

Ruby Miller - Tape 2 (side 2)

This is a script of an interview with Ruby Miller. While the interviewer is not identified, the interview dialogue would suggest that it was Donald Gordon conducting the interview. Velma Miller (nee Charter) was present and sometimes offer comment (identified as 3rd party).

The Interviewer's commentary is presented in italics. Names are often difficult to distinguish. Where these are unclear, a question mark appears in brackets.

Tell me what you want.

So the boys grew up on the farm then I guess?

Yes, they were good and bad (laughter). Mostly good!

So what kind of things did you have on the farm? Did you milk cows or raise beef?

Oh yes, mixed farming.

I guess everybody did a little bit of everything.

We didn't go into the milk business until oh What year was it Timmy?

(3rd party) '40 - '42.

(3rd party) You should tell them about the garage and the garden.

I'm always nervous in the car and eh the fluid went off our brakes, had no brakes and we came in and there was just a little bit slope and we went down this way into the garage and Earl was a little fella and he says, Daddy, I'll put this brake on for you. I don't know what Dad did. He put his foot on the accelerator all on his own I think and we went right through the back of the garage and it was up and on a slope and we landed... the youngsters had made a little garden, they played there and finally made a little garden and they had cucumbers out there and we landed right in the middle of the cucumber patch. And all we did, all we harmed on the car was we broke the back window.

Is that right? They made them good back then I guess, didn't they? I didn't ask you what year you were married, Mrs. Miller?

1917!

'17..?

73 years ago.

And in what church?

Well I was an Anglican. We had students at the time and they are not allowed to marry and we went to Uxbridge to an old minister that I knew. I was married in Uxbridge.

(3rd party) Then where did you go? Where did you go then after you got married?

We just went to Toronto for a couple of days off.

Then back to the farm?

Yeah!

So did you bring in your milk to the creamery back in those days then ... or the dairy ... or what was in Sunderland?

We sold our cream.

You sold your cream ... to somebody who picked it up or did you bring it into town?

No they picked it up.

Yeah...

And I churned a learned to churn, I baked bread, buns. Oh I did all the baking there was to do but it wasn't just my happiest moments. I wasn't great If I took as much interest in it then as I do now, I would have been a good cook.

Right.

I raised two you know.

Was there a dairy in Sunderland back in those days or was it just the creamery around or what was in town then?

No there was a when did Frees come? (1936) Frees came to Sunderland and they built the fire hall and that's where they had the creamery first and then they built the other place.

(3rd party) I remember that ... we were married weren't we?

(3rd party) I don't know how long huh?

The reason I ask; I remember when I was a little guy ... was it Mr. Stone that used to deliver the milk?

(3rd party) Yeah, Campbell Stone.

Didn't there used to be a little dairy in behind ... well near the fire hall there, part of that building?

That was the fire hall.

(3rd party) That was the creamery, that was all cream.

Well I thought I remembered going into a building there - that- well it may have been a creamery but there was something there right up when I was just a kid.

(3rd party) Well they may have delivered the milk there that he delivered ... I don't know.

(3rd party) Yeah Campbell Stone, yeah he did it.

Did he? Where did he pick up?

(3rd party) Well maybe that was just a refrigeration place was it?

(3rd party) Yeah, refrigeration.

O.K.

(3rd party) Yeah, but there was never any dairy.

(3rd party) Dobles (*Milt Doble*) and Durwards used to deliver milk.

(3rd party) Pinkhams

Oh , I'll tell you something I forgot. When I was young, they used to ... , Burt... there was Dick Gordon and he lived east, you know where a where a ...

(3rd party) Armor Martin lives

Martins live.

Yeah

That was their farm and he just ... he'd get bulk milk, sold milk, bottled milk for 5 cents a pint, I guess 5 cents a pint and he brought it around and you'd get your milk from him.

Right! And so he delivered door to door, did he?

Door to door.

Yeah

(3rd party) Now that's just milk from the cow, you know! That's not pasteurized or anything.

(3rd party) That's the same with Durwards.

(3rd party) Yeah, Pinkhams. Mr. Pinkham used to ... I can remember...

Oh, Lorne Pinkham He used to have cows.

(3rd party) Right behind you.

And, we got our milk from Lorne Page for a long time. Mother did, not me.

Yeah, well I guess the town folk had to get their milk from someplace.

(3rd party) And Harold Doble

Harold Doble

(3rd party) They ran with milk.

I meant to ask you about the farmers bringing their produce to town. Was there a farmers' market or anything like that?

Oh yes! There was a farmers' market every Wednesday. The buyers would come out from Toronto. One was Doyle and eh... oh I forget them but they came out ... Dale St. John bought ... and you'd bring your butter and your eggs, what have you.

(3rd party) They had it ... they used to have it at the town hall, based out of the town hall. I can remember that ... yeah.

And they had what they called a market fair... and that would be at Christmas time and the banquet hall now and all that kitchen and all that town hall, it was just one and the stairway was back at the west wall .. you went up this way into the upstairs and it just had one big cook stove in it and they had the door to the stair now ... double door ... you could drive right in there and where the furnace is there was another double door there and you could drive right in with trucks and we dressed our chickens, and our geese, turkeys, what have you and brought them to the fair.

