# The following transcript of Leopold "Chap" Rousselle's interview

on

## **Memories and Music**

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Wendy.

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INTERVIEWEE: Leo "Chapd" Rouselle INTERVIEWER: & Bert Merdiff TAPE NO: 116

### THEME: Coniston,

B.M. Well this Sudax Sunday we welcome Leo "Chaps" Rouselle to the show and we're very ax happy to have him as our guest, a retired now some 7 years he's still a very active xmm man event though he has a bit of a back prog problem. He was born down in Coniston and still kined lives in that nice little community where he's very active with hockey for many, many years. "Chaps" will be sharing some of his early memories with us shortly but as is our customs here again is Doug McLaughlin and an introduction to the musical portion of the show.

#### (Music)

- B.M. Well Leo "Chaps" is it "Chaps" or (unintelligible) "Chap"?
- L.R. Chap that's
- B.M. Chap
- L.R. A nickname
- B.M. Chap now OK O.K., I'm always interested in how a person gets a nickname. Why they call you Chap?
- L.R. (unintelligible)
- B.M. How are you old chap? Is that where it came from? No.
- L.R. I guess I might've been a good chap at k one time.
- B.M. You were a good chap. Where did it start as a kid?
- L.R. Oh yeah I would, I guess my mother must've called me that.
- B?M. Your mother.
- L.R. And my dua daughter and my sisters, I guess.
- B.M. That some times happens Ixguass eh?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. And that stick, people know you, people wouldn't know you as Leo Rouselle.
- L.R. Most, most of the people don't know me as Leo, they say who's that guy.
- B.M. Who's Leo Rouselle, eh?
- L.R. Who's Leo?

- .B.M. And it's Chap Rouselle.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Chap were you were, x were you born in Coniston ?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Were you?
- L.R. I was born therem, myeah.
- Most of the family was born in Coniston except two of them.
- B.M. O.K. let's back up a little then, O.K. if you were born, what year were you born in Coniston?
- L.R. 1923.
- B.M. '23 that's a quite a long time ago. Mond Company was there with the Mond plant then.
- L.R. Right, yeah.
- B.M. Well all right where was your father, did you father come to Coniston from somewhere.
- L.R. Yeah, he come from down Quebec.
- B.M. W Quebec where about's.
- L.R. In a what they call Bakeamotoma.
- B.M. Bakeamo, wait a second. Bakeamo, Bakeamo.
- E.R. Bakeamo, yeah. That's on the north shore there.
- B.M. Yeah. Well, well do you know why, I'm always interested why a person. Was he, was he farming down there and things not good, so he thought he'd come up here or why. Why did he comem up?
- L.R. Well a one of his hor brother-in-laws was . . . working xx on the section therex for the C.P.R. I guess he
- B.M. Yes.
- L.R. Was some kind of the a foreman or something. So he brought . . I guess he come up with him, he must've brought him down from up there, you know.
- B.M. He did, eh?
- L.R. Come on down tox Sudbury, there's work down there.
- B.R. Xørx Your father was married, I suppose when he came up thre here.

B.M. Yeah so he came up to work the for the C.P.R.

- L.R. Yeah
- B.M Well on, on, on man maintenance on the, on the track I suppose, eh? Around the Coniston area would that be it.
- L.R. Yeah he was, he worked in Wannitapae area I guess for a . while there. That's just a couple of miles from Coniston.
- B.M. Yes
- L.R. Then he got in on . . . at that time they had the diamond there, there they needed the guys to pull the boards for the trains to go by.
- B.M. What, what do you mean by diamond? Is that where, are you talking back at the, at the junction where tax trains go to Montreal and Toronto.
- L.R. Yeah C.N. goes to Toronto.
- B.M. Leah
- L.R. And the C.P. goes to Montreal.
- B.M. Yeah that's at, what's his name? What's that little place before you get to Coniston?
- L.R. It's right in Coniston.
- B.M. Oh yeah
- L.R. The diamond.
- B.M. Is it.
- L.R. But you got Rumpford there.
- B.M. Rumpford that I'm thinking of.
- L.R. Just a little gutiz outside.
- B.M. Isn't Rumpford the place where the trains go one train goes to Toronto this way and the **x** other goes to Montreal that **x** way in Ottawa isn't it**x** that way.
- L.R. C.P. goes to Monereal there.
- B.M. I see.
- AR Yeah.

B.N. One goest to Montreal and one goes to Toronto on the C.R. but the C.N. crosses the C.P. just at Coniston.

- B.M. And, and this diamond, what does the diamond do, what, is what is it?
- L.R. That's a the C.P. goes to Montreal
- B.M. Where the tracks wor cross in other words.
- L.R. That's where the tracks mar cross.
- B.M. Is there a lot of maintenance on this, is this why you have to have (unintelligible)
- L.R. Not now, at that time there was quite a bit.
- B.M. Yeah and well did you, your dad was the one who said, did you live in Wannitapana or did you live in Coniston?
- L.R. He lived in Coniston at that time. well that wes
- B.M. @ Coniston at that time, 1 in 19 . . . before you were born eh?
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- B.M. What time, when did your dad comemp up there?
- L.R. Oh he must've come in the 1919 there some
- B.M. He did but that was just after the First World War.
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. I see.
- TNR. And where did you live in Coniston? (unintelligible)
- L.R. Oh we lived wherever we could get something at that time there wasn't too many houses there in Coniston.
- B.M. No I suppose not, eh.
- L.R. Eight of us in the family and we had a one room house one time.
- B.M. (unintelligible) whoa, slow down, teltxme (unintelligible) there were eight of a you in the family.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. You mean eight children.
- L.R. Eight children.
- B.M. And two adusts
- L.R. And tox two adults and you lived in a one room.
- L.R. We had one room, one big room about make

