

The following transcript of
Samuel Rothschild's interview

on

Memories and Music

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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THEME: A member of the 1925, 26 Stanley Cup Montreal Maroons
 as well as the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York
 Americans.

(Music)

G.P. Welcome back to "Memories & Music" our guest today is Mr. Sam Rothschild and Mr. Rothschild to begin would you give us, provide us with some biographical information about yourself.

S.R. Well I was born and raised in Sudbury and in 1899 I went to public and high schools here. Then in 1917, 18 which is my age I went to McGill where I spent two years there. And while at McGill I played on three amateur hockey league teams and two baseball teams in the summer time. I returned to Sudbury in 1919 and played in the Sudbury Junior Wolves, Senior Wolves and played also played baseball in Sudbury, for Sudbury. In 1923, on June the 21st to be exact in a baseball game up in Espanola I broke my leg on a squeeze play that I had arranged for, I squeezed the man in all right but running to first base why the first baseman dropped over my leg and I went up in the air and as a result had a broken leg. The leg was set and wasn't set quite right and ether was the means of the anaesthetic in those days and really turned my stomach and I didn't want to have it reset again so I was left with a kink in my leg and left that leg about a half an inch shorter than the other and also prevented me from running on my skates which was one of my strong fortes in hockey. I used to run on my toes, my skates, I used to get a quicker start to make a breakaway also to in backchecking and this way with the leg with a kink in it and a little shorter I had to stride. Anyway in 1924, '25 the Montreal Maroons was formed and the fellow, the manager at that time was a chap I had played hockey for, I played baseball and hockey for in my, my days of 1917, '18 in Montreal and the name was Cecil Hart. He was the son of the, the donor of the Hart trophy. Cecil formed the Maroons and he called me from a, from a Montreal and said, "I'd like to meet you at the train and to bring down one man with you that was Gerald Munro who had played in the old Sudbury Wolves and that was up until 1922, '23. In '23, in the fall

of '23, the Sudbury, five fellows went down and turned pro down at Hamilton. So Munro and I went down and we were given a thousand dollars to sign and \$3500 a year, was a two-year contract. So we went down to Montreal, they were building the Forum, the Canadian Arena Company that owns the Forum, was the owner of the Maroon hockey club and the rink wasn't quite finished there was no ice in it, and we were supposed to be taking exercises in there and a week before the season started the a, there was no ice in the, in the rink. So they rushed us to Ottawa and there we were about 20, 25 old pros and young amateurs trying to make the team to get our practise on at the Ottawa arena and we had to practise morning, afternoon and night, whenever the ice was available, in one week to try and get in shape and most of us felt like I did, if we'd had the thousand dollars then we'd have given it back to them.

G.P. Back home.

S.R. And told them to go to hang with their, with their contract.

G.P. Was a thousand dollars bonus comparatively high at that time for signing?

S.R. Well I don't know whether, because I tell from other players. I don't know what it was before in other days. But

G.P. You mentioned a number of players from Sudbury also went down to Hamilton.

S.R. One, one Sudbury team of 1922, '23 was the last year we had good senior hockey up here. But and, and Shorty and Red Green, Alex McKinnon, . . . Clarence and Charlie were two defensemen. All went to Hamilton and left us in Sudbury here and me with my leg that had been broken in June and a few other fellows. Joe Ironstone was one of them - a Goldminer, - left us here and we only played intermediate hockey that year. Didn't go any farther then winning the Northern Ontario so a.

G.P. That's a large number of players to come out of the community isn't it.

S.R. It is, it is.

G.P. At one particular time.

S.R. You see and well McKinnon and the Greens were born here, Boucher wasn't born here and his father was superintendent of the C.P.R. was here at that time. But he, himself, wasn't born here. Charlie had been brought in the year before, for, from Ottawa to play . . . but a, so I was a

year late really getting into hockey. Well the Maroons didn't open up the arena. They were afraid that we wouldn't make a very good showing so the Canadiens played the first game. The Canadiens didn't have any part to do with the arena. They were just, just who were paying rent to play there and they opened up and then we came back and I went. Right for the start, the team was very, very successful right at the gate because it was the first English-speaking team really since 1914, since the first war, when the old Montreal Wanderers was broken up or quit playing and, and so the people were anxious to see a Canadian or an English-speaking team in there. So we really - tickets were at a - and it was a success story right from the first and I can remember going - we stayed, we lived in a rooming house and a, four of us to a room. One basin in there, no toilet facilities or anything and with some of these old timer pros that were, were not adverse to having beer or something at night, which we'd go up and have a practise and we'd come back at night we'd go and of course we had to divvy in whether we drank the beer or not. So we got a couple of cases of Molsons' Frontenac not Molsons' I mean about the Frontenac beer and we had quite a time there, the people took a shine to us and it was a wonderful feeling.

