

TAPE GUIDE (Mrs. McKenna)

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ORAL HISTORY

Subject: Mrs. McKenna (M)
Case Number: 11
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Interviewer: Nancy Foster (N)

M: Some of these older senior citizens...you could just go to one of the senior citizens' and ask them if there was anyone there who could tell you anything about the museum. There might be some person there that had worked there, you know that would know what they're talking about.

N: Was there anybody there when you worked there?

M: Well there was a person there but I can't remember who it was now.

N: There was a Mrs. Logan there we have talked to. Would that be it?

M: Mrs. Logan. You have talked to her have you?

N: Yeah.

M: She worked there steady did she?

N: Yep.

M: There was a man and his wife worked there, when I was there I think; the man cared for the lawns and she used to do the inside of the house; they lived right there, you know. Of course that was when Mrs. Faulkner was there you know. And they was there while Mr. and Mrs. Burrows was there, although I knew them because they used to come to St. Thomas's Church, but I said I don't know the, history, you know. Just trying to think who would be around here...Mrs. Johnson over

there on the corner knew him. Just being at the hotel, but she never had nothing to do with the house, 'cause she worked across at the Quinte all the time, all during the First War you know when the...And her husband's dead now, and he probably could have told you quite something about it because he was the man that knew all those people very well. Down in the part of the hotel where they had all the shipping you know, where they brought in all the sheet music you know and everything. He had something to do with that. But I said to get somebody who really knows the place, you know. But I suppose they're all gone; all pretty near gone, you know. Take all the girls who worked in Reids's and all them they're all dead; they all came over from England, and I imagin that's what they had, someone they brought over from England, you know, to take care of, you know, to work for them because at that time all the people had money. Used to bring the girls out you see, and they'd work for a year, you see, and then of course that paid for their passage over and they could go where they liked after that. Mostly all of those girls I knew; Mrs...oh, there was ever so many of them, and they're all gone.

It's hard to get in touch with somebody that really knew the situation.

N: Well, what was your part in the situation?

M: My part? All I did was when she called me and asked me to come and help her with her tea, or something like this you see. I didn't have no; or nothing to do as far as the house was concerned. Getting the meals ready or anything like that. Like she would entertain, and she's ... I went out and done these things, so she just called me and asked me would I come in from two to five and help her with this afternoon tea or a private dinner party when she was having it at five o'clock, or something like this you know. And I'd just be in the kitchen; I'd look after the meal or the cooking, what ever was to be done. Whoever was working there steady; the maid or whoever she was; would oversee the thing you see because they'd look after the house and the dining room, but ~~I'd never do that~~ I said I'd never have anything to do with that because it was too hard to provide enough help to...either some person of her own or some friend of hers, or some person who would come in...some person would always be there to take care of the rest of it.

N: So you were more in the preparation in the kitchen.

M: I was in the preparation in the kitchen. That's all I did.

N: Where in the house was the kitchen located.

M: This end of it.

N: Ah, which floor?

M: Well we used to go up a couple of steps. It must have been, I would think, the second floor. That's where the Burrow's I couldn't tell you, but I said Mrs. Faulkner, ah, Mrs. Forrester's was right at the end of it. She'd... you'd go into this end of it and carry your things up the kitchen steps and go in the kitchen door there. Because when I used to go I'd make the...or start the preparations at home you know what I mean, whatever I had to take into her. She'd phone me and ask me: Would I make so and so, or do so and so, and come and help for, like from three to five or five to seven-thirty or something like this. So as soon as I got finished you see I was done and I would...I would go home you see because I never was there for to stay. I don't know whether Mrs. Barfat ever had anything to do with it or not; by the time that she was; she was working for Mrs. Cameron. Now I said, if you went and talked with her she might be able to tell you who the maid was at that time, because she worked for Mrs. Cameron, the lawyer's wife for a long while. That's where she met all these people you see. I said more or less, she probably knew who worked for her; who her maids were that Mrs. Faulkner had there at that time. But as far as the...having any part of their family life or knowing anything about

their life or anything like this, I didn't. I said I know one time Dr. Faulkner phoned me and said did I know any person he could get to work, because he needed, he would like to have a man and his wife, He said, "I have three her working now, and I have to get my own breakfast." So I said, no, I said I just couldn't tell you any person, because he wanted someone you see who'd go in and stay all night or come in early in the morning, so I said to him, "No I'm sorry but I don't know anybody." But I never had any connections with him; that's why it seemed foolish for to...

N: You said the kitchen was at this end of the house. The back end?

M: Yeah, this way.

N: Oh.

