

Working at Point Amour Lighthouse

Collector: Marie Marshall

Contributor: Bridget O'Brien

Marie Marshall:

Hi, this is Marie Marshall, I'm here at Bridgy O'Brien's she's going to tell me a story now about the first time she went to ah...Point Amour. Okay Bridgy, what year were you born?

Bridget O'Brien:

I was born August 7th, 1930, in L'Anse au Loup, Labrador.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

My parents Leo and Philomena O'Brien.

Marie Marshall:

How many kids did she have?

Bridget O'Brien:

Eleven. Six girls and five boys.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine.

Bridget O'Brien:

The girls were myself, Olive, Alice, Louisa, Ruby and then we had a break Clifford and then Beatty, Beatrice you know.

Marie Marshall:

Beatrice was the youngest was she.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

And then after that, it was Beatrice and then it was Bernard and Lawrence and Leo. The gang.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, I tell 'ya.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah, what a gang.

Bridget O'Brien:

So then ah...when all them came, I left. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

(laughs)You took off.

Bridget O'Brien:

I took off.

Dr. Power:

I left the phone off the hook now, so there wouldn't be any calls.

Marie Marshall:

Thank you.

Bridget O'Brien:

I went to Point Amour, I went the 19th in June. I went in 1943, I said was it?

Marie Marshall:

1943, yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

'43. Aunt (inaudible) Ryland and Aunt Mag Ryland was up there with Mr. Wyatt, they wanted me to go up and do some house cleaning.

Marie Marshall:

Did you say how old you were then?

Bridget O'Brien:

I was thirteen.

Marie Marshall:

Thirteen. Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I went up and the first job Mr. Wyatt gave me was to scrub a step ladder and he watched me. He watched me to see if I could do it right.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So then I went on from that. So I had to cook, didn't know too much about it. But anyway, Mr. Wyatt taught me how to set the table and that. And I use to just cook on my own, whatever.....

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

....I knew, everybody liked it.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I use to paint and ah...did a lot of painting. Used thousand of gallons of paint, up there. And I use to clean up the light up there when it catch fire and then we'd have to paint it. And Jeff Wyatt was light keeper at the time and Olive, my sister and myself with the men, he'd tie a rope around us and tie us up to the light.

Marie Marshall:

Outside?

Bridget O'Brien:

Outside. The glassthe glass up there outside.

Marie Marshall:

Honorable God.

Bridget O'Brien:

Handles on it, you see outside. So he'd put the rope on one handle and tie around our back tie it on the other handle, we'd paint all around that. He use to get up on the camp, paint away and no rope or no nothing. Just walk up.

Marie Marshall:

Who?

Bridget O'Brien:

Jeff, the light keeper.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

The men...the assistant they couldn't do it.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

Harold Barney tried one day and he had to get down, if he didn't he would have went down over.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

But I didn't mind it. And I use to light the light sometimes and it would catch fire lots of time, but anyway...

Marie Marshall:

What kind of light was it?

Bridget O'Brien:

Kerosine.

Marie Marshall:

Kerosine. Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

We use to have to bring a two gallon can of kerosine up tower and put in the tanks and then you had to pump up another tank with air and drive the pressure up. So I use to go up and light it. First we had to light it with alcohol and ...more light a mantel lamp, you know and then when the alcohol would burn, you'd turn on the kerosine and then you put a big mantel on it, a big mantel the size of a soup bowl on top.

You watch it for a little while, and if it worked alright...perhaps you got down and looked up it was all a fire, you'd have go back again. How many times did I run up there. Now I can't even walk across the floor.

Marie Marshall:

That's what happened to your knees I say.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah. So then well you'd work around and cutting the grass, painting outside, painting

inside and all that old stuff. So then we decided to go to L'Anse au Loup one day with the horse.

Besides this...before this Alonze was born up to the hospital, in Long Point. So Mr. Wyatt and myself took the horse and sleigh and we went up, and took Ruby aboard and we brought Ruby down to Point Amour, that was the 16th of March, 1958.

So ah...we stayed to the house all night and we had a new house there, a new house that was built in '56, so we moved in it in 1957, so this was '58 and we were down to L'Anse au Loup with Ruby and Pat come up and got Ruby there. So then we stayed down there that day, and we stayed down there the next day. Then we left to go back and ah...there was a storm brewing. It was snowing thick, thick, thick.....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

.....and the sky towards the battery looked black. But there was no wind. So mom wanted us to stay but he wanted to go on home. Jeff, of course.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So then mom tied the hood on my parker and I had on a pair of moccasins and so we left. So anyway the horse got caught in the snow a couple of times.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah, I was going to ask that question.

Bridget O'Brien:

Went down in the hole. Anyway I use to get down and lift her up, 'cause it was a little pony, "Dolly".

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So sometimes he'd get on the sleigh and I'd walk ahead and some more times I'd get on and he'd walk ahead. So before we got to L'Anse Amour branch road, we saw a team of dogs coming and he was back on to the wind, the wind was coming northeast, this was Baxter Linstead.

And he said 'boy', he said, 'I think it's going to be dirty'. We said 'yes, it won't be very nice if this hits'.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So ah...the horse stopped there and she knew she had to turn out to L'Anse Amour branch and the roads were...there was no road there right.

Marie Marshall:

No. No.

Bridget O'Brien:

And ah...but ah ... Mr. Wyatt said to me, 'no we can't go out there' he said, 'the bay ice was breaking up when we left L'Anse au Loup'. So I said, "what are you going to do then?" He said, "well, we'll go on up towards Forteau and we stop underneath the black cliff.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So we stopped there and it was dirty then, it was blowing a nice bit. So I said to him 'I'll walk ahead now, and you come behind me with the horse'. So I was doing really good, we couldn't see anything, but then you didn't know the bay ice from land either.

Marie Marshall:

No, that's true.

Bridget O'Brien:

From the beach and sand and....

Marie Marshall:

That's when you're out around shore.

Bridget O'Brien:

So when we got down this far, we stopped and I said to him 'what are going to do?' He said, 'stay here'. I said, 'stay here?' I said, 'sure we'll be dead by daylight'. He said 'dead the devil'. I said 'oh, yeah, alright.'

Anyway, he turned the horse and when he turned the horse, well I lost my direction then.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I didn't know where we were going to go, so we just stayed there. So anyway it was dirty, dirty, dirty. It was about three o'clock in the evening and I said to him 'my God,

dad and them are going to be out looking for us, for sure'. So anyway, it came on it was five o'clock and there was times like I could hear someone but then we couldn't see no one.

Marie Marshall:

No. It was still stormy.

Bridget O'Brien:

But I knew they were looking for us but there were no telephones or nothing. So ah... it was '57....sorry about that it was '57.

