

Ian Burnham
Interview with Jon Bombard
(Coding in parenthesis)
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EST 400

IAN BURNHAM: So, if you'd like to start by telling me a little bit about yourself, where you were born and raised, your childhood.

Jon Bombard: My name's Jon Bombard, I was born in Saranac Lake, (Native) in 1938, left in 1955 because there was absolutely no work. (Hard times) I went into the air-force, stayed there for about three years, and retired. I enjoyed it. And moved back to Saranac Lake about 1975, (return) got divorced, (More hard times?) got remarried a couple years later and now we come back South in the winter.

IAN BURNHAM: Could you tell me anything about your schooling or educational background?

JON BOMBARD: I went to Saranac Lake high school, and I was kicked out because I was bad. (troubled youth?) I deserved to be. That's when I went into the service, I got my GED, and actually got my diploma my class got theirs. (self-improvement) I spent some time in the Air Force, and since then have had numerous jobs, now I have rustic cabins, I built them. I build cabins. (Entrepreneur) The last few years I was in the service I was an instructor in avionics, for about two years actually. I enjoyed that. It was a challenge. I made a better teacher than I did a student, I'll tell you that.

IAN BURNHAM: So as a long-time Adirondack resident, what are some of the biggest changes that you've seen in your hometown?

JON BOMBARD: Well, I've seen... A couple, one of them: the biggest one is the hotel being opened up. The other one that I've seen is really not good, not good for the economy. There weren't jobs there when I left, but there were tourists, homes. (First mention of tourism) Everybody that had a house had a sign that said "tourists". They would take in tourists. They made a buck on it. It was a little busy. But we've lost the tourism, because of some short-sighted tree huggers. (not a tree hugger.) They like to live up there, but they are from NYC mostly. They kill everything that comes along. (frustration) Tupper lake, they've been 11 years trying to kill the program over there to build the condos. The people are bringing the lawsuits don't even live there anymore. They're not from here, they're too vocal, and it's alright to be vocal, but the local populace is lazy, out to lunch, so they're just as bad. They won't vote, they won't do anything. They just wanna sit and bitch. (frustration with populace) Well I bitch, but I also vote, I participate, I put letters in the paper now, jackin up people who need jackin' up, I hope I'm gettin the right ones. (vocal politically) But complacency is worse than ever there. There's been some positive things to come about, but not many. We didn't have a McDonald's, burger king, we didn't have a pizza hut, nothing. Two one minute lunches. (Fast food, development) We had the TB folks up that were at Trudeau, and they would go downtown, or spend a little money, walk around, sit in the parks. (Tuberculosis patients, Trudeau Institute, local economy) It's just: change. Things do change, I realize that, but it hasn't been for the better. The prisons: they came and bailed us out before we went down the toilet completely up there. Now the prisons are starting to close. (Prison industry: Arrival and

departure) And that's put us back in a bind. People that are in here making comments or writing editorials or guest editorials don't know what it was like, and frankly they don't care so long as its the way they want it now. (Change is a continuous process) You researched the railroad, you know? The only sensible thing is to have the rail trail. We have nothing to draw people to SL, I've always said, have something, even if its a warehouse, be the best warehouse in the state to get people there. Farmer's market draws people. It'll draw them from NYC. And you can't reason, they say "oh they'll come up from NYC on the train, and give everybody business on the way." It'd be 3 o'clock in the morning before they came through all the places, Tupper Lake, and all the way to Placid. Placid has done a remarkable marketing process. If you go to placid, go over there anytime, count the number of people on the streets of SL, the sidewalks, any given area, and go to Placid: You won't be able to count them.

IAN BURNHAM: You're absolutely right. It's night and day.

JON BOMBARD: We've lost the tourists. We've lost.

IAN BURNHAM: What changes specifically, would you say need to take place in SL to kind of restore the balance, economically?

JON BOMBARD: The first thing we've got to do: somebody said up there years ago. SL needs to decide what it wants to be when it grows up. (look to the future) That is a very wise statement. Do we want industry? Everything points downwards that you can think of, except tourism. (Back to tourism) Tourism we've got a lot to offer. But you've gotta get people there. People like to hike. I have half a dozen cabins, and we rent, they're rustic, they've got showers outside, they're all private from one another, and we draw quite a few people from that. We've been overloaded. They all want to know "where can I go hiking?" And this rail trail, I'm not a huge advocate of it, I'm not on their board or anything. But people who like to hike, are fanatical. They'll climb a mountain and jump off the other side if they think theres a hiking trail down there. And that will draw people. (People want to come here, we just need to provide services for tourists)

IAN BURNHAM: Absolutely. The Adirondacks sell themselves.

