

The following transcript of
Joseph “Joe” Zimmerman’s interview

on

Memories and Music

(broadcast between 1974-1976)

was created by the Sudbury Public
Library as part of a

Summer Canada Project

in 1982.

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INTERVIEWEE: Joe Zimmerman
INTERVIEWER: D.M.

TAPE NO: 31

- D.M. Now friends and neighbours we promise you . . . a most interesting guest on "Memories & Music." He's got stories that are almost unbelievable but ~~xx~~ certainly are true about the depression, about growing up on a (unintell.) out on the praires. But we're going to let him tell his own story. Now what is your name sir?
- J.Z. Joe Zimmerman.
- D.M. And when did you retire from Inco Joe?
- J.Z. '71
- D.M. And how many years had you put in with the company?
- J.Z. 36.
- D.M. And a, what work were you doing when you retired Joe?
- J.Z. I was a simmer.
- D.M. I believe me, you said something earlier, did you not put in any little work time or something during that period, is that true?
- J.Z. No I was never on little duty or had an accident while I was there.
- D.M. Well now there. There you are friends, there's quite a story and, and a great story. But Joe let's get at the beginning. Where is your ~~henn~~ home town?
- J.Z. Torcway, a small place.
- D.M. ~~xhxx~~ Where is Torcway?
- J.Z. That's just west of (unintell.) 25 miles.
- D.M. Well now speaking of Estervan somebody else, alot of us know around here came from Estervan, a fellow by the name of Dunbar is that right?
- J.Z. That's right, I know him well.
- D.M. Well now we finally got a chance to talk to somebody ~~whxx~~ who, who, who knew Dunbar. Just to get it on the record, our ~~fix~~ friend Hal Dunbar was quite a snooker player in his youth, is that true sir?
- J.Z. I remember ~~whx~~ when I used to go in and I'd watch him play. But he really didn't know me, but he knew ~~h~~ ~~xx~~ my dad.
- D.M. I see. Now good was, was Brother Dunbar?
- J.Z. I think he was pretty~~x~~, pretty good. Shaver's Pool hall.
- D.M. Shaver's ~~Pool~~ Pool hall, that's in Estervan, eh?

u.

- J.Z. He was a, he was a. Shaver owned a pool, snooker hall and a, he had a barber, he was a barber, very religious man Shaver was.
- D.M. And a, did, ^{did} Dunbar have, he had his ~~was~~ own cue he kept there.
- J.Z. Ah yes, oh yes he had it ~~was~~ locked up in the wall, in the wall like you know, like that for the key for, he had his ~~was~~ own cue I think.
- D.M. Oh one of these days we're going to try Brother Dunbar on that snooker and see how (unintell.)
- J.Z. Yes, yes.
- D.M. But getting back to you now Joe, as you say, you, you said your home town was Torcway, Saskatchewan but a, you were born it seems to me in a, in a, literally in a sod house.
- J.Z. Sod house, yeah.
- D.M. (unintell.) or a house.
- J.Z. Yeah 7 miles out of Torcway on a homestead.
- D.M. ~~Now~~ Now give us a little background on that . . . where did your father, father come from?
- J.Z. Well he come from Europe, moved into, from Germany (unintell.) His ~~foreign~~ foreign family moved into Ukraine and then he come over here while he was 18.
- D.M. That's over to southern Saskatchewan.
- J.Z. Yeah out to Saskatchewan. In fact he come through Sudbury here and he went broke, he had, he didn't have a nickel left and he met somebody on the railroad to give him ~~\$5x~~ 5 bucks and he kept on going.
- D.M. You know ^{Today} those were gentler times I think than today. I mean you get \$5 ^{Today} out of the government but not too often out of somebody you just met.
- J.Z. That's, that's ~~times~~ true.
- D.M. (unintell.) eh? Those different days.
- J.Z. For sure but times are good. I never seen it any better in my life.
- D.M. Well now . . . your father then, let's get the picture. He'd get out to a, to Saskatchewan, he'd apply for and get what a, a course ~~was~~ section, a half section or something.
- J.Z. He got a quarter section first for \$10, homestead.
- D.M. ^{Well} The price is right, we couldn't complain about that, eh?

