

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Edward B. Archbald

The purpose of this project is to collect information relating to the Town of Carlton by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experience and memories reflect the area and it's growth.

This transcription will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Town of Carlton Historian.

Edward B. Archbald

Sept. 24, 1997

Date

- H This Oral History Interview is being conducted with EDWARD B. ARCHBALD of 983 Archbald Road, Waterport, New York. The Town of Carlton in Orleans County. This interview is being conducted by myself, Lysbeth Hoffman, Town of Carlton Historian. Mrs. Jean Archbald, Mr. Archbald's wife, is present in the room, and will be speaking now and then during the tape. James Vosteen, a neighbor, is also present during a portion of the interview.
- To preface this a little bit, Ed, would you please give me the date of your birth ?
- A Yes. August 13, 1898. I was born in Buffalo. I missed being born in Pennsylvania by about two months.
- H Please tell me the names of your parents.
- A Bessie Baird Archbald and Joseph Albright Archbald. Albright was my Grandmother's name.
- H Did you attend school in the Buffalo area ?
- A Yes. There was Franklin School, the Nichols School, all private schools. In fact I'm the first one who walked in the door - - in Nichols School. In 1910. They started in 1895, but the school was built in 1910, the new building.
- H With a last name starting with an "A" you may have been one of the first graduates then too ?
- A I don't know about that part. I'm still the oldest one around, that part I do know. My brother was a year older and he went there first.
- H What year, or in what period did you first come out to this location ?
- A 1919. I graduated from Yale in 1919. Also I got out of the Army in the same year.
- H I'd like to talk about the house and then I'll go back to World War I - - if that's all right with you.
- A This is the Lighthouse Keeper's House. I can't tell you when it was built. (Lighthouse and Keeper's dwelling built in 1871 at total cost of \$4000.00, according to history.) We bought the farm in 1914. In 1914 the road was down in

front of the house (east side toward river). That hill right back down here was very important. That was where they loaded the wheat. They drove up on that ridge and got high enough so the sailboats coming in here received the wheat - - or oats or whatever.

H It would be wonderful to have seen freighters that were sailing ships come in here (Oak Orchard Harbor).

A They had two places. One was up at The Bridges, at Fiddler's Elbow, where they loaded grain.

H Was that Seilheimer ?

A No. He was down here, he was across the creek. There were eight bachelors over there at one time. I used to be able to name them all.

H Was the house basically the same size as it is now ?

A No, it didn't look like this at all. The front door is where we would go upstairs now. This (right above him in sun room) is a handmade beam by by foreman. He was a good man. He was a "bark-peeler" from Pennsylvania. Could he handle an ax. He just stood right up there and cut that beam right off with a standard ax. The rest were sawed and done later with an adz to make them look hand hewn, but they weren't. That's the only one that's hand hewn (above in middle of several beams).

H It seems incredible that anyone could have done that.

A It was amazing. This house had it seems 12 big trees in front of it. The road came down there in front and I can't tell you just when I moved it. I moved roads around - - without telling anybody. I'd close them up and build another road. Walter Arter was my gardner here, so we built another road around 1928. We just shut it off and built another one.

H When you first came here and were building the roads, weren't they all dirt or gravel roads ?

A Yes. I was giving you an idea of what it was like. Driving by the Browns, I was in my car and the ruts were so - - you just can't imagine them - -

H On this road ?

A On the road going by Browns on Rt. 18. It took the wheel right off the car.

- H Do you have any idea what year it might have been ?
- A It probably was in the 1920's. I can't imagine the ruts being so deep in that road that it took the wheel off my car. I lost four or five wheels off my car while driving that road.
- H You know there was a story of how at Lakeside the people who lived there, the the 1920's and 1930's, in the winter drove up to Rt. 18 on the creek, right on the ice, because of the roads being so bad.
- A There would have been practically no water in it.
- H Not like the depth of the water here in Oak Orchard Creek. What interests me - - you grew up in Buffalo, you went to Nichols School, and then on to Yale - - where or when did you develop an interest in farming ?
- A That's a good question. Apparently my father didn't know farming. Never in his life knew how to farm. He apparently got a hold of a lawyer in Lockport - - his name should have been "four-flusher", and he sold him the idea if you planted enough trees you would pay for the farm in about two years. He realized in a couple of years he had been sold a bill-of-goods. So I was told: "You're going to be a farmer." "Yes Sir. I'll be a farmer." There was no question about that ! So I became a farmer. Everything I have done has been different. In the Army, for instance - - you wouldn't believe this - - they sent a troop train down to Yale to pick up a couple of hundred of us. We went down to Camp Jackson and we shipped 5000 men to Europe, and after about four months I said: "I'm going home now." I wasn't getting paid, I wasn't even in the Army, I had nothing to do with the Army !
- H You had a uniform ?
- A I bought my uniform. I was only 19 years old. They were shipping these guys to Europe and I wanted to go home and they said you can't do that, the war is on. I told them: "I'm not in the Army, you haven't paid me a dime !" So they checked it out and they said: "We'll make you a Lieutenant." And a bunch of others along with me.
- H So now you're a Lieutenant and not being paid ?
- A No. Now that you're a Lieutenant, you don't know anything.

So now you are in charge of the horses. That's my Army experience.

H So you were with the Cavalry ?

A When I was in Nichols - - I was with the Cavalry - - I can give Cavalry commands. I can give Infantry commands. But I was mostly with the Artillery. I could handle French 75's, the long guns, the 2.95's.

H In 1914 when your father decided he would purchase a farm, do you remember the total acres of that farm ?

A 400 acres. There was a big hotel, I've got pictures of it on the wall.

H Was the hotel standing when your father bought the farm ?

A Yes. I took the hotel down and built the tennis court. It was a small hotel. I bet still today the trees still have leather thongs there where the horses were tied to the trees when the people went to this hotel. I think those leather thongs are there to this day. They had what was known as the Pioneer Picnic at the hotel and that's why all those horses would be there. They all came down to be in the woods here.

H Thousands of people went to those Pioneer Picnics.

A Yes.

H That's in all the history books. And that's when they used the road that was between your present location and the river ? Oak Orchard Creek, whichever wording you use.

A Yes. The foreman and I built this other road. That was just here not that long ago.

JA You and Walter built that road in the 1920's ?

A Yes. This new one was built - -

JA About 30 years ago.

JV It must have been about in 1971. That was the year you sold my dad our property so the road would have been in about that time.

A You see when the road came down over here there were eight Horse Chestnut trees along that road and two more trees like these Silver Maples, one here and one out there, and two apple trees. (He points to the locations.) I took them all down, all but those two. I took all the Horse Chestnuts right

out. Then I moved the road. I just shut it right off.

H The Horse Chestnut trees are kind of dirty trees aren't they ?

A Yes. I'll tell you a story about that - - you may like this. The Booth cottage was down at the lake there (Oak Orchard On The Lake) and they were having a female party down there and they called up my brother and myself and said: - - "Come down here, somebody's trying to get into our cottage." All these women were in there. So we went there and we never did see the women - - we went to bed downstairs. What was going on - - the Horse Chestnuts were dropping on the roof from those trees - - boom, boom, boom - - and it scared the heck out of the women. City people, didn't know about those things !

H Were many of the old Oak trees still remaining when you came out here to the farm ?

A The only ones that remained are the ones that are out there now. Those White Oaks have been there for a couple of hundred years.

H I'm glad to hear from someone who doesn't cut down Oak trees.

A I've planted probably about 2000 or 3000 of them. It's funny, I got a letter here the other day suggesting I plant a tree. I have planted probably 100-thousand forest trees, a 100-thousand fruit trees - - so I must have planted a tree of some kind.

H Has your farm always been in orchards or did you have field crops ?

