry: That map's pretty small.

Wally: Just for old people, Perry! These young guys can look good, look at it good! (laughs)

Perry: Yeah, we gotta go over here.

Harry: Well, that don't help much either. Do you use a magnifying glass with yours ever?

Wally: If I had one, I would. But I can't read anymore, you know, so I... I can't read anymore.

Perry: Are you having trouble?

Wally: Well, I lost that when I had that stroke.

Perry: I didn't know.

Wally: If you tell me, I can write it. Write anything I wanna! And an hour later I can't read it.

Mark: Some of those little lakes they don't show up. Straight north of island, up in there?

Perry: You feel pretty good, though?

Wally: Now I do. I (unintelligible) by the river. There's a hump in the river, and up at the end of that...

Perry: Right there, and in there's...

Wally: I lay awake most all night, every night.

Perry: ...in this area here somewheres. Because there's a post in there somewhere. It's what they called they called the High Landing, all the old-timers called it the High Landing. And the road was, when I first started out, in there was a nice, open road.

Wally: How come I remember that, I don't think I ever been there.

Perry: Oh, yeah. You was up there.

Wally: At High Landing.

Perry: They always called that High Landing Road, you know, goin' in there. It run right by Madden Lake, the road did.

Mark: And that was just a log dumping area?

Perry: Yeah.

Wally: It makes you wonder how they got them logs to go down there after they dumped all that stuff! (laughs)

Harry: They cut them dams loose and the whole floodwaters took everything with it when it went down.

Perry: Mrs. Berry (?) was tellin' us at school one time, Harry (unintelligible) about them floatin' the logs across Sandy Lake. I don't know who did that. But they had regular log things they used and kind of a little steamboat to pull logs across Sandy Lake at Libby, and that's what must have been where they was sawin' them over there at Libby there.

Wally: They took 'em by boat.

Perry: Down the river, too.

Wally: Yeah, they sent 'em down the river, too.

Harry: They had a big...

Wally: You gotta put this joke in there someplace in your writings.

Mark: OK.

Wally: My dad told about two big lumber mills over in Aitkin. The Pine Tree lumber mill and the big one – what’s the name? –

Perry: Weyerhauser?

Wally: Weyerhauser. They each had a mill there. And Pa and another guy were over there one day and they were watchin’ and there’s takin’ logs out at this Pine Tree outfit, and every once in awhile a Weyerhauser log’d come up the chute. And Pa, or one of ‘em, said, “I thought you had a watchman down here watching for their logs!” He says, “They do!” He said they give him five dollars a day, and we give him ten! (big laughs from everyone)

Mark: Gettin’ a few extra logs!

Wally: But that was quite the big mills over there then.

Harry: Well, I like my story that Clark Walker (or Watkin?) told me about goin’ to the last log booms that went across Sandy Lake.

Wally: Oh, him and Harold?

Harry: Him and Harold.

Wally: Oh, yes, yes! (laughing) Yeah, that was pretty funny, too!

Mark: Well, we’ll have to (unintelligible) that one.

Harry: Clark said, we come around Menser’s (?) Point there, with this old 22-horse outboard on an old barge, and pullin’ this boom of logs, and from around the corner of Menser’s, and there was a pretty heavy wind blowin’, and we got into them big waves. And that dang old barge broke up, and down she went. He said, I swam to shore and I got drugged out on the shore and Jesus! That was a tough way for old Harold to go, the poor guy can’t swim, and about that time, he says Here comes Harold walkin’ out of the lake with that 22-horse motor on his back! (big laughs from everyone!) Darrell told it to me for a fact, and he said he was there! And Darrell had said that he had to take that motor off and hold on his back until he could walk on the bottom. (laughs)

Wally: I had a motor like that, I had it layin’ out here in the garage one time, and Harold come, and he looked in and he saw that, and he got pretty excited. He said “God! You got one of them!” he said. “Don’t EVER sell that thing to anybody!” (laughs)

Mark: See, he had a sawmill down there by Sadler’s (?), didn’t he?

Harry: Yup, that was the one I was talkin’ about earlier, but that had to come in there after the war in the late ‘40s.

Wally: The first part of the war, I think, about then.

Harry: Maybe while we were gone.

Wally: I think so.

Harry: That’s right. Across (unintelligible)

Wally: Yeah.

Harry: And he probably bought it from whoever...

Mark: And that's right by Sadler's there?

Harry: Yeah, that'd be right where the gift shop is, that's where the sawmill was. He had quite a mill there for awhile. I remember. Lots of log piles around there.

Wally: Well, in those days it was a fair sized outfit.

Perry: (unintelligible) Had one out there by the road, didn't he? And of course Dick Johnson had his little mill up there at the other end of the field. Those little mills were just all over.

Harry: The woods was full of 'em.

Mark: How about in Minnewawa? Well, you were tellin' me that (unintelligible) forfeited a couple of years ago, that old Moose Lodge over there? Past Greenwood there?

Perry: Past Greenwood.

Wally: (laughs) (unintelligible) in here!

Perry: Wouldn't that be fun!

Harry: You gonna (unintelligible) me, Mark? (unintelligible) I can't stand havin' this sittin' here beside me.

