

Mrs. Usher (37)

TAPE GUIDE

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Subject: Mrs. Elizabeth Usher (U)
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M: I would like to begin by establishing the background of where you have lived, so we will know what areas to deal with. Did you ever actually reside in Belleville?

U: Not until the last five years, did I actually reside here but I have been visiting here for the past forty-five years. Formally sometimes twice a year.

M: So would it be in the 1930's that you began visiting here?

U: Yes, really after Mrs. Wishart got married, my daughter. She came to live on Dufferin Ave, and she has lived on Dufferin Ave. all through her married life. And I visited her here for the past forty-five years.

M: So, it has been a family visit that brought you to Belleville.

U: Yes.

M: Where did you grow up?

U: In a little country community called Cushing in the county of Argenteile in the province of Quebec was my childhood home.

M: And I understand you lived in Montreal for quite a period.

U: Yes, even before I was married I was engaged there in working position and then all of my married life. My children were born there and had there public school education in Montreal. When my husband, their father died we returned to my childhood home and built a new home as my mother was in my own old home.

M: Do you remember what year you moved to Montreal?

U: Oh, yes I was married in 1904 and I had previously been on visits and as I say I held a position in Montreal too before I was married.

so it was really in 1898 that I first went.

M: I think if we start out as I mentioned the first section of questioning with your visits to Belleville, I'm looking forward to the second section too. Was there any particular time of the year you would come to Belleville?

U: Usually in the winter, always for a good long visit in the winter, but occasionally I would come in the summer too. My first visit was in the winter.

M: Did you ever celebrate Christmas in Belleville?

U: Yes, the Christmas of 1929, there was such a snow storm before that the drifts were so high that you could hardly see over them to get round the corner of Bridge and Dufferin. I remember the house.

M: So it was here that you came.

U: Yes, it was here, not this house, it was on the other side of Bridge on Dufferin there. It was 212, yes 212 is where they first lived.

M: Can you tell me a little bit more what it was like to celebrate Christmas? In 1929...

U: Well, it was the first Christmas that my daughter had here in her home here. We enjoyed it very much. Especially as I had my youngest son come and stay with us, and at that time he was up north with the C.I.F. Company. We were twenty miles north of Madawa\$ki which is about one-hundred and eighty miles north of Ottawa. Through great difficulty coming socially, snowshoeing and sled riding he got down to the railway in Madawalki and took the train to Ottawa, and came here to spend the Christmas with us. So that was quite an event for him especially.

M: So, you would have had a Christmas dinner.

U: OH, yes, with the regulation turkey and plum pudding and everything yes.

M: What about staying over till New Years, did you that year?

U: Yes, I did, yes I stayed over New Years in fact I spent a good many weeks that first year. Not too long about a month, I'm Affraid, because I had to get back.

M: Was New Years celebrated the way it is today with a lot of parties.

U: No, well there were parties, yes there were parties but not so much noise as there is usually now. Quiet parties bringing the new year in and old one out. Often just at home sit quietly, sit together until the new year would come in, have a cup of tea or coffee or something and wish each other a happy new year.

M: Was Auld-ange-sine sung.

U: Oh, yes thats quite proper too, if you were having party. Yes a lot of people did have more of a celebration at New Years. However we were quiet, we just sat.

M: Moving on to some other times of the year, what about Easter, did you come to Belleville for Easter?

U: Not usually, no but I think I have been here for Easter, at sometime or other. The children always had a good time, an egg hunt and everything like that.

M: So you would have had painted Easter eggs and things like that.

U: Yes, there were those things, I didn't do them personally, but children did it. They painted the Easter eggs and had a hunt.

M: Now, moving on to what, I'm interested in particular what the stores in Belleville were like then. Did you go shopping in Belleville?

U: Yes, indeed I enjoyed it very much.

M: What were the stores that you went to the most?

U: Well, we had the Eaton branch here, that were acquainted with the superintendent or president, Bill McMillian, you know. I enjoyed the Woolworth at that time, it was quite a novelty and I shopped there. And there was another there we use to go to, was it Cookes, well anyway, there were several other stores. I think McIntoshes was there at that time too. I enjoyed going in there very much. There were very fine stores too, at that time. I don't know, there was the bakery shop that we always went to at that time.

