

This is Rose Hearn interviewing Mrs. Florence Barlow 522 Kraft Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, and the date is October 2, 1985.

R.H: Good afternoon Florence.

F.B: Hi.

R.H: Could you please tell me when you were born?

F.B: Oh yes, February the 7th, 1913.

R.H: And where were you born?

F.B: Buffalo, New York.

R.H: When did you come to Fort Erie?

F.B: May the 1st, 1916.

R.H: What area did you settle in when you came?

F.B: Queen Street.

R.H: Queen Street? That of course was the South End, right?

F.B: The South End.

R.H: That was called Fort Erie though, wasn't it?

F.B: That was called Fort Erie.

R.H: What was the North End called then?

F.B: Bridgeburg and the West End was Amigari.

R.H: And you settled on Queen Street, what was Queen Street like then?

F.B: Oh yes, it was a muddy road and my mother used to take me across the street to play with the little girl across the street on certain days, and her name is Dolly Byers now.

R.H: Were there any businesses on Queen Street at that time, or was it strictly homes?

F.B: Well, it was more residential but there was a farmer next door that sold produce, but not as a store.

R.H: Do you remember his name?

F.B: Yes.

R.H: What was his name?

F.B: William Shisler.

R.H: Didn't your parents have a farm there too?

F.B: No, it was later when we moved to Bertie Street.

R.H: So, it was a house that you lived in?

F.B: Yeah.

R.H: What else can you tell me about the neighbourhood?

F.B: Well, everybody was always friendly and helping everyone else. You never had to worry about your grass being cut or the snow...

Everybody helped everyone.

R.H: Was there a lot of homes on that street at that time?

F.B: Well, the same ones are still there. Up at the corner where the gas station is next to Irish brothers there, was a walnut tree, and Mr. Heisted used to hang a swing from it every summer. He had a little field where he farmed, but to the back, and facing Walnut Street.

R.H: Was there a lot of little farms on that street?

F.B: No, there was only that one as far as I know. Later, there was a grocery store on the corner of Archange and Queen.

R.H: Do you know what that was called?

F.B: Carrick's.

R.H: So, the roads were muddy, did you...?

F.B: Yeah, they were muddy and the cars used to get stuck, the first new cars out, and the horse and wagons used to pull them out. Mr. Shisler would bring his team and pull horses and cows out, anything that got stuck there. Mr. Heisted was crossing the street with his cow one day and it got all stuck in the mud and he had to get a horse to pull the cow out.

R.H: So, he kept cows, did he?

F.B: He kept cows, two cows because he had a little... The back facing the other street was like a little farm for vegetables and so on.

R.H: Did he get milk from these cows?

F.B: Well, you could just go to the store and buy it.

R.H: But you don't know what kind of cows they were then?

F.B: Holstein.

R.H: When you were living there, where did your family shop?

F.B: Down at Hapgoods which was the store on Niagara Boulevard and it's next to Marian Archer's now. I don't know who is in it now but it's at the corner of... That corner, what is it, that goes up there? Is it Forsythe Street on the corner of Niagara Boulevard?

R.H: What did Hapgoods sell?

F.B: It was a general store, groceries. Next door was a hardware store, he became mayor too... Hawley!

R.H: Oh yeah, so Mayor Hawley had a hardware store too at one time?

F.B: Yeah, he had a hardware store there, and then next to that was a house and two old ladies lived in there named Rainsford and there

was Young's, the Charles' were there. Where the beauty shop is, was the post office.

R.H: Do you remember going in the post office?

F.B: Oh yeah, many times. Mr. Plato, Em Plato was there and then as a student, Harvey Troupe. He later became postmaster in the North End.

R.H: What about restuarants, do you remember any in particular?

F.B: Well, there was a family room in the Anglo American Hotel where you could go in with the children. Across the street, where Happy Jack's is now, was the... I don't know if they called it the New York Cafe but that's where the two eating places where, down there. Then also when you went down, there was Elliott's Drugstore and you could get little snacks in there.

R.H: What about a place you mentioned called the Olympia Tearoom, where was that?

F.B: That was in the North End on Jarvis Street.

R.H: Did you get up to the North End very much?

F.B: No, only when we could go to the show, the Bellard Theatre. Not too much, because you had to go with older people. I was too young then and the South End was closer.

R.H: And of course they didn't have the Central Avenue Bridge then, right?

F.B: No, no they didn't. You had to walk all along the Boulevard and so when it was cold, you didn't want to walk all the way but usually you walked everywhere.

R.H: Can you tell me about the Olympia Tearoom, what it was like?

F.B: Well, the thing that always impressed me was the stained glass separation part between the booths. It was very pretty.

R.H: Who owned that?

F.B: I dont know, he was a Greek man. Later I think Valachos bought it but I couldn't be sure, but I don't know who had it first.

R.H: Do you remember anything else about Jarvis Street?

F.B: Oh, when they tore down the post office, I remember that. There was a big house with a big veranda with two lovely old people who always used to wave at all the kids.

R.H: This was a house and it was on Jarvis Street?

F.B: Yeah, well, it would be probably where the Royal Bank is now. They used to sit out there and I never knew their name. All the

kids would run over to Jarvis Street after they'd been to the high school and they'd sit and wave. We'd go to the dairy, that was Everett's Dairy and get snacks and things. It was just across the street from there.

R.H: Is that where they built the post office?

F.B: No, they built the post office on the side where the lady and man used to...

R.H: Where this house was?

F.B: No, it was next to it. Then they've gone up the street and I think that's the Royal Bank, I'm not sure. Eventually Rungs went where Canadian Tire was, they had a store down there. Oh, there was a corner candy store where we used to go, it was called Baker's. It was on the corner of Central and Jarvis and that would be where the G&P Restuarant is now.

R.H: Was Jarvis Street a mud street then?

F.B: Yeah, it was a mud street before they paved Jarvis.

R.H: Do you remember a paint and wallpaper store with gas pumps outside?

F.B: Briggs had that and they did have gas pumps and Ditchburn's had a hardware store on the other side of the street too. I think that would be where maybe Stedman's is now, or a little further up.

R.H: What school did you go to when you were living on Queen Street?

F.B: Douglas. It wasn't graded or terraced like it is now, so it was all bumpy coming down. We used to take pieces of rug and slide down to the bottom all the time.

R.H: Was this Douglas Street you are talking about?

F.B: Yeah, there was a hill and it was a bumpy hill and we used to ride down on pieces of rug. They had wooden steps... We'd climb all the way up wooden steps and when the fall would come and the rains or anything, and the water would run down under the wooden steps and you could see it, and the old... I think it was probably gas pipes or something for railings and they would wiggle and the water would gather all in the bottom of the street. The linesmen from the power company would come with their hip boots on, put some boards down, and carry all us kids from the bottom steps across, to get us in the drive.