JON BOMBARD: We've been three months in the south. We're actually in Mississippi, down on the gulf coast near Biloxi. We live in a little community, that's got about thirty thousand now. Its grown. I was familiar with it when I lived down here in the sixties. And they've really done things. The whole coast there's always something going on. There's always a bbq and a send off, bbq contest, and the cars, antique car shows. You name it, it goes on and on and on. (comparison w/ development in Southern community) We had a few things. We had people who wanted to come and race cars on Lake Colby. Well, the people up there, all the tree huggers and millionaires, they put the kibosh on that. Its there own private lake as far they're concerned. They even managed to get a law passed by the state, and with the help of our local representatives or state representatives, senator and assemblymen, to make it illegal to run a boat bigger than 10 HP on their lake. They just got it sewed up, right up from Lake Colby. There was a lot of cry-outs from what used to be Club 86. huge lot. Walmart was gonna buy it. There's a millionaire up there, that paid over nine hundred thousand dollars to buy that lot, so Walmart couldn't get there. And they didn't get there. We need a Walmart up there. Down here, Walmart, this is

an artsy fartsy community I live in, and the old communities here consulted the new, and everybody's happy. These tree huggers up there, they want their own. Tupper Lake was getting a prison. It was right over the hill from one of the multi-billionaires, and he didn't want it. Guess what? It's getting stopped right in its tracks, and they said there's an aquifer under there, which was, there was no aquifer, they proved that. Within a week, there let contracts to Malone... to build a new prison. Are you aware, I'm a little bit of a tree hugger, but I don't want to freeze to death in the dark! Are you aware how big the Adirondack Park is?

IAN BURNHAM: Yup, 6 million acres.

JON BOMBARD: Are you aware that there's not one dump in the entire Adirondack Park?

IAN BURNHAM: I know there's a transfer station in Lake Clear...

JON BOMBARD: That's all over the Adirondack Park, there's transfer stations. I don't want a dump in my backyard. I'm just showing you how powerful the people are.

IAN BURNHAM: Right.

JON BOMBARD: Every dump in the Adirondacks is outside the Adirondacks. Every garbage collection, it has to be trucked fifty miles to be dumped. It has to go to Malone.

It's just, the cell phone service has been terrible there, somebody finally died and had a little bit of money down on the northway, and they got it improved somewhat. Guy of importance.

But we've got to get tourists back. Now Clyde Rabideau, a lot of people don't like. I don't know the man really I well, but I do know that he is on the right track. Even he got this thing going for mountains, the six peaks or something, are you familiar with that? (Mayor, moving in the right direction)

IAN BURNHAM: Yeah, the SL "sixers" I think they call it.

JON BOMBARD: Well, he had a picture of himself hanging off of a lightpost, hanging, shaking and waving his hand to show enthusiasm. I read with a woman, over in Black Brook, and I had to go over there for something, and I asked the woman, and she says, "You got Clyde Rabideau up there, don't you?" He was from Plattsburgh, he got in a little scrape down there. I think he hit his kid. Well, some of these kids need to be hit with a baseball bat. Anyways, he got in trouble, he left there, came down to SL, and he's our mayor! And the woman said, "I can't stand him." And I said, "Ah, don't tell me that, he's our mayor." And she said, "Oh don't misunderstand me. I can't STAND him, but he'll do wonderful things for your community. So, you know you vote for the guy that's gonna fix it up, not the guy that combs his hair the way you like it. He is in the process of doing more for anything up there than I can ever remember. (Likable guy vs effective mayor) We had a Hannaford's, it's in Lake Placid, we wanted it to come to SL, the Hannaford's went into the village office and met the community director and the mayor and they said, "you know, we'd like to build it, you don't have a decent grocery store, supermarket here." And that frickin' mayor, ex-mayor now, and the guy, community director, whatever he was, said "well, there's no use in trying here, we're in the process right now of passing a bill that limits all construction of forty thousand square feet." Friggin' lie! It even came out in the paper, if you

read it, it's in the paper. There was nothing going on, yet he managed to discourage them, send em the forms, which took the tax base out of SL and put it in Placid, same with the walmart, the taxes would have been, the town of Harrietstown, and the sales tax portion of it would go to Franklin County. It's just pathetic. School board votes: Hardly anybody votes and you'd have to check it, the school encompasses a terrific amount. Its one of the largest districts in the state. But you end up with maybe 7-800 people voting and everybody complains. Taxes go higher and higher and higher. The guy on the street hasn't got a prayer. Tourism is the only way, tourism, and you wake up people to vote and vote sensibly, but you'd have to do that to the whole country, because nobody in the whole country votes.

