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**TSUNAMI RUNUP MAPPING
AS AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
PLANNING TOOL:**

**THE 1929 TSUNAMI
IN ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND**

Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures

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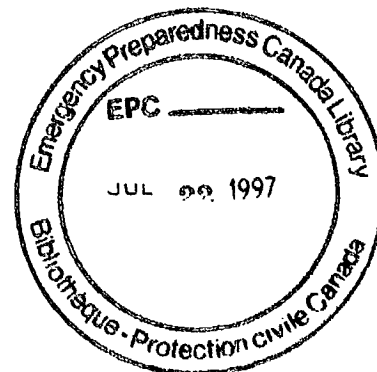
**TSUNAMI RUNUP MAPPING
AS AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
PLANNING TOOL:**

**THE 1929 TSUNAMI
IN ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND**

Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures

by

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prepared for the

**Office of the Senior Scientific Advisor
Emergency Preparedness Canada**



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INDEX
Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures

	<u>Page Number</u>
Index	i
List of Appendices	i
List of Photographs in Appendix 13	iii
List of Enclosures	iv
Executive Summary	1
Introduction	2
Bibliography for Volume 2	4
Appendices	6
Enclosures	in pocket

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Bibliography of additional material that refers to the 1929 earthquake and tsunami.	7
Appendix 2	Two December 5, 1929 lists of communities .. on the Burin Peninsula which were "reported to have been directly affected" by, "and which no doubt suffered to some extent" from, the 1929 tsunami.	22
Appendix 3	Album of published newspaper articles from November and December of 1929 that deal specifically with the tsunami damage done in St. Lawrence and, in one case, Little St. Lawrence.	27
Appendix 4	Single page on <i>Tidal Waves</i> from the March 1970 issue of <i>Newfluor News</i> (Vol. 4, No. 3, p. 5) and a copy of the ([Harrington], 1970) 'Offbeat History' article.	39
Appendix 5	Chapters IV and V from Ena Farrell Edwards' (Edwards with Buehler, 1983) book <i>Notes toward a history of St. Lawrence</i> .	42

INDEX
Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures

Page Number

LIST OF APPENDICES
(continued)

Appendix 6	Transcripts of the April 17 and April 25, 1995 letters received from Mrs. Ena Farrell Edwards and from Kevin Pike respectively, re the flooding of the Thomas (Tom) Pike house on Shingle Point.	54
Appendix 7	Portion of Rennie Slaney's 1975 book <i>History of Fluorspar Mining at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland</i> , which briefly deals with the November 18, 1929 tsunami.	57
Appendix 8	Transcript of portion of the report 'Voyage of Relief Ship Meigle' (Lake <i>et al.</i> , 1929) found in the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, in Manuscript Group 636, Box 1, File 3.	60
Appendix 9	<i>Losses at St. Lawrence</i> of 117 claimants as compiled from the Statutory Declarations by the South Coast Disaster Committee.	62
Appendix 10	Partial copy of the South Coast Disaster Committee's compilation entitled: <i>Losses of Codfish Tidal Wave Disaster, Nov. 10th[sic]. 1929.</i>	99
Appendix 11	Abbreviated Field Log of Alan Ruffman February 20 to March 2, 1995.	103
Appendix 12	Transcripts of the oral history interviews with older St. Lawrence residents familiar with aspects of the 1929 earthquake and tsunami.	111
	Charlotte Turpin	112
	Pauline Loder	120
	Michael Joseph Turpin and his wife Philomena	136
	Archibald Joseph Slaney	162
	Gertrude Frances Turpin with her husband Norbert Lionel Turpin	179
	Emma Blanche Pike and her son Levi Pike	206
	Elizabeth Madeline Slaney	223
	John M. Kelly	235
Appendix 13	Photographs	266
Appendix 14	Transcript of supplemental August 23, 1995 letter of Emma and John Cusick	275

INDEX
Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures

Page Number

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS in Appendix 13

Plate 1	Photo 32A, p. 25, A.J. Wallace Collection ..	267
	showing A.J. Wallace family, circa 1937.	
Plate 2	Photo 29C, p. 29, A.J. Wallace Collection ..	267
	showing Aubrey Farrell, circa 1937.	
Plate 3	Composite circa 1937 panorama of the east ..	268
	side of St. Lawrence Harbour made up of	
	photos from the A.J. Wallace Collection.	
Plate 4	Composite of two photographs from the	269
	A.J. Wallace Collection showing a	
	circa 1937 panorama of Shingle Point.	
Plate 5	Photo 17C from the A.J. Wallace	270
	Collection showing a view looking	
	southeast along Water Street East,	
	St. Lawrence circa 1937.	
Plate 6	Photo 69B from the A.J. Wallace	271
	Collection showing a local road between	
	Burin Peninsula communities in 1939.	
Plate 7	Photo 57B from the A.J. Wallace	272
	showing Shingle Point looking north	
	northwest circa 1938.	
Plate 8	Photo held by Kevin Pike (and Ena Farrell ..	272
	Edwards) showing the former Thomas (Tom)	
	Pike house on Shingle Point out near the	
	public wharf circa 1933-34.	
Plate 9	Probable post-tsunami 1929 view of the	273
	west side of St. Lawrence harbour showing	
	no flakes or fish stores in place from	
	just southeast of Director Drive	
	northwest to where 'the strand' bay	
	mouth bar terminated the harbour head.	
Plate 10	Photo 20B from the A.J. Wallace	273
	Collection showing a similar view of the	
	west side of St. Lawrence harbour circa	
	1937 showing the growth of the town.	
Plate 11	Coloured oblique aerial view of St.	274
	Lawrence Harbour by Garnet Tracey circa	
	1985 looking about west (Anonymous,	
	circa 1985).	

INDEX
Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

Page Number

- Enclosure 1 Area Flooded by the 1929 tsunami, in pocket
St. Lawrence, Newfoundland.
- Enclosure 2 Modern-day Buildings and Uses in pocket
Susceptible to a 1929-like Tsunami,
St. Lawrence, Newfoundland.

This report in two volumes may be referred to as:

Ruffman, Alan. 1996. Tsunami Runup Mapping as an Emergency Preparedness Planning Tool: The 1929 tsunami in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland. Geomarine Associates Ltd., Contract Report for Emergency Preparedness Canada, Evaluation and Analysis, Ottawa, Ontario, Volume 1 — Report, 144 pp.; Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures, 281 pp.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TSUNAMI RUNUP MAPPING AS AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING TOOL: THE 1929 TSUNAMI IN ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

A tsunami struck the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland in the early evening of November 18, 1929 after the 1702 NST magnitude 7.2 earthquake occurred in the Laurentian Slope Seismic Zone. This event is Canada's most tragic earthquake with twenty-eight lives lost. The tsunami swept into the coast of Newfoundland two-and-a-half hours after the seismic event near the top of a high spring tide. Water levels first fell far below normal then, in three successive waves, that often arrived on shore as breaking waves, water levels rose two to seven metres. At the heads of several of the long narrow bays on the Burin Peninsula the momentum of the tsunami carried water as high as 13 m. St. Lawrence at the head of Great St. Lawrence Harbour was one of the communities inundated, fortunately with no loss of life, but with substantial property damage.

The collective community memory of St. Lawrence has been sampled through oral history interviews with senior community members aged 72 to 96 years, through first-hand reports of residents published in late-1929 newspaper accounts, and through various other published and unpublished accounts available. These recollections have been transcribed onto a 1:2,500 contoured topographic map of the community to map the 1929 tsunami runup zone. The map indicates a tsunami height of about 4 m, a runup height of about 13 m and a runup distance of at least 760 m at the head of the harbour.

St. Lawrence has grown since 1929 and has encroached steadily into the 1929 tsunami runup zone. The report warns of the risk to the community if a 1929-like tsunami were to recur today. Some 30 residences, all the fishing activity, almost all the St. Lawrence commercial activity, its two gasoline stations, the fire station, the RCMP office, the pharmacy, the high school, the recreation centre and soccer fields, the town hall and garage, a water treatment facility, the senior citizens manor, and three important bridges and their related roads could be severely affected. St. Lawrence presently has no planning policies to address further growth in a potential tsunami runup zone and does not have provision for a tsunami alert in its *Emergency/Disaster Plan*.

The report suggests that emergency measures personnel develop a plan that institutes a tsunami alert the moment a strong felt earthquake is experienced in southern Newfoundland. It is suggested that such people be reacquainted with the plan every two years to allow for new or rotating personnel.

While this is the first use of an oral history to establish a tsunami runup zone in Canada, the technique could well apply for storm surge events, seiches, and river flooding events, as well as for other tsunamis such as the March 1964 Port Alberni, B.C. event or in other communities of the Burin that experienced the 1929 event.

Introduction

The first drafts of this lengthy report on the research in the town of St. Lawrence included a full record of all the data gathered. On completion of the August 9, 1995 revision the full set of the data appendices and photographs had expanded to about 250 pages in a report of some 399 pages. The full report, bound as one very thick volume with the two enclosure maps in a pocket, had become virtually unmanageable in size.

The author and the scientific technical authority at Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC) agreed that the size made the report somewhat impractical to widely circulate or to translate. Dr. Tucker and the author, with the help of Mr. Donald Campbell in the EPC office in New Brunswick, then reassessed the research material in the appendices. In the end, only two of the original appendices were moved into the main report — one as a figure and the other as the final Table 4. About half of the less important bibliographic material was moved out of the main report into the Appendices and Enclosures volume, as a new Appendix 1. The copies of the historic photographs were kept as an appendix in Volume 2 because it was uncertain whether they would duplicate well, especially if the main report was to be put on the EPC World Wide Web site.

It was also realised that the two large Enclosure maps of the original report were not amenable to an easy open file distribution of the document and would overly complicate any digital or website distribution of the main text. Thus a reduced NW-SE segment of the

maps, covering the main harbour and town areas of the study, were extracted from Enclosures 1 and 2. These two linear maps were then included as foldout maps in the main report (Maps 1 and 2 of Volume 1) and both the full Enclosure maps are included here as folded items in the pocket at the back of the volume (Enclosures 1 and 2).

This Volume 2 — Appendices and Enclosures includes all the raw data that went into the analysis. It brings together in one place the rather disparate newspaper, locally-published and manuscript archival material. The full transcripts of all the oral history interviews and the author's abbreviated field log from the February 20 to March 2, 1995 program in St. Lawrence are also retained in the Appendices and Enclosures volume. New information on the dwelling houses that moved in the 1929 tsunami has been included at the end of the interview transcript of Mrs. Gertrude Turpin in Appendix 12. Further 1929 tsunami data from the Cusick family comprises an added Appendix 14.

Our sincere appreciation should be expressed to Dr. Chris Tucker and to Mr. Donald Campbell for their editorial comments and for their assistance in dividing this report into the two manageable volumes. Wendy Pindley in our office then persisted on the word processor to effect the final separation of the siamese twins.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Bibliography of additional material that refers to the 1929 earthquake and tsunami. These references were not referred to directly in, and are not essential to, the main report in Volume 1. This bibliography used in conjunction with the main report's bibliography in Volume 1 are believed to comprise one of the most complete records of the published material on the November 18, 1929 earthquake and tsunami.

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Appendix 2

Two December 5, 1929 lists of communities on the Burin Peninsula which were "reported to have been directly affected" by, "and which no doubt suffered to some extent" from, the 1929 tsunami.

These records from the South Coast Disaster Committee are found in the archives of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies of Memorial University of Newfoundland and were produced by the 'South Coast Disaster Committee'.

THE SOUTH COAST DISASTER FUND COMMITTEE

Patron :

His Excellency the Governor
Sir John Middleton, K.B.E., C.M.G.

OFFICES: LAW CHAMBERS,

DUCKWORTH STREET,

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.,

Hon. President:

The Prime Minister
Sir Richard A. Squires, K.C.M.G., K.C., L.L.B.

Mr. R. F. Horwood, Chairman

Mr. L. C. Outerbridge, D.S.O., Vice-Chairman

Mr. J. G. Higgins, Hon. Secretary

Mr. A. Milligan, Hon. Treasurer

December 5, 1929

List No. 1 gives names and population of places reported to have been directly affected by the recent tidal wave disaster.

List No. 2 gives the names and population of all settlements along the section of the Burin Peninsula within the area stricken by the disaster, and which no doubt suffered to some extent as a result of it.

THE SOUTH COAST DISASTER FUND COMMITTEE²⁴

Patron :

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Hon. President:

The Prime Minister
Sir Richard A. Squires, K.C.M.G., K.C., L.L.B.

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Mr. L. C. Outerbridge, D.S.O., Vice-Chairman

Mr. J. G. Higgins, Hon. Secretary

Mr. A. Milligan, Hon. Treasurer

OFFICES: LAW CHAMBERS,

DUCKWORTH STREET,

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.,

December 5. 1929

CENSUS OF 1921.

LIST NO. 1

Lamaline East	213
Lamaline West	213
Allan's Island	312
Point aux Gaul	239
Taylor's Bay	82
Lord's Cove	208
Lawn	345
Great St. Lawrence	803
Little St. Lawrence	87
Corbin	92
L'Ance au D'eau	69
Stepaside	122
Bull's Cove	174
Kelly's Cove	33
Pardy's Cove	138
Collin's Cove	77
Ship Cove	123
Great Burin	220
Burin North	275
Burin Bay	335
Port au Bras	295
Mortier	136
Rock Harbour	152
	<u>TOTAL 4,791</u>

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Hon. President:

The Prime Minister
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Mr. A. Milligan, Hon. Treasurer

OFFICES: LAW CHAMBERS,

DUCKWORTH STREET,

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.,

December 5, 19

CENSUS OF 1921

LIST NO.2.

NAME

POPULATION.

Mortier	136
Port au Bras	295
Salt Pond	118
Burin Bay Arm	79
Salmonier	121
Long Cove	23
Sandy Point	26
Black Duck Cove	67
Bull's Cove	174
Rath End	80
Burin North	275
Shalloway	59
Great Burin	220
Stepaside	122
Kelly's Cove-	33
Pardy's Island	138
Burin Bay	385
Collin's Cove	77
Kirby's Cove	85
Whale Cove	32
Pat's Cove-	42
The Narrows	12

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Mr. J. G. Higgins, Hon. Secretary

Mr. A. Milligan, Hon. Treasurer

OFFICES: LAW CHAMBERS,

DUCKWORTH STREET,

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.,

December 5 19

CENSUS OF 1921

LIST NO.2.

L'anse L'eau	69
Ship Cove	123
Epworth	242
Wandsworth	100
Loon's Cove	108
Corbin	92
Castletide	10
Little St. Lawrence	37
Great St. Lawrence	303
Lawn	343
L'anse au Jarque	42
Roundabout	43
Sandy Cove	2
Lord's Cove	208
Taylor's Bay	52
Nance Cove	15
Point aux Gaul	239
Salmonier	5
Lamaline East	213
Lamaline West	213
Allan's Island	312

TOTAL 5,950

Appendix 3

Album of published newspaper articles from November and December of 1929 that deal specifically with the tsunami damage done in St. Lawrence and, in one case, Little St. Lawrence. Articles which have been reproduced in their entirety, or for which the pertinent parts relevant to St. Lawrence have been reproduced in their entirety, in the main report, are not reproduced here.

Activities Both Here and Abroad To Aid Tidal Wave Sufferers

St. Lawrence Sends First Report of Damage—Interview with St. Lawrence Eye Witness of Tidal Wave—Relief Ship Brings Aid To Destitute

REPORT FROM ST. LAWRENCE

LOSS ESTIMATED AT OVER \$200,000

The first detailed account of the destruction at St. Lawrence reached the city Saturday evening in a special message to "The Evening Telegram." The message was sent by Mr. A. Farrell and reads as follows:—

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 266
Monday, November 25, 1929.
p. 6, cols. 4-8

(continued)

ST. LAWRENCE, Nov. 23, 1929.

Special to Evening Telegram, St. John's.

Following the shock on Monday evening an unprecedented high tide presumably tidal wave practically demolished all the waterfront here including fishing plants, stores, traps, fishing gear, boats, engines etc. Two families were left homeless but no lives were lost although many narrowly escaped being drowned. Two dwelling were carried countrywards about four hundred feet from their foundations. The loss is difficult to estimate but it must be over two hundred thousand dollars.

FARRELL.

EYE WITNESS OF ST. LAWRENCE DISASTER

Mr. A. A. Giovannini Describes Tidal Wave Effect

Mr. A. A. Giovannini of St. Lawrence arrived in the city yesterday morning by rail via Argentia to spend a few days visiting friends. A representative of The Telegram had an interview with Mr. Giovannini yesterday afternoon in connection with the tidal wave disaster which hit that place on Monday evening, November 18th, when damage was done to the waterside premises and at the bottom of the harbour at an estimated loss of over \$200,000.

Thought Explosion Had Occurred.

Mr. Giovannini says a tremor was felt about 5 o'clock, which lasted over two minutes. People in St. Lawrence were bewildered over the occurrence and came to the conclusion that an explosion must have occurred either at Buchans or Bell Island mines. After the tremor had ceased the inhabitants of the place went about their work, and during tea hour the shock as felt, was generally discussed, not realizing for a moment that a great tidal wave was to follow in a few hours and cause such havoc and destruction as it did.

After Mr. Giovannini had partaken of tea with his wife, they left their house about 7.30 to proceed to their own store which was only a few yards away. While they were crossing the wharf Mrs. Giovannini's attention was attracted by the unusual swiftness of the tide, which caused the shores underneath the pier to making crackling sounds.

Men Warned In Time

She told her husband that something unusual was likely to happen and implored him to give warning to the fifteen men who were working at fish in the store. Mr. Giovannini notified the men promptly, and just as they had made their exit from the premises, the first tidal wave rushed in over the pier, and, in receding, a skiff which was moored at the pier was swept away and smashed to pieces. The tides increased as they appeared, and the third one which was about twelve feet high wrecked the Government bridge, and a large portion of the timber dashed against the shores underneath Mr. Giovannini's store and shook it almost from its foundation.

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 266
Monday, November 25, 1929.
p. 6, cols. 4-8

(continued)

Store Washed Back.

Scarcely without a word of warning to the eye-witnesses standing about a huge wave swept over the mainland, and the receding sea swept away the store with all its contents, but to the great surprise of those standing about, it was washed back again and grounded near its original site. The store which was of wooden structure measuring 65 feet by 30 feet, and containing three storeys, was later found broken in two, while all of the supplies which were carried on the first and second flats had been carried away. Mr. Giovannini's loss is estimated at \$30,000. His house which was situated only a short distance from the store was in danger of being swept away on two other occasions. Mr. Giovannini says only seconds elapsed from the time he

gave warning to the men in the store, until the building disappeared, and in this connection the saving of life was largely due to his wife.

Fishing Premises Swept Away

Mr. Giovannini went on to relate that great destruction was caused to fishing premises in St. Lawrence. Not one flake or stage was left standing following the tidal wave. All the boats with engines installed were carried away and smashed to pieces, and the loss in this connection is very great on the fishermen. In addition to Mr. Giovannini's business premises being swept away, the Co-Operative Stores with its wharves and flakes was considerably damaged, as well as T. Farrell and Sons premises.

Nine Families Homeless

At the bottom of the harbour nine houses were destroyed. All the families barely escaped with their lives, and are at present homeless. Mr. Giovannini was particularly gratified to be able to say that there has been no loss of life in St. Lawrence, but at the same time the people were horror-stricken and were unable to sleep for nights following the disaster. Of the nine houses, six were swept to sea, while two were washed back with the tide and landed several hundred feet in on the mainland. Among those who lost their homes were Pike (3); Hendrigan, Malloy, and

Fitzpatrick. The home of the latter was one of those which was carried to sea and completely lost sight of. Another building which also went was the Postal Telegraph office.

Operator Remained to the Last

Miss Fewer, the operator, remained at her post regardless of the danger and tapped on the keyboard a warning to people at Burin. Her escape was miraculous. The main road which is only a short distance from the waterfront was badly damaged by the tidal wave, while other bridges besides the Government bridge were swept away.

Wave 30 to 40 Feet High

Mr. Giovannini says it was a clear moonlight night when the disaster occurred. The tidal waves could be seen very clearly, and on receding out the harbour to meet an oncoming one, the water would rise thirty to forty feet in height, and with the roar of the water and the cracking of timber, the spectacle was terrifying.

Harbour Bottom Exposed.

On one or two occasions with the receding tide the bottom of the harbour was clearly seen about a half mile from the mainland. The tidal wave lasted for upwards of twenty minutes, and when it had subsided there was great relief amongst the people. Many of the people related their experiences some of which were most thrilling, but they were very thankful to Providence that no lives had been lost.

Fishermen's Existence Jeopardized

Mr. Giovannini had 1200 quintals of fish in his store at the time of the disaster, all of which became water-soaked. His men were engaged at the time separating the small from the large, and they were working overtime in order to have it shipped away the next day. With all the fishing plants, stores, traps, fishing gear, boats and engines, etc., gone, the fishermen in St. Lawrence are bereft of

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 266
Monday, November 25, 1929.
p. 6, cols. 4-8

(continued)

everything, and unless some relief is forthcoming it is impossible for them to exist. Mr. Giovannini is at present staying at the Falcon House.

No Damage at Pass Island

The following message from Pass Island has been received by Mr. J. W. Dewling:—

Very thankful to say no damage whatever here. Thank you.

E. E. BULLEY

CHAIRMAN OF RELIEF COMMITTEE EXPRESSES THANKS

Message to Prime Minister

BURIN, Nov. 23.

On behalf of our people I thank you for what has been done. Provisions landed from Meigle being distributed amongst destitute. Doctors have attended all cases shock and injury from Rock Harbour to Corbin. Meigle left 4 a.m. for west where destitution greatest. Bodies of Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Fudge, Mrs. Allen and Harriett Fudge of Port au Bras recovered. Daisy endeavouring to save boats. 160 tons coal ready for distribution by committee here and clothing being supplied where absolutely essential. Details re value lost property being collected.

MAGISTRATE HOLLETT.

MR. WINTER AT BURIN

The following message was received by Mr. F. C. Alderdice from Mr. J. A. Winter, M.H.A.:

BURIN, Nov. 23.

S.S. Meigle with government ministers has proceeded to Lamaline. Am staying here for the present. Committee formed and met this morning and dealt with urgent matters. Am just leaving for Port au Bras where loss of life and property heaviest. Nothing new since Lake's report of yesterday.

(Sgd.) J. A. WINTER.

MR. WINTER EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

BURIN, Nov. 24.

To Res. A. H. Howitt,
St. John's.

Broadcast of service and reports of disaster in Burin East distinctly heard. On behalf of all there desire to thank you for sympathetic and inspiring service. Efforts of St. John's

people most heartily and greatly appreciated.

J. A. WINTER.

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS AT LORD'S COVE

The following message was received Saturday by the Prime Minister from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries:

LORD'S COVE, Nov. 24.

Sir R. A. Squires,
St. John's.

Spent last night Laws. Conditions there very bad. Heavy loss property but no lives, and no accidents. Arrived Lord's Cove daylight. Conditions here deplorable, heavy loss property and four lives lost. All recovered. Much destruction. Now landing supplies. Houses here washed hundreds of yards inland and many swept to sea. Visiting Lamaline later today and due St. Lawrence tonight where I understand property loss heaviest but no loss of life.

H. B. C. LAKE.

PROVISIONS TO MEET IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS

From Minister Marine and Fisheries to Prime Minister:

BURIN, Nov. 23.

Have landed sufficient provisions to take care of immediate situation at Burin and have competent committee formed to handle the situation in charge of Magistrate Hollett. Leaving for Point aux Gaul and Taylor's Bay during the night as this most destitute area. Very little medical needs.

(Sgd.) H. B. C. LAKE.

TIDAL WAVE EIGHTY TO ONE HUNDRED FEET HIGH

MEIGLE, Lawn, Nov. 23.

Visited Point aux Gaul and Taylor's Bay today, remaining at Lawn tonight. Conditions at both the above settlements are appalling, with not a vestige of waterside property left. Had to land provisions in the steamer's

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 266
Monday, November 25, 1929.
p. 6, cols. 4-8

Terrors of Quake and Tidal Wave

St. Lawrence Resident Describes Monday Night's Horrors

By T. ECHGARY

On Monday evening, Nov. 18th, St. Lawrence was the scene of a dreadful disaster occasioned by a tidal wave which almost entirely destroyed the settlement and wrought much havoc along this section of the Southwest Coast.

At 4.45 a dreadful rumbling noise was heard, accompanied by a violent trembling of the earth which shook each dwelling to its foundation and lasted about five minutes to the horror of everyone.

THE SECOND TREMOR

The people became panic-stricken and many forsook their homes. The excitement was intense and when about two hours later a terrific roaring of the sea was heard, fear struck the hearts of all. A few minutes after, a tremendous wall of water burst into the harbor and swept with irresistible force upon the land, tearing down everything in its way as it rushed along.

WAVE AFTER WAVE

The din of roaring waters, of shouting people and the breaking up of buildings was terrifying. Many houses were carried bodily inland for a considerable distance and some of them

deposited when the force of the huge wave was spent, whilst many others were broken into splinters. Then, with a mighty roar, the waters receded, carrying with them boats, fishing stages, stores and dwellings. Again and again the dreadful waves rushed in upon the land, each one more destructive than the last.

SICK CARRIED TO SAFETY

The frightened people fled in a panic to the higher ground. Many sought refuge around the church. The presbytery and convent were crowded with people as these buildings were high above the waves. It was a pitiable sight to see people carrying their sick to a place of safety, or surrounded by crying children, and shrieking with dismay when some loved one was missing, fearing he had been engulfed by the terrible sea; darkness adding to the awful confusion.

DID NOT DARE GO HOME

By 10 o'clock the destruction was complete and the waves settled down to a steady, but by no means normal condition. Yet the people feared to return to their home, many spending the night in neighbors' houses, in barns and other places of shelter, but

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 267
Tuesday, November 26, 1929.
p. 5, cols. 1-4

(continued)

none dared to sleep.

THE SIGHT AS DAWN CAME

At dawn next morning sad beyond description was the sight that greeted the wretched people. All their fishing premises, stages, stores, boats, nets and other gear, as well as barns of hay and cattle swept away by the pitiless sea or strewn in fragments upon the shore. Houses, fishing gear, stores and wreckage of all kinds floating upon the still swollen and raging sea. In a blinding storm of wind, sleet and snow men and boys were trying at the risk of their lives to rescue some planks or sticks, the only remnants of their little property which represented their all, the result of their lifelong labor and thrift.

ALL BUT 2 STORES DESTROYED

All their fishing premises, large and small with the exception of two stores were destroyed, many of them filled with fish. All the boats and fishing gear were carried off or thrown in a shapeless mass of wreckage upon the shore. Added to this the provisions for the winter, flour, molasses, meat, etc., which were in their stores were also carried off. Several homes were destroyed and the people are reduced to a very pitiable condition. As the fishery this year was a poor one, only the barest necessities of life were procurable and now all is lost.

PRIEST'S NOBLE SERVICE

All that terrible night our indefatigable and ever-resourceful pastor, Very Rev. Father Thorne, went amongst the people, calming the panic-stricken and encouraging the terrified and helping those in distress. Next day he busied himself inspiring hope into the depressed people. In the evening he called them together and in a long address he encouraged them to begin the work of reconstruction by saving the

wreckage floating on the harbor, pointing out ways and means by which it could be more successfully accomplished and did all he could to relieve the terrible situation.

The erection of the telegraph poles and wires which were swept away was done under his personal supervision. When communication was established with the neighboring settlements it was learned that Lawn and other places had suffered equally, and that at Point aux Gaul, Port au Bras and Lord's Cove several people were drowned.

The fact that no lives were lost here and with the exception of a few bad hurts no one was seriously injured is a great cause for thankfulness and a source of gratification to the poor people in their awful affliction.

The estimated amount of damage and loss is from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 267
Tuesday, November 26, 1929.
p. 5, cols. 1-4

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AT ST. LAWRENCE

Mr. A. A. Giovannini Tells Of De-
struction Of Property At That
Place

LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$150,000

Mr. A. A. Giovannini of St. Lawrence arrived in town yesterday morning by S. S. Glencoe and train from Placentia. Last evening the Daily News had a short interview with him at the Newfoundland Hotel. Mr. Giovannini stated that he was on his wharf at 7 p.m. Monday when he saw the whole of the harbor filled with a tidal wave that he estimated at 15 or 20 feet above the ordinary

level of the waters. Within 20 minutes the whole water front at the bottom of the harbor was swept. His own premises was the only one entirely demolished. It included 4 stores, wharves, flakes, 1200 quintals fish and a quantity of provisions. Altogether some 150 separate stores, wharves, flakes, etc., were carried away. Eight dwellings were shifted and one totally destroyed. About 60 boats of all kinds were lost a great many with motor engines, but he was pleased to be able to say that no lives were lost. He estimates that it will take \$150,000 to replace the damage.

The Daily News
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. 36, No. 264
Monday, November 25, 1929.
p. 6, cols. 3, 4

ST. LAWRENCE PEOPLE ARE TERROR STRICKEN AT 'QUAKE AND WAVE

Fled To Higher Ground, Many
Sought Refuge Around Church:
Sick Carried To Places Of
Safety

FATHER THORNE SPENT
ENTIRE NIGHT AMONG PEOPLE

St. Lawrence, Nov. 20—On Monday evening, November 18th, St. Lawrence was the scene of a dreadful disaster, occasioned by a tidal wave, which almost entirely destroyed the settlement and wrought much havoc along this section of the South West Coast.

At 4.45 a dreadful rumbling noise was heard, accompanied by a violent trembling of the earth which shook each dwelling to its foundation, and lasted about five minutes, to the terror of everyone.

The people became panic-stricken and many forsook their homes. The excitement was intense, and when about two hours later, a terrific roaring of the sea was heard, fear struck the hearts of all. A few minutes after a tremendous wall of water burst into the harbour and swept with irresistible force upon the land, tearing down everything in its way as it rushed along.

The din of roaring waters, of shouting people and the breaking up of buildings was terrifying. Many houses were carried bodily inland for a considerable distance, and some of them deposited when the force of the huge wave was broken into splinters. Then with a mighty roar the waters receded, carrying with them, boats, fishing stages, stores and dwellings. Again and again the dreadful waves rushed in upon the land, each one more destructive than the last.

The frightened people fled in a panic to the higher ground. Many sought refuge around the church.

The Presbytery and Convent were crowded with people, as these buildings were high above the waves. It was a pitiable sight to see people carrying their sick to a place of safety, or surrounded by crying children, and shrieking with dismay, when some loved one was missing, fearing he had been engulfed by the terrible sea, darkness adding to the awful confusion. By ten o'clock the destruction was complete, and the waves settled down to a steady but by no means normal condition. Yet people feared to return to their homes, many spending the night in neighbour's houses, in barns and other places of shelter, but none dared to sleep.

Next morning sad beyond description was the sight which greeted the wretched people, all their fishing premises, stages, stores, boats, nets and other gear, as well as barns of hay, and even their cattle swept away by the pitiless sea, or strewn in fragments upon the shore. Houses, fishing stores and wreckage of all kinds, floating upon the still swollen and raging sea. In a blinding storm of wind, sleet and snow, men and boys were trying at the risk of their lives, to rescue some planks or sticks the only remnants of their little property, which represented their all and was the result of their life-long labours and thrift. All the fishing premises large and small with the exception of two stores were destroyed, many of them filled with fish. All the boats and fishing gear were carried off or thrown in a shapeless mass of wreckage upon the shore. Added to this the provisions for the winter, flour, molasses, meat etc., which were in their stores were also carried off, several homes were destroyed and the people are reduced to a very pitiable condition. As the fishery this year was a poor one, only the barest necessities of life were procurable, and now all is lost.

All that terrible night our indefatigable and over-resourceful Pastor Very Rev. Father Thorne, went amongst the people, calming the panic-stricken, encouraging the terrified and helping those in distress. Next day he busied himself inspiring hope into the depressed people. In the evening he called them together and in a long address he encouraged them to begin the work of reconstruction, by saving the wreckage floating on the harbour, pointing out ways and means by which it could be more successfully accomplished and did all he could to relieve the terrible situation. The erection of the telegraph poles and wires, which were swept away was done under his personal supervision. When communication was established with the neighbouring settlements it was learned that Lawn and other places had suffered equally and at Point aux Gauls, Port au Bras, and Lord's Cove several people were drowned. The fact that no lives were lost here and with the exception of a few bad hurts, no one was seriously injured, is a great cause for thankfulness, and a source of resignation to the poor people in their awful affliction.

The estimated cost of damage and loss is in the vicinity of \$150,000.

The Daily News
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. 36, No. 265
Tuesday, November 26, 1929.
p. 12, col. 4

**EFFECTS OF TIDAL WAVE IN
LITTLE ST. LAWRENCE
Channel Cut Through Beach Saved
Greater Destruction of Property**

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir—So much has been said and written on the recent tidal wave and its consequences that any contribution of mine, I perceive, would at this time be superfluous. But as no one seemed to think it worth while to place us in the limelight when speaking of the losses sustained by the disaster, I will in justice to the place, and with your permission, mention a few incidents in connection therewith which should place us in the same category with those who suffered. Though our losses happily didn't embrace any sacrifice of human lives, there were a few at least who had a very close call, and the courage and foresight displayed by these on that occasion are only in keeping with the records of the victims of that dreadful tragedy. The so-called island (always a misnomer but now a reality), which juts out immediately in front of the inner harbor, was formerly the property of Newman & Company, but within the last hundred years has changed hands many times. It is now the property of Mr. Edward Turpin who resides there with his family. It is connected with the main land or cove by a high beach about one hundred yards long, and thirty yards wide, and serves as a shelter for the harbor which is one of the safest in the country.

Retreat of Mother and Children Cut Off

It so happened that on the night of the tidal wave, Mr. Turpin was absent from his home, being at Great St. Lawrence on business. Mrs. Turpin at the

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Newfoundland
Vol. LI, No. 293
Friday, December 27, 1929
p. 3 col. 5

(continued)

approach of the first tidal wave became alarmed at its unusual velocity, and seeing her stage and store go with the element thought discretion the better part of valour, and immediately gathered her children together, and wading knee-deep in the water made her way for the beach, the only exit from the island. On reaching the beach she discovered that her retreat was cut off by the highness of the tide, and being warned by the people on the main land not to attempt to cross, she waited until it had subsided. When calm was restored she with her children decided to cross the beach and had just barely reached the other side when a mountainous wave burst in cutting a large channel through the beach and practically sweeping the whole water front in the cove where five families were located.

Knelt in Prayer

The destruction of the beach at this time was a Providential happening for those in the cove, as it meant the release of the wave which would have swamped every home in the cove and probably cause much loss of life. The panic-stricken people had already vacated their homes after the first wave, and repaired to the higher levels where in the shelter of some rock they knelt in prayer like Pilgrims at a shrine, beseeching for mercy and making a hurried preparation for what they thought the inevitable, which happily did not come.

15-Ton Rock Lifted From Its Bed

To give some idea of the magnitude and force of the wave which wrought such terrible destruction in this vicinity and environs it may be interesting to state that a certain rock ten feet high and 6 feet both ways, weighing probably in the vicinity of fifteen tons, which lay off the cove, and served as a beacon for centuries, was lifted from its bed, and deposited one hundred yards away.

Destruction of Life's Work

It is saddening to see so many nice homes acquired after many long years of persistent energy and thrift disfigured so, and as nearly all the proprietors are nearing the allotted span, they can never hope to be able to retrieve the losses inflicted. Other portions of the community suffered equally with us, one poor woman losing her house with all its contents. Therefore, when the question of rehabilitation becomes a reality as is being promised by a generous public, I trust we will receive due recognition, and that we shall share in the benefits with those who it is hoped are going to profit by the disaster. Our isolation which looked so serious at first is now partially relieved, thanks to the government for a temporary ferry.

Concrete Bridge Went Down Before Wave

Living in close proximity to the bridge which was a concrete structure, I had the opportunity to witness its

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Nfld.
Vol. LI, No. 293
Friday, December 27, 1929.
p. 3, cols. 6&7

(continued)

collapse, and I venture to say that if it were built of iron it would have met a similar fate, as no structure could withstand the pressure of such a phenomenal tide. The destruction of this fine bridge has seriously impeded traffic between both harbors, and the people deplore the loss of this indispensable highway.

Thanking you for space, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

ALEX. TURPIN.

Little St. Lawrence,

The Evening Telegram
St. John's, Newfoundland
Vol. LI, No. 293
Friday, December 27, 1929
p. 3 col. 8

(conclusion)

Appendix 4

Single page on *Tidal Waves* (Anonymous, 1970) from the March 1970 issue of *Newfluor News* (Vol. 4, No. 3, p. 5) and a copy of the ([Harrington] 1970) 'Offbeat history' article. The 'Offbeat history' article of March 2, 1970 preceded the *Newfluor News* article by only a week or so. These two accounts muddle up what appears to have been a 1925 (or 1924) atmospherically-induced storm surge event with the quite separate events of November 18, 1929 during the tsunami. I suspect that the 1925 event may have been related to the January 23, 1925 storm that struck the south coast of Newfoundland from Fortune to Port au Basques. The 'Offbeat history' article was finally located with the kind help of the staff at The Newfoundland Room of the Queen Elizabeth II Library at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

TIDAL WAVES

Many of our readers will recall the disastrous tidal wave of 1929 which caused great loss of life and property on the Burin Peninsula but we wonder if any has knowledge of a tidal wave which is reported to have occurred at St. Lawrence in 1925.

The St. John's Evening Telegram in a column entitled "Offbeat history" made reference to the tidal wave just recently. A twelve-ton fishing vessel named the "Meta Beasley", fishing out of St. Lawrence was involved in the disturbance. She was manned by George, Thomas, and William Beasley who were obviously related to one another.

In 1925 they left St. Lawrence to go fishing. On the way out they met another boat coming in and her skipper said it was useless for them to continue for the weather was too bad on the south-west bank. They did not heed the warning; but when they were six miles offshore they met such a gale of wind that they had to turn around and run for shelter. They got back to St. Lawrence safely and anchored.

A WALL OF WATER

About eleven o'clock the three men went on deck. Just as they did they saw to their amazement, a wall of water sweeping into the harbour. Their boat was carried along on the wave like a chip, heading for another boat owned by Mr. Mayo of Burin. Mayo saw what was going to happen and, just before the collision, he seized a large mop, placed it in a ten pound tub and lowered it over the side of the boat, to act as a kind of fender between the two craft. But, of course, this did not work too well, and the next thing both Beasley's and Mayo's crew knew, the bulwarks, rails and stanchions were all gone from Mayo's boat as the two craft came together. Considerable damage was also done to Beasley's boat.

After the crash, both boats swung apart again and, after drifting about and wallowing around for half an hour, the men managed to manoeuvre the two craft into the nearby wharves and secured them with lines to the gumpheads. Those wharves were on the western side of the harbour of St. Lawrence. There was a great deal of confusion all around the harbour basin, and it was plain there had been more than one collision.

There were wrecked boats in all directions. George Squires from Herring Cove, who had just left the western side of the harbour to go home in his motor-dory, was caught up in the tidal wave,

for that's what it was, and his boat went crashing headlong into George Kelly's boat, breaking off the bowsprit.

BOAT SWEEP ASHORE

After this mishap the dory went careening on, with Mr. Squires trying to make the eastern side; but as he came near the shore, many people shouted to him to jump out and save his life, for the situation looked very grim. He took their advice and scrambled ashore and it was just as well he did. For his dory and several others, as well as a number of big trap skiffs, were swept along by the big wave like straws and carried right up to the Riverhead of St. Lawrence harbour. They didn't stop at the landwash, but were swept ashore, tossed over a picket fence, and hurled across the road. They finally came to a stop when the wave had spent itself and receded, leaving the boats high and dry in the middle of the football field.

There was an old-fashioned house owned by a man, Patrick Handrigan, right in the path of the wave and the force of the water moved it about one hundred and fifty yards. The house was that style which has the main and the porch roof all in one on the back. Yet when the water receded the back of the house was facing the harbour; it had been turned completely around. Yet not a single thing in the house had moved out of place!

According to William Beasley, who related this story in the 1940's, he saw two men in a dory take the family out of this house, safe and sound and land them on the beach. When the unusual tide or tidal wave had settled down he and Thomas Beasley went to the house entered it and found, as the accounts says not a single thing out of place. Even the waterbuckets were standing in their places in the back porch and the water in them hadn't even spilled over!

RAN FOR THEIR LIVES

There was also another boat damaged there owned by George Bennett from Port Au Bras. Luckily, all the crew were ashore at the time. All this happened on a Friday and on Saturday Mr. Mayo's boat was repaired; she had part of a new side put in her. Thomas Pyke of St. Lawrence told the Beasley's that, when the seas came in he saw people running upstairs who had never done so before in their whole lives.

Well, it turned out that it was four

o'clock the following afternoon that the Messrs Beasley sat down to eat the meal their skipper-cook had started to prepare at ten o'clock the night before. But they enjoyed it, nonetheless, having escaped the tidal wave without injury to themselves and not too much damage to their fishing boat.

It seems apparent from the foregoing that a tidal wave did enter the harbour of St. Lawrence in the year of 1924 or 1925, almost five years before the great Burin disaster on November 18, 1929. Obviously, though, it was not like the latter which killed and drowned nearly thirty men, women and children and caused immense destruction to fishing and commercial premises, private homes, boats and schooners.

We have spoken to some people at St. Lawrence who can vaguely recall the event in 1925 but have not been able to provide details. Probably one of our readers will have some knowledge of this tidal wave and we would appreciate it if he or she would take the time to drop us a line giving the details.

Was there a tidal wave in 1925?

Last November 18 was the fortieth anniversary of the earthquake and subsequent tidal wave that caused great loss of life and property damage on the Burin Peninsula. The epicentre of the quake was later determined to have been recorded in that general south of the Grand Banks. In 1965 a slight earth tremor was region. As a matter of fact, over the centuries a large number of earthquakes are known to have occurred in the Grand Banks, the Cabot Strait, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River areas.

There is not too much detail about what happened during these quakes, nothing like the stories related about the 1929 disaster. But there is on record, at least one story of another tidal wave said to have occurred about five years before the Burin tragedy. A twelve-ton fishing vessel named the "Meta Beasley," fishing out of St. Lawrence, was

involved in the disturbance. She was manned by George, Thomas and William Beasley who were obviously related to one another.

In 1924 or 1925 they left St. Lawrence to go fishing. On the way out they met another boat coming in and her skipper said it was useless for them to continue for the weather was too bad on the southwest bank. They did not heed the warning; but when they were six miles offshore they met such a gale of wind that they had to turn around and run for shelter. The got back to St. Lawrence safely and anchored.

A wall of water

About eleven o'clock the three men went on deck. Just as they did they saw, to their amazement, a wall of water sweeping into the harbour. Their boat was carried along on the wave like a chip, heading for another boat owned by Mr. Mayo of Burin. Mayo

saw what was going to happen and, just before the collision, he seized a large moop, placed it in a ten pound tub and lowered it over the side of the boat, to act as a kind of fender between the two craft. But, of course, it didn't work too well, and the next thing both Beasley's and Mayo's crew knew, the bulwarks, rail and stanchions were all gone from Mayo's boat, as the two craft came together. Considerable damage was also done to Beasley's boat.

After the crash, both boats swung apart again and, after drifting about and wallowing around for half an hour, the men managed to manoeuvre the two craft into the nearby wharves and secure them with lines to the pumphouse. Those wharves were on the western side of the harbor of St. Lawrence. There was a great deal of confusion all around the harbor basin, and it was plain there had been more than one collision.

There were wrecked boats in all directions. George Squires from Herring Cove, who had just left the western side of the harbor to go home in his motordory, was caught up in the tidal wave, for that's what it surely was, and his boat went crashing headlong into George Kelly's boat, breaking off the bowsprit.

Boat swept ashore

After this mishap the dory went careening on, with Mr. Squires trying to make the eastern side; but as he came near the shore, many people shouted to him to jump out and save his life, for the situation looked very grim. He took their advice and scrambled ashore and it was just as well he did. For his dory and several others, as well as a number of big trap skiffs, were swept along by the big wave like straws and carried right up to the Riverhead of St. Lawrence Harbor. They didn't stop at the landwash, but were swept ashore, tossed over

a picket fence, and hurled across the road. They finally came to a stop when the wave had spent itself and receded, leaving the boats high and dry in the middle of the football field.

There was an old-fashioned house, owned by a man Patrick Handrigan, right in the path of the wave, and the force of the water moved it about a hundred and fifty yards. The house was that style which has the main and the porch roof all in one, on the back. Yet when the water receded the back of the house was facing the harbor; it had been turned completely around. Yet not a single thing in the house had moved out of its place!

According to William Beasley, who related this story in the 1940s, he saw two men in a dory take the family out of this house, safe and sound and land them on the beach. When the unusual tide or tidal wave had settled down he and Thomas Beasley went to this house, entered it and found, as the account says, not a thing out of place. Even the water buckets were standing in their places in the back porch and the water in them hadn't even spilled over!

Ran for their lives

There was also another boat damaged there owned by George Bennett from Port au Bras. Luckily, all the crew were ashore at the time.

All this happened on a Friday, and on Saturday Mr. Mayo's boat was repaired; she had part of a new side put in her. Thomas Pyke of St. Lawrence told the Beasleys that, when the sea came in he saw people run upstairs who had never done so before in their whole lives.

Well, it turned out that it was four o'clock the following afternoon that the Messrs Beasley sat down to eat the meal their skipper - cook had started to prepare at 10 o'clock the night before. But they enjoyed it, nonetheless, having escaped the tidal wave without injury—to themselves and not too much damage to their fishing boat.

It seems apparent from the foregoing that a tidal wave did enter the harbor of St. Lawrence in the year of 1924 or 1925, almost five years before the great Burin disaster of November, 1929. Obviously, though, it wasn't anything like the latter which killed and drowned nearly thirty men, women and children and caused immense destruction to fishing and commercial premises, private homes, boats, and schooners.

The peculiar thing about this story is the fact that only St. Lawrence is mentioned as having suffered severely from the wave. It is possible that other communities in the same general area experienced unusual motion and force in the sea at the same time and may even have suffered damage too. It would be useful, as well as interesting, to hear from anyone in that district on the "boot" of the Burin Peninsula, outside St. Lawrence, who experienced or shared similar experiences to those of the Beasleys.

Appendix 5

Chapters IV and V from Ena Farrell Edwards' (Edwards with Buehler, 1983) book *Notes toward a history of St. Lawrence*. Chapter IV (pp. 34-37) gives a brief description of the fishery in the 1920's through to the 1970's and shows how important steady work in the fluorspar mines was to drawing the men from the fishery. Chapter V (pp. 38-44) describes certain stories from the November 18, 1929 tsunami.

CHAPTER IV

Prior to the 1890's fishing was done by the old fashioned hook and line method or with nets or seins. The 1890's saw the advent of banking schooners. The first two schooners, the *Ronald H.* and the *Klondike*, were brought to St. Lawrence in 1893 by my grandfather, Thos. Farrell. Each of these schooners carried ten dories, with two men per dory. The rest of the crew consisted of a cook, a mate, a captain, a catchie and a boatswain. This type of fishing proved fairly successful.

The turn of the century brought a number of changes to the fishing industry. Cod traps and decked sailing skiffs were introduced into the St. Lawrence fishery. These skiffs would fish up to ten miles out. The trawl was also introduced at about this time. The trawl had a ground line which went down about fifty fathoms, or three hundred feet. Attached to the ground line were "sed" lines at intervals of five or six feet. On each sed line was a hook baited with fish, usually herring in the spring, caplin in June and July, and squid in August and the fall. The trawl fishery was carried on both inshore and on the offshore banks.

