This is Bernard McNicholl interviewing Henry Geuelette for the Coal Tyee History Project.

Bm. Mr. Geuelette, what year were you born?

Hg. 1928

Bm. And have you lived in Nanaimo all your life or in South Wellington?

Hg. I've lived in South Wellington all my life ya.

Bm. So you've lived in this house since 1928 all your life.

Hg. Well not in this house, but I've lived in district since 1928.

Bm. And was your father a coal miner too?

Hg. Ya.

Bm. And did he come from the Nanaimo area too?

Hg. Well originally he did Ya, but his parents come from Belgium so.

Bm. Hh, ha

Hg. But he lived here.

Bm. So his parents were Belgium coal miners.

Hg. Ya, uh ha

Bm. And um, and your father he was born in Canada then

Hg. Ya.

Bm. And did he work in Nanaimo?

Hg. In Nanaimo coal mines.

Bm. Out in South Wellington Nanaimo,

Hg. Uh, ha, ya.

Bm. In that area.

Bm. Do you remember any thing about your father about working in the coal mines?

Hg. Not too much, uh, well he was a track layer.

Bm. Uh, ha.

Hg. Worked the No. 5 here and the No. 10

Bm. So you worked basically in the South Wellington Mine

Hg. South Wellington Mine ya, the mine there.
Hg. Worked for Dick Fiddick too, for a few years.

He had a small coal mine.

Bm. What do you really remember that's really significant about your father about working in the mines. Like what hours did he work all the time.

Hg. Well it was pretty well steady day shift.

Bm. Steady day shift, so he was pretty fortunate?

Hg. 7 till 4

Bm. And did he like working in the coal mines or did he have grumbles?

Hg. No he seemed to like it but I guess them days you know that was all there was too, more or less to and it was close to home.

Bm. Was your family sort of well off or was it sort of like you know you had to scratch for...

Hg. Well we had to scratch pretty well, cause they never got that much, wages weren't that big you know those days never got that much money.

Bm. So did you have a large family or relatively small?

Hg. No just three of us.

Bm. Small normal family.

Bm. Did you have to farm or any thing like that?

Hg. No we just had the garden, like you know we had our own garden.

Bm. So you know, you know you basically survived on what your father made for an earning then.

Hg. Oh ya.

Bm. So did you feel that you were um poor or um you know just making or well off or...

Hg. We had as much as anybody else did you know.

Bm. So you weren't exactly poor but, or desperate but you were just sorta like you know you had enough to get from day to day?

Hg. Ya, well that was where you made your living and you know so, we seemed to get on alright. We had our own eggs our chickens, our own garden, everybody did then you know, in them days everybody had that, just a natural thing to do I guess.

Bm. How old were you when you started working in the mines?

Hg. Oh, And I worked ( ) 38 in, started there in what 50... no 46., ya

Bm. So you just sorta started around the latter end of the coal mine days.

Hg. ( talking at same time) No, 10

Bm. So you know you only could put in about what, how many years did you put in?
Hg. About 5 years.

Bn. You must practically just saw the last five years of coal mining in this area.

Hg. Ya. Uh, hi

Bn. Um, what was sorta like the feeling of the last five years of coal mining when was it uh, would you say it was more like, more like uh, watching coal mining in this area die?

Hg. Well I didn't really know it until maybe about till the last year until mine was getting worked out you know, and then, I think lots of people missed it.

Bn. Was it basically that the mine was being worked out, or was it just that coal wasn't in demand anymore and its being replaced by oil?

Hg. No, the mine was just worked out, and they'd come back and they had pulled all the pillars and the mine was, well it was just worked out that's all.

Bn. Is this No. 610?

Hg. Ya.

Bn. So they just sorta let it you know, collapse.

Hg. Well they couldn't do nothing else - the coal run out.

Bn. Did you ever work in any other mines, or just No. 610?

Hg. Just No. 610, ya.

Bn. Were any other mines open after No. 610 closed?

Hg. Ya, well before No. 610 closed that uh, uh, Bryce Mine was working down in Granby. They reopened that one up.

Bn. Did you, after the mine closed did you have any feelings(?) that you would go to a different mine and work or...