R.H: Were these steps for the entrance to the school?

F.B: Yeah, to go up the hill... no, to go right up to the hill. Oh, there

was a lot of steps.

R.H: To get to this school?

F.B: Yeah, right at the bottom of the hill. There was a little flat part and then some steps and another flat part and some more steps. This piping would all get loose on a rainy day and you could always see the floods underneath. It scared me.

R.H: What was the school like?

F.B: Oh, it was a lovely school. R.L. Sexsmith, old Sekkie we used to call him, he was the greatest. You couldn't beat him, we had lots of nice teachers there.

R.H: It wasn't very big, was it?

F.B: Oh no, it had four rooms then and a boardroom. That's where they used to take you and strap you. We used to hear the kids hollering.

R.H: Can you remember any of your teachers at all?

F.B: There was Miss Campbell. She used to sit under... There was a little hawthorne tree and we used to sit there and eat and she always sat with the students on the lunch hour. She was always so nice.

R.H: So, you didn't have a lunch room or a gymnasium or anything, did...?

F.B: No, as a matter of fact, I wasn't supposed to have lunch there because I only lived on Walnut. You had to live a certain distance away for you to bring your lunch. I used to hurry back from my lunch hour just to sit with the teacher. She'd tell us all kinds of stories.

R.H: So, did you start going there when you were living on Queen Street?

F.B: Yeah, I started to school. I walked and your mother didn't take you to school your first day. You went off and you couldn't wait to get to school.

R.H: Was it pretty bad in the winter?

F.B: Yeah, it was bad in the winter and you were always wound up in a scarf, just your eyes showing. We had mittens and boots and we were exhausted from what we wore, rather than with struggling through the snow. They had a snowplow with a horse and the snowplow used to go up the street, so really they were out early in the morning.

R.H: So, of course you moved to Walnut Street, when did you move there?

F.B: I think it was 1921. Yeah, my brother was born there in 1921.

R.H: Was that a farm?

F.B: That was a small farm, yeah, my dad farmed it.

R.H: Was there anything else around there besides your little farm?

F.B: Yeah, there was houses.

R.H: Just a couple of houses?

F.B: Oh no, Pauline Cheffins, Pauline Barnhart lived in the first one, then Mann's, Everett's and the Wolbert's were next. McLaughlin's were next then our place, then Carrick's, Vale's and Rodicker's. There was a lot of fruit trees and then it went on to Meredith's. Captain Smith, I never knew his first name and his daughter Eloise, and then there was Hubbard's.

R.H: So, that was really residential then?

F.B: Yes it was, except for Dunkle's, they had a little hot dog stand on the corner and the Dunkle sisters used to dance, Edna and Elmira Dunkle.

R.H: And did your father grow his own produce ?

F.B: Yes, because he couldn't work. He was gassed in World War 1. He did shoe repair crafts and then when everybody heard about it, he opened a little shop. We had a little side shed and we had a little shop in there...

R.H: What was your father's name?

F.B: Arthur Naylor.

R.H: So, he had this little shoe shop, did he do anything else in the shop besides repair shoes? Did he take care of anything for the horses or anything like that?

F.B: Well, I had older brothers and they helped him. I had to get up and milk the cow before I went to school, we had a horse and a cow and chickens, and rabbits for food consumption.

R.H: Did you have any other jobs besides helping on the farm?

F.B: Yeah, I had to pick vegetables because we pulled them around in a wagon and sold them.

R.H: Where did you go to sell them?

F.B: Oh, just up and down Queen Street and Walnut, Archange and Goderich Street, that was all single houses there.

R.H: Do you remember how much you got for them?

F.B: Oh yes. If you took them to the Racetrack, you got 25 cents a bunch for carrots for the horses and if you took them around the doors you only got five cents. We always tried to put 12 in a bunch and size them, so many small and so many large.

R.H: So, you went to the Racetrack, what was it like there?

F.B: My dad did, he went with the horse and wagon and we had a surrey with the fringe on top. One time when I was home from school, I was sick, I asked mom if I could hitch the horse but I couldn't, because I was too young but she let me take it up to the school and pick up all the kids and we went up all around Erie Beach.

R.H: Do you remember anything about Erie Beach?

F.B: Oh yes.

R.H: What was it like there?

F.B: It was beautiful, it was like a park. It wasn't all concrete jungle like it is now, the grass looked like it was cut with a razor blade, it was shaved. The Hopi Indians used to come every year with their big snakes and put on this show, this performance, and it was the first time I had ever seen that. The Indian ladies used to nurse their children while the men were performing and I'd never seen that, people nursing their children. That was fascinating to me too, the Indians sitting out in the park, but the park was so beautiful. It was all trees and there was a lovely Dance Hall, it was beautiful. It had an upper deck, a terrace with little tables. It had a place you could buy food and you could look down on the dancers. I remember one orchestra came called the California Bears but I can never remember his name, the guy who ran the band. There was a beautiful swimming pool and there were games downstairs under the Dance Hall and then you went out to the swimming pool and you rented the bathing suit...

R.H: You rented the bathing suit?

F.B: Yes, you did in those days but you'd bring your own cap and they had all these gray woolen things, they were itchy and they were down to your knees. I asked how they cleaned these bathing suits, I said, "What do you do". Well, they ran the hose on them, they had them all hanging and they ran the hose up and down on the bathing suits and then they dipped them in a bleach water and hung them back up. Well, you used to think, you are wearing a bathing suit somebody else took off. It was a quarter to swim and rent the bathing suit.

R.H: Can you tell me about some of the rides they had there?

F.B: Oh yeah, they had rides. They had the Bluestreak and you know, that wouldn't be so high now to what they make them, like the

Cyclone at Crystal Beach. They had a skating rink and they had a little... On one side of the Dance Hall there was the pool... This side was the wading pool for children and then they had the swimming pool on the other side. At the time, I think, that was the largest swimming pool around, public swimming pool.

R.H: Did it have a deep end and shallow end and so forth?

F.B: Oh yes, and lifeguards. One fellows name was Uri Sahri and there was a girl, Flo Southard. I think she became Western New York diving champion. I remember they were the lifeguards and they were always very careful with the kids.

R.H: Have you any idea why Erie Beach closed?

F.B: It was the Depression which came in 1929 and it just about closed a lot of things around here. They couldn't take two beaches like that, Crystal Beach was still running in Fort Erie and to get there you came on the little train from the ferry dock.

R.H: I was just going to ask you about that, like how did you travel to Erie Beach?

F.B: They used to stop at what they called Garrison Bay for the Garrison Road, they used to come in and the little train ran... Well, the train stopped and we ran over from Walnut Street and got on the train there.