Until the tidal wave of 1929 an extensive trap fishery was carried on by Thos. Farrell & Sons, A.A. Giovannini and Pike & Bradley. All had general stores in the area and supplied those materials which were essential to the conduct of the fishery in the community. (Actually, Pike & Bradley sold out to W. & T. Hollett of Burin sometime before 1929 and their premises were destroyed in the tidal wave.)

The A. A. Giovannini premises were situated on the site of today's K-Karen Motel. Bradley & Pike was located on the east side, and T. Farrell & Sons was located Partly on the side of the present Farrell Bros.

premises and partly on water front property later purchased by Alcan.

Because the ten A. A. Giovannini boats were painted blue they were referred to as the "Blue Boats." T. Farrell & Sons boats were white and carried yellow dories. The Farrells had five trap boats, plus a jack boat built in 1912 called the *Pioneer*. This was the first boat in St. Lawrence to be powered by an engine (14 hp.). She was used in the coastal fishery and the offshore grounds. The Farrells also owned a larger, yacht-type vessel, which they had had built in St. Lawrence for a New York millionaire, a Mr. J. B. Orr, who died before the boat was completed. It was an auxilliary with a 60 ft. span, spacious accommodations and a 48 hp. engine. Initially, this boat, called the *Miowa*, was used for pleasure and for paid excursions to St. Pierre and other points. Later they made changes in her, cutting down the accommodations and installing two smaller masts and a smaller engine (24 hp. Grey) and used her for trading.

Alexander Slaney, Charles Beck, John Beck, Victor Turpin and Thomas Turpin also owned their own boats and equipment and carried on a successful trap fishery. During the 1920's Victor Turpin and Thomas J. Turpin also established small general stores.

The introduction of the gasoline engine, in 1916, revolutionized the fishing industry in St. Lawrence. Prior to this the larger vessels had been powered by sail and skiffs and dories by man-powered oars. The change to motor power gave fishermen the freedom to move out farther into the ocean in the search for fish. It also helped the offshore fishery by allowing the ships to arrive at the banks while their bait, which would be frozen, was still in good condition.

Due to catch failures and other unfavourable

conditions, St. Lawrence's bank fishery ceased and, in 1915, only the inshore fishery was pursued. St. Lawrence was one of the better locations on the South Coast for the inshore fishery and, for a time, it was quite successful. Fish was sold fresh, in salt bulk or sun-dried, and was exported direct to the various markets. This prosperous fishery was effectively ended in 1929. The tidal wave of that year had a devastating effect on the fishing grounds and for two years after there was an almost complete absence of fish in local waters. The epicentre of the earthquake which caused the wave was less than one hundred miles south of Cape Chapeau Rouge. It destroyed the plankton and the vegetation on the ocean floor on which the fish feed. This absence of fish and the generally unstable fish markets, plus the opening of the fluorspar mines in 1933, caused the people to turn their backs on the fishery.

In the early 1940's there was a small fishery carried on by some of the older men who were unable to find work in the mines, and, in 1957, after the shutdown of the St. Lawrence Corporation, some of the younger men again became involved in the fishery and acquired boats and equipment. This was shortlived, however. Only a few continued to fish when work became available at the Newfluor Mines. Some miners did fish part-time, on days off and on holidays, since, in 1958, it became possible for them to dispose of their fresh fish at the Fishery Products plant at Burin. The delivery of fresh fish to the facilities at Burin was facilitated by the building in 1959, through the combined efforts of the Town Council, the Federal and Provincial Governments and the Fishermen's Committee, of a community stage.

The introduction of gill nets into our fishery in 1962 stepped up production considerably. The fishermen were no longer dependent on bait, which

was sometimes difficult to procure. The first five or six years after the introduction of gill nets catches were increased noticeably. Recently, however, there has been a serious decline in catches. It is believed that this decline is partly due to the fact that the gill nets catch a lot of female fish, with the result that reproduction is reduced. Another factor is the overfishing of the offshore banks by our own and foreign dragger fleets, some of which come from as far away as Russia and Japan.

The close-down of the Alcan Fluorspar Mines in 1978 saw a quick return to the fishery at St. Lawrence. With faster boats and an ultra-modern fish plant, which, when working at full capacity employed over 200 people, the prospects looked good for the town. The future of this plant is now uncertain and so is that of our town:

CHAPTER V

The evening of November 18, 1929, was beautiful, sun shining, crisp and cool. At St. Lawrence and elsewhere on the Burin Peninsula people went about their every day work. They had no inkling whatsoever of what the next few hours held in store for them.

Around 4:30 in the afternoon the ground began to shake, buildings rattled. Everyone knew something had happened, but only a few knew it for what it was, an earthquake, and even they did not know what was to follow.

The tide waters were quite high, but no particular attention was paid to that. Then, about 8 o'clock, things began to happen. The water drained completely out of the harbour and boats reeled over on their sides, a strange sight indeed. Then came the first wave, a wall of water thirty feet high. Receding, it met an incoming wave and returned with increased violence to the land, to be followed by a third and final wave. The noise was deafening as fishing stages, flakes and stores left their foundations and were swept out through the harbour. Many people evacuated their homes and fled to the safety of higher ground. In less than thirty minutes the sea had done its worst. Scenes of destruction and desolation were everywhere. People viewing their destroyed homes, ruined fishing gear, premises, boats and property were dazed and unable to realize fully the nature of the ordeal they had passed through.

The firm of T. Farrell & Sons suffered heavy losses, as almost a complete voyage of fish was packed in casques, ready for shipment to Puerto Rico. All of it was ruined. They also lost boats and a great deal of fishing gear. A. A. Giovannini, who also conducted an extensive fishing industry, suffered severely. His large

fishing store was washed out into the harbour by the waves and hundreds of quintals of fish were ruined.

It was not until the next day, which broke to a cold east wind with sleet and snow, that the outside world was informed of the disaster, because all communication by wire had been cut. On the 19th Magistrate Hollett, of Burin, sent a wireless message via the S. S. *Portia*, informing the outside world of the devastation which had occurred on the Burin Peninsula. Once news of the disaster reached the outside help started pouring in from all parts of the island. About \$250,000 was received. Food, clothing and other supplies were soon dispatched to the needy people along the coast from Burin to Lamaline.

Although the centre of the disturbance was directly off the South Coast, the tremors of this earthquake were felt as far north as Little Bay Islands. The tremor was accompanied by a rumbling noise which caused many people to run from their houses and places of business to ascertain the cause of the disturbance. The vibrations caused dishes to fall from shelves, covers to rattle on stoves, lamps to fall from their brackets. At Cape Race the shock was so heavy that the lighthouse building trembled to such an extent that several pounds of mercury were shaken out of the mercury box.

The earthquake and tidal wave also effected the sea. An expert opinion was that the earthquake lay about 250 miles south of Newfoundland on the Grand Banks, the first report of such an incident this far east. The fishing grounds were swept clean of marine life and it was more than a decade before fishing in the area returned to normal.

It was the beginning of the lean years, and the people of St. Lawrence and the nearby areas were left with the "never to be forgotten terror" of the night the seas came in.

Only once before has Newfoundland experienced anything like it. Prowse records in his *History* that in the year before the American Civil War a tidal wave swept the coast, taking a toll of 300 lives.

One older resident of St. Lawrence vividly recalled the happenings of the tragic night. "Looking back," he said, "it seems unreal...a grim moon, dark clouds, a terrific roar and huge waves rushing in through the harbour, covering roads, fishing premises and the houses that were near the waterfront. Then the ranting noises of these as they were torn from their foundations and taken with the waves out to sea. And wherever there was water always, now there was none... only the wreckage of every description, and boats strewn everywhere, high and dry.

"No one slept that night, everyone searched to try and find some of their property that had been carried away by the sea. The next day the wind was from the south east, accompanied by wet snow." Such desolation he'd never forget. "Fishermen's stages, stores and flakes were all destroyed, along with several boats and schooners. The harbour from end to end was strewn with wreckage of every description, a truly sorry sight to behold. It took several months before life returned to normal. Every shifting of the wind, every storm that made its appearance caused people to shudder. There was always that dread that the ocean may roll in again."

Of course there are many more stories that people tell about this event, but I will tell only two.

St. Lawrence has a long narrow strip of beach jutting out mid-harbour on which a road leads to its extremity, Shingle Point. The government wharf freight shed was situated on this point for years, before being moved to its present site. Also on this point was the home and small plot of land belonging to George

Pike. He wasn't living there at the time of the tidal wave, having moved to the U.S.A., and the house was occupied by his son, Thomas A. Pike, a customs official and veteran of World War I.

Shingle Point was in the direct path of the tides coming in. The Pike family had finished their evening meal and the three children were tucked in bed, and the parents were about to begin a game of cards with some friends who had dropped in, when they heard a loud roar. Going outside to see what it was, they heard loud cries from the townfolk on the main waterfront, telling them to leave the place immediately, run for their lives, the seas were coming in. In haste and fright they snatched the children from their beds and started to run to safety. The beach is approximately a quarter of a mile long, and they just made the end of it adjoining the town road, when the onslaught of the first wave covered it completely. The water went way above the second floor of the Pike house, but it withstood all three waves and remained standing when the water subsided.

There was a small barn on the property in which the Pike's kept a horse name "Jacko." The barn was taken out with the rush of the sea, and Jacko was in it. Men standing near but a safe distance from the waterfront noticed a dark object coming in on the next rush of water. Thinking it was a man they gave cries of encouragement and were ready with any assistance they could give. When the water reached its highest ebb, the object turned out to be, to their great joy, not a man, but the Pike horse, Jacko! The poor animal was so frightened he bolted past the road into the meadows and to the back woods. It was three days before he made his appearance back in town.

When the Pikes went back to view their home the next day, they found everything in a watersoaked condition and ruined. The lamps were still burning

and Mrs. Pike had bread baking in the oven at the time of their quick departure. This was now water-soaked dough. It was one of the wonders of that night, and talked about many, many times after, how that house had withstood that mad onslaught of water. The Pikes were glad it had and thanked God over and over for their miraculous and narrow escape.

Alfred Turpin was enroute from St. Pierre with his father, Victor Turpin (who operated a general store), the night of the tidal wave. Here is his story in his own words.

It was the 15th of November. My father told me to get the skiff ready as we were going to St. Pierre. Being an open skiff, not decked in, we had to put a long box, 6 ft. long by 5 ft. wide and high enough for us to get in and have lunch, also to store our gas, ropes, sails, etc. The 16th November at 2 a.m. we left St. Lawrence for St. Pierre. We arrived there at 7 a.m., did our business and saw some friends. By that time we were doubtful about returning home. A big wind had blown up, and soon there was a gale to North East. We had to stay, and the next day the gale continued. On the morning of November 18th it was still blowing but the wind had changed to the north west, a fair time for home if the water was smooth.

A rum runner came in from the U.S.A. and we got the weather report from them. They said by the glass the wind would die out later in the day but would change during the night to the south east, with gale force winds and snow. My father decided to leave around 4 p.m. and, hoisting the sails, we took our departure. We did not start the engine as we wanted to come slow, as the wind was dying out, but to keep ahead of the breaking...but to keep ahead of the breaking waves we were forced to start it, and we could not go back. My cousin, Joe Turpin, was with us, also, another man from St. Lawrence, David Drake, who had been working at St. Pierre. I heard Joe say to him we are in the middle of a storm. We used to run off before the wind. When we'd see a huge wave coming, my father, being an experienced seaman, knew the waves would break on us, so he would reel around head to it, and fall away again for the Newfoundland coast.

The going was pretty bad. One wave was so bad and so high that when we sailed on it...it was so upright that the little house by the mast shot down middle skiff to the engine. I heard father say, "the skiff is going to fall back on us." We held our breaths, but she didn't, but went down on the other side of the wave head on, so much so that the little house moved right back in its place. By that time another wave was coming, my father turned her around again, but not quick enough and the sea broke across her stern. Joe grabbed the mast and held on for his life. I grabbed part of the engine house that was open. All I could see was a wall of water between Joe and I. Father was leaning hard to port on the steering stick when he came out of the water and, holding on the rail of the skiff, again he had to put her before the wind which lifted her, and some water ran out over the rail, but not enough, so he took the axe and cut the ceiling, so the water could run forward and I could bail it out. I bailed as hard as I could, but could not gain on the water. I thought my father had cut a plank. Joe joined me in bailing and finally we got her dry. During this time we were sailing a fast clip. It was the sails that brought us out of the wailing water as the engine had no control, and the propellor seemed to be racing in the foaming sea.

Finally, after what seemed an eternity we sighted what seemed to be a rock, we took it for the Eastern Shag Rock. Now we were looking for Lawn Island, but could not see it. Joe looked back and said "That's Lawn Island, not the Shag Rock." The latter was all under water as we passed by. Next a welcome sight loomed up, we could see our own headland, Chamber Point Head Rock. A full moon was just rising o're the ocean and the wind started to die out. Thankfully we hauled in for Cape Chapeau Rouge. Steaming in the harbour we went in the little house to have a warm drink. We were just off Herring Cove when we struck something. Looking around it seemed we were in a forest of wood. We ran upon a fish flake, all boughs were stood on their end. Finally, under the weight of the skiff, the flake split in two. We slowed the engine down, then we saw a red building floating towards us. I thought it was my sister's house, as it was painted the same color. Nearing it we found it to be a fishing store. We continued to edge our way in the

harbour, through all the wreckage and debris, until we got to our stage head (wharf). The tide was high, extremely high, and we rolled everything in the stage. By that time the tide was going out, and going so fast we had to tie seventy fathom of rope on the skiff and let her go out with the tide, and when it came back the next time we hauled her right in around the fishing stage.

It was only then, and in talking with some men, that we realized the tremendous happening we had sailed through and were lucky enough to make our home port having ridden the crests of a tidal wave.

This was the last of Mr. Turpin's account, but he did add a little bit of humour. Having just made it from the French Islands and no doubt having a little something the law would love to come upon, he said, "It was a great night to smuggle. There were no police officers or customs officials to trouble you. All you had to do was roll it ashore."

Appendix 6

Transcripts of the April 17 and April 25, 1995 letters received from Mrs. Ena Parrell Edwards and from Kevin Pike respectively, re the flooding of the Thomas (Tom) Pike house on Shingle Point.

St. Lawrence Heritage Society
P.O. Box 1992, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, A0E 2V0
Telephone (709) 873-3472

St. Lawrence
Apr. 17/95.

Dear Alan.

Thanks for your letter, the negatives and picture of the Tom Pike house — I'll admit the timing of this has me confused now too. I agree its Sandy Turpin the crippled wharfinger — the shed behind the Pike house is the Government store, where freight used to be stored not Jacko's stable! You stated Kevin Pike was born on the East side St. Lawrence 1930 — they moved there after the tidal wave in 1929 — The house wasn't removed till the fluorspar mines opened in 1933 (You will note most windows are bare) the property was then bought by the mining company St. Lawrence Corporation of Nfld owned by Walter E Seibert an American. You will note by the picture also, props and other timber to be used in the cuts that were being made in mining preparation.

To be candid I really cant say for sure I took this picture — I may have inherited it from my aunt! After all I was only around 11 years old at that time. My photographic memory is vivid from the 40s onward. My belief is — it was taken around '33 or '34.

If I should come across anything else that may be of interest to you, I'll write you again. With best wishes for the success of your project, and it was so nice talking with you.

Sincerely,
Ena Farrell Edwards.

April 25/95

Dear Alan

Good to hear from you. I'm going away for a week so I'll get this note in mail pronto.

Cynthia returned the picture a few days ago. I thought the picture had come out quite good, due to its age I thought it come out real good.

A few of the question I will try to answer on your letter. My father name was Thomas Pike. He was known as one armed Tom as he joined the army at age 16 and lost his arm before he was eighteen. I think you saw his discharge certificate when you were here. A little confusion on my sisters ages; I went to the registry and got the correct ages.

Margurite	Born	Nov. 19,	1923
Dorine	"	April 20	1926
Geraldine	"	Oct 8	1927
Jean	"	April 24	1929

Names of the people at the house that night were [Thomas Pike, father; Aggie Pike, mother] Thomas [J.] Kelly, Robert Slaney (Klondyke) nickname. The maid's name was Myrtle Whittle; she was at home that night.* Each one grabbed a child and ran.

They went to live with Mrs. Diana Cooper for awhile and then moved to a house on the east side of town. The water went to the top floor of the house. Mom was baking bread at the time, needless to say the bread was water soaked the next day when they went back to look at the damage. The house was taken down a short time later. I don't know when the photo was taken. I know Ena did not take it. I don't think she was born when the picture was taken.

The little shed on the back of the house was where my father kept a small horse. It went out with the tide then it started to recede and the horse buck[ed] open the door and swam about a mile to the shore.

I hope this little information helps. Anytime you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to call on me — sorry for the scribble — in a terrible hurry. Any time you are here and need a place to hang your hat you are always welcome to stay with us. Em sends her kind regards.

Kind Regards
Kevin

* In interviewing Charlotte Turpin (Appendix 12) she told me that Myrtle Whittle had just been landed in a dory on the west side as the tsunami arrived; she had come from the east side to visit friends and escaped the 'tidal wave' just after she landed.

Appendix 7

Portion of Rennie Slaney's 1975 book *History of Fluorspar Mining at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland*, which briefly deals with the November 18, 1929 tsunami.

-5-

Added to this, in November 1929, a tremendous slide from the continental shelf, some 250 miles south of Burin Peninsula, caused a tidal wave resulting in the destruction of all fishing property at St. Lawrence, as well as neighbouring settlements. Fortunately, no lives were lost at St. Lawrence, but some thirty odd people were drowned at other places on Burin Peninsula. This happened at a time of year when nearly everyone had fish, food and other supplies stored for the winter. All was washed away, including many residences.

A committee, known as the Burin Peninsula Tidal Wave Disaster Fund, was formed. Contributions of money flowed in from the United States, Canada, and from all over Newfoundland. An approximate amount of \$240,000 was collected. This money was meant to help replace homes, fishing gear and property, food and clothing. Though the residents lost their life savings, only a small portion could be replaced, but it is understood that \$40,000 of the money collected was later turned over to the Marine Disaster Fund.

Appendix 8

Transcript of a portion of the report 'Voyage of Relief Ship Meigle' (Lake *et al.*, 1929) found in the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, in Manuscript Group 636, Box 1, File 3.

On the way down the coast en route to St. Lawrence [on late Sunday night, November 24, 1929] we ran into a very heavy S. E. storm, and were forced to harbour at Lawn. The gale continued all day Monday, making it impossible for us to communicate with the shore except in the early morning. Discovering that the Nonia Nurse, Mrs. D. Cherry, was on shore, we sent for her and kept her with us as she was almost in a state of total collapse due to the strenuous and incessant nature of her activities on behalf of the sufferers through the tidal wave disaster. One cannot speak too highly of the services rendered by Nurse Cherry, and think she is deserving of some special recognition.

On Tuesday morning [November 26, 1929] we reached St. Lawrence where we found that the tidal wave had caused the greatest amount of property destruction seen at any of the places visited. Fortunately no loss of life occurred here, and very few cases of destitution had to be provided for. [p. 8]

Appendix 9

Losses at St. Lawrence of 117 claimants as compiled from the Statutory Declarations by the South Coast Disaster Committee. These sheets are found as 8½x 14-inch folio sheets at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, Manuscript Group 636, Box 3 (Files 17-47), File No. 30, St. Lawrence.

The far-right 'Remarks' column was seldom filled in and was not xeroxed. The various hand-written annotations and figures in pencil are believed to reflect later calculations by the South Coast Disaster Committee in arriving at the final compensation paid out. Occasionally these pencil annotations on the righthand side of the original 8½x14-inch folio sheets have been lost in the xeroxing.

LOSSES AT ST. LAWRENCE.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1	David Quirk of Thomas	1 Flake	25.00		
		$\frac{1}{2}$ hhd salt	1.75	26.75	
2	Ernest Turpin	1 flake	40.00		40
		1 wharf	20.00		
		4 puncheons	8.00	68.00	
3	Joseph Cusack	House and furniture destroyed-estimated		1000.00	600.
4	Isaac Quirk	1 stage	80.00		
		1 flake	35.00		
		8 cotton lines	16.00		100.
		1 pr dory oars	4.00		
		3 Brls coal	3.60	138.60	
5	David Lodge	3 cotton lines	6.00	6.00	6
6	Patrick Brewer	1 store	60.00		40
		12 doz hds cabbage	12.00		
		Wearing apparel and bedding	50.00	122.00	
7	Richard Clarke	3 stages	400.00		
		10 cotton lines	20.00		
		200 fathoms trawl- lines	6.00		
		1 herring net	35.00		
		$\frac{1}{2}$ hhd salt	1.25		
		600 cwt hay	12.00	474.25	

CONTINUED .

LOSSES AT ST. LAWRENCE.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>Claim</u> <u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Assd</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
	T Farrell & Sons	1 stage	150.00	— 100		
		2 Stores	500.00	— 400		
		1 trap skiff damaged	100.00	— 50		
		1 Motor Boat "	25.00	—		
		1 Motor Dory	60.00	— 50		
		2 small dories "	5.00			
		Flake No. 1.	600.00	} 500		
		" " 2.	200.00			
		" " 3.	75.00			
		1 Lg. Grapnell	16.20	— 16		
		1 Brl. Cod Oil	15.00			
		2 spils 2 ropes	20.00	— 20		
		Other fishing gear	150.00	— 75		
		120 Hds salt	300.00	— 100		
		100 lbs. Sugar	7.00			
		700 qtls M. Fish.				
		Damaged, estimated loss—				
		" " "	1200.00			
		36 qtls W.I. Fish.				
		damaged, est. loss	45.00			
		Fish Stand & weights	25.00			
		16 Kero. Oil Brls.	48.00			
		Wharf No. 1.	1400.00	} -500		
		" " 2	350.00			
		" " 3	100.00			
		" " 4	100.00			
		Also 2 traps damaged)				
		Loss unascertained)				
				1866	5491.20	
	No. 9 Alex Rose	1 Stage	400.00	200		
		1 Flake	100.00	100		
		1 Wharf	40.00	150		
		1 store	280.00			

assumed
1866

~~3027~~
577
277

80

ST. LAWRENCE (CONTINUED)

80

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
9	A. Rose (Continued)	1 Skiff damaged	10.00	450	3527
		1 small dory	40.00	40	3077
		60 Fms. 2 " rope	12.00		
		3 Anchors	27.00		
		3 Trap Moorings	36.00		
		200 lbs. 2nd hand -			
		-twine	40.00		
		44 fitted lines	88.00	200	
		1 Coil 18 thread -			
		Manilla rope	4.00		
		10 Fms 5/8 in chain	20.00		
		30 Fms. 5/8 " "	59.00		
		Fish Forks, Tubs, Brls.	9.00		
		2 Canvass fish covers	12.00	37	
		15 hhds. salt	37.50		700
		2 suits Oil clothes	10.00		
		5 Brls. Flour	50.00		
		1/2 Brl. Pork.	15.00		
		30 Sticks Firewood	5.00		
		5 Qtls Fish, Salt Bulk	42.50		
		Tools etc.,	61.20		
		Ignitor for Engine	5.00	1404.30	
10.	Jno. Quirk of Patrick	1 stage	80.00	50	
		1 flake	35.00	30	
		8 Cotton Lines	16.00	16	100
		1 Pr. Dory Cars	4.00	4	
		3 Brls. Coal	3.60		
11	Alex. FitzPatrick	1 stage	60.00		
		1 flake	35.00	200	3677
		1 store	175.00		

3550 40

NO. NAME

LOSSES

AMOUNT

TO TAG

REMARKS

1. Alex. Fitzpatrick,
(Continue d)

1 wharf	20.00
20 lines	40.00
Herring net damaged -	
twine repairing same	5.00
2 Hds. salt	5.00
1/2 qtl Fish	4.50
1 Brl. Herring	4.00
1/2 ton hay	20.00
Fencing destroyed	20.00

200
40

3677

398.50

Also 3 H.P. Acadia-
Engine, badly damaged

12. Henry Turpin

1 Stage	120.00
1 Flake	60.00
Store damaged	30.00
1 small dory	40.00
1 old dory (Flat)	5.00
200 lbs. Manila rope	6.00
1 dory sail	7.00
2 sets dory oars	8.00
1/2 Hgd. Salt	1.25
4 Brls. Flour	40.00
1/2 " Beef	15.00
200 lbs. sugar	16.00
8 qtls fish	22.00
Bridge	20.00
10 gals lime	3.00
5 gals tar	4.25
5 " Kero oil	2.40
12 cwt hay	24.00
20 lbs. 2 " Rope	4.40
	476.30

80
60
30

6
8

404.30

170

412

Less Fish property-
S.A. Bartlett

72.00

332.30

ST. LAWRENCE CONTINUED.

<u>NO. NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
13. Geo. Pike	1 small dory 20 fitted lines 3 Hdds. salt 1 ton coal	40.00 40.00 7.50 6.00	30 40 7 93.50	412 77
14 Amos Beck	Damage to stage Flake Wharf 1 dory 8 fitted lines 1 suit o. clothes 1 Brl. potatoes 1 ton coal	30.00 100.00 30.00 40.00 16.00 5.00 8.00 6.00	30 100 20 30 16 229.00	176
15. Wm. Lake	Damage to flake " dock boat 1 Hgd. Salt 38 Gals. Gasoline	15.00 15.00 2.50 14.50	15 2 47.00	17
16 Fredrick Walsh	Material repair flake Store badly damaged	12.00 150.00	100 162.00	100.
7. Chas. Beck	1 Flake Wharf 1 Grapnel 8 Lines 15 Hgd. salt 10 Brls. flour 1 ton coal 65 Gals Kero. 20 Gals. cod oil 6 Liver butts 1 set batteries	42.50 35.00 12.70 16.00 37.50 100.00 12.00 32.10 10.00 15.00 2.00	42 35 12 16 37. 315.80	142 444

310.80

ST. LAWRENCE CONTINUED

NO. NAME	LOSSES	AMOUNT	TOTAL	REMARKS.
18. Michael Clarke Sr.	9 Gals Molasses 20 lbs. rolled oats	7.20 2.50	9.70	4644
19. Michael Clarke Jr. 1874-1904	7 cwt hay 18 shores, 3 beams- for wharf	14.00 10.50	24.50	10
20. Mrs. Ed. Lundrigan	House completely- destroyed, cost \$500.00- when built. 1 stove No. 8. Vict. bedsteads, bedding and crockeryware, wearing ap- -paral, cooking utensils, etc For losses re fishing- see claim David Lundri- -gan- No. 21.		1000.00	600.
21. David Lundrigan	1 Flake Wharf Motor Dory 1 dory (5 bed) 1 herring net Salt	35.00 15.00 60.00 40.00 40.00 1.95	191.95	35 50 30 40 ✓ 157.
22. Archibald Clarke	1 Flake 1 Wharf 1 dory (5 bed) damaged 11 Cotton lines 1 Hgd. salt 1 Brl. cod oil 6 gals. gasoline Piece land washed away Fencing 27 pieces hardwood	25.00 10.00 15.00 22.00 1.25 7.50 2.40 25.00 15.00 5.00	128.15	20 15 22 62
	Has \$1300.00 in Bank.			5473

11.84 00

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOGS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
23. Michael Fitzpatrick	Flake 40.00 Damage to store 25.00 1 Brl. Flour 5.00 16 lbs. Pork & Beef 2.20 2 Gals. Molasses 1.60 House & Effects 1200.00	40 20 800	1274.80	5473 860
24. Thos. J. Turpin	Flake 90.00 Wharf 30.00 25 Hds. Salt 82.50 1 Brl. Cod Oil 10.00 5 oil Tierces 4.00 3 Brls. Cement 15.00	90 30 82.50 10 4 15	211.50	182
25 David Murray	1 Stage 40.00 1 Flake 50.00 1 store 50.00 1 Motor dory 60.00 12 cotton lines 24.00 1 cod net 20.00 100 fms. trawl lines 5.00 Parts 3 H.P. Acadia- Engine also needed	40 50 50 60 24 20 5	249.00	237
26 Geo. Slaney	Stage 100.00 Flake 90.00 Store 60.00 Trawl Line 2.00	70 10 60 2	252.00	212
27 Alex. Slaney	1 stage 170.00 1 Flake 170.00 1 wharf 30.00 1 trap boat (25 ft) 400.00	170 170 30 400		000

(Continued)

LOSS L. TURPIN.

<u>.NAME</u>	<u>LOSS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
Alex. Slaney-Continue d	1 Dory damaged	20.00		9466
	3 anchors	50.00		
	5 Buoys	15.00		
	2 Dory Compasses	4.50		
	1 coil 2" rope	20.00		
	quantity 2nd hand twine	20.00		
	1 Brl. cod oil	7.00		515
	1 sheave	1.00		
	40 hgds salt	100.00		
	1 suit oil clothes	5.00		
	30 doz hds cabbage	30.00		
	500 ft. clapboard	17.60		
	300 ft. P.&T. Lumber	12.00		
	4 (56 lbs) weights	20.00		
	200 longars	8.00		
	4 iron drums	38.00		
	1 Vessels Pump	25.00		
	Timber for skiff	5.00		
	1 fish tub	1.50		
	Beans & Shores	15.00		
	2 pieces plank	2.00	2186.60	
28 Victor Turpin	1 Wharf	50.00		
	1 shop (Sealed with- hard Pine)	2000.00	1000	
	Glass counters, - shelves etc.	30.00	50	1100
	1 Motor boat damaged	100.00		
	23 Brls flour : " extent 75¢ pr Brl.	17.25		
	1 Tierce Pine Tar	25.00		
	1 Brl. Coal tar	7.00		
	2 steel drums	20.00		
	1 Brl. Lime	2.00		
	1 cask cod oil	23.00		
	1 drum gasoline &- steel Drum	24.50		
	4 Patent Blocks	36.00	2334.75	
(Store is property of claimants (Son . Victor J. Turpin)				

7. 1938

10. W. H. Pike

1 Flake	50.00	
Store	200.00	100
12 cotton lines	35.00	10
6 lines (not fitted)	9.00	
1 Herring Net	60.00	
Other fishing gear	36.30	
1 Brl. Potatoes	2.00	
300 lbs cabbage	15.00	
Carpenter's Tools etc.	22.50	
Miscellaneous	8.50	
Fencing	<u>30.00</u>	469.30

10. W. H. C. Pike

1 store (including stock)	1000.00	
50 fms $\frac{3}{4}$ chain	45.00	
Anvil & Bench Vice	10.00	
Engine accessories	<u>38.00</u>	1093.00

11. Thomas Kelly

Wharf	160.00	
1 Motor boat damaged	15.00	
2 motor dories	120.00	
1 ton coal	12.00	
200 Brls. sawdust	<u>40.00</u>	347.00
<u>Also damage to 3 H.P. Acadia Engine.</u>		

12. David Loder Sr.

1 Flake	35.00	
1 Wharf	<u>10.00</u>	45.00

13. John Slaney of Con.

1 stoge	60.00	
1 flake	35.00	
1 Wharf	20.00	
4 Hgds salt	10.00	
2 sets dory oars	8.00	
100 fms rope	6.00	
1 dory compass	2.25	
100 fms line	3.50	
1 dory roller	<u>1.50</u>	146.25

1. H. H. H.

4. 0800 - Brewer

	AMOUNT
1 stage	20.00
2 Anchors	27.00
3 Hgds salt	7.50
135 planking sticks	20.00

74.50

5. 0800 - Kelly

1 stage	20.00
2 Anchors	27.00
3 Hgds salt	7.50
135 planking sticks	20.00

74.50

6. Alfred Fitzpatrick

1 Sticks	100.00
1 stage	120.00
3 cotton lines	16.00
40 Hemp lines	40.00
1 Herring net	20.00
1 Dory sail	3.00
1 pr oars	4.00
1 Hgd. salt	1.25
17 hds. cabbage	1.20
3 axes	3.00
1 dory roller	1.50
2 anchors	1.80

324.45

7. Aurelia Turpin

Wh rf No. 1	25.00
" " 2	25.00
2 Trawl lines	2.00
Lumber for dory. tore	4.00
1 Spark coil	7.00
2 Hgds salt	5.00

68.00

8. Augustus Beck

1 wh rf	20.00
1 anchor	2.70
1 pr oars	4.00
7 Hgds salt	17.50
1 ton coal	12.00
1 cask kero oil & can	15.00

71.20

Also fittings for 3 H.P. Mimus - 6

- Engine

E. LAWRENCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
39 H.J. Turpin	1 stage	250.00		
	1 flake	75.00		
	1 wharf	40.00		
	double & single blocks	5.00		
	Iron railing & post	25.00	395.00	
0 Cooperative- Stores Ltd.	1 flake	150.00		
	1 wharf	25.00		
	Store damaged	25.00		
	1 trap boat	180.00		
	1 " " Damaged	40.00		
	1 dory (5 bed)	40.00		
	25 Hgds salt	62.50	522.50	
1 Roman Catholic Church	1 store damaged	251.00		
	1 store No. 2 "	100.00		
	50 Posts	10.00		
	5 coils wire	18.00	378.00	
2 Rev. A. Thorne	1 Deck Boat (29 ft. Keel)	150.00		
	1 80 H.P. Anadia Eng.	350.00		
	1 spare Ignitor	5.00	505.00	
3 Louis Ktohegary	1 Stage	100.00		
	1 flake	50.00		
	1 store	100.00		
	1 Boat 14 ft. keel	35.00		
	3 cod nets	30.00		
	1 Cement Tank	100.00	415.00	
44 David Slaney of David	1 flake	80.00		
	1 Store	150.00		
	1 Boat 14 ft. keel	80.00		
	1 Wharf	25.00		

150.
75.
30.

1570
1570
1570

100
25.
25.
170.
40.
30
62

402

500
500

80.
50
100
30
30

210

50
100
30
20

1104

10045

ST. L. C. INC.

NO. NAME	LOSSES	AMOUNT	TOTAL
14- Continued.			
David Slaney of David.	2 Anchors	9.00	
	24 Cotton lines	48.00	
	3 cod nets	60.00	
	Rope	9.00	
	2 Hgds salt	5.00	
	16 1/2 doz cabbage	16.50	
	1 set coopers tools	50.00	
	2 planes & 1 saw	6.00	
	3 Compasses	10.25	
	1/2 ton hay	20.00	
	Gasoline, Cod Oil etc.	6.90	
	Hay House	20.00	595.65
15 James Slaney	1 Dory (5 Bed)	40.00	
	2 sets oars	8.00	
	25 Fms. 2 " rope	5.00	
	2 Hgds salt	5.00	
	1 suit oil clothes	5.00	63.00
16. Valentine Kelly	Damage to 3 H.P. Acadia	65.00	
	1 Motor Dory	60.00	
	1 Anchor	5.40	
	1 Coil 2 " rope	12.00	
	30 Fms. 17 thread	5.00	
	1 Coil Brass rope	1.50	
	3 Hgds salt	7.50	156.40
17 Felix Letortua	1 Motor dory damaged	30.00	
	1 Grapnell	2.25	
	10 fms wire	5.00	
	1 Hgds salt	2.50	
	3 Brls coal	3.60	
	2 cwt hay	4.00	
	1/2 Brl. cement	2.50	
	Gasoline, lubricating-oil etc.,	3.00	52.85

REMARKS.

116-47

411

42

81

17226

ST. LAWRENCE.

<u>O. NAME</u>	<u>LOGS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
8 George Beck	Stage damaged	15.00		11826
	1 Flake	90.00		
	1 dory, 5 beds	40.00		
	18 cotton lines	30.00		
	2 Herring nets	100.00		
	Trawl Moorings	42.00		
	3 Hgds salt	7.50		
	1 ton coal	12.00		
	250 ft. lumber	10.00	352.50	285
19 Thomas Goder	1 Flake	40.00		
	1 Dory	40.00		
	2 Trawl lines	2.00		
	67 large sticks	33.50		
	15 planks	7.50	123.00	72
50 Mrs. Patrick Lundrigan	1 Stage	120.00		
	1 Flake	50.00		
	1 Wharf	20.00		
	1 store	100.00		
	2 dories	100.00		
	Anchors	33.90		
	Caplin Saine	100.00		
	40 fitted lines	80.00		
	2 Herring nets	80.00		
	1 cast net	5.00		
	Moorings	18.00		
	1 Hgds salt	2.50		
	2 suits oil clothes	10.00		
	3 tons coal	36.00		
	3 qtls fish	27.00		
	2 Brls caplin	15.00		
	Tools etc.,	35.00		
	1 Roll felt	5.00		
	2 sets dory para	8.00		
	1 Dory sail	3.00		
	1 Seyrha	5.00		
	1 tar pot	2.50		
	wall & Spanners	5.00	860.90	13170

T. LAWRENCE.

O. H. HARRIS

51 Edward Turpin

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1	stage	300.00
1	Flake	50.00
1	Wharf	120.00
1	Store	70.00
10	fitted lines	20.00
30	fms. 2" rope	6.00
2	Hgds salt	1.85
50	lbs. beef & Pork	10.00
1	qtl fish	2.25
	Other fish	3.70
	Carpenters Tools	20.00

(Also parts for S H.P. Atlantic Eng)

TOTAL

683.80

REMARKS.

12770
13.10

406

52 Mrs. John Lundrigan

Part owner wharf, dories,
herring and salt, see claim-
No. 21. David Lundrigan.

53 Michael Molloy

1	Stage	60.00
1	Wharf	40.00
	Damage to store	30.00
1	Dory	40.00
	Moorings	12.50
6	Cotton lines	12.00
1	Herring Hat	50.00
3	cod nets	30.00
1	Dory roller	1.50
1	" Sail	3.00
2	Hgds salt	5.00
3	smits oil clothing	15.00
17	doz cabbage	17.00
4	tubs caplin	10.00
1	Brl. Herring	2.00
25	cwt hay	50.00
	Tools etc.,	10.00

408.00

22-9

38 5

0. KMS

4 Claude Holley

55 Bm la Lake

56 David J. Turpin

57 Joseph Lake

58 Walter Pike

40 Bms 6

thread Mmilla
1 dory Anchor
25 Doz Cabbage
Fencing
Lubricating oil & Gasoline

W. L. WATSON.

0. KMS

1 Flake
Damage to store
" " Wharf
1 Hds salt
2 Bl. Fish

1 Flake
1 Swamp Boat
4 H.P. Lookwood Ash-
Engine
1 Wharf
1 Hgd. Salt

1 Flake
1 Wharf
Bridge to stage
1 Anchor
1 Crapnell
20 Bms. 2" Rope
2 Cod Nets damaged
1 Oil Cask
8 Gals Eaco Oil

1 Flake

1 Stage
1 Flake
Timber for Engine
1 Large Dory
27 Cotton lines
40 Bms 6 thread Mmilla
1 dory Anchor
25 Doz Cabbage
Fencing
Lubricating oil & Gasoline

0. KMS

50.00
30.00
10.00

~~1.75~~
~~6.75~~

30.00
120.00

145.00
25.00
2.50

65.00
35.00
25.00

9.00
2.50
4.00
30.00
2.50
3.20

60.00
60.00
3.00

60.00
54.00
2.00
1.00
25.00
47.00
2.80

50
10

30
250

445
72

65
75

2
2
4
20

40
60
30
40

2
1

0. KMS

98.50

322.50

176.20

40.00

314.80

0. KMS

43805
72

302

17.5

4

17.5

14.5

P. H. H. HON.

NO. NAME
 42. See No. 42)
 42 Rev. Father Thorne.

ITEM	AMOUNT
12000 ft. timber	480.00
28 Brls. cement	112.00
Felt and Tar	10.00

1000

14037

1000.00

59 A.A. Giovannini

Northern, Central and Southern Premises	13100.00
1 5-H.P. Acadia Eng.	225.00
7 cod trap skiffs	1575.00
3 Tons Hay	120.00
60 Brls Flour	540.00
2 Puns Molasses	125.00
7 Drums Gasoline	175.00
4 Gasoline Drums	40.00
4 Casks Kero Oil	45.00
40 Oil Casks	160.00
1 Wharf to salt store	100.00
1140 qtls. Codfish	10830.00
45 qtls Salt Bulk	
- Fish-	405.00
3 Dories	180.00
25 Trap Anchors	375.00
4 Brls Beef & Pork	108.00
Damage to cod traps	1000.00
400 Hgds Salt	1000.00
Room Utensils	250.00
1- 14 H.P. Bridgeport-Engine	600.00
1- 7 H.P. Miami Eng	400.00
2-4 H.P. Acadia Eng.	336.00
3- 5 H.P. "	675.00
1- 5 H.P. Victory "	225.00

1000

215

750

100

150

180

500

520

32.453

Revised

1000

1000

1000

32.589

32890.00

507.00

7405

NAME

Patrick J. Alyward

DATE

AMOUNT

TOTAL

REMARKS

1 Wharf	65.00	50	
Oil Factory	1000.00	500	
1 Store	300.00	200	
1 Boat	80.00	80	
3 Dories	130.00	20	
1 Cement Tank	35.00		
1 Grapnell	2.25	2	
2 Suits Oil clothes	12.50		
30 doz Hds Cabbage	50.00		
2 1/2 tons coal	30.00		
1 qtl. Fish	2.00		
6 large sticks	3.00		
Fencing	50.00		
Other losses as pr. list			
"	"		
	<u>1669.40</u>		3436.15

El Jacob Beck of James

1 Stage	150.00	100	
1 Flake	100.00	70	
1 " No. 2. Damaged	15.00		
1 Wharf	20.00		
Damage to store	10.00	30	
1 Dory, 5 bad	40.00	36	
18 cotton lines	36.00	40	
1 Herring net	50.00	8	
2 sets oars	8.00		
Other fishing gear	11.95		
2 Hds salt	5.00		
Oiled clothing	25.00		
1 1/2 ton coal	18.00		
1 steel drum	10.00		
10 Gals gasoline	4.00		
200 ft. 2nd hand-			
- lumber	8.00		
Miscellaneous losses	<u>40.00</u>		550.95

<u>NO. NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
62. Victor Slaney	1 dory, 5 bed, 1 anchor 20 Fms. $\frac{3}{4}$ in. rope	40.00 13.50 3.00	56.50	4-188 L6
63 Geo. Edward Pike	1- 5 H.P. Hubbard Eng. 14 Hgds. salt 18-- 18 lb. Lines fitted 240 Fms. 6th Manila- - rope 6 coils 2 in. " " 1 Bottom for trap- 100 lbs. twine 18 thread 15 Fms leading net 1 Brl Kero oil 3 tons coal 1 set Cart Wheels 1 store 82X22 with 18- H. Posts, Frame built 1 Carriage 1 stage 35X18 144 post Other losses	290.00 38.50 36.50 15.84 55.20 50.00 25.00 13.50 30.00 45.00 4000.00 228.00 2600.00 308.24	500. 200. 100 3735.78	12-11
64 Verno B. Turpin	Stage Flake 1 Ton Coal 25 Cwt. Hay Fencing 100 Ft. Board	100.00 80.00 12.00 50.00 30.00 4.00	276.00	100
65 Lionel Saint	1 Stage 1 Flake 1 Ton Coal	80.00 60.00 12.00	152.00	12-0
66 Celestine Tarrant	1 Flake 1 Wharf 1 Boat Damaged	50.00 10.00 50.00	110.00	100

NO. 111

67. Angus Pike

Item	Price	Notes	Total
1 stage	60.00	50	
1 Flake	35.00	25	
1 Wharf	40.00	30	
1 small dory	40.00	30	
7 fitted lines	14.00	14	
1 dory sail	3.00		
1 " Roller	1.50		
3 suits Oil Clothes	15.00		
1 B rl. Flour	10.00		
Provisions	10.60		
Tools	8.00		
Floor Canvass	12.00		
Crookeryware	10.00		
Wearing Apparel	50.00		
Bedding	10.00		
House to rebuild	400.00		712.10

68. John Handregan

1 Flake	25.00	75	
2 Stoves	150.00	100	
30 cotton lines	60.00	60	
2 coils 6th Manilla	6.00		
30 yds. Flour Canvass	45.00		
Chairs	3.50		
Singer Sewing Machine	50.00		339.50
House was damaged to extent of \$30.00, now repaired		30	

69 David Slaney of Theophilus

1 Flake	40.00	40	
1 Store	50.00	40	
14 fitted lines	<u>28.00</u>	28	118.00

N. H. H.
70 David Slaney of Wm

1 Stage	100.00
2 Flakes	120.00
Store damaged	10.00
1 Herring Mat	50.00
2 Hand Lines	1.50
1 Brl. Salt	1.70
25 Doz Cabbage	25.00
Fencing damaged	5.00
2 cart wheel Bands	5.00

300.00

187.56

200

327.00

Th. John Beck

House moved from-foun-	
-dation and damaged est-	
imated repairs	50.00
1 Stage	70.00
1 Flake	100.00
1 Wharf	15.00
1 Store	300.00
1 small dory	40.00
1 Grapnall	7.20
40 lines fitted	80.00
Trap, bottom destroyed	100.00
Moorings	10.00
2 Herring nets	80.00
2 sets Dory Oars	8.00
8 Hgds salt	20.00
2 suits oil clothes	10.00
5 Brls. Flour 25% damag-	
-ed	12.50
1 Brl. Beef	15.00
14 Gals Molasses	11.20
1 Brl. Pork	15.00
Other Provisions	23.00
15 Cords Firewood	9.00
15 lbs. cod fish	13.50
5 cwt hay	10.00
Tools etc., P	15.00
2 dory compasses	4.50
2 Blocks	6.00
5 Punchons	10.00
7 Hens	7.00
1 Henhouse	5.00

28
100
30
50
100
10
80
8
10

585

4954

1046.90

10. R. M.
2.

Robert Beck

ITEM	AMOUNT
1 Stage	100.00
1 Flake	100.00
1 Wharf	20.00
24 Fitted Lines	48.00
1 Herring net	40.00
220 Pms 6 th. Manila	5.00
1 Cast net	5.00
2 suits oil clothes	10.00
1 Brl. Flour	10.00
1 Cord Firewood	6.00
4 qtl. Fish	4.50
15 cwt. hay	30.00
Window sashes & Boxes	24.00
300 ft. rough lumber	9.00
1 Grindstone	3.00

415.50

10. R. M.
2.

73 Hendley Pike

1 Herring net	40.00
Trawl Moorings	4.00
1 Draynell	2.00

46.00

74.

Patrick Parney

1 Stage	80.00
1 Flake	70.00
1 Wharf	25.00
1 Store	70.00
36 Fitted Lines	72.00
3 Brls. Coal	3.60
50 Large sticks	25.00
1 Grindstone	4.00
3 Planes	4.50

354.10

NO. NAME

NO. ITEM

AMOUNT

TOTAL

REMARKS

75. Sylvester Slaney

1 Stage	100.00
1 Flake	35.00
1 Wharf	15.00
1 Store	100.00
1 Dory, 5 bed,	40.00
1 Anchor	10.00
Mooring	3.00
2 sets dory bars	8.00
1 Hgd. Salt	2.50
1 suit oil clothes	5.00
3 Brls. coal	3.60
1 qtl. Fish	9.00
2 shovels	2.00
10 cwt hay	20.00
3 Tackle Blocks	4.00
2 Planes	6.00

30
35
15
100
40
10
3
8
2.50
5
3.60
9
2
20
4
6

267.90

70 096

748

76. Mrs. Adam Mullins

1 Stage	60.00
1 Flake	70.00
1 Wharf	25.00
7 Anchors	65.00
5 Trap Kags	12.50
80 Fms. 2 inch rope	16.00
1 Herring net	40.00
36 Glass Floats	9.00
2 Hgds Salt	5.00
6 large sticks	2.50
200 ft. lumber	8.00
2 fish tubs	2.00

30
70
25
65
12
16
40
9
5
2.50
8
2

267.90

778

700 22

Also 5 H.T. Lathrop machine damaged

77. Mrs. Harold Pike

	AMOUNT
1 Flake	55.00
1 Motor Dory	60.00
8 cotton lines	16.00
1 dory roller	1.50
1 dory sail	3.00
1 Hgd. Salt	2.50
1 pr oars	4.00
Engine parts	25.00

58
50
16

2
24
2.10
1.67.00

20.4.20.17
147

78. Robert Spearns

1 atags	100.00
1 Flake	70.00
1 atore	10.00
1 Dory (Old)	25.00
2 cotton lines	4.00
1 Brl. Herring	6.00
22 lbs. Tongues	2.50
2 sets oars	8.00

10
70
15
4
8
1.10.50

127

79. Edward Clarke

1 Wharf	60.00
1 Herring net	40.00
100 Fence rails	15.00
1 Hard Pine Stick	10.00
26 large sticks	12.00

43
1.37.00

10

80. W. Clarke

1 Flake	50.00
1 Wharf	15.00
1 Dory	40.00
3 Punchgones	6.00
12 Barrels	12.00
13 Hgd. Salt	32.50

50
30
32
1.55.50

112

81. James Cusack

Damage to Wharf
Breastwork also carried away.