J.Z. Yeah, yeah. ~~TH~~ They want to, to develop, to settle the, the land. The ~~mine~~ ^{was} closest town at that time when he got the homestead, he was 30 miles from the closest town.

D.M. O.K. Now how did ~~x~~ he go about building a house?

J.Z. Well he had no money but he had worked on the railroad. They had to make some improvements very year, a little bit, you had to live on it for a while. So a, he worked on the railroads for awhile whatever jobs he done I don't, not sure of but then he, he had got himself a team of horses and, of course that was ~~(unintelligible)~~ ^{on credit} I guess. He had not cash.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. And a plough and you ploughed up some sod, broke up some sod and he built himself a house and barn and grainery, everything with sod.

D.M. Now let's get that ^{now} on the record, a house, a ~~xxx~~ barn and everything but the lawn, eh?

J.Z. Yeah just, a grainery, yeah, a grainery, a chicken coop, everything was with sod.

D.M. Now this is out in ⁱⁿ country where the, where the ~~x~~ winter is get 30 and 40 below zero, eh?

J.Z. Oh the wind is blowing there pretty heavy.

D.M. But

J.Z. No trees, no bush, no nothing, ^{D.M. No} ~~xxx~~ prairie.

D.M. ~~Na~~ But you're, ~~first~~ ^{house are} now you're first memories of growing up in this sod ~~farm~~ not unhappy memories you were

J.Z. No, no

D.M. ~~Yes~~ Pretty happy, were they?

J.Z. I thought that was as good as they got today but at the time but ~~that wasn't~~ ^{what} I wouldn't want my kids to go ~~through~~ through that.

D.M. I guess not ~~any~~ but I suppose

J.Z. We were comfortable.

D.M. As far as you were ~~any~~ concerned you were just about as well off as the guy on the next ~~xx~~ farm, eh?

J.Z. Oh ~~definitely~~ definitely but no one bought any fancy houses ^{these} ~~though~~ days. They all had little shacks

D.M. Yeah

J.Z. To start with there.

- D.M. Yeah we're talking now, to get it on the ~~right~~ record, ^{the year} you were born, which was around about 1909 or there was it?
- J.Z. I was born there.
- D.M. Ah, indeed. Well now . . . so you would then . . . you had several brothers and sisters.
- J.Z. Oh yes I had 7, 6 brothers and 4 sisters.
- D.M. Now a, do~~x~~ you ^{RE}mind me to ask you later about those Mr. Zimmerman~~X~~ But want to get on ~~to~~ ^{with} your story, you a, you'd go to school then eh? Starting about age (unintell.)
- J.Z. 1915, I started school 1915. Three miles I had to walk to school,
- D.M. Three miles
- J.Z. I was 6 years old.
- D.M. There and three miles back.
- J.Z. Right.
- D.M. It seems also that you a, had a few ~~x~~ chores to do before you went and before you came back, is that right?
- J.Z. Well ~~we~~ when I got a little older around 10 years old, 12 years old we worked an hour and a half~~x~~ with, with, get~~x~~ up at 6 in the morning, lit the lantern, done the chores for an hour and a half and then we'd ~~fix~~ drive to school usually~~x~~ in the winter with a horse and a ~~gary~~ cutter.
- D.M. Well ~~we~~ now just talking to you now Mr. Zimmerman I'm just wondering is there~~x~~ would, there ~~was~~ wouldn't be any doctor at, out there I guess when a, when your brothers and sisters were born.
- J.Z. No but there was never a doctor, I only remember one doctor ever being in our house
- D.M. Right
- J.Z. When the baby died at 3 months old, it had anemonia. He come from across the line Ambrosse and
- D.M. That~~d~~ would be down in North Decoata I guess would it?
- J.Z. Yeah, yeah that was six miles from our farm and he come there but in the Canadian side the closest doctor was 30 ~~miles~~ miles
- D.M. So
- J.Z. I can remember. I could recall there was a later~~x~~ one in Brownhead ~~15~~ 15 miles away.
- D.M. Now for you young fellows ~~xxx~~ listening this is a, true history we're hearing about now and you, you told me earlier also as we were gettin

ready for the show about, there was one time when you, when a couple and your ~~bro~~ brothers were sent off to the, to an ~~x~~ uncle's farm or something. But you were pretty young but they let you go ~~out~~ on your own.

