

The following transcript of
Bernard Scharf's interview

on

Memories and Music

(broadcast June 10, 1979)

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"MEMORIES & MUSIC"
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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE: Bernard Scharfe - 1919
 POSITION: 1) Hockey player 2) Handy man
 DATE: June the 10th 3) Airforce pilot
 INTERVIEWER: Bert Meredith 4) Retired Inco Employee

TAPE NO: 111
 TRANS.: Raymonde Lafortune
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THEME: - family background
 - sports
 - the Depression years
 - a pioneer of Waters Township.

B.M. Thank-you Doug. My special guest on Memories & Music today is none other than that busy happy man from out Naughton way Berny Scharfe. Berny was born in the West, and still remembers the dirty '30s that drove many farmers from that area East, he and his parents among them. We'll be reliving some of those memories and others with our guests shortly. But before we do let's return to our favorite announcer Doug McLaughlin for a sampling of the musical portion of our show.

(MUSIC)

B.M. Well Bernard ^{→ laryngitis} Scharfe, and you came in here today with the excuse that you've got ~~laryngitis~~ ^{laryngitis} and that you can't talk too well. Anytime Berny Scharfe can't talk there's something wrong, right?

B.S. You're right. I don't know if I've been doing a lot of talking over the past years.

B.M. Yes. You have. Noone's complained too much except maybe your wife.

B.S. Well, not really, my kids tell me the same thing too.

B.M. They do, eh?

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. Berny it's a real ^{→ laryngitis} pleasure to have you here today, notwithstanding your professed ~~laryngitis~~ ^{laryngitis}, that's, that's so. Berny we've have got a lot of ground to cover so let's get down to boss tax immediately if we can. You as I said in the introduction are a Westerner originally, eh?

- B.S. That's right. I came from Saskatoon. I was born and raised out there.
- B.M. Yeah but, what, what you doing away out in Saskatoon there were, were your parents farming?
- B.S. No, we lived in the city of Saskatoon, my father drove horses, and, and he did a lot of grain, hauling grain . . .
- B.M. Yeah. Okay now, you might have young people listening to ^{this} ~~they~~ ^{people} don't know what graying is . . .
- B.S. Well, when you're driving a truck, you're trucking.
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. But when you're driving horses you call it graying. (2)
- B.M. Because it's a grey horse, eh?
- B.S. It's a grey horse.
- B.M. Not a grey horse, but a grey horse.
- B.S. No, no it's green, grey. Right.
- B.M. Well where did your father, where did your parents come from Berny? Where did they . . .
- B.S. My father and mother actually originated down in the Ottawa Valley. Dad came from east Templeton, just out of Ottawa, and mother came from Elmer, just the other side of ^{Ottawa} ~~Honfleur~~.
- B.M. Oh yeah. Sure. Okay Scharfe what, what nationality did that go back too?
- B.S. Ah, that goes back to the Irish.
- B.M. How 'bout that, eh? How 'bout that indeed. I just wondered . . .
- B.S. That shook 'em.
- B.M. If there was anything else out of the Ottawa Valley. So your dad, ^{you} ~~your~~ parents weren't farming, he was a delivery man or grey, ^(?) ~~greying~~ as you call it. ^{re born?}
- B.S. That's right.
- B.M. So if he had a truck in town, if you're Delongchamp, Delongchamp ^(?) if he'd had a horse, he'd have been graying. Is that about it? ^(?)

B.S. ^{That is} Right.

B.M. That's the way it goes, okay. You grew up then on, in Saskatoon, eh?

B.S. I grew up in Saskatoon on, on dust, tistles, and eggs, eggs were ^(?) five cents a dozen.

B.M. Well okay. What year were you born? Let's see when you grew up . . .

B.S. 1919 . . .

B.M. 1919, so you were 10 years old when the Depression started, 1929.

B.S. About that, yeah.

B.M. Yeah, so you would remember that pretty well, wouldn't you?

B.S. I remember working for 10 cents an hour, or 2 dollars a day, and that was from 8 in the morning till 6 at night.

B.M. In, in town you mean?

B.S. Right in town, doing painting or . . .

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Or digging gardens.

B.M. Lucky to get a job I suppose.

B.S. Lucky to get a job, is right.

B.M. Yeah. Berny, let's see 1929, you'd be in school, now you didn't leave the West until ~~some~~ . . . '30 . . .

B.S. I left about 1938.

B.M. '38, yeah. So that's, you'd be 18, 19 years of age. Okay, so you, you grew up and went to school in Saskatoon.

B.S. Yes, I did.

B.M. Now, at that time Saskatoon wasn't very large.

B.S. About 25,000.

B.M. Was that big, eh?

B.S. Oh sure.

B.M. Oh ~~well~~, ^{should be (unintelligible)} in ^{the} West it's all the same . . .

B.S. Big city . . .

B.M. Big city for the West sure. ^{Doesn't} ~~Didn't~~ mean a thing down here.
Why Naughton's almost as big . . .

B.S. Well almost now, yes.

B.M. Well about going to school Berny. You were a hot-shot sports man when you were in school, was baseball . . .

B.S. Oh, we, we had a lot of good hockey, we had fellows like Art, and Ron Silver. (?)

B.M. You knew them out West did you? ^{Yes} ~~Yes~~

B.S. I didn't really know them that well, they were quite a bit older than . . .

B.M. Yes.

B.S. Than me, you know. And we had Jimmy Dewey, ^(?) they all played for the Saskatoon Quakers. (?)

