

Albert Morelli – Harvesting Ice on Lake Champlain

The first part of the ice season when he tried to cut, he had to cut a cake, pack it in a box with sawdust and send it to Albany to have it checked by the health department to see if the ice was clear, no bacteria, it was all right to put in people's homes. And once he got the okay on that, then he could start his cutting. And he usually tried to start his cutting before the Christmas and holidays for the simple reason that after Christmas, people threw their Christmas trees out. And he'd go around in the afternoon and pick them up alongside the road and bring them out on the lake and stick them in the snow all around where he cut. So, if anybody went out there ice skating or sail boating with sleds, they wouldn't go near there. Otherwise, that was too thin, somebody go through. He used to stake the lake all out like that when he cut.