M: What about meeting places, do you remember the Dickens tea room?

U: Yes, indeed yes, yes I frequently have been in the Dickens Tea room with some of my friends, older woman like myself, went in there. What other place, I don't think there was any other particular one. No, we certainly didn't eat out very often, but we would go in there for a cup of tea, I remember that.

M: What did it look like inside?

U: Well, very, very nicely arranged, the rows of the tables, mirrors woodwork and then I think they had a bigger dining room, that would accommodate more people. You walked to the bake shop, yes.

M: What did Front street look like, I know its a very vague question, lets hear your impression of say Front street in 1930.

U: Well, I thought it was a busy business thorough-fare at that time. There were shops on either side of different kinds as you know. It just looked the main business street of the city. It must of been the main street.

M: Do you remember it being paved, or when it was paved?

U: Oh, I think so I don't remember when it wasn't paved.

M: Did you ever visit any parks in Belleville?

U: Yes, I was here once when a circus was here, because I can remember we went to the station to see the animals unloaded, for the day of the circus.

M: You said it was the Barnam^{and} Bailey Circus.

U: Yes.

M: Did they hold it in one building?

U: Yes. I remember, but I don't know where it was, they would put up the tents and unload the animals to get ready for the next day.

M: What years did they come?

U: In the 1930's, yes it would be early in the thirtys.

M: That would go back a few years. Some of Belleville's buildings have a fare amount of heritage, but the buildings yo saw in Belleville what were they? Buildings that impressed you the most?

U: Well, I think perhaps the very one at the corner that is the museum now, as we were just around the corner from it. I think for a private home that was the one th t struck me most. And others down Bridge Street too. I can't remember who occupied them then but one was the Freeman house was one, that struck me as a very nice home.

M: On Bleeker and Bridge.

U: Yes, and those were perhaps the ones that were most built there. There were others around town too, but not quite so, oh yes, there was the St. Agness Manor, and Albert College. Oh, yes those buildings and the school for the deaf, and of course the churches,

St. Thomas and Bridge Street. They all were impressive at that time.

M: What about City Hall, was that about the same as it is today?

U: I was only once in city hall a couple of years later, so I think that is just as it is today.

M: One aspect of Belleville's past that seems to be dying away is the Belleville Market, do you remember going to the Belleville Market?

U: Yes, decidedly yes, I enjoyed that very much too. I did the shopping and the marketing, but Belleville altogether was a very interesting city, because of the lovely large homes and the beautiful trees. Everything you wanted seemed to be in Belleville, in the way of shopping or entertainment or anything like that. I can remember going to the Belle theatre for movies at the time.

M: Was this the air of silent movies?

U: Well, no no it was after the silent movies. It was later than that. I went to the silent movies in Montreal years before.

M: Was the Belle the only theatre in Belleville at that time?

U: No, I think there were others, I don't know whether the Park was one of them. It was the Belle I use to go to.

M: What about the opera house, did you ever go to that?

U: No, I never did.

M: It would have been here though???

U: The building was still standing but I don't think ever put on a show. Yes the Armouries was another impressive building.

M: What would you say the most noticeable change in Belleville has been now and the seventies. And in the thirties and twenties when you visited here???

U: Well, I really find the greatest change here is the high rise apartment buildings, we didn't have any of them you know, before and you know there were so many and there still are sotmany beautiful homes. We didn't have those high rise things and they don't add to the city at all.

M: You know where Susana Moody's house is.

U: Yes, yes.

M: She use to be able to look across from her house to St. Thomas church. I was walking past St. Thom's last night and I was thinking she wouldn't be able to see it any more.

U: Oh, yes it hasn't added to the beauty of the city at all.

M: Were there any particular amusing incidences that stuck out in your mind from being in Belleville?

U: Your asking about the New Years Celebration and I can remeber one there were three girls in this family and they were quite young at that time. Their father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Wishart were going out for New Years Eve. They were aloud to celebrate at home with me. So they went to bed at the usual time and I was to awaken them at midnight and we would have a celebration. They all gathered in one room upstairs, and we had ginger ale in their mothers fine glasses and cookies. We all wished each other a Happy New Year and that was a great occasion. It was fun for me being with all those little girls, they were celebrating the same as their parents. Maybe you could repeat that question later in another section.