A Oh yes, we had field crops. We had some corn. We grew them commercially. One of my first experiences on the farm was when we were threshing the wheat. And they said: - - "you two guys carry it away." By carry it away was to dump 120-pounds, or two bushel bags, on my back - - up the stairs - - and after I moved about 6-tons, I said - - "there's got to be an easier way than this." I went uptown to Woods & Sprague (formerly a flour and feed business in Albion) and got around 100 bags and said - - "now fill them and take them up and sell them."

H You could have killed yourself hauling all that grain.

- A Yes. I could have done it - - but there was no point in it.
- H In earlier farming when there was a crop to be threshed, the threshers came around farm to farm didn't they ?
- A Yes. That's what that building down there was built for. It had two doors in it and it held about 10 extra help. It was all hand done, the work in those days. It was all done by scythes. We called the building the "pig pen", we eventually put pigs in there. I think they still call it the "pig pen".
- H That's the stone building, built out of lake stones ?
- A Probably field stone. There's a lot of plaster in it. It's field stone, not lake stone.
- H It's certainly a good solid building. Then that was where the threshers stayed ?
- A Yes. Or anybody else when we needed extras.
- H Did you ship, by this I also mean truck, most of your produce to various markets ?
- A It practically all went by railroad.
- H You would have taken it to Carlton Station ?
- A Carlton or Waterport, either one. I'd order the cars in there and we'd load them. Sometimes some of it went to England. They shipped to all over. A great deal went to Washington or Baltimore, or down in there.
- H Somewhere in history The Hard Winter of 1932 is mentioned, and I'm not sure if it was 1932, or '33, or '34.
- A I know we had a hard winter, but I don't know when it was - - you'll not stick me with that one.
- H Were any of your orchards destroyed by the hard frost ?
- A No. None of our orchards were destroyed. When we started out - - when we'd been sold a bill-of-goods - - we planted 10,000 apple trees, 10,000 peach trees, and 4,000 cherry trees in one year. But not knowing what he was doing most of them died and I was elected to find out why. It was because the roots got too much water. Now the farm has got tile every 28-feet - - all over this whole farm. I could take you out and show you every tile that went in - - they are all marked.

H This would have been in the 1920's when you were tiling your orchards ?

A Yes, we did most of our tiling in the '20's. Jim VanSchnoonoven was the tile man. In the early days they had steam machines to lay tile. The first 2000-feet were laid by hand. Right here, beside the house, it was laid by hand. That was done very early. Then they got into tile laying machines and from then on we put 250,000-feet in.

H Did you have to purchase your own tile laying machine ?

A Jim had the machine. I had to buy my own tile. I knew about my costs. I think we could lay tile for about 7¢ a foot.

H Did you ever have any orchards of White Peach trees ?

A Yes. We had 2000 Carmens, and 500 Champions, and they were white. And they were cling-stones.

H Did you find it was difficult to market the white peach ?

A Yes. You had a little more trouble. Mainly because it's a cling stone. It had several problems with it.

H Someone was trying to explain a white peach to me many years ago. They said they were easy enough to grow but they were difficult to market because they perished so rapidly.

A They didn't take any special care that I remember. We had about 2000 bushels a year.

H Do you remember the types of apple trees you planted that would have been best for this type soil ?

A I know exactly the variety of apples that my father had planted. The Baldwins were the big thing - - the Baldwin and the Greening and Rome and Wealthy. Those did the best and that's all we had.

H A couple of those varieties are good keepers aren't they ?

A Oh yes. The Romes and Greenings and Baldwins are all good keepers - - that's why we plant them.

H Most of those were shipped away by train ?

A Yes.

H This will jump ahead some 40 years, but when the Lake Ontario State Parkway was built it basically cut right through the middle of your farm ?

JA Yes. They took a wide strip for the road and the bridge. Rt. 18 came through the farm first.



- A Well that was when they improved it. It used to wander around from down in Kuckville and turn south and then turn east and they straightened it out.
- H That was about 1930 when the Roosevelt Highway was built ?
- A Yes. One thing about it I remember was the Beckwiths had planted three or four trees that they were very proud of. They (highway construction) were going to take them down and I said: "No, no, don't take any trees down. You build a concrete wall there and hold them." That's why that wall is out there now. So that wall was built because I wouldn't let them cut the trees down. At that time I owned that farm.
- H Thank goodness you have been such a conservationist all these years.
- A I'd tell them when and what they could do - - I didn't fool around.
- H You were responsible for all those pine trees being planted on the curve along Rt. 18.
- A Those aren't too many, only about 2000. They are a nice size now. Most of those are White Pine and some are Spruce. Then later on I planted 2000 or 3000 more off the other road, the Kendrick Road.
- JA You also planted Oaks and Tulip trees, and two or three other varieties, plus the pines.

TAPE 1, SIDE 2

- H We are speaking of the area near Kendrick Road and Rt. 18 where the corn was grown and the pine trees were planted.
- A Yes, Bob Brown has one side and we have the other.
- H When you moved here to the farm and for the next 30 years or so, was the name of the road running north from Kendrick to the present Wilson Road named the Blood Road ?
- A They didn't have any names on the roads.  
I have a story about that. My mother wanted a chauffeur. So we took Walter Arter, who worked here for forty years, to Buffalo to be a chauffeur - - he was just a farmer. In this story - - we'd tell him what to do and he'd do it. One time they told him to go down to the Junior League and pick up some packages and bring them home. He got there

and they said it wasn't ready and we'll send it up to you - - what's your address or where do you live - - and he said: "I don't know." And they said to the family: "You've got a chauffeur who doesn't know where he lives."

JA But he just knew how to get there.

H He was just a country boy.

A Yes. They knew how to get around, but they didn't know the names of the roads.

JA That was in Buffalo.

A We didn't have roads here with names, until during the '30's, I think. Archbald Road was named then and Wilson Road was named then about that same time.

H Wasn't it the Blood Road south of Wilson Road ?

A There was a Blood Road, but I don't remember anything about it. That's an old, old road.

H I think it is one of the original roads, when the early settlers were setting out the roads.

A I don't want any part of that one.

H You had some power farm equipment because of the steam equipment when you first came to the farm ? You didn't farm with horses ?

A We had three teams working. Then we had a Emerson-Brandingham tractor. That was a dandy. You probably never heard of it.

H No, I never have. Was that a steam power tractor ?

A No, no. It had a gas engine. Iron wheels on both sides.

H Wouldn't it be wonderful to have it now.

A Not really, no. I wouldn't play that game.

H Was it very uncomfortable to ride on it ?

A It was a big thing. Big wheels on it. No, it ran along all right. Ward Wilson bought one and Bob Brown bought one, a Emerson-Brandingham.

H It must have been a reliable company to have all the farmers in the neighborhood buy one ?

JA Or a good salesman.

A We did get a Holt tractor later. Now that's an interesting story. Old Man Holt knew what he was doing. He was a good engineer and he made the first track laying type.

He made a 2-ton, and a 5-ton, and a 10-ton tractor. We bought two of the small ones, the 2-tons. They worked very well. He knew what he was doing when he built them. They lasted a long while. Bob Brown and Ward Wilson bought some similiar, but they weren't made by Holt. They wore out. There were tractor parts scattered all over the place. I guess they could buy their kinds cheaper. Then Holt Tractor bought out the Best Tractor. You wouldn't know about that, no one knows about that. Then they made it a caterpillar tractor after that.

H What years are involved for the days of the Holt Company and the Best Company ? In maybe the 1920's ?

A Yes.

H Now for a tough question - - according to recollections, the Lighthouse and the West Pier never washed out completely until December of 1916. Do you remember some of the pier on the west side of Oak Orchard and the remnants of the Lighthouse when you first came out here ?

A I sure as "h" do ! Oh boy, those were the Rum-running Days. You'd go down in the morning and find out who had tried to run rum at night and end up with a spike right through the bottom of their boat. There were spikes along there. In fact I've lost so much land I've had to move the houses twice. Then I took my pal, my gardner, and went down and put in 100-feet of concrete, and 200-feet of rock, to stop this foolishness, and built the land up instead of loosing it. I think I made that concrete 5-feet high.