G.P. How old were you when you started with the Maroons?

S.R. I was 24, 25.

G.P. 24 years of age. Of course, as you had indicated earlier Montreal you were familiar with the community.

S.R. Oh yeah.

G.P. Having attended university in the area. What did you study at McGill? What was (unintelligible)?

S.R. I was taking Arts like the ordinary fellow takes Arts. He feels he should go there because his father has enough money to send him.

G.P. Right.

S.R. Nothing in particular, well

G.P. But sports was your interest.

S.R. I was, I was interested in pool and bowling.

G.P. Pool and bowling.

S.R. Up at the McGill Union. In fact the second year I was called in to the office and told by the dean that I wasn't, wouldn't be permitted to take my exams because I had missed too many. .

G.P. Absenteeism.

S.R. Absenteeism. Somebody had forgotten to yell my name out when they called the roll.

G.P. The person you had made arrangements with ahead of time to yell your name out.

S.R. Or else got a little fear.

G.P. Who, who were the people behind the Montreal Maroons? I think you mentioned, was Doctor Hart one of them?

S.R. No, Doctor Hart wasn't one of them.

G.P. No.

S.R. But Montreal, I guess, in those days, was really a financial centre of Canada. There's Beatty from the C.P.R. at that time, president of the C.P.R., there was Jimmy Strachan, there was Strachan's Bread Company. There were Arnold and Cushing, the two stock brokers, there was senator Raymond, Donat Raymond and there was Dawes, Dawes Beer and a few others. These fellows are wonderful to us and in some cases for instance like Dunc Munro was given the program concessions for the Forum program that you've seen there.

G.P. Yes.

S.R. And Dunc Munro was given that and also the paper products on the C.P.R. like Dixie cups

G.P. Right.

S.R. Towels, things like that. He really made a fortune, he had a suite at Mount Royal Hotel and lived like a king.

G.P. Many added benefits.

S.R. Yeah.

G.P. When youngsters grow up today many of them have that longing to become a professional hockey player. Was that the case as far as you're concerned back in the 20's and?

S.R. Oh yes, everybody.

G.P. You had that desire.

S.R. Everybody. I didn't when the, when the five fellows went to Hamilton, I figured that sure I could make it too because I had a pretty good rating with them. Between the Sault,

the Sault had Bill Phillips, and the two Cooks, Bill and Bun Cook and, and a Babe Donnelly and Flat Walsh in goal. So they had it good and we competed on an even level with them and I certainly wasn't any, wasn't any weak sister on the Sudbury team.

G.P. No, no. Could you recount the circumstances surrounding your joining the team? How did it occur?

S.R. Well it just came like a bolt out of the blue to me. Of course, I should say that I was, I left (unintelligible) in 1923 and the 21st of June I broke my leg and it was slow recovering and then I went down, I was asked to go down to London and bring some fellows with me and I went down to London, Ontario. They were getting into a Canadian amateur league, a Canadian American league at that time. So I was there for two weeks and then I was afraid, I went out to practise for baseball and my leg didn't seem strong enough. So as a result I came back home here and we played this intermediate hockey that I've spoken of that's enough to, my leg was strong and I went and I did and I had no regrets, of course.

G.P. No. Who approached you? How did that happen?

S.R. Cecil Hart just phoned me from a, from a Montreal. In those days they had, the different teams had a reserved list of four amateurs. This list was only known to the different teams and they had to respect that list. That was to keep from, amateur from bidding against one, one team against the other or something like that.

G.P. Right.

S.R. And he had me and Dunc Munro and this Gerald Munro on this Sudbury team and he also had Bill Phillips and Dutch Cain was still playing for the Sault and those two were signed the same year as, as we did. Not, not Phillips, Phillips refused to go and he came to the Maroons the second year, the year that we won the Stanley Cup.

G.P. O.K. on that note I think we'll return the program to our music host and come back in a few minutes and talk about hockey on the Montreal Maroons.