IAN BURNHAM: Yeah, that's a problem everywhere.

JON BOMBARD: Yeah, the whole country needs to be waken.

IAN BURNHAM: So I'm getting a sense that you feel that the environmentalists and the preservation efforts in the park really stand in the way of development.

JON BOMBARD: Eleven years they've been goin on it over here, in Tupper, not over here I don't live in Tupper, my wife was born there. They've been, they've thrown road blocks under these guys for eleven years. I don't know. I see hope as long as Clyde Rabideau's in office, he just got re-elected. But I don't know if he will be again after this. He does understand what's going on. Ironically, some of the same people, that are tree huggers that get so many things blocked are in favor of the rail trail. Now even a tree hugger can be right sometimes. (Laughter) The way I look at it, they are right in that. Running the train: there's nobody on it, you can't make ends meet, the state has to subsidize it, it goes on and on and on, but they're a bunch of kooks that are eat up with the trains, they're playing with it, and they love it. So the rest of us have to pay. Because unfortunately, they've got money, and you know what money buys. And if you've got the health, these guys have got both, they don't die off quick enough. (Downsides for the train?)

It's tourism. On Pisgah, if you've seen Mt Pisgah, what a beautiful place to hold a concert, I mean, country music or whatever you want to have on that mountain. (Potential, need for fresh ideas.)

IAN BURNHAM: Yeah, there's an idea.

JON BOMBARD: What a waste it is. They don't hold any, anything in process. You know, people have got a lot of ideas. You don't have to be original. I see somebody else that does something that's a good thing, and I say "why don't we do that?" I'm not a genius myself, but that's what we've gotta do. And life is trying. (We need ideas) Now they ran that race off Lake Colby and it went to Tupper. And they continue to go Tupper, they have a ball going to Tupper, it brings in a lot of money. We have a fishing derby on Lake Colby, fifty, sixty people tops. Tupper lake has one, and they have to turn people away. They get, I'm sure its way over a thousand they get there every year, and every year it brings a lot of money into the community. You need outside money in the community. You need outside money. You can't just keep spending the same. And local dealers, they don't cater to the people, they do what they want, and businesses do what they want. I can give you an example, a perfect example. I had a guitar, and I know the guy who owns the music store. And he told me it was worthless, but it's a good guitar, its in perfect shape. I don't play the guitar, I just buy a lot of stuff at guitar sales. And I asked him, "what would you put on that in your store? You take consignments." And he said "Oh, I wouldn't put

that in my store, it's too low quality." Well it was scratchless, but it was low quality. And I thought, "well you frickin' a-hole." SL is a poor community. Do you want to go buy your son or daughter a guitar they may strum on thirty times and then throw away? Or do you want to buy a cheap one they can learn with? You don't want to pay eighteen hundred dollars for a guitar, he's driving business away.

IAN BURNHAM: It sounds like he has a market for the low end guitars as well.

JON BOMBARD: Make a market for the lower end people. And SL is full of lower end people. You know, it's sad, but it is, there's light, for the first time in my life, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but I don't know whether we'll get there.

IAN BURNHAM: Well, looking to the future, I have a hypothetical question for you: what the biggest change you would make to the park if you were the ADK park commissioner would be? It sounds like you have a few ideas...

