

Reel 148 A

- 1 - 9 Talk on Ox Pulling with Mr. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Robert Chase, Fort Williams. These are ox pulling contests.
- 9-15 Talk on how Ox Pulling contests began at Fort Williams. It was to raise money for the Red Cross, told by Mrs. Robert Chase.
- 15-21 Lankin Child Ballad 93, song by Mrs. H. H. Power, Little Harbour; 20 verses. The only time I have found this ballad.
- 21-24 John Sullivan, a murder song with 9 verses, song by Mrs. H. H. Power, Little Harbour.
- 24-27 Canady-i-o, 6 verses, pretty little love song, sung by Mrs. H.H. Power, Little Harbour.
- 27-29 Polly Bam, lover kills girl by mistaking her for a swan of 6 verses sung by Mrs. H. H. Power, Little Harbour.
- 29-end How Mrs. Power learned her songs.



(Bells on oxen heard at beginning) Gee haw, hult  
 "How much did he have on?" "Thirty hundred." "How much more did  
~~add~~ you add?" "Put on four." "Thirty-four hundred." (more weight  
 is added to the load). "Thirty-eight hundred." "How much more?"  
 "Four. What's the weight of your cattle, Les?" "Twenty-four hundred  
 and ninety-five." "Haw - ho. Put on five more. There she is. Whoa."  
 Haul - ho" "How much more will we add?" "Put on five more. Hang me  
 up right where I am." "That makes it fifty hundred." "Whoa, hult,  
 that's good." "What do you think? Will it hold a little more?" "Oh  
 I could go another box I guess." "That's fifty-two; that's good."  
 "Whoa." (This has been a demonstration of a team, or pair, of oxen  
 pulling weights as in the ox pulling contests still popular in the  
 western end of this province. The recording was made on the property  
 of Mr. Robert Chase, Port Williams, and followed an evening of  
 pulling when in spite of a continuous drizzle people had stood in  
 the field to watch until 2AM.)

Question: Mr Chase, how much do you pay for your oxen?

Answer: We pay all the way from 375 to 600 dollars, according to  
 their weight and size, and their looks. Sometimes when they've got  
 good horns we pay a better price than that. The horns are for their  
 looks. Yes, lots of people pay a very high price for their horns, but  
 I never did very much myself, but the Dutchmen do. (men from Lunen-  
 burg County).

Question: They like to have good looking cattle/

Answer: Yes, they like to have good-looking horns.

Question: What is the great benefit in using oxen instead of horses?

Answer: Well the biggest benefit in using oxen instead of horses  
 is when you get through with an ox you can generally sell it and  
 you're not very much money out. Sometimes you get more than you paid  
 for the ox. You generally get as much anyway, and quite often more.  
 The ox always goes for beef when you're through with him, one place  
 or another.

Question: Is it tender beef?

Answer: Very tender beef after it's hung awhile in the cooler.

Question: So it serves a double purpose then?

Answer: Double purpose. Sometimes oxen have been known to weight  
 1300 pounds of beef when they've been dressed. Ten's very common;  
 ten hundred.

Question: And how much would you get for it then?

Answer: Get anywhere from twenty-five to thirty cents a pound.

Question: That would be good money.

Answer. Yes.

Question: Now is there anything else that we've missed?

Answer: No, I think we've covered the thing pretty well, except the  
 small oxen usually come from Lunenburg or Digby county into Kings  
 and Annapolis. They're broken down there, steers, and when they get  
 larger they come up the valley further.

Question: And what do you use them for on the farm?

Answer: Oh to haul hay with and to spray; general farm work.

Question: Do you take them in the woods to haul logs?



Answer: We don't have any woods here. But lots- in Lunenburg County they're used a lot in the woods.

Question: You use them on the farm. You don't just keep them then for the exhibitions. They do a lot of work.

Answer: No no, not all together, but I keep them some for exhibitions.

Question: That's the one big purpose in having them.

Answer: Yes, yes, yeah.

Question: I was asking before- people are so fond of their oxen, and they have so much affection for them, have the oxen any affection for their owners?

Answer: Oh they know their owners, yes, yes. When you call for them they'll come.

Question: Would they come for anybody else?

Answer: No, no.

Question: Like a dog they have their master. I thought there must be some reason why they are so fond of them.

Answer: Well I guess that's it.

Question: Mr. Chase, last summer when I was coming along this road there was a banner across the road and it said Ox Pull and it interested me, and that has made me interested in ox pulling ever since, but when I asked questions about it everybody referred to it as Bob Chase's ox pull. You say the women started it and the firemen are carrying it on. Now where do you come in?

Answer: I'm not in the picture at all; just trying to help them out.

