

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ELMER  
MAVES

JUNE 26,  
1984

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: At the farm of Mr. E. Maves and Mr. H. Duchrow,  
R.R.6 Pembroke, Ont.

PERSONAL HISTORY:

Date of Birth - February 6, 1908

Place of Birth - The farm where he lives today

Schooling - Mr. Maves went to school in Killaloe and returned home only  
for holidays while in school.

WORK:

In 1942 Mr. Maves worked for Jack Mohns at his lumber camp as a cook.  
He also cut logs but only for a short time.

He talked about various things he remembers throughout his life. He  
recalls one incident when he and his brother attempted to break up a  
log jam at Race Horse Bridge (now the military training area in C.F.B.  
Petawawa). He emphasized the danger of such a task, especially if one  
is not an experienced logger. He says he is lucky that he even survived  
after his "Foolish" attempt to break the jam.

Mr. Maves also mentions the Turtle Lodge which was built for J.R.  
Booth's friend, an Indian who helped J.R. when he was lost in the  
bush.

Mr. Maves has had a bear trap for the past 15 years. People from the  
United States, especially from New York and Pennsylvania come every year  
to hunt bears.

At one time he had a lot of exotic birds and animals, such as  
peasants, peacocks, and even a "hairless dog" as well as birds from places  
such as Australia. Today he still has a peacock and a special hen that  
lays blue eggs.

DARLENE FITZGERALD

Taped interview with Mr. Elmer Maves. June 26, 1984.

Interviewed by Darlene Fitzgerald. Mrs. Ethel Duchrow present.

Elmer Maves was born Feb. 6, 1908.

Mrs. Ethel Duchrow was born July 26, 1921.

Mr. Maves' house burned down in December, 1980, and he now lives in a trailer. He was one of a family of 12, the youngest by 7 years. His father ran a stopping-place for lumber companies.

He remembers Turtle Lodge being built - believes it has now been taken down and moved to some big museum somewhere. It was at Lake Saclay? Remembers a time when Booth got lost and an Indian found him. Those were the days of horse and wagon. Maves said that he did not often go to Pembroke. His sister moved to Pembroke and then his parents sometimes went to Pembroke, but it was 1920 when his brother got his first car. It was a Maxwell.

Maves can remember when the CN line was first run through here. He has noticed the date, 1912, on part of it.

Can remember that 10 men drove 30 head of cattle to Lake Traverse; remembers names like Henry and Albert Barr, Ernie Duchrow his brother-in-law and his older brothers; it took a couple of days. There were no freezers in those days so they butchered the cattle when needed. Maves worked in the lumber camps in 1942, at Jack Mohns' camp; first he culled logs and then he worked in the cookery for a while. One day the cook did not show up so Maves started to set the tables and ended up as the cook.

Asked if he ever met Mr. Watt, Maves replied that he went to school with Ernie Watt. Also sold logs to him. Pine.

Going north the train did not stop at the lumber camp but just slowed down; the men had to jump off.

Asked if he ever had to start up a camp, Maves said he had once done it for his brother at Bissett; the bunkhouse was built first, the roof first, the weather was terrible. They used axes and Swede saws and chain saws. It took about a week to build a shanty; it had only a single wall and a tarpaper roof and a box stove.

A rambling story about his mother who used to work at Deux Rivieres and how they took the horses over the river.

Maves describes how he and his brother, Joe, broke a log jam. A 'Foolish' thing to do, in his opinion now, but they were passing over Racehorse Bridge at the time. He describes using a boat to rescue animal traps on the ice.

In 1929 living on the 16th Concession, alone with his mother we made \$13 a 1000 for logs delivered to the Indian River. May still have slips and bills in the trailer. Nowadays you can get \$300 for 1000 feet, cut, moved and stacked to Alice Station. In those days two men worked from 6. A.m. to 10 p.m.

When I went to school the teams looked like a train, pulling 4'wood to Pembroke. Nowadays people come and split it themselves.

Not many farms here now. Brothers got married. Maves relates the names of various people who live at various places. So-and-so lives here and so-and-so lives there. Across the road Buske lives in log house. Schinke's old brick house across from the store. Trailer home is Schmidt. I bought this place in 1946; Brum is up on the hill. Then there's the

Remus' place .....but people are starting to move back into the country now.

(more) HERITAGE COLLECTION

File: Interview Mr. Elmer Maves Item #XI

I like to be different. I'm the only one who had blue chicken's eggs and a hairless dog 15 years. I enjoy different people, different races had Italians, Hungarians, all sorts among hunters.

Had a bunch of Yankees here about 14 years ago. Went to B. G. Watts' restaurant with them once. They would never go again. (Laughter) The steaks were so tough (more laughter). The girls got \$2 tip from each man - so that wasn't bad, eh? That's \$12 all together from 6 men. I cleaned the slaughterhouse.

Soldiers brought dogs here when they were moving away.

The bears got rambunctious. My nephew, George Foss, had a place on McKay Street selling parts. Had a drugstore later.

We had 3 bears in a trap (presumably on his farm). We skinned them. George stopped for gas at a pump and a car on the other side asked him about the bears.

End of one side.

We had no electricity then, so I had to heat water to wash dishes.

Wanted a boat, so rented a boat. 4 of them went to B.G. Watts.

Back to the bear story. ....

I had 26 head to feed each day. I fed a lot of dogs.

Remember when the train upset? (Interviewers did not.) Well, when the train upset, there was a lot of flour and people were going to get the flour for feed for their hens. Some flour was O.K. for baking - not all the sacks were broken.....

The bears came and licked the flour. On Sunday morning I had 3 bears here. My nephew George told people and we charged \$5 a day. Once we got 12 bears in 4 days. Peter and I skinned the bears. We had two 4-wheel drive trucks and 2 deep freezers