

John West

October 29, 1996

Length: 7 minutes and 10 seconds

Although the interviewer and interviewees are not introduced, it can be assumed that George Jackson is speaking to Mr. West. Another unnamed man is also present.

... His wife went to Eaton's* girls' camp as a child so she got the boats from that camp. Using those, they took all the onions off with 12 boats. You would sink if you stepped into the ditches. There was a little person with them and when he stepped into ditches, he sank over his head. An unnamed man says the first person in the produce business in Bradford who actually bought produce from one farmer, processed it, and then sold it to his customers was Job Morris on the little scheme on Morris Road. The unnamed speaker's father was the second to do it. George asks the man to take some notes and he will come back to talk to him on another day about marketing. George says right now he's trying to gather information on how work was done on the marsh, which wasn't included in Vandermeer's* book.

John gets back to speaking about the onions. He says they took the onion bags and piled them six high, put a skid on top of that, and piled another six bags on top. The ones that were sitting on the bottom were bent out of shape so you would have to discard them. He rented space from Sir Mulock and carried all of the produce on tractor and wagon there when his hired help was gone. Then he would get an hour or two of sleep before another group of hired help came to pull carrots. He did this for three weeks and it was very tiring. Sir Mulock never charged him that much to store his product there; he was just happy that the space was being used. Sir Mulock was a farmer just off Yonge Street on Mulock Sideroad.

George asks when they first started using harvesting machines. John explains that harvesting machines came before the tow motors*. He and Charlie Davis each bought a harvesting machine from the United States. Some were built by ... (*name is inaudible*). Some of the machines were pulled with a tractor and some had to have the crop brought to them. The onions would be lying in the row and they would have two little discs made out of cast iron in the early days. The discs would turn into each other and pull two rows at a time. The onions would be lying on the ground at this point and would be later thrown into a bushel and fed into the machine. The onions were packed into bags in those days. Then the pallet boxes came in. John says he has pallet boxes here (*it is unclear what location he is referring to*) that are over 40 years old which were made from ordinary lumber ... - Tape cuts out –

* Indicates that the word or name is written as it sounded, and therefore may be incorrect.

... Indicates that the speaker is inaudible.