M: So I said where she had the rest of the...or where they did anything else I couldn't tell you. And I said when I went in there, she probably said to me "Would you bring a couple of pies?" or "Would you bring a couple of squares" or something like this for tea you know what I mean. Something for desert or probably she'd already have it there when I got there or sometimes she'd be entertaining for a group or church or probably some of the people she worked with, why she'd, they would bring in the sandwiches all made up in packages and you'd just put them on plates and decorated the dishes and

and well, the ladies that were helping; they would come and carry them out, and when you got finished you'd wash up the cups and saucers and you were done. As I said after all, that's the only connections I've ever had with them. I never waited or...as far as looking after her family or having anything ~~xx~~ to do with them, I never had anything.

N: Um, what did the kitchen itself look like?

M: Well just an ordinary kitchen sink and stove. It was never decorated in any great...you know what I mean...cupboards to put dishes in and one thing and another, it was no...never... she wasn't a person I don't think that went in for a lot of fancy stuff because she always seemed to be so busy she never had time. And this is what...the way she looked, you know what I mean. Cripes you'd meet her down street and she'd be a...she'd have a long hou...she'd have a house coat on and all paint and fastened up and her face would be all paint and she'd never bother washing before she came, you know what I mean this is what, because she'd say hello to you and go on. That's all the, as I said, but if she took a notion she wanted something she'd just go the way she was...get in the car and go and get it. She'd never bother...her hair would be wild over her head and sometimes she'd have it up and you never knew just what to expect of her, you know. This is what the...but as far as their life or anything to do with it outside of that...that's the only time. They never...

- N: Um, did you see any other part of the house?
- M: Just the dining room. As I said, we carry things in and set them on the buffet in the dining room the things that were being served and setting things up, but that all.
- N: What sort of..
- M: The front hall or stairs; their stairs; was very nice, I'll just add that. It was all carpeted you know.
- N: What kind of carpeting? Do you remember anything...?
- M: Well, her living room was done with the beautiful red carpet...just ~~absolutely~~ absolutely lovely. But I said the, and that mahogany table -- god that was a lovely thing. There wasn't a mark on it. It was as perfect as beautiful. And I said, you just couldn't help but think to yourself, "Isn't that lovely !," the minute you open the door and see it you know because it was absolutely marvelous. I don't know - I suppose ~~wasn't~~ her mother and dad had had it years before and she probably had it refinished.
- N: Was this the dining room table?
- M: Oh yes the dining room table. It was a beautiful dining room table. I don't know whether they still got it up there or not. Have they got it in there. It'd sit at least twenty people. It was oblong... oval, oval, and it was a beautiful thing.
- N: What else was there in the dining room?
- M: Well the big buffet. There was a beautiful big buffet

set there in the corner and it covered that whole wall over here in the corner I suppose. Lovely thing you know, and polished so you could see your face in it. Oh she had several candlesticks and everything sitting under it; it was all...it was lovely; beautiful. I said naturally she had lots of help. She maids there to take care of things, and everything was kept nice, you know. At that time of course, she was, right at the best of her career I guess and she was painting and everything you know. But I said as far as the...anything to do with their home, as I said, you went in and you seen the hall and the stairway and the big dining room and kitchen but that's as far as you went, you know. She was...she was a very nice person to work for. She never...but I mean, she always met you cordially when you went to the door, and then, "I'd like so and so done or this done," or "Is it all right with you if so and so's here to help.

N: Did you go to the front door?

M: No, no I went to the back door. No, I never went to the front door, not at them places, you went to the kitchen (laughs). But I said, she had two very nice children ~~but they were~~ and I said they were smart little kids, you know, children; they grew up. I don't know where they are now or how old they are. They must be quite an age now. I suppose they're all in High school likely. At that time they were

about three and four.

N: Do you remember their names?

M: No, I don't remember their names. But I often wondered if there was any person that; I've been thinking about it since you talked to me; if there was any person I could suggest who had been there. I don't. And as I said, if Mrs. Barfat, lives up on Coo...live on Foster, don't they. She used to work for Mrs. Cameron, for years, the lawyer's wife, ~~since~~ from the time she was just a young girl. And she used to meet all those people, you know what I mean, because the Camerons entertained an awful lot, and she used to meet them all, and through the grapevine, she possibly knows more about the home life than I would, you know what I mean, by just hearing people talking about it. But I said as far as their place goes, or as far as anything about their life that's just about all I know about it.

N: Um, you mentioned the carpeting in the living room. Can you remember anything else about the living room?

