

The following transcript of
Jeannette Gauthier's interview
on

Memories and Music

(broadcast March 18, 1976)

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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INTERVIEWEE: Jeannette Gauthier, TRANS.: Raymonde Lafortune
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INTERVIEWER: Dr. Frank Peak

THEME: *Mrs. Jeannette Gauthier recalls the Bell family's
lifestyle from her experience as a House Keeper
and receptionist at their home.*

F.P. March the 18th, 1976, interview with Miss Jeannette Gauthier.

Well Miss Gauthier when and how did you get employed with Mr. and Mrs. Bell?

J.G. Through a friend, a girl named Ann that I went out to school with--that's on another tape--to replace her so ~~that~~ she could have a holiday. I had never done this type of work before, knew the Bells only by the Bells, the rich people up on the hill. . . . I enjoyed working for Mrs. Bell ~~it~~ was quite an experience with me because I have not done this type of work before as I said earlier; and . . .

F.P. You went to work there just as a temporary relief, originally.

J.G. Temporarily, originally, that's why I had a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Bell.

F.P. Yes, and then when your friend. . . .

J.G. Finally within a year this friend decided to marry and asked me if I would be available to--and that's Mrs. Bell that said if she needed me, if I would come back to ~~and~~ work for her. So I decided well this is a good opportunity and I went back feeling that I would, I had served a good two weeks with Mrs. Bell the first time.

F.P. So what was the actual date that you started working with the Bells?

J.G. I started ⁱⁿ the 18th of March 1940.

F.P. That's the anniversary today.

J.G. Today.

F.P. Many ^{good and}) to you

J.G. Yes. This is, this is an anniversary for me too. Which I have never forgotten and I'll never forget because, I enjoyed working there very much. She was, there was strict, in, you couldn't stay out late at night, should I say that. They were good living people.

F.P. What was the actual job that you were hired to do?

J.G. Well my actual job was to keep the house in order and cook, and do the ~~and~~ cooking. There was a laundress, a child woman that came and my family used that word and I don't like it but . . . to do the washing and cleaning of house twice a week. So I was more or less of house keeper and receptionist and I . . .

F.P. (unintelligible)

J.G. Beg your pardon?

F.P. () 136.

J.G. That's right. That is right. That's right.

F.P. And you lived in?

J.G. I lived in I had a nice room with very good commendation no complaints . . .

F.P. ^{And then} Yes. ~~And~~ were you in the house seven days a week?

J.G. Yes, I had a half day a week. I had Thursday afternoon off, and Sunday well, I worked all day but I had to go to church, that was quite all right. They were not of the same faith. But she was very kind to me. Whenever we had something at the, at our church ~~at~~ 7:30 on a Sunday, she even washed the dishes for me.

F.P. Did she?

J.G. Now that will surprise a lot of people because . . .

F.P. Yes, yes.

J.G. Not many would do it and she'd be a tidy people. If they had someone, she never left, I'd never come home with a sinkfull of dishes, or glasses if they'd use a glass. She was tidy, very ~~tidy~~. They were a good people to work for. Mr. Bell unfortunately he, he died I was only there five years when he died because having fall. He fell

and broke his hip. Is that alright to say?

^{yes}
F.P. He would retire (¹⁴⁷).

J.G. Oh yes, oh yes. Well I should say, I see around here. He went to the office, I believe once a week. But he wasn't, he was elderly. He was driven by the chauffeur, gardener, one man that had been thirty-five years at the death of Mr. Bell. He's now passed away.

F.P. Yes. That was Mr. Henderson?

J.G. Mr. Henderson. Yes.

F.P. And he was the only other full-time servant beside yourself?

J.G. He was the only full-time. Yes. In the summer time we had an extra man because it's a large estate, and this man loved flowers. But he had a green-house, an hot-house, you know always planting in the winter for the vegetable garden, should I say we had two cows . . .

F.P. Oh, did you really?

J.G. Oh yes. In those days ^S we were allowed. There was not, ^{the fact} ~~that and was not~~ . . .

F.P. It was permitted to keep there? Large stock?

J.G. Yes. There was a horse, Mrs. Bell gave us of her to use to until ^{she got the traffic} there got too many cars, she.

F.P. She used to drive around in a buggy didn't she?