B.M. Quakers, ^(?) that's right.

B.S. Nap Carriere, all these fellows.

B.M. That was in the back, when they had the good Allan Cup team.

B.S. That's right. After they went over to Japan.

B.M. In those days the Memorial Cup, which was junior hockey wasn't as important as the Allan Cup which was senior hockey.

B.S. That's right. No, the Allan Cup was the big thing.

B.M. The thing, eh?

B.S. The thing, yeah.

B.M. And then anybody going to Pro, more or less went from the Allan Cup challengers, rather than, than the Memorial Cup didn't they? Whereas today they nearly all go from the Memorial Cup, the juniors.

B.S. That's right. The senior hockey, was the hockey.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Junior was, more or less . . .

- B.M. Well you went from junior to senior hockey I suppose, did you, eh?
- B.S. Yes, it was just a stepping stone.
- B.M. Did you play hockey out there?
- B.S. I played quite a bit of hockey out there. I played junior. I played intermediate.
- B.M. Now don't be modest. Were you a fair hockey player?
- B.S. Yeah, pretty fair hockey player, or so I thought anyways. I was rough and tough anyways.
- B.M. *Yeah, I understand you were, eh?* Of course they tell you pretty rough, well when you say rough tough playing the hockey, it wasn't quite the clutch, grab type we have today, was it?
- B.S. No. No. Lots of skating. Skating, ~~skating~~, skating . . .
- B.M. Yeah. Well when you look, you have to think, remember when we had Graham^(?) and Lavine^(?) on defense for Froot, when they won the Allan Cup.
- B.S. That's right.
- B.M. If you got guys like that, I mean.
- B.S. That's right. They could . . .
- B.M. They had to manoeuvre somehow.
- B.S. That's right. They could really skate.
- B.M. They could. They had to be able to do that in those days. That would be in your day, would a lot of the hockey be outdoor rink?
- B.S. Ah yes. In fact at that time we only had one indoor rink, and that didn't even have artificial ice. I can remember the, the years when you'd be finishing hockey up with half an inch of, of water on the ice.
- B.M. Is that right?
- B.S. Oh yes.
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. What they finally did get a, artificial ice.

B.M. Tell me in those days was curling popular out there also?

B.S. Not really.

B.M. Wasn't it?

B.S. No.

B.M. ^{well I thought,} How didn't we bring, didn't curling come down from the West, more or less?

B.S. Gee, I really couldn't say 'cause I was never a curler, and I was never involved in it.

B.M. Isn't it interesting. I thought, I would have thought that it was a popular, at least to be considered an old people's game.

B.S. That's right. And, and out there we really didn't have that many old people. They couldn't last that long.

B.M. Couldn't hack it, eh?

B.S. Oh, too tough.

B.M. Was it really that tough? Berny what about the summertime, was there baseball? Did they play baseball out there in the summertime?

B.S. Yes, I remember Hal Lecko, ⁽²⁾ and all those guys were real good ball players.

B.M. Did they have a ball of the caliber we use to have here?

B.S. Yes. Oh yes.

B.M. Is that right?

B.S. Oh yeah.

B.M. ^{Do} You played any ball?

B.S. Oh yeah. Not too much, I played a lot of, a lot of the soft-ball.

B.M. Yeah. There was a good (unintelligible).

E. . .

B.S. Oh, real good.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Soft-ball, yes.

B.M. Well of course, it was cheaper to play soft-ball, you had . . .

B.S. That's right. It didn't cost *me at all.* ~~It~~

B.M. No. How far did you go to school?

B.S. I went to grade 12.

B.M. Did you?

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. Oh, you're, you're quite a learner then aren't you?

B.S. Not really, not really, if I hadn't had been such a good hockey player I'd have never got through these . . .

B.M. Why?

B.S. Year after year.

B.M. How come?

B.S. Because if you had too many failures you couldn't play . . .

B.M. Oh, you couldn't play hockey, and so you had to keep going, eh?

B.S. That is right.

B.M. Well isn't that a great idea. They kept you on your toes?

B.S. They certainly did.

B.M. That's a smart way to go, and they should do maybe a little more of that now. Shouldn't they?

B.S. Well I, I imagine it, it would help anyway.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. Berny when, okay, you were, you grew up through the Depression, your father was in the greying⁽²⁾ business, what happened to business like this, for instance during the Depression? Was it, was he hard pressed to get the odd dollar too for anything?

B.S. It was real tough. It was really, really tough.

B.M. You never had, you had the necessities but very little else, eh?

B.S. We, I can remember when I say to mother: "Mother, what's for dinner?" She'd say: "Well I don't really know," until your father

comes home."

B.M. You're kidding. She didn't have any money to buy anything then, eh?

B.S. That's right. Or whether he was going to bring home a can of beans or not.

B.M. Oh yeah. Pretty tough. ^{B.S. It was tough.} How many were you in the family?
_{→ B.M.}

B.S. There was 6 of us in the family.

B.M. Were there?

B.S. 4 boys, 2 girls, and my mom and dad.

B.M. And you gotta work quite a little bit to fill all those mouths then, eh?

B.S. That's right.

B.M. But you said eggs were 5 cents a dozen?

B.S. 5 cents a dozen.

B.M. My gosh, how, how could people afford to raise hen, at 5 cents a dozen?

B.S. They did it on the farms.

B.M. Yeah. I suppose. And no work to speak of.

B.S. No work to talk about.

B.M. You couldn't get, maybe a job in the summertime to help out or anything like that, eh?