- B.M. Boy and oh boy.
- L.R. Maybe
- B.N. And you ate and slept and lived in that one.
- L.R. They were in the depression.
- B.M. Yeah and you know it's great to laugh about it and say it but how, how do. Do you not get, do you know fight all the time. Your stepping on each other and everything else, or how was it? Do you remember that?
- L.R. Well I remember part of **khak** it because at that time maybe I was about . . . what maybe five, **x**six years old.
- B.M. Yes.
- L.R. And some of the girls were a little older but a
- B.M. And the bigger ones looked after the little ones.
- L.R. Yes and the mo mum
- B.M. Did you, did you fight much as kids when you're,xxxxx that many kids all around togethers. Did you fight a lot or xgrum argue, quarrel or what?
- L.R. Oh we used to have a lot of arguments, not too many fights but my mum was pretty strict for that you know.
- B.M. Was she/
- L.R. Watch you, then the two big girls they'd wha watch it pretty close too, they
- B.M. And how, so your father worked on the C.P.R., probably wasn't making too much money, eh?
- L.R. No, no. At that time I don't know what they were making there.
- B.M. Not, not very much.
- L.R. Because when he went for Inco I, I guess they were making xob about 30 cents an hour so (unintelligible) 25 xxxx cents an hour.
- B.M. So you were making less on the C.P.R., yeah and trying to raise a family on athat.
- L.R. Trying to raise a family.
- B.M. You couldn't **xhx** have a garden, all you had was the one room, eh.
- L.R. There was no room to make gardens there.
- B.M. My gosh that would be pretty rough.

- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. So you, were pretty luck to get enough to eat.
- L.R. Well we ate good because we were all good, healthy.
- B.M. You heatt healthy right now. What did you dot hand me-down clothes. The oldest and pass them all the way down.
- L.R. Yeah, yaha yeah.
- BYNA I Some of the, some of his sisters did, didn't give us some of his clothes you know.
- B.N. Yesh I.R. In those days you wore patches on your pants but you didn't like it. Todaythey pay a lot of money to have patches on their pants, eh.
- L.R. Right that's what I can't figure out you know.
- B.M. You'd, you'd be in style today wouldn't you, eh Chap if you had those clothes.
- L.R. Oh yeah. As long as they were clean at that time we didn't care about that.
- B.M. I suppose that's knr kn true and did you as a kid, I just wondered as a boy, did you wear those kx knickeng pants x that just came below the knees, did you, do you remember that or not.
- L.R. Oh yeah and the z socks
- B.M. And the socks came up there, yeah.
- L.R. Right up to your knees and a
- B.M. And you wore the knees out of your pants before anything else analmost didn't you?
- L.R. Oh yeah, that was why what, what did, now you're eight in the family what age would they range from, how much difference was there in ages.
- B.R. Not too many, kow two to three & years, an between I guess. Some was one year and some like a, I got a sister that's three years older, one brother that's about two years younger.
- B.M. And how x old the, what's the difference between the youngest and the oldest?
- L.R. The oldest is about 65 and the youngest is about 40.
- B.M. 🕱 25 years difference, eh.
- L.R. Yeah.

- B.M. By gosh that would be quite a **xites** little chore, wouldn't it?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. When you get a new baby in the family like that. So you didn't have much, you didn't have much to read or any comic books or shows to go to. You couldn't afford any of that when you were a kid.
- L.R. No
- B.M. Could you?
- L.R. No, no. We had to make x our own fun then, you know. Play house
- B.M. Yeah. Would you, would the kids the, I mean as brothers and sisters, did you play together a lot I wondered about in large families like that. Would you play together as kids - boys and girls and that sort of thing?
- L.R. Well we had a hill there . . . right about maybe 50 feet from the home there
- B.M. Yeah
- L.R. We'd get a up there and play you know and slide down the hill.
- B.M. Yeah. Just simple things without any, any, max any equipment or any thing at that.
- L.R. Right we used to make our own skis and . . .
- B.M. You'd make your own skis
- L.R. Yeah we'd get some
- B.M. Barrel stage or something.
- L.R. Barrel & stage and
- B.M. Yeah
- L.R. And make our owner skis.
- B.M. You have to be pretty independent in those days
- L.R. Oh yeah
- B.M. Didn't you?
- L.R. Well it
- B.M. Dix No, did you have a radio, do you remember, did you have a radio?
- L.R. Oh I guess fur trades we bought that was something there when

you really. My brother bought that the first he started to work. He was

- L.R. about sixteen and he bought a radio
- B.M. And he bought a radio. Maxthat Boy that'll be somthing.
- L.R. (unintelligible)
- B.M. I wonder x what it would be like at Christmas time around a place like you, now you didn't have any money to speak of and you got eight kids. What did the do on Christmas day? Did you get, did you all get a present? Do you have a Christmas tree?
- L.R. Oh we had a Christmas tree and mostly, something each had something not too many. (uniwtelligible)
- B.M. You'd have an mragnx orange or a candy or something like that.
- L.R. (unintelligible) Like something in a
- B.M. Or maybe a pair of 1 gm gloves, mitts or something eh.
- L.R. A pair of mitts, something we could wear not something
- B.M. Yesh Yeah not something you could play with. That's probably the way things went.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. But you're none the worst for (unintelligible)<sup>ch</sup> and you look back on it non now and you don't think anything of it. Is that it Chap?
- L.R. I think . . . old dad he made a good job, I think the boys are all good and healthy.
- B.M. Yeah, that's, that's interesting isn't it? That you could get by and when you didn't knowm and with all the other people around you weren't much better off I guess, were they?
- L.R. That's true. They had, you know they were all living in one or two room apartments here.
- B.M. Yeah so that
- L.R. All big families atxxxxx that time you know.
- B.M. Would that old Coniston was it started before Coniston itself was that x old part there?
- L.R. Oh yeah that was there before Inco moved their, Inco moved their moved th
- B.M. Oh from Crane Hill or Victoria Mine or something.