J.Z. Yeah.

D.M. When was ~~thing~~^s, what was this?

J.Z. That was when my brother was born, ~~xxx~~ before my brother was born they send us ~~w~~ away because there was, so there'd be no kids to look after while my mother was having the baby. Well that brother was born, when we come back ~~xx~~ two weeks later. He had, we had the new baby. But he's five ~~xx~~ years younger than me. So I must've been 5 years old and my other brother, younger than me, ~~went~~^{that} with me was about 3½, there was about a year and a half difference.

D.M. Right, right. Well ~~xx~~ now you told me too that . . . some times in the winter, the country school you went to got ~~x~~ a little chilly but the teacher had a way of warming you up. Now what ~~xxxx~~ was that.

^{J.Z.}
D.M. Oh yes we used to line us up and we make a circle and we start running around through the aisles, through the desk and make (unintell and rotate around ~~xxx~~ like that to keep warm because there's, we pretty near ~~fx~~ froze, the school was just a shell you might say. And the ~~xxxx~~ hired man, the labourer there was suppose to start the fire and keep warming up before 9 o'clock. But it, some times that old store didn't heat, throw much heat and some times the fire didn't go very good. So we ended up, we all kept our clothes on, our overshoes on to (unintell.) maybe before the (unintell.)

D.M. Now there's a story tell me Mr. Zimmerman are there, is there anybody around maybe listening to this ~~xx~~ broadcast or this part of the world who went to that school with you.

J.Z. ~~W~~ Right here in Sudbury I don't know if there's anybody around that went, there's nobody around here that went to school with me. But if I go back to Estervan there's lots there.

D.M. H₂ve you been back by the way? ~~xxxx~~ ^{D.M. What was the}

J.Z. Oh yes I've been back ~~x~~ for the last 6 years, I've drove back 5 times in the last 6 years. I went as far as Edmonton because I got a son there.

D.M. What was the attraction, how does Estervan look~~x~~ now? What's

J.Z. Oh

D.M. The attraction back there?

J.Z. Oh it grew alot since, when, when I left there I think ~~x~~ was ~~127,xxx128~~ 27, 28 hundred of a population.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. There must be about 9,000 now.

D.M. You were the old sod hut or the sod house is gone (~~is~~ unintell.)

J.Z. Oh that's all gone, everything yeah. That's gone on the homestead, it's just houses ~~left~~ only left there, that's all that's left there is ~~the~~ the house, the old farm live in town from, from Torcway. ~~XX~~ They drive out 7, 6 miles, 5 miles whatever it is and they farm, they got nothing else just grain farming.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. Around there.

D.M. Sow, sow the seed in the spring and ~~xxxx~~ hopefully ~~f~~ harvest it in the fall and that's it, eh?

J.Z. That's it, yeah that's right, they live in Torcway. I, our farm there's a . . . ~~xxxx~~ somebody else is farming that now but I don't know if he live on a farm, there's ~~xxxx~~ nobody living on our farm or anyone around there. It's just an odd one, very rare

D.M. Well now sir the, we're pressing on~~e~~ here we're, after you ~~x~~ finished ~~xx~~ school, you finished school ~~xxxx~~ when? around about age 15 or so.

J.Z. Yeah 14 I was through school. ^{14 P.M.} Then, then I believe you went to work is, as a hired man right?

J.Z. I was a hired man from, well I was hired man when I was 13, 14, 15 for my uncle.

D.M. But I gather that . . . you hired out but you didn't see much of that money.

J.Z. Oh that went to the family. That went to my~~xxx~~ dad

D.M. I guess right.

J.Z. Yes

D.M. The father, ~~xxx~~ that was my obligation to help my dad and I respect him for that. The father was the head of the family in those days.

J.Z. Oh yes ~~is~~ definitely

D.M. (unintell.)

J.Z. And he's, he is, he was, when we get the age of ~~x~~ 21 he's going to start us out with an outfit to go farming.

D.M. That is what he hoped to do.

J.Z. Yeah that's what he hoped to do but when my time ~~xxx~~ ~~n~~ comes

D.M. Things didn't quite work out that way.

J.Z. The depression come.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. (unintell.)