Marie Marshall:

That's alright.

Bridget O'Brien:

And ah... so anyway, we were there all night.

Marie Marshall:

Oh, you stayed there all night?

Bridget O'Brien:

Out there standing up all night. By the horse. I was standing up by the horse. Mr. Wyatt was sitting down every now and then. So I use to go over and catch him 'old and say get up you know.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

'Cause I use to hear people say if you fall to sleep, you'd just die there, so I use to get over and get him up and then he'd stand up for another little bit and then he said to me, he said, 'I think, I'm going to put a mail bag over my head'. I said 'go on don't be so foolish'. I said 'no, stay here with me'. I looked over he was down again. So I picked him up a dozen times that night.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

I think he would have froze to death.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

For sure.

I had a big lump right along here. A lump of ice, just like a tin of milk.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I went over once and I put my hand up to his ear, like this right.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm..

Bridget O'Brien:

And ah took the skin clean off it all froze solid. But all he had on was rubber boots.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So the ones I had, the moccasins, the ones mom made, you had them before.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, was around daylight...about daylight. It was 10:30, I said "I think I hears somebody." I said, 'oh yes, I sees some lights'. I thought I did.

So anyway, I left to go towards the lights and then I lost it again. So a little while after that here it comes again and I said 'oh there's the men'. So when they came back now, they started running towards us right.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

John Normorewhat?.....John Normore wasn't saved then.

Marie Marshall:

No I bet ya.

Bridget O'Brien:

So dad was out to L'Anse Amour, right.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Dad was out to L'Anse Amour looking for us. He was going crazy, Leo was the baby home and mom was walking back and forth the floor with Leo in her arms. Ruby O'Brien was there because she was teaching up in L'Anse au Loup then.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, we got into the window at L'Anse Amour. Ellis Davis' house but see when they left....

Marie Marshall:

Why there was nobody home?

Bridget O'Brien:

Everything was snowed right over.

Marie Marshall:

Oh. Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

So they wanted to leave the horse. I said 'no, we're not going to leave the horse'. Oh yes, leave the.... 'big one' horse. I said, 'no, no not leaving the horse'.

Marie Marshall:

Who said that?

Bridget O'Brien:

John Normore and them.

Marie Marshall:

Okay. Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Claude Normore and them.

Marie Marshall:

Okay. Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

I said 'if I'm going, the horse is going.' But they were gone off with Mr. Wyatt the then.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

One fellow on each side of him, 'cause he was almost finished.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

But anyway, we went and got the horse and the horse walked along beside us. So we got to L'Anse Amour and

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So when I went in, Mr. Wyatt was sitting down and he was shivering just like the leaf.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

But he was almost....well we was all sick really. But anyway, first thing Rite Davis had to do was take a big lump of ice away from me here and get me a cup of brandy and.....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Okay, Mr. Wyatt was shaking. So anyway, she said 'Bridgy you go to bed now'.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So they put me in the bed and if they had to put me outdoors it wouldn't be no better. I was froze, froze, froze but my bed was cold and everything was cold.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Anyway, so I heard 'em....Cec Davis was saying to Mr. Wyatt 'come on now, I'll take you out', right. So anyway when I got up Mr. Wyatt was gone out to the lighthouse. So I went out and Annie was there, Alice and Gibby was up there too.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm...

Bridget O'Brien:

But we were over in the new house, right? I went upstairs to look at him. Blessed God he had a face and ears on him as big as a tree

Marie Marshall:

(laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

(laughs) He was swollen, sound to sleep.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

All the skin off. Well I took it off in my hand.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine, wonder ye survived.

Bridget O'Brien:

See I had, I was only young. I don't know what I was there. I think I was ...it was '57. Ah but anyway, I always heard people say 'if you got caught in a storm, never sit down....

Marie Marshall:

No. I heard that too, yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

...you'll fall asleep.' And that came in my mind, see. You got to keep moving.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And the horse was really good. We sold it to Andrew Belbin after, right. Dolly.

Marie Marshall:

Never froze?

Bridget O'Brien:

No sir. Nope. So anyway that was that one I wrote that story it was beautiful.

Marie Marshall:

Did ya?

Bridget O'Brien:

But someone took it.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Some of our crowd, I don't know who.

Dr. Power:

Now you got to tell her about Aunt Maria Ryland.

Bridget O'Brien:

Who me?

Marie Marshall and Dr. Power:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

Going through the ice in the brook.

Marie Marshall:

There you go, that's another one. Thank you Dr. Power.

Bridget O'Brien:

(laughs) Oh see....I tells all that see.

Marie Marshall:

(laughs) Thank you.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's that one.

I don't know what year this was now. I guess it was in the '60's though. For sure it was '65 or '66ah...I went in L'Anse Amour and George Buckle and Mina Buckle lived there then, they were friends of ours. So I wanted to go to L'Anse au Loup. George gave me his dogs, I was foolish to take 'em. I mean they were strange dogs, but they were pretty good.

Anyway, I went down to L'Anse au Loup to pick up Aunt Maria Ryland, she wanted to come up and it was in May. And I went down to L'Anse Amour Brook, it was perfect, going down. So when I got down there now, I set some plants for the Spring, so I got three or bags of clay...ground.

Marie Marshall:

Ground...yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

For my ploughs, I put that on the komatik and Aunt Maria sat on the komatik box. So we left to go up and was going on....

Dr. Power:

Who's dogs were they?

Bridget O'Brien:

Hmmmm?

Dr. Power:

Who's dogs were they?

Bridget O'Brien:

George Buckle.

Dr. Power:

And you....it was strange dogs to her.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, that's what she just said.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's what I just said.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, when I was finally going up the brook, down goes the dogs. There was water on the snow. Like you see.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, in the Spring of the year.

Bridget O'Brien:

Down goes the dogs. I said 'Dear God, we got it.' So anyway, I said "Aunt Maria, don't let go. For God's sake hold on to the line of the komatik box, right."

Marie Marshall:

Yeah

Bridget O'Brien:

So I got out on the front of the komatik between the box and the....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I said to myself, now I got to be careful 'cause if I happen to loose it, I'm there and she's there and two of us will be gone.

So I took the four bags of ground and took it off and let them go down through 'til they brought up. And then I held on to Aunt Maria, she lied on her belly on the box and she took out the rope and held on for dear life. And I held on to the line of the komatik box and I was standing in the water up to the this.

Dr. Power:

Up to your waist.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

My oh my.

Bridget O'Brien:

Wasn't very far from L'Anse Amour. I was almost out right.

On top of the bags.... if we never had the bags of ground....

Marie Marshall:

You would have been gone on down.