(Music)

G.P. Welcome back to "Memories & Music" our guest today is Mr. Sam Rothschild, a member of the Stanley Cup Montreal Maroons in the 1920's. Mr. Rothschild would you mind sharing with us some of your reminiscences about the early Montreal Maroons, I believe for example you were on the team, the first year they were formed.

S.R. That's right. Well the first team was comprised mostly of amateurs. There were two proven pros - Benedict and Broadbent and there were a couple of pros that had been playing quite a while, namely, Louis Berlinketle from the Canadiens and Alf Skinner who was played, was with the Western league out west. They were also on the first team. Some of the amateurs were besides Dutch Cain and Shorty Horne was down there. He was a Sudbury boy and . . . there was . . . Dinny Densmore was an amateur, a junior from Toronto and Dunc Munro who was made captain of the team, and played senior hockey for the old Granites and there was a Lowry, a Frank Lowry from Ottawa and then eventually Frankie Carson came from Ottawa. These were players who were on the first team and this second team if the, the same time we won the championship, if.

G.P. Yes.

S.R. You wish me to, to recall that. We added . . . Nels Stewart who a Toronto boy who had been playing amateur, so called amateur hockey for Cleveland, from Cleveland and Babe Siebert from the O.H.A. These were two big boys about 6 feet and over 190 pounds which in those days was big and then Reg Noble was bought from Toronto. The a, he had been a center man and he was turned into a defenseman. Now that. . . the team that won the Stanley Cup had Benedict in goal. . . Reg Noble and Dunc Munro on the defense and a third defenseman was Toots Holloway. He was from Belleville. The first line, I had been on the first line on the first year but when Siebert came along, why he replaced me on the first line with Nels Stewart at center; Broadbent, right wing; and Seibert on left wing. The second line we had Dinny Densmore, a Toronto boy at center; and Frank Carson who we, they'd just purchased that year, too, on right wing; and I was on left wing. Half way through the season when we were just winning and losing and not going any place Eddie Gerard came to me and he said, "Sam", he said, "we have Phillips on our reserve list" and he says, "I couldn't get him to play last year." He says, he said, "I think I'll make a try to get him this week if you think he can make the team." Well I said, "He certainly could after all they beat us, the other team, in Sudbury and you've got five players from Sudbury are playing for the New York Americans now. Played for Hamilton, playing for the New York Americans and I said, "Bill and Bun Cook who are on the wings. It was Phillips who played center are now playing out at Saskatoon in the Western Hockey League so I don't see any reason why he shouldn't make, be able to make this team." So he went after Phillips and he obtained him, so Phillips came half way through the season. They gave him \$18,000 for 2½ years which is big money in that time. I can remember Phillips coming in and I arranged for an apartment for him. He came with his

wife and his little boy and he came out to practise in the Montreal Maroons in the Forum there which was very hot. It was a heated rink, of course, Phillips had never played in the heated rink in his life and so he was told to step on the scales by Bill O'Brien our trainer and he says, "I'm always weigh the same, it doesn't matter." 160 pounds stripped" and he stepped on the scales and he weighed 160 stripped. We had a two hour practise and Phillips was, he came in and he was pretty leg weary and really perspiring and Bill O'Brien said, "Step on the scale, let's see how much you weigh." He stepped on the scales and he weighed 156 in one practice of two hours. And Bill Phillips couldn't, couldn't believe it. Well the first few games Phillips was trying to make an impression, make a name for himself, he was trying to bodycheck nearly anybody that came at him. He found it a little different in pro hockey than amateur hockey. As a result, he became very discouraged he wasn't even getting any place, he wasn't scoring any goals, he wasn't even getting any assists. He was pretty dispondent. So then one night we're, this night we were playing against the Americans. The Americans as I said had five of the Sudbury players that Phillips had played against and I had played with. So I asked Eddie Gerard to start our line out, the second line of Phillips, Carson, and myself, out against the Sudbury team. I said, "after all Phillips played against these fellows and was a star and should be just as good up here." And we got a lucky break and Phillips went in and scored a goal in less than a minute and then as they do today even as soon as they score a goal, they take off that line so Eddie wanted to take off the line. I said, "No, leave us out again, leave us out for a while." So we went a while and Phillips was all full of vim, and vigor he rushed down and I remember Charlie Lango was coming around the net with a, with a puck and we never used to go in there and check a man in his own end because they could, they could . . . forward pass in their own area but, but if you went in if you didn't get a man well you're off-sided automatically.