20.00

2.11.2.8

11.2

T. L. L. W. H. A.

<u>NO. NAME</u>	<u>LOGS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PAID</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
82. Gregory Slaney	Stage	150.00	50	21158
	1 Flake	80.00	10	
	Damage to Wharf	5.00	50	
	1 Large Dory	60.00		
	20 pieces Studding	4.00		
	Shaft & Pull up for-		12	22
	1-3 H.P. Mianus Eng.	10.00		
	3 sill pieces	10.00		
	1 steel drum	10.00		
	10 Gals Gasoline	4.00		
			320.00	
83. Prosper Slaney	1 Stage	50.00	40	
	1 Flake	40.00	10	
	Damage to Wharf	15.00		
	Trawl Moorings	10.00	10	
	1 Hgd Salt	2.50		
	1 qtl Fish	9.00		
	Carpenters Tools	20.00		
			145.50	
84. Samuel Beck	1 Swamp bottom boat	140.00	140	
	1 Small dory	40.00	30	
	16 fitted lines	32.00	32	
	Moorings	12.00	12	
			224.00	
85. Francis Cusack	1 Stage	60.00	50	
	1 Flake	35.00	15	
	1 Store	15.00		
	Damage to Dory	5.00		
	6 Cotton Lines	12.00	12	
	1 Dory roller	1.50		
	2 Hgds Salt	5.00		
	3 Cwt Hay	6.00		
			139.50	

T. J. M. J.

NO. NAME
86 Hugh Slaney

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1 Flake	75.00
Damage to Store	10.00
" to Dory	8.00
2 Grapnels	6.00
Moorings	13.60
1 Hgd Salt	2.50
1 pr Giled Pants	2.50
Damage to Flour	10.00
20 large sticks	2.10
2 dory sails	6.00
5 oars	10.00
15 lbs chain	15.00
6 lbs steel wire	3.00

70

TOTAL

REMARKS.

21818

6
12
2

78
15

164.10

114

87. Joseph Turpin

1 Stage	100.00
1 Flake	100.00
1 Wharf	25.00
Damage to store	25.00
1 large Dory	60.00
Moorings	7.50
40 cotton lines	80.00
1 Spirit Compass	7.00
1 steel drum	10.00
15 Gals Gasoline	6.00
Parts for 3 H.P. Acadia engine	18.25
1 Dory sail	3.00

441.75

312

88 Henry Fitzpatrick

1 Stage	120.00
1 Flake	100.00
1 Store	60.00
1 large Dory	60.00
24 cotton lines	48.00
2 dory rollers	3.50
1 shaft	4.00
1 Hgd Salt	2.50
1 suit oil clothes	5.00
1 Brl. Flour	10.00
18 Gals Molasses	11.60
1/2 qtl Fish	4.50
1 Steel Drum	10.00

439.10

295

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
89	Frederick Fitzpatrick	1 Stage	80.00		
		1 Flake	70.00		
		1 Wharf	25.00		
		30 Fitted lines	60.00		
		Moorings	8.00		
		1 Hgd Salt	2.50		
		1 Suit Oil Clothes	5.00		
		4 Brls. Flour	40.00		
		1 Qtl. Fish	2.00		
		1 Childs Carriage	5.00		
		1 Scythe	4.50		
		3 Planes	3.50		
		1 Axe	2.00		
		5 Gals Gasoline	2.00		
		1 Spirit Compass	5.00	349.50	223

90	Alphonse Turpin	1 Flake	45.00		
		1 Wharf	15.00		
		1 Motor Dory Damaged	20.00		
		1 inch Rope	5.00		
		1 Brl. Flour	10.00		
		1 Steel Drum	10.00		
		8 Wrenches	1.50		
		5 Gals Oil	2.00	198.50	70

Also material for house, 30 panes glass,
 6 Window shades, 2000 ft. C. Board, and
 600 ft. Lumber.

91	Mrs. Sylvia Pike	Land washed away, also Blwork erected by Government destroyed		70.00	
		Fencing	70.00		

22532

V. 2 Grand.

<u>NO. NAME</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
92 Phillip LeMay	1 Store	30.00		
	1 Dory, 4 Beds.	40.00		
	3 Grapnels	2.20		
	1 Dory roller	1.50		
	Carolina Pawcett	2.50	75.20	22,832
93. John Sparna	1 Motor dory damaged	10.00		
	2 Anchors	4.50		
	Other fishing gear	10.00		
	1 Hgd. Salt	2.50	17.00	52
Also parts for S.H.P. Hubbard Eng-Ing Mac Robert Sparna NO. 78 for Stage Fluke. Share and store of which this claimant is Joint owner.				
94 Levi Pike	1 Fluke	65.00	65	
	1 Swamp Boat	125.00	125	
	1 Caplin Seine	45.00	45	
	9 Cotton Lines	18.00	18	
	1 coil 6 th Manila - rope	5.00	3	
	2 Hgds salt	5.00	5	
	1 4tl. Fish	9.00		
	4 Cwt Hay	8.00		
	10 hens	10.00		
	Miscellaneous	3.00	291.00	264
95 Stanislaus Murray	2 Flakes	60.00	60	
	1 Share	25.00	25	
	2 Anchors	13.50	13.50	
	40 Pcs 1 1/2 inch Bass- Rope	4.00	4	
	1 Hgd salt	2.50	105.00	104

23,265

NO. NAME

T. LAWRENCE

LOSSES

AMOUNT

TOTAL

BALANCE

96. Adolph Turpin

1 Flake	50.00
1 Boat 21 ft. keel	150.00
2 Anchors	27.90
1 coil 15 th rope	4.00
15 logs	4.50
5 Cwt hay	10.00
Parts for 3 H.P. Hubbard	
" " "	54.65

50
125
27
4

206

23 265
206

301.05

97. Geo. Pike of John

1 stage	200.00
1 Wharf	15.00
1 Store	100.00
1 Swamp Boat	125.00

100
50
125

440.00

275

98. Herane Reeves

1-5 H.P. Hubbard Eng.	270.00
1 Boat, 24 ft. keel	200.00
2 Dories	80.00
2 Grapnell	20.00
25 Fms. Chain	18.00
9 Oars	18.00
1 Spirit Compass	7.50
1 " "	2.00
4 Hds salt	10.00
Spare parts 5 H.P. Hubbard Engine	44.95

270
125
60
20
18
10

670.45

521

99. Jacob Beck

1 stage	25.00
1 Flake	100.00
2 Dories	90.00
2 Tons Coal	24.00

25
50
60

239.00

165

2443

T. L. L. L. L.

<u>NO. NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
100 WM Kelly	1 Flake	50.00	50	
	1 Wharf	25.00	25	
	1 Motor Dory	60.00	50	
	1 Grapnel	1.80	1	
	18 hemp lines	36.00	36	
	2 Trawl lines	4.00	4	
	Other fishing gear	11.85	2	
	1 Hgd Salt	2.50	6	
	2 suits oil clothes	19.00		
	1 Brl Boat fittings	40.00		
	3 dory oars	6.00		
	Miscellaneous losses	25.00	281.15	
101. Patrick Tarrant	1 Herring net	60.00	60	
	1 Dory roller	1.50	61.50	
102. Amos Pike	1 Flake	40.00	40	
	1 Wharf	40.00	20	
	3 cotton lines	6.00	6	
	2 hand lines	1.30	1	
	30 Nos. 6th rope	1.50	4	
	2 Dory oars	4.00	5	
	1 cast net	5.00	3	
	2 dory anchors	3.00	3	
	11 hgd salt	3.75		
	1 ton coal	6.00		
	100 ft. lumber	4.00		
	6 Pork Barrels	3.00		
	1 Axe	2.00		
	2 Blocks	3.00		
	30 Pieces Plank	12.00		
	1 Dip net	1.00		
	Miscellaneous losses	4.70	140.25	

244

24

NO. 103

103. John Clarke of Paul

	AMOUNT		
1 Stage	40.00	40	
1 Flake	51.00	30	
1 Flake	20.00	20	
1 Wharf	30.00	20	
40 Hemp lines	40.00	40	
2 Herring nets	90.00	80	
Lubricating oil & Gasoline	5.20	4	
2 dory oars	4.00		
			280.90

24

104. Joseph Slaney of-
Henry

2 Flakes	70.00	70	
Damage to store	10.00	40	
1 Dory	40.00		
6 lines	12.00	12	
1 Coil rope	8.00	8	
1 Salt oil clothes	5.00		
60 large sticks	30.00		
			175.00

105. Arcule Slaney

1 Stage	250.00	120	
1 Flake	140.00	100	
1 Store	300.00	150	
1 Swamp Boat	170.00	125	
1 Dory	40.00	40	
1 Caplin Seine	120.00	100	
50 Hemp lines	50.00	50	
20 lines	27.50	27	
2 coils 6th Manilla	6.00	6	
1 pr oars	4.00	4	
Parts for 3 H.P. Acadia Engine	26.00	40	
1 Herring net	60.00		
1 Scythe	2.50		
1 Brl Beef	7.50		
25 lbs. pork	5.00		
1000 ft. lumber	40.00		
8 cod nets	160.00		
Miscellaneous loss	41.75		
			1450.25

26

16

B. LOSS LIST.

NO. NAME

NO. OF

AMOUNT

TOTAL

26

106. John Stanley of Prosper

1 Dory damaged	20.00	
12 lines	24.00	
3 Window sashes & glass	<u>30.00</u>	74.00

107.

Cecalia Fewer

1 Store	75.00	
1 Brl. Potatoes	4.00	
100 Hds. cabbage	9.00	
1 Brl. Flour	10.00	
2 Gals Molasses	1.60	
2 tons coal	24.00	
2 quilts	10.00	
4 Mats	4.00	
1 Ladies coat	7.00	
Miscellaneous losses	<u>12.80</u>	157.40

108. Thomas A. Pike

1 Victory Engine	50.00	
1 Dory	40.00	
1 Set Oars	4.00	
15 doz Hds. cabbage	15.00	
1 Brl. Flour	5.00	
1 Brl Beef & Pork	15.00	
3 1/2 tons coal	42.00	
10 Fens	10.00	
3 Chairs	3.00	
3 Brls Feathers	12.00	
1 Bedstead	15.00	
3 Pieces Plank	5.00	
1 Cwt Hay	<u>2.00</u>	216.00

27

ST. LAWRENCE.

<u>IO. NAME</u>	<u>LOUSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
Mr. Benedict J. Slaney	2 large dories	120.00	100	
	40 cotton lines	80.00		
	3 coils 6th Manilla	9.00		
	1 pr oars	4.00	0	
	1 Dory Compass	2.25		
	1 suit rubber clothes	10.50		
	Ignitor & Wrenches	10.00		
	Poultry	10.00	2	
	Fencing	15.00		
	Floor Canvas	15.00	275.75	
	<u>House removed from foundation 10 ft.</u>			
	<u>Has to be taken down to be repaired</u>			
	<u>About \$400.00 damage.</u>			
D. Isaac Slaney	1 stage	100.00	50	
	1 Flake	80.00	80	
	1 Wharf	15.00		
	Damage to store	12.00		
	1 Large dory	60.00	50	
	1 Herring net	40.00	40	
	Other fishing gear	4.80	2	
	1 Hgd Salt	2.50		
	Dory gear	10.75		
	1 Tank	5.00		
	1 Steel drum & Gasoline	13.20	343.25	
Mr. Albert Pike	1 Stage	140.00	120	
	1 Wharf	60.00	30	
	1 Dory	40.00	20	
	Moorings	45.00	60	
	40 cotton lines	80.00	50	
	Rope	7.50	7	
	23 Hgds salt	57.50	57	
	1 Suit oil clothes	5.00		
	12 doz Heads Cabbage	12.00		
	150 pieces studding	18.00	465.00	
	<u>TOTAL CLAIMS FOR ST. LAWRENCE</u>			<u>\$83277.03</u>
	<u>Less Insurance claim</u>			<u>2435.</u>
	<u>for Insurance</u>			<u>\$81042.03</u>

293

LOSSES AT ST. LAWRENCE.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
112	Alexander Turpin	5 Fox Skins	125.00		
		30 Muskrat skins	<u>10.50</u>	\$135.50	<i>Handwritten: 135.50</i>
113	John Slaney	1 Stage (Damaged)	30.00		
		1 Dory	<u>50.00</u>	80.00	<i>Handwritten: 80.00</i>
114	Gregory Vavasour	800 lbs. Hay	12.00		
		30 Flake Shores	<u>7.50</u>		
		1000 Pickets	10.00		
		50 Rails	10.00		
		Piece Land	<u>50.00</u>	89.50	<i>Handwritten: 89.50</i>
115	Richard Loder	1 Stage	80.00		
		1 Flake (Damaged)	15.00		
		5 lines and Hooks	5.00		
		1 Cast Net	7.00		
		3 Dory Oars	<u>6.00</u>	113.00	<i>Handwritten: 113.00</i>

Continued
total for St. Lawrence \$81.459⁰³

LOSSES AT ST. LAWRENCE .

641 72 \$81459⁰³

30 1/2

NO. NAME

LOSSES

AMOUNT

TOTAL

REMARKS.

116 John Quirk

1 Flake

50.00

30.

1 Stere

50.00

30

30 Trawl Lines

26.50

60.

1 Dory Sail

3.00

4 Haul Lines

2.80

1/2 BHD. Salt

1.38

Flour Damaged

27.90

\$161.58

*100
120*

117 Isadore Slaney

1 Stage

60.00

140

1 Flake

50.00

30.

1 Stere

30.00

20.

1 DORY

60.00

40

30 Lines and Hooks

54.00

60

240 Fthms Rope

10.00

10

4 Oars

8.00

272.00

208

Isadore Slaney \$81892⁶¹

311 66

LOSSES AT ST. LAWRENCE

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ASSESSMENTS</u>
8	T. Farrell & Sons	1 Stage	\$150.00	\$100.00
		2 Stores	500.00	400.00
		1 Trap Skiff damaged	100.00	80.00
		1 Motor Boat "	25.00	25.00
		1 Motor Dory	50.00	50.00
		2 Small Boats	5.00)	
		Flake No. 1.	600.00)	
		" " 2.	200.00)	500.00
		" " 3.	75.00)	
		1 Large Drapnell	16.20	16.00
		1 Brl. Cod Oil,	15.00	
		2 coils 2 ropes	20.00	20.00
		Other fishing gear	150.00	75.00
		120 Hhds. Salt	300.00	100.00
		100 Brls. Sugar	7.00	
		700 Qtls. M. Fish, damaged, -		
		estimated loss	1200.00	
		36 Qtls. W. I. Fish, damaged est. loss	45.00	
		Fish stand & weights	25.00	
		16 Kero Oil Brls.	48.00	
		Wharf No. 1.	1400.00)	
		" " 2.	350.00)	
		" " 3.	100.00)	500.00
		" " 4.	100.00)	
		Also 2 traps damaged loss un-		
		-ascertained		
<u>T O T A L.</u>			<u>\$5491.20</u>	<u>\$1866.00</u>

LOSSES AT ST. LAWRENCE .				
NO.	NAME	LOSSES	AMOUNT	ASSESSMENTS
59.	A.A.Giovannini	Northern, Central and Southern-		
		-Premises	\$13100.00	\$1000.00
		1 1/2-H.P.Acadia Eng.	225.00	225.00
		7 Cod Trap Skiffs	1575.00	750.00
		3 tons hay	120.00	
		60 Brls.Flour	540.00	
		2 Puns.Molasses	125.00	
		7 Drums Gasoline	175.00	
		4 Gasoline Drums	40.00	
		4 Casks Kero Oil	45.00	
		40 Oil Casks	160.00	
		1 Wharf to salt store	100.00	100.00
		1140 Qtls. Cod Fish	10830.00	
		45 Qtls.Salt Bulk Fish	405.00	
		3 Dories	180.00	150.00
		25 Trap Anchors	375.00	180.00
		4 Brls.Beef & Pork	108.00	
		Damage to cod traps	1000.00	500.00
		400 Hhds .Salt.	1000.00	500.00
		Room Utensils	250.00	
		1-14 H.P. Bridgeport Engine	600.00	damaged
		1-7 H.P.Miamus Eng.	400.00	only-loss
		2-4 H.P.Acadia Eng.	336.00	unascertaina-
		3-5 H.P." " "	675.00	-ble
		1-5 H.P. Victory "	225.00	
		TOTAL	\$32589.00	\$3405.00

Appendix 10

Partial copy of the South Coast Disaster Committee's compilation entitled: *Losses of Codfish Tidal Wave Disaster, Nov. 10th[sic]. 1929*. Only four of the 8½x14-inch folio sheets for the eastern part of the area from Rock Harbour to St. Lawrence were found at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, in Manuscript Group 636, Box 3 (Files 17-47), File No. 30, St. Lawrence. The compilation sheets for the area west of St. Lawrence from Lawn to Lamaline were not found.

LOSSES OF CODFISH TIDAL WAVE DISASTER, NOV. 10th, 1922.

<u>SETTLEMENT</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>LOSSES.</u>	<u>AMTS.</u>	<u>AMTS.</u>
Boat Harbour	John Smith Jr.	12 Qtls. Fish	\$108.00	\$108.00
Rock Harbour	WM. Dowden	10 Qtls. Fish	90.00	
" "	" "	1 " "	<u>7.00</u>	97.00
" "	James Withers Sr.	1 " "		9.00
" "	Ed. Withers	1 " "		9.00
" "	John Hooper of Wm.	9 " "		81.00
" "	George Hooper of Wm.	6 " "		54.00
" "	JA. J. & R. Hodder	2 " "		18.00
" "	WM. C. Hodder	5½ " "		49.50
" "	Geo. Hooper of Chs.	2 " "	<u>18.00</u>	335.50
 Fox Cove	 John Morrissey			
	Loss on 6½ Qtls. @ 5.00		32.50	32.50
Mortier	Nicholas Kennedy		225.00	
	Loss on 45 Qtls. @ 5.00		<u>9.00</u>	<u>234.00</u>
" "	Michael Smith 1 Qtl. Fish			
 Port-aux-Bras	 Henry Bennett 12½ Qtls "		112.50	
" " "	Geo. A. Dibbon 1 " "		9.00	
" " "	Job Fudge 6 " "		54.00	
" " "	John T. Abbott 30 " "		<u>270.00</u>	
	 CONTINUED.		 \$445.50	 \$710.00

(2)

LOSSES ON CODFISH, TIDAL WAVE DISASTER, CONTINUED, Nov. 18, 1929.

<u>SETTLEMENT</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>AMT.</u>	<u>AMT.</u>
	<u>Brought Forward.</u>		<u>\$445.50</u>	<u>\$710.00</u>
Port-aux-Bras	WM. Cheeseman	10 Qtls. Fish	90.00	
" " "	Stephen H. Isaacs	10 " "	90.00	
" " "	WM. H. Clarke	12 1/2 " "	112.50	
" " "	R. D. Hy. Bennett	3 " "	27.00	
" " "	Gabriel Brown	6 " "	54.00	
" " "	John Brown	7 " "	63.00	
" " "	James Ed. Cheeseman	15 " "	135.00	
" " "	WM. Allan	2 " "	18.00	
" " "	Ephraim Parly	2 1/2 " "	22.50	
" " "	Geo. H. Brinton	16 " "	144.00	
" " "	Henry Clarke	4 " "	36.00	
" " "	Geo. Bennett Sr.	2 1/2 " "	22.50	
" " "	WM. Hy. Isaacs	50. " "	450.00	
" " "	Ernest Bennett	4 " "	36.00	
" " " No. 44.	Geo. Bennett	10 " "	90.00	
" " "	Fred Mitchell	3 " "	27.00	
" " "	Jeremiah Cheeseman	18 " "	108.00	
" " " No. 48	Geo. S. Bennett.	145 " "	1305.00	
" " "	James Power	1 " "	10.00	
" " "	Stephen Hodder	9 " "	81.00	
" " "	John Saml. Hibben	1 " "	<u>9.00</u>	3776.00
Bull's Cove	LeFevre Trading Co.			
	Loss 40 Qtls. Damaged	@ 5.00 pr. Qtl.	200.00	
	500	@ 2.00 " "	<u>1000.00</u>	
" "	Samson Marning	2 Qtls. Fish	18.00	
" "	John Brinton. Sold	40 " "	40.00	
" "	" " Damaged	50 " "	<u>250.00</u>	1508.00
Path End	Thomas Shane, Damaged	160 " " @ 1.00	160.00	
" "	" " " "	250 " " "	.30 75.00	
" "	Charles Brussett	1 " "	9.00	
" "	Fred Appleby, Damaged	40 " " " 5.00	200.00	
" "	" " " "	17 " " " 2.00	<u>34.00</u>	478.00

CONTINUED\$6072.00

(3)

LOSS OF CODFISH. TIDAL WAVE DISASTER. NOV. 18-29 Continued.

<u>SETTLEMENT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOSS</u>	<u>AMT.</u>	<u>AMT.</u>
	Brought Forward			\$6072.00
Burin North	Alfred Marshall			
	300 Qtls. Fish @ \$2.00 Loss		\$600.00	
	8 " " " " " " "		60.00	
" "	Geo A. Bartlett			
	600 Drums Fish Damaged @ 30¢ ea.		180.00	
	400 Qtls. " " " " \$2.00		800.00	1640.00
Ship Cove	Bishop & Co.			
	Loss on 16 Qtls. Fish @ \$2.00			32.00
Collins Cove	Thomas Beasley	" 1 Qtl.		9.00
Kirby's Cove	Samuel Foote	" 3 "	27.00	
" "	John P. Foote	" 1 1/2 "	18.50	40.50
Mosquito Cove	Joe Matthews	" 4 "	36.00	
" " " "	" " S.B.	" 4 "	34.00	70.00
Parry's Isld.	Joe Foote	" 3 "	27.00	
" " "	Arch Maye	Loss on 41 "	48.00	
" " "	Rich Foote	" 5 "	45.00	
" " "	Eli Foote	" 1 1/2 "	13.00	
" " "	Herbt. Foote Jr.	Damaged Fish 13 Qtls.	13.00	
" " "	Sam. J. Foote	" 13 "	15.00	
" " "	Joshua Maye	" 15 "	135.00	
" " "	" " "	" 40 "	80.00	
" " "	Eli Foote Sr.	" 2 "	18.00	
" " "	" " "	" 8 "	60.00	
" " "	Chas. Foote	" 1 "	9.00	
" " "	" " "	" 4 "	24.00	
" " "	Wm. F. Foote	" 12 "	108.00	519.00
Kelly's Cove	Vincent Kelly	" " 12 "	108.00	
" " "	Willis Maye	" " 15 "	135.00	
" " "	Geo. W. Foote	" " 40 "	360.00	
" " "	Benj. Rollett	" " 10 "	90.00	693.00
Stepaside	Philip Brushett	" " 10 "	90.00	
" " "	" " Loss On	" 10 "	40.00	
" " "	Stephen Douglas	" 1 "	9.00	
" " "	Fred Brushett	" 5 "	45.00	
" " "	Manuel Ingpen	" 12 "	120.00	
			\$304.00	\$9075.50

CONTINUED.

LOSS ON CODFISH TIDAL WAVE DISASTER NOV. 18 29 continued				(4)
SETTLEMENT NAME	LOSS	AMT.	AMT.	
	<u>Brought Forward</u>		<u>\$9075.50</u>	
Stepaside Continued		304.00		
" " James Wagg				
Fish damaged @ \$1.25 pt. Qtl. 23 Qtls Fish		28.75		
" " WM. Foote	109 " "	90.00		
" " Fish damaged " \$6.00 " " 40 " "		240.00	662.75	
Great Burin Geo. Adams	" " 10 " "	90.00		
" " John Adams	" " 1 " "	9.00		
" " Ed M. Hollett Loss on Fish		150.00		
Quantity not stated.				
15 Drums Fish Damaged		7.50	256.50	
SHALLOWAY. Benj. Ingpen	" 35 " "		135.00	
Whale Cove Felix Rowe.				
Loss damaged Fish @ \$2.00 " 30 " "			60.00	
Black Duck Cove, Philip Vincent	" 6 " "		54.00	
Sandy Point John Martin	" 2 " "	18.00		
Loss of 8 7/8 Damaged @ \$3.00 8 7/8		26.50	44.50	
Burin Bay Arm. Stewart Taylor	3 Qtls Fish	27.00		
" " WM. Brewer	11 1/2 " "	101.25	128.25	
CORBIN Thomas Ryan	1 1/2 " "	15.75		
" " Ed. O'Reilly, Damgd. @ 5.00	4 " "	20.00		
" " " S.B. Fish	13 1/2 " "	101.25		
" " Vincent Power	1 " "	9.00	146.00	
St. Lawrence T. Farrell Sons, Damaged	700 " "	120.00		
" " " " " W.I.	36 " "	45.00		
" " A. Rose S.B.	5 " "	42.50		
Property of G.A. Bartlett, Henry Turpin,	8 " "	72.00		
Mrs. Pat Lundrigan	3 " "	27.00		
A.A. Giovannini	1140 " "	10830.00		
" " S.B.	45 " "	405.00		
St. Lawrence Patrick Aylward	1 " "	9.00		
" " Geo. Beck	1 1/2 " "	13.50		
" " Sylvester Slaney	1 " "	9.00		
" " Prosper Slaney	1 " "	9.00		
" " Fred Fitzpatrick	1 " "	9.00		
" " Levi Pike	1 " "	9.00	\$12680.00	
<u>CONTINUED.</u>				\$23442.50

Appendix 11

Abbreviated Field Log of Alan Ruffman
February 20 to March 2, 1995

Abbreviated Field Log of Alan Ruffman
February 20 to March 2, 1995

Monday, February 20, 1995

Sent a facsimile to Connie Power at the St. John's, Newfoundland office of Emergency Preparedness Canada with suggested revisions for the proposed letter of invitation to the 1929 tsunami seminar to be held on March 2, 1995.

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Flew to St. John's. Canada 3000 had delayed their flight 8.5 hours supposedly on account of weather, then a further 3-hour delay was imposed once we were on the plane. Plotted up November 1929 hindcast tidal data for Saint-Pierre. Arrived at friends' at 0545 a.m. February 22nd irritated and exhausted.

Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Up at 1130. Rented car. Visited Newfoundland map office on Higgins Line. Turned in Rent-a-Wreck to get a car that I could lock. Shopped for field items and left St. John's at 1500. Road south from Goobies on the TCH to Marystown was often narrowed to one lane by drifted snow from the previous day's storm. At Marystown at 1900 it began to snow again and one could only follow the fast-fading tracks of the last car and assume that he/she had not gone off the road. Arrived at The Salt Cove Brook B&B in St. Lawrence at 2000 quite exhausted.

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Set up a meeting with Mayor Wayde Rowsell of St. Lawrence for 1800. Snowing in a.m. Left about noon for reconnaissance; went as far as Lamaline. I was first to arrive at the Town Hall Council Chambers for the 1800 meeting. The meeting was set up as a full council meeting with a formal presentation by me.

Attendees: Mayor Wayde Rowsell phone 873-2872
Deputy Mayor Sam Tobin (chair of Disaster Relief
 Committee)
Councillor Fabian Aylward (former mayor)
Councillor George Doyle
Councillor Jerome Slaney
Clerk Greg Quirke

Reviewed EPC project and its objectives. Council members then made 16 or 17 suggestions re possible interviewees. Also made arrangements for me to obtain a copy of their Emergency/Disaster Plan (Anonymous, 1992) and told me of an old set of early St. Lawrence photos held by the town clerk. Mayor and Council are 1.5 years into a four-year term. The Council requested a copy of the final report to EPC.

Thursday, February 23, 1995 (continued)

Left a set of copies of the 1929 St. Lawrence-related newspaper articles with Mr. Quirke for his town files. Visited Frank Pitman in Little St. Lawrence, then back to B&B circa 2100.

Friday, February 24, 1995

Second snow storm was on in earnest by 1030. By noon the snow had changed to freezing rain. Schools closed. Went to St. Lawrence town hall and inspected the Albert J. Wallace Collection of photos (Wallace, 1937-1941). He was sent to Newfoundland in April-May 1937 by E.J. Lavino & Co. to open up the fluorspar mine. He was in the area roughly 1937-1941. The album of circa 244 photos was donated to the town by A.J. Wallace's daughter Myrtle Wallace Baaker on April 6, 1989.

I roughly indexed the collection and selected about 10 photos that were probably relevant to the study and therefore worth copying. There are no negatives and in general the photos are pasted into the album.

Visited Richard Clarke in Little St. Lawrence in the late afternoon. He is recuperating from a badly broken leg; in very good spirits after a long stay in hospital. He and his wife described their recollections of the tsunami at ages 7 and 10 respectively. Richard explained why the Tom Pike two-storey house did not float off the "Point of Beach" (Shingle Point) in St. Lawrence during the tsunami; the house frame was bolted down to a rock-filled crib or "breast works".

Returned to B&B circa 2000. There are effectively no restaurants in St. Lawrence; there are two take-out shops of sorts and one can pre-order a meal at the Oceanview Motel. Made up a list of all the stated St. Lawrence damage cited in the 1929 newspaper accounts which I had extracted from my major compilation (Ruffman *et al.* In preparation a).

Saturday, February 25, 1995

Spoke to Ena Farrell Edwards. She will be unable to do an interview until Tuesday or Wednesday because of severe laryngitis. Spoke to George Macvicar, editor of *The Southern Gazette*, about the project and an interview is to be set up on Monday.

Interviewed Mr. Michael (Mick) Turpin who has always lived on Water Street East on the east side of St. Lawrence. Interview lasted about 30 minutes. He has a very clear memory. Tape 95-1, Side 1.

Then interviewed Mr. Archibald (Arch) Slaney who presently lives on Water Street West on the west side of St. Lawrence. He is still very active but his memory is not as clear. Tape 95-1, Side 2. Visited Burin; dinner in Marystown. Overwrote about 3.2 minutes of the Turpin interview when I recorded a folk song on the 'tidal wave' at Evelyn Grondin's. Folk song is sung by a Vince or Joe Baker. Again snow in late evening - the third storm but not as serious as others to date.

Sunday, February 26, 1995

In afternoon interviewed Mrs. Gertrude (Gertie) Turpin (née Kelly) age 75 of Water Street East; her husband Norbert, age 81, who is severely deaf was also present. Tape 95-2, Side 1. Mrs. Turpin told me of a local history held by her niece Christina Keating of Lawn; this turned out to be a history prepared on an Opportunities For Youth summer project (Edwards *et al.*, 1973). Mrs. Turpin recalled that the tsunami had knocked over some headstones in the "Holy Souls" cemetery on the north side of Highway 220 (Mount Cecilia Catholic Cemetery). Mrs. Turpin's father Tom J. Kelly was one of the men who ran with Tom Pike's children in their arms from the Pike house out on Shingle Point.

Monday, February 27, 1995

Spoke to David Snow's EPC office in St. John's to ensure that there would be a slide projector for the seminar. Visited St. Lawrence town hall to arrange for copying photographs from the A.J. Wallace album. Visited Cynthia Farrell at 12 Corporation Place who does local photography and who has a closeup lens for copying photos.

Talked to Levi Pike of Laurentian Avenue and his wife Mildred was also close by; then interviewed Levi with his mother Emma Blanche (Boxy) Pike (née Blagdon) who lives in the small house behind Levi's. Tape 95-2, Side 2. Levi told me of 'the strand' which was the sandy beach (fine sand) that once formed the 'bottom' (north end) of St. Lawrence Harbour. This was a baymouth bar with a pond or marsh behind it (i.e. to the north of it). 'The strand' served as the shortcut to school on the east side if it was low tide. One had to jump the brook that cut the beach. The causeway was built in 1954. A company called Mannix did dredging to the south of the causeway on the west side of the Harbour and the dredge spoil was dumped north of the causeway. This area behind the causeway was also filled with all manner of junk including crushed cars. The soccer field in this area was not completed until 1967.

Levi confirmed it was Tom Pike who lived in house on Shingle Point. He recalled the wind went to the northwest the day after the tsunami and it snowed. The old post office in 1929 was a yellow two-storey house on the west side (north of the Causeway Road now). Levi Pike recalled that the jack boat grounded up beyond the "Holy Souls" Cemetery (Mount Cecilia Catholic Cemetery).

Visited town hall and borrowed the A.J. Wallace photo album to take it to Cynthia Farrell of Farrell Foto. Marked fifteen photos to copy. Missed Leo Etchegary and Shane Dunphy at the high school. Both may have student project material on the 1929 tsunami.

Interviewed Elizabeth Madeline Slaney (ex Quirk with no 'e'), née Hayes, who lives on Water Street East close to Mr. Archibald Slaney. Tape 95-2, Side 2. Mrs. Slaney is the town clerk's (Greg Quirke's, with an 'e') mother. She lives in the Molloy house which was moved from its location at the head of the Harbour by the 1929 tsunami. It was relocated from its grounding point to its present location by her new husband's father then she came to join Mr. Michael Quirk in 1933. She never did experience the tsunami in St. Lawrence directly; she was in Saint-Pierre at the time of the tsunami.

Monday, February 27, 1995 (continued)

Then interviewed John Kelly, who now lives on Laurentian Avenue. Tape 95-3, Side 1. He pointed out the Handrigan house's present location; it had moved in the tsunami but is now in the process of being taken down by its present owners. Had supper with Mayor Wayde Rowsell, Edgar King, president of the Greater Lamaline Area Development Association (GLADA), and Annie Hillier, the executive director of GLADA, along with Bud Giovannini at the Oceanview Motel. The last person told me that the A.A. Giovannini mentioned in the 1929 newspaper articles was Adolph A. — Uncle Duff (i.e. Uncle Dolph).

Then met with Kevin Pike (wife Emma) who lives on Laurentian Avenue. Kevin was born September 29, 1930. His father was Thomas (Tom) Pike; his mother was Aggie Pike (née Penny) from Harbour Breton. Tom and Aggie Pike's four daughters were in the two-storey house on Shingle Point when the tsunami came; Margurite age 6, Dorine age 3.5, Geraldine age 2, and Jean age 7 months (as revised in an April 25, 1995 letter — Appendix 6). Uncle Jim Shea shouted the warning to the Pikes and each of four adults carried a child at a dead run to safety just as the second wave arrived to inundate the Pike house and flood over Shingle Point. Kevin said the water went up to the top of the first storey of his parents' house. Kevin loaned me a photo of the old family home on Shingle Point and he agreed to copy Strauss' 1988 article.

Back at the B&B by about 2130.

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Visited the high school this a.m. as the fourth storm began. Leo Etchegary still has not remembered to bring in the videotape which his students made. Also did not get Shane Dunphy. Met Cynthia Farrell and gave her the Kevin Pike photo to copy. Schools were closing again.

Visited Christina Keating in Lawn in the worsening snowstorm to collect the copy of the Edwards *et al.* [1973] history of St. Lawrence. Once back in St. Lawrence spoke to Adolph (Duff) Handrigan at the Town Hall; he works for the town. He is a current owner of the Handrigan house which moved in the tsunami.

Then copied the Edwards *et al.* [1973] history for both myself and for the town's files. Secretary Eileen Norman at the town hall assisted in locating Marilyn Etchegary (née Edwards) who did not recall where their 1973 interview tapes went. Ms. Norman located the phone numbers of Lillian Smith (née Robere) in Gander and of Angela Drake of St. John's, the other two main co-authors of the students' local history. I eventually was able to contact both of them but neither recalled the location of the interview tapes.

Visited Ms. Meta Turpin the librarian in the library above the town hall, then out into the snow. Revisited Gertrude Turpin (née Kelly) on Water Street East and verified that the tsunami entered the "Holy Souls" graveyard north of Highway 220 (Mount Cecilia Catholic Cemetery).

Then visited Charlotte Turpin (née Perks) on Water Street East who I interviewed and taped in November 1929. Mrs. (Alfred) Turpin

Tuesday, February 28, 1995 (continued)

didn't wish me to run the tape (she was sewing) so I just took notes.

The post office, with postmistress Sylvia Pike (Stella Hynes was postmistress sometime after the 'tidal wave' by circa 1937), and the telegraph office, with telegraphist Miss Cecelia Fewer, were in same building on the east side of Water Street West. Miss Fewer was described as 'a hard ticket' and as a 'great big woman'. Charlotte Turpin's father clipped the telegraph wires as the building started to move with the tsunami. After the tsunami the old post office/telegraph building was recovered and moved to the upper (or west) side of Water Street West — it is a two-storey large yellow-brown house now. The telephone building was run by the Etchegary family and it is the blue house with the white trim on the west side of Water Street.

Mrs. Turpin indicated that the Pat(ti) Handrigan house which moved in the tsunami originally sat just north of the fire station (where John O'Rourke presently has his house on Water Street East) and that she understands that it went right up by the "Holy Souls" graveyard near Highway 220 (Mount Cecilia Catholic Cemetery). The jack boat grounded after one wave; it then went out on the next wave. Charlotte Turpin saw it going out. She was told by others that it went up to beyond the "Holy Souls" cemetery; she thinks there were people aboard the jack boat.

Slaneyvale [Lane] on the west side had barrels of flour floated up into the lane. The Riverhead Road bridge went out (north end of Water St. W. today). This was the only road across the river; there was no Highway 220 then. There was one couple who lived on the west side and who were due to get married at the Catholic Church on the east side of the harbour (Arn Flannigan and Lizzy Quirke). They could not get across the road and washed out bridge for their scheduled wedding. Their son Allan who is age 60+ now is still alive, on Fairview Avenue in St. Lawrence (still on the west side of the harbour), so clearly the union eventually did occur!

Snow changed to freezing rain. Dinner was takeaway chicken eaten in the car out by the shore viewing Shingle Point.

Visited Ena Farrell Edwards (Mrs. Ken Edwards) on Director Drive in the evening after I picked up the copy of the Strauss (1988) article from Kevin Pike. No tape was used. "Miss Ena" was born in 1922 and was 7 at the time of the tsunami. Ena recalled that the Mike Fitzpatrick house moved near Notre Dame Street and Water Street West. The South Coast Disaster Committee bought them a new house which they later exchanged with Lou Etchegary Sr.

Ena has a scrapbook with 'tidal wave' articles from 1976, 1979 and 1981 probably from *The Southern Gazette*, as well as an article on 'Tidal Waves' from the *Newfluor News* (Anonymous, 1970) which is virtually word-for-word the text that was included in the Edwards *et al.* [1973] local history without a citation.

In November of 1929 the Farrell family owned a shop on Water Street West with a fish store underneath it with casks all ready to go to Oporto in Portugal. The tsunami flooded and spoiled them. Between the first and second waves of the tsunami her two brothers,

Tuesday, February 28, 1995 (continued)

Aubrey (now 90) and Howard, ran into the shop to get the money out of the safe but in the end their buildings did not go; they had three fish stores which just flooded. Their big motorboat MIOWA which was at anchor close behind the stores also did not tear loose.

Ena recalls that she took the circa 1930 photo of Tom Pike's house in Shingle Point which Kevin Pike loaned to me (but later in a letter dated April 17, 1995 she conceded that it may not have been her photo; Appendix 13); the person in the lower left of this photo is Sandy Turpin, a crippled wharfinger who used a cane. Apparently the three Giovannini brothers came from Lucca near Florence in the late 19th century and two of them settled in St. Lawrence (one called Gregory). The Adolph A. Giovannini cited in one of the newspaper articles in Appendix 3 was a first-generation Newfoundland son.

There was a cod liver oil factory on the water side of Water Street East in 1929 opposite what is now Aylward's Mini Mart on Water Street East; it was destroyed in the tsunami. Ena recalls 'the strand' beach being well inside the present causeway.

I had to scrape off the frozen ice on the windshield after I left Ena's. On the way home I went around by old 'Riverhead Road' (part of Water St. W. today) to check on the position of the Fitzpatrick house as Ena had recalled it. I got back to the B&B at circa 2100. Reached Angela Drake; she does not know the location of the 1973 interview tapes. Did up my notes well into the next a.m.

Wednesday, March 1, 1995

The high school was again closed for a snow storm; the fifth storm! Left Leo Etchegary a note; left Shane Dunphy a note.* Reached Lillian Smith in Gander; she does not recall the location of the 1973 interview tapes. Left Christina Keating's copy of the Edwards *et al.* [1973] town history with her uncle John and aunt Nellie Kelly on Laurentian Avenue. Obtained a copy of the St. Lawrence community phone directory and of parts of Rennie Slaney's history of mining (written 1965, printed in 1975) from Greg Quirke at the town hall.

Visited John Cusick and his wife Emma who live on Water Street East on the east side of the harbour out near Herring Cove. His father Stephen Cusick who was born March 18, 1918 has written a short documentary personal story about the difficult times in the 1920's and '30's in St. Lawrence. It is called *Fight For Survival* (Cusick, circa 1994). Emma is in the process of rewriting it in better English. Stephen's family lived in a small two-storey house on the east side of Water Street West between what is now the causeway and "Em's [Kettle's small red and white] Takeout". It was the second tsunami wave that took out and moved the Cusick house. The first floor or bottom of their house was then badly damaged by a collision with a wharf torn loose elsewhere in the harbour. The top part of their house was later salvaged from the meadow north of the bridgehead road and the family lived in it for a short while.

* Ultimately neither of these two ever got back to me.

Wednesday, March 1, 1995 (continued)

John Cusick has a probable 1929 photo taken from the east side of the harbour looking west covering the area from Director Drive to the north. He got it from Clem Cusick in Saint-Pierre. John has not had it 'taken off' so he loaned it to Cynthia Farrell to have it taken off for me.

I did an inventory of presently-existing business names on shops on Water Street West and East and on Riverside Drive and put this on the map. Then about 1330 began the difficult drive to Marystown over the drifting and snow-covered road. Stopped for an interview and photos at *The Southern Gazette* with Ms. Paula Levy.* Left Marystown northbound at 1530. The road was fine and I was at Goobies at 1730. There was a long detour on the TransCanada from an accident. Got to St. John's by 2015. Stayed with friends.

Thursday, March 2, 1995

Checked at the Newfoundland Department of Natural Resources on Higgins Line for the missing St. Lawrence sheet to the southeast of the harbour mouth. In fact it has not ever been published. Out to Emergency Preparedness Canada in Donovans Industrial Park and presented a one-hour talk on the 1929 tsunami and the related earthquake to an audience of about 15 persons. Good discussion afterwards.

Then I went to the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador and located the 1929 St. Lawrence statutory declarations as to each family's losses in the 1929 tsunami along with related losses of salted fish etc. Ordered xeroxes of the full data set. After a meal flew to Halifax where it took almost an hour to get the thick, thick ice off the windshield of the car. I was home by 2200.

* Her article appeared in *The Southern Gazette* on Tuesday, March 7 (pp. 3 and 4) and was recycled in *The Express* of St. John's on Wednesday, July 26, 1995 (p. 22).

Appendix 12

Transcripts of the oral history interviews with older St. Lawrence residents familiar with aspects of the 1929 earthquake and tsunami. Transcripts were made by Wendy Findley and edited by Alan Ruffman. Note: the transcripts were sent to the interviewees and only two provided any corrections.

<u>Interviewee(s)</u>	<u>Page</u>
Charlotte Turpin	112
Pauline Loder	120
Michael Joseph Turpin with his wife Philomena Turpin	136
Archibald Joseph Slaney	162
Gertrude Frances Turpin with her husband Norbert Lionel Turpin	179
Emma Blanche Pike and her son Levi Pike	206
Elizabeth Madeline Slaney	223
John M. Kelly	235

Transcript made
March 27, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 94-7, SIDE 1, FIRST PART, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1994,
CHARLOTTE TURPIN, ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Charlotte Turpin — family name Perks
— born 1915
— raised by her aunt and uncle Diana and David
Slaney from age 13 months when her father died
— married to Alfred Turpin (now widowed)
— lives on Water Street East, St. Lawrence (CT
on front door)
— mailing address: Box 211, St. Lawrence,
Newfoundland A0E 2V0
— interview length: 10.75 minutes

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: ... fishery, he was a fisherman, eh?

ALAN RUFFMAN: Yeah.

CT: And, ah, he went up [to Toronto], ah, for a holiday, the
children, they come for a holiday. There was no fish. And
when they went up, now this one over here [pointing at her
children's pictures] as she is now, she got me go to work.
And then he sent for me to go.

AR: So he got a job and you guys stayed up there for, ah,

CT: And I went up and I took the two youngest with me 'n' I went
up, and I went to work for Litton Systems for 10 years.

AR: Wow.

CT: Yeah. I was 55 then, can you imagine?

AR: So you just started work at 55. That was your first

CT: I knew, I knew more than what somebody was tellin' me, you
know. I worked in the cafeteria.

AR: OK. That was your first job outside the home.

CT: Outside of the home.

AR: Yeah. Yeah.

CT: And, um, so anyway, ah, then we, he got sick then and, and
then we came home. So I'm sorry he's dead anyway.

AR: Had he worked in the mines?

CT: No, but you know what? There was never a doctor came here

wouldn't believe that he didn't work in the mines with his chest. But d'you know they used to have freight come on the wharf.

AR: Was he smoking then? Would that be the ...

CT: Oh, yeah. He smoked.

AR: Well that would be the factor, maybe, the ...

CT: But then you know what? When the, when they had all this stuff here, the boats used to come into the wharves. We had a store here?

AR: Yeah.

CT: And they'd go over and take the freight off, you'd be there and you'd be blinded with this, this stuff [the dust from the fluorspar ore].

AR: From, from the mine.

CT: From the mine, 'cause he had big heaps far over there. And, and when it'd be blowin' we couldn't see across the harbour.

AR: So he might've got the dust just from working.

CT: And, and when we come home with the freight you had to wipe it off the boxes like that [demonstrating with her hand].

AR: Wow.

CT: And, there's a man down the harbour had beautiful trees, and when they put it on the roads here, it killed every tree he had.

AR: Oh, really!

CT: That's really the truth.

AR: So they put the

CT: Old Mr. Bill 'Lay'. They put it, yes when you be goin' up the harbour and it was blowing you would have to turn back on.

AR: So that, you know, who knows how much other damage it might have done?

CT: Who knows what? That's true.

AR: I've got that book by Leyton, ah, the book 'Dying Hard' and it doesn't paint a very [pretty] picture.

CT: And when the doctors came here then to, to you know,

investigate and everything, that, ah, they sent out for him to go in to see who didn't work in the mine, and they wouldn't believe he didn't work in the mine.

AR: And maybe he effectively did because of the dust over there.

CT: Oh yes. Because he had asthma too, you know. That didn't help him, yeah. But, you know, he, there was no doctor would, they wouldn't take on insurance on 'im in Toronto, 'cause they thought he's gonna die quick. Yet he was 82 [when he died], so they lost money on him.

AR: Yeah.

CT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: And, after the tidal wave, did they have much problem getting all the, the fishery back in order for the fellas? Was there much relief work done here?

CT: They, they sent slow(?). Like everything else, some got it and some didn't, you know, nearly one that didn't get it. I had a, um, I had a picture of the old, of the old, um, MEIGLE, the first load that, the first load of 'spar' went out, and the first load they brought in here.