B.S. No. No. No.

B.M. Gee. A good job there were, you had 4 brothers 'cause you get hand me down clothes then, eh?

B.S. That's right.

B.M. And you wore them?

B.S. And I wore lots of hand me downs.

B.M. Did you?

B.S. I certainly did.

B.M. Did you have that, I noticed today, you know it's funny, I'm looking today you see kids going to school, and what do they do? They get a new set of jeans, dirty them up, and put patches on them. Now when I was a kid, if you had to wear patches to school, you were a little bit ashamed, remember?

B.S. That is right. You're right. You're right. You're right.
p. 71 → Those times have changed.

B.S. *It* certainly ~~has~~ ^{has} changed.

B.M. But nonetheless it was, despite the fact that they, hardships, in retrospect it may have been good, because it gives you a better appreciation today of, of many of the blessings that you've had, eh?

B.S. You're, ^{you're} absolutely right. You know, we're very fortunate to have what we have now.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. The, the younger generation now don't realise how fortunate they are. If they ever had to go through what we went through in the Dirty '30s, they'd really appreciate what they have now, nobody went out, and built a new house when they got married, or even bought a house, nobody fill up full of new furniture . . .

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Nobody you know . . .

B.M. Bought a new car, or took a trip . . .

B.S. No. Bought a new car or . . .

B.M. Or got a ^{new} ~~T.V.~~ *color television* . . .

B.S. No.

B.M. No.

B.S. No. It was just tough, and, but in a way it certainly . . .

B.M. ^{You} ~~They~~ wouldn't like to think, that they had to go through it again Berny, eh?

B.S. Oh, good gosh. I wouldn't want my kids to have to go through that.

B.M. No, the only thing ~~that~~ I say ^{it} about it ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{that,} that we all are prone to complain that things are tough now.

B.S. That's right.

B.M. But by comparison, we are the most fortunate of people I think.

B.S. That's right. But don't forget those Dirty '30s, had a lot of fun years too you know.

B.M. Well . . .

B.S. Oh yeah. We use to go out camping for the whole summer, and we'd take maybe 5 dollars worth of groceries.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. And then we'd poach for the fish, and we'd put out for a few grass lines, and what not.

B.M. For a few grass lines, yeah. ~~Well we all~~ ^{And} learn how to survive.

B.S. Sure.

B.M. Sure.

B.S. Oh, ^{we had} ~~have~~ a lot of fun.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. A lot of fun.

B.M. Yeah, sure you did. Well you had a lot of fun all your life.

B.S. Oh, all my life it's been fun.

B.M. I know it has.

B.S. Sure.

B.M. And I want to talk a little bit more about that fun, Berny. But now for a moment we're going back to Doug for a little music, and then we're going to continue with the, with the fun, alright?

B.S. Okay. Fine!

(MUSIC)

- B.M. Berny let's continue with the fun and games, eh? That you had during the Depression and what not. You stayed, let's see, you went through, to Junior Ritrick² grade 12, so you weren't exactly a child by then in '38 you were 18, 19, had you worked anywhere before you came down East? To speak of?
- B.S. Not really, no.
- B.M. No. Too tough to get a job . . .
- B.S. No. Nowhere could you get a steady job.
- B.M. No.
- B.S. Nowhere! Bert, I knocked at doors, I went from place to place, and you could get a days work here, and a days work there . . .
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. But that's all.
- B.M. Okay in 1938, what induced this young bite buck from the West, to come down East?
- B.S. Well my . . .
- B.M. They threw you out?
- B.S. Yeah, my sister and her husband had moved down here, he had got a job at Falconbridge, so naturally he painted nice rosy pictures of . . .
- B.M. Sure.
- B.S. Of, of 50 cents anhour, and boy that was big money, and what not. So he suggested that I should come down, and try it. So I came down. I bummed, I, I drive down.
- B.M. Well Sir, how did you come down?
- B.S. Oh we came down by car.
- B.M. We, who is we?
- B.S. Oh, there's about 4 or 5 of us, no 3 of us from Saskatoon, this fellow was coming down there and he advertised for passengers.
- B.M. Oh.
- B.S. So anyway, it was in the spring, that it was hot, dusty, and his tires weren't that good. So anyway, we were touring along

down southern Saskatchewan; and all of a sudden there'd be a big bang; and a flat tire; and he changed that, get the other one patched; and away we'd go again; and maybe another hundred miles; and another bang.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Here the fellow had put these so called liners in his tires; and the friction between the liners; and the tubes; and the heat . . .

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Caused the darned tires to, to blow out. So finally we convinced him to take the darn liners out, and leave them out. So we finally got down here, took us about 8 days.

B.M. That was one of those . . .

B.S. To get here.

B.M. That was, 8 days? Oh my gosh, what a migration.

B.S. That's right.

B.M. These were the days, when there were tubes in tires too, eh?

B.S. Well, when you drive at 25 miles an hour . . .

B.M. Oh my gosh, yeah. 25 miles, well yeah, let's see the trans-Canada wasn't . . .

B.S. Oh no. No. No. We would rather come down through, through southern Saskatchewan down through . . .

B.M. Oh yeah.

B.S. ~~Through a quarter of the states.~~
The United-States.

B.M. Yeah, very deeply into it.

B.S. Down through Michigan.

B.M. Well when you got down here, then in 1938, this little timid boy from the West, did you get a job?

B.S. No way! Do you think they'd give me a job?

B.M. No. Not likely.