L.R. Victoria Mine.

- B.M. Oh that's right, that's when the houses came down.
- L.R. That's when they come down.
- B.M. You see a lot of people dow don't realize when, where the turn off is to Coniston that's fine but then you go across the bridge, a keep on going and it's the next turn on a your right until you go into old Coniston
- B.R. Yeah.
- B.M. AndxaldxConiston Isn't it? And old Coniston is really only one street, eh.
- L.R. Yeah max well one Main Street.
- B.M. One Main Street.
- L.R. (unintelligible)
- B.M. (unintelligible)
- L.R. Yeah there's not very much.
- BON NO

MBM

- B.M. Not too much.
- L.R. That used to be the old highway at one time.
- BAM. The old highway 17 used to run right through
- B.M. Around the back, that's true right it came right through Coniston. dda's H
- L.R. Right through that street that was.
- B.M. That's the way you went to Toronto at one time.
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. A long, long drive it was too, eh?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Whanx In those days when you see all the, all the cars puttering along there. They were going very fast in those days.
- L.R. Not kox too fast and there wasn't too manyx cars at that time.
- B.M. I want to talk about a few other things like that Chaps in a moment but let's pause so we can get a little music in here, wa will we and then we'll come on back. So we'll go to our fix friend Dough here for a moment.

(Music)

B.M.	Chap when you were born in Coniston, you went ato school at and the school gwas Now just where it was, they tore the old school down I guess the old wooden, frame school.
L.R.	Yeah they had a 10 room school at one time it was a Mx bilingual, eh. Like half English and half French.
B.M.	Was it?
L.R.	So then the school got out of date so the,
B.M.	Ťeah
L.R.	Tore it down and built one school and then a few years later they built an English (unintelligible)
B.M.	Did you, in the family, did you speak only French at first?
L.R	Yes because my daddy couldn't mpmakxEnglish
B.M.	Speak English.
L.R.	Couldn't speak English and
B.M.	Were most of the people in old Coniston, were they FrenchX ?
L.R.	Mostly, x yeah, oh yeah.
B.M.	So you spokek spoke French most of the time there.
L.R.	Yeah, yeah.
B.M.	20 In other words you learned French before you learned any English.
L.R.	Oh yeah at home we a, mostly my mother she talk French and my
B.M.	Where would you take English, at school only, eh? ?
L.R.	Well we start playing with a, other kids at school, you know.
B.M	They were English kids.
L.R.	You know x what they call, the town was divided in four sections you know where they call company town.
B.M.	Yes.
	And then they had Italianz town and then they had well a, well a,
B.M.	(inintelligible) town (unintelligible) Perish Polish town, of yeah.
L.R.	(unintelligible) Polish town, of thete.

- L.R. It was, the Polish would stay in one section and (unintelligible
- B.M. The Italians xx stay in the other, the French stay in the other and the x company town was the other.
- L.R. And, and the company town was, we call that English town, youk know.
- B.M. Yeah.
- INF. Was there any, yeah that's interesting. Was there any annamoside between them, any ill feeling between those or did you get along all right.
- B.K. Well we got along but some time the kxx bunch of kid come over from the other town i we try to chase them away.
- B.M. And everybody lived in there own section.
- L.R. Oh yeah mostly all in the one section, we never, not too often we got except z go to school, you know. When z Like when we went to school we had to go through the
- B.M. Oh khraxkx through somebody section, through the company town didn't you
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. 'Cause that's where the on RornFourth Avenue there, Third and Forth Avenue
- L.R. Yeah Third, Fourth.
- B.M. But the, the 1 Italian section was down closer to where Bancroft Drive is today, near the railroad track.
- L.R. (unintelligible) yeah, yeah.
- B.M. Wasn't it ? eh?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. And where was the Polish section.
- L.R. Polish town that's across the C.P.R. tracks
- B.M. Oh the other side that's right towerds . . .
- L.R. Towards the plank an
- B.M. Plant.
- L.R. Smelter, you know.
- B.M. That's the true. And I can combe remember

- And they were pretty well a, you know L.R.
- Pretty well divided. B.M.
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. And the French were, were mostly in old Coniston, were they?
- L.R. Mostly in old Coniston.
- B.M. A lot of them.
- There still, pretty well that way, you know. It's mixed up more now but there's more mostly all French like down except there Like L.R.
- B.M. Yeah. When the, in the summer time when the school was out, there M would be, how's blueberry picking down there. Were those hills pretty good for ha blueberries down (unintelligible)
- Oh ymak my yeah. 19 . . . I recall 19 . . . 30 we used to pick blueberries right where highway 17 is passing now. L.R.
- B.M. The new highway, did you?

L.R. Oh yeah.

- On those hills back there, eh? B.M.
- It was full of blueberries there at that time. L.R.
- B.M. Is that so?
- L.R. Yeah, my mum and dad they used to pick the whole family Well they make a few dollars, eh?
- Yeah you'd ship them out then, wouldn't you? That's where B.M. you'd make some cash money.
- We'd ship them to Toronto at that timexakanyway. L.R.
- Yeah and so then that would be one of your chores. Now I B.M. think you told me when we were talking earlier that that little creek that runs through Coniston was pretty good when, when you were a kid, eh?
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- Was it big? B.M.
- L.R. Yeah, we used to catch fish in there.
- B.M. You actually did.
- L.R. Oh yeah, there was a, oh we cut some, we used to make nets with bags, you know them burrap bags
- B.M. Yes.