M: Is there anything else before we leave your visits to Belleville that you would like to mention.

U: Well, I would like to say the hospitality of the people here always impressed me. They were so friendly and there were so many interesting people, that I got acquainted with during my visits. I think that impressed me more than anything else.

M: Did you ever go to any meetings or social groups, clubs or...

U: Yes, we went to our church groups, you know I don't think that I attended any others. Yes, I went to the plays and entertainments that the students put on at B.C.I. I went to those and they were very fine. I remember Gilbert and Sullivan, play one of my grand-daughters was taking part in it. That was a very special play.

M: They really had a very active drama group going at B.C.I. for a long time.

U: Yes, they did the two older girls and a boy. Yes they all three were in that.

M: Do you remember any other plays they put on there?

U: I can't remember any that I attended.

M: To start off the second section maybe you could make sure we have the name of the village that you were born in.

U: Cushing, it was named after a prominent family there. It was in the county of Argenteuin in a very old part of the province of Quebec. That's where I grew up. Yes, on the Ottawa river.

M: So it would have been fairly close to Ottawa, or.....

U: About sixty miles from Ottawa, and about forty-five from Montreal. Just in between, on the Quebec side of the Ottawa river.

M: Lets go back and see what we have from your childhood. What sort of things did you do as children in order to entertain yourselves like skating rinks....

U: Well, we didn't have rinks but we skated on the ponds or sometimes on the river when it was frozen over. In the summer we played baseball, especially at school was our great game of baseball, tag and turn up jack. We all had our chores to do, we all worked we didn't have to much time for play you know.

M: You were on a farm there.

U: No, we didn't live on a farm we had a garden and we kept a cow, and we kept a horse. My father was a carpenter in a building business, so that we didn't have a farm, but we had a good size piece of land. We had a good big garden and we had to work in that.

M: What would your chores be?

U: The chores would be to bring in wood for the fire, because burnt wood in the fireplace all year round. We had no electric stove or no electricity at that time, in the community. I can remember when they first got the telephone in, I was about fifteen when the telephones came in. So we had messages to do, we always had to go the little village not really even a village at that time. We always had to go to the store for our supplies, and for our mail. To post our letters and to get our mail and to get the dailey paper. And I might say that, that period in the 1890's we had better mail service than we have today, in this city or any other city. Far better mail service, we could mail a letter to Montreal in the morning it would reach the city in the afternoon.

And we would have a reply the next day. Which is very fine for that period. Well, that gets away from what you asked me about entertainment.

M: Well, its nice for an interview like this to jump around well, within reason. While your on mail, was the mail delivered?

U: No, a man came around with a horse and cart past our place and he collected the mail from three post offices and took it direct to the C.P.R. station and put it on board the mail train. The mail man that I remember was very obliging, if we had a letter ready to post and to take to him, then we wouldn't have to take it to the Post Office, he would take it. When the mail would come in he would take it back to the Post Office, and leave the mail we would go down and get it. We were on one side of the Ottawa River and the mail was brought across from the Ontario side, at that time a school boy like yourself, a young man would bring the mail over, mail bag and put it in the Cushing Post Office, or give it to the Mailman that was collecting. That was the way that the little village on the Ontario side was supplied with there mail.

M: What was the village across from

U: It was a little French village called Chutes a Blanc D'eau, thats shoot the white waters a little bit of rapids near by. I believe that at one time a man named Blanc D'eau was shooting those rapids and was drowned. So it is called Chutes a Blanc D'eau. Just a little element of interest.

M: Speaking of the river did you ever swim there?

U: Oh, yes we did, we had rowboats there too. There's not so much

canoes, but the old home made rowboats. My grandfather was one of the pilots on the river and he use to take down square wood rafts, which was taken to the city of Quebec to be shipped over seas. We would get on the raft at about Grand Ville, which was a six mile and hour boat. So when I was in my teens about fifteen a group of us girls went down for a trip on the raft, and we went over the rapids. We went over it was quite an event, evidently if a man didn't know how to go over, it could be quite dangerous. So that was an interesting part of our life in Cushing. We watched the shipping on the river was so much at that time, the rafts and the bargas and they would go of course to Montreal and Quebec City, and to other places around.