D.M. Still but getting back to your father who must have been a remarkable man, he a, I guess he worked hard all his life from age 18. But he didn't die young, right?

J.Z. No he was 91 when he died. It is only about a year and a ~~his~~ half ago.

D.M. It seems to me you ~~some~~ commented ~~a~~ that work is never hard anyway, eh, is that what you

J.Z. No it's good for you. I ~~his~~ still like to . . . tease, that's why alot of them ask me, "Why don't you buy a snowplower?" Well ~~where~~ where we live we have a yard is a, driveway is 110 feet long. I says, "No, I got a ~~a~~ snowf float." That's my exercise. I don't want no snow blower, I want to, that's, I need some ~~x~~ of that.

D.M. Right sir, incidentally friends and neighbours we're chatting here with ~~XY~~ a, Mr. Joe Zimmerman, who retired in 1971 at age 62 after 36 with International Nickel. ~~Myr~~ Mr. Zimmerman grew up as you have ~~he~~ heard if you've been with us from the start of the show on a sod hut on the Saskatchewan ~~pr~~ prairie, eh?

J.Z. Yeah.

D.M. ^{ch} Well now Mr. Zimmerman, we have you hiring out through the years, through, ~~the~~ through the 20's, is that about right eh? What were your own aims and objectives when you were doing this? This was presumably you had two thoughts, you were going to, hoped you get a farm some day, right?

J.Z. Yes and I did fine a couple of years with my dad. I had my, rented some land but it didn't pay for the~~se~~ expense~~s~~ by the time we figure the gas and the threshing and the twine those days, the combine just start coming in and a, there was nothing left. So

D.M. So around about . . . oh did you not get around 31 cents a bushel or something (unintell.)

J.Z. ~~My~~ For I know for 31 cents but I think the wheat I had I sold for 40. That's the best I could do but I took eggs to town and sold a whole crate for 4 cents a dozen.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. And we got enough for a 1/2 pound of tobacco and we all smoked out of the ~~same~~ same can.

D.M. Well now Mr. Zimmerman, around about 1934 and it's the depths of the depression and it's the a, it's the depths of the dust years on the ~~pr~~ praires. You a, ~~you~~ decided you had that and you're going to move on, correct?

J.Z. Yeah I had enough I thought that's

D.M. Now you told me that you had a little money but that you hid that away, is that right?

J.Z. Yeah that's right, I had \$10x when I left

D.M. What did you do with it?

J.Z. I ~~it~~ hid it in my lining in my ~~was~~ waistband in my pants, I cut a little hole and I worked it way back. So if I got stopped they wouldn't know I got any money or the, I maybe have to pay my way 'cause that was emergency (unintell.)

D.M. Yeah, yeah I, I can see that.

J.Z. A loaf of bread ~~fixa~~ or a piece of bologna.

D.M. O.K. so when you, when you took off from a, from presumably Estervan where did you go?

J.Z. Well I was going ~~xx~~ ~~w~~ east to Free country and where the factories were I was going to get a job and, but when I got through the north way I got an ~~w~~ awful surprise I found Ontario was a warm climate and it was worst than when I left Estervan, it was nice and warm. But when we got to Hearst and the train went through there, I pretty near froze. I didn't take too much hand clothes with me.

D.M. All right so a, what did you do?

J.Z. Well we just, while I got on the boxcar anyway and in from Winnipeg we were on for 24 hours at least. All the way to (unintell.) or Hearst one place where it stopped, that was our first meal and

D.M. Now you say you were ^{on} on top of or inside a boxcar or what, you were just

J.Z. Oh some times we had be inside, some times on top and some times in between.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. To, if you couldn't get an empty car we splitted between the cars on the cuplinks you know to break the wind.

D.M. Now you told me ~~x~~ that some of the railroad ~~xxxx~~ police and others were a little hard to get along with but some of them were pretty good fellows, right?

J.Z. Some are very good and others, not many places were tough but we got the, ~~xxx~~ all those what they call bums those days, ~~w~~

D.M. Yeah

J.Z. We weren't, we were looking for work like we got to know all the good places and ~~xxx~~ the bad ones and we tried it without going through whatever there were tough, like I forget now, I think it Follet or Capreol that were ~~xxxxx~~ tough to go through.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. It was their reputation anyway.