H That would have been built up on what used to be the base of the old west pier ?

A Another story about that - - the Yacht Club wanted to have some work done and they asked me to supervise the job. Time went on and I didn't get to it and we called a meeting and they said: "we asked you to do it and you haven't done it." I said: "You do this thing in October, at the low point of the water, and you know what you're doing." They were going to put those big 10-ton rocks in there. I took my shoes off and hunted around trying to find a log, and I found one but

unfortunately - - so I told them: "give me another month" then I could have done what I wanted to do. They wanted it done "now !" They didn't know what they were doing, and I did.

H People just do not understand Lake Ontario unless you have lived beside it for 60-some years.

A There were posts there at the channel. It winds around and doesn't come right straight in. Most all of these harbors head west. This one originally went out to the west - - and Johnsons (creek) definitely did - - and Olcott.

H You are telling me the mouth of Oak Orchard went out through the swale area on the west side of the present channel ?

A Yes. The creek apparently went that way.

H What you are telling me is that there has been evidence found the channel once went that route ?

A Yes.

JA I think when they were excavating for the parking lot down there they came across some great big beams - - whether they were from a boat - -

A Yes, - - there were supposed to have been some boats go down - - lost in a storm or something - - and they may have found them.

H Or possibly from some early railroad project that was begun and never panned out.

THIS PORTION WAS TAPED MARCH 6, 1997.

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SECOND SIDE, TAPE 1, HALF THROUGH

MARCH 11, 1997

H This taping with Edward Archbald, in his beautiful home bordering Oak Orchard Creek, is being done March 11, 1997. Ed, in the early days when you moved out here what did you do for power, electricity, lighting ?

A We didn't have any. We didn't have any water or electricity - - we had an old pitcher pump that set outside there. And it came off the roof.

H When did you bring power in ?

A That was interesting. I said to my father - - "I'm going to build a power house here so we can have electricity."

And he said: "Why don't you go over and see Charlie Swett." So I did - - (and said) - - "How about electrifying Oak Orchard and Point Breeze ?" And he said: - - "If you buy enough stock I'll do it." So I said: "How much is that ? He said: "\$2500.00." I wrote a check out immediately for \$2500.00 and said: "Here's your check." In 30 days we had electricity all over the place !

H He put electricity in down here within 30 days ?

A Oh yes. We all had electricity, both sides of the creek, in 30 days.

H Where was the main power plant ?

A It's Niagara Mohawk now - - but it came off the dam they built - - Charlie built that dam up here, in Waterport.

H Yes, in 1919.

A That was the easiest thing I ever did. Here I had been running around using candles and going in out-houses. Then I immediately put a waterline in.

H Right after the power you put the waterline in ?

A Yes. I went and built a pump-house down there.

H Where was the pump-house ?

A Right down in front, to the north of this house.

H North of the present N.Y.S. Boat Launch ramp ?

A Oh yes. It would be right on the lakeshore. Then I put tile three feet below the lake level and fed that into a sump and pumped out of that. I have to reverse myself - - we had water here before we had electricity because I had a Fairbanks-Morse 3 h.p. motor down there to pump water. I ran the line up here so I could have water and my hands right aroun here could have it.

H The tenant houses could also have water ?

A Yes. That was all done with that 3 h.p. Fairbanks-Morse motor. You cranked it up and it poop, poop, poop - -

H Did it run on gas ?

A Yes. We used that for several years.

H Did you pump the water into holding tanks ?

A Yes. I put a tank, 30-feet in the air, it held about 10,000 gallons - - I filled that full.

H Where was it located ?

A Up next to the old barns. (south on Archbald Road)

H Didn't your waterline also provide water for all of the cottages and homes along Oak Orchard On The Lake ?

A Oh yes. I proved I could get pure water by running it through the gravel, but then the weeds started rotting, and it smelled and tasted like a septic tank. I said: "I've had enough of this, I'll have to do something about it."

H So what did you do ?

A I went right over to the new plant - - the water treatment plant. It's only less than a mile away.

H It was opened in the 1960's.

A So we ran a line from there right over here and that solved that problem. We've always had good water and plenty of it.

H I understand you were quite an athlete at one time ?

A I did an awful lot of bragging. I claimed I could beat anybody in any sport anywheres in the world. That's covering quite a lot of territory.

H Did you ?

A I did hold the World's Record in Swimming.

H Did you !

A Yes. That's before anybody knew how to do anything. You realize this was years ago. Now everybody has gotten very good. You watch the basketball players, they have improved something tremendously. The skin is out of this world.

H But you held the long distance swimming record ?

A No, no - - it was the Relay Swimming Record. Then they said we were traveling so fast that they wouldn't allow it. We had four stop watches on it. You'd throw out the fastest one and the slowest one and you would average the other two. You couldn't have any monket business in that.

H Was that when you were in college ?

A Yes. I was in college, in Yale. You see in those days nobody knew how to swim - - so we decided to try it. We just tried it once and beat them and held the World's Record.

H Then is there some truth to the tale that "oh yes, Ed Archbald would swim to The Bridges and back to Point Breeze everyday."

A Oh no. I never swam there once in my life - - to The Bridges and back.

H Well so much for that story.

A I seldom did much swimming right around here.

H The creek must have been fairly filthy in the old days - - or was it cleaner than it is now ?

JA I know that down here at the dock that had Red Cross training and MaryLou Richmond was involved and I think at that time they found the creek was not too clean, or safe for swimming.

A It was terrible !

JA I wonder how good it is now. Do you have any idea ?

H I have no idea. I don't know what standards are judged. With all the power boats it would be difficult to be too clean.

A That's not what causes pollution. It's the people using their toilets. That's what pollutes.

JA It has been cleaned up quite a bit.

A Medina just cleaned up their act a short time ago.

JA It was cleaned up earlier and then, I think, they did more. I haven't heard anyone complain in quite a while.

H What did you do - - if any young people ever read this it might be of interest - - first of all you didn't have power - - you were fairly isolated down here in the wintertime. What did you do for entertainment ?

A We used to walk. Then I went to Buffalo a lot.

H You could drive back and forth - - you didn't have to take the train ?

A It took five hours, no matter how you got there.

H By car or train ?

A Either way. I have a story about that. I was going to take a load of logs to my mother's in Buffalo and she said she would like to ride along. Well, the truck I had would only go 12 m.p.h.

H Your mother was living here and wanted to go back to Buffalo ?

A Yes. She dropped in to see me once in a while. I lived here. She didn't. She lived in Buffalo. So we got in the car and we started out and pretty soon she said:- "Are we almost there ?" And I said: "Mother, we have just started. This only goes 12 miles an hour. We have got 60 miles to go. That's five hours." I said: "We have only just gone 12 miles. She said: "I'll never do this again."

H She must have known it took a long time, she got here in the first place ?

A She had come by train. We had two trains and a trolley car. Albion had a train and a trolley car. Here, the "HoJack", just had one line. I used that quite a bit. At least twice a year.

H Then there was still passenger service on the "HoJack" ?  
(passenger service was discontinued in 1933)

A I am not sure of the dates. At one time if I was traveling from Buffalo or New York City I would get a ticket to Waterport by train. They would put a regular car on going to Albion or Waterport. You could get a sleeper in New York City and when they hit Rochester they would wake you up and tell you - - "We'll be in Waterport in a little while. You had better get dressed."

JA It probably would have taken over-night.

A I used the sleepers quite a bit.

JA Has he told the story of the message from Buffalo to the farm ? This would be about the Christmas party that you had to cancel.

A I used to have a Christmas party for the farm help. There would be about 28 people, just from the farm. I got stalled in Buffalo. I couldn't get out, I got snowed in. The wires were down and I couldn't call anybody. I tried Western Union and they said the wires were down. They finally called me back - - I was still in Buffalo trying to get home and was trying to stop the party - - and they said: "We are sending your Western Union by freight. It's going to be there tomorrow morning at 5:00 A.M. They'll be going through



there and they will deliver it." And he (the engineer) did.