M: Oh, these big ~~xxx~~ chairs. I remember the chairs were all the same kind as her tables. And of course she had beautiful china pieces sitting about the closets and things like this, and small different places you know. It was a...it was really very...it was beautifully done and I said the hangings on the windows must have been velvet or rush or something because they were very heavy and they were...they suited the

room; you know what I mean, according to what the decorations of the room was; it was very well done. And I said of course, whether it was new or whether it had been there a long time I couldn't say because I didn't know, but I said ah, I know darn well, I said she was, that the family was...when the father was alive, I know that they entertained quite a bit, but I said after Mrs. Faulkner, they died of course Mrs. Faulkner had the home to herself; why I said the...as I said I don't think she entertained very much, because, unless it was something like for some group she was interested in, or the church, or something this way, but she'd have these afternoon teas you see. And then I said ~~that's~~ for the dinner party that she would have, of course that'd be her friends but I said, she would probably have oh, ten, maybe twelve people at a time. ~~WHAT~~
~~I know~~

N: What sort of meals would you serve?

M: Well they'd always serve...there would ~~fix~~ fowl you know what I mean. Sometimes it would be something else but I said, as a rule it was fowl, and it... hot dinners would be served, you know. But this is the way that she did things. That didn't happen too often either, because I think she was invited out and she would feel that owed somebody a dinner party so she would invite three or four couples in that

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she probably owed something to and then they'd have dinner and that's a meal. But outside of that of course I said I never had much to do with it at any time. As I said, the...that only happened once in a while because I said probably had maids enough to ^{she} to it all the time and then possibly she'd be short a maid you see, when she'd call me she'd probably be short a girl; someone, someone that she needed extra help for. Then she'd phone and ask me to come and do it but I said I never had...I never had anything to do personally, you know with their lives or anything like that. I knew Doctor Faulkner quite well because I doctored with his father when he was growing up as a kid. And, ah, after he came back from overseas I went to him two or three times, when his dad was in Toronto, but I said the...I don't know; I tell you that I don't know anything about the family. Cause I ~~knew~~ told you he called me because he knew I suppose that I know'd everybody more or less who lived down this way, you know. And he called me and said, to me, Mrs. McKenna, I just called you to see if you had any idea where I might get someone to help me. I need somebody especially to get my breakfast in the morning. He said, I got three maids and I've got to get my own breakfast. Three people working here: that's the way he put it. And he said I have to get my own breakfast in the morning. And he said, "If I could get a man and his wife, or even

a good gi...woman", or a good girl or somebody to come, he said, that'd either stay here all night or be here early in the morning. And I said, "No, Doctor Faulkner", I said, "anybody that's I know that's able to work," I said, "has got jobs?, or else they're on city jobs, you know what I mean, but I said because they are very few people down here that are out of work; and that's true, there isn't very many ~~people~~ in this neighbourhood that's out of work because they all hold pretty good jobs and they stay at 'em, you know. But I said that unemployment doesn't hit ~~here~~ through here near as much as in other neighbourhoods. Because, you know, a lot of these people along through here work for Steven Adamson's and some of them work at the Northern, but they've been there for a long time, you know, ^{that} so that the mothers can go out to service if they've got themselves a steady job somewheres you see and of course the older people, they...when I first came in here they were all gone and they used to work more by day; and now it's awful to get a woman to go and help in a home you know. Take care of the children and clean and one thing and another. But I said, outside that dear, there isn't very much I could tell you of anything.

N: Well a lot of what we're looking for is just perhaps the lay-out of the house. Was the kitchen on the same floor as the dining room?

M: You just opened the door and went through the door and then into the hall and across the corridor there and you're in the dining room.

N: It was next to the billiard room then?

M: Is that what they have there now. A billiard room is it?

N: Was it there then?

M: Yeah, un hun. Well you see I don't know so at that time you see that's as I said, a good long time ago. Lord knows what she done after I was there. She could have changed everything all over; you never know.

N: Was the fireplace used?

M: It seems to me it was. I was just trying to think when I was speaking about the dining room. Now it seems to me that, the night I was there, that fire... that fireplace was on.

N: In the dining room?

M: Yeah. She had a fire in there.

N: What about the one in the kitchen?

M: No, I said the one...I forget now whether...I don't think that one was on, because I remember it was heated with furnace, you know what I mean. It seems to me the night that she had the company there they had the furnace ...the fireplace going. And I said outside of that dear that's all I know about it. You see I never went any farther. I never even was in the bathroom. Never seen anything more of it than just to walk through there and as I said set the

the things on the cabinet for the girls to serve you know what I mean...anything like that ready to just carry the bowls in and set them there and the maids served them and waited on the table and gathered up the dishes and washed up the dishes and we'd go.

N: Um, the girls that worked there regularly; did they ever tell you about the rest of the house?

M: No, no. I never had anything. As I said, I never had anything much to say to them outside of just their...you know, just be cordial for you to say hello and do your work when you was there and this was what happens.

N: And they didn't talk much about their work?

M: Very seldom, no. Very little about their work. And I said if they did I wouldn't remember nothing because it's too long ago. But I said as far as the...Would you like a cookie?