AR: The MEIGLE actually carried the first load of spar [fluorspar ore]?

CT: Oh, yeah. MEIGLE, yeah.

AR: 'Cause the MEIGLE was the boat that they sent down from St. John's, ah, on the Thursday. The word got out from Burin of the disaster on a Thursday morning, and the MEIGLE was sent down the Thursday night. Do you remember her coming? Do you remember the ARGYLE coming into the harbour after the tidal wave?

CT: I really don't know, you know, there's ...

AR: And I talked to Captain Thornhill in Fortune, and he said he was coming down to St. Lawrence with a load of lumber, that night.

CT: Oh, yeah.

AR: But you wouldn't a been paying attention to those kinds of things.

CT: No, no. We're tryin' to know what to do; were we gonna survive.

AR: Yeah. How long did you, ah, when you, you'd taken your, your mother or your, your aunt up the hill, how long was it before

you dared to come back to the house?

CT: Oh, it was in the, quite early in the morning 'til we came back, decided to come back, 'cause, like the, the whole neighbourhood, they were all one people, eh? And I can remember this young fella, he's kind of a young'n, he come, he run down, he was livin' up the hill, and he, he said "We all got to die together now. We're goin' to die." you know? And he went up in the, there was a big fence across, I'm tryin' to get me poor old mother over the fence, 'fraid she's gonna be drowned.

AR: How did you get her over the fence then?

CT: No. We all got up in a corner. When the waves went down then we ... looking like it was backing down a bit. Yeah. But

AR: Yeah. How high do you think the water came up, now?

CT: I don't know really ... A man would know, you know. But was so comical to see barrels floatin' around; went up in the Lane, y'know, where the tide

AR: And would that ruin the, did that ruin the flour, or did some of those ...?

CT: Oh, yes. The barrels, yeah.

AR: People couldn't use the flour after it got wet.

CT: ... to the stores, see, here was the road and then this little store was there, and then out there was the stages and the flakes [pointing out the front window of the house to the shoreline area]. Well, all that went.

AR: Um hum. Were they able to salvage very much from the harbour?

CT: No, I don't know what they really did that time, you know. [Phone rang, tape was stopped until the call was completed.] [I] worry 'bout her [the caller — her daughter, who lives next door to the north].

AR: And she's retired, they're retired.

CT: They came home retired, yeah. Yeah. She worked and he worked and they set up, and they came home. They bought an old house then, over there on the other side. And, um, my God, how they go, and he does all his own work.

AR: They're putting all the work into it.

CT: Everything now.

AR: Yeah. Well, I talked to Emily Edwards from St. Lawrence, but she was living in Lawn at the time.

CT: Yeah, Miss Emily. She was, ah, one of the, she's the one now that I go with to the hospitals all the time. I am a volunteer and go to the Burin Hospital and pastoral care, and all that?

AR: Yeah.

CT: So she, that's the one I go with.

AR: And, I was thinking I might go up to see Hughie, ah, what's his name, now? Um, Hughie Clarke is it, now?

CT: Oh, yes, Hughie Clarke.

AR: Where's he live now?

CT: Hughie Clarke, now, lives up in the house with his ?? Levi Malloy lived. But now, not the same house, it was an old house, Ab and Annie got the house. Yeah. Lee, and he lives up there, he boards up there with the old lady or something.

AR: Now, how would I find that house? Just go up here to the church, is it?

CT: No, not up to the church.

AR: This side of the church.

CT: Um, you don't go out past the hall, you know, past Church Lane.

AR: OK.

CT: You go over, the restaurant is right there.

AR: The takeaway.

CT: The takeout.

AR: Yeah.

CT: Well then, this, not, don't pass the restaurant.

AR: OK.

CT: It's just, the house then, and the lane, and this house is up there and there's another small house there. There's the Grady house up in the meadow there, well then, right down them steps would be Levi's house. And that's the lane.

AR: That's where Hughie lives.

CT: That's where Hughie lives.

AR: Yeah. Have you ever heard any folksongs about the tidal wave?

CT: Oh, Hughie sings.

AR: Oh, he sings some, does he? You don't, you don't know the words to any of them?

CT: No. Hughie sings 'em. I haven't.

AR: Yeah.

CT: Hughie sings 'em. I could phone t'see if they're there and tell 'em ...

AR: Well, I thought I might drop over.

CT: Yeah. Well, ?? I'll phone t'see if he's there and tell ...

AR: Well, I should thank you very much for talking to me.

CT: Oh, that's OK, my dear.

AR: What I plan to do is put this tape into the Archives, or maybe the Burin, Burin Heritage House, and, would you have any objections to other people being able to listen to this tape and, hear a little bit about your experience? 'Cause I don't think the young people know about this very much.

CT: [laughs her agreement] No, there's a lot, lot, there's a lot of stories not told, you know.

AR: Yeah.

CT: My husband could tell so much stories. Now they're comin' t'know about the, um, you know, goin' right back to your ancestors were, you know. And, of course, ah, his father was, ah, he, he'd say, you know, "I used t'hear me father say this." You know, he could [go] right back 'cause well he was 80-somethin' himself.

AR: Yeah.

CT: And then, he heard his father tell stories, you know and ...

AR: Yeah.

CT: So, ah, so he could tell some stories, and he could tell who the relations and who they weren't.

AR: Um hum. Well, I thank you very, very much and, ah, it's nice to be able to talk to someone who actually experienced the tidal wave and saw the waves.

CT: Oh, yes. I was tellin' Kay about it last night and she said, now, I said "Why didn't you let me know when you were going in?" She forgot about it.

AR: This is Kay, your daughter that came to the [tsunami] talk.

CT: Yeah. My oldest daughter. The son is the oldest lives here [next door].

AR: Um hum.

CT: And Kay is my oldest daughter. Oh, yeah, 'cause we were talkin' [about?] something to do. "Do you remember that night?" I said. "It was really something." I could remember so well where I was at when the wave took us — braidin' my aunt's hair.

AR: Never did finish the hairdo, I suppose?

CT: No, it must be quite something.

AR: And [to] whom were you talking about it last night? You said you were talking about it last night.

CT: Kay. Myself and Kay and Mrs. Priscilla. Now, they lived under the bank down there, but the water never enter. ... just come in around the house.

AR: Um hum.

CT: And squirted all up the harbour too, right up, because there was nothing then to keep it, because there was no causeway or nothin'.

AR: Yeah.

CT: And the furor just went in straight, and then a bridge goin' across.

AR: Have you got any sense how far that water went up towards the paved road? You know, the, ah, towards the school, up the brook?

CT: Well, ah, ah, well, up in the bottom that way? A ways you go. That went right in, sure almost in, in past the ...

AR: As far as the high school, do you think? Or, or as far as the, the, the, the manor?

CT: Oh, yes. Yeah. Went almost into the manor. Now, Levi Malloy, and then his sister up on the hill, and seein' this uh, this uh, I dunno if his mom took him, or who it was. I was intending t'ask her today and I forgot 'bout it. She's 80, she's my age, [we went] to the school together, see?

AR: What's her name?

CT: Ah, t'is Kelly. Lotte Kelly. Lotte. Charlotte is her name, like mine, but she, she's Lotte.

AR: Charlotte Kelly?

CT: Yeah.

AR: So she, ah, she, ah, is still alive too, then?

CT: Oh, yes and see, she was livin' down then in the house where her, um, where her, um, where the, the house is now. But it's an old house then, they got a new house built now. But Levi's wife is still there.

AR: Fascinating.

CT: Yeah. She's 86 or something but smart as anything ...

AR: Well, thank you very much for, for that and for the tea. I enjoyed it.

CT: Oh God, a cup of the tea don't mean much.

AR: That's great.

End of interview

Transcript made
March 27, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 94-7, SIDE 1, SECOND PART, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1994,
PAULINE LODER, ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Pauline Mary Loder — family name Shea
— born about May 1898
— first married a Fitzpatrick from Marystown,
then a John Slaney and she has outlived her
third husband Richard Loder
— location: Mount Margaret Manor, St. Lawrence
— mailing address: Mount Margaret Manor,
Memorial Drive, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland
A0E 2V0
— interview length: 17 minutes

ALAN RUFFMAN: Just let it run. I'll sit it right there so we can
just talk to each other. But, you were living in
St. Lawrence in 1929?

PAULINE LODER: Yes, I lived here all my life, sir.

AR: And, I've got ...

PL: I was born and reared here.

AR: And I got your name as Pauline Loder.

PL: Loder, yes.

AR: But that wasn't your, that wasn't your family name.

PL: No, my family name was Shea.

AR: Pauline Shea.

PL: Pauline Shea.

AR: And did you have a middle name as well?

PL: Mary.

AR: Pauline Mary Shea.

PL: Pauline Mary Shea.

AR: And where did your family live in ...?

PL: They lived in a place called The Dock.

AR: The Dock.

PL: Because that's where the boats, that's where the government wharf was to?

AR: Yes.

PL: And that's where they, ah, always come there, and they named it The Dock.

AR: Now, you, you were not, you were a young lady when, when the tidal wave came in. How old were you when the tidal wave came?

PL: Well. Was 1929, and now I'm 1996. Make money of that.

AR: You're 96 years old right now.

PL: I'm 96 years old, I'm 6 months.

AR: So that makes you 31 years old, roughly, and 6 months. 'Cause yesterday was the anniversary of the tidal wave.

PL: Yes.

AR: And, were you married by, by 1929?

PL: I was, ah, yes, I was married. I was married very young.

AR: And you had children probably already by then.

PL: No, I never had no child.

AR: OK.

PL: No. No children.

AR: I don't have any children. I live in Halifax.

PL: Don't you?

AR: But I haven't been married as long as you have, um. And where was ...

PL: I, I've been married 3 times, sir.

AR: Three times.

PL: Yeah.

AR: So in 1931 you were married to your first husband, were you?

PL: Yeah. Nineteen and thir, ah, ah, I was married when I was very young to a man named Fitzpatrick from Marystown.

AR: OK.

PL: And he only lived, uh, we were only married a year and a half when he was drowned goin' across to Oporto [Portugal].

AR: Oh, really.

PL: In a big three-master vessel, the GENERAL KNOX.

AR: The GENERAL KNOX was his vessel, and they were taking fish over to Oporto?

PL: Yes, they were takin' the fish over to, ah, Oporto, and they would bring a load of fish over, and a load of molasses or a load of salt back.

AR: And was he lost just as one person?

PL: Yes, just one person was lost.

AR: He was washed overboard.

PL: He was cook. He was cook.

AR: And, and how ...

PL: He had a, and when, when you go cook, well, you had to have something to protect you, protect you, you had to have something around yer waist or something, to tie on.

AR: Yeah.

PL: But he just had his cook apron on.

AR: Oh, dear. And he got washed overboard.

PL: I never, I never And one sea struck 'er. They had 55 kentals [quintals] of fish in 'er. And one sea struck 'er and knocked 'er out.

AR: Wow.

PL: Out on 'er side. And I suppose that the rest of the men must'a clung to 'er somehow, or got to 'er, when they got on deck, anyhow, he was gone.

AR: Wow. And then you were married again then?

PL: And then, about 2 years after that I married a man from here, John Slaney.

AR: Slaney.

PL: And he was married, and 'is wife died, and he had, ah, his mother lived with him. And, ah, he had 2 daughters, Lillian and Betty.

AR: So you became a mother right away. Or were they, were they grown-up children?

PL: Yeah, well, I was, I was their stepmother.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Well, ah, Lil was 4, ah, 6 years old, and Betty was 4. And I helped t'rear them.

AR: And did, and were they with you in 1929 then, when Who was living at home then, in 1929, when the tidal wave came?

PL: You'll a speak a bit because I'm, I'm, I'm deaf in that ear!

AR: Yeah. Who was living at home in 1929 when the tidal wave came?

PL: Oh, one of us, I was home with my mom.

AR: OK.

PL: And, I left to go down and drive up my cow t'milk her.

AR: And where was your home in the harbour?

PL: Oh, right down t'The Dock. And they were further up, see?

AR: On the west side.

PL: Yes. And I went down to get the cow, and when I was passin' along by a woman's house I knew there, Mrs. Beck, the, the road trembled under me feet.

AR: And that's, what time of day was that now?

PL: That was about 5 or somewhere around there, ha'past 5.

AR: Yeah.

PL: And, the, trembled under me feet, and I stood still, I didn't know what was the matter.

AR: And what happened to the cow?

PL: No, I didn't have 'er then! I went, I had to go out to the meadow for 'er.

AR: You were going to get her.

PL: So, ah, I went on a little visit and turned up to my mom's home, see?

AR: Yes.

PL: She lived just a little bit further down than we did. And I said, ah, "My God, Ma, Mom, what's the matter I wonder, the road trembled under me feet, comin' down the harbour." "Sure," she said, "The, the covers shook on the stove for here."

AR: Yes. That'd be a ...

PL: That's all the thought we give it. Didn't know nothing else until 'bout somewhere, somewhere around 7 o'clock in the evening.

AR: Yeah?

PL: The tidal wave struck.

AR: You didn't feel any other earthquakes.

PL: No, never felt it. That happened in the ocean.

AR: Yeah. Well offshore.

PL: Yeah.

AR: And then, what happened, ah, later on in the evening?

PL: When it come on in the evening, then the, somewhere around 7 o'clock, the tidal wave struck.

AR: And which, what, what happened first?

PL: My dear child. The, the sea started t'come in first, right back to the government wharf [she means started to withdraw seaward].

AR: Yes.

PL: Was in The Dock. The, dried that right out from the, in there, right out.

AR: From, from that bottom right out to the government wharf, it dried out.

PL: It dried right out the harbour, dried right out to the government wharf.

AR: Wow.

PL: And the people were lookin' there, crazy, they went crazy. All the ... everything went! Stages, stores, flakes, even to the women's bread-in-rise that they put [out to sit] the night before, [it] was in the landwash the next morning.

AR: Really.

PL: Oh, my. And a boat come in, a boat come in with her or was in there, went in, and, um, anchors out, and she went right in where the, where the chronic care hospital is, you know, that big chronic care hospital now got in there?

AR: What, the, where the U.S. military hospital was?

PL: Chronic care.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Yeah.

AR: That's the new hospital just built?

PL: That's the new, that's the new one. They got all the people in there, you know.

AR: Now which boat was, how big a boat was that?

PL: Oh, just a small sailing boat, you know. Sails on 'er, that's the one.

AR: Do you remember the name of that boat?

PL: She went in. No. She went in, she didn't belong t'here, she belonged somewhere else and she [had just] come in here.

AR: She went right up the brook, then.

PL: Eh?

AR: She went right up the brook.

PL: She, uh, she went right in the harbour, and went It wasn't a brook sure. She went over everything. And went right in, in there 'cause this was nothing but a big bat of woods you know.

AR: So it would've come up right past here to the hospital then ...

PL: And went right, right on in, towed 'er anchors, and when the tide come in the second time she come out and went on wherever she was goin'!

AR: So, the first one brought 'er in, and the second one took 'er back out?

PL: Yeah. Brought 'er back out, and she went on. And we had people come from Saint-Pierre in the skiffs.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Comin' home. And didn't know what was wrong, and they met so much damage, you know, some much flakes and

AR: Do you remember who was in that skiff? Who were the family in that skiff?

PL: Eh?

AR: Who was the fella coming over from Saint-Pierre?

PL: Oh, I don't know now. So many goin' to Saint-Pierre back and forth, I didn't know who they were. But, anyhow, they, ah, they met the boats, they met the

AR: They saw all the ... the debris.

PL: Everything comin' out. The logs and flakes and stages and so forth.

AR: Yeah.

PL: And a horse.

AR: What's the story of the horse, now?

PL: A horse in the stable. He went out in the wave.

AR: Yeah.

PL: So far out. And when the tide come in, he come in again. All right. Never hurtin' a bit.

AR: That horse didn't drown.

PL: No!

AR: Remember the name of that horse?

PL: No, I don't.

AR: 'Cause I think I've heard Ena Farrell Edwards talk about a horse called 'Jacko'.

PL: Oh, that could be it.

AR: Yeah?

PL: Well, prob'ly she put that name on it, I don't know, you know.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Ena gives out a lot of stuff, you know, too?

AR: Um hum. And ...

PL: You take a report from her? Did you?

AR: I, I haven't talked to her yet, but she was talking at the meeting the other night when I had the, the, the conversation, ah, in front of everybody.

PL: I see. 'Cause she, she speaks at most, you know. They goes [and] takes reports from her mostly.

AR: Yeah. Now, d'you remember any houses that, dwelling houses that floated off?

PL: Eh?

AR: Were there any dwelling houses that floated off?

PL: Oh, yes. There was dwelling houses went. And the big fish store, my dear, were t'ousands and t'ousands of, ah, kentals I'll say in the fish store.

AR: Who owned, owned that fish store, do you remember?

PL: Giovanninis.

AR: Joe?

PL: Giovannini.

AR: The Giovanninis owned that fish store, and they lost all their fish.

PL: That's ri... ah, Al [Adolph A.] Giovannini.

AR: And whose dwelling house went and floated off?

PL: And he lost just a, you, you were there to see that? Down on the point of the beach, that big fish store.

AR: Yeah.

PL: And the, when the, the tidal wave took it, it just come up like that, look! Of the, of the ...

AR: Up under.

PL: And went off. Turned bottom up. Not bottom up, turned sideways, and it took the fish out of her after, you know?

AR: So they were able to get some of the fish out of that.

PL: Oh, yes. They got some of the fish that went up. 'Cause by husband worked at it.

AR: And what happened to the telegraph station now?

PL: Eh?

AR: What happened to the telegraph station and the post office.

PL: Oh, I don't know anything 'bout the post office. 'Cause it wasn't on ... it was on our side all right, but that's where ... oh, that's, I'm wrong in there, because I was standing under the post office when we were, um, that's where a crowd of people were standing, watched them comin' across 'the strands', it's called.

AR: What's, ah, across 'the strand'. Yeah.

PL: Across 'the strand'.

AR: So your, your home, your home was over at the, ah, east side of the harbour, was it?

PL: My home was at the west side of the harbour.

AR: On the west side of the harbour.

PL: ... handy The Dock.

AR: OK. And you were up near 'the strand'.

PL: And we were up, we were, went up the road, up the road.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Same as it comes up now.

AR: Um hum.

PL: Main road. And we were standin' under the post office when the ... Mr. Thorne come across, Father Thorne's brother ...

AR: OK.

PL: ... Charlie.

AR: Came across.

PL: And the tide went out, he started to run, from the east side to the west side.

AR: Oh, really.

PL: Across 'the strand', 'cause there was no causeway then.

AR: Yeah.

PL: And, ah, everyone singin' out to him to "Come on, come on." And the sea, you heard, when it started to roar, comin' in

the tide?

AR: Yeah.

PL: You'd be surprised at how they could make such a noise. Oh, my soul.

AR: How many times did you see the sea come in?

PL: Oh, 'bout, 'bout 3 or 4 times I saw it.

AR: Um hum. And was the, was the, when the sea came in, was it breaking? Was it white, white waves on the top of it?

PL: Yes. Outside, first when it started, but after it kinda died down. Like was just runnin' the big thing runnin' along, you know, big, lot a water runnin' along.

AR: And, and could you see the, could you see the white foam?

PL: Yes sir, I saw the white foam.

AR: And, and what sort of a night was it for, for visibility?

PL: Well, when it, when it, ah, went that died, died down was, 'twas very good after that.

AR: Very calm.

PL: Yeah, very calm like that.

AR: And was the moon out, or clear sky? Do you remember?

PL: Ah, clear, sk... not too clear, because of the, wind was eastern and rainin', you know, and mist stuff, it wasn't good time.

AR: Yeah? Whose dwelling houses floated off?

PL: Eh?

AR: Did you ever, did you ever know whose dwelling houses floated off?

PL: No, I never. They were goin' here and goin' there and goin' everywhere, you didn't settle nowhere.

AR: Um hum. And what sort of, ah, damage did it do to, ah, when you woke up the next day, what did you see?

PL: Oh, my dear. When you, the next morning you saw something. People walkin' around, right around. This harbour is a 'V', you know?

AR: Yeah.

PL: And you can walk right around it when the tide is out.

AR: Yeah.

PL: And, oh my, dishes and pots and pans and even the people's bread-in-rise pans.

AR: You saw, you saw a bread-in-rise pan?

PL: Yeah, I saw in the, pan of dough. And he lifted it up in his arms, some man lifted it up. "Just look what we have here." Pan a dough with a, the house was down near the water, you know?

AR: Yeah.

PL: Terrible, terrible.

AR: So, ah, did any people get injured? Were there any people harmed?

PL: No! I never heard tell of one man gettin' hurt.

AR: Really.

PL: And no loss of life whatsoever.

AR: No, there were no loss of life in St. Lawrence I know of.

PL: No. No loss of life.

AR: That was very fortunate.

PL: Very fortunate. 'Cause we're havin' loss of life since then, I'm tellin' you.

AR: I'll bet you have, with the mines.

PL: ... loss ... with the, with the mines. For God's sake, if you went into the graveyard, that's the place to go.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Go see who went in the, in the mines.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Like of that. We got nothing left now.

AR: No, it's, ah, they speak of this town being a ...

PL: No, no fish, no mines, no nothing. Men goin' t'school,

children goin' t'school. Gettin' a day's work here, or a day's work there. It's terrible, you know.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Terrible. And I don't know what they're goin' to do about it?

AR: You have grand ..., now, Mr. Loder was your third husband then?

PL: Yes. Richard.

AR: And, um, I suppose you've got, still got family in St. Lawrence?

PL: Well, my family's gone, now. There was twelve of, there was ten of us in family.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Ah, four brothers and six girls.

AR: Um hum.

PL: And then Mom and Dad, the twelve of us. They're dead for long ago. I'm the only one left.

AR: Well, you're 96 years old.

PL: I only, I only have, ah, um, nieces.

AR: Sure.

PL: Two nieces around here and nephews, that's all.

AR: Well, I was talking to your granddaughter in the drugstore, now.

PL: Who, Pauline?

AR: I'm not sure I know her name. I, I went in the drugstore to ask directions, and she said that you were her grandmother. So that must be, ah, ...

PL: Oh, that's Betty I suppose?

AR: I suppose it is.

PL: Is she workin' there?

AR: She's working there tonight, yeh.

PL: Yeah, that's Betty Bishop.

AR: All right. Well, Betty Bishop is who sent me up here.

PL: Is it?

AR: And it was, ah, it was Ena Farrell Edwards who suggested I talk to you. And I thank you very, very much for having me into your room.

PL: Oh, well, I'm only too glad to be able to help.

AR: What I hope to do is put this tape into the, um, into the Archives at the, ah, at St., you know, either at the ...

PL: Well, there's people now goes, goes into, um, goes into places up in Toronto and Montreal and, ah, when they shows a tape, to women 'specially, "My God, that's Aunt Pauline Loder, look! I know sure for she belongs home."

AR: Yes.

PL: I'm everywhere all over the world, 'cause people comes from all parts of the world.

AR: Well, I'm from Halifax, so, ah, not so far away.

PL: No.

AR: But I'll hope to put this tape into, ah, the Archives in St. John's, or into the Burlin Heritage House, to let the young people listen to the story.

PL: I got a, I got a niece's daughter in the, ah, hospital, nurse in Halifax.

AR: Oh really. Which hospital is she in? Probably the Victoria General, maybe.

PL: The Victoria I think.

AR: Yeah.

PL: Yeah. Royal Victoria. Her name is, ah, ah, what is her name? Mrs. Malloy, she goes

AR: All right. Well, I was very pleased to find you in this evening, and I thank you very, very much for having taken a little time.

PL: Well, sir, you're welcome. I gives a report to everyone I can.

AR: Thank you very, very much.

PL: Any, anything that I can do to help, I does it. And they

comes from everywhere and they sends me all kinds a gifts and everything. And, ah, I'm very thankful for them. But I said to a woman, person here not long ago, "The next crew comes I'm gonna charge."

AR: Ha, ha, ha, ha!

PL: Makes you laugh, you know?

AR: Well, I'm glad you didn't charge me, and I thank your roommate very much for having me into the room as well.

PL: I just passed that as a joke, you know.

AR: Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

PL: I wouldn't dream of chargin' anything.

AR: Well, thank you very, very kindly. The, um, (tape ends)

End of first part of the interview

Mrs. Loder then suggested to Alan Ruffman that she sing him a song and, with a new tape in place, she did - in fact she sang two songs.

Transcript made
March 29, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 94-7, SIDE 2, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1994,
PAULINE LODER, ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND (CONTINUED) -- TWO SONGS

PAULINE LODER: Did you ever hear the song of the two orphans?

ALAN RUFFMAN: No, I don't think I know that song.

PL sings:

Two little children, a boy and a girl
Stood by the old church door
The little maid's hair was as black as the coal
And it's on the dress that she wore.

The boy's coat was faded, all tattered and torn
And tears stood in each little eye
"Why don't you go home to your mother?" I said
And this was the maiden's reply.

"Mama's in heaven, they took her away
Left Jim and I all alone
We came here to sleep at the close of the day
For we have no mama nor home."

"We can't earn our bread, we're too little," she said
"Jim is 5 years, and I'm only 7
We have no-one to love us since Daddy is gone
And our darling Mama's in heaven.

Our darling went out to sea long ago
We waited all night on the shore
As he was a life-saving captain, you see
And he never came back any more.

Then Mama got sick and took her away
They say, to a home warm and bright
She said she would come for her children some day
And perhaps she is coming tonight."

The sexton came early to ring the church bell
He found them beneath the snow white
The angels made room for the orphans to dwell
In Heaven with Mama that night.

AR: Isn't that nice. I appreciate that very, very much, Mrs.
Loder.

PL: I'll sing you a song for your Mum.

AR: All right. I'll have one more, ha ha ha!

PL sings:

M is for the million things she gave me
O means only that she's growin' old
T is for the tears she shed to save me and
H is for the heart of purest gold
E is for her eyes with love light shining
R is right, and right she'll always be
You put them all together, they spell 'MOTHER'
The word which means the world to me.

PL: And you.

AR: Very good. Thank you very, very much.

End of the second part of the interview

Transcript made
March 12, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 95-1, SIDE 1, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1995,
MICHAEL JOSEPH TURPIN AND HIS WIFE PHILOMENA, ST. LAWRENCE,
NEWFOUNDLAND

Michael ('Mick'; also 'Mike'; he was called 'Mike' by his sister and brother-in-law, Nellie and John Kelly)

- born August 22, 1912
- wife Philomena present in a wheelchair and on oxygen; did not participate to any great degree
- lives on Water Street East, St. Lawrence
- mailing address: Water Street East, P.O. Box 651, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland A0E 2V0
- phone (709) 873-2537
- interview length: 34.5 minutes

(first minute got erased in error, identifying Mr. Turpin and his wife and the location) Mr. Turpin, who is now 82 and was 17 at the time of the disaster, had been off cutting wood along the Corbin Road, east of St. Lawrence and Little St. Lawrence, when the earthquake struck on November 18, 1929.

ALAN RUFFMAN: Now, now about what time was it when you felt the earthquake?

MICK TURPIN: Well, just as we were packin' up and leavin'.

AR: So it's just as it's getting dark.

MT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: And how long did it take you then to walk back that distance?

MT: Ah, I suppose about, ah, three-quarters of an hour.

AR: And so when you came back to the harbour, was the tidal wave started?

MT: I went down to help me Aunt Kate with the cows because the boys was all gone and her husband was in Saint-Pierre, and me dad, to milk the cows 'cause they had two or three cows, mostly everybody had them then, you know.

AR: Uh huh.

MT: All right? (voice of Philomena in background) She's crippled, she's in a wheelchair, had a stroke 'bout 9 year [ago].

AR: She's managing OK though?

MT: Oh yeah.

AR: Good. So when you came down the harbour, had the tidal wave started?

MT: Just started when I went up sit down and milk the cows, and I couldn't get a drop of milk out of them because they were going crazy.

AR: They had been upset by the earthquake.

MT: Yeah. Tremblin', you know?

AR: And that was just next door here in your family home.

MT: That's right.

AR: The small house is still there.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And that is, what colour house is it right now?

MT: The little small one, they cut'n down made a little shack out of it, you know?

AR: OK. (voice of Philomena in the background, "White") It was a two-storey house.

MT: Yeah it was.

AR: And they cut her down.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And when you started looking, how did you know the tidal wave was coming?

MT: Well, I went down and I didn't know 'til I see the water, the sea comin' in.

AR: And how'd it come in?

MT: Well, it come in like a, well you want to see a big swell on the pictures.

AR: Yeah.

MT: Rolled in, rolled in, rolled in, you couldn't see Shingle Point, you know, everything was covered there.

AR: Was it a breaking wave?

MT: No, no, it just rolled in. When he got in, in, in a little shoaler water he broke.

AR: OK, so it was not breaking when it came to Shingle Point.

MT: No, no.

AR: It simply rose up over.

MT: Rose up over. Yeah. And then

AR: And could you see the wharves then, or

MT: No, you couldn't see nothing. All the flakes and stages was goin' and crackin' and rantin'.

AR: And, how, how could you see what was happening?

MT: Well, because a fine night.

AR: The moon was out.

MT: Yes, the moon was out was right.

AR: OK.

MT: Yeah, but he was, he was like, he was in a shadow or eclipse or somethin', you know, at that time I s'pose with the bad weather was comin' up, 'cause the next day it was a snow storm.

AR: That's right.

MT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: And how, how high do you think the water came, ah, over the normal sea at that time?

MT: Well, I'll tell you now how high it come. See that rec centre up there?

AR: Yes, the new one.

MT: The new one. Well there was stages all along there right up to the Mountie building, stages 'n' flakes on both sides.

AR: And this was, ah, this was open, this hadn't been filled in at that time.

MT: No, no. No. And, ah, there was a two-dory boat here, a little jack boat used to call 'em.

AR: Yes.

MT: And she was to her anchor, and she ended up at

AR: Wait now, where was the jack boat anchored?

MT: Right here in the middle of harbour here.

AR: All right, directly out front of your house then.

MT: That's right, that's right, where you sayin' it. Yeah. And, ah, she went in to where the St. Lawrence high school is at now, with her two anchors out.

AR: Oh, really?

MT: So now that was a, a nice wave.

AR: Now where, where did it end? We might get in the car, you know, another time, go up and you could show me where that ended up. But, when you say up to where the high school is, that

MT: Yeah.

AR: Almost to

MT: In on that meadow there, flat-like.

AR: Would it go right where the parking lot is, or just to the, be just to the eastward of the parking lot?

MT: No, no, went straight in through, because it was all, once comin', once it come in, see, it opened all in where the bank is at. None of that there then you see.

AR: Um hum. And how much do you figure that jack boat, boat drew? What sort of water would it draw when it was floating?

MT: Well, well, not very much, a jack boat, no more than 3, 4 feet I s'pose.

AR: So, there had to be 3 or 4 feet of water in, in in the meadow right beside the high school

MT: Yes, it not more because, ah, she had two anchors out.

AR: And she would have been dragging those anchors.

MT: Yeah, oh yeah, yeah. Just the same, you know, as a river.

AR: Whose boat was that now?

MT: God, I couldn't tell you. Someone from down around the bay there, Rushoon somewhere.

AR: So he was just into the harbour for a visit.

MT: Yeah, he used to, he used to come here fishing in the Fall of the year and then, sometimes they come from down the bay,

Placentia Bay there, with a load of, of spruce and all that kinda stuff for

AR: For firewood, for

MT: For, for, for ah, for, and carts and pliers and sell it, billets, and black spruce for making spruce beer and everything like that?

AR: Um hum.

MT: Eh?

AR: So he had his boat go all the way in, almost to the, the Highway 220.

MT: It took, it took the people a long time to get 'er out, but they hauled 'er out; ways and blocks and tackles, you know?

AR: Um hum. So she was able to use this boat again.

MT: Oh yeah. Yeah.

AR: Wow.

MT: One, one hole, a little hole was punched in 'er.*

AR: Really. And did she ... the boat ... the boat ... they didn't used to name those boats?

MT: Well, I wouldn't know a name, name. Now, they used to name them all the time.

AR: OK. Now, do you think the water went as high as the highway, the paved road?

MT: Oh, just a ..., went higher than that because, the boat stopped only, only, ah, ah, 20 feet from the pavement there that goes in around the school, by the town hall.

AR: Yes.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Let's see if we can put that on the map. I think, ah, let's see now, here we are. OK. This is the soccer field here, and there's the high school up there.

* In a phone call on August 14, 1995, Mr. Turpin was certain that this vessel had 2 persons in it and that it grounded and stayed put. He said it was about 35 feet long, had two masts and had sails. He indicated that the two fellows left in their dory (or walked ashore).

MT: Yeah.

AR: And the town hall is, I guess that's the town hall, they don't have everything on there.

MT: I'd say it 'tis.

AR: But here's the, the water would have come up that brook. What do you call that brook, has she got a name?

MT: Riverhead Brook.

AR: Riverhead.

MT: That's the name of the brook.

AR: Riverhead Brook. And there's the meadow beside the, this is the high school here and they got the parking lot, right there.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So she would have been, how close do you think she was to the paved road, that, that jack boat?

MT: Ah, 20 feet.

AR: Oh really?

MT: Yeah.

AR: And how close would it have been to where the high school is now? I mean, is it over that side, or closer to the brook?

MT: No, he was, he was a little closer to the brook.

AR: OK.

MT: ... than he was to, ah, the high school.

AR: Now they show

MT: But it was all the same lot of ground because that went through ..., the high road went through the ground there, see?

AR: Was there a, was the paved road there at the time?

MT: No, no, no, just dirt road.

AR: There was a bit of a dirt road, no, no pavement.

MT: And wooden bridges.

AR: So

MT: Any place that had a brook.

AR: Now where was the Government Bridge? They said the Government Bridge went out, I read that in the newspaper. Which would have been ...?

MT: The Government Bridge is right across, you know, I explain it to you the best way I can, now, and tell you the truth of it, ah. The Government Bridge was, ah, the one that crosses the brook there now, only cement. We used to be an old wooden one there then, see?

AR: So it would have been on the, what's called Highway 220.
[Note: the interviewer is confused here as to what bridge was the 'Government Bridge' in 1929.]

MT: Yeah.

AR: And it would have been the old Highway 220 bridge.

MT: Yeah. (voice of Philomena in the background "... across from the drugstore, you know where drugstore is?")

AR: I know where the drugstore is, yeah.

PT: Across from that.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So it's a, um, when I say, but on, on the Highway 220. (voice of Philomena in the background "... is that 220?") Well, the, on the

MT: Well I ... well, I think, I think it is.

AR: ... the road from Lawn through to, ah, Marystown.

MT: That's right. Yeah.

AR: So it would have been that bridge and, and is that in the same position as it is now? Or, you know,

MT: No, the main bridge now is farther out.

AR: When you say 'farther out', ah, you mean closer to the ocean?

MT: Yeah.

AR: So the, the Government Bridge would have been upstream a little bit.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So, as you come down the hill towards the drugstore and you're

heading towards the hospital, the old bridge would have been to your righthand side. We may be able to show that in the car, but (Philomena's voice in background "Yeah.")

MT: Hold on, now, let me see.

AR: As you come down past the

MT: You know the bridge that's there now? I'm going to tell you right where he was at. You know the bridge that's there now?

AR: Yes.

MT: Well that's where the old Government Bridge [was] because the road used to go right around the harbour, see?

AR: OK.

MT: You understand that now?

AR: It would, would come up past the RCMP, past the drugstore, and it would go 'round the top.

MT: No, no. No. You come up. You go along by the RCMP building.

AR: OK, there it is right there, yeah.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Post office and the RCMP.

MT: And you see that brace that's there now, we used to make turn there and go right around the harbour, see?

AR: Oh, OK.

MT: See?

AR: That's the Government Bridge.

MT: Right. See?

AR: Click! All right. Right near the Bank of Nova

MT: Now the one inside where the, where the school is, that was only put there lately for the children going across that brook inside where the, where the drugstore is. [a footbridge only across from the drugstore]

AR: All right. So the Government Bridge in 1929 was the one near the Bank of Nova Scotia.

MT: Right.

AR: Got it. I'm gonna write, I'm gonna write that right on the, the map. Now, were there some homes that moved? Some dwelling houses?

MT: Well, there's a couple there in the bottom on that flat there off of Patti Handrigan's and their house, named by the Handrigan people.

AR: No, no. I got a couple of those names written down that I, I think I wrote them down 'cause I went through the newspaper and I looked at the names that they had down. But you're right, I think one of them was Hannington[sic].

MT: Yes.

AR: Ah, let's see if I've got it written down here now somewhere.

MT: Or Malloy, or Joe Malloy had houses in there too.

AR: Yeah. Ah, where is it now? Oh, I know, it's back here a couple pages here. All right. There it is. What I found in the newspaper was, ah, houses. Yeah, I got two different stories from the newspaper. Some said there were nine homes destroyed, others said there was eight moved and only one destroyed. And, ah, but the names they had, Pikes, Hendrigan

MT: Mr. Walter Pike.

AR: Hendrigan was another one. [as spelled in the newspaper, but Handrigan today]

MT: Yeah.

AR: And

MT: But now, Walter Pike, he didn't lose his house but he lost his store and stuff like that, and his fish, you know?

AR: Um hum. What about this, it says Malloy was another one, and Fitzpatrick was another one that they mentioned in the newspaper.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Were those houses that moved too?

MT: No. The Alec Fitzpatrick house didn't move. That was his name, Alec Fitzpatrick and 'Brose [Ambrose] was two brothers.

AR: OK.

MT: They never moved.

AR: What was the Pike house that moved, or the ...?

MT: Ah, ah, Walter Pike, there you know where Albert [Ayward] got the ... got the Mini Mart built there now, ah?

AR: OK.

MT: Right there, just you cross the causeway.

AR: All right.

MT: See?

AR: Sure, the causeway's right in here then?

MT: Yeah. Because all that used to be stores and stages up there.

AR: Even past the causeway up into the RCMP, there was stores and stages, there was

MT: Right.

AR: There was enough water for a boat.

MT: Yeah. Right.

AR: All right. And, ah,

MT: Same way on the west side the harbour, 'til they filled in, see, because they filled that in and built the, the place(?) and the soccer field, see?

AR: And that came ... when did they build the causeway?

MT: Oh God, ah, about, I wouldn't be able to tell you now for sure.

AR: Where was the telegraph office located, ah, that moved? She went out into the harbour, I think.

MT: I don't remember the telegram office.

AR: They call it, the Postal, the word in the newspaper was the Postal Telegraph Office, and it was Mrs. Fewer that used to run that, um, that's the name they had. But it apparently went out into the harbour. But that's not the building you remember.

MT: No.

AR: That's all right. The, ah,

MT: Because Mrs. Fewer, see, used to have a, a post office because I used to get 5 dollars a month for delivering messages.

AR: OK, for the, for the telegraph, you'd take them around.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And when were you doing that?

MT: When she want me she's put up paper in the, in the window, so if I see the white paper up,

AR: You'd go over.

MT: I go. You were round to kill yerself then to make a cent.

AR: Now, now, where was that, that postal telegraph office located? Or when, when were you doing that delivery, when you were a young man, or old ...?

MT: Young, real young.

AR: So that was ... that was before the tidal ...

MT: Way before Yeah, before the tidal wave. Yeah.

AR: Where was that, that postal, where was that office located?

MT: Now I don't remember where, I believe she had it over on the west side of the harbour after.

AR: After the tidal wave.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And where was it when you were delivering messages?

MT: Way down the harbour. But that never went out.

AR: Oh, what didn't?

MT: That was, she had apartment in Uncle Vic's[sic] house.

AR: OK.

MT: See?

AR: So, whatever moved in 1929 had to be in a different location.

MT: Right. Yeah.

AR: And what other buildings do you remember moving?

MT: Well, I'll tell you now, th' was a lot of buildings moved, so were [the?] stages, but, ah, houses, ah, there was only a couple there in the bottom was I know for ... moved, and that was a Malloy man and a Handrigan.

AR: And I'd spell Hendrigan, I think I got from the newspaper, let me find it here, H-E-N-D-R-I-G-A-N. Hendrigan. [Handrigan today]

MT: Yeah.

AR: So his house moved, for sure.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Where'd it move to?

MT: Well it moved in over the meadows there.

AR: Back up into the bottom.

MT: Right ... stopped he like in breadth of that, where that boat was at, you know.

AR: As far as that jack boat?

MT: Yeah.

AR: Oh really?

MT: Yeah. A little bit out from it, now, maybe a hundred feet or something, you see?

AR: Back down, um, back down towards the, ah, towards the Bank of Nova Scotia area.

MT: That's right.

AR: So a hundred feet on this map is, ah, 1 to 2,500 ... so it's somewhere in there then. So we think the Handrigan house went into the ... did they use that house again, or, was she ...?

MT: Oh yeah, they, they fixed it up again. The planchion[sic] (?) and everything, you know.

AR: Now what about, where'd Malloy's house, where was it located? Do you remember where Handrigan's house was located to start?

MT: Yes, it, there ... there ... somewhere around where the town hall was now, you know, the old town hall, the fire department got it now.

AR: Oh, now, let's figure out the fire department. I think, ah, I think that's the, the fire department is right at the intersection, isn't it?

MT: Right. (voice of Philomena in the background "Yeah")

AR: So, this is the old town hall.

MT: Yeah.

AR: All right, 'cause that would confuse me. Old town hall. And, so you think, which side of the old town hall was Mr. Handrigan's house located?

MT: Right on the back of it.

AR: On the back being the, not the harbour side

MT: Say the hall here now, right here on the back of it. [shows Alan]

AR: So we'll just put it, we'll put it, just a, I'll put it

MT: 20 or feet or so.

AR: Now what I'm going to do is draw an arrow that shows it went up to about there.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Now we're just plus or minus. What about Mr. Malloy's house, he said it moved?

MT: Well, uh, must be farther back than mine, mine, mine, ... I know for ... No, unless it is Joe Malloy, 'cause he had a ... (voice of Philomena in the background "Rob(?) would know.")

AR: What ... now what was Mr. Handrigan's house[sic] name, do you remember his name?

MT: John Handrigan.

AR: It was John Handrigan. 'cause it didn't have that in the newspaper.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And what was Malloy's name, do you ever remember that?

MT: I don't know, unless it's Joe Malloy.

AR: Might have been Joe. So I'll put 'Joe' with a question mark.

MT: Because now I just remember he rowing up, that brook what's there now 'round ... towards the rec centre, that was built right up in front of the post office there now. That's OK. (unintelligible voice in background) Right in front of the post office now and tying onto his stage, you know,

AR: Oh really.

MT: ... and heavin' his fish up and splittin' it.

AR: So that he, Malloy would have been somewhere in where the rec centre is now.

MT: Right, only on the east side.

AR: On this side of the harbour?

MT: Yeah.

AR: So I'm just going to put a, an approximate square here. He would have been on the shoreward, he would have been on the harbour side of the road, or on the upper ...?

MT: On the harbour side of the road.

AR: His family home, his dwelling home.

MT: Yeah. Because the road was widen ... widened out a bit, see? Now

AR: But this fellow Handrigan, he, he was in back of the fire hall so he was, he was well away from the water.

MT: Yeah, yeah, but it's low ground there, see?

AR: It is low ground, yeah. I'm going to write 'Malloy' here, just as a ... I mean ... other fellas may tell me different, you know.

MT: But now, perhaps the post office was there, but I don't know, I don't remember that much about it.

AR: Where did Malloy's house end up? Do you remember where it ended up to?

MT: Not very far from where, where, ah, he had it.

AR: Farther in, or ...?

MT: Oh yes, it went back.

AR: And it went back to the other side, this side of the road then.

MT: Right.

AR: So I'm just gonna put an arrow and, puts it into about here, and this is, I mean this is approximate, obviously. So Malloy's house moved, we think it might have been Joe Malloy, and this fellow John Handrigan's house moved and it moved some distance.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And he

MT: But not the house that's there, that's up there now, that he died in, the poor fella, but he was livin' with his dad then I guess. 'Twas down on the flat, where Duff Handrigan has his house there now. You see a, a building there along side of the RCMP only on this side of the RCMP building. That's where they used to live then.

AR: OK. (voice of Philomena in the background) So I, I've got the wrong place then for the Handrigan house here. I, I've got to, um, this is the post office here and that's the RCMP.

MT: Yeah. (voice of Philomena in the background "And right next to them is Handrigans.")

AR: So, it would have been, ah, to the north.

MT: Yah. To the north it would be, yeah.

AR: The first house north of the RCMP is where the Handrigan house was.

MT: Right.

AR: All right, I better ... and, and then when they rebuilt the house, they built it in behind the fire station.

MT: That's right.

AR: All right, so I'm gonna just change this and show it moving from Was it, do you think the Handrigan house was in the same location as it is right now?

MT: No, he's up on a higher hill.

AR: Now.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So he would have been down, closer to the, which side of the road do you think it was on, the Hendrigan house?

MT: The east side.

AR: It was on the east side.

MT: The east side the road.

AR: Not the water side.

MT: No.

AR: All right. Well I think we can put it in the front yard.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And show it moving there. So I think we just, ah, Now that, that looks like it moved from, you know, the depth is about 2 or 3 metres, you know, height of land, but it moved some distance, didn't it?

MT: Yeah.

AR: But it's very flat.

MT: Yeah, very flat.

AR: Now what about this other one that's mentioned in the, they talk about the Pike houses and the Fitzpatrick houses moving, but you don't think the dwelling houses moved.

MT: Fitzpatrick house?? [pondering]

AR: You mentioned Walter Pike, ah

MT: Walter Pike, his house never moved.

AR: Didn't move.

MT: But I'll tell you, he lost his store and flake because he got hit off in the water, and when he come over the water for to see where he was at he couldn't see 'cause there was a washin' tub ...

AR: Oh my goodness.

MT: ... half a barrel down over his head, see? He had to heave it off.

AR: So he was, he was swept up in the water ...

MT: Yeah.

AR: ... but luckily didn't drown.

MT: Right.

AR: Boy! So he lost his flake and his store.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Now where was his flake and store located, ah ...?

MT: Well, just, ah, you know where our church lane goes up there now.

AR: I don't, but I'll figure it out, it's right beside the, not beside the post office, oh it's this one here, here, it, it's

this one here I think, coming up to the church.

MT: Yeah. Now, just one side of the [Aylward's] Mini Mart up there, Albert's place, they got. (voice in background, "Yeah.")

AR: So this is RCMP, that's the post office, all right. I'll just keep these things straight in my head. So it was, it would be to the southward or the northward of the church lane?

MT: The south. The house is still there, only they got it repaired ... an old model house.

AR: Which colour is that house now?

MT: White.

AR: It's a white house ...

MT: Snow white.

AR: ... and this is the old Albert Pike house.

MT: Yeah. Walter Pike. [corrects Alan]

(abrupt end of conversation. Gap three minutes, twelve seconds in error as conversation overwritten by 'Tidal Wave' song recorded on the evening of February 25, 1995 at Evelyn Grondin's home.)

(interview abruptly continues)

AR: ... wasn't there though?

MT: No. No, it didn't go that far.

AR: What's the Golden Age Club ...

MT: Because tide just rushed in, took everything with it ...

AR: Yeah.

MT: ... and then it went back again, but now I tell you, you could walk, if you took a chance but you couldn't do it, you could run across the other side.

AR: You think right here ...

MT: Yeah.

AR: ... you coulda run across to the, ah, ...

MT: Right, to the pier.

AR: What's the big brown building that's right across here [on the Minworth Pier].

MT: That's, ah, fluorspar company built that there, a few year ago.

AR: So that's storage for their ore.

MT: Yeah. (voice of Philomena in the background "Which Golden Age Club were you talkin' about, were you talkin' Riverhead?")