Hg. No, I just got a job in the sawmill and got job, well I quit the mine and went to the sawmill.

Bn. So you quit before you were out of a job.

Hg. Ya.

Bn. So you just went into the lumber industry then.

Hg. So did you work at that after that... continues? So you work at the sawmill now or?

Hg. Ya, still the same outfit.

Bn. So you just went to the other commodity.

Hg. Into the, into the sawmill, I've been there now 28 years now.

Bn. So you sorta had to get coal out of the (country blood)?? and started something else.
Hg. Ya, that’s about it I guess.

Bm. Is there anything you remember about um, the coal miners. What kind of people they were.

Hg. They were a lot of nice people they were always seem to be joyful people you know, they were, I found them that way anyway how.

Bm. Do you remember anything like when your father he worked as a track layer right, you said, do you remember your Mother have any concerns about him going to work? Did she ever worry or did keep it hidden like most coal miner’s wives.

Hg. She mighta, oh I don’t know, I don’t think she ever worried too much, it was just a natural thing in them days, you know, practically everybody worked in the mines.

Bm. So she, she didn’t um sorta like every once in a while says oh why don’t you find something else.

Hg. You know, well, there was nothing else in them days, you know, you have to realize that uh in them days a lot of people never had cars and you got a job where you were living something close to home, and uh, lobbying wasn’t very much in them days. You know, not too much lobbying around U, not like it is today. Your sawmills weren’t too much.

Bm. Mostly sawmills were for timbers for the mine.

Hg. Well, not too much even for the timbers but uh for the lumber you know lumber has really come ahead in this last probably 30 or 35 years.

Bm. And um, do you remember anything about labour conditions, safety conditions, would you say that they were um, you know, good or...

Hg. Well they seemed to be alright when I started like you know, they had lots of problems before I understand.

Hg. So by the time you had started the union had already gotten the significant amount of strength to get what the workers wanted.

Hg. Oh, ya. They was a lot organized then by the time I started.

Bm. Did you have to join the union when you started?

Hg. Well ya, everybody joined the union, just the same as it is today.

Bm. What did you feel about joining the union when you started, was it just um my father did it, ...

Hg. Well it was just something natural to do.

Bm. So there wasn’t really much thing you thought about.

Hg. No, it was just something that went on and that’s what, well that’s just what ya done.
Bm. So you really didn’t have the sorts like um, that bitterness against 
management because you really didn’t have to fight for your rights, they 
were already established, by the time you started.

Hg. Oh, ya they been already established other people had fought 
for anything that I had gotten, like I say I started way, way on like 
you know, I never....

Bm. So your’e sorts like the first generation to start you know with 
all these hardships ...

Hg. Well yes, after awhile all the hardships were over when I started 
you know, itsuh, I never had too many hardships.

Bm. Did you like working with coal, like on top of the coal mine or 
anything like that?

Hg. Oh ya, it was a nice job.

Bm. So, you know it was out in the open all the time wasn't it?

Hg. Ya.

Bm. So you didn’t mind anything about the weather, or anything like 
that?

Hg. Oh no, if it got miserable or if it was raining or snowing well 
you just put your rain clothes on.

Bm. Could you describe exactly what your job was?

Hg. Well we were just uh, switching on the low key and we were taking the 
cars up from the minehead up to the tipple.

Bm. Could you describe what a low key is?

Hg. Well its and engine. Justa....

Bm. Just like a small locomotive.

Hg. Just like a small locomotive ya.

Bm. And you mentioned the word tipple, could you describe what a tipple 
is?

HG. Well thats where they used dump the coal cars and uh, then they'd go up 
and the coal would be screened, and they had like what they called a 
pickin table there, well they used to pick the rock out of the coal, like 
you know, and then it would go into the railway cars.

Bm. Did you know where the coal went from the railroad cars, do you know 
where they exactly went to?