- L.R. And get in there.
- B.M. What did you get? suckers? .
- L.R. You'g get big suckers.
- B.M. Would you, that was just in the spring when they, when they'd be running I suppose.
- L.R. Right in the summer time we would catch them, yeah.
- B.M. What did you dod with the suckers, you eat those or?
- L.R. Oh yeah we ate them.
- B.M. I How were they, pretty good?
- B.R. Oh yeah they were.
- B.M. Re Better than barbutt.
- L.R. Well no, no. Barbutts a better fish than that.
- B.M. I think you're probably, tell me womething now (unintelligible) is that the same, I think that creek or river I suppose, at, at one time. Is the same one that somebody had told me years ago, when logging was big around here. There They used to have river r drives right down there there they that place, I presume that would be the same one.
- L.R. (unintelligible) probably drove him down there.
- B.M. Because that, x that for flows into the Wannitapane River
- L.R. Into the Wannitapene River, axax yeah. Just below the Coniston Power Plant there.
- B.M. Does it? That's where it hits the river, eh?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. So it r winds all around through part of Coniston there.
- . L.R. Through part of Coniston and goes down
  - B.M. How was it, how was it for swimming?
  - L.R. It was good.
  - B.M. Is that where you kids swam around.
  - L.R. Oh the water was really good . here.
  - B.M. So you'd have a good place to swim right out, right out here.
  - L.R. Yeah, there was some big holes you couldn't get bottom in some of that places in there.
  - B.M. Your You're kidding, as deep as that.

- L.R. Yeah. Oh yeah xkowk 60, about 60 feet of water in, we'd have some big men in there. I recall . . 200 pound men try to get bottom kker they couldn't reach the bottom in the place.
- B.M. In that, in that creek.
- L.R. In that creek, yeah.
- B.M. It's hard to believe when you look at the thing now, isn't it?
- L.R. Yeah, but there was at lot of trees at that time and it hold, it held the ground.
- B.M. NHeld the bank and they filled in since then.
- L.R. Now & filld in they.
- B.M. We Now are we talking about the section of that creek, what's the name of it incidentally, what do you call that creek?
- L.R. Burnt Creek.
- B.M. Burnt Creek, eh.
- L.R. Burnt Creek.
- B.M. Now there's a section, it comes, like if you're coming the back road from Garson to Coniston, the creek, you hit the creek if you get down there a couple of miles, don't you? and it winds along.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. What section do you swim in? The aprx part that's above the highway, hathe present highway or the part near old Coniston there?
- L.R. At first we used to use the old Coniston part and
- B.M. Yes
- L.R. And I know don't got it a little bit pobluted that end. So then we moved across that way. They had, the town had made a dam there at one time to hold **kak** back the water so we could make a swimming hole there, you know.
- B.M. Oh did they?
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. Yeah, where do they swim in & Coniston now?
- LR We have to go to Moonlight beach now on Wannitpantae River, yeah.
- B.M. How's the Wannitapantia River all right?

- L.R. Oh yeah Wannitpatane's & good.
- B.M. Well where, where how would you go to the Wannitapane River from Garson to get swimming now. You'd have to go down the highway to, to the bir bridge new there where it we crosses.
- L.R. Highway 17 and you go done to the bridge, yeah.
- B.M. Yeah, and, and the water good in, in Lake Wannitapatae.
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- B.M. But its closer to go to Moonlight Bridge I guess, isn't it?
- L.R. Well it's about the same z distance there.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. You know it's about 30 miles to Wannitapatae and it's about the same distance to the beach, youknow.
- B.M. When you were . . . when you were a kid g growing up in Conistong and going to school there. What was the biggest sport? Is it, we always associated hockey with, 'cause of the Blakes, I guess partly with Coniston, 2x don't we?
- L.R. Yeah well we had a few good hockey players out there.
- B.M. Yeah besidesx
- L.R. Toll Blake.
- B.M. Besides, do you have a, have a few besides Toll Blake?
- L.R. Well they had Verdel Play our . . . an old Price.
- B.M. An addres old Price is there.
- CAR. Merdel played.
- L.R. Andy Barb.
- B.M. Andy Barb that's right.
- L.R. And, and Armand Lamule, they played for Rockchester.
- B.M. Oh yeah that's right too. I forgot about them.
- L.R. We had quite a few good hockey players there.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. That (unintelligible)
- B.M. And they all learned on that outside rink down there where the park is now.

- L.R. Oh yeah that was something xxx that outside rink.
- B.M. (unitelligible)
- L.R. There was more people going on the outside rink than there is in a cover, covered rink.
- B.M. You mean watching itx
- L.R. Oh yeah, oh the banks would be four or five dep there, watching all around.
- B.M. Good for a pretty (unintelligible)
- L.R. (unintelligible)
- B.M. It would be cold wouldn't it?
- L.R. Yeah. (unintelligible) hockey at that time, Mur.
- B.M. But there was, did you have more than one week. I mean where would everybody get a chance to play that's the thing I was wondering about.
- L.R. No we only had one outside rink there and
- B.M. And some how xoux or another you got, you got time to get. Well you'd be playing chiny on the road, the way kids do this, eh?
- L.R. Well most of us would play chiny on the road you know and on Sudn Sudn Sunday afternoon we'd get a big game going there maybe 25, 30 of us and xhok
- B.M. On the highway.
- L.R. And hold up the traffic.
- B.M. That's on the old highway, 6h yeah, on the old highway.

L.K.