Mark: I can't think... there was a lodge there, and the lodge is still there.

Perry: Oh, ah... Greenwood Lodge. No, Greenwood Lodge and then the, oh, ah...

Mark: I think it began with an S. Over in Minnewawa past Greenwood there.

Perry: There was Timber Shores, but no, I'm tryin' to think... Seavey. Seavey had a dance hall years ago right on the beach there.

Harry: Retreat?

Wally: Oh, the old Retreat (?).

Mark: And that was right by Shishibe Store there?

Wally: No.

Harry: North of the old store that Gustafson had. But up on the side of that hill, was there kind of a big lodge, what was that – the Nutkah?

Wally: That was in later years.

Harry: Yeah, but what was the name of that part of it, too? That wasn't the same, was it? Who had that? Wally, we oughta remember that. Who owned that place before they got it.

Wally: I can see the guy standing there, Harry, but I can't get his name.

Harry: He was pretty well-to-do, wasn't he? Some kind of a business man or something, had that place.

Wally: Yeah. Thought he was a big shot, I don't know if he was.

Harry: They probably were, but nobody probably created any more...

Perry: Well, some things can slip outta your mind.

Harry: Attention, and I thought I knew them pretty well. Those land developers, they developed the whole part of Shishibe and that...

Wally: Tindales.

Harry: Tindales, yeah. I think they owned many (unintelligible) at one time.

Mark: That Retreat, that was right up north of the old Shishibe Store.

Harry: Yeah, it was between Timber Shores and the Shishibe Store, er the...

Perry: Just about midway between...

Harry: They had a big dance hall there.

Mark: What year did that start?

Harry: Oh, that must have been...

Wally: It was goin' strong in 1940, I know that!

Harry: It must have been there in the early '30s.

Wally: Yeah, the '30s.

Harry: They had a big, big ice house out there at one time. It was just a huge, huge ice house. Of course, they tore it all down. But that was right close to that Retreat dance hall. They had two stories there. You'd go upstairs to dance with the girls there.

Wally: Um hm.

Harry: And downstairs to drink. There was quite a building. And then, of course, I don't think there's anything was saved. Then the dance hall business was any bigger then... (unintelligible)

Perry: But you couldn't serve drinks in a dance hall at one time. Couldn't take a drink up there to the dance.

Wally: You couldn't in the Pleasure Palace either. They had a separate bar, you had to go in there.

Harry: Separate rooms. That's why they were so delighted the dance pavilion was made into a tavern. But they tore that Retreat all down. That don't exist anymore.

Perry: Lots of fun there.

Harry: I guess probably another generation started there, maybe too!

Perry: We did, I know that! (lots of laughs)

Mark: When was Carefree built? You were tellin' me someone else sold it before that.

Harry: Oh, yeah, Carefree was originally owned by Theodore Vickie (?). Yeah, Theodore Vickie musta bought Carefree sometime between 1915 and '20, and they didn't call it Carefree at that time, they called it the White Lake Resort, because they bought a generator and they, they heard that the highway was gonna come through, so they put that

generator house up on the hill so they could get a little more free land there, and a well up there. But he had that (unintelligible) then, (unintelligible) place and everything, and lost it and uh, I can't remember, I think it was Everett Hanson...

Wally: Everett Hanson was the first one who really had a resort there.

Harry: He bought it from the bank or from somebody there. He started up, and he done a lot, but it was Stringhams (?) that built the big hotel there. They were the ones that really put the money into it.

Wally: Well, of course, that's the way this (unintelligible) went. Lambert made good money when he was there, for what he needed. But when Stringhams got it, they couldn't make a livin' on it anymore, so they had to build more.

Harry: And then Johnson started with that Birch Grove over there, and he really developed that into a quite a resort. And that all went by the wayside, too. He even bought old Satler's homestead there and everything, and got the whole point there before he passed away. Al Johnson. But that was in the '30s that he must have bought that, Johnson did. Developed that...

Wally: No, that...

Harry: Later?

Wally: Yeah, that Frank Rice had that.

Harry: Yeah, Rice had it first.

End of Side A

Side B

Wally: I don't remember much (unintelligible). I would get you it's 30 somethin'.

Harry: They put the dam in what, '14 or '15?

Wally: I don't know, I wasn't around then.

Perry: I hardly remember, I can just vaguely remember goin' up there and seein' that thing, where you'd go out and...

Wally: I had a ride on that up in Minneapolis.

Perry: I don't know. Grandpa come up on one of them side-wheelers. They said that... Bill Russ told me that Holman, that was his wife's parents. That moved all the lumber for that frame house on Holman's (unintelligible)...Resort there, what do you call it now? And they built that there and there was no way that they could've got that in there, it had to be shipped in from the river. All that lumber come down the lake on one of them paddle-wheelers. And they unloaded it there, and old man Holman built that frame house there. And at that time, that house stood there for quite a few years before there was ever a road there. The only way you could get to that place was by boat.

Wally: I can remember that. When that house was there and no road to it.

Perry: No road to it, no. At that time it was a nice frame house with siding and stuff on it. It was really...

Mark: It was impressive.

(everyone talking at once)

Perry: All the houses were supposed to be log houses then. A lot of logs were available, and they made the best walls for the houses, but most of 'em never had any insulation in the roofs. You always tell whether they had...