Bridget O'Brien:

I wouldn't have had no footing right.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

The dogs went splashing in the water. But anyway, they finally got up. I finally made a yell at the dogs and they made a jerk and hauled the komatik out and everything else too. Gee, I got over to L'Anse Amour froze solid.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, I'd say.

Bridget O'Brien:

I never had very far to go though.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

No.

Marie Marshall:

It was still cold though.

Bridget O'Brien:

(laughs) It was still cold. All kinds of stuff like that I done.

Dr. Power:

The time you came out on Boggie's Hill or wherever, they said leave her and then all the dogs went over the hill.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh, that was Bessy Saulter and myself.

Marie Marshall:

Alright.

Bridget O'Brien:

That was another time.

Marie Marshall:

Come on, that's another story.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's up to Forteau.

Marie Marshall:

Tell us that one.

Bridget O'Brien:

I was up to Forteau with ah.....that was in 1960, we went into Rum Pond with Howard Saulter and Bessy Flynn.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

His sister right.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

We went in and it got stormy and we stayed there all night. So the cabin belonged to Uncle Bob Dumaresque, L'Anse au Clair. Underneath the bunk was a big box and in this box was a feather bed. So they took the feather bed out and put it on the box, and we had a fire made then and we had some food with us, 'cause Bessy was good for that.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, Bessy went...I don't know what we did. We put Howard in the middle I 'spose. I don't know where.

Marie Marshall:

He had it good.

Bridget O'Brien:

But the three of us lay down on the same bed. Right?

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

When we woke there was snow in on the stove, all up over the socks, there was snow everywhere. So anyway, Howard said, it was good enough, do you think we'd make Forteau to go out.

So we were coming along and Howard said 'leave her, 'leave her, jump'. So we all jumped. Two of us jumped and he jumped too. And way goes the komatik, dogs and all, way down over the cliff.

Marie Marshall:

Oh, my dear Lord.

Bridget O'Brien:

Honest to God. Never killed nobody. Never killed the dogs.

Marie Marshall:

Never killed the dogs?

Bridget O'Brien:

But it would have killed us.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, I'd say.

Bridget O'Brien:

Anyway, we jumped. So we went down then and tried to get the komatik turned up and helped Howard bring it up and put it down over an old big bank of snow, right down over a big cliff.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

And dogs were rolling like this.

Marie Marshall:

Gee, you're lucky Bridgy, you got ten lives like a cat is it? Nine lives.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yes, sir.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. And you said you never had nar story to tell me.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about coming up over the Battery Hill and going over the guard rail.

Marie Marshall:

There that's another one.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh, yeah. That. I was driving then, but now the time...we left Mr. Wyatt's motor boat, he sold it to Hayward Normore and there was Hayward, John Ryland, Manual Barney, Ruby...not Ruby, Olive it was and ah...I believe it was Dora O'Dell, Mary Lowe or someone like that.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

And we were coming down from Blanc Sablon and the first thing was a bit rough, when

the wind was southwest and the boat went ashore on the beach over there around where Lawrence Bolger lives over around that way. The boat went ashore in the beach. So anyway, we got the boat off and we left. When we got down to Forteau, we asked him to put us off there and they wouldn't do it.

So they put somebody off there and then they come on with us, so I was standing up through the hatch. There was a cabin on the boat right, so the rest, Olive and I think it was Mary Lowe.....

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

...was down in the forecastle, they were sick. So I had... I was up watching for the shoals because it was foggy and they came right down along by Crow Head and I thought they were going ashore. I said, 'Dear God when we gets out to the Raleigh....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

...it's going to be pretty bad.' So we got of the Raleigh, off there.....off Point Amour, mountains of sea, southwest. So they stopped and they said 'we'll take a bearing'. So one hour from this we should be in L'Anse au Loup.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

One hour from that we were still off the lighthouse. That's honest to God.

Marie Marshall:

It was so rough.

Bridget O'Brien:

She was going around and around and didn't know where they were going. It was foggy too see.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. You weren't going anywhere.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, when we got down to L'Anse au Loup, Uncle Will Normore, that's Hayward's father, John Charles, Manuel's father and then all hands down on the wharf, everybody was terrified thought we were gone and dad said 'Bridgy for God's sake go on home' he said, 'I'll give you a boot in the arse if you don't'. He said 'your mother is over

there,' he said, 'and she's going off her head'. I went over and mom was sittin' up...(laughs)

Marie Marshall:

(laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

.....mom was sittin' down by the stove cryin' and everything.

Marie Marshall:

Didn't know you were handy did she?

Imagine.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

All kinds of old stories.

Dr. Power:

What about coming ashore in a mail bag?

Bridget O'Brien:

Listen to Dr. Power.

Marie Marshall:

She's giving it to you to tell. (laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

(laughs)

Marie Marshall:

I'm glad Dr. Power is here.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's not worth telling.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, come on.

Dr. Power:

Yes, it is.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's why I'm so rough, I 'spose, I came ashore in the mailbag.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

You never came ashore from the boat did you. From the the boats that use to go up through here.

Bridget O'Brien:

We went up on the Sargona.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

And that was in 1930, '32, '33 something like that. I was a baby, I was small.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

And when he got up to Blanc Sablon, it was rough, so they didn't know how they were going to take me, so they put me in a mailbag. They put me down over, mom was saying 'don't lose her overboard'.

Dr. Power:

She came ashore in a mailbag.

Marie Marshall:

How old were you?

Bridget O'Brien:

I was about a year old.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid. You don't remember any of that though.

Bridget O'Brien:

No. No.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

Mom told me that.

Dr. Power:

Tell them about the times when the battery would be slippery, how you'd get up over it

and the time you tried to come down in neutral 'cause they had...somebody had suggested it.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh, Adelard.

Dr. Power:

That was the old battery, not the new one.

Marie Marshall & Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah

Marie Marshall:

That was a son-of-a gun of a place that was.

Bridget O'Brien:

That was first when I got my license. That was pretty good I must say. So Adelard said to me, he said 'if ever you get stuck coming down the battery, don't come down in.....

Marie Marshall:

...in drive.

Bridget O'Brien:

...in drive, or in reverse, come down in neutral. Well, I had Alma Barney aboard with me and we was down here to a card game, a bingo game or whatever.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And we left to go up the battery and I didn't make the first one...

Dr. Power:

There was so many turns in it.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I backed down and...

Marie Marshall:

Bad ride.

Bridget O'Brien:

By the God, I use to put my hand on the back of the seat, take a look back. She was going like this...like this right and I was in neutral, so you could touch the brakes but ah....it was pretty bad.