N: Yes, please.

M: As far as the anything about their house: I don't know anything about it.

N: How did you become acquainted with them?

M: Well, as I told you, I...well she just called me on the phone because (garble) And turn it down will you 375°. (garble) I said ah, she just...of course she'd been where I'd been before and she knew I done these things maybe, or else one of her friends told her to phone me but it's probably the latter.

N: Did you work any other place?

M: I worked lots of places. As I said, this is quite likely why she phoned me because she seen me somewheres else, or else someone had said to her: "Well phone Mrs. McKenna, she'll help you out." You know what I mean. These are the things, where you get around to these places because somebody calls you and asks you to help, you know. (laughs) Any extra tea there? Outside of that dear, there's nothing I can tell you at all because I said I didn't know the woman that well, outside of knowing her as she grew up as a girl, and as I said, she used to come to church and...

N: What church?

M: Oh, St. Thomas's. Come in and see her come in and sit down and she used to come...she was down, ah... oh, I guess she was...it seems to me she was down around...way down in the States anyway, around Mexico or someplace and she came back home and she had her two children.^{with her} The two little kiddies and they were as I tell you around four or five years old...un more than that. And she came to St. Thomas's two or three Sundays then, one after the other and then next thing I knew, I heard someone say she'd gone down to St. Micheal's; she'd gone over to the Catholic church because evidently while she was there you see around Mexico you see, around Mexico, she got

going to the church down there and she didn't prefer ours when she came back. I suppose there was more to the Catholic religion than...than what our possibly something about it she liked so she started going there so now where she is or what's she's doing now, I couldn't say.

N: Did you work with...in the church?

M: Oh I worked at St. Thomas's for years. That's our little mission over here...Saint Paul's. That's my project. I said I worked for that all the time. But I'm there for St. Thomas's wedding and one thing and another and the money I make off it of course to keep our little mission guild together you see. Haul the money there, and I've done that for oh, about forty-five years I guess.

N: Ah, can you tell me anything about the church?

M: What, St. Thomas's.

N: Um hum. Well just that it's...St. Thomas's is a... was at one time considered a rich man's domain.

N: High Anglican. (laughs)

M: High Anglican. But of course, the people who had money are ^{nt} here now, and therefore I said it's not; you don't find pride in it as you used to find. Everybody has pride in it in the sense ~~that~~ of the word that they're very proud of it. At one time they didn't forget to let you know you were sitting in their seat or something to this effect, where you see they all had their own pews and they paid for

them and they wouldn't allow anyone else to sit in their seat.

N: How much would you have to pay for a pew?

M: Well at that time I think they were something like, ah, I believe they were probably...they were paying probably five or six dollars a year and at that...that was money at those times, you know what I mean. It's not like it is now, you know. I said because if you gave five dollars to the church, that meant quite a lot of money. But I said they all more or less built the church or kept the church going, you see, this is what the...all richer families, and of course now all those people that had money aren't here.

N: Were there other pews for those who?..

M: Oh yes, there was always some of them towards the back that people use, you know. But the main ones up to the front were always...Miss Corby had one there for years that she rented. And Mrs. Patter...Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, they had one that they rented for years and the same with this...all these families all had. All those people that had money. They went there, I said, all paid their way, this is what they used to do you see.

N: Do you remember when they discontinued the practice of renting a pew.

M: Oh yes, dear, it's about, ah...well it was just after about...probably Mr. Beamish went away. Oh, I would say probably, must be about thirty years ago that,

'cause you see when Mr. and Mrs. Beamish went to England; at that time they discontinued and...

N: Was Mr...

M: Since that time of course, we've had several new ministers you see; different ministers here. Mr. Lyons. And he ca...he was made bishop of the... After he come to St. Thomas's he was made bishop down in Ottawa...or down in Kingston, you know. And of course when he came in I think that was all discontinued. He was the one who took Mr. Beamish's place. I'm pretty sure he was. But it all made a change in things; a big change you know. But St. Thomas's everybody's as I said; it's a wonderful church inside and everybody's very proud to belong to it. I said you work or do something to help with it, why that's your...you feel you're well payed.

N: Did you belong to the A.C.W. of the church?

M: I did at one time, but I don't now dear. I said I have no more to do with them now. About seventy-five that don't work.

N: What sort of work would you do with the A.C.W.?

M: Well I put on weddings and hot meals and all this kind of thing. One person comes in and wants a dinner put on for probably seventy-five or a hundred people, why, they say, "Well phone Mrs. McKenna, she'll do it for you." (laughs)

N: Would this be people outside the church who just wanted to rent the hall?