J.G. She couldn't enjoy driving with her horse so she ^{had}) 228
Yeah the horse was thirty-five years old.

F.P. Really?

J.G. We had to have it put asleep.

F.P. You had to have it put asleep?

J.G. Yes. And the cows well, we became, when they start selling property well we didn't have much pasture. ~~And~~ I even made the butter.

F.P. Did you?

J.G. Every Thursday morning was churning day. I liked it I enjoyed it very much . . .

~~F.P.~~

F.P. So they always had two cows?

J.G. For about the last three or four years that I was ^{there} they didn't have any more cows because, and hens we had our own eggs.

F.P. Own eggs, own milk, own butter. That's quite interesting to think back because Mr. Bell

J.G. But Mr. Bell as you know was a directory originally he was a lumberman.

F.P. Yes.

J.G. You know that?

F.P. Yes.

J.G. But then he joined a few, when I went there in 1940 he was a directory--I think I'm right by saying that--of the National Grocers, because the retired manager of the National Grocers was now still alive and he used to come in the foyers before he retired, long after that to have dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Bell, as a guest and talk you know, business. Then there were some of the officials from the National Head Office of National Grocers would come too. And I had to take care of these people and I enjoyed it very much.

F.P. So that ^{meant that} he did keep then some interest in business right up until? --He had his fall?

J.G. Up until he fell, he fell and broke his hip first. I picked him up, I was all alone with him in the house.

F.P. And he fell in the house did he?

J.G. Yes. His eyesight was not very good and he would come downstairs and he missed a step. I believe he used to count: one, two, three, four; and then a step and then there was a landing, it's about five or six feet of a landing, then there was the ^{trailing} of the stairway. We had a little spiral stairway. And he fell. I found him on, right on his back. I don't know whether you're interested in knowing that. And I was all alone; and he was a tall man. I wish I had a picture of that, that would be the era. And he said: --I heard a moan-- And I said: "Oh my gosh." But I thought it was a blast at the mining at the mines because they used to blast about 4:15. Then I heard another moan, I says: "Something's wrong." I came rushing and there was Mr. Bell, flat on his back and he says: "Jeannette," he says: "I think I've hurt myself badly." So, I says: "Well," Mrs. Bell was out with the chauffeur, so he says, I said: "I'll do my best." And I finally made him come down

sitting down position, step by step and asked ^{her} ~~him~~ ^{me} to put his arm around me and supported me and bring him to the living-room. He said: "Oh, thank-goodness you're here Jeannette," He says: "You're really helping me a lot." Probably I did, probably I didn't. I probably should have left him where he was but I made him more comfortable . . . I never had an experience like that.

F.P. Did he have to go into hospital?

J.G. No. He was at the age that he was. They did not put, ^{they didn't} a cast on elderly people, as you know, they do not do that anymore. Well it depends, of the condition of the person because Mrs. Bell broke her leg ^{also} after Mr. Bell died. I was there fourteen years and fourteen years time we have twelve years of nursing.

F.P. Yes.

J.G. We had nurses because of the two incidents. He was able to walk again with crutches and then became, ^{and} was able to go out for a car ride once a week with the chauffeur. Finally I believe he did have a little, it was, I'm not to sure, I think it was a little bit of, probably something sudden but the nurse called me--there was always a nurse on hand--I think he probably had a stroke or something. I am not positive. She called me, she says, call doctor, his doctor--shall I name?--doctor Jones. There're a few that haven't met him. He's away from here now. And she says I think he's dying. And she--a nurse is not suppose to shed tears--she was crying. ^{But} she had known Mr. Bell for all her life. They lived on the same street. And they loved her, she liked her because she was a very good graduate nurse.

F.P. Who was that?

J.G. This was--she's dead now--she was Miss Margaret Grant and married a Mr. ^{later} Tom O'Connor. A native, both natives of Sudbury, the old timers yes. Mr. O'Connor was an old timer used to live on Ferlane. And they wanted nobody but Margaret to look after them because she was a very, very conscientious nurse. Now where are we?

F.P. I don't know. Now you said that you really liked the Bells as ~~they~~ employer because they were ^{sort of} strict in some ways but yet very good people to work for.

J.G. Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes.