So anyhow I was frightened to death. Any minute, I was expecting to go out in the woods any minute. But anyway, I got down on the level and I'd try it again. I tried five times before I got up.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

But I got up.

Dr. Power:

So was that the time you had to go over the guard rail?

Bridget O'Brien:

No that was another time.

Dr. Power:

Tell us about that time.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's another time, I was down here at bingo. It was Aunt Therese Normore and Hazel.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

I was driving home. I went up the first hill but the guardrail was down. The guardrail was on the outside of it too, hey, and it was right across the road.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

I went right over the guard rail. (laughs)

Dr. Power:

Couldn't stop, it was too slippery.

Bridget O'Brien:

I couldn't stop because it was slippery and I had her going as fast as I could go. But I knew if I wasn't going in the bank, I had to keep in but I went right over the guard rail. After I past the guardrail, I couldn't make it. So anyway, Hazel and Therese got out and turned me around, pushed me around and I was terrified then because ah.....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

...but anyway I went down again, and I come up. Down again, up again anyway after a while I got up.

Dr. Power:

Over the guard rail each time. (laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

Over the guard rail each time.

Marie Marshall:

Who went over the battery?

Bridget O'Brien:

Hmm?

Marie Marshall:

Who went over the battery in truck?

Bridget O'Brien:

Someone did.

Marie Marshall:

Was that Pat? Your Pat?

Bridget O'Brien:

Could be.

Marie Marshall:

I thought it was.

Bridget O'Brien:

Someone did though.

Marie Marshall:

Someone went over the battery, I don't know who it was. 'Cause I heard them talking about it hey. That was a bad road my dear. I know for myself, we use to go up there time after time almost get to the top.

Bridget O'Brien:

Will I came down there another time I was down there another time. There was snow this time, so I called the highways and anyway, Frank Normore came down after me trying five or six times, I got up without the help of him though. But no bragging because.....

Dr. Power:

The truck had gone off then.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

The highways truck went off .

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

That day.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

Didn't they?

Bridget O'Brien:

Adelard.

Marie Marshall:

Adelard was driving her, hey.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh, yeah. We were in there. Ruby was in there with Lionel Pike lived.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr. Wyatt was there for a week and he wanted to go home. I said "Mr. Wyatt, boy, don't think about going home today", I said, 'it's just like the glass'. The roads weren't like today.

Marie Marshall:

No. That's for sure.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I said "Adelard, went off the road up to Capstan Island with the loader, so", I said, 'how slippery do you think it is'.

'I don't care, I'm going home'. I said 'well if you wants to go home, I'll try'.

So I had four studs on and I went in and put my chains on over that. So when I got up to L'Anse au Loup, Hedley Normore came in and said 'where did you come from'. I said, 'L'Anse au Loup...West St. Modeste', he said 'go away with ya'. I said 'yes we did'. He said 'well boy, nothing can stay on the road around here'. 'Well', I said, 'boy, Mr. Wyatt wanted to come and I said I wasn't going and then I said I'd go'. And I got up.

'Well he said, I wants to go to Forteau now' he said, 'and I'm too frightened now to go'. I said 'come on then get aboard, I'll take you there.'"

Marie Marshall:

Did ya?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

I went on up to Forteau, I had chains on.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Well you had good tires too hey.

Bridget O'Brien:

You could go anywhere with chains on.

Marie Marshall:

But how many times did you break them off though Bridgy? I know we did. Going up to the ...the old chain would break....

Bridget O'Brien:

Yes. Bang, bang, bang.

Marie Marshall:

...put it on again..what.

Bridget O'Brien:

And I use to put chains on the hill.....on the car. Mr. Wyatt would sit in and hold on, only his foot on the brake going up a hill...Forteau hill, L'Anse au Clair hill. And I think I use to put the chains on, half way up. No trouble to see the skin and blood flying off my hands.

Marie Marshall:

No, I don't say.

Dr. Power:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

God, I had more blood flying off my hands. Make no wonder they are big and broken up and everything.

Dr. Power & Marie Marshall:

(laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

Everything. Everything. Everything a man could do, and working, or trying I

Marie Marshall:

Yeah, you did.

Bridget O'Brien:

And I got there too.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

Up to and loading a dump truck. Tell her that one.

Bridget O'Brien:

Now today I can't left a turnip.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about diving a dump truck.

Bridget O'Brien:

Look....she's going to have her tape all used up.

Marie Marshall:

No odds maid, I don't care.

Dr. Power:

Sixteen, were you?

Bridget O'Brien:

I was sixteen, yeah, and Hedley Normore....can you remember ...no you wasn't born then...Hedley Normore had a big blue dump truck.

Marie Marshall

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

No, I don't think she.....and we had our freight come in from Charlottetown for the

lighthouse and they landed it over to Forteau. So anyway, Mr. Wyatt sent Harold and Steward...Harold Barney and Steward Ryland and myself up with the truck.

So Steward was in the shed, Harold was up in the truck and I was down passing up potatoes....75 lb bags. Didn't mind it a bit.

Dr. Power:

She loaded the full dump truck.

Bridget O'Brien:

Bessy Flynn come down after me a couple of times, Your mother said don't be so crazy, you're going to kill yourself and all this. I said, 'go on Bessy, I'm not moving, right.'

So I gets this done. But when I went up I was as red as the blood.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

And sweating as anything.

Marie Marshall:

Too heavy work, see.

Bridget O'Brien:

And now I can't do it.

Marie Marshall:

That's your problem now.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh, yeah. Broke up.

Marie Marshall:

Broke up, hey.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's what's wrong with my knees. Anyway, that's it.

Dr. Power:

And then that great big chesterfield you use to lift outdoors in Point Amour.

Bridget O'Brien:

I was so strong. Yes, that big chesterfield....daybed we had there, a davenport it was. We bought it from Alice Davis, and my God my darling, you'd want to be a giant to lift it because it was the size of this one.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

It was the weight of this one. You can't....I can't lift that.

Marie Marshall:

You lift it yourself.

Bridget O'Brien:

Well Mr. Wyatt would get 'old to one end and I get 'old to the other and put it outdoors
And bring it in.

Dr. Power:

If she was dyin' and she wouldn't give in to something.

Bridget O'Brien:

I wouldn't give in though.

Dr. Power:

If anybody could do it, she could do it.

Bridget O'Brien:

I wouldn't say no I can't lift it, it's too heavy, no I'd never say.

Marie Marshall:

Bridgy, what did Mr. Wyatt have the people employed for, what were they doing?

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh, well, they had to light the light, start the fog alarm and look after the fire and look
after the light.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

And now it was electricity.

Dr. Power:

Then you had to flag the ships didn't you.

Bridget O'Brien:

You had to stay up all night.

Dr. Power:

Warn the ships with flags.