JON BOMBARD: Well, one of my... I do. I would get rid of the ADK Park agency. They and the DEC are similar in what they do. The park agency is so unpopular that they do not have a logo on their cars. (APA, unpopular, similar function to DEC) Did you know that? Drive out there and go to their parking lots, there is no logo on their cars, because they're frightened of us. But they, I know a guy who wanted to buy some property and develop it, and it was twenty acres maybe, I don't know. Anyhow, the guy came along and he says "yup, you put your septic here, your well here, and bring your electric in over there." The guy says "fine I can do that." and he started clearing. Another guy from the APA shows up, says "put your septic here, your well here." And he says "wait, that isn't where I was told, I was told put it here and there, you're telling me backwards." "well, what I say counts." Would you believe he went through that five times? The end of the fifth time he said "screw this, I haven't got time for this." That was on _____ road, SL. I don't speak things I don't know. If I'm questionable on it, I'll tell you "this is my opinion." there's a difference between opinion and facts, as you know. Everybody's got an opinion. North Country Community College, obviously it helps. Any outside money you get helps. My opinion on it: there's a lot of things that's bad in NY, and down here in the south, they still, I'm in Biloxi Mississippi down on the coast, it's so ultra-modern you wouldn't believe it. But they still have patriotism, people still fly flags, they're still proud to be Americans... They have manners, my wife says they have manners. Well here, a local business owner told me once, his father died, and he took over the business. I asked him, I said "how do you like running that?" He said "You know, it's not too bad. Somebody comes in and they say something I don't like, I tell 'em to get the F out." And he's out of business now. Nobody seems to understand, you can't tell 'em, you gotta smile and bite the bullet. And pride to go by the philosophy that the customer's always right, which is sometimes pretty hard, but still people remember, if people have a bad experience, they tell half the town. Lot harder to repair people's bad words about you than it is other things. (Reputation) For a long time you couldn't buy underwear in SL. That was one of the key things that people who wanted Walmart used as an example. Let's face it. It'll go too in time, I watched Kmart come, I've watched all of 'em, I'm gonna be 76 this summer, and I've watched em all come, and I've watched 'em go. They're gonna go too. (Changes over time) Walmart's not our friend. They're the biggest bunch of SOB's that ever walked. They're not our friend at all, but they do deliver prices. They deliver em. Trudeau Institute wanted to move out of SL, they were outsiders that were running it, they came from California or someplace, and they wanted to close it and move to NYC. I guess in their charter someplace they couldn't do it. Because his father, Dr. Trudeau,

you may or not know, but Gary Trudeau of Doonesbury... Dr. Trudeau the one that just died ten years ago, his father is on the board up there at Trudeau Institute, he had a lot to do with saving it. They're want to do what they want to do. The hospital, it isn't our hospital anymore. My wife's a registered nurse, she's worked there thirty years. She got cancer. (Hospital, health care, TB)

IAN BURNHAM: I'm sorry to hear that.

JON BOMBARD: Well, she got past it. She went past the five year mark. But you know, she didn't even get a card, and she was over thirty years employed there. That's the way the hospital runs. A lot of places run like that. People want to just use their employees rather than just treat them right. It spreads all over. (Indignation/ poor treatment of employees)

We used to have boat races on lake flower, power boat races, but we don't have those anymore. They have their winter carnival, you wouldn't believe how many people come up here for that winter carnival. All people have gotta do is pull their head outta their butt and think, what else, if we can draw that many people for winter carnival, what else do we have to draw these people?

I don't know who you recommended that you call besides me, but a lot of these people are so busy trying to polish their own image, they'll tell more lies than they will truth. Somebody that is a bit unsavory up there, that I would interview, he's older than I am, Frank Hashier, well he's up there in the summer, he's old now, but he still knows what day it is. He got his start smuggling refrigerators into Canada when I was a kid. Well, in his property dealings, he isn't on the up and up. He hasn't been throughout his life, but he knows the history of it. Frank wanted to build this welcome center for the college, he said "why not use the old River Street school? It belongs to the college" But oh no, they couldn't have that, they wanted to have this new one. I don't know. Did they give you any other names to call?

IAN BURNHAM: Yeah, we've got a couple. You were the first to get back to me.

JON BOMBARD: Can I ask who the other ones are?

IAN BURNHAM: I was looking for Bud Hunt, a realtor, I guess he's not in the business anymore, he's pretty elderly. I do have a couple more questions just about living in the park in general, more on the wilderness side: whether you have any favorite places to go in the outdoors? Favorite hikes, or ponds?

JON BOMBARD: Not really... Not really, we go to Plattsburgh frequently, we go to Watertown sometimes, but the outdoors, like everything else, is in our backyard. ("In our backyard", not a hiker) The mountains: I get people in the cabins sometimes in the winter, and they'll climb those friggin mountains when it's thirty below zero. (Outdoor enthusiasts) They always come back. They make it. They know what they're doing. Unfortunately I don't go hike too much, but I always wanted to climb up Wright's peak, cause one of my friend's was killed in an accident there. (Regret) There isn't a lot, the Pendragon theater: I've been there several times with my wife. You wouldn't believe how many people that come to the cabins go there. A tremendous number of them. We're not big on hiking.