F.P. What sort of life did the Bells lead at ^{home} since they didn't have any family of their own? Did they do a lot of entertaining?

J.G. Not in my time because as you know with the age say, they had to stop that. I cannot say how much entertained at all. Never thought of asking Mr. Henderson, it didn't come up. And I really, one should always ask questions even in your ~~own~~ family, of your father and mother and you're ancestors. We have, I have a lot of things I would of like, I should have asked my mother that I did not. However, and I did the same with the Bells. So I didn't ask too many questions, you're not I didn't think it was mine.

F.P. Yes.

J.G. ~~And~~ Well the visitors were old friends, that came a lot more over, not to often but often enough to cut, especially after Mr. Bell died, they called on Mrs. Bell mostly women. See he golfed in his young days. Have you ever read the book that Mr. ~~Benson~~ wrote on Idylwyld Golf Club?
Merwin

F.P. No. I haven't.

J.G. No? The library doesn't ^{not} have a copy?

F.P. I don't know that book.

J.G. Oh I've got one. Mr. ~~Benson~~ ^{Merwin} autographed one for me because I knew the Ben ^{Merwin} you see, through my last employer Mr. Parker. And I have an autographed copy of the--and Mr. Bell was one of the original instigators on of the . . .

F.P. (No va) 457 It was on . . .

J.G. You could, but my friend to arrive. I would be glad to lend you that book.

F.P. Yeah, I would very much like to see that. ~~bo~~ Yes, indeed. Naturally.

J.G. It's packed in my bag, are available see, I've only read a bit of it. But I think, I think Mr. Bell was one of the first . . .

F.P. The founders of the () 465

J.G. Founder of the, plus I believe Mrs. Parker also. But there's a very nice white up in picture of Mr. Bell and the, and his young days. Besides business I think they did travel.

F.P. Did they? They travelled out of Sudbury () probably?

J.G. Yes. I think they did. I imagine so. Now I'm not positive of this because as I said, when I met them they had all their travelling and he was retired and only when two meetings at Coocky. I think he had something to do with Cochran~~e~~, Cochran-Dunlop, that our . . .

F.P. Oh yes. Yes. He had some interest there. *did he?*

J.G. Yes. Oh yes. He had. I probably was a shell *spell* ~~older~~ than that now. I'm not positive but again I met Mr. Cochran and Mrs. Cochran through the Bells. They use to come and . . .

F.P. Yes. And we did talk to Mr. Percy Gardner.

F.P. Oh yes! Well yes of course.

F.P. And he mention~~ed~~ that Mr. Bell knew Frank Cochran.

J.G. Yes. Oh yes. Oh Mr. Frank Cochran yes, there was a lovely picture in the living-room of Mr. Frank Cochran, the old distinguished gentleman with the black dark suit and the stiff reverse tip collar you know, the point of the collar. Very, was a very nice picture Mr. Wilber Cochran ~~did~~ not resemble his father at all.

F.P. He didn't?

J.G. No, I believe so yes.

F.P. Thank-you. And of course you mentioned the visitor, the manager of National Grocers who came to visit them fairly very frequently.

J.G. Yes. Would you like to have the names? Is the name important?

F.P. Yes. It's all *of* very interesting.

J.G. He's still living in Oakville in George town. ~~I'm~~ Sorry. He just left. His name was Mr. Gerald O'Reilly, their in. They spend their winters in St. Petersburg.

F.P. Yes.

J.G. I've enjoyed them very much. Then . . .

F.P. You've kept up contact with them?

J.G. Always did. Well they are friends of my, you see through, a lot of the friends of the Bells are friends of this, my last employer Mr. Parker.

F.P. Mr. Parker? Yes.

J.G. So when they first came to, we came to Toronto and they heard I was with Mr. Parker I says, and they came for a visit, they said: "Oh, Jeannette, I was so glad to see you!"

F.P. Didn't Mr. Bell have any business contacts with you know, with International Nickel?

J.G. I could not answer that question

F.P. No.

J.G. I have no way of knowing that.

F.P. Yes, but he, as a well known local person he would know many of the senior officials that () 543

J.G. I would think so yes. I would think so.

F.P. Yes. Yes.

J.G. But I was not involved with National Nickel in those days you see and . . .

F.P. No. No. Did he know Mr. Parker specifically do you know?