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr. Wyatt use to talk to the ships with the flags.

Marie Marshall:

....with flags, yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

I didn't know that but it use to help them get the flags and stuff.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And Mike Butler was up there too.

Dr. Power:

You did Morris Code over there.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah, you did the Morris Code with the flags, see.

Marie Marshall:

Did you have the Morris Code?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

You had that too?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah. I was there one night and we saw eight submarines, just before the war ended.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, b'y.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's when all the ships went ashore, see. One went ashore on grassy point, and one went ashore at Point Amour...

Marie Marshall:

I remember when the Raleigh went ashore.

Bridget O'Brien:
Hey? No. No.

Marie Marshall:

Was the Raleigh the one with all the lumber? No the one with all the lumber.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah. Empire Cado and all them right.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

I was up to Point Amour then.

Dr. Power:

Do you think the submarines had something to do with the ships going shore?

Bridget O'Brien:

Well that's what they think they did, because there was some sunk out in the Straits too. Eight submarines came up just before dark.

Dr. Power:

They had to report it.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Now what do you think they were doing there, hey?

Bridget O'Brien:

Spying around.

Marie Marshall:

That's what it was, yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

That's what they were doing, yeah. German subs see.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

Hmmm.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about getting you inoculations when you were a youngster?

Bridget O'Brien:

Look. (laughs) Everything I told her.

Marie Marshall:

(laughs) Yeah. Okay come with that one, now.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh my God. I wouldn't very old then, I say I was about eight or nine years old and Doctor OsmondOsmar...., I don't know what her name was, she was up to Forteau. She was a German doctor, but we called her a German spy, you know.

Marie Marshall:

Probably was.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah. Because ah... Clifford is seventy two now, right?

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

And Aunt Ruby was married to Hazel's father, Ned Lavallee.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

In Middle Bay. And she was going to have a baby. So she knew them and she had the landline and Aunt Ruby....Aunt Mary in Blanc Sablon had the landline and dad had it in L'Anse au Loup.

So anyway, she went up to born the baby, Jack Buckle from Forteau, took her up in boat. In May it was. And ah...so Aunt Ruby was talking to Aunt Mary on the landline, she said 'the doctor is coming there now'. 'So', she said, 'I guess', she said, 'I'm going to have to go to bed'. So anyway the Doctor came in and first thing she done, she asked Nellie, Ned's Sisterno, she didn't... she gave her some chloroform they called it at that time.,the mask or something? And ah...that's what she use to do with everybody...smother 'em anyway.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah?

Bridget O'Brien:

So she was in there a good while, so Nellie opened the door and ah... Aunt Ruby asked for some water, you're not getting' any or something like that. Told Nellie to get out, anyway. But anyway, by the time they got in Aunt Ruby died, baby and all. The baby wasn't even born.

So I hated her, just as well tell the truth.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

I hated her. So that was the same age as Clifford. Seventy two years ago.

Marie Marshall:

Yes maid.

Dr. Power:

She loved her Aunt Ruby.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yes, I loved Aunt Ruby, she was a sweetheart. So anyway, she come around then to inoculateing all the youngsters from school, right. So now mom said, 'now, you got to come in and get cleaned up the doctor is coming.' I said, 'the doctor is not going to touch me'. I wouldn't very old.

Dr. Power:

What about the other fellow with thethat she had visited, had that happened before this? Somebody was upstairs and...

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh Bobby Davis' brother, Hollis Davis. That was after that.

Dr. Power:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

That was Aunt Maime Davis' good friend, Aunt Ruby, right. Aunt Ruby O'Brien, there.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And Maime Davis, she was Point Amour too, but she was in L'Anse Amour so her and Aunt Ruby were good friends.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So Bobby Davis', you know Bobby?

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And then Hollis was his brother. And he had meningitis. So she went...they sent for her to come down and see what was wrong with Hollis. The first thing she done was went upstairs and smothered him. So Aunt Maime got the news, that's his mother, she knew he was up there too long, so she went up over the stairs. She wasn't up over before she was down over the stairs, he was gone.

Marie Marshall:

My dear Lord.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

When she went up over the stairs, she what?

Bridget O'Brien:

Bobby was gone then, just about. Just about gone then...not Bobby, ah...Hollis.

So after that was Aunt Liz Fowler up Capstan Island, another one. She done.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

After that, Tom Pike...Tom Pike at the time, not this Tom now.

Marie Marshall:

No. No.

Bridget O'Brien:

Another Tom.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Tom Pike had a sore finger blood poison finger she done the same thing with him.

Grandpa could have killed her. My grandfather, he could have killed her.

Dr. Power:

She arrived to give Bridgy an injection. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

Yeah, what happened?(laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

I said, 'no'. (laughs) So anyway, I ran away.

Marie Marshall:

Did ya?

Bridget O'Brien:

So I came back and Iyou remember up home, that door was on the end of the porch.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And our house wasn't partened off that way.

Dr. Power:

That was the first...

Bridget O'Brien:

That was the pantry hey and we had a locker behind the door. So I came in and I sat on the locker and I could look out through the seam of the door and she was there to the house, giving somebody the needle. So Myrtle Barney, God love her, that's Claris Barney and their sister.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And Hazel Barney, she's up to Brador now, they said Bridgy is in there in the pantry. When I heard that I took off again. Out through the door, up over the brook hill, down over the brook hill and I sat down fer....and I was sitting down to take off my boot. When I looked they were right alongside me. Up I jumps, just like I was, out in the brook. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

Go on maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

Tom O'Brien was over cutting hay. Tom O'Brien.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And I went over there and I stayed there until dark.

I come back, I never got no needle.

Dr. Power:

Never chloroformed her.

Marie Marshall:

You never got your needle after.

Bridget O'Brien:

No. I wouldn't take it.

Marie Marshall:

No, maid, I wouldn't blame yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

But after that they really turned against her.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Mom and dad, and grandparents see.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

She come back a few years after that.

Marie Marshall:

What did you say her name was? You said it there on the tape....

Bridget O'Brien:

Dr. Osmar

Marie Marshall:

Osmand Okay

Bridget O'Brien:

Osmond whatever. She was from Forteau. I was a little ticket to tell you the truth.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm. There was a sister up Long Point too, no one didn't like her for the longest time. What was her name, I can remember them talking about her. She was really strict like, hey.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh.

Dr. Power:

That's in the hospital.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. I don't know her name now. I use to hear people talking about her, the same as Bridgy is talking about him, like, they didn't like her hey.

Bridget O'Brien:

There's a good many there.

There was some there that they didn't like.

Marie Marshall:

She was a nurse.

Dr. Power:

That was that nurse that was buried, is it?