M: So it was really a major business?

U: Oh, yes it was a major industry especially at that time.

M: Did the people, first of all were there ever river drives with the logs down the...

U: Oh, yes yes there were river Rouge River into the Ottawa. It was an annual event.

M: Did you ever meet any people, who came into the village that were working on the river.

U: Oh, they were all local men, you bet they were, yes as I said my Grandfather was one of the finest of the timber men of his age. They worked in their camps in the winter and then worked on the drive in the Spring. Its just a little country place, but a very beautiful place and it still is today. Its really a village now occupied by a great many retired people from Montreal, that are living there now. There was a beautiful old church that is one-

hundred and thirty-six years old now. A stone church a beautiful building and big Mance. Of course that was the centre of the great deal, of our enjoyment and pleasure. We'd have Christmas trees there and all the social things like that.

M: Lets talk about the church, were you ever in a youth group in the church.

U: I went to Sunday school for children and as I grew up I took a more active part.

M: Could you explain the band of hope a little more.

U: Yes, the temperence society would sign a pledge at the chapel.

M: What about the choir, did the church have a choir.

U: Yes, the church had a choir and I never sang it myself, but it was quite, I can remember the singers and the church of course. I attended it from my childhood up, as I said it was a beautiful stone church, it had a tower and all. It was heated in those days by a coal stove as you go in a great r und coal stove. And up on the plateform where the choir stood there was a wood stove at each side. It was a matter of great amusement when one of the members of the choir had to get up and put another log on the fire, in the mist of a song. This was to keep it warm enough for the service, the minister had his pulpet near the stove. The platefore below where the choir sat, with he stairs going up to the high pulpet on either side.

M: Was it chilly during the service for the congregation?

U: Well, yes if they didn't fire it well, this huge stove at the enterence, it was lit the night before so it could warm over night for Sunday.

M: A lot of community churches one of the aspects that they had was churc picnics. Did you ever go on a church picnic?

U: Yes, every year they had a Sundayschool or church picnic, every year. But the big event in Cushing was the winter one called the Tea meeting and that was something we all looked forward to. It was a great event because people came from many miles around even came from Montreal, not only one or two to entertain but to attend the supper.

M: What would they do at a Tea meeting?

U: Well, first of all they would have a grand supper. ^{side two} My father was engaged in the saw mill and at that time there was an accident and after the mill was suppose to be closed. He stayed to file the large saw that was used evidently. I don't know why he had to do that but anyway. Some of the other employees were there to and he was filing this saw, circular saw. Who ever was there, somebody else started the machinery and he was carried on to that great saw as if he was a log. His leg, his right leg was cut, high in the thigh and they found him bleeding of course, found out about the accident. They hastily made a stretcher and put him on it to bring him home, which was more than a quarter of a mile away. It just happened that the doctor from St. Andrews East which was a few miles away he happened to be in the community. They called him but anyway these young men carried my father, on a stretcher and one had to hold the main artery that was cute, to keep him from bleeding to death. They got another two doctors and they consultation before he was put under an anesthetic He asked not to be sent to the hospital and not to have his leg cut off altogether. So the doctors consulted, the three doctors and they decided that he wouldn't live anyway but they would fix

him up. So as I say he was a carpenter and builder and he had his tools there. They got one of his saws and they sawed off the bone of his leg, straight on either side. They took a gimlet they bored holes in each bone and they cut the wire off a broom stick and they tided it up with that wire and they put him in splints and left him. And as I say they thought he would never live. However he did live and he was in bed from September until the next April. So he wasn't able to do much and when he got up and around of course he had to walk with crutches, and eventually with a cane. He walked with crutches at that time, so next September our school, and old stone building thats still there. They had a teacher what they call a modern school diploma, and my father had never had very much education as a boy because he was an orphan really. We knew who his parents were but anyway they had both died. So he decided that he would go to school for a few months and take arithmetic and bookkeeping, something that would be helpful, so he did that and he went in September. I went after Christmas because I wouldn't be five years old for months, so I could say I went to school with my father for those few months. He got better, and was able to go around with a high heel on his shoe and to walk with a cane. -Able to go into the construction business, he built several of the homes around our community. It affected him he was lame all his life but he didn't die from that injury. So that was one of the miracles of my childhood.