G.P. Right.

S.R. They blow the whistle you see. So but this time Phillips rushed in, jeez Lango came around the net, Phillips took the puck and scored in the net. So he scored two goals in less than two minutes and from that time on he was the regular man on our, on our second line. Well we went, it came to the playoffs - Ottawa finished first and we finished second in the National Hockey League.

G.P. That was quite a feat being your second year in the league.

S.R. Yeah, it was quite a, quite a feat. So we went in, we played two games with Ottawa goals to count. The first game was in, in Montreal and before the first game Dunc Munro, the captain

of the team, the defenseman got the flu, so we didn't play in that, in those games, those two games and he didn't play in the four games that we played against Victoria and Nels Stewart was moved back to the defense and Bill Phillips went up, he was centering the first line and (unintelligible) Dinny, Dinny Densmore came back to centering our line, the second line. Well the first game ended in a one, one tie in Montreal. The second game we went to Ottawa, we beat them one nothing. Phillips passed to Babe Seibert for the winning goal and that was it, we won. Well when Victoria came down from the Western Hockey League and that was the last year that they came down, did come down. They disbanded after that.

G.P. The league disbanded.

S.R. The Western league disbanded.

G.P. Yes.

S.R. And they sold, that's why they had more teams, 10 teams. Chicago and Boston and those teams were practically comprised of Western League players.

G.P. I see.

S.R. You see and Stewart from his defense position scored 7 goals. We beat Victoria 2 nothing, 3 nothing and we lost 3 to 2 and then we beat them 4 nothing. 11 goals we scored, he scored 7 of them himself from the defense position. Stewart was one of the best hockey players that hasn't really been given enough credit because he was a quiet unassuming fellow. Wasn't a fellow to talk but he was, could take care of himself in a fight all right and he had a few of them, only a few of them. In those days there were no helmets or anything and there was no sticks, you just dropped your glove and bang. Usually one blow finished the fight. Stewart could take care of himself, but other than that he didn't.

G.P. It's your view that his a very underrated player.

S.R. Well he was very underrated, people thinks he was lazy because he used to skate straight up. He had a big, big, his stick was almost straight on the ice, like that. A fellow that skates like that and controls the puck close to his body, is a harder fellow to check.

G.P. The first year, the Montreal Maroons were, were in the hockey league. How many games would you play?

S.R. 30.

G.P. 30 games and you, you played in all of them.

S.R. I played in all their games for 3 years.

G.P. In all of their games during that period of time.

S.R. Yeah.

G.P. Who were some of the other outstanding players within the N.H.L. during that time? Nels Stewart being with the Maroons. Who'd be some of the other stars on the other teams?

S.R. Well taking Ottawa. Ottawa had a good team, they had Nighbor and Denny and a, and a Hooley Smith was there big line. Those times we only carried 10 players, you know.

G.P. Is that right.

S.R. Yeah. There was 10 players and a goal tender, that's all you were allowed to dress.

G.P. And if the goal tender was injured, there would be a lot of scrambling around to find one, another 9 players to play the position I suspect.

S.R. Well you'd likely get somebody out of the crowd, an amateur or something.

G.P. Talking about Ottawa they would of had a strong hockey tradition with the famous "Silver 7" in an earlier era.

S.R. Oh yes Ottawa.

G.P. (unintelligible)

S.R. Ottawa, Ottawa had a good team. It wasn't because they didn't have a good enough team that they disbanded. It was because they didn't have a big enough rink - the old Ottawa rink wasn't big enough. I think it only held about five thousand people or so.

G.P. On the New York Americans, some of the main players?

S.R. Well the New York Americans had . . . well they had, had Lionel Conacher who was on the defense and Reese had a, the two Greens, McKinnon had Billy Burts, they had a . . . a Eddy Bouchard and a . . . a few others I just can't think of their names just now.

G.P. Nels Stewart, getting back to the Montreal Maroons, won a number of scoring championships didn't he.

S.R. He did yes. Nels Stewart was a fine, fine fellow. He was, he was really an idol of the fans. Boy the girls not girls, I mean the women took to him. You could say beating them off

with a stick, but that's about the size of it. He was a good-looking fellow, he's very clean. Nels Stewart didn't have a hair on his body and the first year that he came down there, they asked me to go and stay with him and St Seaward - kind of keep a check on things.