B.S. I stood down at that darn Frood . . .

- B.M. Line-up, eh?
- B.S. Line-up there, from 5 in the morning till 11 . . .
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. In the mornings, and then some fellow by the name I think it was, White . . .
- B.M. Whitehead^(?), Whitehead^(?) it must have been, yeah.
- B.S. Come out, and look over the hundred men there, and say, nothing today boys.
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. Oh! Away you'd go.
- B.M. Yes. And back the next day.
- B.S. Come back the next day, and the next day, and I finally gave it up, and I said: "Phooew, I can't stay here forever." So I went down to my uncle's farm, down around Spencerville.
- B.M. That's down in the valley, eh?
- B.S. Down ⁱⁿ the valley there, and I stayed there I did a lot, a lot of haying, and picking potatoes, and all kinds of odd jobs, no money but . . .
- B.M. Oh yeah. A living at least.
- B.S. A living anyway.
- B.M. Yeah. Well then, you, you must have come back here then Barny 'cause (unintelligible) eventually.
- B.S. I, I went back, back home in the fall.
- B.M. Back West, eh?
- B.S. Yeah. I got, I bought a ticket from here to Saskatoon for 5 dollars from a fellow who had, who, who was fortunate enough to have . . .
- B.M. Got a job . . .
- B.S. Been, been hired here.
- B.M. And he had a return ticket, eh?

- B.S. Sure. So I just gave him 5 bucks, and away I went home.
- B.M. From Sudbury to Saskatoon? *on 5 dollars?*
- B.S. 5 bucks.
- B.M. Not bad.
- B.S. Not bad, eh? So then we . . .
- B.M. But things were *it any* better at home, were they?
- B.S. *Oh,* they were terrible.
- B.M. Sure.
- B.S. Well, we bummed around Saskatoon till the fall of '39, and then I decided: "Heck. I'm going to give it one more try." So I came down here; and gee, I guess I lined up for oh, maybe 2 weeks or so, finally one fellow walked out; and I'm sure it wasn't Whitehead because he, he would never hire me anyway. So anyway this guy walked out he looked at the first 4 guys in front . . .
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. He said: "You, you, you, and you."
- B.M. And you were one of them.
- B.S. "Come on in." I guess I was one of them.
- B.M. That's how you started?
- B.S. That's how I got started, *here.*
- B.M. Okay. How big were you then, Burny?
- B.S. Ah, I was around 160 pounds.
- B.M. Oh yeah, that's a fair size, eh? You'd worked a little, *until* ~~and so~~
. . .
- B.S. Oh I was tough as you'd make 'em.
- B.M. Tough as a snake, eh? Not as mean as you are now?
- B.S. Not really.
- B.M. No, eh?
- B.S. No.

Gee, shiftbosses meant it a lot. Mean it.

B.M. They did, eh?

B.S. Not really. Not really.

B.M. You went, you started out in Coniston. ✓

B.S. I started out in Coniston, yeah. I . . .

B.M. In 19 . . .

B.S. Started ~~at~~ January the 4th, 1940.

B.M. That's a good way to start the New Year, eh?

B.S. And . . . (2)

B.M. Fred Murphy, was down there?

B.S. Murphy was there, and Jack Milly, and . . . (2)

B.M. Jack was there at that time, eh?

B.S. Oh yeah. And . . .

B.M. Yeah. Roy Snipster then too? (2)

B.S. Roy Snitch. (2)

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. No. No. Roy wasn't there then.

B.M. He came later, eh?

B.S. He came later.

B.M. Who did you work for at the start?

B.S. Well I start off, went to work for a shift-boss by the name of Aldege Blake. (2)

B.M. Blake's were coming down in Coniston. ✓

B.S. And he was a brother of the famous "Toe," "Toe" Blake. *

B.M. Was he the one that was supposed to be, somebody told me that the one of the Blake brothers was a better hockey player than "Toe." It wasn't Aldege, was it?

* Stands for Hector "Toe" Blake

- B.S. Aldege was a goalⁱte. . .
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. Until he lost one eye.
- B.M. Oh yeah.
- B.S. So he maybe, could have been a better hockey player.
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. I don't know.
- B.M. Now you, you had a little affinity there, didn't^f you^{didn't} with being a hockey player, eh?
- B.S. Well yeah, you know the first thing I did, I walked in there, and this is the shift-boss walks up, and he says: "What's your name?" So I told him, and he says: "Where do you come from?" I said: "Saskatoon." "Oh," he says, "do you play hockey?" I said: "Yeah." "Well you looked over all the, the old gang over there? Hay, fellows we got another hockey player!" Boy, he sure made me you feel pretty good.
- B.M. Oh yeah. You were one of the gang all over, eh?
- B.S. ^{I was} One of the gang, ^{yes.} ~~then~~
- B.M. Did you play ^{any} hockey down there?
- B.S. We played some ~~in~~ shift hockey.
- B.M. Oh yeah. A lot of fun, eh?
- B.S. Oh, a lot of fun.
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. The only thing wrong they fight a lot. (??)
- B.M. I know. ^{yeah.}
- B.S. A lot of fun.
- B.M. It was a good community Coniston wasn't, eh?
- B.S. Coniston, darn right boy, they were real sports minded people.
- B.M. That's right.
- B.S. Real kind.

B.M. They produced a lot of good ones with, now it wasn't long until you decided that you'd take off, and head into the wild blue yonder. Is this right?