Hg. No, not actually, well it used to go into the washer there, but then where it went after that I don't know where the orders went.
Bm. So it all went to Nanaimo, didn't go out to Boat Harbour.
Hg. Pretty well, oh no, not No.610 never went to Boat Harbour.
Bm. So it all went to Nanaimo.
Hg. Went into the, yard in Nanaimo there.
Bm. And um, we were talking where the coal was going to and you said it went to Nanaimo. And did you ever visit Nanaimo? (interference) I guess it'd be in the 40's. Do you remember anything about the city in that time.'
Hg. No, But it was a lot smaller than what it is, it's just about the same but enlarged, considerably, but basically downtown its just about the same thing.
Bm. So you don't really remember anything significant you know except you know, that it's larger, and its smaller then,
Hg. That's all yep.
Bm. Do you remember after the coal mining era ended? Like I heard stories that there was grass growing in the street.
Hg. Oh, I don't believe so. After the mine shut down No.610 out here there was the Bryce Mine and it had hired a few more men, and then the pulp mill started up right away, so it was in the construction stages then so pretty well all the miner's went over there to the uh, pulp mill....
Bm. Shift of labour ....
Hg. It was just more or a shift or labour ya.
Bm. What do you remember about Wellington. Cause I was talking another fellow the other day and he says um this place used to have, I think 3 theatres, and it had a, it was a little community, it had you know everything in its own.
Hg. For awhile ya.
Bm. Was that there when you were here?
Hg. No, the building was there, now when I was I can't remember it running.
Bm. But was it ever used, or wasn't
Hg. Well the hall was used, used to have dances in different things.
Bm. What do you remember about um, community activities in this town?, well South Wellington I guess.
Hg. Ya well it always was South Wellington. Oh we seem to have different things, you know what I mean there was having dances, and when we were kids
they used to have dances for the older people you know, and all the kids used to go in them days with their parents you know, and uh, not like it is today the kids stay home and the parents go out, different ways or something you know. I guess it's just a change uh, people I imagine. Change of times.

Bm. Um do you remember any um place in this town or establishment that had a certain amount of controversy surrounding it you know, but it was like I heard some story that um there was uh uh, I guess it was a bar or whatever called the Bucket of Blood. Do you remember any thing about that?

Hg. Oh ya, No, that was all gone. The building was still there, it's still is there today but like I say that was before my time that was.

Bm. Do you know who owns the building now? Someone living in it?

Hg. Oh ya, there's people living in it now,

Bm. So it's just a house now.

Hg. Ya, turned into a house Ya.

Bm. Do you remember when you were a child growing up here do you remember any stories or anything you know that you weren't suppose to go here or there and you went anyhow.

Hg. No. Everything after, around my time everything seemed to be quietedned down then, you know, it was all right then .

Bm. So it was just basically just a community.

Hg. Ya just a community ya.

Bm. Nothing special.

Hg. No, not as far to me anyhow, like you know when I was a kid there was everything natural just like any other place.

Bm. Was there a train station here at one time.

Hg. Ya. Small one.

Bm. Does the train ever stop here now the dayliner?

Hg. Well don't stop it cost too much money to get on it now.

Want 4 dollars from here since that VIA RAIL 4 dollars now to go to Nanaimo at the cheapest fare you can get now. Ya. And that's kinda ridiculous . Well you could just about get a taxi at that price. Taxi used to cost about 6 dollars and get off downtown, and with the train you got to get off up at the station in Nanaimo there.

Bm. So there used to be a station building here at one time.

Hg. Ya.
Bm. So South Wellington used to be an important small community.

Hg. Well the train went past twice a day, it was a passenger train.

Bm. Do you remember anything about the train, like did the train have that special importance like you know trains used to have? Open the train a night everyone sorta like turned their heads, or called down the station.

Hg. Oh I don't think so, cause it went passed here, well the freight trains were going fast, and like you say the passenger trains was 2 passenger trains everyday, and that went on the freight train, of course you know they had the passenger cars on the freight train like you know. And uh, oh nobody used to worry about the train, they went passed by often never bothered with it.

Bm. Did any important figure ever visit this area, do you remember

Hg. Not that I know of.

Bm. No premiers...no...

Hg. No not that I know of, no.

Bm. Did this area used to have its own Mayor?

Hg. No.

Bm. So who, who, was sorta like the um you know the person in power you know that governed over you know, municipal matters.

Hg. Ya there was nobody in them days, you just never had no, you know what I mean just paid your taxes to the government like you do now and that's all. We have uh, the thing now is different now but then they (paying) ($206) taxes to the hall now and that so we do have (no mayor) ($207) or nothing but like you know we had uh.....