M: Was the school a one room school house?

U: Yes, it was a one room school house and the teacher had all the grades up to five, one to five. We all learned not only in our own grades but what we would listen to from the older grades.

M: Could you tell me what the building looked like the school house?

U: Yes, as I say it was a stone one room school house, built with three windows on either side. It had the teachers desk up on the plate form and it had a map stand, you know whats like that a large stand posts and crosses with huge maps. You were able to turn them over you know. It was heated by a wood stove, a square stove of course standing by the entrance. There were a row of desks on each side and a row in the centre, and side benches.... and there was at most that I ever knew of about sixty pupils, at a time in the one school in the five grades. I enjoyed school very much especially spelling B.

M: What were the subjects that they taught?

U: I was going to say the same as now, history, geography, french, english, grammer and when I say history we had British history, Canadian history and Sacrid history, which is a study of the scriptures. We had to pass examinations in those the same as everything else. Yes the grammer and of course reading, writing and arithmetic, lots of math. When you get through the public school you knew how to read and write, and I'm afraid thats not the case today in Public or High Schools.

M: What about the school, was it heated by a stove or what?

U: Just a plain, square wood stove, burning wood.

M: Did the students have to cut the wood?

U: No, the wood was cut and dropped there and piled in the wood shed,

but the students had to carry it from the wood shed in and make the fires. There would be somebody caretaker or someone to look after the cleaning of the school, once a year a thorough cleaning, scrubbing that is. The pupils had to sweep and dust it at noon hour. The boys had to bring in wood, and the girls had to sweep it up everyday.

M: Were there blackboards in there?

U: Oh, yes two great blackboards beside another being on a stand, as I say on the platform on one end you would have the map stand and at the other end there is a blackboard on a stand, beside the two on the wall.

M: Who had the job of cleaning off the blackboard?

U: Well, often someone might be called up or the teacher might do it herself, to do that or call up some of the pupils to do that for her.

M: Did you have the same teacher all the years that you were there?

U: No, oh no occasionally you would have the same teacher for two years but not very often usually they changed. and usually a young woman only once did they have a school master.

M: Where did she or he stay?

U: With one of the families in the community, somewhere near the school. Just I remember hearing that they use to go around from one family to another, but not in our school district they all stayed in one each one stayed in the one family, the whole term.

M: I asked about some of the activities of the school, first of all school yard games, what did you play baseball and what sort of thing?

U: Yes, baseball and hockey, the ground was frozen, not for skating.

but we did have the pond down below the hill in the school and the boys had hockey down there. We use to play this game what was it called stick, tipit, with a stick and a hole in the ground and we use to put the ball in the hole. Anyone of us could play that, oh yes turn out jack.

M: Could you tell us about that, turn out jack, you mentioned it once before and I was going to ask about it.

U: You choose up sides, two teams on each side, how does that go. One side called out to one on the opposing team and they were to get to the other side but in the mean time we were suppose to go out and grab them so they wouldn't get them. When you got one team over to the other side the game was won.

M: Was there any situation where a school from a different community would have a game between the two schools.

U: No, we never did no there were school three and five miles apart, but we never had anything conected with each other unless we got together for a picnic, you know a school picnic.

M: Were the school picnics similar to the church picnics?

U: Well, yes a little bit yes we didn't have as many sports or as many prizes as a church picnic.

M: The same sort of thing with bringing your lunch?

U: Oh, yes everyone would bring a lunch, it was a lunch everybody shared. You didn't just eat your own lunch, you shared if you had a special piece of cake or sandwich or cookies then everybody would look forward to sharing.

M: One other activity that was quite popular in rural schools is the Christmas concert. Was this something in your school too?

U: Yes we certainly had, that was our Christmas tree that we had together. Always in the program, you would have the concert first and tree after. We were gazing at that tree all through the performance, was going on. We would have dialogues, and plays and singing of carols. Sometimes we didn't have an organ or a piano in the school, but some of the neighbours would supply the organ and the boys or the men would bring it on the sleigh, take it into the school for the occasion. So that was really something too.

M: How was the tree decorated?