B.S. That's right. In September I joined the Airforce, and we went from North Bay right out to Brandon, to , to a Boot Camp there, from Brandon they shipped me right to Regina, 200 hundred miles from home.

B.M. Sure.

B.S. Which was pretty darned nice of them . . .

B.M. Nice of them. Oh, they're very thoughtfull that way.

B.S. And for 2 dollars, I could go home every weekend if I had the 2 bucks.

B.M. Which you did probably.

B.S. Not really. Not really. Not on a dollar, thirty-five aday.

B.M. Did you play any hockey when you were in the Airforce, Berny?

B.S. Oh yeah. Oh I played a lot of hockey in the Airforce.

B.M. You were a hot-shot there, eh?

B.S. We . . .

B.M. Well you had a lot of good hockey players in the Airforce did you?

B.S. Oh, they were the best. The bower line, the court line . . .

B.M. Yes.

B.S. Those in the Airforce?

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. There was Neil and Mack Coval, oh there's all kinds of things . . .

B.M. Yeah. That salvage old good hockey players here.

B.S. Oh yeah. There's, like we was playing in a, in a service league with the army, and the navy, and the Airforce.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Teams. This was in Calgary, and we replaced the senior league.

B.M. Did you?

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. That was, that's good caliber.

B.S. Real good caliber hockey.

B.M. Yeah, you, you were forward?

B.S. Yeah, I was left winger.

B.M. Were you?

B.S. Yeah I was . . . I understand that there was no faster fellow on the ice, than me.

B.M. Except when he had a little trouble. I understand there was an occasion when you were a little too fast for your own good. Is this what . . .

B.S. Oh good God, that cost me about 3 stripes. I was, we were playing at ~~the airport~~ in the (marvy)
force with

B.M. Yes.

B.S. For the city of Calgary Championship. ✓

B.M. Whee, big game.

B.S. And we're tied up 3 all, and Scharfe gets a break away.

B.M. You got a break.

B.S. Everybody's standing up; and cheering; and the stands cheering: "Come on Scharfe!" And I tuted down the ice, guess what, I tripped over that bloody blue line; and the following day the air vice-marshall comes up to me and says: "Scharfe you'll never get past being a Sergeant." And he was right. E

3.
You never left Sergeant, eh?
B.M. So you never scored, eh? Did you? *no*

B.S. No. I lost the game.

B.M. Ohhh..

B.S. I lost the game.

B.M. It's just a wonder they didn't ~~sum~~ you right out of the air *force*

B.S. That's right. That's right.

B.M. Did they move you then, by the way?

B.S. Well they talked about it . . .

B.M. They did, eh?

B.S. They talked about it. But they didn't, so then I finally moved married myself, I went overseas. But while they, we were in Calgary, we were headquarter staff, and we were in charge of building all the airdromes all across Western Canada.

B.M. Oh yeah.

B.S. Which was a real big job.

B.M. Yes, it would be.

B.S. A real big job, we would be responsible for all the administration, part of it. We dropped the . . .

B.M. The plans, and so forth, . . .

B.S. The plans, and the specks.

B.M. Yeah. Especially if you had to do the work yourself that's fine.

B.S. No I didn't have to do the work. All I did was fly a typewriter around.

B.M. Fly a typewriter around, eh? Do you like flying?

B.S. Yes.

B.M. *Do you* still?

B.S. Yeah, well we cannot that much now . . .

B.M. No.

B.S. But . . .

B.M. No I just wondered, there's something, something to do, some fellow, and others it's a matter of well, I know that some people now couldn't care less about flying, and others are still crazy about the sign of the thing. But you loose the touch, eh?

B.S. Well we, well of course I was worst in building, so I didn't do that much flying.

B.M. No.

B.S. ^{Except} ~~Just~~ had to go out to jobs.

B.M. If you'd go, yeah, you'll always.

B.S. Well I'd just go out, and . . .

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Find track and field runs you know.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. And we'd fly down . . .

B.M. I know that when you're finished flying all around the world, and had the War I, that you decided to come back to Sudbury, ~~didn't~~ you, and I want to talk a little bit more about that Berny. But again I'm going to let you wet your whistle because I can see you're frowning as tough your ~~larinchiditis~~ is coming on. We'll get a little more music, and then we'll come back.

→ laryngitis

(MUSIC)

B.M. Berny, I know that when you, when you finished as I say with flying around the country at our expense, that you decided to come back to Sudbury, and Inco, right?

B.S. You're right. I came back and . . .

B.M. What'd you have? 46?

B.S. The summer of 1946, yes.

B.M. '46, eh?

B.S. And when I went back to the employment office, they said: "Where do you want to go? Do you want to go back to Coniston?" And I said: "No, not really." I decided I'd try the concentrator in Copper Cliff.

B.M. So you went up there, eh?

B.S. So I started up there working for a fellow by the name of Earl McMillan, ^(?) yeah.

B.M. Earl McMillan ^(?) who went out to Creighton [✓] later.

B.S. That's right. And then I land up working for Freddie Stevenson, ^(?) was the, the . . .

B.M. Yes.

B.S. The day-shift . . .

B.M. He was what do you call 'em, yeah. What do you call 'em a labour gang boss, eh?

B.S. A labour gang boss.

B.M. That's right. Sure.

B.S. A bow gang boss, yeah.

B.M. Yeah. But yeah, but then you moved down to Falmell a little later on, didn't you?

B.S. Oh yeah, I went from there down to the old pillar, ^{mill} and I went ^{number 2} to pillar mill; and I did all kinds of jobs from shovelling right to the taking of rotation.