J.G. Oh yes. Oh yes. Oh yes. Well in that book of the Idylwyldes there is, Mr. Parker is the, there's a history of Mrs. Parker also connected with the Idylwyldes.

F.P. () *With the Idylwyldes yes.*

J.G. I'll see that you get that book as soon as she arrives. Yes. I'm sure you'll like it.

F.P. Well the Bells didn't have any family of their own, and they didn't have any children but presumably they had other relatives. Were any of them still about? And did any of them ever visit whilst you were there?

J.G. Oh yes. Oh yes. There is one still a cousin, on Mr. Bell's side is still living. He lives right here on the south side of Lake Ramsay.

F.P. Oh really, is he a member of the Bell family?

J.G. He's not of the name.

F.P. No. No, but.

J.G. He's got another name, but he's Mr. Bell's cousin or second cousin, though, on his mother's side.

F.P. Oh, really? And who is that?

J.G. His name is Allen^ASupple.

F.P. Allen Supple I've heard that^Aname.

J.G. Ah well, I haven't seen him since--oh he's been here since I left Bell Rock. And he lives around here, right just a couple of houses from Mrs. ^{Burton}Burton. As a matter of fact I think it's the house she bought, she owns now is, the house did belong to the Supple, through--oh well. I don't think I should reveal ^{well, the story is at} Mr. Supple--he's a, he's a charming man. Then there was a Mr. Tom Haile, Cutal Hail. He use to come about once a month to visit, and get on Mr. Parker's, I'm so use to . . . Mr. Bell's side. He died recently. Quite elderly he, living in what they call Welcome between, on the way to Port Hope.

F.P. Oh yes.

J.G. Just as you had to Port Hope. That was this Mr. Hacker and Hail that was an acolit of this Allen Supple you see.

F.P. I see. Yes. Yes. And this in the obituary of Mrs. Bell that there were some that she had sold to the niece and the nephew. ^{some like a}

J.G. Yes.

F.P. From Montreal.

J.G. Yes. It was a nephew that use to come to visit her in the latter years. Especially after Mr. Bell died, he use to come about once a month. He'd come in on the morning train on a Sunday, spend the day with her and go back to his work in Montreal, Sunday night. Monday morning you see. His ^{and} name was McKray. ^{McKra?}

F.P. Is that^{that?} Donald McKray? ^{that name yes?}

J.G. Donald McKray yeah, that's right, you've met him that, fantastic . . . He was very nice yes. Then she has, ^{there's a,} isn't there a Miss Skead?

F.P. And that's right. A Judith Skead.

J.G. Yes. Well that is on Mrs. Bell's side. Mrs. Bell was ^{Skead,} here father was a senator.

F.P. That's right. And did Skead here in Sudbury, was that named after Senator Skead?

J.G. Now I am not positive of that. I can't. It never occurred to me to ask, no. But I'm sure that some of the old people that are still around, Mr. Gardner I'm sure could tell you that. And Miss Skead, married but I don't know where she's living. She married after her aunt died. And but

I don't know where ^{in living} she lives.

F.P. Now Mr. and Mrs. Bell had lots of interests I gather in the community, church in particular.

J.G. Church, church connections to shape yes, Mrs. Bell. Mr. Bell I think dropped a lot of those things ^{after a} certain . . . But Mrs. Bell kept pretty much into the, United and the Auxiliary with the west end. You see the United Church's Women Auxiliary was dividied into four and four sections: the east, the west, the north, and south I guess. Because we were souths I believe. And once a year there was a garden party because we have spacious lawn at the big gates there, facing Ramsay Road. And the ladies was all cold, cold prepared food you know. It was very nice and very enjoying, oh it was ^{always} a good crowd. She liked to devote a lot of time to the United Church.

F.P. Yes. Yes. That's right. She had (a) 664

J.G. They were United Church yes, yes.

F.P. United Church people yes. And she was very strong and she fought for . . .

J.G. She was..

F.P. And did I and her other two main interests together, were animals..

J.G. And horses.

F.P. And plows and the garden ^{was} is that true?

J.G. Well we had lovely gardens yeah, lovely flowers yes. Because she had a good gardener, a very conscientious gardener and he loved the flowers as well as Mrs. Bell. That we had lovely flowers. I have not been in the house since before the fire.