Bm. You belong to um Nanaimo now don't you?

Hg. No we're just outside Nanaimo.

Bm. Oh, so then you weren't asked to go into it then, cause your'e too far out.

Hg. No, no. it stops just up there by that John Deere. Up there on the highway.

Bm. Do you remember any significant stories that you can think of that you know struck you as funny interesting (amusing) (?) ($215) bone-entrusting or controversial or...

Hg. No.

Bm. Were there any um, mine disasters occurring while you happened or?

Hg. Well there was one they had an explosion in No.910 there. That was awhile
before I ever started working that one.

Bm. You were just a boy then.

Hg. Ya. I guess I was probably only 7 or 8 then.

Bm. Do you remember anything that stuck in your mind about that.

Hg. Not really, probably the only thing I guess is that they were putting an air shaft in, that was the only thing.

Bm. So you don't remember the feeling that the community you know, during this accident sorta like you know, was is sorta like you know. sad uh.

Hg. Well any time there was an explosion in a mine it was always sad because there would be quite a few people killed in it you know in the mine but. Its not like something else its down in the mine and an explosion well you know it could be quite a few people involved in it.

Bm. Did you ever on your own initiative go down into the mine just to see what it was like down inside?

Hg. No I was never bothered to go down there.

Bm. So you had no desire to go down there.

Hg. Not really, no. We were always on top here like you know and, so it was always kept preetty busy.

Bm. Did you ever hear any stories about things that happened down in the mine, you know some strange story or something like that that was told by a miner you know...

Hg. No, no.

Bm. So you know mostly the stories that already(?) never really happened.

Hg. No, I never seen that you know, you never seen the miners too much because they all used to come and get their lights like you know, you go to the washhouse and put our mining clothes on and then well they would go and we would be on top so, you never really seen each other too often.

Bm. What did they have for washroom facilities, did they have washroom facilities?

Hg. They had a washhouise.

Bm. Down in the mine?

Hg. No, on top.

Bm. Just on top so when the miners had to come back up again?

Hg. Yup.

Bm. It's just that I've heard some stories that they never used to have no facilities what so ever.

Hg. Well... years ago I imagine they never had anything, but like I say
when I started we had the washhouse here, at No. 10. I don't know at any other mines they had it, but I say at No. 10 they did have it.

Bm. Was there a good working uh, relation between a worker and boss or you know, er, was there always this tension of friction?

Hg. I think at No. 10 it was pretty fair I think.

Bm. So there wasn't really that much work or anger, the workers were generally pleased at doing that job and getting paid for it.

Hg. Pretty well at that time ya, its, its uh...

Bm. Do you remember who your boss was, his name?

Hg. Ya. Wellie Frew.

Bm. Is he still alive today?

Hg. No, he's dead now.

Bm. What did you get paid an hour at that time when you first started in the mines?

Hg. Oh, Jesus, that's long time ago now, I don't know, it wasn't that much anyhow.

Bm. Was it about...

Hg. I think we got about 4.60 something an hour an day like you know.

Bm. Just 4.60

Hg. For a day, something like that about $4.60, then it went up to a little over 5 dollars something like that, well the wages weren't big in them days you know, in that time that I'm talking about.

Bm. So you know the wages hadn't really changed that much since coal mining started then you know.

Hg. Not really, no.

Bm. You're still get dollars a day then.

Hg. Ya.

Bm. So you hadn't even gotten into the hour bit again. You know being paid by the hour.

Hg. Well you figured but by the hour, but it worked out you know, the wages weren't......

Bm. So you just got, you didn't you didn't get paid by the hour, you got paid by a day.

Hg. That was an 8 hour day. 8 hours. Well when I started in the sawmill I only when I left the mine, xxx I started in the sawmill and the wages in the sawmill wages I think xxx about 62.5c an hour.

Bm. I guess that xxx turned out to be a lot better wages than working in the mines, then...

Hg. Well, not much more. 62.5c an hour, the wages still only getting about
$5.00 dollars, so at that, well when I left I guess we'd get a little over $5.00 dollars a day. And uh, we had to make a mine on top.