Question: Well it began on your grounds, didn't it?

Answer: Yes, yes.

Question: Well the after the women started it during the war to raise money for the Red Cross - did they make much, by the way?

Answer: Oh yes, they did well. They made as high as between twenty-five and three thousand dollars.

Question: They did! And what did they have at that fair besides the ox pulling?

Answer: They had two bears for a novelty which attracted a great deal of attention.

Question: Where did they get those?

Answer: The bears came from Bear River, Annapolis County.

Question: Yes, a good place for bears to come from. Well, did they have this fair for several years, the women?

Answer: Yes, the women ran it for several years. Then it kinda dropped out and the Port Williams firemen needed funds for carrying on their work so they revived it up, and it's going strong. We don't know how long we can keep it up, but we hope it will continue.

Question: Well it's still called Bob Chase's Ox Pull?

Answer: Robert Chase's. (laughter)

Question: Is it your property?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Ah, that's why then. And I expect you give them a great deal of help too, just as you helped me to get all these recordings.

Answer: Oh we try to do what we can for 'em, quietly.

Question: Yes, quietly; that's it.

Talk with Mr. Robert Chase, Port Williams recorded by Helen  
n Aug. 1955



~~xxxxxxx~~ Mr. Chase calls: Come on in gals.

Mrs. Chase answers: Oh go away, will you.

Question: Mrs. Chase, the Red Cross began ox pulling here, didn't it?

Answer: Well the local branch, Church Street branch of the Red Cross wanted to raise some money to make quilts and we discussed various means and teas always seem so much work and not very much return, so we dreamed up this ox pull, and the first one we had, we made so much money, we had to send it into the central branch of the Red Cross and they sent us back the material to make the quilts. So we had it the next year and we took in quite a few districts. We took in over to White Rock in that direction. White Rock would be about seven or eight miles and Sheffield Mills and Cunard and Greenwich and various districts right near here.

Question: What do you mean you took in these districts?

Answer: Well the ladies of these districts helped us.

Questions: You had refreshments no doubt.

Answer: We had booths. Various sections took on separate booths, and we had hot dogs and sandwiches and tea and various beverages.

Question: What activities did you have?

Answer: There was the ox pull. I think one year they did have some games, but I can't just remember what they were. We had a dance one year in the warehouse; we had a good crowd at that. ~~Just any kind~~

Question: Square dancing? liked

Answer: Oh just any kind of dancing they ~~xxxxx~~ to do. The first year we had a street dance. We shut off part of the street. We had McKenzie's orchestra from Port Williams. Some of it was old time dancing, and some of it was ball room dancing. The last year we took in three thousand dollars, but of course material and things were donated for the Red Cross, so we didn't have as many expenses as they would nowadays putting that on.

Question: How many years did you have it for the Red Cross?

Answer: I forget; was it four? Three or four years. I've forgotten now it seems quite a while ago.

Question: Where did you get the inspiration for having an ox pull?

Answer: I don't just remember. We were sitting here at dinner one day talking about raising some money for making quilts, and Jilly Collins was here from New Ross, and I said, 'How about an ox pull?' and he said he didn't see why they couldn't, and my husband said the same, but he said, 'You'll have to talk to Blake Eaton. He knows more about those things than we do. He's from Cunard. He's one of our local farmers and a good all-round chap. He likes to help out on everything. He's in charge of the teams of the Port Williams ox pull. So Blake talked it over with us and we decided we could put it on, so we did, and we didn't give over too much ground to it because we didn't expect it to be too big an affair, but it turned out to be larger than we had expected. It grew year by year. However after the war was over we didn't need it any more for the Red Cross, so we tried to interest another district in it and couldn't quite. Then Port Williams wanted to earn some money and my husband said ~~xxxxxx~~ for their fire department, so they're carrying on and doing a real good job I think.

Question: Before you had the ox pull here you had seen them in other places I suppose?

Answer: I hadn't, but I knew that the men of New Ross sometimes got together and had drags and pulled their teams against each other.



I don't know that I was aware they'd ever had them in any exhibitions.

Question: Did the New Ross people come here that first year?

Answer: Oh yes. They pulled from - they started in the morning until three o'clock the next morning they pulled before they finished. We were all wandering around like lost souls, in the middle of the night hoping they'd soon finish.

Question: You had no idea it would go on so long?

Answer: Did not, but they're very enthusiastic about it for some reason or other. It was a grand way to raise money, and it's a good way to bring people together, that's certain. Oh yes, we had the army band from Aldershot during the war. They were very kind. They loaned us ~~the~~ army tents one year and sent down soldiers to put them up too. We had a great deal of cooperation, and that's why we made so much money for the Red Cross.