M: No, no. People'd ~~examexin~~ wanta come in. They'd belong to the church, more or less a lot of them, you know. The...They want this outside organization and probably some person belongs to the club. ~~Wakk~~ would say, "Well come down and use St. Thomas's", and they charge them now \$25 to use the hall. But I said at one time you could have it for nothing as long as you were a member. I guess you could have it now if you were a member of the church; they'll let you have it without paying for it. But of course, it costs a lot to run those lights and heat you know and everything; it's gotta be warm and there's a lovely kitchen there and you want into it... it's really nice. And therefore, I said you can go in there and put in an excellent dinner. And it looks well when you put it on the table. You know I mean because the hall's ^{so} nice...then you got the dinner up and we (garbled) her. Tables looked nice when they were decorated. These are the kind of things that I've worked for all my life.

N: Would you prepare the meals for them?

M: I'd do the whole thing. I'd have two or three girls of course, or half a dozen of them to go in and help serve it. But I do the kitchen; that's my job.

N: How much would you charge?

M: Cent a plate dear, according to what you wanted to eat. Used to do it for two to ~~three~~ ^{two} fifty, but of course can't put anything on for that now. If you

extra decorations it'd cost you four dollars but I said we...we put on turkey and roast for three-fifty. But I said some people wanted to eat and then of course they got more. But I had some lovely weddings there, beautiful. Young girls who don't wanta... when they set out for to get married. And they can use the hall for you don't have to leave the minute the wedding's over if they don't want to. They can stay on into the...have their party you know. Continue on afterwards.

N: You said you did some work for St. Paul's, the mission down here.

M: This is our mission, right over here, next door. You've seen it sitting there haven't you.

N: Yeah.

M: That's where I've worked all the time. That's my... helping to keep that going. It's a church, it's not a hall you know. And Mr. Tett comes down and gives us two services a month. Of course he don't charge for them. But we give him a Christmas present, and a present when he's going on his holidays in the summer. This makes up for what we do. Well then we have a big...when St. Thomas's have their bazaar, we're considered what they call us is "Group D" you see. And when they have their big bazaar up there, or their big , as they call it now, they used to call it a bazaar but now they call it a...more or

less a family get-together affair; it brings the families all together and this thing, so they have all kinds of stalls with aprons and jams and all this kind of stuff and home cooking and everything you see in the morning and a coffee pot.

N: I know my Grandmother makes aprons for it.

M: Yeah. (Laughs) Well then after dinner you see, why St. Paul's put the supper on for the two...two settings. One for the hundred and the other usually for the hundred and twenty-five.

* * * * *

SIDE TWO

M: Well I said the mission was well over a hundred years; it must have been since it was first opened up. As I told you Mr. Burke was the first...as far back as I can remember he was the first minister that was there. And Mr. Tom Smith's grandmother...Tom was raised in...the house right across the road...to Tome... was his grandmother's home and Ice business, you know. And Tom was raised there by his grandmother because his mother died just after he was born. And of, course, old Gramma Smith, she was like myself: She had that mission all to heart. And she took care of it and looked after it all those years until she dies. And after she died, why they had someone else do it though. When I got interested into it I said my children were very small, oh, around twenty...about twenty-four/twenty-five I guess and I ~~xxxx~~ started

to work over there, and I've been going ever since.

N: Why would they start up a mission so close to the church?

M: Well you see at that time, St. Thomas's had that... it was their work; they had the responsibility of it. Well I said and Christ Church had St. Georges up on Station street. They both of them had these extra places that probably people would go because it was farther away from the ...the central church, so I suppose therefore that made things, when they spread out like that they would bring in children they wouldn't get there otherwise. And so, of course now, it's just like Calvery Temple up here. They're taking all the children now; they're just bringing them in there in busloads, and I said it's a marvelous thing to think that children take that much interest and go, you know. But I said our mission over here, I said we used to have Sunday school all the time. Well then the children got Mr...when Aurther Smith was here, he felt the children belonged to St. Thomas's and they should go there. So they discontinued our Sunday school you see and sent our kiddies up there. And so since that time of course well we've had no Sunday school, but we do have two services a month, at 9:15 ~~and~~ the second and fourth Sundays. And that's always been very convenient for the older people that's here. Everybody enjoys going out so they can get out to that service you see without having to climb the

hill or take a taxi up to St. Thomas's. ~~Saxys~~ (laughs)

N: So you do get quite a good attendance there?

M: Oh yes, we have a nice attendance. We have lovely service; beautiful service over there. And we always have a Christmas party for the children and we have a; last year we didn't; but every year we've had a so far that I've been there, we've had a picnic. We go to Oak Lake and take the kiddies out there you know, that's in the neighbourhood; not all belong to the mission, but I said, no matter who they are they go anyway.

N: So you would have a picnic separate from the regular one at St. Thomas?