Wally: There's more coffee there if you guys are so inclined!

Woman: You got the tape recorder on?

Perry: Yeah, it's still running. Another half hour anyway, I suppose.

Wally: What?

Woman: I was going to ask if you and Pete talked to anybody around Palisade or did you go that far?

Mark: Well, we got areas that we're doin'. We're splittin' it up. So Grimmsborough's (?) did a bunch of stuff in that Palisade area. I haven't seen it yet, but...

Woman: (Unintelligible) was an old guy. He talks about the old days all the time, his name is Leo Scott.

Mark: Leo Scott – I'll write that down.

Woman: He lives right behind the liquor store.

Mark: OK.

Harry: That'd make a good talker outta anybody!

Wally: (chuckling) Liquor store?

Woman: (unintelligible) someplace.

Perry: All these people that earn a livin' in this country, they couldn't possibly ran today underneath the same circumstances. Got too many government regulations. Makes it (unintelligible).

Harry: Changing times.

Perry: It certainly is. Thinkin' of that the other night and (unintelligible) certainly is a difference in the way things are done. Unbelievable.

Harry: I went up there to Don Kurtz and they had pines as big as this table, you know, and in the old days, geez, we'd struggle with them and they go up there and pick up this one or that, and on a (unintelligible) truck. Nothing to it, you know. It's unreal. Don said they don't look near as big on that truck (laughs) as they do when I was cuttin' 'em!

Mark: Yeah.

Wally: I got some pictures of one like that, Harry, and I got it in here, of cuttin' that down and gettin' it up to the sawmill. You remember when we sawed over there and that guy in Aitkin sawed for us, (unintelligible)? Up north of Tamarack. But anyhow, I had that one pine and that thing – I never got it off the ground! We skidded it to the sawmill and rolled it up on the skidway, and he sawed it.

Perry: I also remember a lot of the things that went on about these sawmills. Your dad, one time, told you boys, he said Look at that, boys, he said, I got all five of 'em and I hope I keep 'em the rest of my life. He said, I hope you do the same. And then you think about old Earl cuttin' all his fingers and everything off in them sawmills, they're dangerous! But...

Wally: Well, of course Earl done everything that way.

Perry: Yeah, well...

Wally: He just jumped in and looked later.

Harry: You have an old hobby horse over there, don't you? Or where'd that go? I knew of him, I knew he had a sawmill over there by Deerwood someplace, and anyway I heard he got his hands in the saw and I met him at an auction one day. And he had this mitt over his hand. And I said, How did your hand turn out, Dale? Not too good, he said, and he pulled that mitt off his hand and I almost passed out! Lookin' at it, Jesus, what an ugly mess he had there! He says, He wish I had 'em cut the thumb off, because all it is in the way. But it was all purple, you know, and all scars and most of the fingers were either chopped off or gone, and he was settin' his saw with the saw running, and got pinned to the saw. Which ah, about 75% of the guys that lose fingers, that's what they were doin'. But they still do it!

Wally: I saw (sounds like Buck Foster) just about lose his arm in Pa's mill one time. Remember that old sawdust conveyor he had? Well, Buck was down there tryin' to clean that out, and he was pokin' with a stick, and the saw was running. (unintelligible) when I saw that, I just got petrified, I couldn't hardly holler at him. But I didn't dare holler, 'cause I's afraid he'd jump or somethin' – but oh, that was close!

Perry: Yup, they were dangerous.

Harry: Well, you know, I told you I was sawin with Harvey and George over here, and one of them two-by-fours come back, jumped on the saw and come back across (unintelligible) he never felt (unintelligible). I can still remember there was that little sawmill down by the north end of the airport, and uh, I think his name was Simpson, and he was (unintelligible) there and he got killed by a two-by-four.

Wally: That was up by the twins' mill. Out by Jerry (unintelligible)'s deer camp. Hit him in the chest!

Harry: Yeah, I was there, and I went over and tried to save him.

Wally: Bill Simpson.

Harry: Oh, he was...

Perry: There's a lot of that sawmill stuff that was really... a lot of people made their livings outta there, but a lot of people lost their lives. And look at all the people that have lost their lives in the woods. The Leeds – the Leed family, when they first moved to the country here, we was all goin' to school... Fern, and Falice and Freeland and Fain (?) and Ferry (?) – every one of 'em had an F for their first name! And he got killed, I think it was here in the early '20s, a popple tree fell on him.

Wally: It didn't kill him, either. He froze to death.

Perry: Yes, he froze to death, but...

Wally: He had a big spot called up where he tried to claw himself outta there.

Perry: Oh, it was all these people that...

Mark: When was that?

Wally: We was goin' to grade school up at Belmore (?).

Mark: When was that school built? Belmore?

Perry: '48.

Mark: '48?

Perry: I think there was a thing snapped on the bolt of the chute, the coal chute door, on the south side of the building, it said 1948 on it if you look on it.

Mark: That's goin' to be tore down pretty quick.

Wally: Yeah. My old stompin' grounds!

Perry: Well, you know after they fixed that, insulated that, it's a shame to tear it down. Why is it they were all 12 foot ceilings in those buildings, I can't imagine that. They had a different way of doin' it.