R.H: Was that called Garrison Bay?

F.B: Yeah, we called it Garrison Bay 'cause we used to swim there all the time. We could swim there in the summer and skate in the winter because the water came right in, came right in over the roadway, right where the Parkway is. The old Millrace was there.

R.H: The old Millrace?

F.B: Yeah, they had an old mill but that was kind of gone, the house that was... that had the mill when it was still there, Berger's, people name Bergers had that. When they built the Peace Bridge, that's where they housed the divers. We used to go and get the doughnuts from the cook at the cookhouse there. He used to make doughnuts for the kids every day. Right after school we would go and watch them put these huge abutments in for the Peace Bridge. They'd wind up helmets for the divers and then they would pump the air and we'd go over there and we were so fascinated by it. I think that's why it's so well made. The traffic on that Bridge now, you'd

think it would cave in but I'm sure... It was rattling the other night.

R.H: I go over on that all the time.

F.B: Yeah, I know but it took us 35 minutes to get over the other night.

R.H: Tell me something, did you go on these little trains to get to Erie Beach?

F.B: Yes, and Harry McLure... We used to call it the Sandfly Express, the Snakehill Express, the Dummy, all though they called the Dummy by another name too.

R.H: The Dummy was the one that ran over the International Bridge too, wasn't it?

F.B: Yeah, but we called this one the Dummy too.

R.H: So, this Harry McLure, was he the engineer?

F.B: No, he was the ticket taker, "Albert Street" he used to shout. He had to call out the names of the streets and they stopped at Albert Street too. We called it the Sandfly Express because when the windows were open, that brought them in and you couldn't sit on them 'cause they stained your clothes so, if you had light clothing. The stains never came out and we used to brush them all off the seat and then sit down.

R.H: Didn't they call it the Peanut Express too?

F.B: Oh yeah, the Peanut Express, we had lots of names. When someone would say "Are you going to Erie Beach tonight" we'd say, "Yeah, let's catch the old Snakehill". It was so nice Erie Beach, my mother used to take us when we were kids. They had a lovely picnic ground and they were the first place to sell soft ice-cream. They had it years before anywhere else.

R.H: Did they have concession stands there?

F.B: Oh yeah, all through there. You could get waffles, ice-cream, candy and then they had all the games you could play. They had the Funhouse, my mother took us once and she said "I'll sit out here, you can play a half an hour". We went in, my sister took us in and we came right out, she had looked around and came out the exit, so that was a fast trip. We went in the entrance and she went right to the exit, it was a slide.

R.H: Do you know anything about the Bardol family?

F.B: Yeah, a little bit. They used to have little frame work cars, just the frame work and they would put a board on them... Edgar was

the friendliest. They had a cart, the bottom of a car, like the wheels, four wheels and they had the engine and everything and they'd sit and ride all around the park. They had a zoo there too and he used to give us kids a ride.

R.H: You mean Edgar did?

F.B: Edgar, Edgar was the youngest and then there was Bob and then there was Frank. They were older, maybe two years older than I. I remember the dad slightly 'cause he used to walk down the park and I only saw the mother once but they had a lovely home just outside there.

R.H: Where was it located?

F.B: It was across from the Waverly and in fact, that Waverly was a second dance hall.

R.H: The Waverly Hotel was a dance hall at one time?

F.B: Yeah, we used to walk through all the bushes and woods there and walk up to the Waverly for the second dance hall but it never made a go of it. It had nice tables just like it has now and the middle of the dining room was the dance floor.

R.H: Did they sell liquor there?

F.B: Oh no, it was all like soft drinks and you could get that at the other dance hall too.

R.H: Did you have to pay to get in to the Waverly?

F.B: No, because you bought tickets and you paid so much a dance like they used to do, three tickets for a quarter.

R.H: Did they have live music at the Waverly?

F.B: Yes, they had live music too and of course, we never went for all this disco. It was always live bands at Erie Beach too.

R.H: You lived down where they built the Peace Bridge, what happened when they were talking about building the Peace Bridge? Didn't some of the residents have to sell their homes?

F.B: Well, they were requisitioned and they had to sell. We lived in a rented house, \$12 a month and that was the Rainsford's...

R.H: The Rainsford's?

F.B: They were two old ladies that owned it. Their house was down next to Charles, Charles Drygoods Store, and I used to have to go and pay the rent and she would always give us an orange or an apple. I used to love to go there.

R.H: So, you had to move there?

F.B: We moved to the West End from there.

R.H: And now your house was sold then?

F.B: Yes, it was sold to the Peace Bridge. Our house was moved and we moved with it, up the hill, Queen Street hill. The poor cats were running all over the house going crazy.

R.H: Where did you move to?

F.B: It was moved up to Lavinia Street and somebody bought it up there.

R.H: So, did your family buy the lot up there and...?

F.B: Well, whoever owned the lot bought the house and put it there. We were still renting for that month then we moved up to the West End. We didn't own that house.

R.H: You didn't own it, oh, I see.

F.B: They got \$12 a foot.

R.H: So, you had to move out of there?

F.B: Yeah, well, everybody I think rented on the street. I don't know that anybody owned their own house, the Wolbert's maybe. Some of them moved further down, where there was a fruit orchard. Some of the houses moved further down the street.

R.H: Can you remember the Peace Bridge being under construction?

F.B: Oh, we were there every day.

R.H: Were you? Where did some of these people live that worked on the Peace Bridge, did they board in the area?

F.B: They boarded and some as I say, lived in the old, what we called the haunted house.

R.H: Where was that?

F.B: Oh, I suppose it would be where the first abutment is, of the Peace Bridge. Well, it went over it, the two abutments, I think it was under there anyway. It was a grand old house but it had been neglected, it had a slate roof. We took slates home and rode on them. That's where the men, a lot of the men and the divers stayed.

R.H: So they more-or-less kept that place to house the workers in?

F.B: Yes, and there wasn't any windows in some of it because when they were there in the summer... I don't know where they went in the winter. They probably boarded locally.

R.H: What was the name of that street where the house was, so you know?

F.B: That was Erie Street now I guess, what they call Erie. Where the parking lot is for the trucks now, I think it's called Erie Street.

Keyes lived on that street and White's and Coleman's. Colman's house is moved up the Garrison Road, it's still around and so is McLaughlin's. It moved to the other side of Walnut Street. It's probably taken for a brokerage now, I don't know, Walnut Street is just ruined as far as I'm concerned, it's sad.

R.H: Did you watch the divers when they were building the Peace Bridge?

F.B: Oh yeah, we thought it was the greatest thing. It was fascinating because we wondered, if they ever quit pumping, oh, they'll die under there. You think of all these things. It was amazing how those were formed and how they could push them. I suppose they are no weight under the water. I don't know how they pushed them into place and anchored them down. They didn't stay up very long, they were up a while, then back down.

