



**Tom Fuller and John Wist**

*Interview*

October 29, 1996

Length: 1 hour, 34 minutes and 25 seconds

[*The interviewer is not introduced but it can be assumed that George Jackson is speaking to John Wist and later Tom Fuller.*] George notes that they will be discussing how John Wist's family got started on the Holland Marsh. [*They look at a map.*] The map is from 1911, drawn by Professor Day. John's father's first farm was off of Graham Sideroad near Ansnorveldt in 1939. He speaks about the physical quality of the land. He, his father, and his brother each bought some marsh property on King Street later on in 1942. John speaks about the construction of his house, buying a tractor, what produce they grew, who they sold to, equipment they used, and life on the farm. He then moved to land on the marsh close to Highway 400 and describes clearing the land with his tractor.

Tom Fuller (son of Bill Fuller) joins the conversation at approximately 32:53 into the recording. [*Pictures are introduced.*] Tom and John identify pictures of different tractors and people. They continue to discuss clearing and plowing land. When George brings up the topic of the dredge which excavated the canal on the marsh, Tom says his uncle (also named Tom Fuller) worked on the dredge, diving under the water to fix leaks and dismantle it at the end of the project. John speaks about what he grew on his property near Highway 400 and how he seeded. They discuss smoothing over the canal bank with bulldozers for roads before the war. They discuss digging ditches around the farm to ensure drainage was good and the creation of dikes and pumps. John discusses the different properties that he bought after the land at Highway 400. Tom and John mention the fact that there used to be a large population of big bull frogs in the marsh that have disappeared since the draining and farming. They discuss changes





that have taken place in farming like spraying for weeds and insects and mechanization. Tom mentions Charlie Fell\* who was a great inventor of machines used on the marsh.

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

*Note: This is a brief summary of what has been recorded on tape. Anyone interested in assisting to transcribe or summarize these oral histories is encouraged to contact Nina Cunniff, Deputy CEO of the Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library, at (905) 775-3328 ext. 6105.*

