

The other story I am working on has been an interesting search. It is the story of the C. C. LLOYD, a fish tug from Port Maitland that burned to the waterline. As a child I recall swimming off what remained of her ribs. I even have a photo of the boys from the Big Brothers' organization in Hamilton swimming from the same spot in the 1930's. Yet another story! Benny Ricker, a grandson of Charlie Crumb called me a couple years ago wondering if I had a picture of the LLOYD. I did and I sent it to him. Charlie Crumb is the fellow who had the LLOYD built. Benny and I have since talked extensively about the Crumb family. You know, who is who, and who married who. He told me about Violet Crumb formerly Violet Ross of Stromness. I mentioned Violet last month in my "Remembering Stromness School" story. She is a fabulous lady with a great memory. When I talk with her on the phone I have to remind myself that even though her voice sounds like that of a thirty-year-old, she is ninety years young.

Recently, Benny told me of a song his grandmother wrote down on a piece of Port Maitland Fish Company stationary. The stationary shows John McKee as manager and E. G. Moyer as Sec-Tres. On the date line it reads "Port Maitland _____ 191_." This means the stationary is dated from between 1910 and 1919. Grandma Crumb formerly Bertha Mitchener wrote her song in pencil and her handwriting was a bit difficult for me to read. I transcribed it as best I could then begin the search to find out if it had ever been published and who wrote it. This led me to Bowling Green University in Ohio, then to a fellow by the name of Lee Murdock in Kaneville Illinois. Lee is a music producer/singer with more than twenty Great Lakes Folk music CD and tapes to his credit. He knew the song well and has recorded it several times. It has had two names, "E. C. Roberts," the one Grandma Crumb used and more often "The Red Iron Ore." It is not known who wrote it but it is widely thought to be a fellow by the name of Billy Clark. If I keep typing, you will soon know as much as I do about it and what will I have to write in my story? Grandma Crumb did not write it! What she did, was put it on a piece of paper and substituted the name of the captain from the song for her husband's. (Captain Charlie Crumb) Lee Murdock phoned me and we had a long and interesting conversation in which he told me it was common place for singers to substitute names of family members into folk songs and you will find many marine folk songs modified to fit the Port, Ship or Crew depending on where the song is being sung.

Don't worry. I will write complete stories about Florence and the C. C. LLOYD!

I hope you enjoyed yourself at the DDHD display last month. For those of you who were not able to come or able to get near the displays, I along with a number of other participants will take another crack at satisfying you on August 17th when I hold my second annual Port Maitland, History Day Display in the old Stromness School.

If you have items, you wish written about or pictures you would be willing to lend, please drop me a note. Let me know how you feel about these articles. William (Bill) Arthur Warnick 180 Rosslyn Ave. South HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5 e-mail wwarnick@interlynx.net Phone 905 549-6086.