G.P. Keep an eye

S.R. Boy oh boy. I had a hard time running out, getting out of trouble. But Nels had, he dressed immaculately, plainly. His hair was pushed back and that was before he had all these vasolines and everything. He wore always a white shirt with a, with a color you know brown or blue, like that. He wore a pin-striped suit, dark suit. He wore silk, black silk socks and black shoes always shined to the brightest. Nels Stewart was really a lady's man but he didn't, when it came to a conversation, he was lost.

G.P. Very quiet.

S.R. His education had been practically nil. He left school to play hockey, played hockey in Toronto and then he played hockey in, in Cleveland. But he was as honest as they make 'em. In fact I was supposed enter into business with Nels Stewart until I was sold to, to Pittsburgh.

G.P. All right, I think we'll leave it on that note, and we'll come back and discuss further with you, professional hockey at that time. First we'll, now we'll turn back to our music host.

(Music)

G.P. Welcome back to "Memories & Music", our guest today is Mr. Sam Rothschild and Mr. Rothschild could you continue with your reminiscences about professional hockey in the 20's and the Montreal Maroons in particular.

S.R. Well the second year, of course, when we won the Stanley Cup was the big year and a, all the mail for the players used to be delivered to the Forum and a, and a, a couple of us would take it upon ourselves to send letters and pictures of girls in bathing suits to different fellows that were self-conscious and . . .

G.P. Right.

S.R. Thought they were, you know, just the cat's meow.

G.P. Yes.

S.R. And these fellows would open the mail up in front of us, there a couple of us would be sitting back and they would say, "Look at this here. She wants me to send a photograph."

And we'd meanwhile had taken a name out of a telephone book "Charles Smith."

G.P. Right.

S.R. And an address (unintelligible) send me this here or else send a hockey stick, an autographed hockey stick, I'm going to raffle it off for the church or something and they had these fellows running around boasting about all the girls that they were writing to. Of course, there were some that were writing to them though.

S.R. No, no the prankster we had was, but a, at that year of the, of the Stanley Cup was really the crowning thing and a, and a certainly that is when I began to think of getting out of hockey and getting into a business and trying to capitalize not only on my own popularity but the popularity of some of the fellows I was playing for. Now the first chance that I got was a, when a, when a Montreal businessman came to me and asked me if I knew Howie Morenz. Well I knew Howie fairly well, I knew his wife when she was a little girl. When she was 14 years old, 15 years old I knew her and so if I could get him they wanted to start a hat shop, Howie Morenz's Hat Shop. The idea was for he, this fellow would finance it, and I'd be running the shop and Howie would use his name and he'd be in there to sign autographs or something like that. I approached Howie but he wouldn't go for it. He was selling, certainly off-season is what he was selling, cigars for Simeon's Cigar Company. Well then . . . I got an idea through a fellow, a fellow by the name of Andy Hamilton. He was a past president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association and he was in, in the insurance business and he says why don't you go into that with Stewart, get Stewart to go in. So Stewart and I took a course, Stewart didn't do very much because I was going to quit playing hockey and run this. But his name meant this year was for General Insurance and with the, the number of influential and wealthy businessmen, you know, backers of the Maroon and fans and everything. It was an absolute, sure thing that could make a success of it. Also as an agency of the Sun Life Insurance Company. So I took all these different, different instructions and learning to be an insurance man when all of a sudden I got word that I was sold to, to Pittsburgh which was a new expansion team.

G.P. Pittsburgh Pirates.

S.R. Pittsburgh Pirates.

G.P. What year was that or what season was that?

S.R. That was, that was '27

G.P. Were you sold mid-way?

S.R. Fall of '27, you see the fall before the season started. The season starts and they go practise in September. The season usually starts in October so this was in July and August there around there.

G.P. So you reported to Pittsburgh.

S.R. I reported to Pittsburgh and I played a few games there and I got the flu and went home - back to Montreal. When I was in Montreal I got word from, from New York Americans that they'd bought my contract. New York had bought it because, as I was the first Jewish player in the N.H.L. - the number of Jewish people in New York should be a, should be a big attraction there. So that's where I went and I played about a month and a half. We had two sections of the league at that time until this one night when I went to hit some big guy and, and I threw my whole 125 pounds at him and, and he weighed about 220 and he got the better of the, of the brawl.