U: Well, I can remember a time, I hate to think of it now and they had real candles and little tin holders. And they would light those candles and why there wasn't a fire I don't know. It was dangerous really, and it was decorated with balls of popcorn and strings of popcorn, and cranberries strung of course. All kinds of fancy ornaments that were made with tinfoil, we made them ourselves of course.

M: Is this something that is done alot in the home?

U: Yes, we decorated the school beautifully, we would all go out to the woods and gather the greenery and make the decorations. In our school we always had a hoop and decorate one of those to hang over the six windows. That looked very pretty and then the tree itself.

M: From your childhood, again I'm going to ask about amusing incidences or just stories that you think are interesting. I suppose that goes back quite a ways.

U: I don't often recall things, I can remember things that happened when we had characters in the community about fun remembering

things that they would say and do. Mr. Wilson with his umbrella and his brew of medicine that he would go around and treat everybody with this. I think that it was nothing but whiskey with some kind of flavouring in it, you know. It was not for the children but for the grown ups.

M: How do you spell that?

U: Berune, that was something of his own invention, yes. As I say he said he would wear a hard hat and wear a long black coat like a priest and carry an umbrella, but he was one that was suppose to be a great help a great benefit to the community. He was one of the characters, yes I can remember when a band of Indians called the Kickabou Indians they would come around once every summer and they would have their own medicine, that was suppose to cure all ills. They would camp somewhere for a week or so, and people would go to them and get something that would benefit them what ever that was.

M: Did people in the community take these people very seriously?

U: Oh no, not at all.

M: You would have been in your teens at about the turn of the century would you.

U: Yes, yes...

M: There's something, do you remember one of the subjects that we like to talk about in oral histories is individual in relation to major events or events of historic interest. Queen Victoria died in 1901.

U: Yes...

M: Do you remember when that happened?

U: Yes, oh very well.

M: And what the reaction was in the community?

U: Well, we had lost a great friend, somebody very special in our lives, because we were all, I know I was always very interested in the royal family. We knew more about the royal family in those days, I think than they do now. We knew our British history, not only in this but in anything you could read. Oh, I remember very well Queen Victoria's Death, yes I must have been in my nineteenth year then. I was born in 81 and she died in 1901, yes, I was in my twentieth year.

M: So you remember all the anthems I suppose when they changed from Queen to King.

U: Yes, yes At the time when Edward came on, I had to remember that indeed, God save the King.

M: Were there ever people who forgot and got it wrong?

U: I can't remember that there were, no. But we observed the queen's birthday then, was the twenty-fourth day, you see, and now it's got around to be Victoria day or something and they don't have it, and they don't have it on the twenty-fourth. But it was a great holiday time: the twenty-fourth of May.

Oh yes, oh yes, That was before that; I can remember them...I was in Montreal...the men going off to the South African Boer War: The Strathcona Horse and when they returned, there weren't so many left after the war. Oh yes, I remember that. As I say, this is my Montreal life now, when I was in the city.

M: Okay, let's go that and, it is interesting, how the war effected you and...

U: Yes, well effected: I don't know that, it didn't affect us the way the world wars did because it seemed so remote at that time in our history. It was in South Africa but we were keenly interested in it, or we had at least of our local boys went to the war, and as I said, every newspaper that came like the Montreal papers or the ones we took in Montreal: Witness; the Montreal Star, and you'd read every little bit you could get about it.

M: What about the world wars? How did they affect you?

U: Oh, well they certainly affected almost every family because they had the boys that went. At least in my family. My brothers had to go overseas: one in the army and one in the navy, but they both survived, but a great many did not survive and of course there was a great deal of I'll say deprivation: rationing and all that effected us very much.

M: What were the things that were rationed for the First World War.

U: Oh, I think the meat and the fats like butter, sugar and tea I think all in that time. As far as I can remember, yes.

M: You would have been living in Montreal when the first world war began.

U: Yes, yes.

M: What was the atmosphere in that city at that time...when the war...

U: Well again, as I say, it was a very sad one. Again, I remember the Princess Patricia Light Infantry: I remember when they were organized and left the city. AND WHEN THEY CAME BACK FROM OVERSEAS TOO, very much smaller than when they left naturally and oh yes, it was a sad time for so many people. And so anxious...we were all sending parcels as much as we could to the people in need of it.

and yes that we had to do with sending parcels all the time.