Wally: Nobody knows nowadays, Perry!

Perry: They wouldn't build a 12 foot ceiling in a building now they're gonna have school in.

Harry: Well, architects were doin' stuff in them days, too. Just to please the architect!

Wally: Oh, yeah. Raise the price! You get more money out of it.

Harry: That building is a good, sound brick building yet today, isn't it?

Wally: No, it needs a terrible lot of work. And it ain't worth it! What do you do when you get it fixed, you know?

Harry: Well, every one of them school buildings. That one's the left one standing north (unintelligible) are all gone, and tore down.

Wally: Where do we go from here, Mark?

Mark: Go wherever you want!

Wally: (laughs)

Mark: It's pretty wide open. Gee I'd like to get the name of that place that lodge over there sits up on the hill, bunch of pine there. And you told me what it was last, because it forfeited back to the county. There was a lodge there, big long lodge there.

Wally: Where's this?

Mark: Over on Minnewawa. Past Greenwood, goin' towards the point out there.

Wally: Oh, you don't mean Pleasant Point?

Mark: It could be.

Wally: That was a long, long... they had rooms there and they served meals and...

Mark: It could be, but there was a name attached to it. Began with an S or something. It always sticks in my mind, because they forfeited to the county and we were gonna sell it and forfeiture wipes out all liens, you know. The bank can't come back or anything if there's a lien against it. But the IRS had a lien on it.

Wally: That's worse. (laughs)

Mark: They took and they sold it right in the lobby of the courthouse on oral bids, right out there in the hallway.

Perry: This is when Upgard (?), the restaurant in there, what the heck did they call that?

Mark: I thought you told me it was like an old Moose lodge or somethin' there. A private lodge.

Harry: Where could you go over there to get the history of that...

Perry: It was up on the hill, it was up on the hill from, ah...

Wally: It was either before me or just lately...

Harry: Well, I'm tryin' to think of some old-time people out there, and I can't think of any of the old-time people left out there.

Wally: Well, that old resort, what is it there...

Harry: Gerlach? Gerlach's.

Wally: That old store, Gerlach's store. But Greenwood Lodge, that's an old, old thing!

Harry: Yeah, but you know that's been sold a dozen times, and there's no old-timers out there that I know of. People that were there in the '30s, like we have been.

Perry: What did they call that – your mother call that there lodge out there from Shishibe, where that dance hall was? Where...

Harry: That's what I was tryin' to think of. Who had that, what would... They called it the Retreat, and they had it as a resort.

Wally: (unintelligible) used to be the Retreat.

Harry: And they called that the Retreat up there when they run it. It wasn't the Retreat, that was owned by some... and he had somebody caretakers live there all the time. I knew them caretakers.

Wally: I knew him real well.

Perry: Was that (sounds like Book-in-ama, phonetically)?

Harry: I can't think of that.

Perry: Buchinama was a foreign name, and that...

Wally: Yeah, but not so much in that area.

Mark: You guys are talkin' before about the Indian ricing camps. Were they down by Warner's down in there, or were they all over the place?

Wally: Right out there was one, over on the Flow Road. One right down here east of the church, and there was one up on Warner's field, when they had Warner's old field.

Mark: You'll have to help me here with the location.

Harry: ...up here on the north ridge bed.

Perry: The one's on the north end of the rice bed, and one's on the left in the rice beds.

Harry: This don't even look like the lake! (looking at the map) Who made this?!
(laughs)

Wally: Try workin' with it, eh, Mark? (laughs)

Mark: Ok, We're here.

Harry: That would have been one rice camp down in this hole here, and then there probably was one over on this... this is Warner's Point here. And there was one on that side. And there probably was more of 'em. But these were on this north rice bed here.

Wally: Well, there were...

Harry: Then the Eckert woods should be just north of the...

Wally: Right on Frank Sand's old place. Them pits were still in there.

Harry: At that time, they dug a hole in the ground and...

Perry: See, this was the big rice bed. (unintelligible) in there now. It was there. And they probably had camps over here. We don't know about those. That was way across the lake.

Wally: Well, I know they had some down on the east end. That's all done with (unintelligible) rice.

Harry: Sam's would have to be part of that south end camp.

Wally: That's where they riced, yeah.

Harry: Because that's boggy all the way down the south, so that...

Perry: Such a... such a difference in that rice thing, too, you know. I can still remember old (phonetically RAM-PEL-ANDS) and his family. There was a whole family of 'em over there, the owners, and they give Warner's rice for the right to live there. And they wouldn't move outta there, even after the rice was all gone. Because they just liked livin' there. And ah, the old man would throw tobacco on the water, and he'd pray to the gods about this rice, and you know, they'd rice for months, and they'd have trails in there, and they wouldn't let anybody go into that rice field until the dew was done off 'em. Now when they open have a rice season, it's all beaten, gone in two days.

Wally: (laughs) Three hours and it's gone!

Perry: It's changing now.

Harry: This is what... impressed me now, when we're talkin' about these sort of things, that the Indians, when they had the management of the rice, they rice quality was really good. And now it's just... they harvest it (unintelligible) and it's just a dried up little

black thing. It isn't that big, long grain kernel that used to... when they let it get ripe, and...