Bm. So you know um, did that money um, carry you through or...

Hg. Oh ya, well it had to carry ya, carry ya through.

Bm. You were living at home with your parent s when you first worked ing the mines.

Hg. Ya.

B.m. And was your the money that you earned, contribute to the family um..

Hg. Well you'd have to pay board just like anybody else.

Bm. Did you ever have enough money of your own to buy what you wanted?

Hg. No, I don't think so, you used to have to save, just pretty well about the same today, it's, lotsa things today I'd like to buy adn I haven't got the money to buy it with, I have to save it up, you know what I mean. Don't get that much money all at once., to buy these things. We have more wages here, like our wages now we haven't well they've just started to go up probably what, about the last 10 years. You know your wages are really going up all over the place..

Bm. Um, what year, did you ever get married?

Hg. Uh, 1950.

Bm. And um, you were still working in the mines then?

Hg. Ya.

Bm. And um, your wife didn't mind you working at the mines then?

Hg. No, that's like I say its back to the same thing again...

Bm. Was her father a coal miner also?

Hg. Ya he worked in the mines.

Bm. And did you buy this house you're in now?

Hg. Ya,

Bm. And you just sorta fixed it up?

Hg. Uh, ha.

Bm. So you've had this house for well over I guess about 15, over 20 years now.

Hg. Well just about, well since we've been married 20, married in 50 and this is 79 so... we had it 29 years so....

Bm. So you're really not all that old.

Hg. No I'm only 51.

Bm. Actually you're younger than my father.

Hg. Ya, I'm only 51, ya
Bm. You're quite young yet.

Bm. So you know, you were actually saw the latter end of the coal mining era.

Hg. That's all, ya k like I say well as I say, I guess I was there about 5 years. That's all.

Bm. What did you think the first day you started working? Did you sorta say well, here's a job I'm going to have for a long, long, long time, was that your attitude, you know, like here's a job that's going to last forever and I'm going to have it?

Hg. Oh, no, everybody knew that the mine would only last for so long you know, that was uh, every mine only lasts for so long it doesn't matter...

Bm. Did your sorta like have this feeling like um, well I got my first job, was, was that was there that sorta excitement.

Hg. Oh ya, it was sorta of an, something new I guess when you get your first job, its, its something you know when you start out with your first job and roll along and get a paycheck. Ya

Bm. What did you do with your first paycheck, did you go to the bank and cash it?

Hg. Had to go into the bank to cash it.

Bm. Um did you have to go all the way into the Nanaimo bank.

Hg. Ya.

Bm. Didn't you find that a little ridiculous?

Hg. Well they used to, that's the way they paid you couldn't uh, to my knowledge pay, that the money was, you got your cheque you went and got your statement, and then you'd have to go and tear this piece off the bottom and then you'd have to take into the bank and your money was in an envelope. So, that that money was always in your, was always in an envelope for ya, and they had a girl there, the teller and she would give you, turn your slip into her, and then she'd give you your envelope with your number on it.

Bm. Did you think that that was an efficient way of being paid?

Hg. Well, I imagine it was, paid that way all the time, My father was paid that way all the time and I guess I figured it was alright everybody else was paid that way, so you know it was just the way that.....

Bm. So you didn't (interferece) thought that you were being cheated or anything like that?

Hg. Oh you couldn't be cheated because you could stay there, and you had to count your money in the envelope in the bank you know, to see that you got the right amount.
So did you um think highly of the Company that you worked for, did you sorta have the pride working for the company or anything like that you know?

Hg. Well not really, well it was a job and it was I don't really think I really had that much pride. It was a job, a job and that was it. I done my work and....

Em. Was it Canadian Collieries that owned the mine?

Hg. Ya.

Em. So it would be Dunsmuir.

Hg. Well ya.

Em. Do you remember anything of the red light district in Nanaimo?

Hg. No, no.

Em. It had practically died out by then huh.

Hg. Ya

Em. ( ) by then it was right after the war.


Em. Did you ever travel anywhere? What method of travel did you use? Was it by then motor car?

Hg. Well then, at that time then my Dad had a car.

Em. What model was it?

Hg. Gee I think his first car he had was a 1920 Chev I think.