R.H: Do you remember the opening of the Peace Bridge?

F.B: Oh yeah.

R.H: Did you go to that?

F.B: Oh, did I go to that? I'm not that dumb. I could touch the Prince of Wales foot and Prince George's feet.

R.H: Why their feet, were you so little?

F.B: No, no. There was a stand with a flag or a bunting around it and there was a space like... My brother worked on the Peace Bridge, he was an immigration officer and he forgot his lunch. So, I said to my mom, "I'll take it down". "Oh, you can't come in here" they told us and I said, "I've got my brothers lunch" they said, "Oh, okay". I said, "I've got my girlfriend" so, they let us through. We walked past the reviewing stand, I got in like that. He led us along the side and I got in, but I couldn't see my brother anyway. He had apprehended a pickpocket in the crowd and he had the police and they were kind of grilling him or what ever you call it. So, he never got his picture in that picture you see of them all been taken on the Bridge. They also walked past and shook hands with the Prince of Wales and Prince George. Well, he was never in that picture. There's a man that looks like him, Earl Johns, so, everybody says, "Oh, I know your brother is in that picture". They looked so much alike. Well, that was my excitement for that day. We ran all the way along the Boulevard because of the parade and everything.

R.H: So, there was a parade that day?

F.B: Oh yes, there was a parade and those planes that were flying over, I'm sure they were, at that time. There was a helicopter and those little planes, I'm sure there was things like that going over the Peace Bridge because we were as fascinated with the planes, it was 1927. There was a helicopter but we didn't call them helicopters, we called them autogyros. I went up in one several times. In 1935, the Leaven's brothers from... brought their planes to the aircraft field there and they took you up for a penny a pound. I went up for 99 cents. I gave him a dollar, "I was a big tipper", I told him. I was friendly with the parachute jumper, him and I got friendly 'cause my mother sent him cupcakes. The Leaven's brothers were so nice.

R.H: Did you say one of the Leaven's brothers was the parachute jumper?

F.B: No, the parachute jumper was Clem Ennis. I got kind of friendly with him 'cause we fed him and two other girls and I brought him home. So, every time he went up for a jump, I got a free ride. I used to go up and then he'd jump. He'd jump just over the field in Fort Erie.

R.H: Do you know what kind of plane it was?

F.B: Oh, just one of those little World War 1 ones.

R.H: How many people could get in that plane?

F.B: Just the one jumper and the one other person.

R.H: Well, when he jumped out, what did you do?

F.B: Oh, I was sitting in the back seat.

R.H: Who was flying the plane?

F.B: The pilot who was one of the Leaven's brothers and there was another seat and I used to squeeze in with him. Well, I was only 99 lbs.

R.H: Oh, I see. I was wondering. I thought he had left you to fly the plane. Getting back to the Peace Bridge opening, was...?

F.B: I'll tell you something else, did you ever hear anyone talk about the medicine man that came next to Happy Jack's? What's the name of that place... King- Wah?

R.H: May Wah?

F.B: Yeah, there was a little field there, like it didn't have anything on it, well, there was a house, Muskroph's house and this fellow came to town and he sold snake oil. He sold snake oil for all your ills, aches and pains and he used to put the wagon up and lift up

a hood to the wagon and he would put these flares, like these big... I suppose it was kerosene torches and then he'd put on a Punch and Judy show for the kids. We just loved it, because he was always punching Judy out and Judy always fought back. Then he would give this pitch and it would be about 35 cents for a bottle of the oil.

R.H: Did he come here every year?

F.B: No, maybe not every year. There would be a run on them for two or three years and then you wouldn't see him for a couple of years and then he'd come back. He always came back to the same spot, right down by the baby-hole.

R.H: Would that be around the '30s then?

F.B: Oh, the '20s because I was gone in '26 from the South End, so, it had to be the '20s.

R.H: Did any of the people buy this snake oil?

F.B: Oh yeah, sure they did. Oh, Poppy Kohl did. You've heard of Poppy Kohl who owned the butcher shop across the street from there, you've heard about him many times? I bet nobody ever knew why he was called Poppy.

R.H: No, I've never heard of that nickname, why was he called that?

F.B: He was called Poppy because he bought the largest poppy, he always bought a dollar one. So, we started calling him Poppy Kohl. They were usually ten cents but he'd always give you a dollar for the large one. I'd get them from the legion and then run like hell to sell it to Poppy.

R.H: So, you sold poppies on remembrance day, did you?

F.B: Oh yeah, I sold them for years. Well, my father was a veteran, he couldn't help, he was always in the hospital so mom had to raise seven kids. It was tough but it was fun. Kids don't have fun like that anymore.

R.H: Can you tell me anything about this Gasoline Alley, why was it called Gasoline Alley?

F.B: It was called that because Mr. Bell had the gasoline tanks there. It was a little... you can't call it a gas station, it was more like a repair shop with pumps. It was right behind where the Parkview is, you had to go up the alley, it was called Johns Street. We called

it Gasoline Alley because he had the... probably because of the comic strip too. He used to take us to Sunday school down at the Anglican Church every Sunday.

R.H: And didn't they have a furniture place there or something?

F.B: That was further up, you have to cross Archange and I guess it would be the next one and he was over on the right. That used to be our school, that's where I went to kindergarten for half a day before the Furniture Exchange was in there, and it was a library too at one time. It was the school, the library, and then the Furniture Exchange.

R.H: What was the name of that school?

F.B: They used to call it Gasoline Alley School. That's what I called it.

R.H: Gasoline Alley School? And that would still be on John Street?

F.B: Yeah, opposite the... I don't know if it's still there, opposite the hotel and Rose's lived in the hotel at the time. The Rose family, you've probably heard all about them, right?

R.H: Wasn't Mrs. Rose related to the Kraft family?

F.B: She was a Kraft, Mrs. Rose was a Kraft.

R.H: Was she J.L. Kraft's sister?

F.B: Oh yes.

R.H: And her name was Mrs. Rose?

F.B: Yes, Art Rose, I don't remember her name. There was Al, Bob, Doris, Isabelle... She was a sister to J.L. Kraft but they called him Lou, Lou Kraft, they called him by his middle initial, I guess. He used to swim in the pond they had on Kraft Road. I don't know when it was named Kraft Road but the first homestead is there down towards the Kraft's and then they moved up on the corner of Crescent and Dominion, but by then he was probably gone. On our street, Kraft Road, where I live, they are all descendents of the Krafts, they were in the first five houses, but not now. There's another sister, Mrs. Learn, she had 12 children in there.

R.H: So, Mrs. Rose, she lived in that hotel at one time?