- B.M. Would you?
- L.R. Oh yeah and you'd have the guys honking their honk hornx and you'd kids
- L.R. Stop and
- B.M. You kids were are, it happens today. It makes me mady some times.
- L.R. Oh yeah. We still got to stop there now. In, in old Coniston there, they play ball on the road and then they
- B.M. Do they?
- L.R. Ah they still play ball there.
- B.M. But you've got that nice big arena down in Coniston now, haven + yow?

- R.R. Leah we have a nice arena, yeah.
- B.M. A nice xx park. What are you d going to do give Mike Solski most of the credit for that, that town.
- L.R. I think Mike has made did a heck of a good job while he was down there.
- B.M. Les he has. It's a nice community, he done it, eh?
- L.R. Yeah, yeah.
- B.M. It's one that ax a nobody wants to leave.
- L.R. No
- B.M. As far as that goes now.
- L.R. He's a
- B.M. He's, he'sd done w a good job down there. When you were at, how far mdid you go to school Chap?
- L.R. I went to **migh** grade eight. I think I just made it. I just finished.
- B.M. You just made it, eh?
- L.R. I just made it then. I, then I said well I've got to find some work some place.
- B.M. Yes, well then by that time, yes. You'd be 14, wouldn't you?
- L.R. I was 16.
- B.M. 16, you hadke to go and help the family then.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. So what did you do, did you get a job somewhere?
- L.R. Well we shovelled sand for different gy guys, and.
- B.M. Shovelled sand where, where?
- L.R. Haul, haul fill, you know fill for filling in school yards and some you know.
- B.M. Oh did you? Any job you could get on zank construction.
- L.R. / Any job I could get at something, yeah.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. Used it to get 10 cents a load on that time, we'd make 27 loads a day. We had 2 or 3 guys loading the truck in by hand.

- B.M. You'd get 10 cents each along alone. a loud-
- L.R. 10 cents each a load.
- B.M. You were shovelling sand into a truck.
- L.R. Yeah. .
- B.M. Maxing By Boy that's 10 cents. And you'd get 27 loads in a day.
- L.R. About 27 loads, we, we tried one time to see how many loads we could make in a
- B.M. (unintelligible)
- B.M. You'd make # two and a half dollars in a day, eh.
- R.R. Yeah two and a kizf half dokiars bucks.
- ♥.★. Now that money when home to go into the pot, did it X, the family pot?
- L.R. Well we'd chip in at home and
- B.M. Yeah
- L.R. Buy a fre few candies
- B.M. Would you? What would you do if you wanted to go, did you get a chance to go to a show very often when you were a kidX then Chapp?
- L.R. Well I went to a show I guess I must've been first show I went to and to must've been about 17 years old I guess. maybe.
- B.M. X Q Your never went to a show before.
- L.R. Never went to a show.
- B.M. You had to come into Sudburym, of course, to go.
- L.R. I had to come into Sudbury and I
- B.M. And how did you get into Sudbury in those days? By the bus?
- L.R. I, I never come into Sudbury until about 20 I guess when the bus x start coming.
- B.M. Is that right. You lived down the Coniston road.
- L.R. There was no bus at that time, maxt unless you get a ride up with somebody and, there wash't too many cars at that time
- B.R. And there weren't too many cars either you know around.
- B.M. It seems strange today, donxixiz doesn't it?

B.M.

- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. When it's just a stone throw away and yet you lived there all the time and,
- L.R. Right.
- B.M. And rarely came up to, to Sudbury.
- L.R. I sused to have an uncle of mine that lived in town. He had a big car, well of course he had. He was foreman for the C.P.R., he always had a big car and once and a while he'd take us in. Way Maybe take a ride.
- B.M. Big treat, eh?
- L.R. Take a ride.
- B.M. Bring you into the big town. Wouldn't that ever be, that would be something else
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. To see if you, if you hadn't I guess you'd sort of marvel at the thing. Because Coniston then was a small town compared to now, wasn't I it on 2
- L.R. Ne Oh yeah.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. Teah.
- B.M. Chap I want to take another break so we can get in a little more music and then we'll continue.

(Music)

- B.M. Chap did you, x you worked as a sand mucker, did you work anywhere else before you joined the company at Coniston? Had you worked at any other jobs?
- L.R. Ah I worked as a water boy there for about a year.
- B.M. Where?
- L.R. When they built the, the new highway, the NEXX new highway 17 from a
- B.M. Oh yes we when they were putting that through.
- L.R. From & Wannatpatae to Stinson they call it.
- B.M. Yess yes. So you, you were a water boy.
- L.R. I was a water boy for about 50 men, I guess.
- B.M. Yeah. That was a summer job, was it?

- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Well when did you statt working for Inco.
- L.R. The fall of 1940.
- B.M. 1940.
- L.R. I went in.
- B.M. By then you were 17. You lied a little to get in.
- L.R. I kind of sneaked into there.
- B.M. You just told a little fib, eh. Where did you start at the smelter? Was your dad working for the company then?
- L.R. Yeah at the smelter. I had a brother and a my dad had been working.
- B.M. Was Fred Murrphy the superintendent there then?
- L.R. Ah Mr. Murphy, yes he was and
- B.M. Was Roy Snich down there also?
- L.R. Roy Snich was there and
- B.M. What had some good people down there in Coniston, didn't you?
- L.R. Well Mr. Snich was married there for quitex a while.
- B.N. That's right. I was in on council with a, as a councillor with (unintelligible).
  - B.M. Were you? How ing Cuniltelligible !). B.M. Were you? Whet were you on council for?
  - L.R. I was on for . . . about 5 years I guess, you know.
  - B.M. "ow did you, how did you tisk like politics?
  - L.R. Pretty good.
  - B.M. Did you.
  - L.R. Pretty good. But at that time it was pretty rough we didn't have too much money to spend katxmaw not like today, you know to make a
  - B.M. And did, could you not get tried ox of everybody giving you the devil all the time.
  - L.R. We xx used to at that time, it wasn't **xixx** like today. We didn't have no engineers and a
  - B.M. Oh