Em. So you didn't have one of those Model T. Fords.

Hg. No, not then no.

Em. Was there alot of traffic then on ....

Hg. No. No traffic.

Em. It must have been weird, cars and horses.

Hg. Used to sleighride down the highway there. In the wintertime in the bobsled.

Em. Cause there was no traffic.

Hg. No. no traffic it was just about the coal trucks I guess that come from No. #8 mine that was about.....

Em. So they started using coal trucks instead of trains.

Hg. Well from up there ya. MCKay Lake.

Em. So that must have, was that fairly, that was a fairly recent mine then? You know if they were using coal trucks, cause you know earlier they would have had to you know establish a rail of some kind.

Hg. Well, no it wasn't that. I don't, I guess it must have started in
I don't know when exactly. Gee it must have started in the 40's, ...

Bm. Ya, it would be fairly recent, if the start using trucks you know
trucks were more efficient to...

Hg. No.98 ya.

Hg. Ya, well there was no railway up there that we started, wehn we started up
in there, the road was in there, so it would be easier to haul by truck.

Bm. Do you remember any other mines in the district?

Hg. Oh I remember very little of No. #5. I was too young then.

Bm. Um I heard that there was uh, I think and Alexandria Mine around here
somewhere?

Hg. That was uh, was no more when I was ...

Bm. Sorta very um...

Hg. Well I wasn't born then, ya.

The No.95 is the last one I can, well I can just remember a little of that, but
very little of that. I went-up (?) when it was working.

Bm. Did you go to school in the area?

Hg. Ya, weht to the old South Wellington School.

Bm. What do you remember about school?

Hg. Oh, it was just another school. Old floors. Pretty well like every
other school around in them days I guess. You know the outside schools
pretty well the same.

Bm. Would you say it was a strict school, or you know was it you know
a good school to go to?

Hg. Oh, it was good. I think it was alright. Everybody's teachers didn't seem
to be too bad.

Bm. Did you ever get in trouble with the principle you know, was he
really strict about the strap, and...

Hg. Well you use to get the strap if you were bad or something you know I guess
if you deserved it you got it. Didn't seem to be strapped that much.

Bm. What kind of I guess recreational activities did you do, did you fish,
or go swimming or what?

Hg. Well yes we used to go swimming quite a ...

SIDE TWO

Bm. And where did you say, you went up to the Bore Hole?

Hg. Ya., that's in Nanaimo River but its up.

Bm. Is that somewhere near the Railroad Tresel of something?
Hg. Ya, well it's up above the CPR Railway track.

Bm. Cause there's this place where we go with these holes in the ground I went there once.

Hg. Oh ya.

Bm. I think that's where it is.

Hg. Well there's one, there's one there called the Bore Hole, there's a drill hole in there and it keeps bubbling all the time. Sulpher water coming out of there all the time.

Bm. Sulpher?

Hg. Ya.

Bm. What, you mean you swam in it.

Hg. No, no, it's just Sulpher Water comes out of this hole, it's a drilled hole, I guess they drilled for coal up there at one time or something I guess.

Bm. So, so is this water from the river also or from somewheres else?

Hg. Oh, this is coming from somewhere somewhere else, its coming out of that Bore Hole, and it just runs down into the river, it doesn't bother the river at all.

Bm. What else did you do, besides swim, did you go fishing in Nanaimo River?

Hg. Oh yes, we used to go fishing in Nanaimo River and we used to go fishing in the lake down here, Becks(?) Lake.

Bm. You went swimming in Becks Lake um...

Hg. NO. I never used to swim in it, but we used to go fishing in it.

Bm. What kind of fish did you catch.

Hg. Oh, we used to get Steelhead, or Springs out the Nanaimo River.

Bm. Oh I heard that there um, alot of leaches in that lake.

Hg. Oh at down here, there's leaches in it in the summertime, but you'll get them out of most lakes, most shallow lakes you'll get them in the summertime.

Bm. So you could never swim in it for that reason.

Hg. Well not, when it gets really later on you know, you can swim in it earlier on, but uh, then when it gets really hot then you get your leaches.

Bm. So you didn't swim in it?

Hg. Not Down in Becks Lake um, no. We used to go up Nanaimo River all the time.