F.B: Well, it wasn't a hotel at that time, it was their home.

R.H: It was their home, but that's where the hotel is now, right?

F.B: Yeah, and then they moved up to...

R.H: What is that hotel called?

F.B: The Erie Lane Hotel. That big place was their home. They had

tennis courts at the side in the summer and they would let anybody play on them. They had a skating rink, they put a skating rink in there and we all skated there.

R.H: They let the kids skate there in the winter?

F.B: Oh yeah. Did anyone tell you about the rum runners?

R.H: Oh, we are trying to find out what we can, what can you tell me?

F.B: What we used to do... We had a tent and we could sleep out in the backyard.

R.H: Where were you living at this time?

F.B: Walnut Street, and my brothers, my two older brothers used to come and get me and we'd go and lay on the embankment and watch the rum runners and the coast guard, and they'd fire on them too.

R.H: Did you see anything interesting when you were watching them?

F.B: You only heard the coast guard shouting to them, "You'd better pull over" and then, they'd speed away. They didn't use the motor on the boat, they would row across and a lot of the times they would put the liquor in... like feed bags, bags with the... instead of throwing them out singular, they could quickly take a bag and dump it over. They say that in those days, a lot of liquor was retrieved from the river, especially when they tried to cross the river, in fact, there was a very sad incident where a cop from Buffalo shot his own son. Downey, their name was.

R.H: Was his son living here at the time?

F.B: I don't know. I only remember that, 'cause I remember the big do in the paper about it, that he had shot his own son. They'd climb up on the breakwall...

R.H: What happened, was he killed?

F.B: I don't remember but there was such a fuss about that. It was a shock that his son was a rum runner. Oh, there was lots of fascinating things going on when we were kids. You didn't need any money to have fun, our money was 21 cents a week. We used to go to the show on the West Side in Buffalo. We didn't get the quarter, we got 21 cents 'cause it was six cents for the boat fare, five cents for your candy, and ten cents for your show. My mother had so many kids, she had to dole out the 21 cents instead of a quarter. So, most of the kids would get a soda at the Greek shop and I would always buy five cents worth of candy 'cause I had three younger

brothers and I used to bring the candy home.

R.H: Was the little candy store on Jarvis Street?

F.B: No, no, this was on the West Side in Buffalo.

R.H: So, the candy shop was in Buffalo?

F.B: Yeah, on the hill, Dehart's it was called, and my sister worked there as a young girl.

R.H: When did you start working and where?

F.B: I went to work... my sister had a hot dog stand down at the baby-hole. I worked from 11 to 11, seven days a week, five dollars a week.

R.H: How old were you then?

F.B: 14 years old. I worked there for two years and then I went to work for Messervey Company when I was 16. That's where they made the Christmas tree lights in Fort Erie.

R.H: Where was that?

F.B: There was an old church that burned down, on Courtwright Street.

R.H: Yeah, but what's the name of the place?

F.B: Messervey Company. In fact, that place blew up, there was a gas leak. There was an old church there and they used it to make Christmas tree lights, in fact, I used to do the soldering.

R.H: How long did you work there?

F.B: Well, about... I went there in 1929 and it burned down in '31. It blew up, it was a gas leak. It was a funny thing, I went out for food one day for the workers, they used to send me and they'd say, "You run fast". I went for food and I came back and all the workers were half sleeping. We had a long hose, gas extension hose. It was a long hose and it was leaking, they were all half asleep. I went around opening the windows, shaking everybody, saying, "What's wrong". "Oh, I'm sleepy" one girl kept saying. The owner, he walked in that night, he lit a match to find the switch and...

R.H: What was the name of the factory owner?

F.B: His name was Messervey, the same as the factory.

R.H: [Did you say he drove himself to the hospital after the explosion?]

F.B: He drove right across the Peace Bridge to Buffalo to the hospital. The flesh was hanging off where he was burned. He lived a week and he said "He would rebuild" but of course, he died. Oh, he was a big man, he was athletic, and he could fight but I guess he was

so badly burned... but he drove over himself. We went to the hospital to see him but he was a mess.

R.H: Where did you after that place burned down?

F.B: I went to the Arner Company.

R.H: Was that the pill factory?

F.B: Yeah, Carter's little liver pills. We used to ship them to England and England sent them back and everybody thought they came from England. We didn't have enough seats so we sat on a tin can to work. We had to shake them, the pills, to take all the cracked ones out. We did all that by hand and then later we got machines to fill the bottles. I worked on emerald oil and if it was...

R.H: What about wages, how much did you make?

F.B: Oh, I made \$11.75 and that was good.

R.H: Was that a week?

F.B: Yeah, and I was only gettin \$8 at Messervey's. At the Arner Company, they'd let us pick our own hours. It used to get so hot with all that glass in there, they'd let us come in at six instead of eight and go home at four. We didn't work short hours in those days, you worked from eight to six. If everybody was agreeable, we could come in early. We ran out of there and there was swimming right across the street.

R.H: How long did you work there?

F.B: I went to Antidollar after that.

R.H: What was that?

F.B: The Antidollar on Queen Street. Cook-Waite Laboratories they later became. They did anesthetics for dentists.

R.H: What did you do there?

F.B: I filled all these cartridges with... for your teeth, with instructions and everything... There was quite a crew there, 12 or 13 people worked there.

R.H: Who owned that company?

F.B: Oh... Waite, his name was Waite from Springville, New York. I can't think of his first name, but Waite went in with Windsor and it became the Cook-Waite Laboratories. There was another little business there... I was there from '33 to '43 and the war was... My mother was very ill and I needed to make more money so I went back over to Buffalo to work. I changed my wages from \$17 to

\$71 a week. I was able to buy a bond a week at \$18.75, a war bond.

R.H: Do you think the war created more jobs in Fort Erie, was there more jobs?

F.B: I think there were, because they had Fleet and I think everybody was working. I know I had three jobs during the Depression, and I was glad for one job.

R.H: You had three jobs, how did you manage that?

F.B: Yeah, but my brothers couldn't get a job. I worked at the Arner Company, I worked at the Antidollar and then I worked at the Buffalo Skating Club every Sunday at the Arena.

R.H: Our Arena?

F.B: Yeah, the Fort Erie Arena, it caved in in 1936, I think it was.

R.H: What did you do there?

F.B: I worked at the hot dog stand. We had it for the hockey night games and sometimes I worked three nights a week there and then all day Sunday at the Buffalo Skating Club and then back Monday morning at my Antidollar job. The boys couldn't get a job during the Depression, in fact, my brother went out of town and they cut woods and forests, they made roads through some of the woods and forests.

R.H: What was the name of the hot dog stand where you worked?

F.B: It was just called Elsie's.

R.H: Is that the one you worked at, for the Buffalo Skating Club or was that your sisters?