B.M. Now number 2 that's before ^{the} your separation started was that . . .

B.S. Yeah. Ah yes. Number 2 power mill was the forerunner.

B.M. Before that, you worked in separation I know.

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. And I know ^{that} ~~there's~~ that little store I'd like you to repeat, 'cause I got a kick when you told me all about you work for Sil Mola; and when he asked you, if you'd like to go over; and work in the sitter plant.

B.S. Oh good gosh, yeah. Yes, sure he called me in one day, when I was rotation foreman.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. And the separation building, and he said: "Berny, how would you like to go over to the sitting plant?" And I said: "Gee Sir, I don't know, I've never even given it that much thought, you know?" I said: "What's the pros and the cons?" "Well," he says, "Berny, . . .

B.M. You have the choice to pick?

B.S. You . . ." No. "You'd be your own boss. You'd go shipping you know?" And he says: "There's no graveyard shift." I said: "Boy, sounds good." I said: "Well let me think it over." "Well," I said, "looks ⁵⁸ though, do I really have a choice?" He says: "Yes." He says: "You can either go, go willingly, or I can send ya." And believe me, I didn't have too much choice, did I?

- B.M. Typical (*unintelligible*), eh? Yeah, I know.
- B.S. Oh yeah, I worked with Sil . . .
- B.M. Yeah, big guy.
- B.S. Off and on for over, for over 20 years.
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. He was my shift-boss. He was my general foreman superintendent.
- B.M. Big guy.
- B.S. Manager. He sure was.
- B.M. One of the best.
- B.S. Yeah.
- B.M. You, I know that you get back over into the F.B.R. later on, didn't she?
- B.S. Yeah, when we sat down on our profits in 1960, I went over to [?] the F.B.R. shipping.
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. Which was certainly a big improvement . . .
- B.M. Oh yeah.
- B.S. As you know, as far as the facilities, it was all, it was all automated.
- B.M. Yes, I know, I never understood that. Well then you, you left then, and you went *safety for a while, Bummy.*
- B.S. Yeah, 1970 or '71 I went safety for 3 years, and that was a real experience.
- B.M. It was.
- B.S. Oh yes. That was . . .
- B.M. What everybody should have, eh?
- B.S. Really, yeah. I think everybody should have a chance to go into safety.
- B.M. Yes.

- B.S. Really opens everybody's eyes.
- B.M. Yeah. And that's too know what it's all about.
- B.S. That's right. You know, when, when I was a shift-boss or shipping boss, some of the things that I did you know, maybe wasn't . . .
- B.M. Quite cocher.
- B.S. Quite cocher. You're right. ^{But} then again you know, I, I was still responsible.
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. And . . .
- B.M. Berny after you left the safety, then you went back into the shipping again, didn't you, and that's when . . .
- B.S. No, I left safety, and there was an opening in the separations building for shift boss.
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. So I, after 17 years being gone from there, I went back there as a, a shift-boss, and I had a real good shift. I took over the shift that used to belong to George Godan. (L)
- B.M. Yeah, well you'd always have a good shift if you were there anyway.
- B.S. Well I kind of think so.
- B.M. You ended up though, in the, in the F.B.R. shipping didn't you, eh?
- B.S. No. No. I land up as, as shift-boss, and relief general foreman in the F.B.R.
- B.M. In the F.B.R.?
- B.S. Yeah.
- B.M. That's a good place to work.
- B.S. Oh, that's a real good place to work. The fellows were good fellows to work with.
- B.M. Oh, there's nothing wrong there.
- B.S. Of course I was good to them too you know. Ah, you don't want to believe it.

B.M. Now look you're going to get off that. You were lucky enough to marry that charming local girl around here, and I want to find out a little bit about that. Whether she has some connections that are ^{of} an interest to a number of us.

B.S. Well I tell you, she was, I should^π say she was, she still is a very charming.

B.M. She certainly is.

B.S. She's the mother of my 4 sons.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. And . . .

B.M. And you met her..

B.S. I met her just after the war ended, I came back, and I belong to the Airforce association.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. So I'm looking for a girl to take out to the Airforce dance. Somebody said to me: "Well, gee there's a charming young lady working out there in Jessup's Grocetariat, and her name was Evelyn. Go and ask her, I'm sure she'll go, 'cause she, she's been telling me what a charming young fellow you are!"

B.M. Oh brother.

B.S. That's not true.

B.M. I know, boy when she hears that you're in trouble Berny, you're in trouble. But . . .

B.S. Well anyway, I went, and I asked her, and she says certainly she'd love to go, so I took her out dancing, and one thing led to another thing, first darn thing you know she, she caught me.

B.M. She caught you, eh? And when you get home you'll be caught . . .

B.S. Married then in 1949.

B.M. 19-. 1949 was it?

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. Yeah, now. Yeah, when I said the connection because Evelyn Jessup is the daughter of a former mayor of Sudbury. (2)

B.S. That's right.

B.M. Yes. And Jessup's grocery store, most people remember that pretty well. I don't know if you can remember that.

B.S. A lot of, a lot of kids got to ^{hair} start there.

B.M. Oh sure. Yeah. Now just tell us where it was located because people will forget that.

B.S. Dan Jessup^u had the grocery store at the corner of Elm^v and Regent^v.

B.M. Regent Street that's right.

B.S. And he was about the last one to have a drey horse. ^(?)

B.M. Well that concerns us now, eh?