Question: I suppose the teamsters from New Ross would be paid for coming though.

Answer: No, they donated their time. They'd come to that; they'd almost pay to get there.

Question: They enjoyed it.

Answer: They seemed to.

Talk with Mrs. Robert Chase, Port Williams recorded by Helen Creighton, Aug. 1955



Lamkin was as good a mason  
 As ever laid a stone,  
 Built a castle for Lord Douglas  
 And for payment got none.

2

As Lord Douglas and his lady  
 Were a-driving one day,  
 Says Lord Douglas to his lady,  
 "Be aware of Lamkin."

3

"I care not for Lamkin  
 Or any of his men,  
 For my doors they are well bolted  
 And my windows pinned in/  
 It'll be by the false nurse  
 If Lamkin gets in."

4

One day as Lamkin gax  
 Came ~~ginkling~~ ~~at the ring~~ a-clinkling at the ring  
 There were no one there so ready  
 As the false nurse to let him in.

5

"O where is Lord Douglas?"  
 Cried the villain Lamkin,  
 "He is gone to old England  
 Some fine things to buy."

6

"O where is his lady?"  
 Cried the villain Lamkin,  
 "She is upstairs in her chamber,"  
 Says the false nurse to him.

7

"O how can I get at her?"  
 Cries the villain Lamkin,  
 "Kill the young lord in the cradle,"  
 Says the false nurse to him.

8

"A pity, a pity,"  
 Cries the villain Lamkin,  
 "No pity at all,"  
 Cries the false nurse to him.

9

O Lamkin did rock  
 While the false nurse did sing,  
 "I can't keep it quiet  
 With breast milk nor pap,  
 You will have to come downstairs  
 And look after it yourself."

10

"O how can I come downstairs  
 Without a good fire?  
 Or yet with a candle  
 Or the moon to shine bright?"



"You have two bright mantles  
 Just as bright as the sun,  
 Put one of them around you,  
 Bring the other in your hand."

12

Lamkin stood ready waiting  
 To receive her in his arms,

13

"O spare my life Lamkin  
 Till my dear lord comes home,  
 I will give you as much money  
 As you'll carry in a sack."

14

"Of you give me as much money  
 As I carry in a sack  
 That won't keep my bloody sword  
 From your lily white neck."

15

"O spare my life Lamkin  
 For only half an hour,  
 I will give you my daughter Betsy,  
 She's the branch of a flower."

16

"O where is daughter Betsy,  
 Why don't she come down  
 And hold the silver basin  
 To see your blood flow?"

17

"Stay back daughter Betsy  
 And don't you come near,  
 But look out of the window  
 Of your father's near by."

18

"O father, dear father,  
 Lay no blame on me,  
 For the Lamkin and the false nurse  
 Killed your fair lady."

19

They was blood in the kitchen,  
 They was blood in the hall,  
 And the body of the young lord  
 Lie dead against the wall.

20

The birds they did whistle  
 And the mocking birds sing,  
 21. Lamkin is a-hanging  
 On the mountain so high,  
 And the false nurse is a-burning  
 In the valley close by.

Sung by Mrs. H.H. Power, Little Harbour, and recorded by  
 Helen Creighton, Aug. 1955. Mrs. Power says this is a hard song to  
 sing. She learned it from her father's father at Little Harbour



Ireland is my native home  
 And Sullivan is my name,  
 I came from decent parents,  
 On them I lay no blame,  
 They taught me how to serve the Lord  
 And do His hold will,  
 They never dreamt to raise a son  
 That human blood would spill.

2

There being a wealthy widow  
 Lived in this fatal place,  
 And unto her I venged myself  
 Since I first saw her face,  
 She taught me so unconchantly, (sought me so constantly?)  
 She thought to be my bride,  
 But for to take her life away  
 Was my whole heart's desire.

3

Being at the hour at five o'clock  
 The day was nearly gone,  
 The evening sun was getting low,  
 The night was coming on,  
 Away to Jackson's I did go,  
 My steps I slyly took,  
 Till I arrived at Dutchery,  
 A place called Meadow Brook.

4

It's there I did conceal myself  
 Great schemes all for to plan,  
 Was all I wanted was liquor,  
 The like she kept on hand,  
 The devil whispered in my ear,  
 "Why don't you do your will?  
 For John my boy, you're stout and strong,  
 You'll get your liberty."

5

I went there in the dead of night  
 For feared that I'd be seen,  
 A-thinking that suspicions  
 Would fall on Charlie Green,  
 I killed the widow and her lad  
 To 'complish my desire,  
 I gathered up what cash she had  
 And set the house afire.