F.P. No.

J.G. I went once after I went to Copper Cliff and we spoke to ^{and met} this Mr. Evans that was the administrator of the Memorial Hospital in those days. I believe he's away from there now for a number of years. Oh yes he loved flowers. We had, you know to make it, ^{it} always expressed it that at the Bells ^{that} we had:--I worked for two elderly people-- we had: two canaries, we had two dogs, there was two cows, one horse and one car. That was the main activity of the Bell Rock's estate and surroundings.

F.P. Yes. And Mrs. Bell really liked horses. This is, these were her favorite animals?

J.G. Yes. She loved animals but she loved her horse very much. She always rode in her cutter in the wintertime and buggy and ^{very straight} sat very straight very staunchly.

F.P. Yes.

J.G. I have, it's very, I have a picture of her, but it's not very good, if you think you could, and there are other people, at this is one of the garden parties, she's sitting at a table there with some the ladies. One of them sitting beside her, I forget if she's on her right or her left, is Mrs. Charles ~~McKray~~ Melrea

F.P. Oh yes.

J.G. Did you hear about Mr. ^{Crea} ~~McKray~~?

F.P. Yes. Indeed.

J.G. Well I have that picture if you think you'd like ^{to} have to it for the archives in the library. Well what am I going to do with them. I've kept them all these years because I enjoyed working there and but if it's be you can use them. I'd be glad to pass them on.

F.P. Oh, we'd be very glad to have them. Yes, we certainly would.

J.G. Because as I am now, I'm getting older I won't need them. But I, I'll part with them.

F.P. Oh, thanks very much. Thank-you well certainly appreciate it.

J.G. I'll cherish them in my memory.

F.P. ^{Yes. Yes.} Can you describe the house? You know what sort of a house was it? What sort of a house was it to live in and work in?

J.G. Well it was an easy house. It was a three storey house. But we did not go by the third floor too much. It was more of a storage and it was a large billiard table, I guess it was used most in the early days. Then the main, the second floor, there were three large rooms plus my room. The housekeeper room was on the same floor then on the second floor. The main floor was very attractive, first of all as you walked in, there was a large entrance and with that spiral stairway, that the very, on the right was the office. And a large living-room on the left with wood panelling, partly shall I say, about eight inch panelling up and down with sort of a strong type of paper. And wallpaper I guess. And they were really asked because the doorway was right out there for the, to have plants

and flowers always available close to the house, plus the hot-house that was somewhere else below the, I can show it to you on the paper, on the picture there.

F.P. Good. ^{and} How did Mrs. Bell, I gather was confined to, ^{to} certainly ^{to} for the house and maybe the bed was she during the last three or so years after Mr. Bell died?

J.G. I would say it was more than that. I think I'm right by saying it happened in 1947, in February. I came home and I went to bed and then all of a sudden I hear my doorknob open, I said: "Oh my gosh, I'm late!" I had been to the Winter Carnival and I says: "I'm late coming home, what's going to happen?" But ~~when~~ ^{what}, I came face to face with, what, this nurse again, this Margaret Grant O'Connor, and I said: "What are you doing here?" She said: "Mrs. Bell fell and she has a broken leg." Her leg was broken mid-way, the upper part from the knee to the thigh, mid-way in the thigh. She heard, they did not, she had a cast. But on the whole her sickness--she died in '54--I think I'm ~~correct~~ ^{right} by saying that it was in 1947, that she had her first, that she was not able to do what she used to do. And of course ^{that} she was in a cast for three months.

F.P. After she got rid of the cast was she able to get it back without ^(a legging) or did she pretty well stay . . .

J.G. Yes, she was able to, yes . . . you know, I have forgotten. How she, ~~was~~, how was the turn, what turned the end of her life . . . can I think a little bit? (Born) in between changing of shift, I think the shift was more of a, shall we say she, just a little discomfort, she kind of went to sleep.

F.P. Yes. Just died quietly in her sleep.

J.G. ^{that's} That's, I think, that's what. They have been. I can't describe exactly what they were. She always had nurses naturally, but I know that there was something and by the, between the changing of the night shift nurse and the day nurse. It happened. Just as the day nurse came on it happened. That's about the end of the era of Mrs. and Catherine Bell and Mr. . . .