D.M. Well now it seems to me as we were getting ready for the show, you told us about . . . finding an open boxcar with two ~~horses~~ horses and alot of hay in it and going to sleep in there.

J.Z. Yeah.

D.M. What was that story?

J.Z. That was, we were hit the south from Cochrane and it was snowing and cold. Four of us was sitting on the tender of the ~~trains~~ trains, he was always try to get a through freight, that they don't stop all over so we can get going. We hitting for North Bay, we heard that there might be something down here we could find so when we got on there it was late at night and we were travelling on the top of the car, on the ~~tender~~ tender. So first stop we, we got off two of us was, we look for a em, empty ~~car~~ car. If there's an empty car on here or someplace we can crawl in, we'll call you. So we spotted a car with a door open. So we looked in there was two horses and there was ~~axi~~ little bit of hay. So the, he gave the highball, ~~and~~ blew the whistle and he said we haven't got time to run back so we'll wait 'til the next stop and we'll go get them, bring (unintell.) So we got in there and sat on the hay and we fell asleep.

D.M. You'd be pretty tired I guess.

J.Z. We were pretty tired we fell aslepp, we woke up the ~~next~~ next morning we were moving. @ Looked out there some flag station, we were stranded on a, on a Saturday. Up by near (unintell.) somewheres in there, anyway it was about, he got out and there was a guy working on the track or somewheres and we asked him and ~~the~~ he said, "The closest place, half-decent town is New Liskerd, 15 miles." So we started hoofing it, we walked what we used to call counting the ties.

D.M. Counting ~~the~~ them off, eh?

J.Z. Yeah we were counting ties.

D.M. (unintell.) they, they were far ~~enough~~ enough apart for a full step but a little too far to take two ~~of~~ of them.

J.Z. Two that's true, that's ~~in~~ true and ~~there~~ it was hard on shoes. When we got to New Liskerd I had no more soles left on my, one of my shoes.

D.M. And did you not, did you not bum a pair of shoes in New Liskerd?

J.Z. Well I got a pair of shoe, I forget now. It doesn't, I can't recall just who gave them to me but I got a pair of shoes (~~unintell~~unintell)

D.M. (unintell.) that's something ~~that~~ that keeps in your ~~mind~~ mind, eh?

J.Z. Yeah.

D.M. That's something you would really appreciate.

J.Z. (unintell.) chief of police, he was one of the nicest I ever met in my life. He was so kind, and we just hungry again and he'd just

~~ri~~reach in his pocket and give us a meal ticket. See we got to know that from other travellers. Yeah and we headed there for a meal. (unintell.) send us to restaurant.

D.M. There was a guy with a, with, there was a Christian, eh? Is that the word, eh?

J.Z. Oh he was really

D.M. A fine guy, eh?

J.Z. A fine gentlemen, yeah. And he give ~~x~~ out the meal tickets so that they don't go from (unintell.) Guys that ride the rods they don't bother the people at their homes and try to ~~bum~~ bum meals so they

D.M. Right, O.K. so what happened next?

J.Z. Well we got the meal and we took off from there.

D.M. Where'd you go?

J.Z. Got as far as ^{North} North Bay.

D.M. What happened in North Bay?

J.Z. Well I still saw snow when we got here. Still

D.M. You'd come down east to get away from the cold weather, eh?

J.Z. Yeah

D.M. All right.

J.Z. (unintell.) we ~~we~~ hit the south where it's warmer. We went down south but there was nothing, there was nothing. So we, wherever we go we see a sign. "No help required." or "No ~~wanted~~ help wanted." You ~~head~~ ^{head} into one ~~of~~ of the towns, a policeman stop you ask you, "When did you come into town?" We almost told him, we just got in today because if you told that you've been here for two or three days. He'll tell you "Move on, ~~X~~ there's nothing here. Don't hang around too long."

D.M. Well now Mr. Zimmerman you told us about a, a very, very fine guy, a real gentlemen who was a chief of police I think it was New Liskerd. Now did you not also bump into a fellow ~~Bob~~ named Bob ~~Hartnest~~ Hartnest or

J.Z. ~~Henderson~~ Hennessy

D.M. ~~Bob~~ Bob Hennessy

J.Z. Hennessy, yeah.