6

Being early the next morning  
 The news being spread around,  
 All about the widow's tragedy  
 Being burnt down to the ground,  
 The widow and her little lad  
 Was perished in the flame,  
 Whilst little Maggie she did say  
 On me to lay the blame.



It's then I grew uneasy  
 With troubles on my mind,  
 My friends they all advised me  
 To leave my home behind,  
 I took a trip to Carleton,  
 That city of great fame,  
 Was there I was arrested  
 And they brought me back again.

It's here I'm lying in my cell  
 A-waiting for the time,  
 A-waiting for the time to come  
 That I will know my fame,  
 For six long months was past and gone,  
 The jury it relied,  
 A Friday on the twelfth of March  
 You must die on the gallows high.

So fare you well my pretty girl,  
 The pride of all my life,  
 If I'd a lived another year  
 You might had been my wife,  
 If I had died upon my bed  
 What a blessing it would be,  
 To live and die a decent death  
 Not on the gallows tree.

Sung by Mrs. H.H. Power, and Little Harbour, and  
 recorded by Helen Creighton, Aug. 1955 at Weaver Road, Kings Co.



It's of a purty fair maid all in her tender youth,  
It's true she loved a sailor lad, it's true she loved him much,  
But how to get to sea with him the way she did not know,  
She longed to see that pretty place called Canada-i-o.

2

She bargained with the captain all for a purse of gold  
And soon he did command this maid safe down the ship's hold, win  
But when her true love came to her he fell into a rage  
And soon the whole ship's company was willing to embrid.

3

"I'll tie your hands and feet my love and overboard you'll go,  
And you never shall see that pretty place called Canada-i-o."

4

When up it speaks our captain, saying, "No such think can be,  
For if we drown this maiden fair all hanged we shall be,  
"We'll dress her up in sailor's clothes, the colours they be blue,  
And you shall see that pretty place called Canada-i-o."

5

She had not been in Canada not more than half a year  
Before the captain married her, called her his onlie dear,  
She dresses up in silken fine, she cuts a galliant show,  
She is the neatest captain's wife in Canada-i-o.

6

Come all you purty fair maids, a warning take by me,  
For if the mate he proves unkind the captain he'll prove true,  
And you see the favourite I had gained by wearing the true blue.

Sung by Mrs. R.H. Power, Little Harbour, and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1956.



Come all you sportsmen that carries a gun,  
Beware of your shooting by the setting of the sun,  
A melancholy accident that's happened here at late  
And her name was Polly Bawn and her fortune it was great.

2

She went a-walking by the setting of the sun,  
She stepped all under a green bush a shower for to shun,  
Her true love being a-hunting alone in the dark  
And at last he did fire but he didn't miss his mark.

3

He run right up to her to see what he had done,  
He kissed her, he embraced her, he found she was dead,  
With a founting of tears all around her he shed.

4

He run right home with his gun into his hand,  
Saying, "Uncle, dearest uncle, I shot Polly Bawn,  
I shot the dearest creature, the bride of all my life,  
When I thought three times over that she would be my wife."

5

About three weeks after to her uncle she did come,  
Saying, "Uncle, dearest uncle, don't lay the blame on him,  
My apron being about me he took me for a swan,  
And he didn't not know it was his own Polly Bawn."

6

Saying, "Jimmie, Lovellie Jimmie, oh don't you run away,  
But stay into your country till your trial do come off  
And you'll never be condemned by the laws of your own.  
But stay into your country till your trial do come off  
And you'll never be condemned by the laws of your town.

Sung by Mrs. H.N. Power and recorded by Helen Creighton, at Little Harbour, Sept. 1956.



- Question; You said your father taught you the songs, didn't he? And how did he teach you?
- Answer; Pitched in, as I told you. Give me one verse and then learn that then come back and get the next one, then when I'd get three verses, he'd get me to sing the three verses together -- you'd see I'd learn them three right off be heart - then he'd get me another one, see and that's the way I'd get until I'd get the whole song.
- Question; It would take a long time to learn a whole song then?
- Answer; It would take me a long time to learn one/
- Question; And then a long one like Little Natha Grove, has about 27 verses.
- Answer; Yes, that's a long one .
- Question; Would <sup>you</sup> learn that one one verse at a time ?
- Answer; One verse at a time, Just take a verse and learn it.
- Question; Was your father Irish? -- of Irish decent? What was he?
- Answer; Scotch.
- Question; And he lived at Little Harbour?
- Answer; Oh, yes he lived there. Grandfather, he was Scotch, Grandmother she was Dutch. ~~///~~ Mum I don't know what Mother was, she was / French I know, she was a French woman, but I don't know what she was, Dad he was Scotch .

Talk with Mrs. H.H. Power, Little Harbour, recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1956.