F.P. Do you know anything of the early life of Mr. and Mrs. Bell? Did they talk about their early days at all? ^{that she . . .}

J.G. Yes she did. A few times. ^{as} Well like I said she was a Senator's daughter and Mr. Bell was his lumber manager. And being a Senator he had a ~~lumber~~ ^{lumber} in Pembroke, he had a lumber. There they are in a ~~lumber~~ ^{lumber} ~~Pembroke~~ but what I think is . . . There's another thing that might be of interest to ~~you~~ ^{you} of Mr. Bell. He had, there was a Spanish River train crash, he nearly died. Came close to dying. As a matter of fact when I said ~~that I was~~ ^{that I was} going to work to my father

up to my father, I was asked to go to work for Mr. and Mrs. Bell. My father said: "Mr. Bell is dead." I said: "No Dad." In French naturally because we always spoke French at home. And I said: "No." So he related to me the story of Mr. Bell being in the crash, in this train crash. I know she said there was a certain kind of soup Mr. Bell would never eat, was pea soup, which was very, ~~which~~ was the soup on the train in, ~~them~~. I forget, I think, I forget what year it was that crash. There's was two train crash, you gotta, there was two train crash in the Sudbury area that I saw in the pictures of the triangle when Mr. Parker was ceased. And I forget the year but it was a long time, because by that time, by that train crash you see, he had bought, he had left his father-in-law in *Ottawa* and bought himself a lumber limit which it was called the Spanish River Pulp Company I think. But he, he was close to death, but he didn't. And as a matter of fact, after he died when they brought him back from the hospital, he had a very bad cut, at the top of the forehead, because he was in the ~~riding~~ *riding* car when it happened and he was eating pea soup. And Mrs. Bell said: "Never will we ~~eat~~ *eat* pea soup here, because Mr. Bell won't eat it on account of it reminds him of the crash."

F.P. Crash.

J.G. Yeah, but I forget the year of that crash. You probably have it.

F.P. Yes. We ~~do~~ *we do*, we know what year was the crash.

J.G. But my father was quite amazed that he was still alive. I said: "No Dad." He says: "Yeah, well but he's old." He said: "He's eighty-one."

F.P. Yes.

J.G. That was 1940.

F.P. I gather that he also played quite an important role in local politics. That was before your time.

J.G. Well now let's not get into politics. That was before my time and I think we're, ~~we are~~ *we are* to stay off politics.

F.P. Yes I would sooner suspect so. I gather that the Bells were staunch conservatives.

J.G. Yes. And I'm a staunch liberal. So I could not say what what involvement Mr. Bell took. I don't think he took part openly. I don't know. I cannot say that. Because as I said I was involved in my French community, my French part, not that I didn't like English, we always did. I thank my parents that they gave, they worked

hard to have our separate school that we were able to have two languages. If they hadn't worked so hard and they, like the Ricard Hardware, the C.F.R.B., recall back was Ricard's father. Well those were all the originators of, for founding the separate school, to keep the French Canadian children of the pioneer of Sudbury--cause my father and mother came, see I was born in 1909, so I was a little girl--now I'm little but not young. They worked hard because the government didn't want to give much, no grants, if very little, towards the separate schools because they felt we should go to public school. And of course it was, they didn't realise, probably in those days. But up till, for many years until about fifteen years ago, Sudbury was sixty-five percent French-Canadian. Now does that? Have you heard that?

F.P. Not, that high percentage, no.

J.G. Yes. I'm almost sure. So we, these French Canadian pioneers worked hard, and made, we had to make, take some of the, make card parties and social things to keep up, to help to pay the taxes, the school taxes to keep up the French Cana . . . So that we could keep our French language of our ancestors that came, that pioneered here. My father and mother came to Copper Cliff first.

F.P. Did they? Yeah, but where did they come from.

J.G. Ah, my father and mother came from below Ottawa, there on the Quebec side. My mother was born in Hull. My father was born in a little town, north of Hull, north of the river, called Plaisance. And the, my mother came to Copper Cliff, I'm not sure whether before my father, or approximately at the same time. But she was nine years old when she came to Copper Cliff. But they didn't remain there very long. She met my father at the turn of the century at midnight mass,--Roman Catholic--at midnight mass, at the turn of the century, 1900. And in 1903 they were married in Copper Cliff, I was not born there. My older brother, and I think my older sister, were born in Copper Cliff.