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terte.	We had to go out ourselfors and see what the problem was and
RA	And try and fix it or so forth.
the on	People would call you up, at night and too much water in the yard and
B.M.	Yeah and what are you going to do about t it, eh.
the.	And what are you going to do? you know.
B.M.	So what what did you, what did you tell him that you have to go take a swim, you might as well
L.R.	No, we'd go out there and have a look xhow around. Some times take the shovel ourselfes and, hat
B.M.	And but Coniston was a pretty knit community, wasn't it? People worked together pretty well down there and (unintelligible)
L.R.	Oh yeah. They still are, you know, there, there good, you made somebody you know and they have around and
B.M.	It seems to be that way.
L.R.	Yeah
B.M.	That everybody has some, some regard & for the other person as farm as that goes. You started at, at Coniston but you work MNE most of your time at Garson, why?
L.R.	Well it got pretty hot there, you know. Like when your yourg, you know.
B.M.	Yeah
L.R.	And we started a knx bunch of guys there. We were about, oh there must've been about 10 young fellows that started together but then they, they xx got called to the army.
B.M.	Yes.
L.R.	Some of them got called and some of them joined the areax army.
B.M.	Yeah.

- L.R. And I was left there almost alone, you know as a younge fellow.
- B.M. eah
- LR. COniston . . . there was mostly old (unintelligible)
- B.M. More older them, yeah, I know. .

- L.R. 35, 40 years old.
- Which was old for you then, yes, 35 to 40. B.M.
- Too old for me, so I, I z kind of want to get out of there L.R. because I was, I was there with all the old fellows of xox you know.
- B.M. Yeah so where did you go, didys you get the transfer to Garson.
- No I tried to get a transfer to Garson and the they were L.R. full there and they wouldn't let me go. So I had to go to Creighton, In was there for about three months, I guess B.M. and kind of far az away from home. I never left home I was about 18, 19 years old. Yes
- B.M. Yes.
- And I was looking & for a momma in the cooking and x so I L.R. lost quite a bit tof time out there, so Mr. Gates was there,
- B.M. At Creighton.
- L.R. Gates was the superintendent, so I went in one day I says I got to get out of here I says, it's too far away and I'm losing too much time and I says I'd like to get into Garson. So he says O.K. So he given h me a transfer to Garson.
- He did. B.M.
- And then he ended up in Garson, that was surprised to see L.R. hims a come out to Garson. He was out therefor a while.
- B.M. Who, who was at Garson when you first went there then.
- L.R. Ok Charlie Lively
- B.M. Charlie Lively and then Foster Todd followed him, didn't he?
- LR. Mr. Todd, yeah.
- B.M. Yes, that's right.
- But a old Charlie I remember well. L.R.
- B.M. A real character, eh?
- "e'd come down on the ground, he'd have a, he'd put on his L.R. felt hat, you know.
- Yeah. B.M.
- He'd nevers put on a hard hat. L.R.
- B.M. I know.
- He'd, he'd get down thereand put on his felt hat and get in L.R. the cage and

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- B.M. Yeah and then when he'd get made he'd throw the hat down and jump on it, wouldn't he?
- . L.R. Oh yeah, throw it in the drift and jump on it.
  - B.M. Yeah.
  - NR. Brave, it little guy though.
  - A.K. Oh yeah real
  - B.M. Everybody, everybody liked him, didn't they?
  - L.R. For the work, you couldn't ask for any better.
  - B.M. No.
  - L.R. But he was a little rough on the bosses, youx know. I recall one time there was a Mr. Bill Rulley was shifting there.
  - B.M.--Yeah And whenever he knew he was coming down, you know, he'd, he'd hid on him then. So this time w he was hidding in the wedge box, he didn't have time to get away and he kept asking one fellow. Jean Nadeau is the pipe fitter eh?
  - B.M. Yeah.
  - L.R. He said where do you see Charlie around, do you see Bill Rulley around, no. But he kept pointing at the box you know Old Charlie give four or five kicks in text the m box.
  - B.M. Did he come out?
  - L.R. & Poor old Bill come out of there, and oh my he was (unintelligi

KNOW

- B.M. Charlie would really lay it into him, wouldn't he?
- L.R. Oh did x he ever lay into him, you know.
- B.M. Yeah that was a, the . . . Garson is a, another place that has improved considerably over the years, hasn't it?
- L.R. Oh yeah Garson is a nice town, too.
- B.M. Nice town, Good mine to work. And you worked there until you retired at a, at a
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Garson, did you?
- L.R. I worked a, that was one of the best mine to work in, that one town.
- BM. Yes, it was good.

- L.R. It got a little wet once they started on the sand field, you know.
- B.M. We hey all did, but x that's, that's the thing you pay. The sand field is the best thing that ever happened
- L.R. Teah
- B.M. So . . . what did you do most of the time. You worked in the mine, in the stobes and fillers and so forth.
- L.R. Oh ¥ yeah. I did it, every job there but I guess I was scæred of, try to shaft. I was going to go a couple of times
- B.M. No shaft, that's quite an experience.
- L.R. But I go di drifts and raises
- B.M. Did you? Then you've pretty well done it ally then as far as that's concerned.

O.M. And stobing, tou.