B.S. And all the kids like Don Groom, and oh all the steels from up, ^(?)
all the steels from up at that end.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. Starting working for Dan.

B.M. Did they?

B.S. One way or another yes, driving the . . .

B.M. ^{the} Horse, eh?

B.S. Horse and the buggy, yeah.

B.M. And the delivery, and things like that.

B.S. And the deliveries.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. And so anyway then, when Dan became mayor he, he gave up the store, and I lost my grocery bill.

B.M. Oh yeah. You got free groceries is it?

B.S. Not reallly. Not really. I worked the, the mop all the time.

B.M. Did you, eh?

B.S. Oh yeah.

B.M. But you worked all the angles you could, I imagine didn't you, ^{eh?}

* Stands for Daniel W. Jessup

B.S. Knowing, knowing me, yes.

B.M. Yes, I know you. That's why I said that.

B.S. I worked a lot of angles.

B.M. You have 4 sons Berny?

B.S. That's 4 boys, yeah.

B.M. 4 boys. That's nice, eh?

B.S. Yeah, they all grew up on the (Waters) Township . . .

B.M. Yes. Well you've been so long . . .

B.S. And I'm very proud of them, because when you raise kids in, in the country . . .

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. You have a little more control over them, you know what you're doing.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. And of course they know what you're doing too.

B.M. But the thing about that, now you should have been on the farm, because that's where you need sons, you see? You're, you should have been a farmer, when you have 4 sons there's not much place you can . . .

B.S. Well, we did have some pretty big gardens there, and we raised . . .

B.M. In your time.

B.S. We raised some pigs, one year, we had a couple of horses for . . .

B.M. Oh yes.

B.S. Oh sure.

B.M. Berny, just before we get unto that, there's one other thing before we leave the Jessup's I wanted to talk about, I wanted to talk about another thing that Mr. Jessup lived with you for some time, and that's Jud Jessup. ^{that}

B.S. No. That was Jud Webb. ^(?)

(2)
B.M. Jud Webb, I should say, pardon me.

(2)
B.S. Jeson Webb.

(2)
B.M. Yeah, Jeson Webb.

(2)
B.S. Jeson Webb was Bianco's oldest pensioner.

B.M. That's right.

B.S. For years and years and years.

B.M. He lived to be . . .

B.S. He lived to be a 102, and a half, and he stayed with us from the age of 90 till he died.

B.M. Did he really?

B.S. And he was one of our family.

B.M. Yes, I know, he . . .

B.S. Oh, he and I got along great.

B.M. Well you use to needle him all the time.

B.S. Oh yeah.

B.M. But he was pretty sharp wasn't he?

B.S. He and I, 'ed have boxing matches, and . . .

B.M. At that age?

B.S. Oh, he was real smart.

B.M. Fantastic man, eh?

B.S. And he still had an eye for the girls too.

B.M. Is that right?

B.S. You darned right.

B.M. Oh yeah.

B.S. Oh yeah. He was a real fabulous man.

B.M. He had retired, and if he was 102 he'd retired when he was 65, I guess, eh?

B.S. He retired at 65.

B.M. 35, 37 and a half years before that, eh?

B.S. And . . .

B.M. My gosh..

B.S. Actually he worked, no, he was retired ^{think} longer than I had worked.

B.M. Is that right?

B.S. Yeah. And I worked for 38 years.

B.M. Yeah. Quite a character wasn't he?

B.S. Oh he was quite a *fellow*).

B.M. ~~That~~ you liked to have around.

B.S. Oh, he was, he was always full of fun and jokes.

B.M. Yeah, I know.

B.S. Yeah.

B.M. You lived in Water ^{*}Township, well you were one of the originals out there.

B.S. I was.

B.M. Do they call it Naughton [✓] or you're . . .

B.S. Water ~~is~~ Township.

B.M. Now to locate you, you're just this side of where the old Naughton [✓] station used to be, right?

B.S. I am east of the Naughton [✓] Station.

B.M. Yeah. On the south side of the road there.

B.S. About half a mile, yeah.

B.M. Yeah. And you tell me when you went out there, there was nothing out there?

B.S. Not a thing. Not a thing. We bought that land and it was all bush, and scrub, and flash.

B.M. But what, how did you start out there? Where did you live, in a ~~Tee-Pee~~ or something?

* ^{Teepee} Should be spelled waters.

- B.S. No. We bought an old Frood mine bus.
- B.M. Oh did you? That's from Delongchamp there?
- B.S. That belong to Delongchamp, and they haul it up there, we set it up; and we lived in there from June right from our honeymoon, till we finished building the house in December.
- B.M. Is that so? That's how you spent the honeymoon?
- B.S. Yes.
- B.M. With free groceries, and your bus?
- B.S. Not free groceries really. You're right.
- B.M. Now almost there, eh?
- B.S. Almost, but you know there was, it was a good life, my wife's girlfriends went to Daniel, when they heard we were going to move away out there; and walked up to Dan, and said: "Look Dan,
. . .
- B.M. You can't let her . . .
- B.S. Don't let her move away out there in the bush.
- B.M. Yeah. Terrible.
- B.S. And Dan said: "Look it, mind your own affairs."
- B.M. I wanted just to explain a little bit more because I know that your contribution to that community out there has been considerable Berny; and I want to talk a little bit about it. But again let's pause briefly for a little music from our friend Doug; and then we'll come back.