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh...oh may be. What was her name?

Marie Marshall:

I forgets her name, now.

Bridget O'Brien:

Anyway. No I didn't like her either.

Marie Marshall:

Whoever she is.

Bridget O'Brien:

I knowed who it was...

Marie Marshall:

Yeah, you knows who I'm talking about but you can't think of her name, hey.

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr. Wyatt was here she....

Marie Marshall:

Heard people talking...

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr. Wyatt was there sick see, she use to drive me wacky.

Dr. Power:

Do you remember when the school was in your house?

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh yes. Yes.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about that.

Bridget O'Brien:

What? The first Catholic School.

Marie Marshall:

There you go.

Bridget O'Brien:

In our house, I see (inaudible)

Marie Marshall:

Imagine.

Bridget O'Brien:

We had, well see our house now, the partition is this way, hey. It was that way before.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

And that side door was a school door.

Bridget O'Brien:

And then the end door, you'd come into the school. So mom taught in L'Anse au Loup before she came down here.

Marie Marshall:

Okay. I thought it was Uncle Ron.

Bridget O'Brien:

No. No.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine. Three of them came right from St. John's out of school.

Bridget O'Brien:

I loved Angela my darling.

Marie Marshall:

Came down here to teach school.

Bridget O'Brien:

I loved Angela.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Ron never ever taught school here.

Marie Marshall:

In L'Anse Diable.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah he taught school.

Bridget O'Brien:

Angela taught school at our place see. Then after that your mother came.

Marie Marshall:

Okay. You talk about things going around.

Dr. Power:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

I saw Angela when she had the pace maker in here.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. I did too.

Bridget O'Brien:

You could see it right. Right out...almost out right.

Marie Marshall:

So how many kids did you have in school then when mom taught.

Bridget O'Brien:

My darling, we had ah....there was Lawrence Bolger...

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Matthew.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Ron, that was three hey.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

And me....four. And Mag Cabot was five, and Jane was six. We had about ten.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

About ten altogether.

Marie Marshall:

So did you have a pot bellied stove too?

Bridget O'Brien:

And then we built a new school and that was like an ice box. No isolation or nothing, just built. The men built it right.

We'd get up in the morning and go in the school, it was just like going outside the door there.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. Really cold.

Bridget O'Brien:

All hands over round the stove freezing like rats. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

Where did mom stay to up in L'Anse au Loup.

Bridget O'Brien:

Aunt Theresa's. Grandpa's

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

I know one day I took the cane, Mike Butler was teaching school.... I took the cane and threw it up over head.

Dr. Power:

Who did that?

Bridget O'Brien:

I did.

Dr. Power:

You.

Bridget O'Brien:

It was a stick about this long, right.

Marie Marshall:

What a cruel thing though then hey maid?

Bridget O'Brien:

(laughs) And I threw it up over head and darned if Matthew Pike didn't tell him about it. I could have killed Matthew.

We got up and got it down.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

But he never touched me.

Marie Marshall:

No.

But he use to hit some youngsters. You can rememberI'm not that old....I suppose I'm old but I can remember....

Bridget O'Brien:

I was frightened to death. But he never touched me.

Marie Marshall:

...hitting on hands with a ruler. Hey?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yes, b'y.

Marie Marshall:

Even a little piece of line or something.

Bridget O'Brien:

Hold out your hand.

Marie Marshall:

Ten on that hand and ten on this hand.

Dr. Power:

Yeah. And leather straps too.

Bridget O'Brien:

I threw it away.

Marie Marshall:

God. I'd throw it away too. I'd burn it now.

Dr. Power:

Bridget didn't agree with that kind of stuff.

Bridget O'Brien:

No. It was too hard, but Matthew told on me I could have killed Matthew.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

Don't have to kill him now. Poor old Matthew is going to be missed.

Bridget O'Brien:

He was good though.

Marie Marshall:

Oh, yes.

Bridget O'Brien:

And poor old Lawrence Bolger was as contrary and crooked as could be.

Marie Marshall:

He taught school too didn't he.

Bridget O'Brien:

Not here.

Marie Marshall:

L'Anse au Loup?

Bridget O'Brien:

Blanc Sablon.

Marie Marshall:

Oh, he never taught in L'Anse au Loup.

Bridget O'Brien:

No.

Dr. Power:

Tell them about the time you lost your ah.....you were out randying on the ski-doo
ah... track and you lost it down the salt water.

Bridget O'Brien & Dr. Power:

Both laughs.

Bridget O'Brien:

No maid.

Marie Marshall:

You might forget but she's not forgetting.

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr Wyatt didn't know half the stuff we did up to Point Amour.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

No.

It was in February we had this snowmobile.....big snowmobile..

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

You seen the big....

Marie Marshall:

Yes, I've seen them.

Bridget O'Brien:

....blue snowmobile.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So he was changing the ski rods on it see.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr. Wyatt was right.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

He was down in the fog alarm, not the fog alarm up there. Down over the hill, the oldest one.

Marie Marshall:

Nope.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, ah... Gibby...Gibby took on Leonie a kid at that time....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

.....on the ski and he got on and he randed down over the hill. The big skis were that big...that long, I 'spose. Eight feet, they were....eight feet long and that wide.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And ah...he went down okay. I took off then now and I fell off the two of us and the old ski went on and on down over the barricade like that. Overboard.

(laughing in the background)

Marie Marshall:

So what did you do then?

Bridget O'Brien:

What did I do then? Well I didn't know what to do then.

(everyone laughs)

I was frightened, frightened, frightened too death.

Marie Marshall:

I 'spose you was.

Bridget O'Brien:

Going to be killed, for sure I was going to be killed. I probably would have if he knew, but he didn't know. He died and he didn't know.

Marie Marshall:

He didn't know.

Bridget O'Brien:

No. He was up the house. Up to the house, over to the new house, right.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

It was in '57, '58 it was. It was in '58 that was. So I went in and got my long rubbers, put some socks in 'em now. It was over that. So anyway...anyway, I met 'em. He said 'where you going with them rubbers on?' I said, "my feet got cold." (everyone laughs)

I said "I was freezing".

Dr. Power:

Nothings so cold as long rubbers. (laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

I come up to put on a pair of rubbers.

Marie Marshall:

I'm not going nowhere. (laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, I started going down behind them. And I was saying to myself, 'Dear God, what am I going to do'. And anyway, bun by I could hear a big whistle and then I'd look around and then I'd hear whistle again and poor old Gibby was down by the fog alarm and when I went up, Gibby jumped overboard. Big thing to do. Big flat shoal.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

....up in front of the fog alarm.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

This much water on it.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Gibby jumped overboard and got the ski and got in and he was going with the broom like this.....