- L.R. xand I'd try out anything that come out new you know.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Now . . . you were pretty active in sports circles in hockey. Is this kid hockey we're talking & about & aky Chap or what sort of kx hockey.
- L.R. Well a little bit of kid hockey but mostly older kids like you know like 18, 19, you know and
- B.M. What were you? Were you playing with them or were you coaching them or organizing them?
- L.R. I played with them for a while then I went coaching with them, you know.
- B.M. Did you?
- L.R. I coached with them for about 3 years I guess.
- B.M. Did you like that?
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- B.M. Did you, you played some, well you played some shift hockey too, didn't you m yourself?
- L.R. I play, xxhx yeah. The ring, when I was in Garson we used to have Charlie Chapperone (unintelligible). He's played ball now, he's about 60 years old and he's still playing baseball you know. He's a
- B.M. Tom Johnson was out there too, he's a good ball player, eh.

- B.M. Remember hip from old Tom.
- L.R. teah.
- B.M. You had a good ball, what about base, you played ball there in Coniston, too. Did you play baseball or softball?
- L.R. Softball, we play softball, yeah.
- B.M. Softball, yeah. Of coursex they, you always had a good baseball team down there.
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- B.M. Didn't you?
- L.R. Oh well baseball .
- B.M. Eh?
- L.R. Yeah we had always had a good team there.
- B.M. Fred Murrphy's always thought of that, he always
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Had good ball teams.
- L.R. He brought in a lot of imports there, you know and he had a good team.
- B.M. All, all from down east.
- L.R. Ieah there's still some of them there like
- B.M. Well thereexe, there son just, look at Clarence Fox's son was a, is a ball player xdx and a weight lifter down down there.
- L.R. Yeah, yeah.
- B.M. What's . . . I can't think of his name now?
- L.R. Deboyds
- B.M. Acboyd, Acboyd, the three Boyd hox brothers.
- L.R. Yeah
- B.M. Yeah they, they were all there.
- L.R. The Boyds and
- B.M. You had Hub Beaudry down there once a long time ago. You had George Armour, no George Armour played for Garson. That's right too.
- L.R. George Blake.

- B.M. Yes that's right.
- L.R. There's Wer Blake.
- B.M. Snell, Snell was a, was a good infielder.
- L.R. Art Golbol
- B.M. Yeah Art Golbol that's twr true, he's a good zh catcher at that time.

L.K-

- p.R. Yeah.
- L.R. Pretty hard to beat.
- B.M. And Bert Pulf pord for
- L.R. Pulf
- B.M. & Coniston et one time. Big Berty went and played for Frood after.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. So you had, people supported the baseball down there pretty well, didn't they?
- L.R. Oh yeah, I guess so.
- B.M. In that old ball park they used to have, et
- L.R. On Sundays there, the park was really full there allt the time.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Of course there wasn't must much else to do.
- L.R. Well
- B.M. That's what you idid,
- L.R. (unintelligible)
- B.M. You, you went yourself and, and had a, had a pretty good time.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Now . . . one or two other things I would like & to touch on Chap but again we'll pause so that Doug can favor us with some of the music he has & for theteday and then we'll come back and wind up, O.K.

(Music)

B.M. Ashp Chap are you, I presume you are, you look happy, you're married arent you?

- L.R. Xxx Yeah, oh yeah.
- B.M. Did you marry a local girl?
- L.R. I got a Quebec wife.
- B.M. Quebec wife.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. How come?
- L.R. Well a
- B.M. Import them from Quebec.
- L.R. My sister was married to a fellow from Quebec, he worked at Inco and then he quit one time and he went back home. That's way down Moggle, Quebec.
- B.M. Moggle, gyeah.
- L.R. Just past, it's a
- B.M. Isn't that the ski country Mogglee, isn't? it?
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Yes.
- L.R. Just before when you take the highway to go to New Brunswick, you instead of going to New Brunswick.
- B.M. Oh wes that's the part, yes. You turned out at Edmontson.
- L.R. Right.
- B.M. That's right on the river there, isn't it?
- L.R. Yeah so they lived
- B.M. (unintelligible) place.
- L.R. She lived about, about 10 miles from, form from the cut off.
- B.M. And he had went down there . . . and **kh** he's married to my sister. So he come back **kh** down here to work, so she had stayed down 'cause she had a little baby.
- LR. Yeah
- B.C.K. So the wife come down with her, when she come back down the kran train.
  - And that's when you met x her.
  - So is she stayed up here.

BAD AN

- B.M. And just like, and just like that.
- L.R. Just like that so.
- B.M. So brother married sister.
- L.R. Right and that's 32 years now.
- B.M. That's 32 years you're married.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. And what is 32 years, what has that produced in the way of children, how many?
- L.R. Well we got four of them.
- B.M. Four.
- L.R. Four.
- B.M. What's the x matter if your father can have eight and you can only have four. What's the matter with you?
- L.R. Ah yeah but a, maybe not as good as the old man, you know.
- B.M. You've got more than one big room, do you, you got lots of room.
- L.R. I've gt got lots of room, yeah.
- B.M. Sure, you have, are your children in the, in the area here in Chap.
- L.R. Oh yeah we got one, I got one that's a electrican at Inco, and the other two are married to
- B.M. The girls are married.
- L.R. The girls are married to Inco rites.
- B.M. Are they?
- L.R. You know.
- B.M. So you got three of them, and where's the fourth one?
- L.R. The fourth one M he's a, . . . well he went m to school up in the summer.
- B.M. Yes.
- L.R. And he's working part-time, you know.

F.K. Well a

B.M. Oh that's fine. So they're all going to t be Inco rites finally set Did they live around here Chap?