F.B: No, no, that was in the Arena and my sisters was down at the baby hole.

R.H: Do you remember any of the guys that played on the Buffalo Bison's team?

F.B: Oh, the hockey players used to come to our parties. We used to have parties all the time and they would always come and they would treat us like young kids anyway.

R.H: Who had the party?

F.B: They were mostly at our house 'cause, when one of the kids wanted to have a party and they couldn't have it, my mother always let them have it at our house. We lived in the West End and we knew all the hockey players. You'd always see them around town, walking the streets and... The kids missed a lot.

R.H: Did you know any of the hockey players names?

F.B: Oh yeah, there was Gamy Lederman and Harry... Oh, gosh, I probably could have told you all of them if I didn't have to tell you now. They broke the window boxing with my girlfriend. My brothers got boxing gloves for Christmas and we were having a February party and this girl was boxing with them and she ducked and he put the boxing glove right through the window. My mom she was great, she used to make everything for the party and then say, "Well, I'm going to bed, have fun and don't break anything". When she came down after she said, "Oh, gone with the window".

R.H: What else have you got for me?

F.B: When I lived in Amigari... When I first moved to Amigari this fascinated me because the fire company had a truck down here in the South End. I moved to Amigari and they still had a fire hall with the carts. Somebody had to bring a horse and hook it up to them. They still had the horse and wagon and that was on Russell Street. At the Racetrack, they used to have a band play between... a live band play between... you could hear it all over town playing 'I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover'.

R.H: Do you mean between races?

F.B: Yeah, between races. They had a band. They were all up there when a local kid won, Johnny Pissaro on a horse called Play Flower. All the Italian people were with him, all the Purpuras and Fredos and everybody was lined up against the fence.

R.H: You mean they were on Gilmore there?

F.B: Yeah, we were on Gilmore leaning up against the fence there and they came around and Mr. Fredo hollered "Who won it"?

R.H: What kind of race was that?

F.B: It was regular racing.

R.H: This Johnny Pissaro was riding the horse?

F.B: Yeah, he was riding the horse and he became quite a great trainer. He was the leading trainer at one time. He died very suddenly.

R.H: I heard that a lot of people watched the racing across from the Grand Trunk, is that right ?

F.B: Yeah, we used to all go up to the fence and being smaller... They had the drainpipes and we used to crawl through the drainpipes, my girlfriend and I and we'd get in to the Racetrack. You weren't supposed to be there unless you were 16.

R.H: What was it like there at that time?

F.B: At the Racetrack? Oh, it was great. I was walking through one time and this fellow said, "Hey Jock, do you want to draw some water for the horses"? So, I stopped and I had sailor pants on, we used to wear them all the time and he said, "Do you want to draw some water for the horses"? and I said "Sure". So, I drew some water and someone came along and said, "Hello Florence" and he said, "God, you're a girl". He gave me a buck which was a lot of money then, and it went so far. Oh, it had such a beautiful, entrance, the Racetrack. You had to walk around with the flowers on either side, it was gorgeous. They had one turf race usually at the last but they quit that.

R.H: What is a turf race?

F.B: When they ran on the grass. I had a book called 'Flat Iron for a Farthing' and I was reading it one time and the story was supposed to be in 1899 and they said, "Let's go to the races". It was set in Buffalo and they said, "Let's go to the races in Fort Erie" well, that fascinated me. I kept that book for years and I don't know what happened to it, but in there it said, 1899, so they must have been running then.

R.H: They had the Bertie Fair there too, didn't they?

F.B: Yes, they did. They had all the games, the ring toss games. We were just talking about things that my brother-in-law at the Bertie Fair gave to my niece. That would be about '31, '32.

R.H: What games did you play there and what could you win?

F.B: Well, it was the ring toss games, you throw a ball and so on... The prizes are still beautiful, they were like a cream and suger, yellow chickens and then he won salt and pepper shakers and a coffee pot which he used 'til it burned out. It lasted about 50 years.

R.H: Did you go to the Bertie Fair?

F.B: Oh yeah, always.

R.H: What else did they have there?

F.B: They had lots of things for school kids. You could enter your handwriting and any projects you made, and quilts, beautiful quilts, jams and jellies. They had the contests where you won the prizes just like the Welland Fair but on a smaller scale. They used to have the Toronto races there.

R.H: Didn't the farmers have races there?

F.B: Oh yeah, the farmers had races but the Toronto races came there too but just for the Bertie Fair. They'd have all these heats where they could... that would go on most of the day. They'd have a band, they got prizes and ribbons. There was money prizes too, like two dollars for school kids or something and you could buy little things there too.

R.H: Did you have to pay to get in?

F.B: I don't know whether you did or not because the school kids had tickets to go, so, I really don't know. I remember when I got older, I won a hotdog eating contest there. You only had to eat one hotdog, so fast, and you ate it from a string. I got a two pound box of chocolates for that. Did anyone ever tell you about the dumps?

R.H: No, tell me about the dumps?

F.B: They were at the top of Queen Street where the tower is there, well, just beyond there, it was all down in there. That was our biggest adventure on a Saturday morning.

R.H: What was the dumps, actually?

F.B: Everybody used to dump everything in there like bicycle parts, my brothers built their bicycle from there. There was parts for boats and I used to get the broken dolls and broken beads. Mom used to make us undress outside the house after that. We'd come home with all kinds of paint and everything that people had thrown away. It was the greatest adventure. My brothers used to say, "Saturday morning, the dumps".

R.H: You've heard of the Dummy, did you ever go on it?

F.B: Oh yes, we used to go on at the North End and you'd end up in Black Rock. We only went over because it was a ride. I didn't like it because it was open and you could see the water.

R.H: Did some people worked that Bridge?

F.B: Yeah.

R.H: Did they have a path there?

F.B: No, they walked right along the side there. There's no walkway, there's just...

R.H: So you didn't like using the Dummy, why?

F.B: Well, we used to ride over just for the ride. We worked down there on Courtwright Street and sometimes we'd ride back with the guys that came from Buffalo to work at this place where they made

Christmas tree lights. We'd just ride over with them, have a soft drink on the other side and then we'd ride back. We used to do that on payday.

R.H: Did you go to Crystal Beach?

F.B: Not too much because that involved a car. So, what we did a couple of times was, we went to Buffalo and took the boat over. Harold Austin used to play on that boat. You had to come all the way back in time to catch the ferry and come home.

R.H: What was the boat called?

F.B: The Canadiana. I bought a souvenir on there when I went on the first time, 'cause you think you weren't going to go on again. It was really out of our way, from Fort Erie on the Orleans, City of Toledo or whatever, and then you had to get a bus down to the end of Main Street and then go over there and come all the way back.

