OH 1/21 - Interview with Jessie Merle Hall

TAPE 1, SIDE B - Fuel for the paddle-steamer

Yes, I was just looking at the photograph while we had the break. What about the fuel for the engine?

Oh, we took it on at woodpiles – three foot six wood. About that round, and that round sometimes. And there would be woodcutters' camps all along the river and it would be all stacked up in the different lengths. Some boats took five feet lengths and others three feet, three feet six. We would stop and the wood cutters, and perhaps one – there might be one or two or three of them, and our men – would all stand along, and hand it to each other and fill the Sometimes it was even stacked on the deck, Dad would take so much. He had some woodcutters who were so good, that he knew it would be very good wood, and he'd take as much as he could find room for from them.

How frequently would you stop, do you think, for wood?

That would vary a lot.