M: Now that we're in...now that we've gotten to Montreal, well the next question should be what you did in Montreal.

U: Well I was staying with a family of young children as a governess I guess you'd say: as a governess. He was at that time, the mayor of Westmont and a doctor of laws

M: So you lived in Westmount at that time.

U: Yes, yes, yes.

M: I don't know too much about Montreal. What location is that? Near the island?

U: It's on the island yes, yes. Well you ought to go to Montreal.

It's the largest city in the dominion. There are things there that you won't see anywhere else.

M: The problem with Montreal and me is that I tend to travel through it, and go into the station, and the station is all underground and you go out...you miss so much of the city.

U: Oh yes. Yes you certainly do. Yes, it's quite different now but with that, as you say, that central station.

M: Did you ever go shopping in downtown Montreal?

U: Oh, frequently. One of the joys of my life. (laughs) The same stores that are there today too, under different names. Eatons there under quite a different name now, I mean different names than the early days. But Burke's and Morgan's are still there, functioning, and Ogilvy's. I enjoyed downtown shopping ever so much yes.

M: How often would you go into the center of the city?

U: Oh, weekly at least if not oh or twice a week perhaps. I went to church on Sundays. Always went downtown. The old Knox Church.

M: The Knox Church is downtown is it?

U: It was downtown and it was burned later. The congregation joined with another church: Knox Present and so...and the one that's in Montreal today called Knox is a new church built further in another part of the city but the Knox Church that I attended in my girlhood was burned and ...no, no, no, it was demolished to make way for the Sun Life building on the same grounds. Yes, the Sun Life was far the tallest, greatest building in Montreal.

M: Sun Life, isn't...for a while that was considered the largest building in the British Commonwealth, wasn't it?

U: I think so, yes, the Sun Life and it was near the Windsor Hotel and the Windsor Station across the square from that; yes, that's right. The first Knox Church as I say I went to was demolished to make way for that. But then later, there was another one burned. The one that exists there is now in what we call the outlying area to Montreal West.

M: Maybe I should ask some things about Montreal that I asked about Belleville. Ah, for instance, what were the buildings in Montreal that impressed you the most.

U: Well, to single them out I don't know. Of course the cathedral there... there's a painting of Philip's Square there on the wall there (indicated opposite wall) that spire is Christ Church Cathedral, of course an Anglican and that was a very large building. And that's the corner of Burke's Store (indicating another picture) and that's another prominent building and as I say the Sun Life and the Windsor Station; the Windsor Hotel. Later the Mont Royal Hotel, and the old Queen's Hotel and the different church, the art gallery: all very

impressive buildings. And the homes.

M: Do you remember when the St. Joseph's Oratory was built?

U: Yes, yes, I've been there yes. That was...I can remember when it was partially built. When it was really built up on the side of the mountain, as it is now. Yes, oh yes, that was quite a place too.

Mrs. Wishart: Do you ~~xxxx~~ remember when they built the tunnel through the mountain?

U: Oh yes, I remember when they built the tunnel through...for the C.N.R. that through from Windsor Station to the Town of Mount Royal which is now...was Model City then...was the Town of Mount Royal and they were building the tunnel...I can remember my Grandfather asking me about it. He said, "Is it true that they're doing that?" And I said yes. He said, "They'll never meet child, they'll never meet!" And they met within inches you know; they met within inches, drilling from the city side to the country side.

M: Oh so they drilled from both sides at the same time.

U: Oh yes they statter at one end...at either ends you see. Oh yes, I remember when they were building that. That was after I was after I was married of course.

M: Can you describe to me a little bit...Westmount is a fairly prominent neighbourhood.

U: Yes. we were in what you call the north end. Well first of all I must say when wd were first married we did live in another district, and it was on Richmond Street and they said it was the first apartment house that was built in Montreal and it had sixteen apartments: eight on either side and it was owned by McGill College,

and later, while we were still there, it was sold to Pierre Vanier was the father of the Governor-General later you know. Well we moved from there to what we called the north end. It was called one time, the annex of...as if it was an annex to downtown you know. But it was a residential area, and that's where we lived and we used to go for a drive out to this Model City when our children were small; we had our own horse and rig: horse and buggy that is, or horse and sleigh in the winter. We would drive out to see how they were progressing with this tunnel business you know. And that was how Model City was formed, and now the town of Mount Royal but we went to school...the children attended a school in the north end and we belonged to a bigger church in the north end.