R.H: So, the only way you could get to Crystal Beach was either by car or this boat, right?

F.B: Yeah, by this boat. Well, I don't think they had the busses.

R.H: Did you go more often when you were grown?

F.B: Oh yeah, all the time. I won a waltz contest with Joe Barone, I used to go with Joe Barone. That was another box of chocolates. We didn't know we were in a dance contest. We ran in and the guy said, "The dance is half over". We said, "We don't care, we don't want to miss it". They started to come over and tap people on the shoulder and they'd leave and I said, "Something's going on" then, we were the last ones left, we won it.

R.H: What was the Dance Hall like?

F.B: It was beautiful, it was a big Dance Hall and it was well taken care of. They had ticket takers all the way 'round the floor, you didn't have to hurry to the place and you danced by ticket there too.

R.H: Do you remember any of the bands?

F.B: I don't remember... Well, I remember one time I think, Bob Crosby came there but I don't just remember. You just used to go and dance.

R.H: Is there anything else you remember about Crystal Beach?

F.B: Well, the Cyclone, we went on that high Cyclone. Another girl and I were crazy about that. We used to ride that all the time, but after a fellow got killed on it when we were up there one time...

He just stood up and splattered...

R.H: How old were you when this happened?

F.B: Oh, I was in my teens then.

R.H: Was that in the '30s then?

F.B: That would come up late '30s or early '40s. So they lowered that Cyclone after that.

R.H: So, you were there when this incident actually happened?

F.B: Yeah, I was there with a fellow from Buffalo, a policeman. He pulled me away, the guy was wearing a white suit and all the blood over his white suit... The people on the ride said, "He just stood up and threw out his arms above his head and fell". It was terrible.

R.H: What else did they have there?

F.B: The Caterpillar, that's where you did all your kissing. They had the Funhouse there, that was great...

R.H: Do you know who ran the Funhouse?

F.B: No, I don't know but I knew the kids that worked there. The Hall's son did and I think Hall's were connected with the Beach forever.

R.H: What about doctors, who were some of the doctors you remember?

F.B: I only knew Dr. Clark and Dr. Douglas that I ever remember. Dr. Clark was up on the corner of Bertie and Battery.

R.H: Was Dr. Douglas your family doctor?

F.B: Yeah.

R.H: Where was his practice?

F.B: Right on Niagara Boulevard opposite Eugene Agrette's place and there was the Customs and Immigration next door, that's where you landed.

R.H: That's where you landed when you came over?

F.B: Yeah, it was during World War 1.

R.H: Do you remember the rationing during the second World War?

F.B: Oh yes, it wasn't very fair rationing, not like they had in Britain. Butter was 26 cents a pound...

R.H: Did you have ration books?

F.B: You had ration books with coupons and milk was about 11 cents a quart and you always was rationed, you had to give a ticket for most of the dairy products and the bacon.

R.H: It wasn't too bad then?

F.B: No, I didn't think it was too bad. Well, there was only mom and

I, my brothers were all out to work. We didn't have a car so we didn't need gasoline.

R.H: Was gasoline hard to get then?

F.B: I think that was one of the tougher things to get. I'd hate to think now, with people with five cars in the family, how they'd make out.

R.H: Do you know anything about the boxing matches they used to have here?

F.B: You mean where the Legion is? Did I tell you about that?

R.H: No.

F.B: We were talking about that 'cause girls and women weren't allowed in there. My brothers used to dress me up in their clothes...

R.H: Where was that now?

F.B: It was where the Legion is and that was the Town Hall and upstairs...

R.H: This was on Queen, right?

F.B: Yeah, Queen Street, and upstairs where the balcony was, to look down on the boxing and wrestling too. My brothers used to dress me up in their clothes and pull my hair back and take me with them. We weren't even supposed to be in there 'cause we were too young. We'd creep on our hands and knees so they wouldn't see us and get up on that balcony and look through the railing and see the boxing and the wrestling.

R.H: It was legal, wasn't it?

F.B: Oh yeah, it was legal, it was just that our age and we were kids...

R.H: Did they have a boxing ring and everything there?

F.B: Yeah.

R.H: Did a lot of people go to see these matches?

F.B: I didn't think too many went but of course to me, maybe it didn't look like a good crowd. To me, it didn't seem like many people were there. You know that library, Mrs. Cousins used to read to the kids. I just remembered that.

R.H: Was Mrs. Cousins the librarian?

F.B: Yes, she was and so did my sister Elsie read to them, Saturday mornings. She'd say to my brother Richard "You've got to come, I'm reading at the library". He'd say, "We're going to the dumps".

R.H: When the Peace Bridge was being built, did you go over there a lot?

F.B: Oh yes, we had the bus service.

R.H: There was a bus service from Fort Erie?

F.B: Yeah, right from the North End, they had a bus service going past down here.

R.H: What was it called, do you know?

F.B: I can't remember.

R.H: You can't remember who ran that service?

F.B: Not when it was first opened. They always used to stop at the hotdog stand, the driver did.

R.H: Where did they stop?

F.B: Near the place where I worked and later the driver's name was Peachi, that was his last name.

R.H: Did you ever go on the ferryboats?

F.B: All the time, we always went to the West Side. On a Saturday night we would go shopping over there to Woolworth's on Grant Street. You would see everybody over there on the West Side and then at the foot of the street was Sargent's and Zellin's Fish and Chips. Well, it was called Sargent's and Zellin's.

R.H: So, getting back to the ferryboats, did you...?

F.B: Yeah, I took the ferryboats and it was three cents for kids and then it got to be a nickel. In later years before they closed, fellows were coming on and playing guitars and you could request a number, they'd play it and then they would take up a collection, but that was later. I remember one of the Rose boys, Alf Rose, we were coming on the ferry and he came running up and he jumped on and he said, "We made it". We were just coming in and he thought we were leaving.

R.H: Do you remember what any of the ferryboats looked like?

F.B: Yeah, we used to ride out on the ferryboats, jump in the water so we could ride back on the waves from the paddle-wheels.

R.H: Did you jump off the ferryboats?

F.B: Yeah, we jumped off the ferryboats to swim. We jumped right off the back and then we dived off into the waves that came from the paddle-wheels. It would ride you right back to the dock.

R.H: So, you paid five cents to get on and then dive off?

F.B: No, we'd sneak on. We used to swim in the river and then the ferryboat guys would let us have a free ride back 'cause we didn't have any

money.

R.H: Do you know who any of the guys were?

F.B: No, well, one was called Billy Hulse and then there was a Fort Erie man who worked on there for years called George Senn, they were brothers-in-law. His wife's still around, she's Dolly Byers sister that I mentioned.

R.H: You mentioned something about Mr. Seaton, Peanuts Seaton, could you tell me...?