D.M. Who was a fine gentlemen to you?

J.Z. Yeah

D.M. Now what ~~was~~ was that story?

J.Z. Well I a, what had happened when we, ^{I was} first of all we were in North Bay again, we got back to North Bay and you can only stay so long in a soup kitchen. So we thought we'd hit north again, try to get into the gold mines you know like Kir~~k~~land Lake or something. So ~~we~~ we walked we took the highway and we bummed rides with a, we got a ride with a car, with a truck up as far as Tomgamey and we stayed~~there~~ there over ~~a~~ ~~xxx~~ night. We slept in a boat house and ~~it~~ it was cold. We, you know, at that time the air, there was snowing a little~~er~~ bit. So we walked up the highway a piece, there's a little mine there outside of, ~~Bob~~ Bob Joe Mine I think they call it, north of Tomgamy and we got a job but they only lasted three days cutting timbers or under the mine clearing the brush. He ~~g~~ gave us a dollar a day for 10 hours and board. So that lasted three days and it was all over(unintell.)

D.M. Well it wasn't quite over he, he, he looked after you anyway did he not?

J.Z. Oh yes when, we got pretty friendly and he says come with me we're moving everything to North Bay now. If I get another contract, we'll a, government contract~~x~~ (unintell.) But on the ~~gsk~~ ~~gsk~~ government side then, that's the Henry government they called it.

D.M. Right.

J.Z. But he's, and but he couldn't get a job so like contracts so he says you come (unintell.) in our garage, in a garage. (unintell.) sold all his stuff like (unintell.) and the groceries were left over. So we set up camp there.

D.M. Well friend

J.Z. (unintell.)

D.M. For you young fellows you're hearing it. ^{That's what} ~~like~~ they say, like it really was, eh?

J.Z. That's where we . . . bached for a few ~~f~~ months in that. We even, even had a case of beer, a keg of beer he bought and brought it up, we had a celebration.

D.M. Now there was a gentlemen. Is he still alive, do you know?

J.Z. ~~No~~ he isn't, I met him once after. He in ~~a~~ Sudbury.

D.M. Met him here (unintell.)

J.Z. Yeah later, ~~we~~ later on. A few years later I met him at the Coulson and we ~~we~~ had a nice chat. He ~~g~~ was a good guy.

D.M. A gentleman, right?

J.Z. The only thing was he was a little heavy on the booze. So now that's one of those things. ^{PiWell}

D.M. That can ~~a~~ happen to anybody I guess.

J.Z. Even took us fishing.

D.M. Then, then what happened, did you not then get into a pulp camp, where they were cutting pulp up around Iroquois Falls or something.

J.Z. Yeah well this brother was a jobber up at a, (unintell.) Falls. No it wasn't (unintell.) falls, it was pulp wood. He had a camp up there. We had about a, we'd say over a hundred men working there but they were all piece work. But he said, "You can come up." 'cause we didn't know nothing about bush. So a, he said, "You come up and cut fire wood, ~~time~~ timrack, dry timrack for the camp, pay you so much a day." So we did, but it lasted three weeks and everybody went on strike. So ~~xxx~~ that was, ended that. Moved on again.

D.M. Yeah you weren't a member of the union, but a

J.Z. Well I joined the union there, yeah.

D.M. I guess you, you had better join or else.

J.Z. Everybody had a choice that worked there, ~~u~~ yeah.

D.M. So ~~was~~ ^{with} ~~was~~ ^{with} this job gone, what, ~~next~~ what's next?

J.Z. Well we started ~~we~~ hitting the road again and a,

D.M. Now wait a minute, did you not inherited, not somebody tell you that maybe you should try a place called ~~xxxxxx~~ Sudbury and that you, you never heard of Sudbury.

J.Z. That, that was ~~xxx~~ true (unintell.) I never heard I never knew that there was a, a International Nickel or mining. I ~~new~~ ~~never~~ ~~knew~~ didn't know anything about Sudbury. But you know ~~(unintelligible)~~ some young fellows telling me what don't you go and try and get hired. If your ~~(unintelligible)~~ tired of farming in the west, they'll hire you anyway. ~~So~~ ~~So~~ So

D.M. Why did they like farmers from the west?