(MUSIC)

- B.M. Berny, as I said before we broke there after you've been quite an active member of the community; and in many ways, 'cause I know some of your activity, I don't know them all, you were in council out there for a while, right?
- B.S. Yeah, I was on council for 3 years. Then I was chairman of the High-school board for 5 years. Oh, these were real good years.
- B.M. And you were in the Lions, and in the Legion, and in . . .
- B.S. Yeah, I was in the Lions, and I was in the Legion, and doing community work.

- B.M. Yeah, you and your wife have pretty instrumental in, in getting ~~all the~~ ^{a lot} things organized out there, weren't you?
- B.S. Yeah, we, shortly after we be, moved out there things started to pick up a bit; and more people moved out; and more people.
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. So we, revitalised the old ^{Water's} Community ~~crop~~ ^{Club}, and got that going.
- B.M. Oh yes.
- B.S. Then from that we sponsored Cubs, and Scouts, and I was a Cub master, Scout master, little odd jobs.
- B.M. You, you puzzle me, you've always been active.
- B.S. Yeah.
- B.M. You know Berny, and you told me this is not a secret to me, but I'd like ^{other} people to know. I'm glad that this has been recognised, and you are the recipient of a couple of, shall we say awards in that regard, right?
- B.S. Well . . .
- B.M. Don't be too modest, I mentionned your name anyway.
- B.S. Not really, well really . . .
- B.M. Certainly . . .
- B.S. Actually I shouldn't have got 'em. Actually my wife should have got 'em.
- B.M. I sort of like that.
- B.S. She was the one that did all the darn work, and all the phoning, and all the organizing.
- B.M. Yes. Yeah. So what did you get Berny?
- B.S. Well in 1967 I got the Centennial Medal.
- B.M. Centennial Medal, yes.
- B.S. For . . .
- B.M. Recognition of your work, eh?

- B.S. Recognition of services to the, the community.
- B.M. Community.
- B.S. In 1977, I received a very proudly received the Queen's Silver ^(?)
 . . .
- B.M. Oh ~~the~~ ^{Silver (?)} Jubilee!
- B.S. The Jubilee ^(?) medal, yeah.
- B.M. That is nice, eh?
- B.S. I was really astonished at the members of the Walden Council, 'cause this covered all of Walden. ✓
- B.M. Yeah.
- B.S. Tommy Bubba. ✓ (Registered as TOM BURBA on tapes)
- B.M. Yes.
- B.S. And I ^{received it.} appreciate that.
- B.M. Well that's good.
- B.S. And it's glad to know that people still remember the old guys.
- B.M. You couldn't get a stripe from the Airforce but at least you got a medal for being out of the Airforce.
 Berny, as happens so often when we run into guests such as yourself we've begin to run out of time, and I have to move on a little quickly, there's a subject that I certainly want to mention; and I, ^{you know,} I have spoken to you earlier about it; and you've agreed to talk about it, it's a thing that sometimes people are reluctant to talk about it; and some people may not know that Berny, you have come through a, an operation for cancer; and you are just about as rugged looking today as; and I want to talk a little about it, about that . . .
- B.S. Well . . .
- B.M. To tell people, who may be concerned that you can lick it.
- B.S. You certainly can lick it, because I'm living; and I'm walking through, yes you can lick it, I've, I'm ^{very} fortunate, they found mine when it was very small, and my, my general practitioner, doctor was very wise, as soon as he found out, he sent me to a specialist.
- B.M. Yes.

B.S. And they checked me out here, and from there, they couldn't find it. They sent me to Toronto, to the Toronto General, and they found it down there. It took them a long time. But they found it, and they operated, and they, they . . .

B.M. Took it out, eh?

B.S. Took, took it out, this has been 2 years now.

B.M. It has, eh?

B.S. And I'm very fortunate. But all I want to tell people is that if you have a chance to have your X-rays, if you have a chance to take these Speedom tests. (?)

B.M. Yes. Yes.

B.S. Then take 'em.

B.M. Do so, eh?

B.S. Do so. Don't let the time go by.

B.M. Yeah.

B.S. Because . . .

B.M. Forbid it is what you're talking about, eh?

B.S. That's right. Because if you catch it when it's small.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. You got it beat.

B.M. Yes.

B.S. But if you let it go for 2 years or more.

B.M. It can beat you, eh?

B.S. It can certainly beat you.

B.M. 'Cause you've been beating things all your life, haven't you?

B.S. I've been fighting all of my life, and I hope I'll continue to fight.

B.M. From the looks of you . . .

B.S. A long more.

B.M. And I know, I know you will. Berny, there are a number of other things we could talk about, but as I said "Tempus Fugis", or 'Tempus Fugits', whatever the case may be . . .

B.S. You mean I've talked enough?

B.M. Well no, you haven't talked enough.

B.S. Oh come on here.

B.M. No. No. No.

B.S. Come on.

B.M. You haven't talked enough, and I'm sure that if it hadn't been for that nose, you would hope that you'd talk a little bit more. But for an X broken non-hockey player, who comes from the West I think you've, you've done good for a fellow with laryngitis. And Berny, I mean it seriously I want to thank-you very much for coming in today, and being our guest on Memories & Music. It's been fun talking with you.

B.S. Well it's certainly been fun for me too.

B.M. And when your wife hears what you said about her, I'll come out and check the scars, cheer her up later, okay?

B.S. Yeah, well look don't tell her too soon because she, I owe~~d~~ her a small fortune, and other things, so don't put this on to early because that's blackmail.

B.M. Okay, than^k-you very much.

(END OF TAPE)