IAN BURNHAM: So how many cabins did you say you had?

JON BOMBARD: Six. We get people from all over the world that come here. The farthest one that my

wife just mentioned was a guy from Israel. They were really Jews... they did not... they were very educated, they did not drive on Saturdays. They had to ask my wife a question. The guy, his wife and two kids, he asked "will we be safe here?" That's a sad thing to have somebody ask. "yes, you will be safe."

IAN BURNHAM: It's nice to be able to tell somebody that they are safe in your hometown. That's an upside I guess.

JON BOMBARD: To reach people who aren't safe in their hometown...

Getting to the bottom of things: Tourism is the key. What else have we got? How many colleges can we have? We don't need thirty colleges. The prisons, we're not gonna get anyways. Now, Camp Gabriels, that's a good step, there was Mohammed somebody going to buy it, I told my wife it was probably going to be a terrorism camp. But he couldn't come through with the money. Did you read who bought it?

IAN BURNHAM: No I haven't.

JON BOMBARD: They're going to make a summer camp for Jewish boys, ages fourteen to eighteen out of camp Gabriels, it was in the enterprise. Absolutely perfect use for it. We figured it would just fall in, like most places do around here that are not used for a while, they just fall in. Some people seem to think that will rogers up there has become extremely popular with old people, older than me I guess. That was a hospital for the famous show business people. At one time, it was an active hospital, I knew the guy that was the administrator, and the fella tells me now that when he was a kid a guy came down the railroad tracks that lived over there, and then the guy told him he said "do you know who I am?" the kid was ten or twelve, the kid said "no" and he said "I'm Bill Bailey." Well, Bill Bailey, you know the song, Bill Bailey won't you come home. And there were lots of famous people that came to SL. Tupper Lake, they still go. You would not believe the people. One camp over there, in particular, I had to deliver some wood for my friend, and I talked to the guy, I said "you know you better be careful, if you use that backhoe that close to the water you'll get in trouble" "ahh, mr Merril will take care of it" "well... that's the APA, I don't know" "ahh, he'll just pay a fine, they'll take care of it." I said, "who's Mr. Merril?" He said, "You ever heard of Merril Lynch?" well, you check, he's got a camp in tupper lake, it's all pine. and up by Paul Smiths, on St Regis Lake and that, those people up there, there was Rouses Camp, he was married to Bonny Kennedy's kid, they were up there, and they'd come up. He drove in an old rattle trap Buick. He didn't want people to realize who he was. The younger generation's taken over now, they're falling apart, their kids... there is hope, but it's... Yeah, the Top Ridge, that guy, that was Margery Merriweather Post, Top Ridge out past Paul Smith's down the Keeses Mills Road, near the St Regis Mountain. (Great camp near PSC) Margery Merriweather Post doesn't sound much, until you stop and find out who owns Post Cereals. The style, he had, if you could ever go there and look at it, I think we did from time to time, you could not believe... a friend of mine was a contractor, and he rebuilt that. You cannot believe it, you cannot begin to believe it. That even such a place existed. She had a lot of people famous far and wide, and she had a little sign in there, "if there's something you wanted, and didn't ask for it, you only have yourself to blame." if you wanted it, you asked, you got it. There's people with that much money, that much fame, there still are, I don't know, some of them got twelve mile drive ways through the woods, they're beyond belief. (great camps) A lot of those people want to keep it just like that too. And as a nurse, she had a patient that invented the

hubble telescope. Albert Einstein was up there. A lot of people in the past, but they're not always helpful. A lot of them are more of a hindrance than a help. (Frustration with "tree huggers and millionaires) The prison got pulled out of the park, there's so much behind the scenes, it's really hard to tell who caused what, you know, in some cases, not in most of them, our senators, senator Little, she isn't backing the rail trail, she's backing the money. Now, when I was a kid, there was seven thousand people in SL. The guy who owned the dairy I worked for as a kid, the sign said, "Saranac Lake, seven thousand people, little city in the Adirondacks" he said that should be changed to say "friendly city in the Adirondacks, seven thousand little people." Now I believe the population is below five thousand. (?)

IAN BURNHAM: Now you mentioned you worked on a dairy as a kid, would you like to speak to that a little bit?