All right.

And they had buyers and at that fair they'd have a lady driving available on the street with a cutter.

Do you remember anything about any of the old newspapers that might have been in Sunderland back in the old days?

Yes, there was the Sunderland ... eh...The Uxbridge Times used to come to Sunderland... that was ... oh we had a little paper, that was later ...

(3rd party) I can't remember the name of it now.

No?

(3rd party) Somebody that run it was from Sutton.

Was it the Sunderland Mirror?

(3rd party) Oh, I don't know. You got a better memory than I have.

I don't know what ... huh?

I think it might have been the Mirror. I seem to recall reading somewhere about a newspaper called I think it was the Sunderland Mirror now that you mention it.

I don't know what that was back that far...

But that would have been prepared and printed right in Sunderland, I guess then, was it?

No!

No?

I don't think that there was ever any printer in Sunderland. They had to go to Uxbridge and then it was edited.

It was probably owned by the same people that owned the Uxbridge Times-Journal at that time then, was it?

Likely. Cabe was his name.

(3rd party) Mr. Cabe in Uxbridge

(3rd party) Seems to me that there was some paper, some little paper used to come ... and it was always printed in Sutton.

Oh I don't know. I forget.

(3rd party) Like a dream, can't remember.

I seem to recall.

(3rd party) It's awful hardif you're not thinking about things like that. For me anyway...I not much with a memory.

I guess all the.... What the newspapers from the other little towns used to come into Sunderland, did they? Did the Uxbridge Times always come into Sunderland, I guess.

Well that was the It had Sunderland news in it. And the Sunderland ... we got the Times for years.

(3rd party) You had the news from Cannington, Sunderland, Beaverton and Uxbridge and it was all in one paper. Everybody got one.

Ah, I see. So that would be before the Gleaner started and the Beaverton Express?

(3rd party) Oh yes! Yeah, you see those are just recent. I mean ...

Relatively, yeah.

(3rd party) The Uxbridge Times goes back before that. That went on for years and years and years. I remember when it used to be \$1.00, that would be for a whole year's subscription.

Is that right?

(3rd party) Yeah!

Do you remember your first radio?

Yes. It was a joy.

When would that have been roughly, do you remember?

Pardon?

Do you remember roughly what year that would have been when you had your first radio?

(3rd party) You got it from John L. Gordon with the horns on it, mind?

Yeah. Um, no I can't ...we had the old gramophone before that.

Oh yeah.

(3rd party) Judy, you probably remember more about the radio ...

Oh Robert Davison (?) used to live in George Kay's house and he had a radio and the young folks would go down and gather around and he'd open the window, turn the horn out and let us listen. He was a nice fellow. He was a constable of sorts... at one time.

So what kind of programs do you remember on the radio, then? Do you remember any specific programs from the early days when the radios came out?

(3rd party) Amos & Andy.

Amos & Andy, yes! And .. oh yes there was good programs, Bill Cullen was one of them.

(3rd party) Bill Cullen?

Oh, if I could just remember them. I can remember, but I can't remember those things. But we had a radio first on the farm, the boys would go to town on Saturday night and Jack and I would get the radio going. He'd run the radio and I'd listen ... and we had it on from ... well 11:00 o'clock anyway.

Did you listen to the hockey games?

Yes, we used to listen to everything, fights. Yes, I remember the first television we had. We were in town then and we used to go up to Cliff Brethours. He lived up on the Ridge Road and Saturday night Ray and his wife and Jack and I would go up there and we'd have a game of cards . So then we would always wait for 12:00 o'clock when the wrestling match came on.

Oh?

And we'd have the rest of the wrestling match then we'd have lunch, a little argument and at one time after that Jack was sitting at the dining room window and he said that "You know, if we had a television we could put it right there and I could sit right here". And I said, "Go to it!". Well he said, Jim is getting rid of his and I'm going to buy it. And I thought , well that's a foolish thing to do for he wouldn't get rid of it if it was any good. So I didn't say anything, I said you'll have to have an antennae. Oh, we'll put one up. So I let him go ahead. I thought well, if he gets the antennae ... I knew it wouldn't be any good ... and finally got a television of our own.

Mmmm

I was obliged to point out... good luck.

That's pretty recent isn't it? I remember we didn't have a TV when I was a kid until I was about 7 or 8, I guess. We never had a T.V..

(3rd party) Well Ralph had the first one around. Ralph Pinkham.

Is that right?

(3rd party) We got the second one.

Is that right?

(3rd party) So you know how long ago it is .I can't even remember how long ago ... but we took the ... '52?

(3rd party) Somewhere in there.

(3rd party) Yeah well we haven't had many televisions, they've really been ... Televisions have lasted. They've been really good.

Well I don't know Mrs. Miller, I think that we have covered an awful lot today and that....

I think maybe that's plenty.

Yeah. Well that's wonderful. I'm really glad that I was able to get up. I apologize for not getting up that last time but I was lying on my back. I was in pretty bad shape.... So.