M: Oh yes, en ha. Always the first of July we used to go out there; all the families take their baskets and (laughs) have a thoroughly good time, and we've had several good ministers. I said ^{Peter} Mr. Tett is there right now; you can't beat him; he's wonderful. So good to everybody and the children and he's always at our beckoned call if we need him; he never hesitates to come you know. All you gotta do is phone him. So I said there's...really and truly I said there's wonderful neighbours, and people through this district that worked down here, and everybody's always ready to do something for you. But I said I spent now I moved over here in forty-one so ~~xx~~ that's what - five, six; forty-si...thirty-six years I've been still living here in this one house. So I said therefore

we have a nice...you have lots of friends you know, lots of neighbours and everybody looks out and nobody everyx sees anything go without you. When our mission is...you wouldn't believe the times that people come down because they know I work for the mission and ask me could I possibly help them; give them a few groceries to help over the weekend till they can get something to do, you know what I mean, you'd be surprised. And we don't very often turn them down. (laughs) Unless we think somebody's coming too often. But I said, It's surprising.

N: Would you have done a lot of this kind of work during the depression?

M: Well, in depression time, we were working over there and we used to make quilts and have our guild meeting once a week and we used to have the char...ah, Mrs...by that time, as I said before, there were so many of the older women that used to do all these things, and now they're gone you see. Mrs. Keegan, that's the alderman's mother there, and Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Jack Bird's mother, and Mrs. Harry Smith, that Mac Smith's mother, and all them, and Mrs. Hinn, and everybody used to turn out and we'd all go and quilt all the afternoon, you know and have a cup of tea and everything always; all our money; and then we used to have a card party once a week and all this money used to go into our mission, you see, for to keep our mission going. This was all during through the

depression, when the whole thing was going on. Went on just the same.

N: Did you do anything through the church to contribute to the war? Things like knitting mittens...

M: Well up in St. Thomas's but not down here. But I said I did work in the Red Cross when the war was on. The first world war; when they sent all the sheets and pillow cases and everything to Russia when they found that they were so destitute for help, you know the hospitals and everything. Our RedCross here in Belleville; I said they sent tons of linens you know, over there. We used to go up there and we'd get a bunch of cotton sit down at your sewing machine and hem it and stitch it all up and take it back in, and it was all bales; we'd send it across to help with the hospitals over there. They were getting such...that's where the war was so bad you see, in their own group. That's, ah, I had two boys that went. But said, I...in my small way I did my share. Well, we had quite a thing of it.

N: Where would go in downtown Belleville to do your shopping?

M: In downtown Belleville?

N: Um hum.

M: Well, I said at that time I said we used to have Mr. Lynch there, and, Jack Murphy's Grandmother. They used to have a lovely store by the Chinese laundry just before you crossed the bridge, to go over the river.

And you'd just get a lovely...everything was beautiful there. Grand fresh groceries of all kinds; and then Mr. Boyle had one right down where Clarke's Meat Store is. ^{Or right} ~~next~~ next door to it; I don't know which. But either one of them there and I said you could go in there and buy anything that you wanted from ~~the~~ a toothbrush to a kitchen door. (Laughs)

And so I said for years, I said we dealt with these people, you know because they were good. They always carried good food and you went there to eat. Why we had a beautiful market at that time. Our market was wonderful here in Belleville and I said always lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. You went there Saturday morning and you bought everything you needed to do the week you know. And I said of course now I said the market's ~~mostly~~ mostly all off except for a few apples of something like that you know. Then we used to have the grandest butter. The butter just melted in your mouth. People used bring big rolls of butter on ther every Saturday morning you know. And I said you'd go in there and buy your three rolls butter to do you all week. And yourhome-made bread. You could buy all the home-made bread you could carry off with you. Just everything: on Saturday morning everything'd just melt in your mouth, you know.

Used to have two or three big tables and layer cakes beautiful big layer cakes on it and all the things

you could enjoy, you know. And truthfully I said you miss all those things. Hot, or fresh-made fried cakes; all ~~thing~~ these kinds of things; maple syrop everything would come on you know. The people with fresh eggs and all kinds of...everything you could think about, they'd have on that market. And I said you go up there on Saturday morning and I said you'd come home with a...or your children ...a couple of big baskets full of the...I said anything you wanted from the sotre: they'd deliver it to you. There used to be a groceriz store right beside the army and navy there; Mr. Young used to run. That was next to the bakery shop too. But you see now...of course when Woolworths came here that was really something. We were very...five and ten cents store and you could there and buy...you'd be surprised what you could get for five or ten cents. And I said Mr. McGow run a candy store and ice cream parlour, right long side of Mr. Lynch's grocery store. And I told where you went there's a Chinese laundry; you see you were going across the lower bridge. And you could buy the most delicious ice cream and go in and get a quarter's worth of suchers for the children and they'd be great big home-made taffy, you know what I mean and it'd do them all week long. It's just marvelour the things that you'd buy...shop for. And they had all kinds of peanut crisp and peanut brittle and all this kind of stuff you know you'd buy. Buy a whole bag full for