AR: Well, no, I, I'm confused. Clearly, I, I, I, there's two different homes then, is there? The Golden Age is a senior citizens' club. (voice of Philomena in the background "Yeah, we goes there for a beer ...")

MT: Yeah, that's right on the side the road.

AR: And that's right beside the Bank of Nova Scotia.

MT: Yeah. Right. Right.

AR: OK. All right. So certainly the water went in there.

MT: Oh my God, yes. If that was there then, that'll be gone.

AR: Yeah.

MT: You know.

AR: But what I'm inter....

MT: Well, people used to have barns in there for storing hay and now that went too, you know.

AR: Um hum.

MT: Because that was all hay land at one time.

AR: Yup.

MT: Even out where the rec centre is now, 'til the tidal wave come. That was a meadow there, ah, Mrs. Sylvia Pike owned it and Uncle Vince(?) Flanny had land there. And it took the sod and (???) tore up and carried with it.

AR: It tore the sod off the hay field.

MT: Yeah. Right.

AR: And where'd it carry the sod to?

MT: Right in, scattered but all over the place, certainly at a time like that.

AR: Yeah.

MT: And that's how they come to fill it in for to put the rec centre there.

AR: So it's the manor I'm thinking about, the manor's in here. She's in by the ... that's the town hall, and I think this is the ... well I'm not sure they got the manor on here, it was only built But the manor ... the question would be, is, did the, did the tidal wave carry in as far as the manor? (voice of Philomena in the background "No, Mick, did it?")

MT: No, no, not in there.

AR: OK.

MT: No. No, definitely. Never went much farther than the town hall in there.

AR: The new town hall.

MT: Yeah. Mighta went 30 or 40 feet inside of it.

AR: OK.

MT: Yeah.

AR: But that's, you know, that's getting up to a fair height there, that's up about, that's about 30 feet above sea level right there.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So that's a fair height.

MT: Yeah.

AR: But she didn't come, you know, what I think it has a bit of a momentum that carries it up, you know, along the low land ...

MT: That's right.

AR: ... but she didn't necessarily come too high on the side here.

MT: No.

AR: Would it [have] come across the East Water Road though, all along here.

MT: Oh that was right up, like I said, half the yard there, right up, right up the harbour. You'd be days and couldn't of had a job [gettin'] right (?) up the harbour with wreckage, you know.

AR: Could you, could you tak... ah, I mean, the road would have been blocked with the wreckage.

MT: Ah, 'twas.

AR: And what about on the other side, the, the West Har..., ah, Water Street, was she blocked with wreckage?

MT: Not that much.

AR: She's a little higher.

MT: Little high, 'twas way higher over there, see, and then the wharf, you know, saved a lot of it. [Shingle Point]

AR: Yeah.

MT: It took the pressure.

AR: Well, that's fascinating, ah, interesting stuff. And, I, ah, I don't know whether there's anything else that you recall about this tidal wave. How many waves did you see, now? When you were stan....

MT: Two. Two waves.

AR: You saw two coming in here.

MT: Yeah. One was the first one was the big one.

AR: Um hum.

MT: But the second one was, ah, a bit lower. 'Cause we run right up here where our houses is when the thing come because you could see, you know, the water was rising, apparently it was coming.

AR: Yeah. And what do you remember of the noise?

MT: Oh, gee whiz. Used to rattle the covers on the stove.

AR: That's the earthquake, you mean?

MT: Yeah.

AR: Or, or just the tidal wave?

MT: No, no. Just the earthquake.

AR: She rattled the covers on the

MT: Stove used to shiver just same as somebody was shakin' it.

AR: Did any chimneys come down?

MT: No, there was no chimleys come down, not now as I know for, but, ah, we never had no ... mostly then lot of people used to have stovepipes.

AR: Yeah. So they were tied up with wire, then.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And what about the, ah, what about the, ah, the noise of the tidal wave?

MT: Roar.

AR: Like a breaking wave.

MT: Right. Just same as you be outside hear sea breakin'.

AR: Um hum. But she, she would roar right the way through here.

MT: Yeah, yeah. Now, there's something I'm gonna tell you 'bout Victor Turpin's stage, where would that be at now?

AR: Now, Victor Turpin's stage is right, we think it's this one right, just down in front here.

MT: No, no, not that fella. He was called after his dad. This is, ah, Uncle Vic.

AR: Now I don't know where that one is, ah,

MT: Ah, just down below us. (voice of Philomena in the background "You'd have to shout ...") Yes, that was her son's father. (PT: "That was Alfred's father Vic.") It was a big stage, two-storey.

AR: I think this is Charlotte Turpin's, let me see, see if I get this right now. I, I have to always work this out very carefully as which house is which, but I think this has got to be Charlotte Turpin's house right there.

MT: Yeah.

AR: Now, where was ...

MT: 'Twas a peak roof house one time, but it's not now, they got it cut down, see?

AR: All right. Now what about, this is, this is ...

MT: That, that, that stage, he's stage, that was right down in front of us, on the waterfront.

AR: And his name was?

MT: Victor [Turpin]. Junior, well, the old fella.

AR: All right.

MT: He had a son called after him, see. The fellow that bought Joe May's place there.

AR: Just down below here.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So, this is the, ah, the senior, Victor Turpin Sr. we'll call him.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And what about, you were gonna tell me a story about him now.

MT: Well, he come in through the harbour in a little open skiff, him and, uh, Joe Turpin from Saint-Pierre. This is the fella, now, I was tellin' you about that couldn't see Lawn Island up off of Lawn.

AR: Yeah, they think the Lawn Islands might have been covered with this ... the tsunami.

MT: It was covered.

AR: OK.

MT: 'Twas covered, with that sea, see?

AR: And so they ...

MT: And they come down when they turned the cape, "Christ, Joe boy" he say, "there's something wrong!" he said. "I, I said to you say comin' down off of Lawn islands something wrong?" because the swell was so big and open, no breakin' waves, no wind, see? 'Twas calm.

AR: Um hum, um hum.

MT: If 't had been any wind ...

AR: You'd understand.

MT: You should have lost everything with the wind, on that much sea because it took tops off it, see? The wind would.

AR: So when they showed up the harbour ...

MT: So they come in through the harbour 'mid all the stuff goin' out through, now that's the fella that said to buddy about the horse. So he come in and he said "God" he said "I can't get into the stage" he said. "It's all gone, stage head and the flakes." So he come in around where he used to have ... he come in around a big rock what was there, and he put her up on a little newt[sic] (?), and everybody grabbed ahold to the skiff and hauled her over to the stage, and that's where she

stopped 'till he got chance to put her up.

AR: And tell me about the horse, 'cause we wouldn't have [had] the tape on when you were telling me about the horse. These fellas saw the horse?

MT: Well, ah, he saw the horse with his head out through the door and he was winker, well we called him winker, you know, screechin' like horses do.

AR: Um hum.

MT: And Bob, boy, he got out through the door and swam ashore and landed over a place called Island Rock.

AR: Long Rock.

MT: Island Rock, we calls it.

AR: On? (PT: "Island.")

MT: Island! Rock.

AR: Island Rock. OK. Island Rock.

MT: Yeah. 'Twas flat, you know?

AR: And the horse just took off then.

MT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: Must have been scared.

MT: Yeah..

AR: Now ...

MT: He had he for years after.

AR: Whose horse, whose horse did she belong to?

MT: Tom Pike.

AR: Tom Pike.

MT: Thomas Pike, he was in the first World War.

AR: And he had his barn right on the Shingle Point.

MT: Right. Yeah.

AR: Or the point of the And the, um, tell me about the, now who was riding with Victor when they were coming back from Saint-Pierre with the ...

MT: Joe Turpin.

AR: So it's Joe Turpin and Victor Turpin were coming back in their open skiff.

MT: Right.

AR: Would it have had a motor then?

MT: Oh yes, 8 horsepower Acadia.

AR: So they were coming into the, ah, the harbour and met all this debris. Did they see any houses floating then?

MT: Well, stores. There you wouldn't tell a house then, you know, from a store because it'd be down low, 'cause people used to have some great stores, you know, for, uh, mendin' their twine, one thing and the other.

AR: So Victor and Joe. Now, were they related to each other?

MT: Ahhh, distance.

AR: OK.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And were returning from Saint-Pierre. Well, I'd heard about that before.

MT: Did you?

AR: And, I'm pretty sure that I was talking to one of the fellas, um, from Grand Bank that came into this harbour shortly after which, with a, with a, you know, fairly big boat of cargo and they couldn't land anywhere 'cause the What happened to the Government Wharf at the end of the, ah, the point of beach?

MT: Well that one wasn't built there then. But the Government Wharf then was on Shingle Point.

AR: At the end of Shingle Point.

MT: Yeah. That was washed out, see?

AR: It was.

MT: Yeah.

AR: So you had no way of ...

MT: That's how the flake never come to come, all that was washed out.

AR: So you had no place to land a boat then.

MT: That's right.

AR: How did you get, ah, supplies ashore when the ...

MT: Well, you hauled ashore, you know. High water, you bring it ashore in a dory or something.

AR: Do you remember the MEIGLE coming in?

MT: I can remember the MEIGLE, ARGYLE, CLAYCLOE[sic] and PORTIA.

AR: Now do you remember the MEIGLE, though, as being a rescue ship?

MT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: What did she do for the community here, then?

MT: Well she done a fine lot a stuff, boy, but I don't know that much about it, but I'll tell you this much, though, the old PORTIA. I can remember that the weather was so hard that you used to come in off of Calipouse there, that big bluff head on the east side there. And we'd go out with the hand slide and she'd lop up along side the ice and hoist the freight out and put it on our slide and we'd bring it in, 'cause me uncle Victor Turpin had a business, see?

AR: So you used the ice as the landing point in the winter times.

MT: Right. And hauled it in on the, on the slide.

AR: Wow. So, what else do we, should we record then about, ah, about this event? We certainly got the houses that moved, and we know a bit about the stages that moved.

MT: Yeah.

AR: And your skiff going all the way over to the other side there [above Doctor's Cove] ...

MT: How are you, my son? (someone coming in. PT: Come in, sir.")

AR: Well, we'll just say ...

MT: ... tape recorder.

AR: What I'll ask first, though, is just make sure that's it's OK, that you're comfortable ...

MT: Bringin' groceries, something to eat, boy.

AR: All right. Now, you're, are, are you comfortable with me using this for this, ah ... study?

MT: Oh, I don't care, I don't care.

AR: 'Cause what I'd like to do ...

MT: I'm only telling the truth!

AR: Well, I know you are! And what I'd like to do is, I'd like to put the tape in the Archives at some time so other people could listen to it. Would you mind doing that.

MT: Well, I don't care!

AR: 'Cause what I'm gonna do is, I'm gonna make a ... I'm gonna make a ... [transcript]

MT: I'm used to that because, ah, I had it here with the sailors and in the TRUXTON and POLLUX wrecks, see, I was the first guy out at that wreck.

AR: Oh, you were one of the fellas got down to that too, eh?

MT: First. First sailor. I'm gonna show you to him now.

AR: All right. Well, I'll just stop the tape here for a minute and, ah, I have got to figure out how to do this. I just do ... (tape shut off).

End of interview

Transcript made
March 13, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 95-1, SIDE 2, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1995,
ARCHIBALD JOSEPH SLANEY, ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Archibald Joseph Slaney — born 1912
— lives on Water Street West, St. Lawrence
— mailing address: P.O. Box 53, Water
Street West, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland
A0E 2V0
— phone (709) 873-2899
— interview length: 25.5 minutes

ALAN RUFFMAN: ... you and I can just sit here with the map, and,
ah, I'll get my pen out and we can, you, feel free
to sit down and we'll look at this as we
Well, let me start. I'm talking to, it's Arch? Or
Archibald?

ARCHIBALD SLANEY: Arch. Arch. Archibald.

AR: Arch Slaney. And what, do you have a middle name as well, Mr.
Slaney?

AS: Ah, Jack.

AR: Jack?

AS: Yeah. Joseph.

AR: So you are Archibald Joseph Slaney.

AS: Yes sir. That's right.

AR: And now, how old were you at the time of the tidal wave? Were
you a young man?

AS: Oh, I was only young, yeah, yeah, yeah. About 29 I'd say. I
was born in '12.

AR: So you're the same age as my father, so you would have been
about 17 years old at the time the tidal wave came in 1929.

AS: How many? 17.

AR: Seventeen, I think. If you're born 1912, ...

AS: Twelve, yeah, yeah.

AR: So you're 'bout 17. So you were a young man.

AS: Yeah, yeah.

AR: Do you remember the tidal wave then?

AS: Well, yes I remember because, ah, we were up to a house where they used to play cards.

AR: At the time of the earthquake?

AS: At the time of the tidal wave.

AR: OK. Where were you when the earthquake occurred?

AS: Ah, well in the 'quake, ah, I was in, I, I, I was in this, ah, in this house.

AR: OK. Whose house was that you were at?

AS: Oh, ah, Fitzpatrick's house, that's right near the [old Catholic church] hall, yuh.

AR: The hall being the, which hall are we talking about?

AS: Yeah, ahhh, the Catholic hall, ahh ...

AR: On the other side ...

AS: It's not where it's to now, but, ah, that was the old hall, you know?

AR: And then, what time of day did the earthquake occur?

AS: Ah, oh, I'd say, ah, 7 or 8 o'clock.

AR: OK. And, was it dark when the earthquake occurred?

AS: Ah, I'd say just comin' dark.

AR: OK. And, and when did, how much later was the tidal wave then?

AS: Oh, an hour or so later.

AR: And you say you're at a fella's house where they're playing cards.

AS: Yeah.

AR: Whose house was that you're at now?

AS: The Fitzpatrick's.

AR: The Fitzpatrick's. 'Member whose name?

AS: Well, ah, Ambrose Fitzpatrick.

AR: OK. And whereabouts was that house located, then, when the, is it still there, or has it been torn down?

AS: Well, ah, ah, you know, ah, ah, ah, it's torn down now. But there was a house built right there where that was built.

AR: And is it on the east side or the west side of the harbour?

AS: On, on the west side, on the east side.

AR: So we go across the causeway, um, which way do you turn to get to this house?

AS: Ah, ya, you go, you go across the causeway and you go right straight up the [Church] lane.

AR: Oh yes.

AS: And on your right, on your right there's a new house built there. But that's where the old house ...

AR: And is it the first house on your right, or the second?

AS: The first house on the right.

AR: All right. I'm just going to show this on So this was Ambrose Fitzpatrick.

AS: Yeah.

AR: And that's where ...

AS: You're goin' across the causeway.

AR: And you go up that lane. What's that lane called?

AS: Ah, that's the Church Lane, see?

AR: That's the Church Lane, OK.

AS: The Catholic, ah, church. To the Catholic church.

AR: All right. That's called Church Lane. Um, and so when you go up Church Lane the first house on the right is where Ambrose ...

AS: Where Ambrose, ah, Fitzpatrick.

AR: Fitzpatrick. That's where you were, then, when the tidal wave came. Now how did you know the tidal wave was coming?

AS: Well, I, I didn't know at all. I didn't know at all until, ah, until the sea started goin' in and out, you know.

AR: And, and how did you know that was happening? What, what, what brought that to everyone's attention?

AS: Well, I, I don't know, there was a kind of a commotion out on the road and that, and we went out to see what was goin' on there, see?

AR: Could you hear it?

AS: Oh, could you hear it? Oh my God! The sea used to go out, you know, you know, as far as Herring Cove.

AR: Yes, I know where Herring Cove is.

AS: Ah, almost go out to Herring Cove, I'd say.

AR: The sea withdrew.

AS: Oh, yeah. Between Herring Cove and, ah, Blue Beach. Blue Beach, it's a place on the west side ...

AR: Yeah, I know where that's at.

AS: ... of Blue Beach, and, ah, almost go out to ...

AR: So, [the] sea dried right out.

AS: The sea dried right out.

AR: So you could've, you could've walked across, you think you could've walked from the Shingle Point beach right across to the other side.

AS: Ah, almost, yeah.

AR: Wow. So then what happened when the water started coming back?

AS: Oh, when the water started t' come in, well, my God, ah, boats and everything was washed, right from where you goes out to the, ah, wash, the fish plant down there now.

AR: Um hum. Shingle, Shingle Point.

AS: Yeah. Out to the fish plant. Everything was swept away in that then, ah, flakes and ... and stages.

AR: Um hum. Now, were you living in your house? Your house is this one right here, and were you in this house at the time?

AS: I, I was on the east side.

AR: At the Ambroses' house. How high did the water come up ...?

AS: No, no, I, I wasn't there, wasn't there, but I was down, down here somewhere, see?

AR: So your family home was on the east side.

AS: Yeah, my family home was on the east side.

AR: In 1929. Now, is that house still there?

AS: No, no. No, it's gone.

AR: It's gone. How high do you think the water came on the east side?

AS: Where's the Church Lane there?

AR: There's the Church Lane. How high, how ...

AS: No, no, the, the other, the other church, see? The Church of England Church?

AR: Oh, now, I have to figure that out. I think, ah, I'm not sure I know which one is Oh well, we'll figure How, when you were in Ambrose, ah, Fitzpatrick's house and the water came in, how high did the water come? Did it come as far as Ambrose's house?

AS: Ah, no. Ahhh, because of the fact that there was more level ground in here for it to go, go in, far as the hospital, see?

AR: So, how high do you think the water came over where you were that night at Ambrose Fitzpatrick's?

AS: Ohhh, I say it came, uh, came up over the road.

AR: Over the east ... Water Street East.

AS: Came on the east side, ahhh, over the road ... (coughs). Excuse me.

AR: And were there any ...

AS: It came up to, towards the old hall that was over there. [he means the old church hall]

AR: And that would be the old town hall?

AS: Yeah, the old town hall.

AR: Now, where is, where was that old town hall?

AS: Oh, I say, ah, could be a little bit in front of the other one that's there now.

AR: OK.

AS: Yeah.

AR: And when you say 'the other one', you're referring to the fire station?

AS: Ah, no, I'm referring to the one that's built there now, see?

AR: The hall.

AS: Yeah, the old hall was, ah, could be a little bit in front of the other one.

AR: And what's the name of the hall that's there right now?

AS: Ahhh, ...

AR: Who owns the hall?

AS: Ah, the Catholic church, Catholic.

AR: And is that the one they use sort of the ... a, um, bit of a club?

AS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AR: And there's cars parked in front of it.

AS: Yeah, yeah, that's right, yeah.

AR: So, there was a hall in front of that at the time.

AS: I, ah, I, I wouldn't say much in front of it, but, ah, the sea went almost up to that building because, ah, I seen, I seen parts of buildings and stuff like that, you know.

AR: Yeah. Were there any dwelling houses that moved?

AS: Were there any ...?

AR: ... dwelling houses that moved?

AS: Ah, not, not very many here.

AR: Now there were at other places.

AS: There was a, there was a few, and ah, you know where the Mountie building is to?

AR: Yes, I know which one is the Mountie

AS: Right, right next to the Mountie building going north.

AR: OK.

AS: Yeah. There was a white house, there's a white house there.

AR: Whose house was that now?

AS: Ah, that was, ah, oh dear. [he does not remember]

AR: Was that this fellow Hendrigan?

AS: Handrigan, yeah.

AR: Handrigan.

AS: Handrigan, yeah.

AR: So it was just to the north of the RCMP and it was a white house.

AS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AR: Where'd it move to?

AS: But I mean, ah, it was green at the time, you know.

AR: OK.

AS: Was green at the time, but, ah, their, their house was moved.

AR: And where did the Handrigan house move to?

AS: Well, ah, it didn't go very far. It didn't go very far because, you know.

AR: OK.

AS: Yeah. Probably only went 50 or 60 feet and that because, ah, tide goin' way back in towards the school, you know, the high school?

AR: Yes. Do you have any idea how far towards the high school the water went?

AS: I'd say it went in to the high school. Went in to the high school or [to the] Lawn road, the road goin' to Lawn.

AR: Do you think it went to the north side of the Lawn road?

AS: Ah, ah, it's possible, it could. It's possible it could.

AR: Now, how do you know the water went that far? What, um, what let you know how far?

AS: Well, ahhhh, our judgin' by the, how high the tide came that

east side and the west side, you know.

AR: Was there debris left?

AS: Well, there was ... there was garbage in there and that, yeah.

AR: What sort of garbage got left up there?

AS: Well, wood, wood and stuff like that.

AR: From the stages.

AS: Stuff that was washed away from the

AR: What d'you call the brook that comes down? There's a brook that comes down behind the manor and into the

AS: Yeah, yeah.

AR: What d'you call that brook?

AS: Ah, what d'you call that brook? Ah, ah. Hell. I'm, ah, ... I'm ah

AR: I've heard the name Riverhe...

AS: I'm due to ... ah, lack of, ah, memory now, you know.

AR: Oh, well, that happens to us all. Happens to us all. Now the other thing, do you remember where the Government Bridge was? You referred to the Government Bridge.

AS: The Government Bridge?

AR: She went out in the tidal wave.

AS: The Government Bridge?

AR: Yeah. Do you remember what, what was the Government Bridge?

AS: The Government Bridge?

AR: 'Cause they, they used to have a road that went around the, the Bridgehead Road went around the top of the harbour, didn't she?

AS: Yuh, yuh. There was no causeway there.

AR: No, no causeway at the time.

AS: At the time, yeah.

AR: Now were there other big buildings that moved? Do you know any other big buildings that moved?

AS: Ah, I can't say I know. Because I can't understand. There was a house, down where the fish plant is to.

AR: Yes, just, ah, whose house was that now?

AS: Right out, that man used to look after the wharf.

AR: Yes.

AS: And, ah, all the steamers were comin' here and goin' as far as Port aux Basques and as far as Lamaline comin' back. And that, and, ah, this man was, uh, nothin' that happened down there

AR: What was that fella's name?

AS: Ah, Pike.

AR: Pike. Do you remember his first name?

AS: Oh, I'll tell you, ah, George Pike.

AR: George Pike.

AS: George Pike, yeah.

AR: I'm just going to write it right on the map here. Now George Pike, I think I was told that he was the father of Gladys. That's the same fellow ...

AS: Of Gladys, Gladys. Gladys was, ah, was, ah, married to a man two houses from here.

AR: OK.

AS: Two houses from here. But, ah, if you, ah, you got time for you to see Kev Pike. Kev Pike, he can tell you.

AR: What's his first name now?

AS: Kevin.

AR: Kevin Pike. Now he's the fella with all the photographs, isn't he?

AS: Yeah, yeah.

AR: Now, I, I have him on my list to see.

AS: Oh yes, yes.

AR: Now where's Kevin live now?

AS: Yes. He lives up on the back road, ah, way out.

AR: On Laurentian, on Laurentian down towards, ah, towards the south. Now I was told I should definitely go see him.

AS: Yeah, oh yes.

AR: 'Cause he's got a fine collection of photographs.

AS: Oh, yes, yes, yes. He got quite a collection of, ah, photog...

AR: And I knew, I'd been told this fella's, you know, was the father of Gladys Pike but no-one could remember his name. But it's George.

AS: George, yeah. George Pike.

AR: Yup. Well that's the ...

AS: I, I, I can remember well because him and other people used to go to card games, see?

AR: Yes.

AS: And when they go to their card game, to their church, to their church activities?

AR: Um hum.

AS: And, ah, someone, ah, got dirty or something and, ahh, said something to George Pike.

AR: Oh oh.

AS: "Old fellow", he said, he said, ah, "old fellow", he said, "I, I, I paid for those cards, I'll just play 'em just how I like." (laughs) Yeah.

AR: Well. Now, there was a horse out there too, I think there's a story about a horse.

AS: Horse ... Yes.

AR: What's the story about the horse?

AS: That's right. I, I don't know the story, but there was a horse out there, yeah.

AR: He kept a barn, did he, ah, George Pike?

AS: Yuh, he kept a barn, he kept a barn and he used to rear vegetables too. He had a, he had a garden there. He had a garden ...

AR: Right out on the Shingle Beach.

AS: Yeah. Oh yes. Yeah. And a beautiful garden, he used to rear cabbage and ...

AR: Now, right down in front of you here, now I get my map right, now. The fluorspar built a big brown building. What do you call that wharf? [The Minworth Pier]

AS: The big brown building.

AR: You know, it's just down, ah, I guess it's behind the, ah, I guess it's, for the storage of the ore. There's several piers and I get my names all muddled up here.

AS: Ah, could be Etchegary's?

AR: Mighta been, yeah. I, I don't know, ah. If you come right down Director and, you know, if you come down Director, if you were not, if you forget to put the brakes on, you'd go right out on a pier. What pier is that, y' know, down Director Avenue? [The Alcan Wharf]

AS: Come down Director, Director.

AR: But that, ah, you may call it a different ...

AS: Ah, ah, hold on ..., yeah, yeah, ah, yeah, if you comin' down Director that's the fluorspar that's there.

AR: Yeah. OK. And then, what did they call this little lane right beside you here?

AS: Ah, that's, ah, Welch's Lane.

AR: That's Welch's Lane.

AS: Yeah.

AR: All right.

AS: Welch's Lane. Goes up there, or, ah, it goes up to the back road. [to Laurentian]

AR: Yup. Now, is there anything else you remember about the tidal wave? Did you watch the wave come in?

AS: Oh yes. We watched it. Actually, ah, there was a lot of people up to the priest's house. Father Thorne was here then from Torbay.

AR: Father Thorne was the fella, yes. I've seen a picture of him.

AS: Yeah, yeah. From Torbay. And there was a lot of people up there. Now I was, I was there for so long and then I left from then ... Yeah ... curiosity ...

AR: And the, how many waves did you see?

AS: Oh, I don't know ... ah ... two or three waves, you know. I'd say somethin' like, ah, somethin' like three.

AR: And, did the wave just, did it just flood in or did she break? Was there a breaking wave?

AS: Oh, ah, once it went out, it started to come in, and, ah, then it was a br... [Alan interrupted assuming the answer].

AR: And do you remember where she started breaking? Where did the wave start breaking? Did you, did you watch it come down the harbour at all?

AS: I, I'd say, ah, out there almost out to Herring Cove point?

AR: OK. Well, I, I thank you very, very much. I found this very interesting, and I'll be talking to other people in the community and trying to put the whole story together.

AS: Yeah, yeah.

AR: And seeing if we can't get a good idea of how high the water came and, ah, what damage she did.

AS: Ah, ah, didn't, it didn't come up here now because, from here, from this house, from this house to that house there, look!

AR: Yes, the yellow house.

AS: Ah, ah, there was a, your used to had to go down the hill, and like that, and come up over there where, ah, by that yellow house. [points southeast]

AR: OK.

AS: Because there used to be a good dropa water run down here.

AR: A bit of brook coming down there.

AS: Yeah, there was a brook comin' down here [to the southwest], and, ah, comin' through my, ah, through my garden there, yeah, in my, end of my garden.

AR: But do you think the water came, ... did anyone ever, ... did the water come up onto Water Street West?

AS: No, no. Never came up here.

AR: Not this high.

AS: Because, ah, 'twas all lower, you know, than what it is now. Director's fillin' in, in the harbour all around now.

AR: Yeah. Now where was the old school?

AS: The old school?

AR: I, I, I talked to Lou Etchegary and he told me, Lou Etchegary told me the water came up around the old school.

AS: The old school?

AR: Yeah. I don't know what he was talking about.

AS: I, I, ah, the old school, the only thing I knows about the old school, that was the hall. It was the bottom section of the school, bottom section of the hall was the school.

AR: Was the school. Now which hall are we talking about?

AS: Ah, ah, the old hall, see? Not, not the one over here.

AR: That was on, on the west side?

AS: Yeah. On the east side.

AR: On the east side, the one that's down of front here [of Stella Maris Hall].

AS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AR: Where would Lou Etchegary have lived then, in 1929? Did you know Lou?

AS: Right there, look! [points to northwest]

AR: That house next door, just across, ah, Welch's Avenue [Lane].

AS: Yeah, yeah.

AR: Well, that's interesting, now. That, that'd be that one right there [marks map].

AS: Did you say Lou? Gus, Gus you mean?

AR: Well, they're, Lou and Gus were brothers, weren't they?

AS: Gus, ah, and Theo.

AR: There was three of them. Theo, Theo, Lou and Gus.

AS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I knew them well then.

AR: You did, eh? Now, Lou's died I think, hasn't he?

AS: Ah, Lou's died, yeah.

AR: Is Theo still alive?

AS: Ah, no, no. Theo's still, ah, still, he's dead too. He died

AR: What about Gus?

AS: Ah, he, Gus is alive.

AR: Where's Gus live now?

AS: Gus, ah, lives in St. John's.

AR: In St. John's, eh?

AS: Yeah, yeah. He's married and in St. John's.

AR: And Gus ... which one of them was in the, uh, the fish plant?

AS: Which was in the fish plant, Gus.

AR: Gus is fish pl..., is ... National Sea or PFI? ... Anyway ...

AS: Ah, ah, I don't know exactly, you know ... the initials ...

AR: 'Cause I talked to, um, I talked to, to, this is some years ago, I talked to Lou Etchegary. [circa 1984 or '85]

AS: Yeah.

AR: And he recalls the water coming up around the school.

AS: Yeah.

AR: But not taking the school. They had to go to school again, you know? But that would have been the school over here.

AS: Yeah, yeah, that woulda been the school, ah, part of the hall. The hall was on top, see, and the school was down below.

AR: All right. The hall on top.

AS: Yeah. Because the school, the other schools were a way up, a way up in the meadow, see?

AR: And so this school was a Catholic school, was it?

AS: Yeah, that's right.

AR: And so it's in front of that building that's there now, down close to the road.

AS: Yeah.

AR: Probably a little farther down. Now do you remember a fella named, um, Patrick Albert who had an oil factory?

AS: Patrick Albert.

AR: Do you remember that oil factory?

AS: I, I worked with him.

AR: Did you?

AS: Oh yes. Yeah.

AR: Did you work in the oil factory then?

AS: I worked in the oil factory, yeah.

AR: Now what happened to it in the tidal wave?

AS: Ah, what happened t'it? Oh, well, I guess it's all swept out and that, you know.

AR: You don't remember whether you could work there afterwards.

AS: No, well, ah, I probably worked there before.

AR: And what about Malloy? Do you remember the house owned by the Malloys?

AS: Malloys.

AR: I don't remember their names.

AS: Ah, Claude Malloy.

AR: Claude Malloy.

AS: Yeah, Claude Malloy, and, ah, Aunt Kate, Aunt, Aunt Kate, uh.

AR: And what happened to their house?

AS: Ah, that was a distance up in the lane on the east side, just, just, ah, just, ah, where you comes across the causeway.

AR: Come across the causeway, yeah.

AS: And, ah, 'bout here, 'bout here somewhere.

AR: So, it was near Church Lane, was it?

AS: No distance, no, no distance from this house here.

AR: This is Ambrose, ah, Fitzpatrick's house.

AS: Yeah, that's right.

AR: So it was a little bit to the south?

AS: Yeah, a little bit to the south, yeah.

AR: And so that's where they ...

AS: Oh, I say it could be, it could be here. There's one there and, ah, ...

AR: Yeah, well these are the houses, these are today's houses.

AS: Yeah, yeah.

AR: What happened to Claude Malloy's house now?

AS: Ah, nothin' happened to it because it's, ah, a distance away from the, from the salt water, see? Where the water came in.

AR: He was safe then.

AS: Oh yes. Yeah, yeah.

AR: All right.

AS: And, uh, and, uh, and Mike Malloy's is right behind it.

AR: OK

AS: I'd say those and those, look. This one and this one. [pointing at map]

AR: Just to the south of, um, ...

AS: Yuh, just to the south.

AR: The newspaper said that one of the Malloy houses moved, but it didn't say which Malloy.

AS: Oh, well I'll tell you what. They didn't say which one, but I'll tell you what, ah, could be, could be, ah, Joe Malloy's, ah, that was, that was, ah, just after you turns the Riverhead Bridge to go in towards the graveyard.

AR: Yes.

AS: Going towards the graveyard.

AR: So, Joe Malloy's house may have moved.

AS: Yeah, Joe Malloy, yeah, that might have moved, but, ah, I wouldn't, I wouldn't exactly know, you know. But I knows the Handrigans, there, that wasn't too far away from, only as far

as from here to that one there [pointing out window] from the Handrigans it moved, see? And there's more in the line of fire, more in the line of water than, ah, the Handrigans was, because had to, had to, the water had to spread out.

AR: Now whose house are we talking about here? Which house was more ...

AS: Joe Malloy's.

AR: Joe Malloy's was more in the line of fire.

AS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

AR: So it may have had, it may have floated off.

AS: It might have floated off, yeah.

AR: Now do you remember any boats that came up into the, into the meadows?

AS: Yes, there was vessels in here and that and, ah, boats and, ah, they, they, they came in for quite a bit and that Yeah, yeah.

AR: Well, I might like to talk to you again, and I found this very, very helpful. What I'd like to do is make a transcript and, ah, I'm gonna mail that back to you and see if I got it right. But, do you have any, any objection if I put this tape in the Archives eventually?

AS: No, no.

AR: So other people could listen to it. And what I'll do is, ah, maybe I'll just turn the tape off here.

End of interview

(This interview was followed by a second dub of the Tidal Wave Song recorded on the evening of February 25, 1995 at Evelyn Grondin's home.)

Transcript made
March 14, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 95-2, SIDE 1, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1995,
GERTRUDE FRANCES TURPIN (NÉE KELLY) AND NORBERT LIONEL TURPIN, ST.
LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Gertrude (Gert or Gertie) Frances Turpin

- family name Kelly, father Tom J. Kelly who carried one of Tom Pike's children to safety on Shingle Point
- born 1919
- lives on Water Street East with her husband Norbert with home care staff

Norbert Lionel Turpin - born 1914

- quite deaf, did not participate much
- mailing address: Water Street East, P.O. Box 483, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland A0E 2V0
- phone (709) 873-2815
- interview length: 34.5 minutes

ALAN RUFFMAN: Well, OK. Now we're talking to, I don't even think I know your first name, now. I know it's Norbert, Norbert Turpin.

GERTRUDE KELLY: Gert, or Gertie. I got three names.

AR: You're Gert.

GT: Gert, Gertie, and Gertrude.

AR: But Gertrude is what your mother gave you. And you are [née] Kelly, Gertrude Kelly?

GT: Yeah.

AR: And do you have a middle name as well, Mrs. Kelly?

GT: Frances.

AR: Frances. And Norbert, were you, ah, do you a middle name?

GT: Norbert Lionel.

AR: Norbert Lionel.

GT: Turpin.

AR: Turpin. And we're on the east side, but you didn't live on the east side when you were a small girl.

GT: No. I lived on the west side.

AR: Where was your family home?

GT: My family home is still over there.

AR: What colour is it then?

GT: It's a wine, a great big long house and the shop was 'cross the road from us.

AR: What's the shop say onto it now?

GT: Now, they beat out all the windows and they had to put boards on it. The boys, when they came home in the summer.

AR: So it's, is the shop still have a sign onto it?

GT: No, no. The sign is gone.

AR: So what colour is the shop?

GT: The shop is grey, isn't it Nor[bert]?

NORBERT TURPIN: Yeah, yeah.

GT: It's just across from the house, across the road. And then down from that is a slaughterhouse, and then from that is a stage.

AR: All right. So if I go past, I go past Aylward's ...

GT: Ah, if you see John, if you see John Kelly, me brother, well he'll show it to you.

AR: OK. Now you were ...

GT: And, ah, where Aylward's got their, um, place built over there, their business ...

AR: Yes.

GT: That's where daddy had his restaurant. And after, after ... [her father was Tom Kelly]

AR: Your house is a little bit to the south of that, to, ah, you go up, past Aylward's, past Director Drive, and then that's where your house is? [Alan is confused]

GT: No. You, you pass, wait now.

AR: You come across the causeway.

GT: Yeah, and you turn and come down and then, it's a old shop there, um (voice of unidentified housekeeper in the background

"Just before you get to [the] K. Karen [Motel]") just before you get to ...

AR: Oh, there's a red, there's a red house.

GT: Listen, our house its just opposite the K. Karen [Motel].

AR: Oh I know where it is then.

GT: And the shop is below the road. The slaughterhouse is there, where they used to slaughter the cattle, and the stage is out there.

AR: So the stage is still there, the slaughterhouse is still there, and the old shop with the boards on the windows is still there.

GT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: So, so this was the Kelly, the Kelly premises.

GT: Eight, eight, ah, rooms upstairs there.

AR: In the house.

GT: Fifty-two feet one long, uh, fifty-two feet long. The hall was.

AR: Wow. Well, how big was your family then? You must have had room for ...

GT: Four. But, my father, in them days when he was in business, when, when they, when the people would come out, agents, they had no place to stay.

AR: So he served as a hotel.

GT: So, so he used to take the people in, and when he'd buy cattle from different people up the shore he would, you know, he'd, ah, put 'em up when they'd come.

AR: Sure. And the cattle would come in by ship.

GT: Yeah. He used to take them in, ah, he used to charter two boats from Fortune.

AR: Um hum.

GT: And, um, so he'd go up to Charlottetown and he'd get his cattle ...

AR: Bring 'em back ...

GT: And his horses. He brought back about 10 horses one time.

AR: Wow.

GT: Oh he loved cattle. And he brought back pigs and he used to rear pigs himself, eh, and then cows and have calves in his slaughter, some then in the Fall. [corrected when transcript was sent for review to, "... slaughter, cows & pigs is in the Fall."]

AR: Now where were you when the quiver came, when the earthquake came? You remember the actual shaking?

GT: Oh yes.

AR: Where were you located then?

GT: In the same place.

AR: In your home [on Water Street West].

GT: Yeah. And my brother was up in the barn, and he was, he's dead now, he was feedin' the horse. And, ah, anyway, it knocked him down right by the horse.

AR: Oh really. He, he was thrown to the ground?

GT: To the floor.

AR: Or the, did the horse knock him down?

GT: No. I don't know. But he's, he's thrown down on the floor anyway. So after, he got frightened and after that he came down to the house. So, after the ...

AR: Did anything break in your house?

GT: No.

AR: Nothing fell off and broke.

GT: No. But after the, after the dinner was over, supper we used to call it in them days, Daddy said, now, everything was quietin' down, he said "I'm goin' down for me poker game." They'd have a poker game once every week.

AR: And he would be going to this fella Tom Pike's.

GT: Yeah.

AR: Out on, and is, Tom Pike's house was out on the ...

GT: Where the ...

AR: On a point of land. Where the fish plant ...

NT: Where the fish plant was. [corrected when the transcript was sent for review to, "... plant is now."]

GT: Out there, over there where the stage is. Where the, um, fish plant. Right there. The very place.

AR: Was that Shingle Beach, Shingle, Shingle Point?

GT: No, no. You're talkin' 'bout Shoal Point now.

AR: Well, I just wondered if, if that point of land had a name to it. What did you call that?

GT: Um, what is that now? Blue Beach. No. I forget now. [added when the transcript was sent for review: "I believe they called it Pike's Beach."]

AR: But anyway, it was the same, same point of land that has the fish plant on it now.

GT: Fish plant now. And the house and the barn was there, yea. The house and the barn was there, and when Daddy heard the roar, him and the other men said it didn't sound good. So, they went out and they saw the big sea comin', just like a lion. And they went in and ...

AR: Ah, how could they see it? Ah ...

GT: They went out and looked. Oh that was like, you know, um, like that ...

AR: What sort of a night was it?

GT: It was a, a bright ... you know, kind of a bright night (??) and all. And, ah, anyway they went, and the first thing Daddy said was "Let us get the children out of bed." They went up and took one each under their arms.

AR: How many children were upstairs?

GT: Oh, well, it was Geraldine, I think, and Karen and Roul[sic] and, ah, Jean ... was ... ["Kevin" added after the transcript was sent for review - Kevin Pike was not born until after the 1929 tsunami.]

AR: Four children at least.

GT: Four or five anyway, and anyway they took one each under their arms and they went in over the beach.

AR: To run to the west side.

GT: To get in, ah, you know, before that would go. So they just landed in when the house went, and the, and the barn.

AR: And, the barn had the horse in it. Tell me about the horse now.

GT: And the horse went out, she got out and, and swam ashore.

NT: Yeah.

GT: But now from here over to the community, over to the fish plant, you could walk across the water, wasn't a bit a water in this way.

AR: When the water drained out.

GT: When it went out.

AR: You could have walked right across from the fish plant to the other side.

GT: Yeah, yes. Right ... walk right across. And then, after that then, ah, you know, it came back again. 'Twas three waves, wasn't it, Nor?

NT: Yeah.

GT: And I know it took the crosses out of the cemetery; it's that far away. [she is referring to Mount Cecilia Catholic Cemetery]

AR: Well, now you were mentioning up at the bridge, up at the Riverhead, you told me it was ...

GT: Yes, where the water crossed that to go to school on old pieces of stage and flakes and everything.

AR: And that was, ... there was no causeway at the time.

NT: Oh no.

GT: No, no. No, that's only built up just late years, the causeway.

AR: So, um, now were there any other debris up there? I mean, it was the ... all the broken stages, was it?

GT: Yes, and flakes, you know, where they used to dry the fish. Everything was all bundled up.

AR: Where was your school at the time? It was over on ...

GT: Over on, over on this side, yeah.

AR: Near the church.

GT: Yeah. It's taken down now.

AR: So, you have to walk back and forth across all that ...

GT: Oh, no buses then. No, we didn't have any buses.

AR: Now you mentioned that the wave went on up the river.

GT: Yes, and it took the headstones and took some of the crosses out of the ground.

AR: And, would it be, where in the, was the graveyard in the same place?

GT: Same place it is now.

AR: So it must have crossed the Lawn Road then.

GT: Yeah, it did. It went, 'cause the brook there, see?

AR: Yeah.

GT: You see that brook?

AR: It would follow the brook.

GT: Yeah. And went right in and it took to the, now on that side we had a piece of land, and that's where the, that's where the, um, the pharmacy is built now, on our land. We sold it. We sold that land to ...

AR: That was quite ... to the pharmacy.

GT: To the pharmacy.

AR: Was that flooded, d'you think?

GT: Yes, it went right in. 'Member there's a house used to be in there, now what's the name of the people? I forget now. And Daddy, when they went away, Daddy bought the house from, the land and everything. But, ah, ...

AR: Was there any houses, ah, moved? Any dwelling houses moved?

GT: Just Ben Slaney, Ben Slaney's house? Ben Slaney.

AR: Ben Slaney's house moved.

GT: OK, yes, 'cause it's, 'twas right close to the, to the road over there?

AR: To the, to the Bridgehead Road, or to ...?

GT: Just this side of the Riverhead Bridge, yeah.

AR: So, it would've been on the east side road, Water Street East.

GT: Yeah.

AR: And Ben Slaney's house, where did it move to?

GT: Oh [it was] beat up when it went out. But I think it was Mr. Ben Slaney's house now. Or, was it, um, Maizie (?) and her house, Nor? Ah, I forget that man's name. 'Cause remember, they bought, ah, Mr. Lou Etchegary's house after and towed it down, remember? I think it's, I can't remember his name.

AR: I'd seen in the newspaper, I'd seen a name Molloy.

GT: Yeah.

AR: And I'd seen the name Hendrigan.

GT: Molloy. That's the land.

AR: You think his house moved?

GT: That Daddy bought ... it was Molloy, I think they bought. And, ah, who else, what did you say?

AR: I thought maybe Handrigan is another name I saw.

GT: Yes, Handrigans lived there too. Yeah. Duff Handrigan's. Nor, remember?

NT: Yeah.

GT: They lived right there, there by the road. Just where the police building is.

AR: Yes. OK.

GT: Right there, now that's where the house was.

AR: Where, where the RCMP building is.

GT: Yes, is now, yeah. And there's still, they built up a new home there after, and it's still there, you'll see it, on that side of the Mountie building.

AR: To the, it be to the north side of the Mountie building.

GT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: That house was built in the same location?

GT: Yes, the same location as the old one was.

AR: The old one which moved.

GT: Yeah.

AR: And, and whose house was that that moved.

GT: That was, ah, Handrig... a ... a Handrigans'.

AR: Maybe Handrigans'.

GT: Yeah, Handrigans' house.

AR: The, the other thing that I read in the newspaper articles from 1929 is the, they said the Government Bridge went out. Do you remember the bridge?

GT: Government wharf?

AR: Well, no, the government bridge. Did the bridge go out across the stream? When you were walking to school, how did you get across the stream?

GT: We'd go across on the flakes.

AR: So there's all this debris.

GT: Ah. Was all piled up.

AR: Filling up the brook.

GT: Yeah. Filling up the brook.

AR: So you didn't need the bridge anymore.

GT: No, we didn't need the bridge then.

AR: I see.

GT: We went through, look, you know, twistin' your feet and everything gettin' it over. Hoppin' over sticks and everthing, you know? That was clear? ...

AR: Now tell me, you mentioned that the telegraph station, was it the post office and the telegraph station in the same building?

GT: Well, yes, yeah. And it was, um ...

NT: Yeah.

AR: On the west side?

GT: On the ... on the west side, yeah. And, ah, this old lady used to do the telegraph. She was an old maid, Miss Fewer, Celia [Cecelia] Fewer.

AR: Celia [Cecelia] Fewer was her name. She was a Miss Fewer.

GT: Yeah.

AR: OK.

GT: She was an old lady, you know, she wasn't never married.

AR: A lot of the telegraph operators were women, weren't they?

GT: Yeah. And my sister, now, took the course from her. Telegraphy. I think it was over to the house that we used to use for her learning, I don't know where it went to ...

AR: Did your sister become a telegraph operator too?

GT: No, but she learnt it.

AR: OK.

GT: But she fetched up up in the States, in Boston. Twenty-nine years. She worked with the, the United States Lines Company for, ah, I don't know how many years, and they moved to New York but she didn't like New York 'cause all Daddy's people were in Boston. So, then she went to work with, um, with, um, what is it now? United States Lines first, and then she went with Keystone, one of the biggest firms in the States.

AR: Did she ever come back to Newfoundland?

GT: Not to live. Come back to die.

AR: Yeah.

GT: She got cancer and I had to go up and get 'er.

AR: Boy.

GT: Yeah. Twenty-nine years.

AR: Where did the telegraph station end up after the tidal wave?

GT: Well, the old telegvis... ah, the old post office, as we called it until, is over there now but it's, ah, rented. The Frenchmen bought it and they made two apartments, some people livin' upstairs and living down.

AR: Now is this the post office that went out in the harbour.

GT: No. That was one was put there after.

AR: OK. And, the post office that went out in the harbour, the telegraph.

GT: Got beat up.

AR: It got beat up. They never used it again.

GT: Yeah. No, never used it. And, and, ah ...

AR: Do you remember whether the, the light was still burning in the post office out in the harbour?

GT: Can't remember. But I know ...

AR: Whereabouts did it end up out in the harbour? Do you remember seeing it floating offshore?

GT: You couldn't see nothing 'cause it went right out to sea.

AR: OK.

GT: But, ah, Cusicks too, Norbert, was livin' there by the post office, remember? Tilly Cusick? And they lost their home too.

AR: So they were, they were on the west side.

GT: Yeah, by the post office.

AR: Now Cusick's a name I've never spelled before. How would you spell that name?

GT: C-U-S-S-E-K.

AR: Cussek.

GT: Cusick.

AR: What was their first name?

GT: Ah, Q-U-S-I-C-K. Q. Ah, ah, I don't know. I know Tilly, she lives in St. John's.

AR: She was the, she was the mother of the house, was she, or was she ...? [she probably was the sister of Stephen and an aunt of John Cusick of Herring Cove]

GT: Well, her mother died when she was young, and she had a brother George but he died. But she's livin' in St. John's on her own there so ... in apartment. In some apartment in there, Tilly is.

AR: OK. So Tilly Cusick ...

GT: Yes.

AR: ... her home went out on the west side ...

GT: Yeah.

AR: ... and got smashed up. 'Cause I, I hadn't seen that name before, but I ...

