

**Tom Wisner talks with Lem Duppins about carrying the mail in the area from Chesapeake Beach to Willows, beginning in 1932.**

**Mr. Duppins:** Right, Clerk of the Court, that's right.

So, we went over there and had the papers fixed up. And then after all the papers came back, Mr. Gant say to me, "Well," he say, "it's your job now. Everything is over in your name." So, I took it all over. And I didn't have no problem at all. I liked it, but I'm telling you, I've been out of some awful weather in that job.

**Mr. Harris:** Well, how did you get around? Did you walk or did you ride a horse?

**Mr. Duppins:** Well, you see, I had an automobile and had two horses and buggy, ————— and a saddle. I could ride, drive, or do anything I wanted to do.

So, I'm telling you, lots of days, I rode a horse back in snow like this (indicating).

**Mr. Wisner:** You said about three feet — three and a half feet?

**Mr. Duppins:** Yes. And the horse would go along and the snow would be so deep, he couldn't pick his heels up. I don't know how he done it. He just go along and drag his feet. And my hand used to get so cold I couldn't get them out of the gloves. That's a fact!

**Mr. Wisner:** How many people were you delivering mail to?

**Mr. Duppins:** I guess about maybe 30, 35, or 40 families.

**Mr. Wisner:** Over how many miles?

**Mr. Duppins:** Five miles and seven tenths, something like that, when I started, yes.

Then after that as the years rolled by, the contract got bigger.

**Mr. Wisner:** And you were carrying mail away from — where did you go pick your mail up?

**Mr. Duppins:** Back here, in Poplar Post Office, back here in Mr. Ed Gant place. See, back of Mr. Eddie Gant's — his sister was the postmaster. And this was Poplar Post Office back there. I'd take it from back there at Poplar Post Office and carry it over to Chesapeake Beach. Then Mr. George Klein was the postmaster over there at Chesapeake Beach.

**Mr. Wisner:** George Klein?

**Mr. Duppins:** Yes.

**Mr. Harris:** Well, actually, you carried the mail from Poplar over to Chesapeake Beach so they would have mail?

**Mr. Duppins:** Right.