Marie Marshall:

Dear Lord.

Bridget O'Brien:

when we came down over the hill, right. So anyways, he said, 'I jumped overboard' he said, 'as soon as you went up there' he said, 'cause I know' he said, 'if Mr. Wyatt had to find out, you would have been killed.' I said, 'yes, I sure would have too.' So anyway, we got in the fog alarm and we started laughing.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

And Mr. Wyatt got mad.

(Everyone laughs)

But he didn't know what we were laughing at and we wouldn't tell him see. But anyway, we never told him.

Marie Marshall:

He still don't know.

Bridget O'Brien:

Nope.

Marie Marshall:

He don't know now for sure.

Bridget O'Brien:

Well I'd have been killed, for sure. For sure.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah. He was particular over them kind of things was he.

Bridget O'Brien:

Ohhhhh. Yes.

Poor Gibby jumped overboard, God love him. Alice's husband, right.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, I know.

Bridget O'Brien:

And there was another time we was up in the tower, Harold, and Olive...my sister Olive....and me and Olive had on a plaid shirt. An old plaid shirt that belonged to Mr. Wyatt and I had on something... we were up painting around the light.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

And we struck the paint. Tipped over a gallon of paint.

Dr. Power:

What color?

Bridget O'Brien:

I think it was red. A good kind too.

Marie Marshall:

A good color to tip over.

Bridget O'Brien:

A good kind. So I said "Dear good God, now if he comes". Bun by somebody said, 'he's coming'. We heard him coming up the tower. Harold takes up the shirt like this and wacks it right on it like this.....

Marie Marshall;

Put's it over the paint.

Bridget O'Brien:

Here was Olive, just her bra on and no shirt.

(Everybody laughs)

We wiped it up with that, got some kerosene oil and threw over it, next thing you know my shirt was gone too.

(Everybody laughs)

So we had to put our coats on, 'cause Mr Wyatt would have come up and said 'what are ye doing?' nobody with no shirts on, right.

Marie Marshall:

That's true.

(Everybody laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

Well, we was scavelling. There was four of us and the four of us was going all out, well we had it all cleaned up when he came. But he didn't know what it was then, see.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Dr. Power:

What about 'cut off and hammer down'?

Marie Marshall:

What?

Bridget O'Brien:

'Cut off and hammer down'.

(Everybody laughs)

She's something else isn't she.

Marie Marshall:

I'm thankful she's there.

Bridget O'Brien:

How your going to make a story of all this?

Marie Marshall:

Well, maid. It's all stories.

Bridget O'Brien:

(laughs)

Marie Marshall:

I can cut them off and do like.....if you got them all together.

Bridget O'Brien:

Boy, oh boy, oh boy.

Marie Marshall:

Do them separate.

Bridget O'Brien:

This was up in the lighthouse....the old lighthouse.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

Olive and myself was in bed. And we like Ches Thom's. Chesley Thomas was the

lightkeeper in Greenley Island see. So ah.. his wife was dead and he was going out with Evelyn Hancock....Steward Hancock and their sister then....but we liked him too see.

Marie Marshall:

Two of 'ye liked him?

Bridget O'Brien:

Two of us liked him see.

And we were talking about him and he was downstairs listening to us.

Marie Marshall:

Oh...Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

Down in the foot of the stairs right? And he said, 'go to sleep up there, you two,' he said, 'talking off about a poor little fellow sawed off and hammered down'.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

He was only short, was he?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

(Everyone laughs)

'Sawed off and hammered down', well blessed Mother. We got the bed clothes up to our face and we laughed and laughed.

(Everyone laughs)

Olive was ah.....Olive was a devil.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about the skating?

Bridget O'Brien:

Awww?

Dr. Power:

When he took Alice skating and wouldn't let you come.

(Everyone laughs)

Bridget O'Brien:

That's only little short things.

Marie Marshall:

That's good. It's all stories about your life. That's what we want.

Bridget O'Brien:

We were up to Point Amour another evening and ah....a fine evening, cold right....

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So, Olive and Mr. Wyatt decided that they'd go up on the hill. There was a pond up there, on a hill on back of the lighthouse there, to go skating, and I wanted to go. But they wouldn't take me. I said 'I hope you fall in'.

(Everyone laughs)

That's what I said, when they left. 'I hope you fall in the pond'. He got up there and he fell in the pond.

(Everyone laughs)

Olive had to crawl over on her belly..... Olive had to crawl over the pond on her belly with the hockey stick or some kind of a stick....

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Ski pole or something another.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Pass out to 'em to try and get him out of the hole.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

If you were there you would have pushed him on down would 'ya?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Dr. Power:

She felt right guilty....

Bridget O'Brien:

We were hard tickets, though.

Dr. Power:

She felt guilty then for saying it.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Bridget O'Brien:

Another time we went up on the hill, Olive and myself and Clarisie Davis'...Bobby's wife, Star Pond it was. We all got out in the pond, see. Walking out in the pond and Annie....Annie Wyatt, Annie was with us too. So Annie had all her clothes off see and she was out in the pond and when she got out, we wouldn't let her in.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

What a sin.

Bridget O'Brien:

Oh...oh...oh. I think Olive was about the worst though.

Marie Marshall:

Was she?

Bridget O'Brien:

We were comically, like the devil, hey.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And anyway, Olive had Annie's panties and everything in a can with a cover on it see.

(Everyone laughs)

Annie was coming in, 'what's wrong with 'ye?' Two hands down like this. Oh my. And then we told her there was somebody coming. And she was out in the pond, she was like this.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about when the horse chased Annie.

Bridget O'Brien:

My , oh my.

(Everyone laughs)

Good one to tell something too, isn't it?

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Make no wonder for the horse to chase Annie, she used to be dressed up in the Summer time with a white Cossack on, a hood up....

Marie Marshall:

In the summer time?

Bridget O'Brien:

In the summer time. Hood up, down in the crump like, frightened away anyone. And a bag on her back with some wood in it or something, another.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

She'd be always outdoors, like Jack Spearing over there.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And ah....so the Davis' had a horse there. Saucy but when she saw Annie she started to go after her. Reared right up, like this right.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

Annie go eow.....eow..eow..eow...like this right, so Mr. White and Harold Barney

took a piece of two by four, eight feet long and Annie was trying to get into the barn and the barn was there on the back of the....

Marie Marshall:

Hmmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

...the barn was there on a stone wall then, they tore it down after. She use to face them too, they use to have to run too.

Marie Marshall:

Yes b'y.

Bridget O'Brien:

Try to get Annie.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

Imagine.

Bridget O'Brien:

She was fierce looking anyway.

Marie Marshall:

The horse probably would have killed her.