GT: Yeah. Tilly Cusick, I remember her. And then, um, ...

AR: Do remember ... now, did your father's ... had the slaughterhouse. Did it get filled up with water?

GT: Oh yes, everything came in. But that's (??) ...

AR: Did the water come up over the road?

GT: Oh yes.

AR: On the west side, or just up to the road?

GT: It came up so far, it didn't come right up over the road.

AR: Not on the west side.

NT: ... (??) never got across the road.

GT: No. Not, ah, 'cause it's like at a bank. You knows when you go over it's like a bank, eh?

AR: Yes.

GT: And that kept the water. But over on this side, now, the water came all in over here 'cause it's level, eh?

AR: And so it would not have come ...

GT: Now, all the people over on this side had to leave their homes and go for the ...

AR: The high ground.

GT: High ground, go up to the meadows and that to, ah, get away from the ...

AR: Now, your father had, just across the road was the restaurant.

GT: Yeah.

AR: No, it wasn't built yet, was it?

GT: What?

AR: He, he built the restaurant after the tidal ... [when the transcript was sent out for review Mrs. Turpin corrected this by adding, "restaurant was built before the tidal wave"]

GT: No. When Daddy came here, he bought this house, ah, well, he lived in this house, and Cy Beck wanted it ... (??) And he,

ah, came here as policeman. And, so he got, instead of goin' out payin' rent, he went t'work and he bought the house.

AR: OK.

GT: Then, after he bought the house, he took one of the rooms and he made a shop out of it. And my mother ran ...

AR: For groceries.

GT: Yeah. My mother ran the shop and he used to do all night duty.

AR: But the water didn't come across into the shop.

GT: No.

AR: 'Cause you were high enough.

GT: High enough sure (?) ... But, anyway ...

AR: When did he start the slaughterhouse business?

GT: So, oh, he, he built the, don't know when he started that. After, after the tidal wave, anyway, he did that, he, um, he's ...

AR: But he didn't have a, he didn't have a stage down there after.

GT: Now, he had the restaurant still there when the Americans were drowned. [1942]

AR: OK. But you don't recall whether he was still a policeman when you were, you were seven years old. We figured out you were seven. [actually closer to ten years old]

GT: No, he, he was, had it given up then. He was transferred to Corner Brook, and because we were small and, ah, most (?) were goin' to school, he didn't want to ...

AR: Leave home.

GT: Leave, ah, leave, no, he said movin' around, the youngsters had been knocked about, and, ah, it's different schools. So he preferred that, we stay here. He knew it was a good place to do business. And now, it used to be men coming here in boats, sellin' fish, ah, buyin' fish from the men. You used to, you used to dry the fish and then, um, the boats from Marystown they would all come in and buy it and go and sell it in different countries. So, he was a, my father was a funny man. So, Uncle Duff [Dolph = Aloiph] used to ...

AR: This, now this is Tom.

GT: Yeah.

AR: Tom Kelly.

GT: He used to, he used to say, Uncle Duff now is a businessman where Bud Giovannini got his, his store over, his, ah, club.

AR: Yeah.

GT: And, ah, he lived just down from us. So, ah, he was always complainin' to Daddy, you know, 'bout everything, see? So this night Daddy went out on duty, and, ah, he was tellin' us about it, and he had a, a chalk, white chalk?

AR: Yes.

GT: And 'er's a great big shop window there, and he says, "Ought for ought, two for two, and none for, for ah, all for smut, all for smite, but none for you." And this for Mr. Uncle Duff, see? And, next morning he gets a call, "Tom, come over and find out who put that on my window!" And this was Daddy! And so he came out, he came 'round the shore another night on this side, and he only had flashlight, 'stand[understand], and billies and that. So when he was coming down the harbour, he didn't have the light on, just up where Father's, y'know where his father lived. He didn't know nothing, he was taken right off his legs. You know what it was?

AR: No.

GT: A cow. She was lyin' down on the road and when she got up, she took ...

AR: He tripped right over it.

GT: No! She kept him on his ... on her back.

AR: Oh really!

GT: And what a fright he got.

AR: I'll bet.

GT: Oh, he had an awful lot of big scares. Oh my. I'm tellin' you.

AR: Now, where was, where was your family home, Norbert?

GT: Up here. Up the road.

AR: On the, on the east side.

GT: Yes. They had a shop but it's taken out of it now.

AR: Now, did the water come into Norbert's house?

NT: No. No ... landed aside it.

GT: No, no, no. Just to the stages and that, you know?

AR: Did it come across the road where your house was, Norbert?

GT: No. No, didn't it? [to Norbert] Didn't, didn't go over the road.

NT: No, no, no.

GT: Because there's a bank, see?

AR: Oh, so you're up on ...

NT: ... up on the side.

GT: They are up on the upper side.

AR: Which house is, is it still there, the house?

GT: Yes! Yeah, bay windows, is it, bay windows?

AR: So as I go back down the road, it's a white house, is it?

GT: Yes, white house.

AR: How far down is it ...?

GT: It's, ah, let's see now, um, ... Sandy Lake's is there, and Harriet Tarrant's is next, and El Murray's is next, and, um, Gabe Cusick's is next, and then, the fifth house.

AR: Fifth house as I go back down with the bay windows.

GT: Yeah, yeah.

AR: That was Norbert, Norbert's family home, then.

GT: That was his father's, yeah, yeah.

AR: And the water didn't come up onto the road 'cause you're higher up there.

GT: No, no.

AR: But the stage went.

NT: Land's too high there to take it.

GT: Yeah, yeah. Land's too high, yeah. But, ah, his father was a business, businessman and he was a fisherman too.

AR: And, now, was there, was there any compensation for the damage that was done here? Did you, did the, did the people get any compensation?

GT: Ah, I think they got a little, some of them But, a lot of them got welfare and that and, you know what he used to get, my father? They used to send it to him, but the ... all of ground flour, whole wheat.

AR: Yes, OK.

GT: They wouldn't give him white. And we used to love ...

AR: So it was cheaper, it was cheaper to get the brown flour, was it?

GT: Yeah. And we used to love the white flour, ah, the brown flour? And Daddy'd change it. T'give 'em a second white for to get the second flour whole wheat. [note added by Mrs. Turpin when the transcript was sent for correction, "Tom Kelly traded the whole wheat flour that welfare gave the people for white flour. Government would only give brown flour, sugar, butter, molasses. Just ruff food."]

AR: Oh really?

GT: For us.

AR: 'Cause you guys liked ...

GT: 'Cause we loved it. And he knew it was healthier for us.

AR: Sure.

GT: See? He was keen. I'll tell you.

AR: Now you should tell me a little bit 'cause, I'm not doing research on it, but I'd like to hear a little bit more of that story you told about the two ships [wrecks of the TRUXTON and POLLUX] when they came in.

GT: Oh, the two, it's like I said ...

AR: How did you first hear about it? There was someone ...

GT: That man, that gone ashore down there, brought him up to my father's shop 'cause there was only one telephone in the harbour, and it was my father's.

AR: And where could you ...

GT: And that was one square one used to go on the wall with a bell on it.

AR: And you ring it, by hand.

GT: And you ring it. With your hand.

AR: And where, where could you get out to, Argentia, could you?

GT: Yeah. He got to Argentia from it. Well the man got Argentia himself, and then when the head fellows came, of course, they came to Dad. And then they went to where the men was [at the TRUXTON and POLLUX wreck sites].

AR: And your father had built the restaurant by then.

GT: Yes.

AR: Was it open?

GT: Oh yes. He had it, ah, almost finished. And he had all hardwood floor upstairs, and he had speakers everywhere for the girls and the boys to dance. And, ah, so anyway, they bought mattresses, laid them all around the floor, and then the restaurant, at the part down below then, was a kitchen. And, ah, it's like I said they brought the boys up from the boat, to brew 'em soup and different things. 'Cause the poor men were too sick, only a drop of soup they could have. And, um, so ...

AR: And, this, this is where they brought them in on the slides.

GT: Yeah.

AR: From Shoal Cove, was where it was?

GT: Well, I mean, some people had them in their homes too. We couldn't store 'em all. I had five up to our house, and Dad ...

AR: Were you, were you married by that point, or ...?

GT: Nooo, no. Was still single.

AR: You would have been ...

GT: I was 28 when I got married.

AR: Yeah, OK.

GT: But anyway, ah, he, um, my mother was down there and all the women around were helpin' the doctors, ah, to put the, and this is what they used.

AR: To get the oil out of their eyes.

GT: Castor oil.

AR: Castor oil.

GT: Yeah. And when they left, they had gallons and gallons there. They said to Daddy, "You keep it."

AR: So they brought the castor oil in from Argentina, did they?

GT: On the boats.

AR: Wow.

GT: Yeah. Big boats. When the men'd get a bit better, they'd take them and put 'em 'board a boat and bring 'em to Argentina.

AR: Yes.

GT: But there's a few of 'em, poor Mum used to say, "They'll never live, they should have leaved 'em."

AR: 'Cause they got seasick.

GT: Because they were dyin'. No, they were dyin' then. But they died on the way. Yeah. Died goin' to Argentina.

AR: Yeah, wow. Now you said, I heard, you mentioned they dropped blankets.

GT: Yeah, from the planes.

AR: To the community here?

GT: Ah, yes, ah, Lawn Point.

AR: Even right out there. The weather must've cleared up then fairly soon afterward?

GT: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, they used t'drop the blankets down. My brother and them used to pick 'em up and roll the men up in them.

AR: Now you mentioned that there was one fella had a suitcase he was holding.

GT: Yeah, that was the paymaster.

AR: And this was the pay.

GT: Yes, he had the pay. 'Cause Roach was wonderin', he said, "What are you doin' with the, you know, why are you ..."

AR: Now who, who, who was Roach?

GT: He was my brother.

AR: OK. He was older than you.

GT: Kelly. Kelly. Yeah. He's t'oldest [of] the family.

AR: Yes.

GT: And, ah, so he said, ah, "What are you holdin' onto that for, sir?" he said, he said, "Why don't you get in, wrap, so I can wrap you up warm. Whatever you got there," he said, "I'll tie it on to the slide." This old-time slide, see? And, ah, he said, "Well," he said "to tell you the truth," he said, he said "It's the payroll."

AR: Oh really.

GT: And, ah, he said, "Well, you got no worries, sir, because that man there is honest as the sun and I am honest. I don't need your money." But, where they done wrong, 'cause Daddy told them, they should've kept the money and gave it to the ship when it came in. But they brought the man in, laid him down on the floor, and laid the suitcase by him, and he died, and, of course, someone took the money.

AR: But, you couldn't hide that money in this community, it would show up awfully quickly.

GT: Well, some of them, some of them went to the States after the lift.

AR: Oh, OK.

GT: So, I ... (chuckled).

AR: You don't think it's in a basement here still somewhere?

GT: Nooo. And, ah, it was a laugh here, sir. I don't know if it was true or no. One man, they said, used to take, take the money out, you know? And when he died, they had it hidden under his pillow and, in the casket. And they never thought about it, and when he died they buried him that day, you 'members that Norbert? They went in and dug a hole.

AR: To get the money out, oh dear! (laughs)

GT: I'm tellin' you, some queer things went on.

NT: That'a be ... (unintelligible).

GT: But, anyway, 'twas everything went on. But, ah, it's like I said, my brother John now was over on the road there last year, and this American was out with a, a, you know the program they have every year for the, they had it for the POLLUX there last week. And, ah, he passed along and he stop. He said, "I don't know, sir, who you are," he said to John, "but I saw you before."

AR: Isn't that, back in 1940's.

GT: He said, "I saw you before." But he had a horse, they Norb. had a horse and Roach and they had horses, on this side of, ah, you know.

AR: Your brother, ah, John is older than you as well, then, is he?

GT: John, no, he's younger.

AR: He's younger. Was he alive at the time of the tidal wave, then?

GT: Oh, yes. John will tell you p'haps more than I can.

AR: What age is John now?

GT: John is 73, I think. Yeah.

AR: Seventy-three, and so he would have been, ah, eight years old.

GT: Yeah.

AR: And you're 75.

GT: Yeah.

AR: So you're 10 years old at the time of the tidal wave.

GT: Yeah, yeah. But anyway, ah, it was an awful, you know, a terrible thing. I wouldn't want it to happen no more, no.

AR: Well, I don't think so, and I think the, the reason I'm doing this map is just to give people a little bit of assistance. But it's also very interesting, you know, I think, for people to know how much of the community was flooded. I never heard before that it went up into the cemetery.

GT: Yeah. But, ah, what was puzzling people, they knew those two men were gone to Saint-Pierre.

AR: This is Joe Turpin and Victor Turpin.

GT: And Vic... No. Joe and Little ... ah, who was it? Joe and Little Saint, wasn't it? Was it Little Saint and Joe?

NT: Yep.

GT: Yeah.

AR: Who was Little Saint, now? I, I, I heard ...

GT: He lived in the States for years. He died up there.

AR: But I was told it was Victor and Joe Turpin were coming back from Saint-Pierre.

GT: It could be. But I thought it was Little Saint. But anyway ...

AR: And Little Saint was a nickname for the man, was he?

GT: No, that's his name.

AR: Ooh, Little?

GT: Lill. Lill Saint.

AR: Oh, how do you spell that first name? Is it ...

GT: L-I-double L, I think. S-A-I-N-T.

AR: Like a French name.

GT: Yeah. And his wife was still alive in the States.

AR: Is she? OK?

GT: And she's a hundred and something, I believe.

AR: Wow.

GT: But I know he got a family up there, all his children are up there, and, ah, but uh, he went to the States to live after.

AR: So he, anyway, these two fellas were coming back from Saint-Pierre. What were they ...

GT: People were worried about them, you know, because they didn't know if somethin' is gonna run into 'em, eh? But they met all the stages goin' out but they didn't know what was up.

AR: Of course.

GT: And then they just got in, of course, was a great time, because, ha ha, the cops that were after them were floating around, they could bring in what they liked then. Yeah.

AR: (laughs) You wouldn't be quite so safe today.

GT: Yeah, yeah. No, you wouldn't be safe today. But now, people, oh my God, they was so glad when they saw the men, they saw them alive, you know?

AR: That would be the first ship that came in or the first, ah, what sort of a boat were they in now?

GT: A little skiff boat like you see in the harbour.

AR: Would you use it, sails, or a motor?

GT: No, a motor, just, ah, you know, little, like the fishing boats here. Yeah. (??) up.

AR: And what happened to the other boats in the harbour at the time of the tidal wave? Were there any other boats in the harbour?

GT: Oh, yes, they were all beat up. But we saved ours.

AR: Now, where does your boat, where was your boat anchored?

GT: Anchored just out from the shop.

AR: Down by the, ah, ...

GT: By the side of our stage, yeah.

AR: What happened to that boat now?

GT: Oh, I don't know. Daddy sold it, I guess, after.

AR: But, during the tidal wave, what happened?

GT: No, Daddy didn't sell it because Roach and Norbert they went fishin' in it after, but I think Roach sold it to some, ah, his father-in-law up in Lories. Traps and everything.

AR: Now, what happened to it, to, to it during the tidal wave, though? You almost lost it in the tidal wave.

GT: Oh yes! It went right out, the water, but she stayed there [on the harbour floor].

AR: When the, when the, when the ...

GT: When the water went out, she didn't take her.

AR: OK. And the fellas ...

GT: And then, they went down then and they pulled it up. A crowd a men.

AR: So, in between the waves.

GT: Yes.

AR: Or, when the water first went out.

GT: Yeah. They went down and pulled the boat up.

AR: Now, did you actually see the wave coming in yourself?

GT: No, we were in the house then.

AR: You didn't, you heard it, did you?

GT: We heard the roar, didn't know what it was, we went and knelt down on our knees prayin'. 'Cause Daddy was gone, we didn't know what to do.

AR: So you, how many were in your house at the time?

GT: Mom and I and, ah, my two brothers.

AR: What was your mother's name?

GT: And my sister. Madeleine Furlong.

AR: Madeleine.

GT: Kelly. Kelly. Now she was a Furlong from St. John's.

AR: Furline. F-U- how would I spell ...?

GT: F-U-R-L-O-N-G.

AR: F-U-R-L-

GT: O-N-G.

AR: Furlong! OK. So she was a Madeleine Furlong from St. John's.

GT: Now she had, ah, a nephew used to have barber shops. I don't know if you knew him. Bill Furlong, he had them all over town.

AR: No, I don't think I knew those, that barber shops at all. But in your house ...

GT: No? And he died with a heart attacks, so he's dead now.

AR: So you had your mother in the house when the tidal wave came, and how many other brothers and sisters were there?

GT: It was, um, my two brothers and, and my sister and I.

AR: And what were your two brothers' names and your sister's name?

GT: Ah, my slster was Marie.

AR: Marie.

GT: And, um, Roach and John.

AR: Roach is your brother, and John ...

GT: John's my brother.

AR: ... is the John Kelly that's over on Laurentian.

GT: Yeah.

AR: The four of you and your mother were in, in the pantry?

GT: Yeah, in the kitchen.

AR: And, when you heard the roar you didn't go out and look?

GT: No, we just knelt.

AR: And how long did you have to kneel before it was all over?

GT: Well, we knelt 'til Daddy came.

AR: OK.

GT: But then, we went to lookin' then, you know. Daddy wouldn't let us go handy. We just went out on the back.

AR: Now, what did you see when you looked, ah ...

GT: I saw all the boats and the stages goin' and comin' and goin', you know.

AR: So, you were able to see them come in at one point ...

GT: Oh yes.

AR: ... and go back out.

GT: Yeah. Go out. Rush. Oh, it was just like a lion. You wouldn't believe it.

AR: The wave.

GT: Yeah. And roar, you know?

AR: And when you say a lion, what do you mean by that? [Ruffman doesn't hear the word 'lion']

GT: Yeah, a lion's roar, you know.

AR: Like, was it a breaking wave, like, ah, coming in on the beach?

GT: Yes, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

AR: Now where were you, Norbert, when you watched it? Were you on this side?

NT: Yeah.

GT: He's ...

AR: How, how old were you at the time, then?

NT: I don't know now.

GT: Well ...

AR: How old's Norbert now, then?

GT: Now, he is 81.

AR: He's 81. So you would have been, you would have been 16 years old.

NT: Yeah.

GT: Yeah. He's more! And, and Mrs. Murray. That's, I guess you know, must know Murray. In St. John's?

AR: I don't think I do, no.

GT: Well, he died, but, but now, his mother [Mrs. Murray] and his mother [Mrs. Turpin, Norbert's mother], they all made for the presbytery, for the church.

NT: Yeah!

GT: Up to the priest!

AR: Fair enough.

GT: Went right up. That was the further ... that hill is, well not where the church is now, 'twas further up.

AR: Good high ground.

GT: Yeah. They went up on the high ground. They all went up through the meadows.

AR: Now what happened the next day? Ah, you, you woke up the next morning, it must have been some mess.

NT: Oh yeah.

GT: Yeah. Oh my gosh, it's terrible. Not the next morning but for months they was, you know, wasn't cleared up.

AR: It took months to clear up. How, how long did you have to walk across that debris?

GT: Oh, over a month. Because there was no, no 'dozers in them,

those days or, you know, just all, everything was done by hand and the horses.

AR: And what happened with the, um, the weather?

GT: Well, the weather wasn't too bad, was it, Norbert? I can't remember the weather.

AR: Yeah.

GT: But I know we used t'have to go to school, I know. And, ah, if we're late for school we'd be excused, you know.

AR: And there was nobody, nobody died in this community.

GT: No.

AR: Were there any close calls, any close, ah, ...?

GT: No, only just Daddy and them, now, if they didn't have t'get in [the water].

AR: When they were pulling the boat up.

GT: They, they would've been gone.

AR: And, and the other fella, I, I remember Ena Farrell Edwards told the story of the horse. But, d'you remember the name of that horse? Tom Pike's horse?

GT: No. But you'll get it from Kev.

AR: Kev. And where's Kevin live? Kevin Pike.

GT: Kev lives over on that side.

AR: On the west side.

GT: Yeah. He lives, Ena Edwards lives there, but you got to go further up the road, socko[sic] (?), and you make, there's a turn there and turn that way. You should go that way.

NT: He's the Justice of the Peace there now.

GT: He's Justice of the Peace.

AR: He's the Justice of the Peace.

GT: Yeah.

NT: He's got a diary ... (??)

GT: Yes. Kev keeps a diary of everything, eh?

NT: He's got a good hand?

AR: Now, you mentioned someone else kept a diary. Aubrey Edwards.

GT: Aubrey Farrell. That's Ena's, Ena's, ah, brother.

AR: Yeah. And, so his diary, maybe it's available and ...

GT: Oh, I imagine. 'Cause he, you know, he's still alive.

NT: Kev Pike, now, he ...

GT: But Kev now, you get ... you ... he really ...
got everything over there.

AR: Now, I've been making a tape here, and what I'm going to do is, I'm gonna make a copy of the tape, you know, I'll write it down. And I'll mail that back to you to have a look at and make sure we got it all correct. [phone rings]

GT: Yeah.

AR: But, would you have any objection if we eventually had this tape in the Archives so that they can hear your story?

GT: Ha, ha. No!

AR: That'd be OK, would it?

GT: Yeah.

AR: And that's, ah, 'cause I think it would be quite valuable for people. But we should answer this phone now, they got the phone going. I'll just turn this off.

End of interview

Mrs. Gertrude Turpin added comments to the transcript in September 1995 after it was sent out for review. In response to my August 1995 query, "In looking for 'tidal wave' material in the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador in St. John's, I found that three other houses floated that I was not familiar with. They were the dwelling houses of Benedict Slaney, Mrs. Ed. Lundrigan, and John Beck. Can you tell me where these houses were located in 1929 before the 'tidal wave'? I also know Angus Pike's house moved, but as yet I've not really fixed it on the map except I know it was on the west side near Water Street West and Pollux. Similarly, I know Michael Fitzpatrick's house moved, but again I am not exactly sure where it was located before the events of November 18, 1929, except that it was near Notre Dame Street and Water Street West. I would appreciate any help or guidance that you can give me to exactly locate the 1929 positions of the above Slaney, Lundrigan, Beck, Pike and Fitzpatrick homes before the 1929 'tidal wave' moved or destroyed them." Mrs. Turpin replied in September 1995, "Ben Slaney's house was on same piece of land just closer to the water. Angus Pike's house was close to Isabell Farrell put across the street before the 'tidal wave'. Michael Fitzpatrick's house was on the same piece of land that it is on now (between Allan Slaney & Sam Tobin) but it was closer to the water [before the 'tidal wave']."

Transcript made
March 17, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 95-2, SIDE 2, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1995,
MRS. EMMA BLANCHE PIKE, MOTHER OF LEVI, AND LEVI PIKE, ST.
LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Emma Blanche Pike — born 1903, circa early Spring
— family name: née Blagdon, Mrs. Charles Pike
— mother of Levi Pike
— mailing address: Laurentian Avenue, P.O. Box
548, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland A0E 2V0
— phone (709) 873-2344

Levi Pike — born 1923, circa March
— lives on Laurentian Avenue, St. Lawrence, with
wife Mildred (née Hillier)
— son of Emma Blanche Pike

— interview length: 25.5 minutes

Also spoke to earlier, but did not tape record

Mildred Pike — born ??
— family name Hillier, from Point au Gaul
— mailing address: Laurentian Avenue, P.O. Box
548, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland A0E 2V0
— phone (709) 873-2344

Conversation began after Alan Ruffman had talked with Levi and his wife Mildred Pike. Levi and Alan went to Blanche's home behind Levi's. So Levi was present for the full interview and he participated throughout.

BLANCHE PIKE: You've seen a lot of people?

ALAN RUFFMAN: I've seen a lot of people, um, I've talked to Mildred Pike, ah now wait, I've got, I've talked to Mildred [interviewer is confused for a bit], ah, ah, Gertrude Turpin. And I've talked to Charlotte Turpin. And I've talked to Michael Turpin, I think. And I've got some more to talk to as well. I've talked to Pauline Loder.

BP: Yeah. Well, I remember the day quite plainly. It was a, a lovely, lovely clear day in, ah, on a Monday. And a lotta people had their washing on the line, of course. And you'd never think there was anything, you know, to disturb the peace. And I was making bread, and all of a sudden everything went, ah, ah, trembling. And I said, "Oh! A, a truck!" And then I said, "Oh, an earthquake." And one, I had one little girl runnin' about in her glee[sic] (?) and the other little one came and, and clung into me. She was frightened.

AR: And where was, where was Levi at this time?

BP: And I was expecting to see the house ... go. But everything, and shelves and cupboards fell down. And, ah, well, it passed. And my husband was down on Corbin Road working, and they had to walk up, they had to walk way up from Corbin. And I had the supper on the table, I was gettin' my bread made before they'd get home. And, um, another man that we were livin' with at the time then, he was over in Farrell's store packing fish. And, we, it was 7 o'clock when we were having supper, and this man, Mr. Jim Shea, um, raced in and he said, "And boys," he said "if you want to save your property or your dory, you better get down." He said, "The tide is gettin' very high." So they went down and tried to secure the property, and there was a big flake, fish flake, down there by their property, and, ah ...

AR: Now, was this on, was this on Shingle Point? Was this on Shingle Point, or ...?

LEVI PIKE: No, she don't know where Shingle Point is.

AR: Oh, the point of ...

LP: You know, she, this is down in front of our place she's thinkin' about ...

AR: Oh, OK.

LP: Along the shore.

BP: Say it loud enough for me to hear, now.

LP: No, I'm explaining what you're saying there. [louder so his mother can hear]

AR: Ah, this is Levi explaining.

LP: He said, ah, he said "Did you know if it was down around Shingle Point?" And I'm saying to him "No." Shingle Point is what we used to call the beach, see?

BP: Oh, is that what it is?

LP: Now, that's what the proper name is here, is, Shingle Point.

BP: I never knew.

LP: But now, where you were talkin' about is right down along the shore there. The Saints' property and along there. And our property.

BP: Yeah. Yeah. But the property was all on the sea side, of course.

AR: And you said there was a big flake there.

BP: Yeah. There was a big flake there, but we didn't own the flake. 'Twas somebody else's. But, ah, the, the men were on it and my husband, and, ah, I don't know where the other man was, but the flake went from under 'im.

AR: Wow.

BP: And, ah, the property down there, one house floated away down by the shore.

AR: Who, whose house was that that floated?

BP: One house was down there right by the shore, and that, ah, floated. But it didn't get out of the, didn't get out of the area.

LP: Whose house, he ask you.

BP: Oh, that was Uncle Angus, we called him Uncle Angus. Angus Pike.

LP: Angus.

AR: Angus Pike's house.?

LP: Angus Pike's house.

BP: Yes.

LP: Carl's brother.

BP: And, ah, his grandfather was living right next door. The water came into their house, but it didn't take the house away.

AR: Now what was, what was your, his grandfather's name?

BP: Levi Pike.

AR: So the Levi Pike house had water in it but it didn't float away. But the Angus Pike house did float.

LP: (unintelligible)

BP: And there was also a family living on the point of that beach, right by the wharf.

AR: That was Tom Pike.

BP: Tom Pike.

LP: George.

BP: Somebody told you that.

AR: Well, I've been talking to Levi.

BP: And, and they got out when the sea came in over the beach, they got up and ran, you know, ran up the beach. And they had a little horse in the stable, and they couldn't let it out. But the sea knocked the door out, and the poor little thing raced up the beach.

AR: Now, there were children in that house out on that point.

BP: Yeah. They got out with their children.

AR: Who, do you remember who the children were?

BP: Ah, well, they had, um, all girls then. I would say, ah ...

LP: Gladys?

BP: Probably just Margeurite and, ah, what's the one ...

LP: Gladys. Gladys!

BP: No, Gladys wasn't livin' there then.

LP: Oh, I don't know. For sure that was her daughter.

AR: So they were all, they were all daughters at that time.

BP: Tom Pike and Aggie and their children.

LP: Tom and Aggie lived there then.

BP: Yeah.

LP: But what about Uncle George, weren't they livin' there too?

BP: No, they were in the States, they were in the States.

LP: Oh, yeah, they were in the States. Right you are.

AR: OK, well that fits. So, George, George and his wife had gone to the States.

BP: Yeah. The ones that owned the home were in the States, and that was their son Tom living there, with his wife, and a child Marguerite, and, ah, I forget the one's name, the daddy couldn't of had any more than, what, two children then.

LP: No, he couldn't have. 'Cause Kevin would be too young.

AR: Now, what other buildings floated? Do you know other buildings that got wet or floated?

BP: Oh, there was, there was a big, ah, store on the other side

that formerly belonged to his grandfather Bradley. But the Holletts bought it. Oh, it was a very, very big store.

LP: A big fish store, you know?

BP: And that was out ...

AR: This, was it on the point?

LP: No, it was a way over.

BP: And that was out, that was the way out in the middle of the harbour in the morning. And longers and uh, you know, that's what they called what the flakes were made out of.

AR: Yes.

BP: Oh, the harbour was afloat with all kinds of, ah, everything that could move, you know?

AR: You, you called them 'longerson'?

BP: Longer... they called them long...

LP: Longers.

AR: Longer, longer sticks!

BP: Longers.

LP: Yeah, was long ah, ... sticks from, vary from an inch to three inches in diameter.

AR: All right.

LP: Long sticks.

BP: You know, it's like firewood. Long, tall firewood. Well, the harbour was full of that.

AR: Did any other dwelling houses get moved? Do you know if any other dwelling houses got moved?

BP: Oh, yes. Up the Riverhead. There was no causeway across there then, and, ah, ah, the sea came in, oh, I, I can see that sea now. It coiled up, and it went right up there and washed the houses away. But I don't think they floated out, they just went up the hill, the ground was pretty level up there.

AR: Do you know whose houses moved? Did you ever know ...

BP: The Handrigans lived there then, two families of Handrigans. But, ah, I really don't know their names. Two small green

houses, you don't remember them? [to Levi]

LP: No, I don't remember them. But, it was John Handrigan, wasn't it? Uncle John Handrigan?

BP: And there was another one, you know where, ah, where, ah, ah, ...

LP: Where Jack Handrigan is, yeah.

BP: That the Tarrant lives now. And what's his name, ah ...

LP: Carl.

BP: Carl Tarrant lives now.

LP: Oh yes, yes.

BP: There was a Molloy lived there, and his house floated but it didn't go out.

AR: OK. And I, I've seen a ...

BP: Right by the brook, you know, by the Riverhead Brook.

AR: OK. There was also a Fitzpatrick house that moved, I think. But I don't know where it is.

BP: Yeah, there was a Tom Fitzpatrick, his house went. And their clothesline and the whole works.

LP: (chuckles) ... clothesline ...

AR: Really! Now, how far up, how far up to the Lawn highway did the water go?

BP: Oh, it went up, it went up a good, a good piece from the road, good piece from the road.

AR: Where was the telegraph station that Mrs. Fewer, Miss Fewer was running?

BP: That was, ah, at, I think that was over on the other side, then over to Turpins' probably. Over to, ah, where, ah, Charlotte Turpin lives now. They had one part of the house for a, for a, they let it for an office. But after that it was brought in, ah, ...

AR: To the Etchegarys??

LP: I told him now, no, not Etchegary. There's the place I was telling you about.

BP: ... brought up there where that, ah, ...

LP: I told him about that, I told where that is, now I point it on the map. So, he knows where that is. But I, I didn't know it was on the other side, I thought there was, the old, the old, ah, telegraph station was somewhere in that area, up here. West side.

BP: No, over, over in, ah, ah, Vic Turpin's house it was.

LP: Is that where it was?

BP: That's where, ah, Cele Fewer used to ...

LP: Is that right?

BP: She was the operator then.

LP: I never knew that.

BP: For years.

AR: Now, how would you spell 'Cele', how would you spell her name?

LP: Cecelia.

BP: Cecelia.

AR: Cecelia, but you called her Cele.

LP: Cele.

BP: I don't know really. F-U-E-R. I suppose her name, I suppose her name was ...

LP: The first name, he wants to know.

BP: Celeste?

LP: Ce, ce, Cecelia, wasn't it?

BP: Eh?

LP: I thought it was Cecelia.

BP: Well, he used to call her ...

LP: He called her Cele, Cele Fewer.

BP: Probably Cecelia. Well, that's good enough anyway.

AR: And now, were there any boats damaged in the harbour? Do you know if boats were damaged in the harbour?

BP: Yes, there was a lot of damage, lot of people lost their property, lost their fishing gear, their lines and ...

LP: Stages, you know.

BP: You know, their trawls, what they call the trawls.

LP: The boats, the boats he was askin' you about. The boats. But, I, I, seems to me like there was not a lot of damage to boats.

BP: Yes, there's some boats damaged, but I don't think anybody lost their boat.

LP: ... May not have got together. You know ... I realized this afterwards. But when I went down with my father, that time I was telling you about, on the road, they had all the boats that were all in that area at the dock, there was quite a few, the dories, the dory's a boat, came all, all up across the road. On the road, they were.

AR: To get them away from the water.

LP: To get them away from the water, y'see. And I guess they were afraid the water was gonna come back again, or somethin'.

AR: Now, you mentioned when your father took you down the road, may be an hour after, the boats were still moving.

LP: There was, there was a boat, I was tellin' you, it was a boat, that was an abandoned boat, actually it was down in the bottom of the dock. It belonged to the Giovanninis. It was an old boat that was abandoned there for years. We used to play aboard her. And there was broken deck and timber and stuff, you know, it was just like, ahhh, a derelict.

AR: But she floated?

LP: But she floated and floated out to the dock. And this is what I was tellin' you about, how I wanted Dad to rescue this boat. (chuckles)

AR: So you could continue to play in it. (laughing)

LP: I s'pose.

AR: And how old were you now, Levi, at the time?

LP: I was six.

AR: Six, and so that makes you, ah, 71 now?

L: Almost 72.

AR: Almost 72. But now, you [to Blanche Pike in a louder voice so she can hear], you must be now older than your son, now. How old were you in 1929? Or how old are you now?

LP: Born in 1903.

BP: Oh, well now, I'll soon be 92 now.

AR: Ninety-two. So you were, 65, 75, you were 26, 27 years old at the time.

BP: Yeah. I suppose.

AR: And had 2 or 3 children, 3 children at that time.

LP: Three, I think.

BP: I always got to do a little bit of arithmetic. [Alan laughs]

LP: Stella, Stella and Freda were born, were alive then right, they only had 3 children then?

BP: I had 3 but, ah, there's Violet that was born in November then, that same November.

LP: Before or after the tidal wave?

BP: After. Oh, she was born in January. That was in November, she was born in January [1930]

LP: Yeah, so you were pregnant with Violet.

AR: So that was the fourth child she was pregnant with.

LP: Yeah.

AR: And what was your husband's name?

BP: Charles.

AR: Charles, in 1929.

BP: Well, I was frightened.

AR: I'll bet you were.

BP: And I couldn't go, I wanted to see what was goin' on outside, and I couldn't leave the children. I went out for a little bit and I had them in bed, when I came back they were all sitting on the table, with a kerosene lamp and that, now that frightened me.

AR: 'Cause of fire.

BP: Yes.

LP: They knock over the lamp.

BP: But I got out the Bible and I started to read, try to make my soul forget about it, 'bout the end of the world.

AR: How, how did you know the tidal wave was coming? How did you ... could you hear it?

BP: Well, it was just, it struck me, when I felt the earth. First, when they had old noisy trucks here, and I thought, "A truck, a plane, an earthquake." Just like that.

AR: This was the earthquake. But when the tidal wave came, that was two hours later.

BP: Yes, that was 7 o'clock.

AR: And that was, the only reason you knew it was coming 'cause the man came up and shouted. There was a fella came up and, and warned your father to, ah, go down.

LP: I guess, I don't, I don't exactly what happened there. I don't know.

AR: You, you said that someone came and warned.

LP: Who told, who told, who came up to the house ...?

LP: Uncle Jim. Uncle Jim Shea.

BP: Jim Shea. A man by the name of Jim Shea.

AR: So this is Pauline Loder's brother ...

LP: Pauline Loder's brother.

AR: Jim Shea ... so ...

LP: Yeah.. He was a famous character around our neighbourhood 'cause he used to come to our house all the time.

AR: I see.

LP: And play cards every winter, you know.

AR: When you looked out, could you see the water moving?

BP: No, because I was up the hill too far. But, I, I'd go down to the bottom of my lane and I could see it. It, but the, it went out the harbour and it all piled up high, there at the point of the beach, and it piled up and it came in, it, it drove everything before it.

AR: And was there, could you see the white water at the top of the wave?

BP: No, I didn't see it.

LP: There must have been some foaming now.

BP: But there was people comin' from Saint-Pierre, oh I'm sorry.

AR: That's all right.

BP: And people comin' from Saint-Pierre that same evening, and they didn't feel a thing, or know a thing.

AR: That was Victor Turpin, wasn't it?

BP: Yes.

AR: And his son, that was his son, ah, Albert.

BP: You got that ... they probably told you that ...

LP: Alfred. [corrects Alan]

AR: Alfred. And then there was also Joe Turpin on board, and a fella named Lake, I think.

LP: That could have been Uncle Billy.

BP: Well, that's the house, there, the telegraph office was at that time.

AR: OK. So, I, I, I've read stories about, ah, Father Torn, Father Thorne was helping repair the telegraph afterwards, 'cause the telegraph went out, so they had to get the, ah, the telegraph poles put back in. But there was no communication, I don't think, to the outside.

BP: The tidal wave didn't touch anything in that office 'cause it was up ... you know, the sea couldn't get up there.

LP: The poles, the poles you're talkin' about.

AR: The poles came down, yeah. Do you think the telegraph office was high enough that it didn't get touched.

BP: Yeah, you can see the house here. Water didn't go up there, unless they had it brought ...

LP: That house couldn't get touched over there.

AR: Yeah.

BP: ... On this side, that, by then, I don't think they did.

LP: Yeah. What, what happened was the pole was goin' up the road and into Riverhead in the low, in the low areas, I guess, some of the poles got knocked down. That must've happened.

BP: Oh yes. Yeah, yeah.

AR: Now, you mentioned ... were there some of the businesses on this side got water into them? You know, which businesses had damage done to them on the, on the west side?

BP: Well.

AR: Farrell's might've.

BP: I don't think Farrell's property They, they weren't, they weren't doin' much business this time at the store, at this time, I think, the store was more or less, ah, ...

LP: Well, the store was up high, as I can remember ...

BP: Yes, up high, very high.

LP: ... and there was a single storey. The store was level with the road ...

AR: OK.

LP: ... see. But they had the bottom part, bottom part was ...

BP: Level with the road.

LP: ... the fish store, a trap store, you know, storage of the, of the traps. They were heavily into traps ...

BP: And there was a lot of, a lot of property outside of it like flakes and, ah, stages and all that. No, I don't think the store was hurt.

LP: They had a large area there.

AR: So, most of the stores were on the, most of the shops were on the west side, level with the road. And so they wouldn't get flooded.

LP: That's right. Giovannini's is the same, see? Giov... Giovannini used to live where, where Aylward's is now. Giovanninis had a store there. That's not, well, the ancestor of Bud, you know, his place up here now, the hotel. And, ah, they had, they had the same thing, their, their store was level with the road, and they had a, a storage place for their traps and their fishing gear underneath, you know, because they were heavily into trapping in those days, they had the store.

AR: So, even if that got wet, it wouldn't matter.

LP: No, it didn't matter very much, it's just a matter of haulin' the traps out and lettin' em dry on the flakes again, you know?

AR: Today, though, it seems to me that, ah, the downstairs of Aylwards would get badly flooded out, ah, the furniture part there.

LP: Oh yes, that would be very vulnerable there now.

AR: And there'd be a few other businesses that might be vulnerable, ah, like those new apartments they built. They aren't, they're not occupied yet, but, where the little takeaway is? Ah, just past Aylwards and past the, ah, motel, there's a fella had a takeaway, ah, had a restaurant for a year or two in '89.

LP: Oh, yes, yes. Tom, Tom Slaney. Yeah, he, he would be a bit vulnerable to ...

AR: Or, those new, um, those new apartments behind there look like they're down another level.

LP: Yeah, they're just a little bit below the road, if you will. Yeah. It would be in, ah, in danger there if the same thing happened now ... for sure Yeah.

AR: Do you remember when, um, when Tom Pike moved his house off the point?

LP: Off the beach?

AR: Off the point of the beach.

BP: I, I, I know 'bout him moving out of it, all right, but, ah, I don't know what time it was, and they, they went on the other side, then, I think. I don't know if they stayed ...

LP: I was telling him, it was not long after the tidal wave, that's what I thought.

BP: Oh, it wasn't long. No.

LP: Wasn't very long. Next year, or something like that per'aps. And he moved over in Tarrant's house, didn't they?

BP: The Cape View, it was then.

LP: Oh, the Cape View House, right, yes, that, that wasn't Tarrant's, that was one of the Turpins owned that. But then they moved down in the, they moved down in the other place then, afterwards.

BP: Well, they built a house afterwards, while they were still there they built that house.

LP: What house?

BP: What Gerald is living in now.

LP: Oh yes, yes, that was a big house then.

BP: But Gerald had it cut, Gerald had it cut down.

LP: But then they moved down in Tarrant's house for a period of time before he came over here? I believe they did.

BP: Moved where?

LP: Down in, one of the Tarrants' houses there.

BP: No.

AR: (laughing) Doesn't matter, doesn't matter.

BP: No, they stayed there. They stayed there 'til they came in their own house.

LP: 'Til they built this one.

AR: Now, Blanche, do you remember any of the, the, the, ah, rescue effort? Do you remember any of the relief effort that came down from St. John's, the help? Did you get much help from St. John's after the tidal wave?

BP: Of the help?

AR: Some assistance. Did the government give some assistance?

BP: Well, ah, there was blankets and clothing sent ... But ...

LP: Yeah, there was, there was, there was some assistance no question about that ...

BP: I don't think the committee was very fair with it.

AR: No!?

BP: Well, they gave clothes to the people to the people that lost it, their line full of clothes and their houses, you know.

LP: Fair as they could, I suppose, under the circumstances.

BP: But, um, there was a lot that I don't know what they did.

AR: Well, there was other communities harder hit, ah, in terms of people losing their homes. Point au Gaul was, ah, where your, where Levi's wife Mildred came from, and she was a, a Hillier?

LP: Hillier, Hillier.

AR: Mildred Hillier. I mean, she remembers a lot of damage in

Point au Gaul.

BP: Oh, they'd be worse off up there because there was several people drowned and down to Burin, they ... their houses went so quick, and it's so level up there.

AR: And, in Port au Bras there was eleven houses went in Port au Bras. ... So ...

BP: Yeah. 'Twasn't that bad here.

AR: You only got one back [in Port au Bras].

BP: There was nobody drowned here.

AR: Were there any people injured here? Any people that were hurt by the tidal wave?

BP: No, I don't think.

L: I can't recall anybody. No, I can't recall anybody, any reports. There could have been some people certainly, but, I don't remember.

AR: So mainly property damage?

LP: Right. Was property damage, for sure.

BP: Uncle Wall was out being in the middle of 'the strand', when that wave that came in.

LP: Was he?

BP: With the dory, you know, he saw it coming and got, ah, secured his dory. He wasn't very far out.

AR: Who was this now? This was your uncle ...?

BP: Well, that's Walter Pike, on the other side. His dory had gone out, but, ah, the, the strand was dry then, and him and his son were tryin' to get the dory in, and they saw the wave coming so they put a little bit of effort in and got, got to safety, ha ha.

AR: So they, they saved the dory too?

BP: Yes.

AR: OK. And he lived on the east side.

BP: Ha ha. [agreeing]

AR: Albert lived on the east side?

LP: Walter. [correcting Alan]

AR: Oh I'm sorry. Walt, Walter lived on the east side?

BP: On the other side.

LP: The east.

AR: OK.

LP: The same house my daughter lives in now.

BP: I don't hear too well, you know. Well I ...

LP: In fact it's ... It's the oldest house in town. Farrells claim that they got the oldest house, but that house over there ... Uncle Wall's house we used to call it ... now, he wasn't my uncle, but we always used to call him Uncle Wall because he was an older person, you know. And his son married my aunt.

AR: OK.

LP: Annie, Aunt Anne, and he, ah, he, ah, inherited the house, of course, when Uncle Wall died, and the house was, ah, you know, for sale. So I bought the house, you know, for my daughter, I rented it out for a while. And they came home and lived in it, they were; she was on the mainland, got married and she came back, and they moved into the house and they're there ever since. They got a little greenhouse there, along side.

AR: How, how would you know the age of that house?

LP: Well, I know it's very old, and I know, ah, from, from, ah, from him telling me, you know, stories about ...

AR: Him being?

LP: Uncle Wall.

AR: Uncle Wall.

LP: Yeah, 'cause he was, you know, he died in '75, I think it was, he was sick. Now he used to come over t'our house all the time and play cards and that, him and Uncle Jim Shea and, and, um, my foster grandfather who lived with us for years until he died. And Dad. They used t'sit around and play Auction or Crib or something, you know.

AR: 45's?

LP: 45's sometimes, yeah, Auction, and sometimes Crib. And I used t'join in with them sometimes when I got old enough, eh? But, ah, of course, ah, he used to tell me the stories about, you know, when he was a boy, you know, and, and when he went to

live in the house. 'Cause, ah, you know, it wasn't his father's house, but he went to live with the old gentleman who was a Pike also, who lived in it, who built it in the first place.

AR: So it's gonna be the late 1800's.

LP: Oh yes, it was built way before the turn of the century, way way before that. Very old.

AR: The reason I'm interested, Levi, is that, um, I'm doing a tree-ring project with a fellow in Winnipeg, trying to get the tree-rings for the Burin. And it's old houses like that, if you ever take a beam out of it, ah, cut us a slice, that is about 4 inches thick, because we'd like to look at the, the tree-rings, ah, with the thought that those may be tree-rings that cover the, much of the 1800's.

LP: Oh yes. Yeah, it could be, could be ...

AR: Um, and that's something that we're keeping our eyes open for, those old houses. So I'll have to get you to mark that one on the map too.

LP: I must, ah, I must, ah, I must remember that.

AR: Well, I should thank you very, very much for your, your help. It's been very, very interesting.

BP: Sorry it wasn't more help.

AR: Would you mind, would you mind if I put a copy of this tape in the Archives, so other people could hear it sometime? Would that be alright if we put a copy of the tape in the Archives?

LP: He wants to put a copy of the tape in the Archives. In the Archives in St. John's?

AR: Yeah.

BP: Oh, if you want to, it's OK with me.

AR: Now, what I'll also do is, I'll make a paper, I'll make a transcript, I'll make a paper, I'll write out what you said for me, and I'll mail that back to you so you and Levi can look at it and see if I've got any errors.

LP: (laughs)

BP: Yeah, lots of errors probably.

AR: Thank you very, very much. I appreciate it.

BP: Oh, you're finely welcome.

AR: Great. And I'll turn the tape off now. Well that's very good.

End of interview

Transcript made
March 20, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 95-2, SIDE 2, second interview on second half of this side, follows immediately on the Pikes' interview, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1995,

ELIZABETH MADELINE SLANEY, ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Elizabeth Madeline Slaney — born 1910
— family name: Hayes. Then married Michael Quirk, later married a Gregory Slaney after Mr. Quirk's death.
— mailing address: Water Street West, P.O. Box 191, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland A0E 2V0
— phone (709) 873-2589
— interview length: 11 minutes

ALAN RUFFMAN: I'll start now, and I'm talking to Elizabeth Slaney.

ELIZABETH SLANEY: Slaney, yes.

AR: Yep. Middle name Mrs. Slaney?

ES: Yes, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Slaney, Madeline Slaney.

AR: Madeline Slaney. Now you weren't a Slaney though, you were?

ES: I was a Hayes first, and then I married a Quirk. [she does not use the 'e']

AR: OK.

ES: And he died, and then I married a [Gregory] Slaney.