Perry: I'm sure some of that (unintelligible) rice...

Wally: I'll tell ya somethin' Perry, you'll so wrong on this, you wouldn't believe it!

Perry: Is that right?

Wally: They're gettin' rice today that's superior to what you're thinkin' of.

Perry: Well, it was good rice.

Harry: They're takin' care of the rice now.

Wally: Yeah. Now they're takin' care of it again.

Mark: What was that last year that they had those camps there, probably?

Harry: I am sure it was when Wally was in school.

Perry: I think they still (unintelligible) in 1950 after World War II with them things.

Harry: I don't remember it myself, I can't.

Wally: I still have that... (unintelligible) for a long time.

Perry: I think the big thing would be in 19...

Harry: They camped there, I remember, when I was a kid, but I don't remember (unintelligible), but maybe they did.

Perry: '25 to '40 was...

Wally: Don't you remember them drums going all night long?

Harry: No.

Wally: Oh, that's before you time then.

Harry: That's some pretty good lookin' rice.

Wally: Well, I hope to tell you that's pretty good.

Harry: Another just a little bit of history. When my dad come up here with his folks to their cabin, Pa said he remembers wakin' up one morning and his father went out in the yard and the Indians were out there with a hind leg of venison. And they come to trade for coffee and flour. And Pa said Grandpa didn't want the venison so bad, but he didn't want to hurt the Indian's feelings, so he took their venison and traded 'em coffee and sugar and whatever they wanted for it. So that shows you how things have changed from the time our family come here to now.

Mark: That was probably in the early '20s?

Harry: It was before that.

Mark: Even before that.

Harry: Yeah. Pa said he was thirteen years old. That was 1910.

Mark: Oh. Way back.

Harry: Yeah, that goes back a ways.

Perry: I wonder sometimes, when I was real little, probably eight, nine years old, the family lived on the north end of (can't make this out, sounds like Bill Horner), name was Barney – Joe Barney? Bill has a big family of daughters. And one of the girls married a man by the name of Martin? And that's where all these Martins come from. Most of 'em are outlaws! But anyway, Joe was an honest old Indian. His dad had just bought this new Model T truck, and one day Joe come to my dad, and he wanted to know if he could, if he could help him with the truck. He had a truckin' job he wanted done. So dad was busy tryin' to build a house! And he didn't have much time. So dad said, yeah, he'd help him. So he went and cranked up the truck and they went down on the highway, down 65, and right about where the (sounds like Strassfer) Station is now, out on that Pine Island out in there, Joe went ahead and a big buck that he killed, and he wanted to haul that home! Haul that deer home for him. This was in July. So dad hauled the deer home for him, and all Joe told dad, he said, I'll pay you later. So one morning about six o'clock in the morning, there was a knock on the front door, and mother went to the door, she was afraid of Joe. But anyway, he threwed a hind quarter on the front step and said, "Here's your pay!" So he paid pretty good! Yeah, yeah. But all those Indians were really... the old-timers were really nice people. Some of the ancestors were different, but that's true with everybody, I guess.

Wally: I gotta tell Mark now about Paul and Phil and the goose! (chuckles) They'd just come up to this country – talk about old times – and seen this Indian old Joe Barney walkin' down the road one day. And he was carrying a bird. And Phil says, "Hey, Joe! Give you fifty cents for that goose!"

"OK" and he handed it over. So they took it home and they cooked it for about two days with (unintelligible), and couldn't get nothin' out of it, and finally (sounds like Graf) Warner come over one day and they were tryin' to get it tender, and he said, "You guys will never get that bird tender, that's a loon!"

"Well, that son of a gun!" Phil said. "He sold me that for a goose!" He seen old Joe a week or so later, and said, "Say, Joe!" he said. "That bird you sold me was a loon, that wasn't a goose!"

He says, "Didn't say it was a goose – you did!" (lots of laughter)

Mark: I suppose you couldn't argue about it! (laughing) Well, that was back, I s'pose how many years back... Joe Barney?

Perry: Old Joe was livin' down there I'm sure...

Harry: In the late teens. Probably 1915 to 1925.

Perry: I can remember him.

Harry: Yeah, he died over at Sawyer, pickin' blueberries, from heart trouble.

Mark. Hm.

Perry: There had been an Indian camp out on Ponderosa Point.

Wally: Well, there was Indians lived there when Pa was drivin' the schoolbus, you know. Right across from Ness's there.

Perry: When you talked about the drums... he talks about the drums when they were up there.

Mark: Way on the end of the point?

Perry: Somewhere, I don't know where...

Wally: Well, they were along that point, yeah. But they lived right in a village there, right across from where the Ness's are. On the (sounds like Bellworn) side.

Perry: That's where Joe and the family lived.

Wally: And the Martins lived there.

Perry: All that time (unintelligible). (Laughs)

Mark: ... get that from the Sandy Lake Band.

Wally: No doubt.

Perry: They probably don't remember it.

Mark: Well, they probably didn't have a lot. Well, I know that a lot of the stuff that they had, they got from my grandpa, I think. Because he had all that stuff. (unintelligible) that was a lot of it.