J.Z. 'Cause they got a, they knew how ~~u~~ to work and you could depend on. That's what (unintell.) anyway.

D.M. O.K.

J.Z. (unintell.) how to work and they won't hire you, they won't last, stay or something. That's what they told me.

D.M. Well incidentally ~~xxxxx~~ you, you young fellows from in town listening speak to Mr. ~~Y~~ ~~Zimm~~ Zimmerman.

J.Z. Yeah.

D.M. About that. All right now tell us about getting hired on with ~~Inco~~ Inco.

J.Z. (unintell.) we applied for North Bay and the south. He was a kid from North Bay, come up here ~~xxxx~~ together and ~~first~~ the first day

well they hired me. I was the last one, he was an enemy and then I was the last one to win but they turned him down. ~~They~~ They say he was too ~~ix~~ light, but they hired me. And they told me be back Monday morning and your name be ~~ix~~ called and get a ~~ix~~ doctor's examination. That's what happened I got (unintell.) that night

D.M. That's how you, with International Nickel and (unintell.) with the company (unintell.) eh?

J.Z. Yeah mid-night, graveyard, I went on graveyard shift that night, yeah. I was so glad to get a job, I would have took anything.

D.M. ~~ix~~ Yeah I guess (unintell.)

J.Z. Yeah.

D.M. Well tell~~x~~ us about some of those, those early weeks or years with the company Mr. Zimmerman. I mean what, what'd you do, what friends did you make, what did you do? Did you rent a house or at less room or apartment~~x~~ in town (unintell.)

J.Z. No I had a room. At first I had no money so I rented a room where I got room and board. It~~x~~ was five in the, in one room, there was five ~~x~~ of us.

D.M. Five of us in one room.

J.Z. Yeah in one room, and a 'til pay day when I got the first pay well I moved where it was a little better because there was too many there and a,

D.M. You couldn't get too much sleep though with five in a room, ~~xx~~ eh?

J.Z. No and then there was ~~x~~ lots of, we, pensioners there, too, boarding there.

D.M. I see, in, in this first house that you ~~were~~ were in.

J.Z. This ~~first~~ house~~xxxxxx~~ first, ^{ch} yeah.

D.M. But you'd, you'd, once you'd starting getting weekly or monthly checks you'd, you'd figured you~~xxxxxx~~ had it made, eh?

J?Z. Oh yes I was ~~OK~~ O.K. I got myself a room and I ate in the restaurants there, you can get a good meal for 25 cents. A meal ticket (unintell) all the same way. You bought a meal ticket \$5.50 for a week and you punch that and I'd go to work.

^{D.M.} J.Z. Oh we're talking '35

^{J.Z.} D.M. That ~~x~~ was '35

D.M. Around in there, eh?

J.Z. That was '35, '35.

- D.M. Well now Mr. Zimmerman let's sort of push on here, you . . . did you get married somewhere along the line herex or
- J.Z. Yes~~xy~~yes I got married in '39. I got one son, he's 30 years old and I got married the second time, I got two step-sons (unintell.)
- D.M. O.K. now they, are they ~~ixi~~ living in Sudbury or this part of the world.
- J.Z. Two, my son~~x~~ he lives in Edmonton, he's a, got his body shop there. He's on his ~~we~~ ~~xx~~ own, he's doing well ~~a~~ and a, in ~~xx~~ fact I went out for Christmas, I flew out to spend 3 weeks with, for Christmas. So and my two step-sons they're in North Bay, one is a Physical Education teacher, ~~she's~~ he's got his~~x~~ Master's and he's going to Utah next spring he's got a . . . a subatacu~~a~~ and he's going to (unintell.) to take a 14, 14 month course. He's going for his a, his Ph.D.
- D.M. How about that, eh? That's,~~x~~ that's
- J.Z. Very wonderful.
- D.M. You must be proud to (unintell.) family then Mr. Zimmerman.
- J.Z. Oh yes, yeah. Oh yes they must like me too, because he bought me a chainsaw for a Christmas present from your step-son, that's pretty good, eh? A small one for the camp, see.
- D.M. Only a ~~xxxi~~ small one. Mr. Zimmerman this, this, this is great now I have not asked you about your a
- J.Z. The other
- D.M. Brother and sister or there's another son.
- J.Z. Son yeah ~~xxx~~ he's in, he is working for the Board of Education, Ontario Board of Education. He's a consultant.
- D.M. Ah indeed.
- J.Z. Ah so he is Ray Shovan, then, that's his name.
- D.M. Right
- J.Z. And he travels all over Ontario like from Toronto up to Moosenne.
- D.M. Oh for a young fellow who a, sort of got up and looked out the window of a sod hut.
- J.Z. A sod hut.
- D.M. Torcway, Torcway, Saskatchewan who lived through the blizzard or at least~~the~~ the dust bowl
- J.Z. That's right.
- D.M. And the ~~ixx~~ depression, things happen to work out too badly.