JON BOMBARD: Yeah, I worked on a dairy, Philips Dairy, I worked down there, and I worked on the milk truck. There were probably twenty dairies in SL. We had the TB population, Trudeau Sanitarium where AMA is, the TB hospital, we also had nursing homes all over SL. anyway they had cure cottages, nursing homes, whichever. Anyways, we took a lot of milk to them, and there's not one dairy left in SL. Now if you see any cows, they're beef cows. But we went downhill, for the first time its beginning to look like it might turn around. If we get enough people that are interested in developing here, if this thing in Tupper Lake gets done, and I think its going to, that will open the door for the developer. The welfare: holy smokes! The welfare is out of control. Its a way of life up there. We have drawn to SL people from other countries that have wars or what have you, that have come there bought a home, a tremendous amount of property, drive Mercedes, have houses that are made for kings, and they have Medicaid. The cars are owned by corporations, they form corporations, and the cars and all this fancy stuff belongs to the corporation not the person, so we have to pay for their healthcare. I'm not speaking off the cuff. I'm giving you facts. So, the welfare. And the drugs. But yet, when they made a big drug sweep, they had one woman who'd been on meth, she didn't have any teeth, she looked ancient and she was forty. They had that drug bust, and the next day I personally saw that woman on the street. Now down here, you pick em up, they get one hundred thousand dollar bail. New York? Decided, well, it costs too much to keep 'em there. I actually read about of one guy who paid thirteen dollars bail. I asked a friend of mine who was a cop what was up with that, and he said "judge asked him how much money he had, he only had thirteen dollars, so they set the bail for thirteen dollars." they don't want to keep em. Paul Smith's has cleaned up its act somewhat, what a miserable bunch of little bastards they were. But they've cleaned up their act. People aren't so upset that they have to work with kids, put up with em, get rid of 'em or whatever they're gonna do. I don't know. Eileen Perry was the secretary to four or five presidents up there, she would know the history of the college. She doesn't hear well, you'd have to talk to her in person. Did anybody give you the name Natalie LaDuke?

IAN BURNHAM: I don't have the list in front of me, but I can check.

JON BOMBARD: I'll just tell you, she's my sister. What comes into her head comes out her mouth, and it does not have to be terribly accurate. I'm very very very kind to her, but she has been interviewed for... she loves to be in the center of attention, she's in her eighties now, but she's been interviewed hundreds of times, I looked at the interview, and I said "that's not the sister I grew up with." As a kid I was on the river all the time. We ran the river. We were wild, we were urchins, we were right out of the

trees. My father drowned when I was ten, and we were poor, (tragedy/hard times) but I didn't know it. A lot of other people were poor, and we knew that the doctor's kids had money, but there was none of these two hundred dollar sneakers, you couldn't tell by looking at people and tell if they were rich or poor. (Simple life) The people with the Wrigley chewing gum, I grew up with one of the heirs to that, Wrigley Sullivan, they were murdered. They lived there. Oh, Budweiser beer yeah, lower Saranac near Trudeau institute. He lost everything. Anheusers, they owned Pinehurst, and camp Aaron. The lawyers steered all the stock into a subsidiary they were going to bankrupt. He died and he couldn't afford a telephone sign. There's a lot of history in SL. The park where, I forgot the name, the baseball thing where the carousel is. William Morris. He was a big baseball... huge. That was there. ("Lots of money in Saranac Lake") It all goes around, and it all comes back, to what do you want to be when you grow up, Saranac lake? What can you think of? You know? That would give people a decent wage and keep us busy and help us to decrease unemployment, we don't want smokestacks if you can help it. We're not a medical community, like Burlington, we have a hospital and an awful lot of services, but I don't use it, I go to Plattsburgh. My wife's a registered nurse, she worked there, she got her knees done in Rutland and was chastised for it. But that's a horse of a different color. Tourism is where its at. We've got to get the line of communication open for people to send their ideas to a central person. People have a lot of ideas, a lot of them go in the garbage, but all you need is a few good ones. And you don't have to be original, heck who needs original, copy somebody else in some other community that has been successful. Hey, learn from them.

It was a fun place to grow up, you didn't have all the scary things you have today. There was no welfare, they had I guess welfare, when I was ten there was five of us, we didn't get any benefits. We got by, we were skinny, but it didn't hurt me, made me watch my dollars a little more.