JA The engineer was going to deliver the message.

A They got the message to Wateport and, of course, from Waterport down here they could call.

H That was awfully nice of the train engineer.

A I was probably the only one who ever had a message delivered by freight.

H Well it got there.

TAPE 2, SIDE 1

A In this story - - I had invited another couple to go eat across the creek and we paddled across in the canoes. I told the restaurant people we have to have more food than had been served. They said: "We can't deliver more food for the price." I said: "What are you charging me for this meal?" I was told: "13¢".

H Which restaurant was that?

A Parmellees. Dad Parmellee.

H Was that in the building where the Black North Inn is now?

A No. It was a little bit east of that. The next building over.

H So it would have been 13¢ each for the entire meal?

A Yes.

H I would like to talk a bit about your activities in the Boy Scouts - - and then get around to the camp, Camp Archbald. I found the Boy Scouts were organized in 1907 or 1908.

A They may have been in England.

JA Or in New York City. I think they came to New York first and then on to Buffalo - - Lord Baden Powell.

A Baden Powell - - in 1910 - - this I'm very sure of - - for this reason - - I had six friends with me who were going to join the Boy Scouts in the Trinity Episcopal Church in Buffalo. We all joined. Baden Powell came over and explained it all. And we said: "We'll join." It turned out that I had to wait 60 days because I wasn't 12 years old. You see that was in 1910.

H Baden Powell was actually in Buffalo and talking to your

Scout troop ? That's exciting.

A Yes.

H Then someone said you are now the oldest Eagle Scout ?

A I'm supposed to be. Then the eight of us, in the Troop, decided we would become the all Eagle Scout patrol in the United States. We took the book and went right down through the book. Like for instance, Personal Hygiene - - or something like that - - Public Hygiene - - there were about ten questions - - and each one of us would go see a doctor and write down what he said and we would come in and give a report and we would take the examine right there and we went right through the book that way. We almost made it except my brother quit - - we got up to five Eagle Scouts. We couldn't get the eight of us.

H You did everything in the book ?

A Right down through the manual. They had other things - - like Life Scout - - but that had gymnastics and none of us could do that so we just skipped that. To become an Eagle Scout all you had to have was 21 Merit Badges. It didn't make any difference what they were. So we took out 21 subjects and went through and passed them.

H Another wonderful story. This must be one of the reasons you organized the Camp on the west side of your farm ?

JA Camp Archbald.

A I got together a group and told them what I was going to do. Someone from Rochester offered to help - - I drew some very rough plans - - I'm not an architect - - and they said they were good. Then we went and built the cabin. We had to build a road first to get to it. Didn't have any problems with that.

H The road I remember came north from Rt. 18 at the west side of your farm, just near the border of the Ward Wilson farm. Is that the road or was there another ?

A That's the only one.

H Would you please describe the cabin you designed ?

A We had a meeting room - -

JA A nice fireplace on the west side.

A I had it arranged with an addition so that anyone who wanted to come in from that side - - all I had to do was to go and meet them.

JA There were two smaller rooms at the east side. Then we could sleep there in the upper level.

H I don't remember too many two story log cabins.

A It was not a log cabin. It was just a wood cabin. Brown wood.

H I remember there was a loft upstairs.

A So we could sleep up above.

H In my memory the cabin was in the wooded area of the camp and then the open area was to the west side.

A Yes.

H Then there was a slope where the children went down to use the beach.

JA Yes. The rocky beach. The well was to the west, across the open area. There was a flag pole where they had their ceremonies. Then there were some tent wooden platforms for tents. And there were outhouses.

H Was the flag pole a tree ?

JA No, it was a metal flag pole. I remember a flag became tangled and some young man from Albion climbed the pole and got the ropes straightened out.

A This is interesting. Someone got together some merit badges and concreted them into the base of the flag pole. Someone decided to try to find out what was in the base and they knocked it all to "h", dug it all up, to find out what was in there - - thought maybe they were going to steal some valuables - - it was just some musty old merit badges.

H They did find them ?

A They found the merit badges. There was nothing valuable. There were some boys camping there one night, overnight, and there was a big rain storm. I went over there and found half of them were crying and some of them were running around without any clothes on, they were having a ball - - really enjoying life.

- H They weren't afraid then ?
- A Half of them weren't. The other half were afraid and wanted to go home and we managed to get a bus in and those who wanted to go were loaded in and we sent them along.
- H Had they been sleeping out in tents or in the cabin ?
- A In the tents.
- H We have had some very strong summer storms come in across the lake.
- JA It must have been a fairly big storm to have you get up in the night and go over there.
- A Yes. I remember walking across there and the trees were falling down from the winds.
- H Do you remember what year the camp was built ?
- JA It was well underway by the early 1950's.
- A Maybe the 1930's or '40's.
- H Was it ever called by another name then Camp Archbald ?
- A Not that I know of.
- JA Camp "Don-Yon-Da" was another camp.
- H In another location a mile or so west.
- The story I am trying to learn - - Francis Blake phoned me back 10 or 12 years ago and it was after the brief story had been written about Camp "Don-Yon-Da" that was in back, to the north, of the Belson farm. He said - - did I know there was a camp where Camp Archbald stood that had been called Camp Stutz. He told me when he was a child he used to ride over there on his pony - - he would probably be in his 70's if he were still living.
- JA We never heard of it.
- A No.
- JA It may have been someone who just had a group over there. They have a little "Camp Archbald" now down along The Line now for the small children. Sue Eddy sort of sparked it. They hold it at their garage.
- H Do you go down and give them any advice ?
- JA No, I haven't gone down. They have someone organize it. They have some crafts and they put on a little play at the end of the season.

- H As I remember, Jean, you would contact people to be counselors who would be in teacher's colleg, or some who had already graduated, to run your camp.
- JA Yes. We had to get a staff. I remember Sarah Brinsmaid was there one year. We had people from Medina who were very good. Ann Richards was very active in helping with the girls. Another of Ed's favorite stories about the camp is one which happened with one of the girls. We had a rule that they couldn't go to the outhouse alone. So I took a little girl over there and just to make conversation, I said: "This is quite different from what you have at home, isn't it ?" And she said: "Oh yes, ours is only a 2-holer."
- H What year was the cabin taken down and did you take it down ?
- A I didn't take it down.
- JA The people who bought the land and built the house there, the Barrys. It may have been 15 or 20 years ago. They took down the cabin because, I think, the house would have been very close to it.
- You were speaking earlier of the Boy Scouts and when they were formed in Buffalo. His troop was Troop #6 so that showed that there were earlier troops and I wondered if Powell organized some in New York and then came on to Buffalo. I wonder if they could find out about that ?
- H If we knew who to contact.
- JA Maybe the Boy Scout office.
- H If and when Baden Powell came and organized Boy Scouts in Buffalo ? If Ed's troop was #6 it sounds like there must have been 5 more ahead of him.
- I came across some reports that were done in regard to Oak Orchard Harbor. One was done in 1939, one in 1949, and one was done in 1951. The one in 1939 lists every boat in this harbor. It lists fueling facilities, accidents that occurred, and I have never figured out why it was done.
- JA Who or what organization did it ?
- H Bernard Ryan signed it.
- He was writing this letter, he has signed here, to The Board of Rivers and Harbors, War Department, Washington, D.C.

My interest in this one, just prior to World War II - - was there a study done of what boats were available for the war effort ?

A No. I did my own study. I've got a record of the type of boats that went in and out; whether it was a sailboat or a power boat, and how many. I parked a kid down here for a month. But that was fairly recent, maybe five years ago. I decided I wanted to find out and I put somebody down here to do it.

They have these piers running out into the lake like this - - (Straight out from the shore) - - and I tried to get them to put those outer breakwalls in on an angle instead of the way it has been built. It would prevent the waves from rolling in here, but it would not prevent ice and other stuff going out through. And it would have been the same on the other side. (His drawing is attached.) No - - it wouldn't happen like that - - they built the breakwall right across. I said: "You'll have to dredge it every year." That's what they have to do. They made a "h" of a mess of it.