twenty-five cents and it'd do the children all week. You never had to go to the corner grocery (?) And that time Mr. and Mrs. Bellrun this grocery over on the corner here. He was the man that built that house when they opened it up there. And of course Mr. Ward was there for a long time. That's Robert...Bobby Ward's dad and this is Doctor Woodly. There are two children they have over there. They were raised right there. Grew up there. Till they were married/// just before they were married. Francis was there when she was married. And Bob was too. Their mother and dad didn't sell the business until after the children were...gone.

N: Who runs the ~~smx~~ store now?

M: There's a Ferris Greek family in there now. But I understand they sold it so I don't know who's going to take over when they leave. They run that there grocery up ~~there~~ on the corner of Coleman and North Front as you go across...Riverside is it? They've bought that so they're moving up in there. But we really have...I've had quite a neighbourhood and quite a lifetime here, I said; some wonderful neighbours and friends and I said nobody ever went hungry because if you ^{did} the neighbour next door'd share what he had with you. I always found that.

N: Have you lived in Belleville all your life?

M: All but one time I went to school. I was...when I started up here to the old...little stone school

house right behind Belleville Collegiate. Of course it was called the high school and I went in there my first year, and then we moved to Trenton. My Dad Worked on all the time they were building the canal to Trenton. He worked there with horses on that canal and then we moved into Trenton after that and I worked at there...We moved back in here when I was fourteen. Back to Belleville again. Down to this neighbourhood over there on George Street and I said I've spent the rest of my life here, since that. I said it's really a...I said we've never turned out any really bad boys and I said the, the...you'd be surprised the people that's all done well for themselves; they've all got pretty good jobs, you know. They worked for what they got but I said there're very few people through here now don't own their own home.

N: What was the school-house like: the public school behind the high school.

M: It was just a room just big enough to hold a...just a stone building put up and I think ah...I believe it's only the first book...first and second book probably it held. And then of course well they must have maybe had provisions for them in the rest of the place but I said that was all torn down when the collegiate was all tore down, all made over. Oh but I guess that school was probably...they used to be one on...they called the Market School. That was

right under where the rink is. You see they tore that all down when they build the new ones. And so of course then all the children had started going to this school...all...everybody when they done away with Anne Street up here cause Anne Street School housed all these children and I said of course when you realize there aren't as many children down there as there used to be...but still, there's a lot of them that still goes from down here you know. And now they have to go way out on McDonald Avenue you know; it's too far you know for kids to go in the winter time. That school of ours up there was good shape. I said they spent thousands and thousands of dollars on it now I said which they...it would 'f taken a quarter that much if they'd of kept the children up there. But I said I guess we're going that way. They seem to have so much money in this city theydon't know what to do with it anyway.

N: When was Anne Street School opened up?

M: Anne Street School opened up? Oh gosh! I forget now but I know it's been a long time ago. My children all went there. And I said I know that there's In fact I think that...yes, I know that all my brothers went there. It must have been while we were in Trenton during...in the six, seven years we were living up there. It must have opened in that length of time you see.

N: Was the school you went to just a one room school house?

M: Um hum, yeah.

N: And...

M: Used to have two seats in you know. One kid sit here and one here. (laughs) Comical.

M: Where did you go for your...you said the first and second book went there?

M: I ~~know~~ knew the first...we had no kindergarten you see. You just went into the first book~~en~~ when you went, but I think it was the first and second book. But I know all ~~ik~~ the first book was there. But I don't know where they went after that because you see we moved away from here, and then of course, I went to...up to Trenton. But I said when...I don't know where the...where the other children went to; where the school went from there. I suppose that's when Anne Street School was built likely. At that time when they tore that down you see there must have been then the market school house; and then they built Anne Street School. I would say probably 'cause, probably 1908/10; somewheres around there. Must have been when it was built. ~~WHYEXWASXEXXNEMEXBYXEXX~~
~~SEK661X~~

N: What was the name of the school?

M: The one we went...up there? I'm not sure dear what it was. All I knew was we went to school, and at that time I lived...we lived right on top of George Margory Street hill where...~~it~~. Quinn lives there. We were living in that half of that house at that time when

I started to school you see. And that was in 1906. I was born in 1900 and I was six years old when I started. So you see after we moved away from here, in a year or two, they must have build Anne street, you see.

N: Do you know who the teacher was at that time?

M: I'm sorry but I don't know; I can't tell you that either. No, I think that I've told you about all I know.