- L.R. Yes they all live in Coniston.
- B.M. Do they? In Coniston.
- L.R. Oh they won't move from Coniston, they want to stay close to Mama and Daddy I guess.
- B.M. And you still a live on, on
- L.R. East
- B.M. In old Coniston.
- L.R. In old Coniston, on East Street.
- B.M. On East Street.
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. Let's see down at the end of East & Street if I remember is Vic Carrier lives down there.
- L.R. Vic Carrier, yeah.
- B.M. Yeah.
- L.R. Vic Carier m is married to one of my sisters, the model oldest sister.
- B.M. He's married to one of your sisters,
- L.R. Yeah, yeah.
- B.M. I know Vic from, from my Frood days. He's got a good garden dama down at the enda of the street there, too. Yeah. He's
- L.R. (unintelligible)
- B.M. Lived there a long time, hasn't he?
- L.R. Oh yeah he's been therefs for 30 years I guess.
- B.M. Is that so?
- L.R. He had a brother, I don't know if you knew Heck
- B.M. "eck
- L.R. Hecker.
- B.M. Sure I knew Hecker.
- L.R. There twin brothers.
- B.M. Yeah, they were. They, I get them mixed up.
- L.R. Yeah.

- B.M. When I see, when I see is it Vic or Hecker. I see one of them now curling and I'm, I'm, I get confused.
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- B.M. Which is which.
- L.R. They a, they go to the hotel some timex you know and Heck would be sitting thereax and some guy who'd come in, you know, and give him a slap on the back. They, they nicknamed them Baldy, he didn't x have a hair on his head and they'd gz give him a xx xip slap, you know. How's she going Baldy? The guy would turn around and xxx said, Who'in the heck you (unintelligible) you know.
- L.R. They always thought it was Vic and they would get (unintelligib
- B.M. Get a little bit confusedy Coming form from a family that was fairly poor and you're not poor any more, Chaps you ze
- L.R. Well were not doing that too badly.
- B.M. Can, you can, yeah. Do you look back, do you tell your children about those days of yours when you were eight, ten of you living in one room and when you didn't have any
- L.R. Oh yeah it's pretty hard, they don't believe that.
- B.M. It's pretty hard, I was going to say it's a little f difficult to realize.
- L.R. You know we showed, we showed them the house and today well they remodel them all, you know.
- B.M. Yes.
- L.R. And the town we used to live here in a small room, you know and they don't believe that, you know, today they
- B.M. They, they (unintelligible) but today they, they just can't comprehend.
- L.R. eah.
- B.M. The situation, can they X, eh? Or that
- L.R. Yeah.
- B.M. However it's just as well, you wouldn't want to have to do. it again.
- L.R. No that's for sure.
- B.M. Do you, what do you do with yourself now? Are you a hunter or a fisherman there, Chap?
- L.R. Well I don't do too much hunting no more, I got trouble walking in the bush now, you know.

B.M. You've got a little back proglem, eh?

L.R. Step in a hole and a

B.M. Yeah, but I dom a little bit of fishing.

ER. Yeah.

LL. I got a son-in-law there that's crazy fisherman

B.H. Is he?

- A.K. He always say, Well come on I'll show you how to fish. You, you know then, he doesn't **xhwaxm** show me too much because I catch just as much as he **xxx** does.
- A. You catch more fish, than he daws does. Do you catch as many of fish as you used to in the old nat creek when you netted them in Coniston?
- L.R. N Oh well in the old creek we used to be easier to catch, too; with the net.
- B.M. When you were living in Coniston, did youxxdidxxxx go over to, to Ramsey Lake at all from there? You're not that far from the lower end of Ramsey Lake, are you?

L.R. We used to walk up therea at that time, you know.

B.M. Did you?

L.R. It's quite a walk, I've walked quite a few times out there.

B.M. Yeah.

- L.R. About thex a 3 mile walk, you know, with a, we'd go out there a hug bunch of guys there.
- B.M. How about rabbits, there used to be rabbits and partridge around that part of the country, too. Didn't there?
- L.R. Oh yeah in the bush there, in the back there, there's just whet when I was there, we'd used to catch rabbits, snamethem.
- B.M. That's the new highway you're talking about.
- L.R. Where the new highway (unintelligible)
- B.M Yeah 'cause the k old highway was the Bancroft Drive road, wasn't it X, eh?

L.R. There was blueberries there and x everything out there.

B.M. Yeah.

L.R. There used to be an old fellow use, used to call him Phil Maloney, used to have a little shack there and we had to go by Z his place to get up on the hill, youk know. I

- B.M. I see some of those shacks when you drive down, when you come down Bancroft Drive where the (wmik Unintelligible) you see a couple of (unintelligible) over the tracks where some guys are, are still living over there.
- L.R. Oh yeah, I suppose.
- B.M. Wasn't the old fellow, remember the new highway just past the Coniston turn off on the x left hand side there was an old guy that lived in an old shack, pieces of coragated iron and so forth likex that for a long time.
- L.R. Yes, that's a, that's x the fellow there, Phil Malone.
- B.M. Is it, is that who it was?
- L.R. Phil Malone, yeah.
- B.M. But none that's all changed, isn't it?
- L.R. Oh yeah.
- B.M. 'Cause he
- L.R. Past the highway right down his, on his property peg.
- B.M. Yeah, it's too bad, it's, it's sort of nulstelgic to seek that old place there. Well Leo "Chap" Rouselle I want to thank you for coming up from Coniston where you live and we probably couldn't drive you out of there now, could wer, eh?
- B.R. No it's pretty hard, anyway I got my roots there now I guess I'll have to
- B.M. That's a good place out there.
- L.R. Die out there.
- B.M. Well you were born out there, it's a good place to die, too isn't eh?
- L.R. 'eah
- B.M. If you have to die. But I want to say &ak Chap I appreciate your coming aut today to be our guest on "Memories & Music" and thank you again Chap Rouselle.
- L.R. Thatnk Thank you then.

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