H A large sailboat was hard aground last summer trying to go out the east side.

A It didn't work the way the Corps of Engineers built one out into Lake Erie. They ended up with a flood when the ice melted.

H Would you tell me about some of the boats you have had since you have been here since 1919 ?

A Judge Curtis, who was the president of the bank, sold his boat. It was a Rochester built boat; all mahogany and a nice boat. It had a Hall-Scott engine in it. So I bought it. I don't know when I got rid of it, but I bought another boat - - sight unseen. I was having my hair cut in Buffalo and the guy in the next chair said: "Do you want to buy a boat ?" And I said: "How much ?" And he said: "\$250.00." And I said: "Does it float ?" And he said: "Yea." I bought it. So I came down here and got my friend, a couple of young friends, and told them - - "they say it floats." I got to drive it down through Lake Erie, through the canal (Welland Canal) and all the way down here. That was almost a disaster,

too.

H What kind of a boat was it ?

A It was a run-about. Just an ordinary run-about, about a 25-footer. I think it had a Model T Ford engine in the thing. We drove it about 10 miles and we had better do to a wharf I knew about and put in there and pump it out and then go on. My family had a home there. So we broke into the place and spent the night. In the morning someone came and said: "How did you get here ? You haven't got a boat." It was at the bottom of the lake. I got out of my pants and went down and found the propeller and found the nut to go with it. Then we chopped down some trees and borrowed a chain hoist and raised it up and put the propeller on and went on our way.

H You were able to bring it down through the Welland Canal and on to Oak Orchard ?

A I was having trouble making the run. It would stop and then start. I pulled in to 30 Mile Point Lighthouse and said: "I've got to call up and tell them, I'm two days late already, but I'll be there." I found there was no way of communicating out from the Lighthouse. They couldn't call anybody. I said: "You've got to communicate. That's what you are there for." Well finally I walked around there and finally some guy pushed a shotgun in my tummy, and said: "What are you doing out here ?" I told him I was looking for a telephone. And he said: "O-K, come with me." He had a farmhouse nearby and I called home and said: "I'm here and I'm all right and I'll be down in the morning." So that solved that problem.

H Was the boat you were moving the long river boat you had in here ?

JA Do you mean the "Static" ?

H I don't know the name.

JA That wasn't "Static". He didn't have the boat for very long. It wasn't very good.

H Then you had "Static", you had the boat that wasn't very good, and then you got the Shepherd ?

JA The "Static" came after the boat that wasn't any good.

H "Static" was the river boat ?  
 A This Shepherd has a twin cylinder engine. We have been all over with it. To Toronto two or three times. To Montreal. We went to New York with the boat. Been all over with that boat.  
 H The boat that's in the boathouse now was a beautiful boat.  
 JA "Junior".  
 A It still is.  
 H It's all finished with wooden pegs as I remember.  
 JA And mahogany. It is a Shepherd.

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2nd TAPE - This date is March 13, 1997.

H I am again speaking with Edward Archbald, in his home, bordering Oak Orchard Creek, Oak Orchard River - - whatever one wants to call it. Ed has once again said he has another story.  
 A I went over across the creek, years ago, to get one of those galvanized wash boilers from Old-Man Hoot. He said: "I don't think I have one." Then I said: "You've got one right there. I'll take that." He said: "No. That's the last one I've got. I wouldn't have any to show anybody." I went back in about 10 days and he said: "I can't buy anymore because I haven't sold the last one." So we arrived at a dead end.  
 H Did you ever get your galvanized boiler ?  
 A No. I never got one.  
 In our conversation, I said: "I remember you used to sell a lot of this special candy the kids loved." Then he said: "I had to stop because they ate too much of it. They wanted to buy it too much. I couldn't keep it in stock."  
 H Did he have a store in his home ? Mr. Hoot.  
 A Yes.  
 H Then that building would have been the Selheimer house about 100 years ago or so. Then it's now a Bed and Breakfast ?  
 JA Well the Christophers own it now.  
 A It's right on the corner.  
 H The big white place.



JA Tell the other story about the coffee. Grinding the coffee.

A They used to have a little stand down here and Phil Podgers came down here and he would stop and have them grind up a pound of coffee everyday or so. He said: "The heck with that. I'll buy six ounds and I won't have to stop so often." They charged him more. He said: "Why did you do that ?" They said: "You don't think we are going to stand here grinding up six pounds. I don't mind doing one at a time, but six - - you've got to pay more for that."

H You'd think he would get it for less.

A Oh no. That's work.

H I'd like to talk to you about World War II. I realize you were not in the service. There is a great deal of emphasis being put on what went on on the Homefront here in Orleans County. I understand you were the Chairman of the Rationing Board ? Could you explain how that worked ?

A I spent an hour every day there. I mostly dealt with the gasoline. I had other things to do too. I'd have to read their minds (those people coming with requests). One person, I remember, said: "I need 1000 gallons of gas." He was a farmer. We had this form and the question is - - how much gas was he going to need for the next three months. And this fellow wanted 1000 gallons. I figured he must be going to need more, so I gave him 2000. He came back all shook up. He said: "I can't get by on 2000." I said: "Well you only wanted 1000 gallons." Then the next guy came in and he was all shhok up and he wanted 500 gallons, and I cut him down to 250. He said: "I can't use 250 gallons in three months. That's what I use in a year." I'd know they were wrong, so I'd cut one by a half and double the other one and I'm still wrong. But I'd have to think.

H There were so many things that were rationed during that time. Were you in charge of all of the rationing ?

A I was, but I didn't deal with most of it. Most of it was gasoline that I dealt with. I was the head of the whole thing. When they had a problem - - this guy wanted rubber

boots, for instance. Phil Podgers, the same guy, wanted to cut flag.

H Does that mean he was a stonecutter ?

JA No. Reeds. He was going to cut reeds.

A He was going to cut reeds. They used to put them in barrels. They had to be a certain length.

I said: "Give him the short boots." They said: "Why ?"

I said: "Cause the water's so high there isn't any flag. He can't cut them if he wanted to."

They had three kinds (Ration stamps). "A", everybody had "A" for gasoline. That would give you, I think, 10 miles a day. Then you had the "B" stamp which was business. If I lived here and I had to go to town to sell insurance or do anything else, they would allow me enough gas to go down and back everyday. The "C" was if you had a farm and had tractors, you had to figure out how much gas you would use and you had the "C" stamp. So I would have to tell these guys how much gas they were going to have.

H When people would have these "A", or "B", or "C" stamps, was that like a sticker type stamp that would be in their wind-shield ?

A I don't remember anything on the wind-shield.

H Then it would have been like a ration book ?

A Yes. It was a ration book, you just delivered your book. So I sat there telling everybody what they could do and what they couldn't do. I never had any adverse discussions with anybody. Nobody ever said: "I think you're wrong." Never. Never did anybody ever tell me I was wrong.

H Don't you think in the 1940's there was more respect for authority than there is today ?

A They respected my authority. I can't tell you what the rest were doing. I sat there for an hour every day and I never had a bit of trouble from anyone.

H Would they make appointments with you ahead of time ?

A No. I'd be there.

Then one day I said: "Oh, someone hasn't turned their car off." I could hear a car running. Before long I looked up and found it was my own car. It was running and I'd forgotten to shut it off.

H Where was your office ?

A Right where the hardware store is.

H The Family Hardware Store in Albion ?

A Yes. Right there.

We had quite a few secretaries to make out all this lot of paperwork.

H Were the secretaries volunteers or were they paid by the government ?

A Paid by the government. The federal government. They never paid me anything.

H How did World War II effect boating here in front of your home ?

A Good question. Well if you had the gas you could use them.

H Do you remember many power boats or were they mostly all sailing boats and canoes ?

A Mostly canoes and sailing boats and row boats.