N: What work did your father do?

M: My dad? He always had...in younger years when I was first born, he was a farmer. Then he moved into Belleville. Mom and Dad used to live down...in fact I was born in their log cabin house right down there along side of the Point Anne Lane. And when we moved into Belleville to...he had a team of horses he used to truck in grain and trade it. Of course when we went to Trenton why he went to work on the canal. He used his team up there you see. That's why ~~the~~ we moved there. And he worked there from the time the canal was started till they finished. And then when he came back here to Belleville, why he went into Blacksmith work.

N: Where was his shop?

M: On Front Street.

N: And what was his name?

M: Bunnet

N: Bunnet?

M: Yeah. ~~xx~~ Auctioneers: one of the auctioneers. His dad and my dad were brothers.

N: So he would have kept the horses in the shop?

M: Oh yes, um hum. Oh yeah, he kept his horses for... ~~Oh yes~~ He had always had a place ~~for~~ with the farmer. He looked forward to...as I said it's said, if he didn't have anything to eat, it was always the horses; enough to feed the horses. And he wouldn't feed his own self. That the way he was; horses was his whole life. Of course he was very fond of the family too but horses had to come first as far as he was concerned. (laughs) Great man. Loved the horses. Liked to trade horses. He used to...when he was in the ~~xxx~~ blacksmith you know. We never knew when he was coming home with a new horse. Somebody'd come along had a good team of horses and he wanted to trade why...he'd trade the horse (laughs) That's the way he was. And then he was...

N: I suppose the coming of the cars would have hurt his business.

M: Oh yes. But I say he used to ...you'd surprised the people; the farmers, that used to bring their horses horses in with them, that they'd have be lame or their shoes not fitted properly, or something. And he'd redo their feet and figure out a way to straighten them right up. Used to bring them a long way sometimes to shoe them, but he was a really blacksmith.

T H E E N D

DEATHS

MCKENNA, MRS. MARJORIE GERTRUDE at the Hastings Manor Belleville on Sunday Jan. 30th, 1994. Marjorie Gertrude McKenna (formerly of South John St) Belleville in her 94th year. Daughter of the late David & Nellie Burnett. Beloved wife of the late James (Jim) McKenna. Dear mother of Mrs. Norm Mowers (Dorothy) Plainfield, Mrs. June Blaind, Maxine McKenna, Mrs. Nellie-Jean Holland, Cameron McKenna & wife Patricia, all of Belleville. Survived by daughters-in-law Victoria & Pearl McKenna. Predeceased by sons James & Ross & foster sons Tom Des Cote & Kenneth Hollands, also brothers William and Ross Burnett & grandson Scott. Ever remembered by 29 grandchildren & 55 great-grandchildren. Resting at the John R. Bush Funeral Home, 80 Highland Ave. Belleville. Visitation Mon. 2-4 and 7-9 p.m., Tues. 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Service in St. Thomas Anglican Church Belleville on Wed, Feb. 2nd at 11 a.m. Rev. John Utley officiating. Interment Belleville Cemetery. If desired, donations to St. Thomas & St. Paul's Church or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. **JOHN R. BUSH FUNERAL HOME (968-5588).**

REID, EVELYN CHARLOTTE at the Belleville General Hospital on Sunday, Jan-

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**MARJORIE GERTRUDE
McKENNA**

Hastings Manor, Belleville

Funeral was Feb. 2 for Marjorie Gertrude McKenna, 93, of Hastings Manor, formerly of South John St., Belleville who died at the manor on Jan. 30, 1994.

Service was at St. Thomas Anglican Church with Rev. John Utley officiating. Mrs. McKenna rested at John R. Bush Funeral Home. Interment Belleville Cemetery.

Daughter of the late David and Nellie Bunnnett, she was predeceased by her husband James (Jim) McKenna.

Mother of Mrs. Norm Mowers (Dorothy) of Plainfield; June Blaind, Maxine McKenna, Nellie-Jean Holland, Cameron McKenna and wife Patricia, all of Belleville. Survived by daughters-in-law Victoria and Pearl McKenna. Survived by 29 grandchildren and 55 great grandchildren. Predeceased by sons James, Ross, and Foster, and sons-in-law Tom Des Cote and Kenneth Hollands.

Predeceased by brothers William and Ross Bunnnett and grandson Scott.

Born in Trenton, she was a housewife. Mrs. McKenna was a member of St. Thomas Church.

Pallbearers were Dave Mowers, Rick Mowers, Steven Rogers, Frank McKenna, Todd McKenna and Alan Blaind. Honorary bearers were Gordon Bunnnett, Don Jamieson, Chas Sager, Jim Littles, Jim Mathews, Gordon Cook and Buck Daley.

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