Harry: They wouldn't remember about that stuff, I am sure, these Indians today. What do they care where their grandpa was, you know? Pa remembers, because it was impressive to him. Maybe that...

Wally: I can still remember them down there at (unintelligible) when they were icing. All during icing season, almost every night.

Perry: Pa tells the story about Tim and Tom (?) goin' along the lakeshore there, and they found a old musket rifle in a little cave along the lake there, and they took it home with 'em. And he said he got to bed that night, and them drums start beatin' on the end of that point, and he went, "Oh! They found out we stole that gun and they're comin' after us!" He couldn't sleep all night! (Laughs)

Mark: That was, probably in the teens.

Perry: Yeah, that was in before the twenties, for sure. '15, maybe even between...

Harry: Well, a lot of them older Indians like (sounds like Ko-Kas) and the old timers, they were different Indians then.

Wally: You must remember (unintelligible). No, you were probably too young to remember old Charlie Kokas. He used to walk up there on the north end of Sandy Lake into MacGregor, just as stiff as a ramrod about 90 years old!

Mark: I remember...

Perry: It's gettin' to be everything I knew I'm startin' to forget! Somebody say Rosie's still livin'?

Wally: That's right. I think she's (unintelligible).

Harry: Yeah, Claudia's still in there. But Rosie was a lot better than Pete was. She was definitely a lot better.

Mark: I suppose over on Round Lake there'd been some resort (unintelligible). Anderson...

Wally: Yeah. There was, ah, three of 'em over there at one time. In fact, I think... But (sounds like Anders Susan) right on the road there.

Perry: Still runnin'.

Wally: Then the ones back in there, what the heck was their names that run that?

Perry: (sounds like Pokewana) Shores?

Wally: Yeah.

Harry: What was it before it was Pokewana? I think the Ayres named is Pokewana? They were recent history.

Wally: I don't remember. All I know is there was a resort there.

Harry: Phil (sounds like Barretts) started Whispering Pines, didn't he?

Wally: Yup, yup.

Mark: When was that?

Harry: Again in the '30s?

Wally: Oh, yeah. Early '30s.

Harry: I think Ernie must have been the first place over there, old John Anderson had all that land in there on that north side...

Wally: Well, I wouldn't bet that he was before... before Phil Barretts. Phil.

Harry: Had to be some schools over in that country, too. But the Barretts' first settlement was on the south side of Horseshoe Lake. I'm sure there's ah, had to be some schools around there somewhere. Can't think of where it would have been.

Wally: I try to picture the old road that...

Harry: Can you remember the road where Leif Johnson's to over where the church is now? Across the bridge there? That must be all growed up now. (Laughs)

Wally: Oh, yeah.

Harry: That was farther away. We used that road all the time. Before they built these other roads.

(Unintelligible)

Perry: We got many logging sites, though.

Wally: This wasn't much of a logging community, really.

Perry: Sure, very early it was!

Wally: I think that Weyerhaeuser went through the area and wiped it all out and that's was it.

Harry: ...or even our parents' memory.

Mark: ...they come up the river...

Wally: Well. Oh yeah, they wiped this out the first day.

Harry: In fact, Jess said when they moved in up there to the Barretts place, it was all stripped. You could see all the way from Charley Anderson's to Ed Barretts. There was nothing there. And that's where these people got their land, after the (unintelligible) nothing so they sold it cheap.

Perry: There's a big pine stump down there, on that lot north of our house there. It was over six feet across. It rotted away finally, but it took probably 20 years for it to rot away. But it was fairly fresh when we first come, so it must have been cut around 1910 or 19... it must have been a white pine. And how they got that tree outta there, I don't know, because that tree was about twice the size of... it must have been six or eight feet across that... you know, right across.

Wally: It must have been a beautiful country in those days!

Harry: There was a time when I wouldn't have believed there was six feet white pine, but I believe it now, because I've seen five feet stuff up on the north shore.

Wally: Remember where Val (unintelligible) logged up there at Goodland that time? (unintelligible) was there, Pa was sawin' for us, but anyway on that place there was a bunch of those huge... this would be a small one the size of this table.

Harry: There's some up there in that country, yeah, north of Wolf Lake, up in there, too. Them old stumps are still sittin' up there, you know. Stumps.

Perry: How they got... how did they move them logs?

Harry: Oh, I tell you. They must have moved it over the hill in to the bay.

Perry: What do you call them things that go-devil? They put one end of the log up on the go-devil, and the team of horses on there, and they moved some pretty...

Wally: Took two teams. They had to.

Perry: They floated them, they got 'em in the water.

Wally: They didn't try not to go very far without havin' water. (chuckles)

Mark: Well, Reuben was sayin'... Burt was sayin' that they saw a log drive on Savannah Lake up there. Later on.

Wally: That was probably that same one that he come across Sandy Lake! (Laughs)

Harry: You could make a story of the beginning to the...

Wally: I would think they'd do the (unintelligible) really.

Perry: Pa tells that one guy that had ta boom the logs, and the price was real poor on 'em, and he took 'em over here in Robinson's Bay, Robertson's Bay, and left 'em there over the winter, and the next spring no price yet, and most of the logs sunk, he said, outta the boom. So they're probably still in that bay.

Wally: They're still in there. You go when that water's nice and clear in the spring, you can see 'em.