Another interesting thing - - We never could find someone who knew how to paddle a canoe correctly. One day we got the glasses out and looked out and saw someone paddling right and realized it was young Blake. I could tell he was brought up by an Indian. It looked like an Indian paddling that canoe. I could spot that way down the river. I was a great Indian paddler. I had been with Indians a great deal.

H Single or double paddle ?

A Single.

H You never used a double paddle ?

A I've seen them and tried it. I never liked it because I didn't think I could handle it well. The water was always running down on me. I think something could be put on the upper part to stop the water from running down on you.

H It seems like someone once told me if I was doing it right I wouldn't get wet.

A Well you had to paddle fast so the water wouldn't run down there.

H What I want to ask about the boating here during the early 1940's was someone told me that certain types of boats, unless of course it was a canoe or a row boat, on Lake Ontario was somewhat restricted during the war. Even sailboats were watched.

A For what reason ?

H I have no idea.

A I don't remember any restrictions. They used to try to catch rum runner, but that was earlier.

H What will you tell me about that ? Don't name names just tell me how it was done.

A I didn't know the people so I couldn't name names. I remember driving down there by the lake and seeing a boat with no lights on it. So I decided to check it out. So I got my spotlight on it and somebody yelled: "You aren't allowed to throw lights on the bridge." I said: "I'll tell you something. Anybody who doesn't put a light on the boat - - you have got to have a light on the bridge. Think that one over." It turned out the boat belonged to the officials trying to catch somebody and they were sitting there in the dark.

H There was a rum running boat called the "Sea Fox" that ran aground coming into Lakeside in the early 1930's.

A There was only a few of them. You have to realize there was no breakwall, only spikes sticking up. So if you would see somebody there you would know they had a spike right up through the bottom of his boat. He can't go anywhere. He had missed the harbor entrance.

Then I built my own pier. 300 feet of it, 100 feet of concrete, and rocks. I was loosing land. I had to move the houses back twice.

H What year did you build the boathouse ?

A We used to have two boathouses. One was north of here. It was taken down to make room for the State Launch ramp. The green one is gone.

JP Probably they were built in the 1930's.

(Jose Palacios, a family member, is in the room and speaking. He is present throughout this interview.)

JA The ice house was right down there too.

A We had nothing here in the early days when I came in 1919 so I fixed it up to build an ice house and put about 40 tons of ice in it. We filled the ice house with sawdust to hold the ice.

JA Would you tell about cutting the ice and with the teams out there on the creek.

H Lets start at the beginning. When you came out here was the ice house standing ?

A No. I built the ice house.

H How did you fill the house ice house ?

A Very simple. I loved it. We waited until the ice got to to be six or eight inches thick. We liked it like that. Not over 10 inches thick. Then we built a slide and we had a horse parked right over here (near the creek and the present boat house) and had a rope through the window of the ice house down onto the creek. We would drop two chunks of ice on it and the horse would haul them up. They would slide up there and could be dropped into the ice house. We would have guys in there placing the chunks and putting sawdust around them. That ice lasted right through the summer.

H How many tons of ice do you estimate you had to cut to get you through the summer ?

A About 40 tons.

H That would have been only to supply this household ?

A It turned out I had to supply the storage at one time because they broke down.

H The storage over in Waterport ?

A Yes.

H With your ice, from your ice house ?

A Yes. My brother, who wasn't cut out for that sort of stuff, helped. It was a "h" of a job getting it out of there, into a wheel-barrow, get it up into the car, and get it up to the railroad, haul it up the side of the railroad car, and dump it in there. That was a "h" of a job. Each car needed about 3 tons of ice. Originally it was automatic. They would freeze chunks weighing around 250 pounds. They were big chunks of ice. They'd come out of the freezer automatically and the right height to go right into the railroad car. And they'd just *Stand* there and broke them up into the size they would want and it was no problem at all. But I had to go up the side of the railroad car. Haul them up there.

H Was this just for the railroad cars that were carrying your own produce ?

A Yes.

JA From the storage.

A Well yes. What I put in there I took out. I didn't load anybody else's car.

H Did you have to supply ice for your tenant houses ?

A No.

H What did they do for ice ?

JA They had root cellars.

A I really don't know how they got along.

JA I remember a small stone house or storage place right up the road here.

H I think it's still there on the side of the house, on the north side of the house.

What sort of saws did you have to have to cut the ice ?  
Was it anything special ?

A An ice saw. That'll handle the question.

I'll tell you a story about that. They have one in the Village Inn (Ridge Road at Childs) on the wall. Someone said: "Well, that's a silly thing. You only have one handle on that saw." Well I said: "If the other guy had one, he'd be under water."

H Then one person had the strength to be able to saw through ice ?

A Oh yes. That's no problem. You plowed it first.

H You mean you drilled it ?

JP You plowed it with a horse and plow.

H You had horses out on the ice ?

A Oh yes. Then they had another one marking it. The plow went down about - - (he shows maybe three inches) - - and we didn't want it to go down too far because we had horses running around out there.

H You never lost a horse ?

A No, I never did. I've seen some other people do it, but not me. What we did was to plow this way and mark it pretty well the other way and then saw it one way and then hit it, with the saw, and that would break it right off. By this time you had it marked and sawed just so deep and it would come off very easy.

- JA And they had to do this before the ice got too thick.
- A Yes. Now we never see it over three inches and I haven't seen it that way in a long time.
- H I wonder what the reason for that is.
- JA I suppose nature figured out we didn't need it.
- A They had a pond up in Albion where they could make it, the ice. It was just the depth they wanted. I think they called it Anderson's Pond.
- JP I don't think the winters are as severe as they used to be.
- A I liked to do that kind of work. I was good at it.
- H You surely wouldn't have become slack in the winter. What did you study for at Yale ?
- A Forestry. Dad said I was going to be an apple grower. So said: "You had better learn how to grow an apple tree." So I became a Forester. But unfortunately I was the only one there.
- H There wasn't anyone to grade you against ?
- A Well there were four of us. We finally got down. We all went to war, and I was the only one who came back. I went through Yale so fast they didn't know I was there. This is how it worked at the end, or towards the end. I got out of the Army and went back to Yale. They put about 1000 insects in front of me. "Describe these insects." I looked at one and spent quite a little time working on it. And I said: "I know that bug." So I wrote it's name down, and found out how to do that. Someone said: "Let's see your work." I handed in that one bug. They said: "We can't pass you for a year's work for one bug." I said: "Don't call me names, you didn't work any harder than I did. You didn't show up and I didn't show up so lets call each other 'war records' " Splendid idea.

SIDE 2, TAPE 2

- H Mr. Archbald and I are going to discuss his years of service with Arnold Gregory Memorial Hospital in Albion. It is my understanding that the original Arnold Gregory Hospital was opened about 1916 or 1920 in the former Ezra Coann house on South Main Street. Were you involved with

the early hospital ?

A I was the one who had it torn down.

H The old Coann house ?

A Yes. When we got the new one up, I said: "We'll just get rid of the other one." So I did. We used to do the darnest things. I was very autocratic. Lyn Burrows was the President of the Hospital Board when I joined it. Then I became President myself. Then I ran it for quite a long time.

H This would have been before the new building was built ?

A Oh yes. I ran the old hospital for a very short time.

JA He had the fire escape put on the silo.

A Oh yes. That was in the 1930's. I decided to have a meeting, there were going to be 30 people, I had invited them down, and I said: "The only thing I will allow here is for you to say is Yes. No one is to open their mouth unless it is to say Yes." Well someone started to talk - - "shut up."

H How many years prior to the present building that was the hospital were you working towards the construction for the new building ?

A About three years. I'd said, I think, if they would raise \$160,000.00 I'll build you a hospital. We knew darn well it was going to cost \$400,000.00. So everybody went out and we raised the money. I was tough with them. Like going to see Ward Wilson. He said: "I knew you were coming. We were only going to give you \$50.00, but we decided we had better give you \$100.00." I said: "Ward, you haven't got the message. You're going to give me \$1500.00." He said: "I am ?" I said: "Yes." He said: "Well if you say so then that's what it is."