G.P. You were very light for an N.H.L. player.

S.R. I was the lightest player I think they ever played. I don't know of anybody that was near that light. A program that I've shown you here.

G.P. Yes.

S.R. Has me listed as in 1928 as 136 pounds. But I know when I stepped on the scales of the Montreal Maroons the first time it was 125 pounds.

G.P. I have an excerpt I'd like to read over the air from one of the newspapers when you were playing for the New York Americans. Quote: "The star-spangled outfit showed big improvement all along the line but no where more noticeably than in the work of our Jewish playmate, Sammy Rothschild. Sammy is going better every time out picking his spots carefully, roughing the boys up when need be, shooting straight for the net and following up his shots when the chances looked good for a rebound." So certainly you were a success and with the New York Americans at that time, a popular player I suspect.

S.R. Yeah the team wasn't a success, success.

G.P. No.

S.R. Well at last (unintelligible) I went back to Montreal to a Maroon doctor and he a, gave me electric vibrations and a, and he was all right. I didn't play any more hockey. I coached teams, I skated, I curled, golfed and fished and hunted and never had an ache or pain. That was in the end of February 1928 and in 1968 the knee gave way, 40 years later.

G.P. So your, your professional hockey career was terminated was it, in the season of 20 . . .

S.R. 1927, '28.

G.P. '28.

S.R. The end of February 1928.

G.P. When you were on the Stanley Cup Champion team what was it like to be a player and to have finally won the Stanley Cup. That was in your second year but could you share the excitement.

S.R. Everybody, everybody wanted to give you a party - put on a party for you. We had, one of these fellows would take us to their own, own special shooting grounds. You know they had big farms. I know we went out there for to shoot part-ridge and they would take us to their homes and another fellow had a maple syrup for getting maple syrup. If we went out to that I'd, I used to have some pictures of that. But everybody was very nice to us. We were just idolized there.

G.P. You were probably ready for a party because you mentioned that the season lasted 30 games before the playoffs and they were 60 minute games. You played how many minutes in, during those games.

S.R. Well I played about the same 25 minutes.

G.P. About 25 minutes, so I won't, today when we talk about

S.R. You see in, in killing penalties, it was the practise that we had one man on your team as a penalty killer. This Dinny Densmore would, would face off and he'd get the puck and he'd hang onto it and take it near the boards. They didn't stop play if the puck was near the boards or anything like that. They keep and keep it and then they used to face off right where the curb practically 5 feet from the boards that's all. So he could keep the puck pretty near the whole two minutes. That was the idea, so they didn't see him, like they do now. They have to forecheck going in after the puck, you try and keep it in the other fellow's end.

G.P. During the 20's strong rivalry among certain teams, two Montreal teams, for example.

S.R. Well it was, it was not as bad as you think it was there was a friendly rivalry. Because like, I in my case, I knew some of these players I knew before; I knew Bill Bill was from the Sault, Sault, Ontario you see and he and his wife was down there and after a game coming out from the game, whoever had wives like in our case Broadbent

and Benedict were the only two that were married, that were staying with us and their wives would be at the games, of course, waiting for you. And we'd go and talk to each other like that but there wasn't really any bitter rivalry. There was a bit of, of . . . I shouldn't say no rivalry, there was rivalry, of course, but no bitter feelings toward them. We were always treated, treated well there.

- G.P. The a, back to the Maroons with one last question. I've noticed in photographs that you always appeared, that you always had a cap on, is there a reason for that?
- S.R. Well, well I wore a cap, in fact there were three of us that wore the cap about the same time. Although I think Aurel Joliat was maybe a year or so ahead of us.
- G.P. Playing for, was it the Canadiens?
- S.R. For the Canadiens, yeah. Joliat had been out in Saskatoon, too. He originally played for Iroquois Falls, he was out in Saskatoon, he came down, he played for a Canadian and he wore a cap because he, he had quite a bit of hair. Now in my case and similar in the case of Harold or Baldy as we used to call him Cotton, playing for Toronto, we wore our caps because we were going bald. I started to lose my hair when I was 19 years old and Baldy I guess lost his maybe before that. So that was why I wore a cap. Goldminer wore a cap.
- G.P. Of course, they wouldn't have face masks, you wouldn't have pads at that time I suspect.
- S.R. Oh yeah we had pads but they weren't
- G.P. Not comparable to
- S.R. As near, near as good as they are now.
- G.P. No.
- S.R. No.
- G.P. Limited equipment.
- S.R. Oh yeah limited. You had your elbow pads and your shoulder pads and usually in the old days they were sewn on to your underwear not like you do today, you see.
- G.P. No. I think we'll, we'll leave it at that and when we return and wrap the program up you could tell us about very briefly and I know you've had an extensive involvement in sports following the Montreal Maroon period but if we could just briefly talk about that.