Perry: I've often thought of goin' over there and tryin' to find some of 'em, but I'm getting' too old. (laughs)

Mark: Salvage 'em, huh?

Perry: Well, we took some outta the Prairie River when we had our mill up there, and sawed them, and they sawed out nice. It's different. The saw...

Wally: ... good lumber, though.

Perry: ... and there's guys – where was he from? He come to the mill one day. And he's doin' that for a livin' over in Wisconsin. I think it is. And they make paneling out of it. It's a special grade of paneling, 'cause it's old sunken logs.

Harry: ... outta the (unintelligible) River.

Perry: They were pullin' them deadheads out there.

Harry: There was a place... they used to dig 'em out of the river up here, too, the Mississippi.

Mark: Um hm.

Perry: There's a lot of 'em in there.

Wally: Benedict done a lot of that.

Perry: It's surprising there's still logs in the Prairie River.

(unintelligible)

Wally: Oh, yeah.

Perry: I can't help but think that Prairie River was a different river years ago when they were talkin' about all these here people, goin' up there to that park and portage and across there. It would be very difficult to get across some of these places now, with all that downed timber and stuff in there.

Harry: They probably cleaned it out, you know. It got real bad there when all the elms died, that's for sure. It was a jungle then. But Steve and I come down part of that one time, and it was really full. In the fall, you know, and duck season? We didn't see any ducks.

Mark: Down to the portage?

Harry: We were own on (unintelligible) from that bridge in... on that county road north of Wright?

Mark: Oh. All the way back there.

Harry: We put the canoe in there and we come clear down to Burton Anderson's.

Wally: I've went from Burton Anderson's to Sandy Lake once, but I sure wasted a lot of time! I wished I hadn't started.

Harry: You should have been with us on the other side of Burton's! Jesus Cripes, there was a lot of that. Elms had fallen into the river. There was places I didn't think we was gonna make it.

Mark: Well, when you look at when Reuben was showin' me that dam back of his place on Savannah, you know, that isn't much of a river there. They floated logs on that. He set the hoist right back of his house. If you look at the dam, you can still see it there. And that was from way, you know, way back. There's several others of 'em down there. But you can definitely see there's a big mound there that goes all the way across.

Harry: I guess I've seen it. When we were back there spearin' suckers.

Mark: He said he remembered as a kid, after the dam had went out, that it had... every time they'd release the logs (unintelligible) so there's a hole right there, and used to fish crappies down in the hole. Yep, things really change.

Perry: (unintelligible) just take a boat and go from here up to the dam.

Harry: Well, it's amazing, you know, we don't think we've seen much change, but now as I think back, when I first started huntin' deer up there behind Ed's, you could see the high landing road, and you could see the clearing at the high landing, and you know, you could actually see, and now it's nothing but woods. You can't, you gotta know what's there to know you're on it. But, so it's changed that much since, my gosh, we're talkin' 50 years. You know. It hadn't been 50 years since they was drivin' logs down there when I first started out there. It'd probably only been 30 years earlier that they...

Wally: The next 50 years were tougher, though, Harry!

Harry: Or easier, it's all how you look at that!

Perry: People are all makin' their livin' in different ways now. All those people that worked on those resorts are no longer around runnin' resorts, so. There's a lot of people...

Harry: Here, where we're sittin' on this lake, we see the progress as more people, more people. Ruth Thompson, go talk to her, and she sees the change as all the people left that country where she was. There was, I don't know what she said, how many? A hundred voters in Turner Township? Or Cornish? When they were up there? And now, what is there – fourteen? Or something like that, you know. They have all moved out. There were homesteads all over that country. They just peppered all over the woods.

Perry: People aren't livin' on the land, though.

Harry: No, there's nothing there.

Wally: Well, you can't make it there anymore.

Mark: Well, there was 13 or 15 families end of the Balsam Truck Trail there back in there at one time.

Harry: Yeah, that was really a populated little area, right up in there.

Perry: Now it's a tree farm. A tree farm.

Harry: And then there's history back in there.

Wally: Oh, if a guy just had some of that history!

Mark: Well, I got a bit of it!

Harry: Yeah. You can get quite a bit from Portia (?), I'm sure. (unintelligible – someone's name) Heath told about takin' one of the kids that got pneumonia, up by our deer camp, and Harvey lived out, you know, out on the road, and they went in and got the kid, and headed from Tamarack, and he was dead by the time they got to Tamarack. Them kind of stories. They had a lot of sad stories, I tell you.

Wally: Oh, they had hardships in those days.

Harry: A lot of kids didn't make it.

Wally: Somebody said, why did they move out there? I said what's the difference, it was all the same.

Harry: That's all there was for 'em.

Wally: Yeah.

Perry: Chauncey Barrett had a daughter died from diphtheria, I think. When he first come, they lived down on the Bellhorn (?) Bay. West side on the bay just before you turn to go to Hillsberg.

Wally: Right across the road from that corner. Oh, I knew her.

Mark: What were some of the names of the first people that come into Shamrock Township? That you know of?

Harry: That's a heck of a big township, the way the lakes cut it all up.

Mark: Well, at least there you know about. Your dad's... your grandpa...