H You see they had respect for you.

A Then after it was raised there was nothing that could be done with it. Then a couple of years went by and I saw in the newspaper the governor had passed a bill saying that they would put up new hospitals if you already had a third of the money. They would put up two-thirds of the capital necessary. So I went to Albany and showed them the article from the newspaper. They said: "Mr. Archbald, you show a budget. How you are going to do it and what's it going to cost." So



I sat down and showed what we were going to pay the Superintendent how many nurses we were going to have, what we were going to pay them, the cook, the maintenance guys, the light and heat and power. I wrote it all down. Then I wrote down what we were going to charge per day in the hospital. When it was done we had made \$3000.00. I went to Albany and handed it in. They said: "This is the finest budget we ever saw." Here I had never in my life seen one, let alone do one. So we proceeded to build a hospital. I had help from the nurses and the residents. We built the hospital and ran it and we made \$3000.00 the first year.

H Are there any stories you might like to share about when the big addition was put on the hospital in 1965 ?

A Yes. We built on enough for 30 Long Term rooms. We just did it, I don't remember much about it.

H Did you have another big fund raiser ?

JA Didn't you get through another act ? The Hill-Burton Act was for the original building wasn't it ?

A The Hill-Burton Act got us off at the start of the original building.

H It was a nice hospital.

A Yes. I thought it was.

H One of my former summer neighbors served on the Hospital Board with you for a number of years. Onnalee Porter ?

A Oh yes. She was very good.

JA She did a lot with the decorating.

A Yes, with the colors and all, she was very helpful.

H Would you like to tell me about when the Town Club was organized ? I understand you were the guiding light in that organization ?

A Yes.

JA It was in 1927 or 1928, or that era.

A I got about 30 guys to help me. I wanted a squash court. As it turned out it was a squash-tennis court which is quite different. I was very good at both of them.

H This club was to be for indoor sports ? This wasn't to be a hunting or fishing club ?

A This was to be within four walls. And for racquetball, to be played off the ceiling. I got that group together - - and now everyone is dead. I'm the only one alive of the original

group.

H There is a photograph of your group which hangs somewhere up in the Town Club.

JA It was for some sort of anniversary and Ed was sick and couldn't go and I was there. All the people there are now gone. They were all the store owners and professional people in Albion and it was sort of a close knit group.

A There were about 50 people in that picture.

H We were up there for some meeting a few years ago and we saw the photograph and you were easily identified.

JA Well that's not the same picture. He wasn't in the anniversary picture.

H There was a tall man in the picture and it was thought to be you.

JA If it's the picture we are thinking of as I remember I'm right in the middle.

H The photograph I am thinking of was obviously taken in the 1920's or 1930's. In fact it looked as if Dart Porter still had some hair.

A That must have been a Rotary picture.

H The organization is still going on ?

A It's pretty limited, but it's still limping along.

JA It went through a rough time during the Depression. It's a very different set-up now. As Ed pointed out, it used to be a sort of a cross section in the social set-up and now it is quite a varied group. The only parties, I think, they have now are family parties for the members.

A You see when we started we were all the same age.

H You have had the Town Club picnic here at your home for a number of years ? In your lawn.

A Oh yes. We had a big tent.

JA It was just the men. It was some years later when they started having the women come too. They used to have a lot of card games, poker games, and all the local kids the next morning would be out there trying to find the change that had fallen on the ground from the poker games.

H That sounds like it was fun.

JA They had all kinds of games. They had horse-shoe pitching and golf contests and tennis.  
It's come down to a little tiny tent now and about 25 people.

A Tom Heard, Sr. seemed to run things.

JA He did run the business part. He hired the help and all that.

A He was excellent. He's long gone.

H Thank you for your memories today.

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H The date is March 25, 1997. Present in the room with Mr. Archbald and myself are Jim Vosteen, Jose Palacios, and Mrs. Jean Archbald.

You were telling me awhile ago about the story of the "8 Bachelors of Point Breeze". What did you mean by that ?

A There were eight guys over there with no women. Bob and Billy Taylor never got married. Then there were two other guys who lived across over there. They never got married. They never did anything. I'll never forget - - one of them said: "I'll think I'll rest for an hour or two or three." Of course they had rested all of their life.

H So they weren't particularly ambitious people.

A Definitely not. Once in awhile I'd get them out and get them trimming here, trimming on the peach trees or something like that. They could avoid work very easily.

H Was this all eight of them ?

A Well, there were two Taylors, and the two guys over here, and Frank Hoffman, - - that's five - - then there's a couple more - - I can't think of the names.

H Jim tells me about how you made Hard Cider.

A I put a couple of thousand gallons in the cellar. I put a ton of sugar in it and then distilled the whole thing.

H Was it any good ?

A After I got through - - I put it through twice, maybe it was the first time. After the first time I gave my friends some and they all got cocked. So I went down to Cornell and asked: "Why are my friends getting drunk on this stuff ?"

They told me I was using material that was unstable. It's not the alcohol. They said I should put it in charred barrels and give it time to stablize itself. The unstableness is reacting on their nerves and it hasn't anything to do with the alcohol at all.

H How many gallons did you end up with ?

A I had 150 gallons of 100-proof.

H That must have kept you going for several years ?

A I sat down there turning valves. It was very simple.

H How long does 150 gallons last ?

A Most of it evaporated, or about half evaporated. In fact I dug a hole in the cellar and dumped it in there, and then six months later I dug it up and it was pretty much shot. I had got a-hold of a still from one of my pals.

H Someone from this area ?

A Yes. I got it working pretty well.

H Would this have been during Prohibition ?

A I'm sure it must have been. I never transported at all. That was the big thing, getting caught transporting.

H You were allowed so much for your own personal use ?

A They were not allowed to investigate your house. Unless they had some reason. They never had a reason. I never gave them a reason.

H It was just the use of your own apples. It makes sense.

A They were very careful of the amount of sugar being distributed. If there was over 10-pounds of sugar anywheres they would run around and trace where it went. They would think someone was distilling. I think I only used 1000-pounds of sugar.

H Where did you get your sugar ?

A I got it right in the grocery store.

H Then no one came and asked what you were doing with all that sugar ?

A No. Well they could of and I probably told them to go to "h".

Here's a funny story. My brother decided to throw a party and he invited three or four people to come down and go hunting.

- H Your brother lived here with you ?
- A Never. He would stay here for a few days. His name was Joe. Anyway, this guy, his friend, said: "Joe, you pour an awful stiff drink. Cut it down a bit." He grabbed the bottle of ginger ale and poured it in. Well what was in that bottle of ginger ale was 100-proof liquor. I put it in there, and he'd got the wrong bottle. That's why the drink was so stiff. He didn't find it out until quite awhile afterwards. So the more he poured the stiffer it got.
- H Did your brother live in Buffalo except when he was visiting ?
- A He lived in East Aurora. We were quite different. He wrote.
- H An author ?
- A Well he could handle Greek and Latin.

TAPE 3, SIDE 1

- A My brother was a member of a very famous advertising agency, Barton, Durston, and Osborne, in Buffalo. He wrote for them. I couldn't write anything. He could turn words all around and make them sound better. We were quite different.
- H Did you have any sisters ?
- A I had one sister and two brothers. One brother died very young. One brother was Joe, the other was Heber, and my sister's name was Emily. Her husband's name was Gale. She was Emily Gale. She was named after an aunt of mine.
- H I would like to review back to the 1914 to 1919 times.
- A That was a very complicated time. I was graduating from Yale and I got out of the Army the same year, that was a rough time.
- H When you and your father came out here to farm was it just one farm you purchased ?
- A We bought one farm and then maybe five years later we bought another. I bought that. Father had nothing to do with that.
- H Was the farm being farmed at that time ?
- A Yes.
- H This wasn't the remainder of the old Oak Orchard Land Company ?

