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Joe Spencer: When we lived on Scatari, everybody was the same. Go any place and do what you do; they'd come to your place and the same thing. All together. Never no disturbance there. We'd have great fun there in the winter. Skate, play hockey, play cards and shoot guns. Cut our own wood through the winter. Mame Spencer: September and during October we used to have raffles, dances- sell the raffles and kill the sheep and raffle that. (Did you feel locked off from the rest of the world?) No. You know, when I moved up here I had a hard job to get adjusted. See there's so much excitement going on in the world today that it's not fit. And the young people got an awful hard job to grow up and you've got an awful hard job to raise a family. If all the families were back there again, I'd just as soon be back to Scatari as anywhere. Joe: So would I. More fun back there. On the pond skating all day. Heavy breeze of wind. Had a sail on your back • was 6 feet across • go up and down the pond about a mile long. Gale of wind be on that sail and that sail on your back • you'd go some too, wouldn't you? When it would keep blowing you'd go before it, out the harbor road going 60 miles an hour. Boy, you'd drive her. And we had ice boats • make ice boats. Take a piece of plank across this way • with skates and a piece of iron behind for a rudder. Put a spar and sit on her. Be good, but you had to be careful. Mame: And they used to have • I guess you never heard tell • the raucous. Came when the Newfoundland people moved there. Well I think they still have that yet in Newfoundland. Something like Halloween, only different. Joe: During Christmastime you would dress up. Make a mask and dress up. Go from house to house. Good Time. Mame: Only then they'd have my dear lovely rigs down there. Go around and then the last house probably they'd take off their faces, sit down and talk. When they had the mask on, you'd try to pick them out. If you did know you wouldn't exactly bring their names out • you know, you'd make them feel bad, they'd have to go somewhere else. Joe: I did a lot of it. You'd draw your mask to suit yourself. Mame: Probably some put a suit of underwear on. Men probably dress like women. Women's clothes and shoes. I'll tell you the truth, boy, it was fun. 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning before they'd be gone on their way. (Is Mame and Joe Spencer this little children?) Oh' no. Joe: 15, 16. Mame: Oh my dear, some were in their thirties and forties. Joe: We started about a week before Christmas. We wouldn't buy false faces at all. Get cotton and paint it up and make our own faces. (Clem Spencer: Some bad faces, too. Scary faces. Used to take a bird and skin it and turn the feathers inside and skin outside and cut holes and paint it and with the feathers it would be all like pimples all over the face.) Joe: Dress up as ugly as we could. Probably 10 of us, dressed up • and another fellow with a fiddle. Mouth organ. Anything at all. Went to every house on the island. Dance. Wouldn't see very much because they'd know your voice. When you're a mummer you try to talk different than you used to talk. We'd have a great time. They'd have to guess you. Try to get your shape some times • you're twisting. Have to figure out who you'd be. Every Christmas. Come a heavy snowstorm then we wouldn't go- but clear of that. Dancing and singing, lots of booze around. Mame: We just sung Christmas



songs, and some would sing the odd hymn and some would sing little rhymes • not too much. Afraid if you sang too much they'd catch on • they knew them all so well. Mame: They'd do the work in the daytime and at night this would take place. And not very often on Sunday. With bad wea? ther, you'd get 6-7 days out of it. Joe: Went dressed in an overcoat down to Bast Point one tirae • long walk for her. Had my shoes on I guess. She was dressed as a man and I had her clothes on and her shoes • so you know vdiat kind of a shape my feet was into. Mame: Today if you dressed up, come up here, they'd call the raouny, think you're foolish. (Could you walk across the ice to Main- a-Dieu?) Joe: I walked across once. I Cape Breton's Magazine/31