J.Z. No I'm happy ~~xx~~ that's all. I'm happy I, I mean we got more living, well today we live just as good as you'd say a doctor~~x~~ lived 40 years ago or better. We got just as much, we~~xxx~~ got our home, we got the camp, we got the motor, the boat, we got, got good car we drive, there's nothing lacking in our house. I always got 5 bottles of whiskey at, a couple cases of beer. I ~~xxxx~~ never run short, I never (unintell.) the old ~~x~~ five, there's rum, there's brandy, I got everything. No room to kick.

D.M. Mr. Zimmerman the, a ~~xxi~~ it's fair to say then that life and a, the company ~~xxx~~ has been good to you, you feel, *do you?*

J.Z. I can't complain there's no better to work for. For a guy that doesn't know anything.

D.M. If your a guy ~~xxxx~~ who doesn't know anything, ~~xxxx~~ you're not doing too badly.

J.Z. That's the place to go.

D.M. No, no, no. I think that just about winds things up and I think it's the right note to, to, to wind ~~xx~~ it up on and a,

J.Z. But a

D.M. Got another point you want to make Mr. Zimmerman?

J.Z. Yeah, yeah. I used to tell guys when I started here at Inco about the (~~unintell.~~) we had in Torcway
(*rabbit drive*)

D.M. (unintell.)

J.Z. And they ~~won't~~ ^{wouldn't} believe it, they wouldn't believe that.

D.M. Well tell us now.

J.Z. Well that was, ~~xxxxxxx~~ I think in '31 if I'm right. We put on a rabbit drive, two of them. The first one wasn't very successful but the second one was pretty good. We took 10 square miles and the people come, start moving in from all sides and met at the corral built in the center and we brought these rabbits up there. You know jack rabbits and we had them on a hill there and ~~they~~ (unintell.) like it. And they were just ~~xxx~~ like ants and we've, ~~we~~ they start ~~xx~~ bringing them through to, to our lakes and all over you ~~x~~ know. Nobody had a gun or nothing ~~x~~ you know.

D.M. Yeah.

J.Z. Wagons and a, bed⁴wagon you know alot of bedded wagon~~x~~ those days and horseback

D.M. And buggies, ~~xx~~yeah.

J.Z. And ~~tobogganing~~ ^(unintell.) ~~and~~ and we rushed them in to this corral, close the gate and then we went in with clips and they were piled up that high. We figured we got 4000.

D.M. This, of course, would be a, this would be food, you'd need it to

eat.

- J.Z. No ~~was just~~ they just got rid of them, they were too plentiful.
- D.M. Oh they were just, they were, they were a pest (unintell.)
- J.Z. X(unintell.) You could eat them but, but we used to . . . that used to be our spending money. We ~~we~~ used to go and shot rabbits and a, 10 cents, we sell them for 10 cents a piece you know. And then ~~you~~ go to a dance, we make enough to go to a dance. We shot rabbits
- D.M. Right.
- J.Z. And then we used to ~~we~~ sell them 10 cents a piece, the whole rabbit the way it is.
- D.M. Well, well as I've stated earlier friends we've heard it just exactly the way it was. Our guest has been a, Mr. Joe Zimmerman who retired in 1971 at age 62 after 36 years with International Nickel. Mr. Zimmerman it's been a pleasure and a privilege to have you as our guest on "Memories & Music"
- J.Z. Thanks very much. It's a pleasure to be here.