M: What...your children then would have grown up in...

U: Montreal...they were all born in Montreal, the three of them and got their public school education. Their father died with the flu and we came...it was his wish that we come and live in the country beside my mother: my childhood home, so we came there and built a home there, and lived there. Mrs. Wishart was married there. My two sons (my older son is dead now) my younger son...my younger son lives in Arnprior, and that's where I lived there until five years ago when I had to give up...came and lived here.

M: What were the...when you lived for a great deal of your life in a very small community, and then moved to the largest city in Canada what were the most striking differences that you had to adapt to? When you got into Montreal?

U: Well I would say the transportation system I suppose: the street cars. My first visit to Montreal, I was very little girl before

I went to stay there; the first visit; I can distinctly remember seeing a few horse cars. That's the cars drawn by a team of horses. But at the same time, the electric cars were going too on other main streets now. But anyway I found that a great convenience of course. I loved to ride in the street cars. And the shopping. I liked that and I enjoyed the...

END OF RECORDING

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DEATHS

USHER: Amelia Elizabeth Keatley Usher at Edward Street Manor, Stirling Ontario on Tuesday, November 11, 1980. Widow of Edward Owen Keatley and Rev. William Usher, in her 100th year. Last surviving child of James and Louisa Watson of Cushing, Quebec. Survived by her daughter, Lois (Mrs. George Wishart), of Belleville, Ontario and her son Franklin H. Keatley, of Amprior, Ontario and elder son Owen Watson Keatley, predeceased. Also survived by seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Many relatives and a host of friends will miss her. Mrs. Usher is resting at the Pinkston and Luscombe Funeral Chapel, 60 Victoria Avenue, at Church St. Visitation Thursday, November 13th from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral service and burial at St. Mungo's Church, Cushing, Quebec on Friday, November 14th at 2:00 p.m. Donations to the memorial fund, St. Mungo's Church would be appreciated by the family.

JAYNES: James Henry at the Lan-
... and Addington County Council

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tano Heart Fund would be appreciated.

25, 1980 at 3 P.M., interment Mar-mora Protestant Cemetery.

Funerals and Obituaries

AMELIA ELIZABETH USHER Stirling

Funeral was conducted Nov. 14 from the Pinkston and Luscombe Funeral Home to St. Mungo's Church in Cushing, Que. by Rev. W.E. Black, Rev. George Moore and Rev. Ralph Watson for Mrs. Amelia Elizabeth Usher of 154 Dufferin Ave. who died Nov. 11 in Edward Street Manor in Stirling in her 100th year. Interment was in St. Mungo's Church cemetery.

Bearers were Jamie Graham, Charlie Menendez, Franklin Menendez, Glen Proctor and Anne Proctor, all grandchildren.

Daughter of the late James and Louisa Watson, Mrs. Usher is survived by a daughter, Mrs. George Wishart (Lois) of Belleville; a son, Franklin Keatley of Arnprior; seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her two former husbands, Edward Keatley and Rev. William Usher, a son, Owen.

Born in Cushing, Que., Mrs. Usher was actively involved

in the Women's Christian Temperance Union at both the national and provincial levels.

Mrs. Usher was a member of St. Mungo's Church in Cushing, Que.

ANNE ELIZA HARRISON

Funeral was held Nov. 14 from the Grant Funeral Home for Mrs. Anne Eliza Harrison of 90 West Moira St., Belleville, who died Nov. 11 in the Belleville General Hospital in her 86th year. Interment was in the Thomasburg Cemetery.

Born in Tweed, Mrs. Harrison was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Fisher. She is survived by husband Wesley Harrison, sons John of Napanee, Roy of Peterborough and Earl of Plainfield, 11 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Harrison had lived in Belleville for the last 10 years and before resided at the 7th concession of Tyendinaga.

Service was conducted by Rev. Charles Buchanan.

Bearers were grandsons Wayne, Ron, Dale, Gordon, Bill and David Harrison.

Weather