AR: That's why Gregory [Quirke, the town clerk] is your son.

ES: Quirke is my son, yes. [Greg does use the 'e']

AR: And then you remarried to a Slaney.

ES: To a Slaney, and he's dead too now.

AR: Now you weren't here in 1929.

ES: No, no. I never came here 'til 1930, April the 9th of 1933.

AR: Where were you living in 1929?

ES: In Saint-Pierre.

AR: And, were you married at that time?

ES: Yes. No! I wasn't married at that time, is right. I got married in, ah, wait now, that was in, what time, in, the tidal wave?

AR: It was November 18, 1929.

ES: November the 18th. And I got married in, ah, December the 4th, of 1929 [later she corrected this to 1928 when she was mailed the transcript to review].

AR: Just after the tidal wave.

ES: Yeah.

AR: And you married a Saint-Pierre man.

ES: I got married, no, I married a St. Lawrence man, but he was working in Saint-Pierre with MacDonald.

AR: Gotcha.

ES: And, ah, I met him there, eh?

AR: OK. Now, did you feel the earthquake in Saint-Pierre?

ES: Yes, we did. I was settin' down [at] me sister's house and everything started to shake, the dishes on the shelf, and she had, um, a garage out by her, ah, house, and there's a tank of oil in it, and we thought this what was after explodin'.

AR: Wow.

ES: But that's all, that's all it 'twas.

AR: Now, how old were you in 1920, or, how ...?

ES: I was born in 1910.

AR: 1910. So you woulda been 19 years old ...

ES: Yeah, 19.

AR: ... when you first went to Saint-Pierre.

ES: No, no. I was young when I went to Saint-Pierre.

AR: Oh, really? Oh.

ES: Well, a couple a months old, that's all, you know?

AR: Vous êtes bilingue?

ES: Yeah. I was, um, I went to Saint-Pierre in the war, in 19 and, um, 22.

AR: OK.

ES: And we all had to join under the French flag, see?

AR: I see.

ES: Yeah. Yeah. Because at that time they was puttin' English people in jail, 'cause the war was on, see? If you didn't join the French. So I, I ...

AR: During the First World War.

ES: Yeah. I had a bit of French anyhow.

AR: So when you felt that earthquake, did you know what it was?

ES: No, we didn't. Until they got a message, ah, couple a days after, because my husband, the man that I was marryin', he's brother was workin' at Saint-Pierre at the same time? And they called for him to come home.

AR: Because of the disaster over here.

ES: Yeah. Yeah, that's right.

AR: And that's when you realized what the tidal wave had done.

ES: Yeah. We realized then that's what it was, eh?

AR: Did you, did you have the tidal wave in Saint-Pierre?

ES: No, had nothing', just shakin' of the ground.

AR: But, the, the water didn't come up and do any flooding there?

ES: No, no water, no water anything like that in Saint-Pierre.

AR: So you didn't know anything about the problem over here?

ES: Nothing at all about the problem over here. So, then after that we heard that this house was taken from the Riverhead and carried in to the old football field.

AR: Now, whose house was this?

ES: This was Molloy's house. Um, I don't know what his name was now. He's in the States anyhow.

AR: You mentioned Tom Molloy.

ES: Yeah, but I don't think the name was that.

AR: The other name I've heard is John [Joe] Molloy. I didn't know whether

ES: John Molloy, probably that's who it was owned this house.

AR: So was it empty at the time of the tidal wave?

ES: Oh, yes, yes. Nobody livin' in it, he was in the States for years.

AR: And so, this house moved.

ES: Yeah, this house moved, from in there, and my brother-in-law from Parker's Cove was comin' from Saint-Pierre the same day, and he, the tide took his boat, and carried it right in the bottom.

AR: Now, who, who was your brother-in-law?

ES: Sam Synard.

AR: Sam ...?

ES: Samuel Synard.

AR: S, S, Sinyert.

ES: Yeah.

AR: How would you spell that last name?

ES: S-Y-N-A-R-D.

AR: Synard.

ES: Yeah.

AR: Is that a French name?

ES: No, I don't think so.

AR: No? So his, he'd come from Saint-Pierre on the 8, on the Monday, on the 18th.

ES: Yeah, on the boat, yeah. And the tide took and carried right in the bottom.

AR: What sort of boat did he have now?

ES: Well, one of those little jack boats, eh?

AR: OK.

ES: Yeah. And then he ...

AR: So he anchored it out off, out in the harbour here?

ES: Never anchored it at'all because she carried right in, and ...

AR: He was in it!?

ES: Yes! All the crowd what was comin' from Saint-Pierre, how ever many men had in't, and then when the tide come out, the wave went out, she carried her out again.

AR: And they all survived.

ES: They all survived, yeah.

AR: And that boat didn't get bash, bashed up.

ES: No, I don't think so. They got home in her anyhow.

AR: Now, do you know how far in they went?

ES: No, I don't. I would, ah, say up by, um, where the firehall is up now, a bit farther and that.

AR: Well you said the old football field, that would be ...

ES: No, this is a house. This is my house, was in there.

AR: Oh. OK. Now, where is the old football field?

ES: Do you know in, you knows where's the firehall's at?

AR: I know where the firehall is.

ES: Town council?

AR: Yes.

ES: Well, 'twas right there. That's the, that field's there, that's

AR: Would it be on this side of the Lawn road or the far side of the Lawn road?

ES: You goes in, the hospital this way's on that side.

AR: So as you come, as you come past the drugstore and you turn left along the Lawn road.

ES: Yeah, the Lawn road, and this is the ballfield there then.

AR: Be on, on your left side and on the south side of the road.

ES: Side, right, yeah, yeah. I think that's the side it was on.

AR: So, the Molloy house went right in to that?

ES: Right into that, yeah. That's when we bought it, that's where we bought it at.

AR: I bet you got it for cheap money then.

ES: Oh, if we have a hundred and fifty bucks.

AR: A hundred and fifty bucks, but you had to move it!

ES: Yes, we had to move it.

AR: So was your husband Mr. Quirk that moved it back to here?

ES: No, 'twas his father, and sent him tobacco from Saint-Pierre, and flour and stuff like that, and they got a crowd then at that time 'cause times was poor, eh?

AR: Yeah.

ES: And then they moved back the house here for us.

AR: How did they move the house?

ES: Well, I ...

AR: Were you around, did you see it happen?

ES: No, I didn't see it happen, sir, no. But they had to take the chimley down, I know that, and I seen houses came after I came here, and they had like those big poles.

AR: Um hum.

ES: And they used to put 'em down on the ground and roll your house on it.

AR: And then they'd, they, they would roll it along the poles.

ES: Yeah, so far along, 'bout how far they could get it at the time, eh?

AR: Then they moved the poles.

ES: No. Yes, by the time the house come off of that pole they put it, one in front.

AR: OK.

ES: Go behind get the other one, see?

AR: Fascinating.

ES: That's the way how, they ...

AR: Now, when did you, then, come and live in the house, they got it all fixed up before you came.

ES: No. Ah, I come in, no, we come fixed it up. I come home in '31 to see if I like St. Lawrence, and, ah, I didn't care much about it now, but I still come. And then we fixed the, we come here in '33 to live.

AR: And what was your husband's name?

ES: Mike Quirk.

AR: Mike Quirk.

ES: Michael Quirk, yeah.

AR: So that's Gregory's father.

ES: That's Greggy's father, yes sir. [Greg Quirke, the town clerk]

AR: All right. So, Mike and yourself came back here in '31 to live.

ES: In '33.

AR: '33 to live.

ES: He didn't come back right away, but I did.

AR: OK.

ES: Because he was, um, he was an, um, he was a harbour tender, in Saint-Pierre? And, ah, he had to stay on a couple a months after I come here. Me and my mother and my son come here, as I had a son three years old.

AR: Now, do you know whether the water came up onto this property in 1929?

ES: I don't think sir, I don't know. I wouldn't be able to tell you that, now, because I really don't know.

AR: And the other thing your probably don't, you may not know. I was told the telegraph station moved, and it was near here, but I don't know where it was to.

ES: No, or I don't either, sir. Because, ah, 'twasn't very much here when I come now, but there's more here than there is today, in the meantime. And that, but, ah, I wouldn't know much about that. But I know now for sure in Little St. Lawrence you would get a lot of information about the tidal wave.

AR: Now, your family, though, was a, your family was a, a, a St. Lawrence family. You were born here.

ES: Me?

AR: Yeah.

ES: No, no, no. I wasn't born here.

AR: Well, where were you born?

ES: I was born in Jacques Pountain. Fortune Bay.

AR: OK.

ES: Yeah. Yeah, and me father got killed and me mother took us all to Saint-Pierre, see?

AR: Oh, OK. Now why would your mother have gone to Saint-Pierre? Was she of French ...

ES: 'Cause she had relations. She was, her, ah, mother was French.

AR: So that's why you grew up in Saint-Pierre then.

ES: Yeah, yeah, that's right, yeah.

AR: So that's quite, ah, probably quite fortunate you were in Saint-Pierre as opposed to living in that, that house, the Molloy house.

ES: That's right, sir, yes, yes.

AR: Do you know where the Molloy house was actually located on the other side when she moved?

ES: I believe that there's, um, just up there by, um, back of the firehall.

AR: Just behind the firehall.

ES: Yeah. I think they might be up a little bit further, now, 'cause what I was told, eh? I don't knows, I never saw it before.

AR: And now when you say up a little bit further, you mean in which direction?

ES: Back.

AR: North a bit?

ES: Yeah.

AR: So, towards the drugstore a little bit.

ES: Yeah, yeah, yeah. A little bit that way.

AR: OK. And, it must've been, did you, it must've been a, a devil of a job to get the house repaired. Did it have any floors still in it?

ES: No, sir, it had nothing at'all. 'Twas nothing put up in it. Not, you know, only the old paper and canvass and that kinda stuff was all tore up.

AR: Now what about, was there a waterline inside where the water had come up to? Could you remember seeing a waterline?

ES: No, I never seen, no, no, sir, nothin' like that. Never. I guess the waterline and all that was cleaned up, I guess, before I got here, see?

AR: Yeah.

ES: I guess these people cleaned all that up, you know.

AR: Because, I, I don't know how high the water has to come in a house like this to actually, ah, actually move it.

ES: I know, I know what you're sayin'.

AR: Because I've, I've only been in one house that moved in the tidal wave, and that was down at, ah, Taylor's Bay. I've been in a house that moved in the tidal wave there. But I must take, I must tomorrow make sure I take, get a good photograph of the Molloy house.

ES: Yes, yes. And, um, there's another person could tell you a whole lot about the tidal wave, is Pauline Slaney.

AR: That would be Pauline Loder.

ES: Pauline Loder she was, yes.

AR: I've talked to her, actually, up in the senior citizens'.

ES: Oh, did you? Oh, I see, yes.

AR: And who else do you think could be able to help me, now?

ES: Ah, let me see. Aubrey Farrell.

AR: I hope to be, I haven't talked to Aubrey Farrell yet, and I hope he, he, he has good days and bad days.

ES: Yeah, yes, that's right, yes, but he could tell you too. And, let me see, who else would be ...? Pretty well all the old

people is gone, eh?

AR: Um hum.

ES: I wouldn't know about anybody [else].

AR: Now what, what, what age are you now? You're ...

ES: Eighty-four, sir.

AR: Eighty-four. So you certainly, ah, you would have been 19 years old at the time that earthquake hit.

ES: Yeah, yeah, that's right, yeah.

AR: But, um.

ES: But I'm only goin' by what they told me when I came here, 'cause I didn't see none of it, eh?

AR: Sure, but you certainly felt it.

ES: Yeah. And that, but, I met the old man up here, now, that's old Mr. Quirk, my husband's father, he used to come down every day and tell me about it, you know?

AR: Sure.

ES: Asked me what we hear in Saint-Pierre, and what we feel in Saint-Pierre, and all this kinda stuff.

AR: And where was your husband's father at the time?

ES: He lived just back of us here.

AR: Just up back. So this is a Quirk property.

ES: Yeah, this is Quirk, all this is Quirk property.

AR: You moved the, the new house on the bottom of the, the Quirk property.

ES: Yeah, that's right, sir. Yeah, yeah.

AR: And did Mr. Quirk, your, your father-in-law, lose any property?

ES: I don't think, sir.

AR: He didn't have a boat out there or anything.

ES: No, no, no. He didn't have nothin' like that, no.

AR: Well, that's most interesting. I'm delighted to have found

you home this afternoon.

ES: I is always home, sir. 'Cause I'm crippled up with arthritis, I can't get out, eh?

AR: Well, you gotta be careful on the ice too.

ES: Yes, yes, yeah.

AR: And, ah, I've been talking to your son over at the town hall a few times. And he's been helping me out quite a bit, and I certainly appreciate it.

ES: Yes, yes, yes. Yeah.

AR: Now, what I plan to do is, I'm going to write down your, your post office box number, and I'll mail you back, I'll make a, a, I'll write down what you said and I'll just make sure we got it right and all the spellings right.

ES: Yes, yes, yes.

AR: But, the other thing that, I wondered if you would mind if I eventually put this tape in the Archives so other people could listen to it?

ES: I don't care, sir, what you does with it.

AR: No problem with that, eh?

ES: No, no, no.

AR: Well, I'm delighted to find you home this afternoon.

ES: But that's all I can tell you, now, where, you know, just what people told me, eh?

AR: Sure. Well, that's good information for me.

ES: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's it, sir.

AR: And, um, what I've got to do is, I'm going to get the map out and try and plot on where your house was to.

ES: Yes, yes.

AR: And, um, maybe someone else can tell me, actually make sure I know Mr. Molloy's name.

ES: Sure, right where it's at, yeah, that's right, that Mr. Molloy, yeah. Joe Molloy.

AR: You think it was Joe.

ES: Yeah. Joe Molloy.

AR: Joe Molloy.

ES: Yeah, Joe Molloy is right.

AR: Well, I'll write that down on the map right now, and I'll just turn off the tape recorder right now. I think I'm pretty well ...

End of interview

Transcript made
March 22, 1995
Wendy Findley

TAPE 95-3, SIDE 1, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1995,
JOHN M. KELLY, ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

John M. Kelly (Jack) — brother of Gertrude Turpin (née Kelly),
lived on Water Street West almost opposite
the present Oceanview Motel
— born May 1, 1922
— lives on Laurentian Avenue with his wife
Mary Ellen (Nellie) Kelly

Mary Ellen (Nellie) Kelly (née Turpin)
— born 1927
— sister of Michael Joseph (Mick) Turpin
— mailing address: Laurentian Avenue, P.O.
Box 521, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland A0E 2V0
— phone (709) 873-2864
— interview length: 42.5 minutes

ALAN RUFFMAN: ... and I think it's goin'. So, now, who am I
talking to now?

JOHN KELLY: You're talkin' to John Kelly.

AR: John Kelly. Got a middle name, John?

JK: John M.

AR: John M.

JK: John M. Kelly.

AR: You don't tell me what the 'M' is. (laughs)

JK: Ah, well, ah, the 'M', the older people, I was born the last
of April, and the first of May, they used to have that called
'Holy Mary Month'. So me mother put 'M' there — Mary.

AR: That's the 'M'.

JK: That's the 'M'.

AR: And that was 1922.

JK: That was 1922.

AR: At the end of May, end of April you were born.

JK: Yeah, right. The first of May, see?

AR: You were about seven-and-a-half years old when the earthquake
came.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Do you remember the earthquake?

JK: Yeah.

AR: Where were you when the earthquake hit?

JK: I was in the house.

AR: And that was in ...? Not ...

JK: And everything start to shiver ...

AR: Now, not this house here. Where was your house at the time?

JK: That's the old red one down there, just, just down over the hill there.

AR: Oh, ah, right close to the road. That red one there.

JK: Right close to the water.

AR: Right across from the, ah, Oceanview ... K. Karen [Motel].

JK: Yeah, right. Right, yeah.

AR: And that was the Kelly home then.

JK: That was the Kelly home then, yeah.

AR: All right. And I think I got that marked on the, I think I finally sorted that out. I, I, you know, get myself confused occasionally, but

JK: Yeah, right.

AR: All right. So that one there is. Now, who were your parents?

JK: Ah, Thomas Kelly. T.J. Kelly.

AR: So 'Thomas J.'

JK: Kelly.

AR: 'Kelly home'.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And that's where John and Gertrude [lived].

JK: Yeah.

AR: And, and so you were seven-and-a-half. Did you know what the

earthquake was at the time?

JK: Well, we didn't know what it was then, any more than everything just started to shiver, you know, the, um, all the cupboards. The dishes and everything started to rattle and that, you know. We didn't know what it was. And, and then the, the, the wave came that night, and we were foolish enough to come up and come into the house and everybody sat there, sat down and had the rosary. Well, we, we, we could have been drowned! (laughs)

AR: Were, were you outside when the tidal wave first came?

JK: Yeah. Yeah.

AR: What, what did you see when the tidal wave came?

JK: It just came right in, a big wave like, and went right in through.

AR: Was it, was it a breaking wave? Was breaking wave foam on it?

JK: Yeah, like, like, like 'twas rolling.

AR: Um hum.

JK: Like 'twas rolling.

AR: How could you see it when at night?

JK: Well, there's a, kind of a moonlight that night, see?

AR: OK.

JK: A moonlight, see.

AR: And so she rolled right through.

JK: Rolled right through and right in, went right in, and there was a boat out here in, in, in the, ah, middle of the harbour.

AR: Anchored.

JK: Anchored. She was about a hundred ton boat, I guess. And she dragged the anchor and went right in, pretty 'nigh into where the school is now, and came out again.

AR: Really.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And do you know whose boat that was?

JK: No, I don't. I really don't know.

AR: You, you saw the boat moving.

JK: Oh yes. Yes, the boat went in.

AR: And she came back out.

JK: Dragged the anchor and came, came back out. Or they cut the anchor or something in there, and came out.

AR: Were there fellas on the boat?

JK: Yeah. Yeah, I, I don't know now whether 'twas two or three. 'Cause she was only a small, ah, freighter or somethin' like that, you know, at that time.

AR: What kind of a boat would you call that?

JK: Kind of a sloop thing, you know, it's only just two masts in it. 'Bout a hundred ton, now that's what she was. Not a very big boat.

AR: Pretty size of a boat.

JK: Well, she was, you know, 'way ahead of, ah, one of them flat skiffs then, see, because they were only around 28 feet, see?

AR: And did you see more than one wave?

JK: No, that's the only thing I, I saw. 'Cause like I told ya, then, we all come in the house then and had the rosary. (laughs)

AR: And your mother pulled you back in, did she?

JK: Yeah, yeah. We all went in then.

AR: What was your mum's name?

JK: Madeleine.

AR: So Madeleine said, "Come on back in, it's safer inside."

JK: Yeah, yeah. ... Yeah.

AR: Now, you were telling me about a house that moved. Where? Whose house was that that moved?

JK: That was John Handrigan's, up in the upper end of the town there.

AR: And where did John Handrigan's house start from?

JK: Ah, right from where the old firehall is to now, that's the one up here at the end of ... across from the Mountie building.

AR: And that's what I call the old, ah, was that the old town hall?

JK: That's the old town hall, yes.

AR: But it's got fire trucks in it right now.

JK: Right, yeah. Yeah.

AR: 'Cause you only got one firehall, I think, at a time?

JK: That's right, that's right, yeah.

AR: So Handrigan's house, would it have been right on the same location, or ...?

JK: Ah, pretty well in the same location there, maybe a little further back, you know, in the field there, but it left that, and it went right in to where that gas station is to ... in there now by the cemetery.

AR: So it, it ends up at, at the Irving station, do you think? On, so it was on the far side of the brook.

JK: Yeah, right.

AR: All right. So, either here or there. Now, did any other houses move?

JK: No, that's the only one that I can remember.

AR: 'Cause when I talked, I was just talking to Elizabeth Slaney.

JK: Yeah.

AR: She, she was married to a Quirk.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And she says the house she lives in actually moved, in the tidal wave. It was a ... it was a ...

JK: Yeah, yeah. That, that was, ah, if I can remember now, that was the house was in there where the gas station's to there now. It did move probably some in there, see, 'cause this is where Handrigans' went in along side of that one, see?

AR: OK.

JK: So, ah, that was, ah, fella by the name of Joe Molloy [who] owned that house.

AR: Well that, she mentioned that was Joe Molloy's house, um.

JK: 'Cause we bought the, the old man bought that land after, after the tidal wave.

AR: The land that the house was on.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Where was that land?

JK: Right where the drugstore is to in there now.

AR: So the drugstore land was where the Molloy house was.

JK: Right. Just inside the drugstore.

AR: So Kellys, ah, bought from Molloy.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And did you put a drugstore up, or was that ...?

JK: No, no. That, ah, a gentleman from St. John's. The Moores. Ken Moores, I think his name is.

AR: OK. So Joe Molloy then.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And was that an occupied house? Was there a family in that house?

JK: At that time there was nobody livin' there then, sir. No, he was gone away or, gone somewhere anyway. But, ah, they, they bought that after that.

AR: Well that's interesting. 'Cause I, I get different stories about where that Molloy house was, um.

JK: Yeah.

AR: But it woulda been right on the site of the drugstore? Do you think it was down close to the road, or ...?

JK: No, 'twas a little, little to the north, I'd say, of the drugstore.

AR: Where the, ah, on the parking lot there?

JK: Yeah. A little farther. Oh, I'd say handy about where that, where that gas station's to there now. Might be a little bit this, this side.

AR: And then, so the Molloy and the Handrigan house ended up beside each other.

JK: That's right, yeah.

AR: Did you go up and see them then, ah?

JK: They, they pulled that down then with tackles. And they pulled it out and then the old fella decided he'd, ah, he'd put it up on the hill, right where it's to now.

AR: So who moved it up onto the hill? The, the, this was the Handrigan house.

JK: Jack Handrigan. Jack Handrigan.

AR: So Jack Handrigan moved it up, ah ...

JK: On the hill.

AR: To get it up above the water.

JK: Yeah, up above the water. Yeah.

AR: How would you spell 'Handrigan' now?

JK: Ah, H-A-N-D-E-R.

AR: I-G-A-N.

JK: I, I-G-E-A-N, or somethin' like that.

AR: Yeah. Jack Handrigan moved up onto hill.

JK: Yeah.

AR: 'Cause that's the ...

JK: Where Roy is there, see? The hill, see.

AR: So it gets it up above any water that's going to come.

JK: Right, yeah, yeah. 'Fraid the water t'come again, you know.

AR: Now were there any other houses moved? Any other dwelling houses moved?

JK: No, not to my knowledge. (voice of his wife Nellie in the background "What about the one was down on the beach?") Oh no, that was still, ah, that was, um, down there where the fish is to now.

AR: On, on the point of beach there.

JK: Yeah. There was a house there, 'cause that's where my old man and four or five more were in playin' a game of poker that night.

AR: So, Thomas was, ah, Thomas was in playing poker at, ah, this woulda been the Pike house.

JK: Yeah. Tom Pike's.

AR: Tom Pike's house.

JK: Yep.

AR: Now, he had some children in that house.

JK: Yes, he had, ah, about, ah, I'd say 10 or 11. Because they all took a, a youngster apiece, 'cause this fella went out to use the bathroom, was no bathrooms then at that time, you know, you have outhouses.

AR: Yeah.

JK: And he went out, and the water was up around the house. Now, that house didn't move. Why, the water passed right in underneath it. The old government wharf used to be out at, out there at that time, see?

AR: Out at the end of it.

JK: Yeah. So they left with a youngster a piece when the wave went out, and ran with the youngsters in over the beach. And then he came home, Tom came home, me father.

AR: To find out what happened to his own house.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Did the water come up onto Water Street West at all?

JK: Ah, it came right up to our house there now, that one that's down there now, that old red one. Came right up on the level there.

AR: It came across the road to the, the level of your, the red house that's there now.

JK: Yeah, yeah, right.

AR: So it, in a couple of places it came up over ... ah, now did your, your father was into the slaughter business at that time.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And he used to be a policeman, is that right?

JK: That's right, yeah.

AR: When did he start the slaughter business with, uh, with the cows coming over from Charlottetown and ...?

JK: Oh, I'd say that was back in the, uh, in the 50's.

AR: So it was after the tidal wave then.

JK: Oh yes.

AR: Long after the tidal wave.

JK: Oh yes, long after the tidal wave.

AR: So, what was his business at the time of the tidal wave? What, what sort of work did he do at the time?

JK: He was, ah, doin' a little business there in that little store's there now, ah, the lower side of the road there, a little grocery store, you know.

AR: OK.

JK: And, ah, he used to buy in the local meat, you know, and sell it?

AR: Did he have any damage done to the store by the tidal wave?

JK: No, no.

AR: The shop didn't have any damage done then?

JK: No.

AR: 'Cause it must've had ...

JK: No, I'm ahead a me story there now, no. He wasn't there at that time. There was a house, a house, there was a house there all right.

AR: Oh, was there?

JK: Yeah. A fella there by the name of, ah, Johnny Pike.

AR: OK.

JK: And he had a, a, a small son around my age, I guess.

AR: Um hum.

JK: And they left, and they went up through the field here, and went into a stable, to get up from the water. And now old peo...

AR: 'Cause there was, there, there's a, right now there's a lane

goes all the way up to, ah, Laurentian, isn't there?

JK: Yeah.

AR: There's a lane right the way through.

JK: Yeah. Right. So, anyway, that's where they went, figured the, the water was gonna come in again. So the old lady, she grabbed a bottle of holy water, she thought.

AR: Ah ha.

JK: And 'twas for to shake over the, the child's head, and this was a bottle a cod oil, ha ha! And in the dark she, she smeared the cod oil all over him when they all come to the hall she had a bigger job on her hands.

AR: Oh boy.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Now, so this, this, your father didn't have a grocery store at that time.

JK: No, only up 'cross the road. They had a grocery store then on the end of that big red house.

AR: OK. On the road side.

JK: On the road side, yeah.

AR: Now did the water, came up to it but not into it.

JK: Not into it, no.

AR: All right. So that's a very good measure of how high the water came.

JK: Right. Yeah. Because at that time, see, there was a kind of a hill there where that house is to.

AR: Yes.

JK: And the same way up, um, half ways to town here. Two hills like that, see? And then the water came right in, and come up on a level.

AR: And so you were in the low part there.

JK: Yup. Right.

AR: OK. 'Cause as you go up towards the, ah, Aylward's there's a little bit of a hill even now.

JK: Yeah. Right, yeah.

AR: Now, the other thing that, um, where did Miss Fewer work as the telegraph operator? Where was the telegraph station?

JK: Ah, the telegraph station now was right up where, ah, ...

AR: This is the one in '29.

JK: Yeah. Ah, the telegraph station is up there now, where was a big house there alongside of a chicken coop. [see 10 lines down]

AR: Was that, was that the Etchegary house?

JK: No, no.

AR: 'Cause that, I know which one's the Etchegary house, um, Arch Slan...

JK: Yeah. Well 'twas up, ah, farther up.

AR: Farther up.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Ah, beyond the causeway then.

JK: Yeah. Beyond the causeway. Right alongside of, ah, a chicken coop, you call it there. Kettle's. [he is referring to Em Kettle's chicken takeout on the water side of Water Street West, northwest of Mannix Causeway Road]

AR: All right. Well, I'll go and find that.

JK: Yeah.

AR: But what, what ...

JK: Well now, that was, that was the post office, and, ah, not wireless, 'twas telegraphy, is it, or something of that sort.

AR: Telegraphy, that's right. And Miss Fewer was the telegraphist.

JK: Yeah. And, ah, ...

AR: Now, they come in now? It's OK, just doing a little taping. Want me to stop? (voice in background "No, that's all right." A male arrives.) Now, but that telegraph station went out into the harbour. I was told it floated out into the harbour, and Miss Fewer, I mean I read the newspapers and it said the telegraph station got flooded out, but maybe not.

JK: Yeah. It could be down where, ah, where she had the house there with the Laurentian was to. I wouldn't doubt the water went into that.

AR: Now, where, where was ...?

JK: That's right where the, where the club is to down here now. Our house was on the other side of that, see, this one down here?

AR: That's the red house.

JK: Yeah. Right here, look. [moves to front window to point] (voice of Nellie Kelly in the background "Excuse ... I had all that in the paper cut out one time.") 'Twas a little peaked roof house there, see? Right on the other side of the Oceanview here.

AR: To the left? ...Black ... Oh to the right, yes.

JK: Now, there was a big house there by the name of Molly Baker. Only this year they shifted that ...

AR: And where did Miss Fewer live?

JK: She lived over to the right.

AR: In that little house that was there.

JK: Yeah.

AR: I ...

JK: I wouldn't doubt the water went into that house. She used to use that as a ... she had a rig out there for, for usin' the telegraphy there too, see, the stormy weather when she, when she couldn't get out.

AR: Oh well, that probably is the answer. So, just so, the tape didn't hear that, I'm gonna, it's right where that lane goes down. Right now there's a lane goes down beside the, ah, the Oceanview, down towards the water, and her, Miss Fewer's house would have been just about on that lane.

JK: Yeah. Was about, ah, about to the right [phone rings], a little farther to the right there.

AR: A little bit to the south. Beside, southward.

JK: Yeah, yeah, right.

AR: OK. [rings] So, um, and she would've had some telegraphy in there.

JK: Yeah, right.

AR: I wonder if that's [rings - answered by Nellie] the house that went out, um. What was Miss Fewer's name now?

JK: Ah, Cecelia Fewer.

AR: Cecelia Fewer. And she had a, a, a telegraphy office there.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Um, so that may be that she was in there.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Ah, this was here winter station, as it were.

JK: Yeah, right.

AR: Her stormy weather station.

JK: Stormy weather station, see?

AR: I wonder if that's the answer?

JK: Yeah. Could be. Because her mother was alive then, you know, the people, you didn't have no radios or anything at that time. They'd be knockin' on the door, you know, askin' her what, what was the news on the postal boat, and she said, they'd be askin' Cecelia about the coastal boat, she said, and they're comin' in the harbour, want a know the news on 'er. And she'd be comin' into the harbour.

AR: Just even then.

JK: Yeah.

AR: 'Cause she'd be able to get, ah, she'd get from the telegraph when it left the, the last town.

JK: Oh yes. Yeah.

AR: Which coastal boats used to visit here?

JK: Ah, the old HOME, that I can remember now. The old HOME and the old ARGYLE, and the PORTIA. And, um, ...

AR: Do you remember any boats coming in after the tidal wave, ah, with, with the relief supplies or ...?

JK: No, I don't remember.

AR: 'Cause you were pretty young to know about that.

JK: Yeah. Know nothin' to take notice of anything like that, you know.

AR: But you would have been in school then?

JK: Yeah.

AR: Where, which school was your school?

JK: Ah, there was a school then over here, ah, right where, ah, Stella Maris is to now.

AR: OK. And it was, ah, it was just in front, was it, that was your school?

JK: Yeah. Yeah.

AR: How did you used to walk to school then?

JK: Well, we used to walk right over 'round town, right.

AR: 'Round the bridge, the Riverhead.

JK: Yeah, Riverhead, yeah.

AR: Now, after the tidal wave, what was that like? Was there ...?

JK: Well, ah.

AR: Was the bridge out, or ...?

JK: No, no. That bridge, ah, they had to put a bridge there. Small bridge up on top, you know.

AR: Um hum.

JK: Now, right where they got the causeway there now, that was what we used to call 'the strand' there, you know, there was, that's has been built and put there, you see?

AR: What was 'the strand' made out of?

JK: That was, ah, just, ah, just, ah, landwash, you know? 'Cause there was, ah, ah, a meadow in on the back, and finally, with the waves comin' in, you know, not the tidal waves, it all washed away, see?

AR: Now, was, was there sand in the, in 'the strand', or was it ...?

JK: Oh yes.

AR: ... little rocks?

JK: No, no. Sand. Real sand.

AR: Do you remember whether there was any sand there after the

tidal wave? Would you walk to school along 'the strand', or would you normally go 'round the road?

JK: Yeah. Oh yes. No, you could go across 'the strand' too. We used to go across 'the strand' then. Many's the time I got the feet wet.

AR: How did you get across the brook, though? Ah ...

JK: Oh, well, the, the, the brook, see, wasn't, wasn't too, too high there, you know. 'Twas only when, like, you had a big rain, rain like that to be, probably right to your knees or something like that. But after a couple a days that would run right down, eh?

AR: But you don't remember any changes to 'the strand' with the tidal wave.

JK: No, no. No. No.

AR: 'Cause I, ah, I remember talking to one person who said it was very difficult to walk around the Bridgehead to go to school 'cause of all the, the logs and everything that were there.

JK: Oh yeah. All, all debris and stuff like that. Oh yes, from the stages.

AR: How long did that last?

JK: Oh well, that lasted for, for weeks, you know. People picking it up, you know, and gettin' the best out of it for, for to put in other places they had, you know, and probably burn it too, you know.

AR: Now, when I talked to, ah, to one fella, he thought the jack boat that, he said there was a jack boat that went right up and he thought it anchored itself up in the, ah, up in the meadow. But you think it just went right back down with the waves.

JK: No, ah, went in and come out again, see?

AR: And did you see it then afterwards?

JK: Ah, he went out that night, so they said, now.

AR: Just got the hell out of here.

JK: Yeah. Got out, yeah. And, ah, there was, ah, two fellas came from Saint-Pierre that night, a fella by the name of, ah, Joe Turpin and, ah, Victor Turpin. He was a man used to do business over there.

AR: Yeah.

JK: And, ah, they didn't know what to make of it. They never felt anything on the ocean. And when they started to come in through the harbour, they started runnin' into the stores and flakes and everything, you know.

AR: I'll bet they did.

JK: And they didn't know what was, what was, had been goin' on, you know. But they didn't find anything on the water, so they say.

AR: Did your family have any, any losses of the flakes or anything?

JK: No. We lost, um, just a, a stage head, like, ah, the old man had there for, ah, we used to put in ice, see?

AR: For the meat.

JK: Ah, no. For, ah, for the Nova Scotia fellas used to come down there in what they used to call a capelin skull.

AR: Yeah.

JK: And, ah, they'd come in, they'd bait up with the capelin and then they'd come and buy the ice offa the old man, then, for 5 dollars a dory load.

AR: Five dollars a dory load.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Good price?

JK: Yeah.

AR: And, ah, did you lose some of that, ah, the night of the tidal wave?

JK: No. Never lost anything there.

AR: Yeah. But the only thing you lost, your family came up pretty well then.

JK: Yeah. Oh yes. Yeah. Was only just the front, ah, front of the, front wharf, that's all.

AR: Was swept away.

JK: Um.

AR: You're a little bit protected there, but, ah, you know, the wharf, the big, the big, the main point, the point of beach, the, I guess they call it the Shingle Point.

JK: Yeah. Yeah.

AR: That took a lot of the ...

JK: Yeah.

AR: But even so, you saw that wave come right in.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Do you think the wave went up over the Lawn highway?

JK: What, in, inside?

AR: Inside. Did it get as far as the town hall or the, the Lawn highway?

JK: No. I don't think.

AR: You think it stopped short.

JK: Yeah. I think it stopped short of that.

AR: But, we know it got to the, ah, we know it got to the Irving station.

JK: Yeah. Would have got to the Irving station across from that, you know.

AR: Had enough, it had enough to float the, um, ...

JK: The boat in, ah, in that way and come out again.

AR: Now, where was the old football field? They talked about the old football field, one house maybe ending up in the old football field. Where was the old, ah, you know, the ...

JK: Well now, ah, right out through there they used to use that for a football field one time 'round back of the old firehall there. That was a football field, they used that one year for a football field.

AR: In behind the old firehall was a football field.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And was there another football field up by Hospital Road?

JK: Yeah. Yeah. Up by, ah, right in front of the new school. Father Thorne's church property. That, that was a ...

AR: Now, when you say 'in front' of the new school, which, which direction do you mean?

JK: That'd be out to the north, er, the south.

AR: So that, on a downhill side, towards, towards the harbour.

JK: Yeah. Yeah.

AR: Um, and, d'you remember playing football there when you were going to school, or ...?

JK: Oh yes. We used to go in there and, and kick ... kickball there. That's then when the hay was cut, now, you know, because they, ah, you could only play soccer then after the, the hay season was over, you know.

AR: Yeah. 'Cause that's, ah, I get different stories, I must say, as to where these various houses went. But it sounds like only one or two houses, the Molloy house and the Handrigan house are the two that moved.

JK: Yeah. Yeah, the two that moved, yeah.

AR: And the Molloy house has ended up back where Elizabeth Slaney's living.

JK: Yeah. Right.

AR: And the Handrigan house is that dark yellow house that's up above the hill, over there, you pointed out to me, and I gotta go over and take a photograph of that so I remember.

JK: Up on the hill, yeah. Yeah. They got a piece taken out of the back of it there now.

AR: Oh, they takin' the house down, are they?

JK: They started t'take it down all them old people are dead now, see?

AR: Yeah. That's a historic house. If it moved in a tidal wave, it should be kept.

JK: Yeah. Should be kept see right. Yeah.

AR: Now, was there any damage done out near the mouth of the harbour?

JK: Well, ah, all, all the stages, everything was cleaned right up, right up on both sides, see. There was an awful lot of people there see had the, had the waterfronts then, right from our place up there, there was Quirkies and Slaneys and all them people had waterfronts, see, right up, right up through there.

AR: And they lost their, ah, ...

JK: They lost everything, you know, everything, everything ...

AR: What was on a stage to lose? I mean, you, you had your flake.

JK: You had your flake and, ah, I suppose a lot of people had anchors and stuff like that. Well, probably they got that after the tide went down, but, ah, the rest of it was gone, flakes and old stages and everything like that. Cleaned right out, you know.

AR: Some, ah, do you remember the sound of the tidal wave?

JK: Now like a roar, to me. Just the same as a ...

AR: Different than the earthquake, though.

JK: Yeah. Yeah.

AR: Just like roaring, breaking waves.

JK: Yeah. Yeah. Just like a roar, it was.

AR: Yeah. Well, it would have been quite something. Boy, I don't think I want to live through it.

JK: Yeah, yeah. [phone call over - Nellie comes in]

AR: Now the one puzzle I got, you know, your sister Gertrude remembers some headstones going.

JK: Well, that would be over here, see?

AR: And that's almost certainly got to be that graveyard in front of the, ah, the Stella Maris.

JK: Yeah. No, no, would have been Stella Maris. (voice of wife Nellie in the background "Stella Maris, yeah. Yes, was a graveyard there one time?") Yeah. Yeah. See, they removed all them bodies, see, after, ah, after they built the hall there, see?

AR: You remember that graveyard too. [to wife] (voice of wife Nellie in the background "Oh, I can remember that graveyard, yes.") Now, but you weren't in this community ... ("No. I was in it, but I wasn't born.") When were you born, now? ("I was born 19, 1927.") Twenty-seven. Oh, you were two years then. ("Two years old. Yes, so I don't remember nothing.") Now, I don't know your name, I'm sorry. ("Nellie.") You're Nellie Kelly. ("Kelly.")

JK: Now there was this ...

AR: Now Nellie's not your first, your real name. That's a

nickname. ("No. Mary is my first name.") Mary ... ("Mary Ellen.") Mary Ellen. And you got called Nellie. ("Nellie, yeah.") And born in '27, and, where was your family living then at the time? ("We ... right over ... my brother give you all that information.") Who? ("Mike Turpin.") Mike [also Mick] Turpin is your ... ("... is my brother.") ... is your brother. ("Yeah.") All right. Ah, he mentioned Nellie was, ah, that's right. So, now, that, the Mike Turpin house, though, that he lives in right now is not the same house ...

NELLIE KELLY: No, no, it's gone now, it's took down.

AR: Your family home was a little bit ...

NK: Bigger.

JK: A little bit, little bit the other of it.

AR: Towards Herring Cove?

JK: Yeah. Yeah, right. Now there was a cemetery ...

AR: Now, did the water come up into your family property in ...

JK: No.

NK: I don't know. I don't know.

AR: You were starting to say there was a cemetery ...?

JK: There's a cemetery now on the other side of them over there in the, in the front of, ah, front of Turpins' there.

AR: In front of Turpins'. Now, I know, I know where Mike Turpin lives.

JK: Yeah. Well, it's down beyond Mike's. Down to, ah, Fav Turpin's.

AR: I don't know where that's to, I don't think. Beyond, you say, that'd be to the southward?

JK: Yeah.

NK: I don't think the one where ... Yeah.

AR: 'Cause I know where Charlotte Turpin lives.

JK: Yeah, right where Charlotte Turpin lives there now. That's, that's where the cemetery was to, just down from her house, over in a yard.

AR: When you say 'down', it'd be towards the water.

JK: No, over to your, to your right.

AR: To the right would be to the south.

JK: No.

NK: You can see it, you can see it right from here, look!

AR: All right. [moves to window, conversation continues in the distance]

JK: You can see it here.

NK: They got houses built there now.

AR: Now where is Charlotte's? ... (unintelligible, very faint)

NK: Charlotte's is that huh, that huh.

AR: The red one, with the red on the front and there's a, a light, sort of a yellow one to the left.

NK: A yellow one, yeah, and big white one is their's.

AR: And Charlotte's got a green roof onto it.

NK: Yeah. And the yellow-white one there now, look, right over that yellow one, this way, that's where the graveyard is at.

AR: Yeah.

JK: It has a front yard now.

AR: With a big green, this is the one, the white house with the green roof.

NK: Yeah.

AR: Had, had a graveyard in front of it.

NK: Yeah, yeah.

AR: Now, who's that that lives just to the left of Charlotte?

NK: Ah, Priscilla.

JK: Ah, Priscilla Turner, ah, Priscilla Turpin.

AR: It's a Turpin as well, and then there'll be one more to the left of that, that's where the graveyard was.

NK: Yeah.

JK: Yeah. Right.

AR: Now, when, when was that graveyard there?

JK: Oh, well, I don't know.

AR: Do you think that graveyard was there in 1929?

JK: Oh, yes! 'Twas there then.

AR: I wonder if that's the graveyard that, ah, that your sister was talking about now.

NK: No, that's the one out back of the hall.

JK: No, one by the hall, because the water never went up there, see.

NK: But one ... water run right up in the hall there.

AR: All right. So, if I, I'm just gonna find out, ah. And Charlotte lives in here father Victor's house, doesn't she.

NK: Yeah.

JK: Yeah.

AR: That, that was, so we go over, so we think this graveyard was right in here. Old graveyard, I'll just put a Old graveyard.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Which is two houses to the north of Charlotte's.

JK: Yeah.

AR: But it was high enough, the water didn't come into it.

JK: Yeah. No water went up there.

AR: And almost certainly we think the graveyard that your sister's talking about was just towards the water from the Stella Maris.

JK: Yeah. Stella Maris.

AR: And you 'member seein' the gravestones there yourself.

NK: Oh, yes. The gravestones were there.

AR: So, um, I think that's probably the answer, ah. What I'll do is just put a great note way back here, ah. That would be Catholic graveyard, um, and that Catholic graveyard lasted until, when do you think they moved it?

JK: By gar, boy, I, I wouldn't be able to tell you now, but whatever happened, if you can find out the year that that was built, now, that, that was the ...

AR: Built the Stella Maris hall.

JK: Yeah. That was, that was the time, see? It's just, they, they removed all the caskets out of it, you know.

AR: And where'd they take them to then, ah, to the ...

JK: Oh, ah, anything was left ...

AR: To the new graveyard.

JK: They, no, they put it up that small graveyard there in the back.

AR: The priests' graveyard.

JK: Priests' graveyards, see. Any bones or anythin' they come across, see.

AR: Hum. So this, this must be the, I'm sure that's the graveyard ...

JK: Yeah.

NK: That's the graveyard.

AR: Graveyard that, ah, Gertrude remembers. 'Cause I thought it was, I thought, my goodness, maybe she's talking about this corner of the new graveyard up on the Lawn highway.

NK: No.

JK: No.

AR: Ah, the water didn't get that high then.

JK: No. No. That's as far as the water went, sir, that, that I can remember now. Was right there to that gas station, how far it went beyond that, it couldn't a been very far.

AR: Up to the gas station would get it there and, um, ...

JK: And that, that'd be right straight across, in front of the new school there now, see? The high school.

AR: Do you think a little bit of that parking lot of the new school got underwater?

JK: Could be possible.

AR: That's, that's the reading I'm getting, is that, ah, it came up to somewhere in, ah, it would have followed the brook up.

JK: Yeah. Yeah, right. Yeah.

AR: And it's very flat land over there where they cut the hay. It might've, ah, you don't remember, did they have any hay stooks that moved? Did the hay move, do you remember any ...

JK: No, no. They, ah, they cut the hay and Father Thorne used to have a big stable over up on the hill, then he used to pull the hay outta that and put it in the stable, see?

AR: So Father Thorne would've cut, made sure the hay got moved.

JK: Yeah. Right, yeah.

AR: Now, in the newspaper it mentioned that Father Thorne assisted in putting up new telegraph poles, um, and, I don't know where the water knocked the poles down. Do you ever remember see, seeing any of the poles knocked over by the tidal wave?

JK: I don't remember that.

NK: I had all that in the paper cut out, you know.

JK: Yeah.

AR: What, what were those articles, where were they from, now, that you cut out?

NK: From the, from the tidal wave here in Burin. But I think I give that to some, somebody comin' to spend time in the university, that's goin' to school.

JK: Oh dear, and you gave it away.

AR: Yeah.

NK: For sure 'cause I can't find it.

AR: Oh dear. Well.

NK: I always cuts everything out of the paper.

JK: But now, with the, with the poles and that, see, 'cause Father Thorne used to do a lot of country work then, you know, had a mill in the country. And probably he, ah, he would get them the poles, probably, if they're ...

AR: He, he had a small business, did he, in addition to being the Catholic priest?

JK: No, no. He used to go in there and saw the timber and that,

and bring it out for building the schools or repairing schools and stuff like that, you know.

AR: 'Cause I've seen photographs of, ah, his horse.

JK: Yeah.

AR: His horse, and I think he had a truck eventually, did he?

JK: Yeah. He had a, an old truck, they had a truck in, ah, in 1928 I guess, or '29, around there. A Model A.

AR: Yes, it's a, there's a photograph I've seen in the album, that says a 1928 Ford, I think it was.

JK: Yeah. And he had a Chev car.

AR: Do you remember the name of the truck, that they used to call the truck?

JK: Yeah, the Model A.

AR: Model A. Because I've seen it called 'Tiny' in one, one picture they call it Tiny. It was quite a small truck.

JK: Yeah. Yeah, right.

AR: And he had a, a car as well.

JK: He had a car. He won her for 10 cents.

AR: Oh, really!

JK: Ah, in St. John's.

AR: When did he win that car?

JK: Oh, that was, ah, that was, I don't know if that was before or after he had the truck.

AR: What kinda car was that one?

JK: That was a Chev. With the wooden wheels on it, I can remember that.

AR: Wooden wheels And how long did he drive that for, now?

JK: Oh, he drove for a good many year. Because, he used to go back and forth to Lamaline and Lawn, see, and different, ah, ...

AR: So Father Thorne was ahead of his time, eh? He, ah, he had trucks and cars before anybody else.

JK: Yeah. Yeah. Well, now, the roads were so narrow at that time you had to pass in, in certain sections of the road. Like now, you go from here to Lawn, Little Lawn we used to call it, that's four miles from here.

AR: Down the Breakheart Hill.

JK: Down Breakheart Hill. Then you had a turnoff over 'bout halfway t'Little Lawn. So who'd he meet this day, only Father, um, what makes me forget his name?

AR: Fella from one of the other communities.

JK: Yeah. Anyway, the two met head-on, so far from the turnoff. Anyway, he got out, he said, "All right, Father T'orne," he said.

AR: "You back up!" Ha ha.

JK: Yeah, "You back up." "No, no," he said. "No." Well now, he said, "You, you gotta back up," he said, "because" he said "you're the handiest to the turn." I'm tryin' to think on his, Father Nolan! Oh, sorry. Father, Father Nolan was the name of the priest.

