

Helen Joseph July 3 1932  
Alfred Joseph March 1 1927

I worked for the lumber companys that were here in the thirties and twentys and thirties . Hanson lumber and timber company that was the only lumber company in the Hazeltons in the thirties , it was a pole company and everybody in the valley right from Terrace up to Burnslake worked for the one company. No other company they took out Ceder poles and ties mostly.  
She worked in a hospital

I worked in a hospital

Which one the old one or new one the one they tore down  
thats the one

How long did you work there..

about six months when I was sixteen, maid cleaning floors

What kind of schooling did you get

Helen, just grade school  
where was that

Helen, Hagwilget in a log building  
What grade

Helen , I dont know

Alfred, Seven

Helen, yes seven

And your self

Alfred, Eight

Is that down at Hagwilget to

Alfred , part of it in Hagwilget part of it in residential school it was La Jac

How many people in your family

Helen , six

how many in yours Alfred

Alfred, oh just me and Bert

Helen, and his grandmother

Alfred, grandmother

In this school were there any white children

Alfred, no

When you worked at the hospital down here was everybody treated the same

Helen, ya

Who's the doctors

Helen, Doctor Whiting, who's the other one.

Alfred, Murphy

Helen, Doctor Murphy, me and Emela worked from the village .

You walked down every day.

Helen, oh we lived in the hospital.

When did you go away to residential school.

Alfred , 1938

Do you remember any specific subjects like floods or

when they built the bridge

Helen, I don't remember may be dad

Alfred .I remember when they started building this bridge

The old bridge or this new one

Alfred , This I93I I was four I could remember that when they first started , then I remember they started tearing the old bridge down.

Did you do any trapping

Alfred , I trapped when I was ten and before that I use to go with my aunts and uncles trapping oh no not trapping they use to snare the squirrels everybody done that in the village

This when everybody went out and trapped

Alfred , yaya

Did you .

Helen No I didn't do any trapping but I went with the old people snare rattits

And berry picking

Helen, berry picking fishing.

That was when a lot of fishing was done down at the canyon

Helen, ya when there was lotsa fish

That was about thirties

Alfred , thirties and forties

Helen, that's before they blow the rock out

Just the people from the village fished there.

Helen, No there people from the , there was people from Hazelton living down the canyon across . There was two big smoke houses across and there was a bunch on this side to I don't know how many there were. I don't remember

Alfred, there was two smoke houses on this side and one on the other side.

Helen .oh ya one

Alfred , oh two on the other side

Helen , two on the other side.

Alfred , what's left of it use to be more all rotted down

What about your entertainment

Helen , well nothing much all we done in the spring time , part of the spring before we get busy was playball that all.

Never went to movies

Helen, no well there was hardly any movies

Sports days

Helen , there was sports days we go to in May.

That be down in Hazelton

Helen, Hazelton back here at the ballpark

That was before you had to go start fishing .

Helen, fishing berry picking

What kind of berries ?

Soap berries , Huckel berries , Rasp berries what ever that was eatable

That was when the whole family use to go

Helen, ya

You do any commercial fishing or work in a cannery

Helen , no till lately

Your mother and father name was.

Maggy and Joe Joseph

Wilson

Helen , yes

Any particular story you can think of or stories

Alfred, well I can remember in 1933 the last year

my grand father was alive , he use to set rabbit

snare I use to go with him and we use to go pass the

New Hazelton hotel it was right were Simpson Sears

store is now and there was other old log buildings

still up from the constuction days were still up.

Like the old bank the old log building the one they just

tore down lately next to Chevron they said that was a

bank in 1910

Thats the old museum

Alfred , ya that museum that was the bank and a

the Peter Williams dad use to tell us about the bank

robbery how he use to be a special constable . And a

one morning police came one of the policeman came

and got him said there was a bank robbery in New

Hazelton so they wanted him so he went with him

That was the RCMP

Alfred, nono the provincial, old Charlie Williams, he use

arrest people white constuction days that must have

been 1909 1910. He told us about that bank robbery

how they shoot them

How did you get around what was your means of transport  
ian.

Helen , we walk

Alfred , walk and wagon horses

You travel by railway

Alfred , ya we traveled by railway

Helen , we didnt

Alfred, you go to Smithers you had to take the train

hardly anybody drove everybody traveled by rail .

There use to be a passager train every day and then

on weekends Friday and saturday there use to be a freig

freight you know a local freight they called it weigh

freight it use to have a passager car attacted to the

tail end of it .

Any stories like after WWII

Alfred , No oh WWII oh ya that was quit something we

were out berry picking 9 mile mountian when the war

started and we were coming back no we on our way out

for berry picking and the two recruiting officers

caught up with us around 6 mile and they were looking

for Tom Marshall. so we got , and there was crew working

at seven mile. They were the public worker , people

went out and sort of a make work project whole pile

oe people was at seven mile and when we got there we told Tom Marshall, that there was two army officers looking for him . so he just took off back to Hazelton I guesse thats when he joind the armythat was in 39 I think it was and everybody figured , everybody in village figured they going to take everybody they see so they all hide didnt hide very long but They thought they were going to be drafted Alfred, ya didnt draft to many, Jack Mitchel, Johnny Austin, Herb Tait.

Did they see any eighting over there .

Alfred, I dont know Johnny went seas I dont know how he made out thoughlots people from New Town went some didnt come back.

Did you associat a lot with people from New Town.