S.R. Yeah.

G.P. We'll now return our program to our music host.

S.R. O.K.

(Music)

G.P. Welcome back to "Memories & Music" our guest today is Mr. Sam Rothschild, professional, National Hockey League player during the 1920's. A member of the Montreal Maroons and then during his last season, the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Americans. Mr. Rothschild, as a result of an earlier conversation, you mentioned that Red Dutton was a member of, of the 1926, '27 Maroons.

S.R. That's right. Red came to us from Calgary and Red was quite a fellow he was always playing jokes on the rest of the team and it's remarkable how Red Dutton could ever play hockey. From the first war he received terrible wounds and we used to call him, excuse the expression, "A half-ass hockey player" which is true because his right cheek was practically taken off. All he had there was the skin, the muscle, and the bone and you'd wonder how he could skate and still he was not a good hockey player. Red was, was good for the team, not only playing jokes with the fellows but he made them the butt of his jokes and this little fellow Dinny Densmore that we had playing for us. The little fellow never smoked or drank and very, very clean living fellow and Red got quite a joke, quite a kick out of playing jokes on Dinny. For instance when Dinny went to bed at night, I can remember this one trip to Boston and we were up playing poker and the rest of us and Dinny was in bed, Red slipped in there. I was the only one that he took into his confidence and he took his wallet, was under the pillow. Well Dinny, when before we got to Boston in the morning he woke up he had no wallet. He called the conductor and raised hell, they had the train stop at a station 20 miles outside of Boston. The police came running through trying to see if they could find out and right until we got into the hotel. Dinny still didn't have his wallet, he didn't have no idea. Well we went down for breakfast and Dinny went back from breakfast right up to his room, there was the wallet on the dresser. Red did, it was things like that, Red got a great kick out of and he played one on me in fact it didn't quite work. When we go these other places, American cities which usually buy some lingerie, silk stockings, things like that for our wives or girlfriends whomever it might be and to escape the duty coming back, we used to hide them in our bunks and things like that. Well we went, Red and I and three other fellows went into this department store and, and we bought some things. I bought some things, too. All the sales ladies were cute, of course, and so we made mention of "Would you like to go to the hockey game

tonight or hockey, professional hockey players" and they said, "No they didn't think so." They wouldn't go. "Well we had tickets if, if you change your mind just, just let us know." You see, well when we get back to our hotel with whatever purchases we had made, we usually sold them to each other. A lot of the fellows had cigarettes, cartons of cigarettes and things like that. But the ones that had bought clothes or something for their wives or, or sweethearts. So I didn't open mine up at all, and Red kept saying, "What did you buy Sam?" I said, "Oh I'm not going to open it up, it's not too big a parcel I'm going to just put it into bunk." (unintelligible) because we come into Montreal in the morning, the customs would be around very early and they just say, "You got anything, got anything." "No." Well I says when we got, when the custom men were through I says, I opened my parcel and here was a card in it, just a plain card saying, "Dear Mr. Hockey Player, if you care to call me at this number and I can arrange for another girl and we'll, and we'll go to the hockey game." So I let out a roar and said, "There you go, by golly, can you imagine that. The only time I don't open up the parcel, there's a chance to have a date with a girl." And Red laughed to beat the sand and it wasn't until a month later he told me he had, he had written the note himself and put it when the girl was wrapping it, he bought a card to put it in.

G.P. I suppose there are many similar stories that you could share with us.

S.R. Oh there is many.

G.P. As often the case with a good interview we're running out of time and that's unfortunate. I know Mr. Rothschild that you've been involved in numerous sports activities in this area. Certainly we remember of you from the Sudbury 1932 Wolves when they won the Memorial Cup. You were also involved in curling and golf and as I mentioned other areas of sports. So what I think we'll have to do is come back another time and, and interview, interview you on that part of your life. If you don't have any objection to that.

S.R. That's fine.

G.P. O.K. Thank you very much and I