

[Page 31 - With Billy MacGillivray in Boston](#)ISSUE : [Issue 53](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1990/1/1

Billy: When the boom was on, they were flocking away from Nova Scotia and going to Ontario and New York, and coming here. There was an awful lot of building, an awful lot of house work, going on there then. Houses everywhere--a lot of single, two-family houses, along with those three-decker houses. Three-decker work was hard work. You'd have to hand the timbers up hand over hand. There'd be a fellow on the bottom floor pass them to a fellow on the second floor, and he would hand-over-hand them up to the top floor and up to the roof. That was hard work. They were all two-hundred pounders, young fellows that could stand that hand-over-hand with the timbers. A strong fellow meant more than a skilled mechanic, because three-decker work, it is kind of what you call bull work. Carpenter work is not an easy job. You're working in the sun and they're pushing you. They want sweat and blood of you. The American people, they didn't go for those jobs so much. They were too tough for them. And another job, lineworkers, they were all downeasters. A lot of them went into telephone work. That's climbing, and in the sun, and a lot of them got killed. It was fairly dangerous then, and nobody would take it. Then the third job was on the ice trucks. You had to put a hundred-pound pack of ice on your back and probably walk up three floors with it. Nobody would take that. So the three jobs downeasters took up were carpentry, icemen, and line work. Take carpentry work, for instance. When the boom was on here, from 1920 to '29, if you had any knowledge at all, they'd hire you. Some of them were eager to learn and they caught on to the trade. Some of them were very successful. Some of them became builders. A lot of them were very green, you know, coming out of the country and they didn't know a newspaper or a radio. There was one bunch of fellows from my home, they went up to New York and got jobs on line work. electric lights and that. And when they were getting hired on there, they had to have a physical, a doctor's examination. Those company doctors treat you just as if you're cattle. "Come on in here and take this off and go over there." It's not like going to a private doctor. Anyways, in this doctor's place there were about 15 of them standing up there and -the doctor was asking them questions, and he told the first fellow in line, "See that bottle on the shelf there?" he said. "Take that and urinate in it." So the fellow looked back and forth, back and forth. "Did you hear what I said? See that bottle? I want you to urinate in it." And he said to the doctor, "Well, what? From here?" So some of those fellows made out pretty good. That fellow, I don't think he's living now. I think he died suddenly in New

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