F.P. In Copper-Cliff?

J.G. As a matter of fact my older brother, my--he's dead now, he was a member of parliament, you might of heard that, I had Leo my brother--well he was born in the priest-house. At the church, my mother was only eighteen years old, and she was asking for a catholic priest and they lived in there. And he was baptised on New Years Day, in the catholic church on the corner of Balsam and Church I believe it is in Copper-Cliff. The old church is not there anymore and I have not had the privilege of seeing the new church.

When I was working in Copper-Cliff for Mr.--I start in '54 for Mr. Parker in Copper-Cliff--I went to the old Saint-Soize yes. But they, they have built a new church since we have left to go to Toronto. So I have nineteen years with Mr. Parker.

Yes.
F.P. And where did your parents move too, when they left Copper-Cliff?

J.G. Well, my father was a blacksmith by trade. I think the, he moved along to quite a number of places. I was born in McFarlane lake because my . . . but then my grand-parents came to Copper-Cliff too, with mother naturally. She was the baby, she was the second youngest. They worked on those roaster beds, but they didn't have the sacks in those days, and the sulfur was very bad. As you must of heard that the vegetation in Coniston, and well first of all it was in Coniston, which I ~~didn't~~ *only* know just recently. Oh I've learned a lot of things working for Mr. Parker that I can relate; that people wouldn't have had the chance you see?

F.P. Yes.

J.G. Then we lived. I was born in McFarlane lake because my grand-parents they wanted; they decided they wanted to farm. He worked in Copper-Cliff for a while but Mr. Parker doesn't connect this place, Crows's nest, in Copper-Cliff and I can't tell you where it is. But my father, my father and mother were married on Clarabelle at Clarabelle which there was a mine there now. My sister doesn't know what she did with the pictures of my mother, of my; the wedding of my father and mother in 1903, in Copper-Cliff, which there wasn't much, there wasn't very many homes. Then they went to live--after I was born--I was born late because ~~my~~ mother wanted to be with her mother. she was a nervous type like me, scared more scare than ~~her~~. I'm not scared in the daytime, at least I've gotten used to being alone. But I won't stay alone in the house at night. And about eight months so, by that time my father had got employment. I don't know if you know about this, a lot of people don't know. At the Indian Reserve here, there's a gold, there was a gold mine at WhiteFish.

F.P. Is that down at the end of LongLake?

J.G. Yes.

F.P. Yes, I've heard of the gold mine down there.

J.G. Yeseoh, you have, well good for you. Well you see I called, we crossed my mother and I and my oldest sister. We crossed from ~~the~~ McFarlane ~~lake~~ before I was a year old in the fall, I was born in spring. And in the fall we moved, the roads were

not passable, it was too long to Copper-Cliff, I guess but I, we, the manager of the mine I would think, came, was the manager of the mine his name ~~was~~ a French name; I forget his name; Mr. Tellefier. He came with a, being in the fall with the snow, with a long slay and a team of horses. And that's where we, we went! "Oh my!" Then we, the house burnt, and I think that was the end of the era connected with my name, my father quit, he came to Sudbury, I believe . . . well I don't know when. I guess I was about a year a year and a half probably. Then he opened up a blacksmith's shop of his own with a patner I should say. ~~didn't~~ ^{But} work out too well.

F.P. Where was that in New Sudbury?

J.G. Yeah. Then we went in, he left that, that didn't work out too well and I think part of it, if I remember correctly he worked for the G. Laberge Lumber. Which was where the North End of North West of Notre-Dame, which they had the G. Laberge Lumber Company there. He was as a millright. Up to me I would call that a jack-of-all-trade. My dad fitted anywhere, like I do, like I did. He was one, ^{one day the} Mr. Ellan's company . . . then he left the Laberge and went to work for Evans, for eighteen years, then he took sick, my dad was sick for five years with leukemia. He died in, he died in, it'd be thirty-six years next month at when I went, six weeks after I went to Bells. He's been dead a long time. My mother lived longer you see. She died twelve years ago. So that's pretty much the history of my family.