Harry: Grandpa would have been... Margaret always bragged that he was the first summer resorter on Sandy Lake, which I doubt. But he was one of the first. That come up here and bought a summer place to come up to in the summer.

Perry: Him and Frank (unintelligible) must have been developing at the same time, weren't they?

Wally: Well, Burt Warner wasn't very far behind that.

Harry: Will bought that.

Perry: Minnewawa, that was in the early 1900s.

Wally: Very early.

Perry: Around 1900, I would guess.

Wally: Yes.

Harry: But when they was tryin' to put that road over that hill, there was an article in the Aitkin paper I think in the '20s about that hill there, and something about Errol Burton and Martin Sorenson and much of them that was workin' on that hill, draggin' sand down there to dig that hill out. And I can remember my dad burned the (unintelligible) out on

the Model T Ford, had to back up the hill. It was all straight up and down then. It's a far cry now. They've dug it way down and got a flat top!

Perry: I was at a VFW meeting one night, and one of the Bertram's was sittin' there next to me. And he started talkin' to me, and he said, "I remember your dad," he said, "when we was workin' on the road," he said. And he said, "your dad had the prettiest team on the road job," he said. "Them suckers could really pull a load!" And he talked about them horses like we talk about a guy's truck today, you know. Boy, he's really got a beauty.

Wally: ... friends down here with a team.

Perry: ... he said 'the nicest team. But who was the people that was there when they come? There had to be some names that you remember.

Harry: Who Grandma and Grandpa Ecklund had contact with when we first come. I've heard some of them, but I don't remember.

Perry: (sounds like Dyer)'s had ... Ivan Dyer? They had to be there.

Wally: They had the island. I don't know which one of the Dyers...

Perry: ... one of the early names.

Wally: Glen, and... yeah, they were old-timers here. They used to live right over here, across the river. We went over there for Christmas one time, Cliff and I, that Christmas party, and she would give you a peanut for a kiss! We were out playin' with here, and I was proud, I had a peanut, and Cliff (unintelligible). Cliff was after peanuts! You were after the gifts! (lots of laughter)

Perry: Yeah, it's hard for us to remember the old-timers, 'cause it's ahead of our time.

Wally: Robertson down here must have been pretty close to one of the old timers, where Clyde Johnson lives now.

Mark: Oh.

Wally: There was a little farm there.

Perry: Mrs. Fred (sounds like Huggin) was our school teacher, and they lived down by, down by... oh, George – what was his name? That had the big stucco house?

Harry: (sounds like Eckerbrod).

Perry: Eckerbrod. Then another, the guy was oh, they lived down my Hillcrest, ah, he was French Canadian, I can't remember what their name was. But the people all moved away, and...

Harry: Our Grandpa Warner homesteaded his lakeshore on Lake Minnewawa. He got is by homestead.

Wally: He had a farm there once, I remember.

Harry: I guess you had to prove it was a farm, and he did prove it up, and then he sold it. Lots. I don't know if he sold lots, or if he sold it to somebody else.

Wally: I don't know, but Frank Warner he was mad when he come out of the service and found out he had sold it. Frank wanted to buy it. Told him if he ever decided to sell, to let him know, and he sold it while Frank was in World War I.

Perry: His brother come up here and bought the land. Our grandpa's brother, Will. So Grandpa come up here to work for him and he homesteaded a piece right next to him. And stayed and built cabins on that, a piece for his brother and some other people, and... but that was early times. He come in a covered wagon that first trip. He was in Nebraska. (long pause) Well, I've said enough.

Wally: You could haul lumber in a pickup pretty easy.

Mark: Well, it's all important to somebody, I guess. To somebody, someday, maybe.

Perry: You got the Hammond Mill. That was, no that's not in Chadwick.

Harry: That'd be Turner.

Mark: Yeah, Burt was talkin' about that.

Harry: George sawed for a long time, and Henry sawed a long time.

Perry: We got some little sites scattered all over the brush!

Wally: Oh yes!

Perry:... portable.

Mark: Must have been north of Balsam up in there. (someone's name I can't make out) said somethin' about over by Floodwood.

Perry: Oh, that last loggin' camp. That was right on the refuge land north of Little, ah Big Savannah.

(everyone talking at once)

Perry: No that was up in the bog. Where they were. Cliff had a hell of a truck. When I was hauling pulpwood to Cloquet? And then we wouldn't buck them trees off, and we got down there and them guys were discountin' us because we had too many holes in those.

Harry: (unintelligible)

Perry: They don't (unintelligible)

Harry: By (unintelligible) now.

Mark: Where was that? Big Savannah.

Perry: They were on the refuge land on this side of Big Savannah. Unorganized. Must have been unorganized. It wasn't too far from the ditch...

Mark: The new head boom? This is the old one.

Perry: We went from there to Floodwood, and from there into Cloquet. But them little ton-and-a-half trucks didn't haul nothin' like that truck up there. That was a nice load of wood (unintelligible).

Mark: Must have been bought in '30.

Perry: It was a mile north of Savannah on...

(all talking at once)

There was a little creek there. A campsite... Let's see, what is...

Wally: I'll tell you one thing. You finally have to give (unintelligible)

(unintelligible – all talking at once)

End of Side A