- A It was being farmed. The old owner was a tight old bird. I could tell you stories about him. If he wanted to go to the bathroom he'd just jump off his team, stop and relieve himself, and catch the tailgate as they went by.
- H Who was that ?
- A Curry. Tighter than "h". When he finally sold the farm I told him to move anything he wanted - - let's not discuss anything. Then when I got all through and got set up he said: "When are you going to buy the watering trough ?" He said that was installed and he couldn't move it.
- H At that time where would the main farmhouse have been ? Was it the stucko place over on the west side ?
- A No, it was up south here at what we called the Gartland house. They had ten children.
- H Was that the house where Bill Kuhns now lives ?
- A No, it was beyond that - - to the south. The house is no longer there. Keller burned it down. It used to be a lovely house. The Gartlands lived there, they had ten children and they all got along well.
- H What was the stucko house, just south of the "pig pen" ?
- A That was a boarding house for the harvest men. The stucko house was a farmhouse. That house went with the original farm. It was one of the tenant houses. It was a tenant house right up till the time I gave it to Harold.
- H The Kuhns house and the Maines house would have also been tenant houses ?
- JA Yes.
- A The guy in there long ago was tighter than the bark on a tree.
- H I like that expression.
- Why was it decided to remodel this house, this building the former lighthouse keeper's place, into a home instead of using one of the other places ?
- A This house was a government house. I bought it from them. As soon as I bought it I had it done all over.
- H Can you describe how you remodeled it ?
- A I got ahold of a bunch of native carpenters. During that time I lived over at the Black North Inn. I would come home

and find all the walls were gone from my house and was told: "you've been moved." So I went over to the Black North. I paid a tremendous amount of money to live there - - \$6.00 a week for room and board.

H Was that \$1.00 a day and free on Sunday ?

A Right. One night the electrician said - - "I'll race you tonight." - - on our trip across the creek. So I got over there and I waited, and an hour went by. I figured I had better find out what happened to the poor guy - - he had got himself tangled up in the reeds out there in the creek and didn't know where he was. When we finally found him he had broken his oar - - he was out ther for an hour or two trying to get out of the cat-tails. He was scared to death.

H Did Lewis Rogers own the Black North then ?

A No, he owned the big hotel, north of that.

H I thought the big Rogers hotel burned ?

A The big dining hall and the dance hall burned. That was over along side it.

H The building called The House of Mystery ?

A Yes. I watched it burn.

H It must have been quite a sight from this side.

A Yes it was. I woke up one morning and the place was on fire. It was early in the morning.

I lived over there across the creek for quite awhile.

I had an excellent tinsmith. Boy, could he handle tin. He put tin roofs, I think there are four of them, on this house. That was back in 1924.

H What was his name ?

A Strother Leonard. He was a black man. He could handle solder. Man he was good. He put all the roofs on and nothing ever leaked and that was 70 years ago.

H And they are still on here ?

A Still on here.

H Was the Goodyear family from Buffalo the people behind the Oak Orchard Land Company ?

A They could have been, I don't know. They bought this to build a railroad from down here to Batavia. They were going

to fix up the harbor here. We bought it from them. They decided not to do it.

H How many acres was the farm ?

A The original acreage was 400. The second farm I bought was 265 acres. That was the Curry farm, George Curry.

JA Then later you bought the Beckwith farm.

H All this time it was mostly apples ?

A Apples and peaches, too, and cherries. I raised about 2500 tons of apples, 500 tons of peaches, and 100 tons of cherries. That was quite a lot.

I was selling peaches for 4½-cents a pound, the White peaches.

H I paid \$2.29 a pound the other day for four peaches.

A We got 90¢ a bushel. I raised two different kinds, Champions and another kind.

H How long did it take for the carpenters to finish the house ?

A A long time. They had to tear out the whole thing. The front door was over there where we would now go upstairs.

JA There was no fireplace. They had to build chimneys and everything.

H Had anyone been living in the building when you decided to remodel ? The lighthouse keeper was gone by then ?

A Oh yes.

H You just came into an empty building when you decided to remodel ?

A There was no one living in here. They had walked out. The dining room table was all set and there was even a loaded revolver in the drawer right beside it. They just walked out and left everything.

H That is truly odd.

A They decided to leave and they left.

H Things were done differently in those days.

A I was kind of amazed to find the loaded revolver left right there in the drawer. That was a terrible gun. You've heard said - - you can't hit the side of a barn with that gun. The reason was as soon as you fired it the barrel jumped up in the air and the shot went right up straight in the air.

H I hope you took the gun and threw it in the creek.



- A No. I fixed it and monkeyed around with it so I could shoot with it.
- H Then it did work after that ?
- A Yes. I made it work.
- H I think something like that should have been in the bottom of Oak Orchard.
- A It probably ended up there. I had no use for it.
- H Would you like to talk about your family, the children: Connie, Jose, Louis ?
- A I am amazed at the whole thing. The Childrens' Aide called up from Buffalo and said: "Would you like to adopt a daughter ?" I said: "I hadn't even thought about it." They said: "Come and get her. She's a very fine girl." Which I did.
- H How old was Connie at that point ?
- A She was 18 months old.
- Then a year or so later they called up and said: "Would you like to take on a couple of Spaniards that are arriving from Spain ?" Refugees from Spain. I hadn't even thought about it. "Come and get them." So I went and got them. They had become acquainted with a couple of other kids so I took them along. So they all ended up here at the house. So we had nine people in this house. No one was related to anybody. But we all got along.
- H It sounds like a house full of fun with all the children running around. Were there nine children in this house at one time ?
- A No, nine people. We had a cook and gardner. There were just five who came in and stayed.
- H Somewhere along the line it was decided you would make a good father.
- A We all got along. They all did all right. No one got involved with drugs or anything like that, not in those days. It was all so easy to do.

A Here's something you might like to read about 1919.

H This is from your Yale Alumni Magazine. I'm not exactly sure what issue this is from. May I read this into the tape ? It says: "Ed Archbald, Class of 1919, of Waterport, New York - - writes: I was glad to read in the 'Alumni Magazine' that I have at least one classmate still alive. Of course he is an old man. He becomes 98 in July. I don't get that old until August. I play cards (gin rummy) three times a week. The club is on the third floor of the bank building, which tests my health, as I have to walk up the stairs. One of these days the 'Alumni Magazine' will report that I didn't make it."

That was a very nice response to your 'Alumni Magazine'.

A Everything I've done in my life was very strange.

H You've told me several times: "Everything I've done in my life is odd." I would rephrase that to say: "Everything I've done in my life is unique." Somehow that word fits you better.

When some of the historians ever get together we talk about remarkable things or events in our various areas. I think one of Carlton's claim to fame is that we have a gentleman living near the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek who is probably going to be living in three centuries.

A Everybody tells me about it. They say: "There's a guy who may make three centuries." That's standard procedure.

H What are your feelings about it ?

A I don't care. It would be nice to make it. If it happens it will be all right.

H Perhaps living for the day is the best thing.

A That's the only thing. When I get up, I say: "I'm lucky, I can move."

H Jim was telling me you were quite a sportsman - - hunting and fishing ?

A I bragged that anything anybody else could do I could do better. It didn't make any difference where it was in any part of the world. That covers quite a territory.

JA They had a fish and game club up in Turtle Lake.

H Where was Turtle Lake ?

A Up in Quebec. It was 45 square miles that we leased. It had 22 lakes. I got acquainted with the Indians and all. I should tell you my Indian story. I was always out with an Indian somewhere, doing something. I don't happen to understand why this fellow had a frying pan with him. No Indian ever had a frying pan, but he did. He had it packed on his back. When we got through he said: "Do you want this grease?" And I said: "I don't want any grease." He said: "I'll take it home." And he poured it in his pocket. All I could think of was his pants were just as greasy. He could have thrown his pants in a frying pan and human grease and bacon grease all could have gone out together. That's the way the Indians operated. I always got along very well with the Indians. We understood each other. They were always glad to see me.