F.B: He had a brokerage office.

R.H: Where was that?

F.B: Well, it was... I guess it was opposite the Anglo Hotel, I think it was next to where Happy Jack's is. They've filled up the space now, he had a little office down there and he was also on Walnut Street.

R.H: Did he sell insurance?

F.B: Yeah, and then he had the brokerage. He was the only broker that they had in those days, that I remember.

R.H: Was Peanuts a nickname?

F.B: Yeah, I think his name was Bill. He was a little short fellow, real jolly and his sister was the principal of Phipps Street School, Rose Seaton School.

R.H: Did you ever go watch the baseball games?

F.B: Oh yeah, down at the end of Bowen Road, yeah, because I had a boyfriend who was playing ball.

R.H: What team did he play for?

F.B: Oh, Erie Beach.

R.H: Oh, Erie Beach had a baseball team?

F.B: Yeah, I don't know who sponsored them... no, it was Bullets Shoes that sponsored them. They had a shoestore on Seneca Street in Buffalo.

R.H: But the name of the team was Erie Beach?

F.B: No, no, they called it Bullets Shoes but all the guys were from Erie Beach. There was a Crescent Park team too there.

R.H: Where did they play?

F.B: At the Bowen Road diamond, that was the only one there. Fort Erie had a great team but they went to a little town named Deloro and they lost. All the people were waiting at the train for them

to come back thinking that they had won. They were all at the train station celebrating. It was a little town named Deloro and that was where my husband was born. They had taken the pennant and it was only a little... Well, it's a company town you'd have to call it, the houses were all built and they paid them to have seats for rent and they had one store and they beat the Fort Erie team.

R.H: What was the team called, was it called the Fort Erie Baseball Team?

F.B: I don't remember who sponsored them, maybe Mentholatum. Horton Steel men played on it but I just can't remember.

R.H: What was that baseball diamond like down there, was it nice?

F.B: No, it was just a sand lot to me, just like you had on any field. They had nice bleachers and that, but there was... It was the only place to go so of course it got a lot of use, it never was overgrown. They had a lot of good ball players in Fort Erie in those days.

R.H: You said Mr. Seaton was on Walnut Street, did you...?

F.B: He was on Walnut Street but before that he was down on the Niagara Boulevard.

R.H: Do you remember Sullivan's?

F.B: Oh yeah, the best fish and chips you ever tasted. I've been to England and I know they were the best, the best I ever tasted. They were always so nice, and it was so homey, such a homey place to go.

R.H: Have you any idea when he opened that place?

F.B: Well, when I was a kid the Rhodes were there, people named Rhodes and when he bought that place... The original house is the top floor where Charlie lives. He put the fish and chip shop underneath it, otherwise Rhodes lived there and then Muskroph's, they were there too.

R.H: So, that's been there since what...?

F.B: Oh, it's a long time, I couldn't even tell you, did you think to ask Charlie?

R.H: What was next door to Sullivan's at that time?

F.B: Pong Kim's Laundry. He used to do the uniforms up for all the girls that used to work in the Antidollar Company. He was so nice, he used to bring us Christmas treats, lichee nuts and things like that and ginger. He'd send to Vancouver for them, you couldn't even get them around Toronto. He'd send them to his relatives

there and then he had his family, he still had his family in China. I used to pack Christmas parcels for them and do his shopping for them. The kids would send pictures out of the catalogues that they'd get over there. I'd go to Simpson's or Eaton's and I would shop for him, so then, he would do my uniform for free. It cost 35 cents for the uniform, that was a lot.

R.H: Did he close down?

F.B: We've often spoken of that, we don't know whether he closed down or died or what. It was bought up, and Scotty Miller had a candy store there, near Sullivan's, right in there. I would have to go down and study the whole waterfront 'cause we used to swim from the baby-hole down to what we called the hot sands, that's directly behind Happy Jack's and that area had beautiful sand. The reason we called it the hot sands was, it would burn your feet. It was terribly hot down there, the baby-hole was flatter, there wasn't much sand.

R.H: So, that was all taken away because of the businesses then?

F.B: Yeah, and then filling in with the retaining wall along there. It all fitted in to that area, that's where the train ran past, the Sandfly Express and the Tonerville Trolley...

R.H: What was it called?

F.B: The Tonerville Trolley. Everyone had a different name for it, the Snakehill, the Sandfly...

R.H: I guess that was quite an interesting area at one time, wasn't it?

F.B: Oh, it was a beautiful area because the Old Fort, it wasn't rebuilt... That was about 1939 when they started restoration.

R.H: So the Old Fort was still in ruins up until then?

F.B: That was all like it had been during the war when it had fallen down. There was a big brick wall 'round the front of it too. They say the Anglican Church is built from the stones from the Old Fort.

R.H: So, when you were a kid the Old Fort was in ruins?

F.B: It was all falling down. We played all over it and there was like moats. In the spring all the ice and snow would melt and the moats would fill up, but otherwise in the summer it was all grass. Pauline Cheffins mother used to have the parties for Pauline and Christine, they both had July birthdays and she'd take the Sunday in between the birthdays and she used to baby buggy the ice cream maker and take us and have the party and make the ice cream right there.

- F.B:** To the Old Fort. She used to push it up in the baby buggy. Poor little Benny, he'd have to walk. They had a nice park there and they kept the grass real well, it's always been well kept. I felt sad when it was restored, it was a good place for kids.
- R.H:** You said that some of the bricks from the Old Fort went to build the Anglican Church, right?
- F.B:** Yeah, that's always been the story around town.
- R.H:** Do you remember the date it was rebuilt?
- F.B:** I thought it was 1939 when that was restored, I thought we had a parade and everything. There was so many things going on. I loved the South End.
- R.H:** I guess it was very interesting 'cause you could see everything that was going on. Is there any other activities you can tell me about?
- F.B:** The greatest activity was when they had special days at Erie Beach. Crowds would come over, they'd have special days like they still do at Crystal Beach and they sold you a strip of tickets cheap, to use on the rides and everything. The people would flock over and they were always so dolled up. Everybody wore their long skirts and white blouses, big hats, they were just beautiful. There was long chains on their handbags, I remember all that 'cause my mother had one and I always wanted to play with it. It just was so sad when the stock market crashed in '29 and the Bardol's couldn't afford the Beach. Hardly anybody went in 1930, there was no money. We used to walk to the Beach though if we didn't have the fare.
- R.H:** You would walk to Erie Beach then?
- F.B:** Yeah, nothing seemed to far in those days.
- R.H:** Thank-you very much for the super interview Florence, I really enjoyed it, thank-you so much.
- F.B:** I thoroughly enjoyed it too. It's nice bringing back all the old memories and I lived in such a time when everything was so nice.