Bm. Has South Wellington sorta remained pretty well the same as it was in your time, you know when you were a child?

Hg. Just about, other than its grown up, its just known you know, quite
a few homes been built up now, and ....

Bm. Where, where, where, are your, where are your parent's house where was that? It was in the area, um do you remember exactly where it was?

Hg. Well, its just three doors down from where we're living now.

Bm. Who owns it now.

Hg. (Isacson?Isaline?) (?) #508

Bm. Do you ever what to go back there and sit there and well my parents were here or something like that?

Hg. Well I go back there quite often, they were very good friends.

Bm. Did you ever have any hobbies?

Hg. Well, I don't know what you mean hobbies, gardening, and doing some carpentry work ...

Bm. I guess carpentry work...

Hg. Things like that.

Bm. Did you ever have a stamp collection nor any thing like that?

Hg. No, I never bothered with stamps. Pretty well keeps me going with my garden, and working around making things.

Bm. Is this post office down here, is this independant of the Nanaimo Post Office, like, um do you have to go down there, and they keep your stuff in there and you have to go it goes into Nanaimo.

Hg. Ya, a pick-up comes in a truck comes in and picks it up.

Bm. ( ) unclear. stamp it themselves.

Hg. No, no, no, no, well they stamp int here and then they put in a box or they put in a bag and then it goes into Nanaimo.

Bm. So that Post Office has been here for years and years.

Hg. Ya, its been here for quite awhile now, ya. I don't know for how many years, but its been here for quite some time.

BM. Its quite old.

Hg. Well the Post Office, like the building that's its in there, its not too old.

Bm. Do you remember when you were a boy, that was really significant that you remember? Like something that stuck in your mind.

Hg. Oh, I don't know, I think mostly was the weather I guess, quite a few people that say oh you never get snow here but uh, when I was young I never seen fence post in the winter time, for snow.

Bm. You got alot of snow then.
Hg. Had alot of snow in them days, well all over the place.

Bm. So there was a cold decade of something like that.

Hg. And uh, summers were, well the weather was alot better than what were getting now for summers. We used to go swimming every 24th of May, in the River. And I don't think now, very seldom now, you'll get in the river on 24th of May, cause its too cold.

Bm. I guess its weather, you know change....

Hg. Change in weather.

Bm. I guess its more mild now than it was then, ususally you know if you have a cold winter or you know, you have an extreme summer.

Hg. You have a good summer if its if you have a bad winter.

Bm. Actually hasn't been that bad so far really,

Hg. No we haven't had any bad weather.

Bm. Its just sorta its just sorta staying warm even though its been cloudy, every other like you know, its been sunny for 3 or 4 days and its we get this kinda humid weather.

Hg. Oh ya.

Bm. Cloud and it hasn't really rained that much.

Hg. No, the grounds quite dry, No, no, can't complain about the weather.

Bm. At least its been the best it has been in the last 5 years.

Hg. Like I say in them days we used to get a lot of snow. Pretty well had stayed in there all winter pretty well you know.

Bm. So you did alot of bobsleding or taboggining.

Hg. Ya we used to be sleighriding all the time, ya/

Bm. What was Christmas like? Was it ....

Hg. Seemed to be good.

Bm. Did the community ever get together for some gayla affair?

Hg. No, no, never had no, not that I can remember, not in my time.

Bm. Do you remember, is there a church here,?

Hg. Oh ya.

Bm. Did you ever have to go, did you go to that church?

Hg. Well I went to the Sunday School.

Hm. Didn't have to go to the church.

Hg. No, no, I'm not religious.

Bm. Laughter

Hg. Laughter
Hg. Ya I think when you go to church you just go to confess your sins. And that's all right.

Bm. Well I guess that's all I can think of...

Hg. Well there's not not too much that I can think of, like I'd say, I never, I was only there for about 5 years so....

Bm. Well it was pretty all near the end of it so everything that accured had already happened.

Hg. It already happened ya, uh ha so all the bad times or anything like that you know what I mean that's .... way before my time. So...

Bm. Well I thank you very much Mr. Guelette for your interview.

Hg. Well your quite welcome.

Bm. I'm sure it will be of help.

Hg. I hope I can help some.

END