AR: Father ... Nolan.

JK: Father Nolan.

AR: And where was he stationed?

JK: He was stationed in Lamaline.

AR: So he met Father Thorne, and the two of them had cars.

JK: Yeah. And one was comin' up to the, the, to the place where they used to turn, and he, Father Nolan was just beyond it, see. "All right, Gussy," he said, "you back up yer 10-cent car!" he said.

AR: And Gussy is who?

JK: Father Thorne, that's his name, see.

AR: Thorne, Thorne was Gus T'orne.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And, ah, Father Nolan, who won the argument then?

JK: Oh, Father Nolan had to back back.

AR: Ha ha ha ha!

JK: He had to back back and let Father Thorne ...

AR: Now, was there ever a community at Little Lawn Harbour?

JK: No, no. Just, ah, some fella had a shack over there one time. To my knowledge, anyway.

AR: And, was, was there much farming in Little Lawn then, or, was it used?

JK: Well, that's, there was a fella had a, had a, a field there, ah, he used to cut hay off of it.

AR: Where was that field, ah?

JK: That was, field was on your left as you were goin' around Little Lawn. 'Bout half ways. Right where the, where the, what we call the, the Gut. The Pond, there.

AR: Right at the head of The Pond? Or the inside of The Pond.

JK: No, no. No. About middle of The Pond.

AR: OK.

JK: 'Twas the middle of The Pond.

AR: On the left side.

JK: The only one I can remember is, ah, ah, bought it, I don't know who he bought it off of, was some, fella by the name of Bill Lake, Uncle Bill Lake we used to call him. He used to work on the High Road and he, ah, he bought it and he used to cut hay on it.

AR: Well, that's interesting, 'cause we found, we, we, I've been inta, I took that old road last summer, and, um, there was a few people, looks like the few cows being kept in there, they just are grazing up at the, the inside of the pond.

JK: Yeah.

AR: At the north end of the pond.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And I wondered if there was ever fields in there. But it doesn't sound like there was any cultivation there.

JK: No, no. There was, ah, just the one field, that's all that was there. He used to cut about a ton or ... ton and a half of hay off of a spot was there, you know, it had to be, it had, it was fenced at the time.

AR: So no-one ever tried to fish out of Little Lawn?

JK: No.

AR: Not a good harbour, I'd don't ... not much protection.

JK: No. No, no. No, because see, ah, Lawn people, that's where they used t'come down and set their traps, see. They'd go out, or Big, Main Lawn and come down around to the, great place for fish, y'know?

AR: So they'd set their traps along that shore there.

JK: They'd set them on the shoreline, see?

AR: And so that was Lawn people that fished there, as opposed to St. Lawrence people.

JK: That's right.

AR: Where'd you fellas set your traps?

JK: Oh, out around, ah, what they call the Cape, Cape Cheverou[sic = Cape Chapeau Rouge] here and then, you go right up to what they call Lawn Point, up where the shipwrecks

AR: Where the shipwrecks went.

JK: Yeah. And put the traps all up along there.

AR: Well, I must say, I've been finding it very, very interesting talking to the people of the community and learning about this, ah, tidal wave, and about the, ah, you know, I, I don't know St. Lawrence very well at all.

JK: No.

AR: But, most interesting.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And I thank you very, very much.

JK: Yeah.

AR: Now, what I'm gonna do is, I'm going to, ah, I'll write down what we said here, and mail that back to you and, if I got any errors in it, you can, you know, correct them.

JK: Yeah. Yeah.

AR: But, do you have any, do you mind if I actually put this tape in the, in the, in the Archives, so people can, other people can listen to it?

JK: No! That's OK.

AR: 'Cause I think they'd find it very, very interesting to hear a little bit about the history of Lawrence, or of St. Lawrence.

JK: They could pick out something out of it, eh?

AR: Oh, I'm sure. I'm absolutely sure.

JK: I, I, I know they're goin' to know that I'm not a, a university man or anything like that, but I, ha ha ha!

AR: Doesn't matter. The best fellows to tell you about a community is the fellow who has lived in it.

JK: That's right. Yeah.

AR: So I thank you very, very much and I'll just turn this old tape recorder off now. And I think we used a fair bit of the tape, and I think I (tape stops).

(Tape turned off briefly then turned on to get a recitation from John M. Kelly)

AR: John Kelly is going to name every fishing stage from his house up to the, the Bridgehead. No, River, Riverhead.

JK: Pretty well, anyway.

AR: How many, how many you think there would have been?

JK: Well, for, right from where, ah, where our property is through there now, it started off with, ah, Dave Murray, John Slaney, ah, Fred Fitzpatrick, Pat Penney, and, ah, a fella by the name of Old Isaac Slaney, Anthony Etchgary, and then there was, um, ah, Henry Quirke.

AR: And he must be related to, ah, Elizabeth Slaney's ... ah?

JK: Yeah. Yeah, right. Yeah. Henry Quirke, ah, and then there was, um, another fella by the name of John Slaney, and then there was a fella by the name of Dick Slaney, he had a waterfront there. And then there was Isaac Quirke, and Dave Quirke, and there was two Daves, and another fella had another part, part there, I don't know what relations they were. And then there was Joe Turpin, and, ah, let me see, Joe Turpin, um, Henry Fitzpatrick, and Tommy Fitzpatrick, Rennie Slaney, and Coole. And then there was Donnie Slaney and their property, and, ah, there was another fella by the name of Long Dave Slaney.

AR: My goodness.

JK: Then there was Jim Slaney, and then there was Richard Slaney, and Jimmy Cusick's, they had property there. And that's, that's about the, the works.

AR: And each fella had just a narrow little stage.

JK: Narrow little stage.

AR: And, enough to keep his boat at. Or would he keep the boat at the stage?

JK: Oh yes.

AR: Or would you anchor off?

JK: Yeah. Oh yes. No, they'd have what they call 'the freight'.

AR: What's a freight?

JK: Well, now, that's a, a block on one end and you reel a rope through it, and you tie on the boat here and you haul it out.

AR: So the, the stern of the boat would be tied off and the bow would be sort of tied up

JK: Yeah. No, no. You'd pull, pull, pull, you'd pull it off. Pull the whole boat off.

AR: OK.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And when you wanted 'er back in, you'd just pull it the other way 'round.

JK: Right, all the way around, she'd come back in again.

AR: Wonderful. But you must've named about 20 fellas there had, ah, shore properties. [actually 22]

JK: Yeah. Yeah. Ah might be a, a coupla more that I missed, you know.

AR: Now, Rennie Slaney, you, you mentioned that name, and I've heard that name before. I'm tryin' to remember who he was, but,

JK: Yeah, he used to be, ah, he used to be town clerk one time in here, ah.

NK: He had a lot to do with the mines too ... [he also is probably the Rennie Slaney who wrote the 1965 *History of Fluorspar Mining at St. Lawrence Newfoundland*]

JK: Lot to do with the mine.

AR: Oh, that's maybe where I heard the name.

JK: Yeah.

AR: And, and when you were naming from, that was from your old family house, that just took me to 'the strand' then?

JK: Yeah. Yeah, right up through, yeah.

AR: That area there. So you figure how many other fellas there were around the harbour, it was a fair crowd.

JK: Yeah. Yeah, fair crowd.

AR: Well, we haven't seen that kinda fishing for a while, have we?

JK: Yeah.

AR: Fascinating. Well, I thank you for doing that too, ha ha ha!

JK: I got a picture ...

NK: I got a ... (taped turned off).

End of interview

Appendix 13

Photographs

Several photographs from the A.J. Wallace Collection and two other historic photographs have been rephotographed to make new negatives by Cynthia Farrell of Farrell Foto of St. Lawrence. The Wallace album of about 70 pages covers photos from 1937-1941 (Wallace, 1937-1941) and was titled by its donor "Album of photos taken by Albert J. Wallace, formerly of Collingswood, N.J. He was sent to Newfoundland by E.J. Lavino & Co. to open a fluorspar mine in the late 1930's." The album was donated to the town of St. Lawrence by A.J. Wallace's daughter Myrtle Wallace Baaker on April 6, 1989. A very approximate catalogue of the album is found below:

p. 1 labelled Halifax, April 26, 1937, S.S. PORT TOWNSHEND, later Saint-Pierre April 28, 1937, St. John's, and May 11, 1937 enroute to St. Lawrence on S.S. HOME	36 photos
Miscellaneous	7 photos
St. Lawrence	20 photos
Personnel, mining related	25 photos
Mining related	42 photos
St. John's to N.Y. Sept 1937	6 photos
Return on S.S. CARIBOU and KYLE March 1938	14 photos
St. Lawrence	11 photos
St. John's, Saint-Pierre	6 photos
St. Lawrence and pier	11 photos
Mining	8 photos
S.S. BEARN	3 photos
Halifax and Evangeline July 1938	8 photos
1939	1 photo
Director Mine, 1941	4 photos
June 1939 S.S. BELLE ISLE, Saint-Pierre fire	13 photos
Little St. Lawrence, dog cart, 1939	27 photos

Total about 244 photos



32A

Plate 1: Photo 32A, p. 25, A.J. Wallace collection. From the left, Myrtle Wallace (later Mrs. Baaker), her father Albert J. Wallace, her mother Mrs. Laura Wallace, Revere, Mrs. and Mr. C.M. Fellman, St. Lawrence, circa 1937.



29C

Plate 2: Photo 29C, p. 29, A.J. Wallace Collection. Photo of Aubrey Farrell in the centre, circa 1937. Mr. Farrell was the first person to get a report out of St. Lawrence after the November 1929 tsunami struck. Sandy Turpin is on the left, Frank Farrell is on the right.

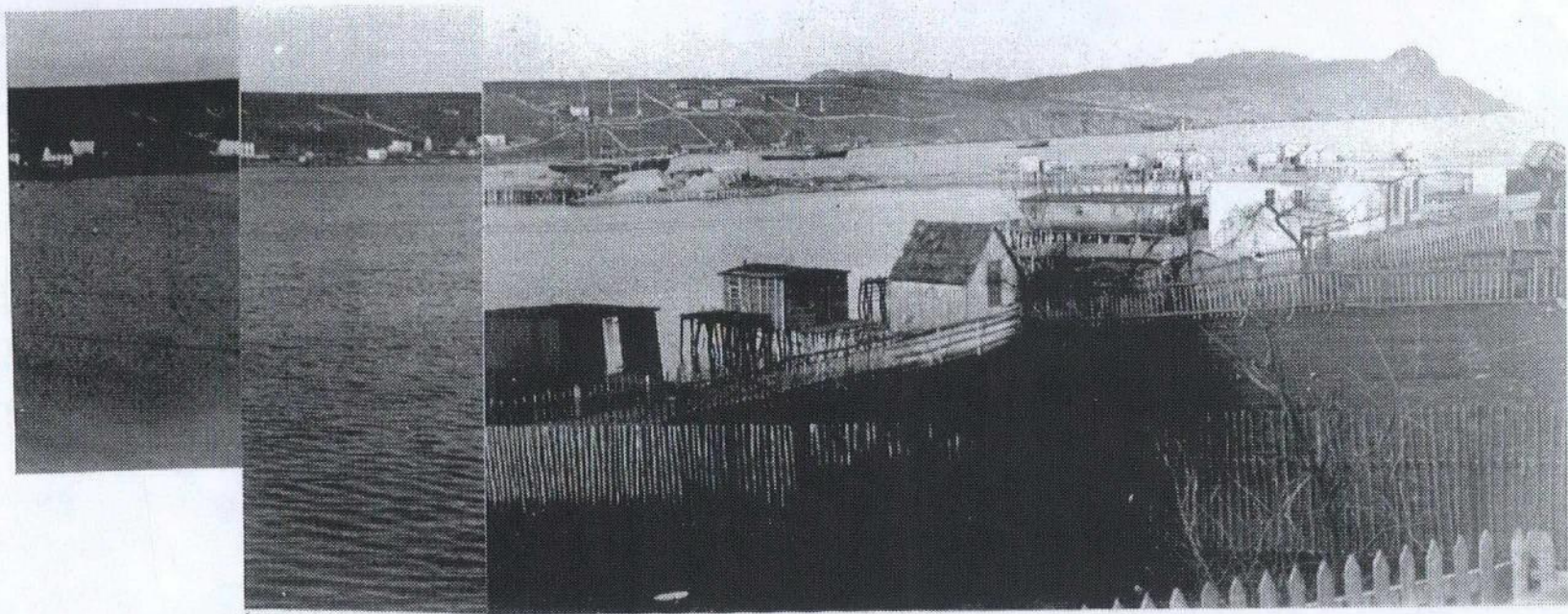
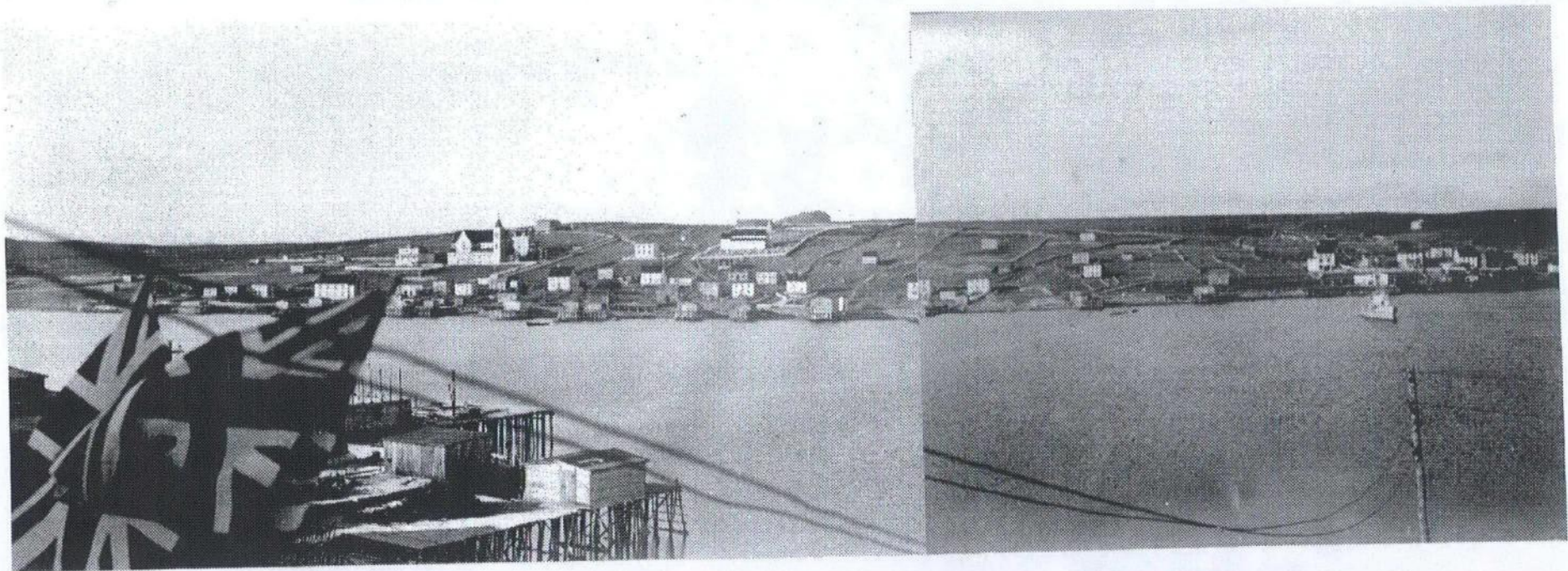


Plate 3: Composite circa 1937 panorama of the east side of St. Lawrence Harbour made up of photos from the A.J. Wallace Collection. From the top left (northeast) to the bottom right (south), photos 17A, 20A (large portion) both on top and 20A (continuation, small portion), 18C (small slice) and 17B. The panorama rotates clockwise from almost 'the strand' and Aylwards present Mini Mart on the left, through the Catholic Church and related buildings, through a schooner tied up at the Government Wharf at the north end of Shingle Point, through to Calipouse peak at the harbour's mouth (Figure 9) about due south. The typical flakes and fish stores are seen along the near (west) shoreline of the harbour. The Tom Pike house in 1929 was located just to the right (southwest) of the conical piles of probable fluorspar ore awaiting shipment on Shingle Point.

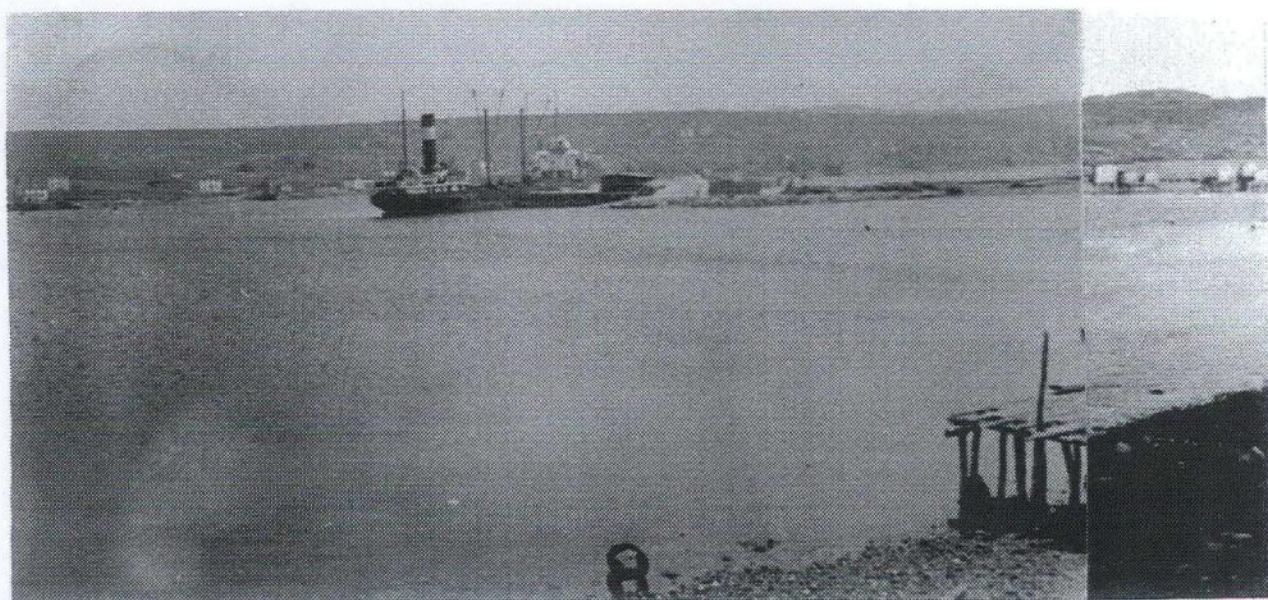


Plate 4: Composite of two photographs from the A.J. Wallace Collection. Photo 18A to left and a portion of Photo 18C to right. Circa 1937 panorama looking about southwest from the eastern end (foot) of what is now Director Drive. A large steamer (ore carrier?) is sitting at the government wharf across the north end of Shingle Point. The Tom Pike house in 1929 sat just to the right of the white conical pile of probable fluorspar ore awaiting shipment. The low hill to the right is Blow Me Down Hill (Figure 9). This panorama continues to the right with the next plate.

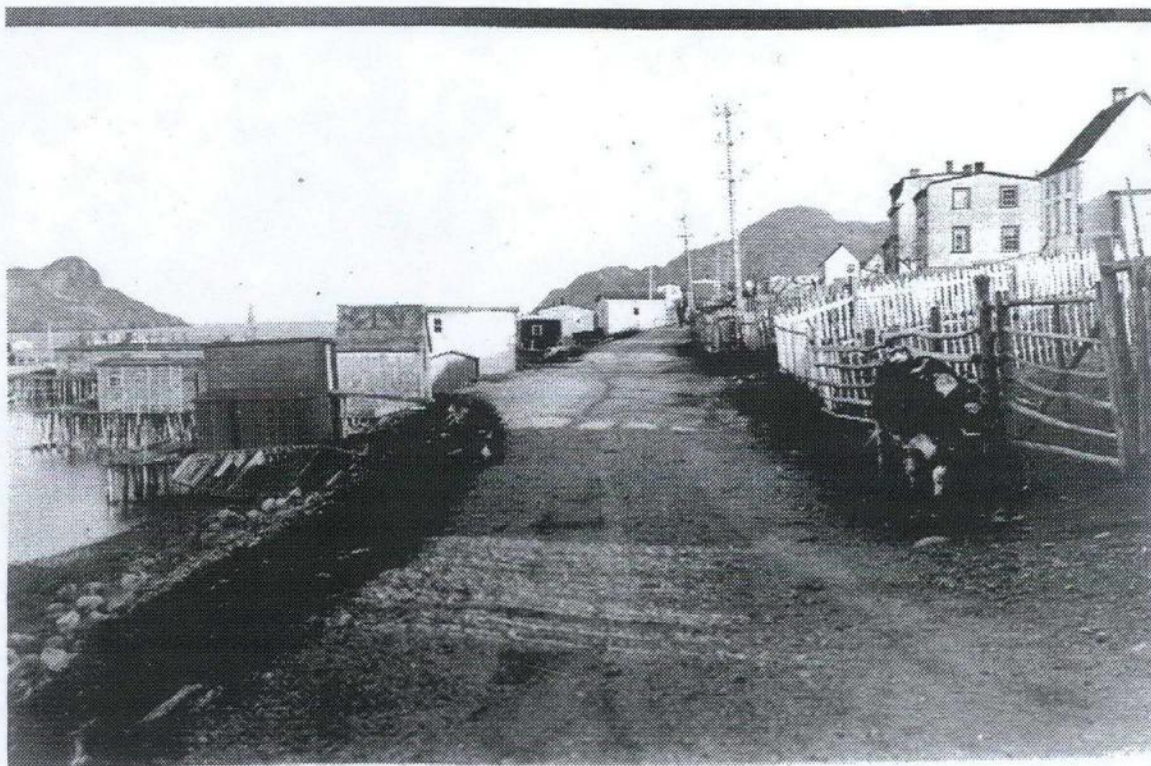


Plate 5: Photo 17C from the A.J. Wallace Collection. View looking southeast along Water Street West, St. Lawrence circa 1937 showing the mouth of the harbour with Calipouse peak (Figure 9) to the left (east) and Chapeau Rouge peak (Figure 9) on the right (west) circa 1937. On the left at the water's edge one can see the traditional fish stores built out over the water on 'sticks' driven into the harbour floor.

St. Lawrence to Burin by boat - 12 miles
by land - 100 miles

9B



Enroute Grand Bank to Burin - May '39

Plate 6: Photo 69B from the A.J. Wallace Collection. May 1939 view annotated "Enroute Grand Bank to Burin - May '39. St. Lawrence to Burin by boat - 12 miles, by land - 100 miles." This photo gives a good idea of how poor the overland routes were, and would have been, in 1929. Dogs and carts were used to deliver the mail at one time along the south coast of the Burin.



Plate 7: Photo 57B from the A.J. Wallace Collection. View from Water Street West Extension looking north northwest over Shingle Point circa 1938. Public wharf was at the righthand (north) end. Thomas Pike house had been located on the Point about directly under the church.



Plate 8: Photo held by Kevin Pike (and Ena Farrell Edwards) showing the former Thomas (Tom) Pike house on Shingle Point out near the public wharf. Photo is possibly 1933-34 (Appendix 12). Figure in front left is wharfinger Sandy Turpin. The tsunami rose up over the first floor of the house but it did not move because it was bolted down to a rock-filled crib.

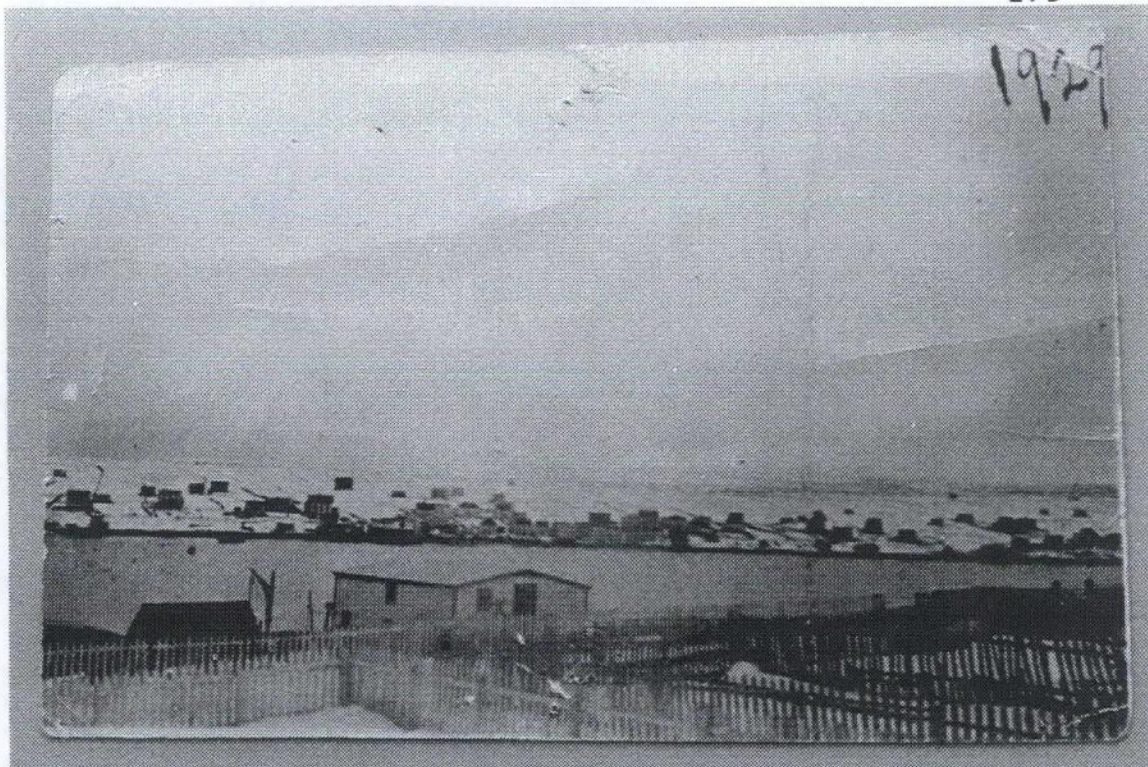


Plate 9: Probable post-tsunami 1929 view of the west side of St. Lawrence harbour showing no flakes or fish stores in place from just southeast of Director Drive northwest to where 'the strand' bay mouth bar terminated the harbour head. This photo came from a Clem Cusick in Saint-Pierre and is held by John and Emma Cusick of St. Lawrence.



Plate 10: Photo 20B from the A.J. Wallace Collection showing a similar view of the west side of St. Lawrence harbour in circa 1937 showing the growth of the town with the coming of the E.J. Lavino & Co. fluorspar mine and the return of the flakes and fish stores at the water's edge.



Plate 11: Coloured oblique aerial view of St. Lawrence Harbour by Garnet Tracey in circa 1985 looking about west (Anonymous, circa 1985). The fish plant is seen on the end of Shingle Point at the left (southeast) and at the very right the multipurpose Recreation Centre is shown on the filled land to the northwest of Causeway Road (also called Mannix Causeway on the town road map). Causeway Road was built in circa 1954 to the southeast (outside) of 'the strand' which originally formed the head of the harbour. Director Drive comes down the hill from the upper right to the centre pier which is known as the "old pier" or Alcan Wharf. The righthand (northwest) wharf is now known as the Minworth Pier and was used by the last operator of the fluorspar mine to store ore prior to shipment. The Minworth Pier now serves as the Government Wharf. The 'business district' of Water Street West extends from about Director Drive to the right (northwest) halfway towards Causeway Road.

Appendix 14

Transcript of supplemental August 23, 1995 letter of Emma and John Cusick. The Cusicks were responding to a letter of inquiry from the author going back to mid-April 1995 and they are replying on behalf of John's father Stephen (Steve) who was a young boy at the time of the 1929 tsunami. This letter in two parts, first by Emma, then by John, adds further recollections of Mr. Stephen Cusick with respect to the 1929 tsunami in St. Lawrence and on the partial destruction of his family's home on the shore on the west side of the St. Lawrence harbour.

[1]

[Box 576
St. Lawrence, Nfld.
A0E 2V0
mailed Aug. 23/95]

Patrick Handrigan's house, which was situated where John O'Rourke's house is now (next to Post Office) went out the harbour with kerosene lamp lit up in the upstairs window. This house never came back.

Old Joe Malloy's house, which was situated where Foote's old house is now (accross[sic] from drugstore) moved but don't [know] where it was moved. It was hauled out from in that way to Liz Quirke's land. [Mrs. Elizabeth Slaney now]

The old government wharf, which was situated were[sic] fish plant is now came in and took the bottom of Steve's (John's dad's) house.

The Jack fishing boat was a fair sized boat with two dories on her deck and eight man crew. Steve says there was only one Jack boat that he can remember. The boat was brought in with the wave. She was situated just inside the Old Wharf (fish plant now) with the anchor out. She was brought in accross[sic] from the old fire hall with the Anchor out. After she was brought in there was a kind of

[2]

II

still in the water the men got in a dory and rowed to shore. When the Jack boat went back out she hung up in almost the same place she was in the beginning. The men rowed back to her again.

Things went that you think should have stayed and things stayed that should have went. He thinks the swirl of the water caused this.

Him and a lot of other people were up on Old Lawn Road when he saw the wall of water coming in. He taught[sic] it was going to cover everything but it dropped according as it was coming.

Three tides

1. First tide — big tide just over ordinary high tide. Different from regular tide. Went out a bit farther than usual.
2. Second came in and went up a bit higher, came in over the meadow where Bank of Nova Scotia is now. The tide went out farther to Herring Cove, the Calapoose.

[3]

III

3. The third tide came in went in almost to high school and went back slowly.

He says the water got as far as the high school or pretty close but did not cross the highway (the highway [220] now). You could float a boat by the old fire Hall.

There were big tides in the harbour before the tidal wave and he thinks the high tides are returning. He predicts another tidal wave but cannot predict when.

He also thinks water is disappearing because when he went to school the water used to be in by the Bank of Nova Scotia at high tide. Now he thinks the water should be up over the causeway, but its[sic] not.

[Emma Cusick]

[4]

The first house at the extreme left of the 1929 picture [Plate 9, Appendix 13] belonged to a Leo Pike. It was situated on the [northwest] corner of Director Drive and Water Street West. The house is no longer there. Farrell's house is two or three houses further south [along Water Street West out of the view of the camera].

When you hear people talk about the strand, they are just referring to a sandy beach left at low tide. (Fine sand) It stretch[ed] from the North goal post at the soccer field and ended around the causeway. There was no tidal pond behind it.

The lines that I'd[sic] dotted out [actually solid line] on the map shows the contour of the upper front of the harbour looking North as it was in 1929. The land beyond the lines [to the northwest or 'inside'] was hay land. It was kept back by a breakwater but was wash[ed] away by the tidal wave. Lots of rocks [were] left in the area after [the 'tidal wave'].

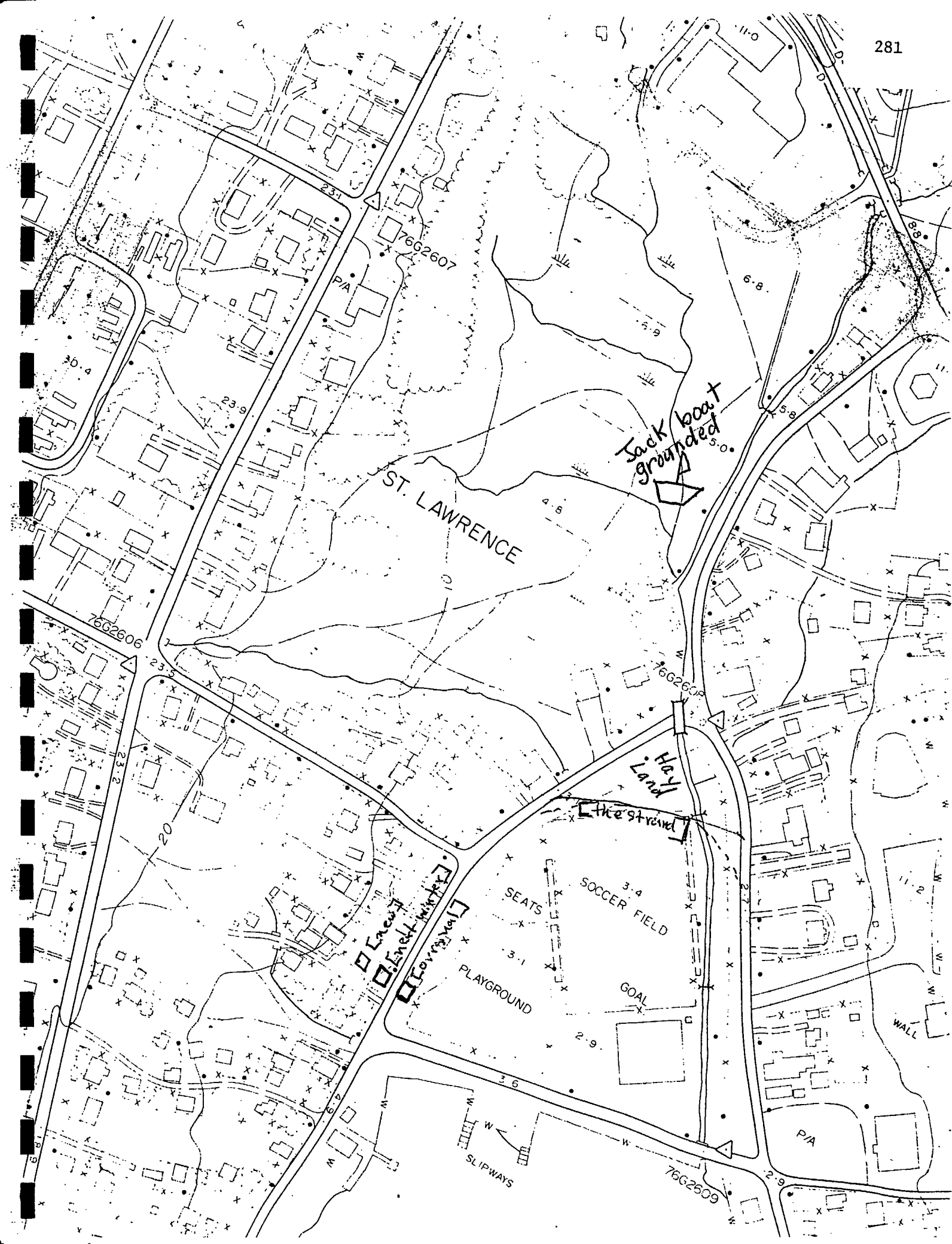
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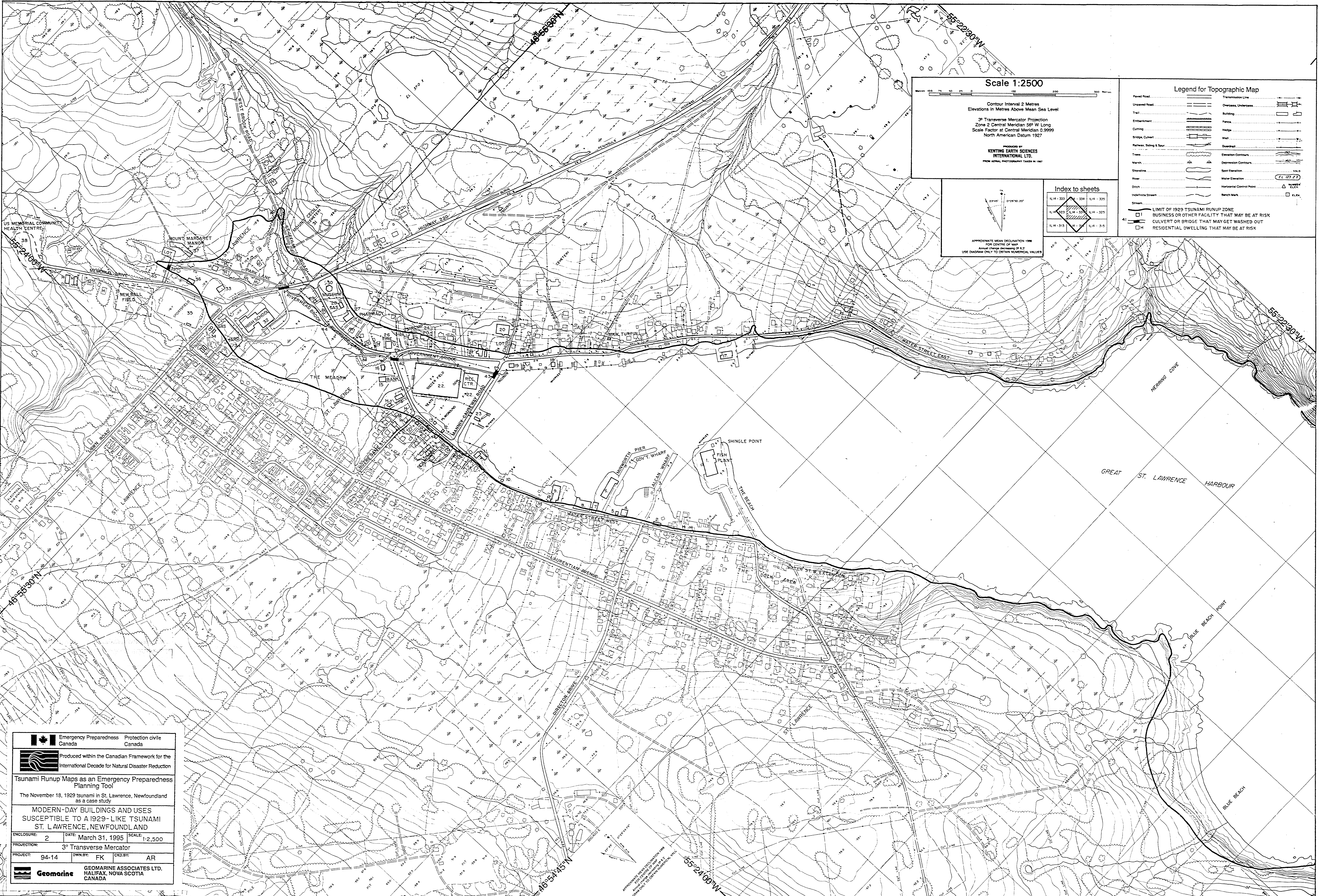
The blue square shows where my grandfather's house was before the tidal wave. The bottom part was destroyed and wash[ed] away in pieces. The top part was left hanging but remained in the same spot. The house was built on a breakwater so I guess it had a good foundation. The red square indicates where a bunch of men had gotten together and tow[ed] the top part of the house up across the road. They fix[ed] it up and lived in it that winter. Probably wouldn't make a good barn these days. The black square indicates where they built their new house the following spring. Yes my father has a sister Matilda, (Tilly) she lives in St. John's.

Thanks for the old pictures, they are a treasure and look forward to reading your report.

[John Cusick]

[The Cusicks' annotated map follows. It is a section of the base map to Enclosures 1 and 2 at a scale of 1:2,500. Four additional explanatory notes are added to the map in square brackets to assist in relating the map to the Cusicks' text above.]



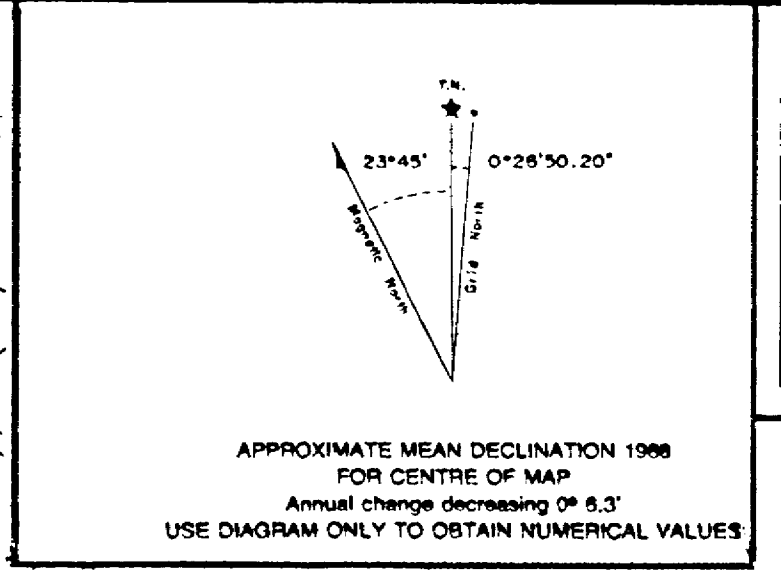


Scale 1:2500

Contour Interval 2 Metres
Elevations in Metres Above Mean Sea Level

3° Transverse Mercator Projection
Zone 2 Central Meridian 56° W Long
Scale Factor at Central Meridian 0.9999
North American Datum 1927

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Index to sheets

E14 - 333	E14 - 334	E14 - 335
E14 - 332	E14 - 333	E14 - 334
E14 - 331	E14 - 332	E14 - 333

Legend for Topographic Map

Paved Road	Transmission Line
Unpaved Road	Overpass, Underpass
Trail	Building
Embankment	Fence
Cutting	Hedge
Bridge, Culvert	Wall
Railway, Siding & Spur	Overdrill
Trees	Elevation Contours
Marsh	Depression Contours
Shoreline	Spot Elevation
River	Water Elevation
Ditch	Horizontal Control Point
Intermittent Stream	Bench Mark
Stream	

41

- LIMIT OF 1929 TSUNAMI RUNUP ZONE
- BUSINESS OR OTHER FACILITY THAT MAY BE AT RISK
- CULVERT OR BRIDGE THAT MAY GET WASHED OUT
- RESIDENTIAL DWELLING THAT MAY BE AT RISK

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The November 18, 1929 tsunami in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland
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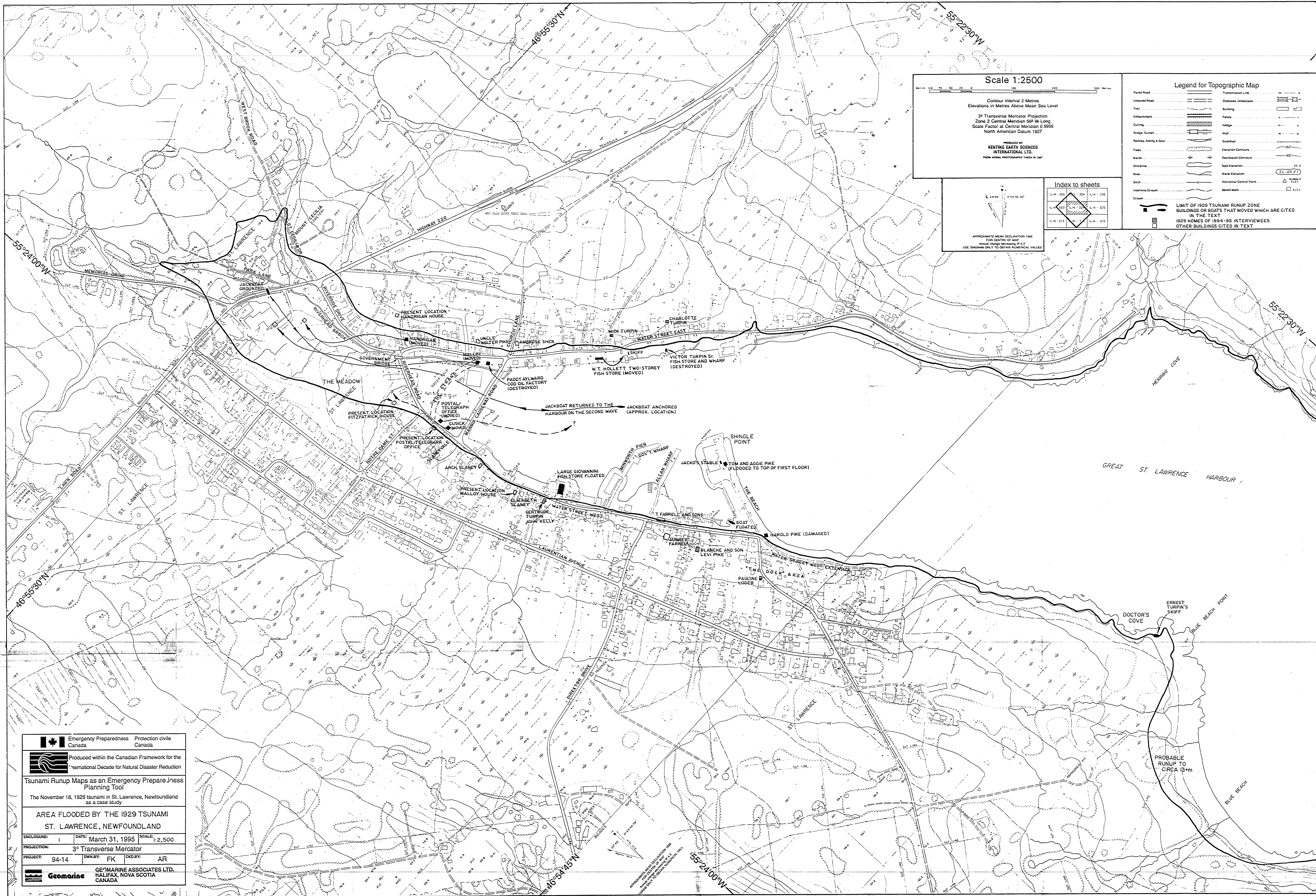
**MODERN-DAY BUILDINGS AND USES
SUSCEPTIBLE TO A 1929-LIKE TSUNAMI
ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND**

ENCLOSURE: 2 DATE: March 31, 1995 SCALE: 1:2,500

PROJECTION: 3° Transverse Mercator

PROJECT: 94-14 DWN BY: FK CKD BY: AR

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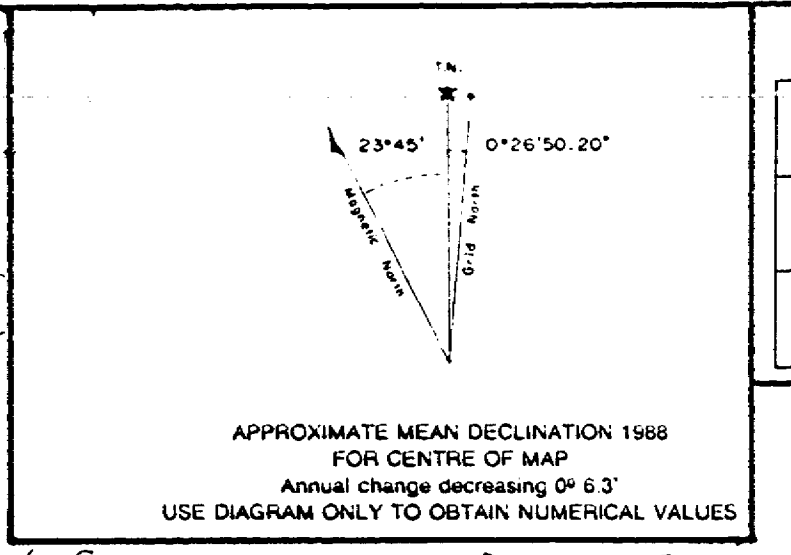


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Legend for Topographic Map	
Paved Road	Transmission Line
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Ditch	Horizontal Control Point
Indefinite Stream	Bench Mark
Stream	

LIMIT OF 1929 TSUNAMI RUNUP ZONE
BUILDINGS OR BOATS THAT MOVED WHICH ARE CITED
IN THE TEXT
1929 HOMES OF 1994-95 INTERVIEWEES
OTHER BUILDINGS CITED IN TEXT

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AREA FLOODED BY THE 1929 TSUNAMI
ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND

ENCLOSURE: 1 DATE: March 31, 1995 SCALE: 1:2,500

PROJECTION: 3° Transverse Mercator

PROJECT: 94-14 DWN.BY: FK CND.BY: AR

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