IAN BURNHAM: I guess to close the interview I'd like to ask you what your most treasuring life lesson you learned was while living in the Adirondacks?

JON BOMBARD: I had this teacher, Miss Clayton, she was scary and she was mean. I walked up to her desk one day, she called me up for something, probably shooting spitballs or what have you. I put my hands up on her desk, and I ended up cracked across my knuckles. And she said "don't you ever put your hands on my desk. I am your superior, I am your teacher, and you'd might as well get used to it right now. In life you're going to have a lot of people that are your superior, you do not do things like that to your, superior, you recognize it and you treat that accordingly. That was probably the best lesson I learned. (Respect) That I and I learned how to make and eat stone soup. (Getting by with little) You've heard the story of stone soup? That's the way we lived. There's a lot of people with a lot of money. And they want to keep up. And of course they can afford it, you know? They've got the money, but the rest of us still want to live, they'd like to keep us on minimum wage so we wait hand and foot on 'em and supply gasoline or labor or what have you. We need tourism. We need it bad. Ask Clyde Rabideau what his vision for the future is. I don't know if anybody's asked him. But he sure knows what day it is. I can't think of too much else. We learned to do without. We learned to fix things, everything wasn't throw away. I built my own cabins, I did the own wiring I did the plumbing, I built my own house. My daughters asked me "dad how did you ever learn how to do all these things?" cause they still call me for answers to things. "Nobody else was going to do them for me." that's another valuable lesson. How to do for myself. And as a result I wouldn't trade my life for anybody's. We were hungry perhaps sometimes but hey, look around some of the people we see to be hungry. especially down here, this is the fattest state in the country, they love fried foods, we all do. We can't stay away from em. Can't think

of much else... I hope what I've told you has been helpful.

IAN BURNHAM: This has been great, thank you.

JON BOMBARD: I have terrific foresight, I really do. I see things ten years too early. I've told my wife for years, these kids are bad. They need to put em in a jail, and let em see where they're headed. Not coddle em and coddle em and then throw them in prison. Let em know where they're headed, you've gotta educate them. Taking the education out of prison was the stupidest thing I ever heard. The reason was, it got to be a saying, if you want an education in New York, go to prison, and you'll get one for free. (Indignation) I'm not for coddling 'em, but if you've got a guy in jail, its proven that if you give him an education most of them won't come back. Strictly financial reasons, I would do that. And a little bit of me feels bad for them, never having a chance. If you give them an education, there a chance, a chance that's proven itself.

But tourism: go to lake placid, you've probably been there and seen how many people are on the streets. You've gotta get people there. I'm gonna sound like a dictator, but get the friggin' bars off main street. But who knows. Glad you called, you know you're old when people call and want information about when you were a kid. There's a lot of opinions, but the only credible one is you gotta get the tourists back. You've gotta have something to draw them, and that rail trail will do it. Everybody wants to hike, and they don't necessarily want to hike mountains. The people I get don't even want to go to whiteface, they want to cross country ski through the woods. They're in the back to nature thing. The outhouses: I've got the outhouses, and a couple of the cabins that are used quite a bit, and you can hardly keep the outhouses, you know you've gotta get a backhoe and dig a new hole. One of the outhouses, I've got a portapotty there in the summer. My wife asked if I was going to lock the outhouses, well, no, why bother. This portapotty is clean, it's out of morrisonville, they're clean, they come down every week and clean down the portapotty, and you know what? I've had letters and notes from people who come and chastise me for putting these in, that they came because they like the outhouse. They say, "the portapotty is there, but we still use the outhouse." People with kids like it, I'm going to continue to get them this year as an experiment, I was amazed how many people wanted the outhouse. (Appreciation of the rustic experience) We're very upfront in our advertising, we say that these are outhouses, and we've had people ask "what's an outhouse?" They do want their kids to see a simpler life, grandfathers want their grandsons to see how things worked before all this modernization. I do have electricity in my cabins for the small refrigerators, due to public demand, not all of them, I put tv cable in there, I have some people that I have to remove the tv when they come, they do not want their children even to ask, so I have to take the tv out. People want to back to earth. That's about all I can think of that would be of interest.

IAN BURNHAM: This is great, we've been speaking for an hour now. Thanks again.

JON BOMBARD: If you have any questions about what I've said, and you do the research, you'll see that it's so. If you have an questions, give me a call, we're down here for another few weeks. We're out of here before may.

IAN BURNHAM: Alright, have a good night.