Bridget O'Brien:

She would have.

Marie Marshall:

Aw?

Dr. Power:

Oh, yes, she would have.

Bridget O'Brien:

She would have.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Bridget O'Brien:

Would have trampled her to death.

Marie Marshall:

So who was Annie?

Bridget O'Brien:

Mr. Wyatt's first cousin.

Marie Marshall:

Okay. She was born up to Point Amour?

Bridget O'Brien:

'Cause her father came down to...Willie White.

Marie Marshall:

Okay.

Bridget O'Brien:

He was light keeper in East end of Belle Isle. And then his wife died and then all the others were married and then they came down to the lighthouse. He died up there.

Marie Marshall:

Was she born up here?

Bridget O'Brien:

No. Montreal.

Marie Marshall:

Oh, Montreal.

Dr. Power:

She came down with him didn't she?

Bridget O'Brien:

With her father, yeah.

Marie Marshall:

How old was she when she died? She was old wasn't she.

Bridget O'Brien:

Eighty something.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid. I knowed she was old.

Dr. Power:

Afterwards she went with Alice.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah, she was with Alice for years.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah, she left us 'cause she couldn't...she was always getting fits and crying fits and

Marie Marshall:

Was she?

Bridget O'Brien:

And then she'd leave and come down here. She was going around and then she'd come back again and then she'd get another fit and then she'd go again.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Last time...she had to go to Alice's because I couldn't put up with her no more to tell the truth.

Marie Marshall:

She was to Alice's a long time.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah. She had nowhere else to go then.

Dr. Power:

She reared Alice's children, more or less for Alice.

Marie Marshall:

Yes.

Bridget O'Brien:

I put her out through the window one time up there.

Marie Marshall:

Did ya?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yes, I did.

Dr. Power:

Tell her about it.

Bridget O'Brien:

Well Olive and myself was there to the house, Mr. Wyatt was gone up to Long Point with

the mail. He use to walk up, you know or whatever. So anyhow the windows.....you see how wide the windows are up to Point Amour.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I had my seed on the windows. A whole lot of them, three dozen plants or more.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So she said, she was going to L'Anse au Loup and I said, 'no you're not.' I said, "Mr. Wyatt is gone and you're not going anywhere'. Well she lowed she was going. So I locked one of the porch doors, so the one on the western end I got outside and held on to the knob, so she wouldn't get out. Then she left and then I heard Olive screeching out to me, 'Annie got all your plants on the floor'. So what Mr. Wyatt use to do in the Fall, see he use to put sods about that high about that thick right.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

....outside the window. And the windows were like doors, use to open up.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah, in the middle.

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah. So anyway, when I went out, plants was all on the floor and Annie was up on the window sill going out and I stood up and I gave it to her like this and out I put her. She looked at me and she said "Go Damn you". I said 'go...you wants to go, go'.

So I looked at her...I could have killed her.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid.

Bridget O'Brien:

And I looked on and I seen her stopped talking to somebody and that was Mike Butler coming up to see me then.

So Mike got her to come back, with him you know. But I never apologized to her. Never.

Marie Marshall:

No.

Bridget O'Brien:

I could have killed her.

Marie Marshall:

Yes, maid. Hard ticket.

Dr. Power:

I 'spose you wouldn't want to tell her about Mike and the piece of cheese would 'ya.

Bridget O'Brien:

She'd never know that.

See I was going out with Mike Butler right. You remember...

Marie Marshall:

Mike Butler, yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

He was a teacher. Like I wasn't very old.

Marie Marshall:

I was only about nine or ten, when I started fooling around with him right.

Marie Marshall:

I don't think I can remember him. I thought I heard his name.

Bridget O'Brien:

He came here in 1939.

Marie Marshall:

Oh geez I wasn't born then.

Bridget O'Brien:

He was here for ten years though.

Marie Marshall:

I wasn't born until '45.

Dr. Power:

Yeah, he was here til '49

Marie Marshall:

Oh I thought she said '39.

Bridget O'Brien:

'39.

Marie Marshall:

I still wouldn't know him.

Bridget O'Brien:

So anyway, ah... I was sixteen I was going out with him see.

Marie Marshall:

You little ah...

Bridget O'Brien:

So he asked me one night would I marry him. I was sixteen. I said 'yes'. I remembers we were outdoors standing upon a bank of snow.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

Between our house and Grandpa's house. I went in and I went to bed and I started thinking about it. I said 'yes'. I said 'I can't do that'.

(Everyone laughs)

Anyone, the next night, I told him I couldn't do it. I said, 'no, I can't do that'. And he started to cry. And I said 'no I can't do that'. But I hated him after that.

Marie Marshall:

Why?

Bridget O'Brien:

I just didn't like him.

Dr. Power:

He wouldn't take no for an answer.

Bridget O'Brien:

My love for him just went.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

And if I loved him, I hated him.

Marie Marshall:

Imagine.

Bridget O'Brien:

Honest to God that's true.

And I did like him.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah.

Bridget O'Brien:

But I hated him too.

Marie Marshall:

After that.

Bridget O'Brien:

So I went up to Point Amour...when I was up to Point Amour then. I was up to Point Amour then.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.

Bridget O'Brien:

So when Mr. Hickey was gone, he'd come up see and Annie was there with me of course and I was cleaning awe had a big round cheese, as big as that very round in it. It was moldy and little worms in it. So I use to have to cut it off.

Dr. Power:

Magots....

Bridget O'Brien:

Maggots, but cheese was okay. So he came over and asked for a piece of cheese and I said, 'okay'.

Marie Marshall:

You gave him the maggots did 'ya?

Bridget O'Brien:

I gave him the maggots.

Dr. Power:

Then he knew she was serious.

(Everyone laughs)

Marie Marshall:

You didn't do that Bridgety?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yes, I did.

Marie Marshall:

Gave him maggots?

Bridget O'Brien:

I gave him a big piece of cheese with maggots crawling out it.

(Everyone laughs)

Dr. Power:

What happened then?

Marie Marshall:

You're bad.

Bridget O'Brien:

Then he got mad. He cried and everything.

Marie Marshall:

Did he?

Dr. Power:

And then he believed her. (laughs)

Marie Marshall:

And then he said, she must hate me, is it?

Bridget O'Brien:

So after that he got married.

Marie Marshall:

Who'd he marry.

Bridget O'Brien:

A girl from ah...out the Cape Shore there. Anyway,

Marie Marshall:

Are you finished with all your stories?

Bridget O'Brien:

Yeah.

Marie Marshall:

Thank you very much, you did a lovely job.

Thanks to Doctor Power.

Bridget O'Brien:

You'll never make a story out of that.