Yup all the time .I worked , people from here worked for people in New Town quit a bit always little works going on , cord wood some of them were pole contractors some were tie contractors so people from here went to work for them Dan Mckenzie , John Person , George Parent Helen, Carls dad.

Alfred , Carl Cristians father Gus Cristiansthey all had pole contractes . And then we use to cut cord wood for the coast canniers in the summer time this place use to empty right out , everybody went commercial fishing , in Hagwilget young men all went went woman Just the elders and kids left in the village.

Did you work for any whites in New Town.

Helen .ya , I worked for what you call that owned that store lackworthy.

Alfred , Ya W.J. Lackworthy use to have store in New Town

Was that a general store.

Alfred , ya general store , you worked for King to didnt you cafe

That was a chinese restuarnt

Helen , ya just clean up thats all pell potatos wash dishes

Were abouts did you live when you married.

Well we moved beside the church there we ran a foster home

For native children.

Helen, oh ya lotsa of them , all the times of the day early morning had to get up when ever we were called we had to get up

Did you receive non-natives.

Helen, no just for native children.

How long did you do that.

Alfred, about six years.

How many children do you have.

Helen, five.

Grandchildren.

Helen , three.

Alfred, Four

Helen, oh four

do you still work.

Helen, no

You have any hobbies .

oh yes making moccasins

What about your crafts did you sell your leather to

tourist or to shops

Helen , craftshops Ksan mostly but I havent done any thing for the last 2 years but I still make them.

When did you start carving

Alfred , 1965.

You were around Ksan.

Alfred, that was befor Ksan .Nobody carving when I started , well a few around but not full time like what I was doing .

So that was your livelyhood.

Alfred, no I was still working at in pole yard while I was doing that I done that for two years and then I a ,67 I went full time carving . thats when there was talk of ksan . That started in 68. Ksan started so I moved there Were it is now.

Alfred, yes I stayed ,I carved there untill oh 74 I guess or 75. You done lotsa bead work for them weaving kneck laces eh.

Helen, ya.

You remember particular bad winter.

Alfred, oh yes what year was that Sheila first went to Prince George 68.

Helen .something like that.

Alfred, must have bee 68 there was about five feet of snow up here:

Up here on the field.

Alfred, ya Hagwilget ,Walter Took him four hours to get to Hagwilget from his place.

Walter Joseph.

Alfred, Yes get his cat though it was. The snow was so deep but it was the base was just powdery thats why he coulded move . The snow on the bottem was just like he said was just like sand so he just spin

So Iguess the folling spring must have being big flood.

Alred, well no.

In 36 abig flood in Hazelton Bulkley was petty high that when people went around Vancouver, people going commerial fishing

Nothing bad happened .

Alfred, no no.

What do you remember what Hagwilget was like when you w were you were younger.

Alfred, Well one thing there was no electricity and a people then didnt worry about any bills at all

never heard one person say I have to pay my light bill or phone bill , but you had to pack your own water if had only light was coal oil and gas and they got from New Town, and it was a very close community you could go to any house visiting any time when you knock on the door nobody came to the door they told you to come in

now people come to the door when you knock on somebodys door

Is that the same when you visited somebody in New town  
Alfred, well it was different there they came to the door  
when somebody knocked , some of the old bachelours  
were like that they hollered come in but some of them  
came to the door.

Helen. well everybody was close them days

Alfred even white people

Everybody new everybody.

Alfred, yes there was in the evening winter time  
when evening came you could hear people sawing wood  
thourgh out the whole village was just that ringing  
sound every were you could hear people sawing wood  
like if they were trapping or were out cutting poles  
when they came home in the evening they cut wood there  
was no power saw people getting water , getting wood.  
Did you enjoy your life here

Alfred, ya

Never considered moving

Alfred no

But you went to see other places

Alfred, ya

Like

Alfred, oh we worked in Kelowna okanogan valley for one  
summer

Did you like it down there .

Helen oh ya

What did you do down there.

Helen, picking cherries ,peaches and apricots

Just by your selves .

Helen, ya

Did you have a family reunion

Helen ,no

You use to travel around other villages

Helen ,not much

you

Alfred, Yes Oh ya I think I visited village in the  
north

That was even when you were younger

Alfred, yes I was up in the Yukon working in 1952

I visited ,I went thourgh Alaska to get to the Yukon

Worked there for a while ended up in Alberta.

You just worked in these areas

Alfred, ya working, working in a mine up there and  
then worked on a dam in the Yukon

What dam was that

Alfred, that the being built for the oh what did they  
call it a mine up on Mayo . I remember the name , I for  
got

what about the residential school LeJaque, how many  
others from the village went there .

Alfred ,oh from here was just Bert ,but there was quite  
a few from Hazelton Issac Tommy Green, Steve moore,  
Biddy Morrison, Buddy and Edger Williams

Alfred ,that was catholic



Every one went ti church

oh ya

Alfred everybody.

Helen, we have to attend every day early in the morning had to go to church , and we freeze in church to no heat in there just a big stove when its winter time . No lights just candels

Alfred, priest lived right there he was the same way he had no electricity all he had to was wood and the priest didnt have a car either

So he just walked like everybody else. Any priests that you remember might be still alive.

Alfred , no them old priests are all dead , one nice priest we had was father Draon in the 30s he spoke , he stayed here about a year he learned our language right through then he had to move away . Hewas really a nice priest ,and he died in Teslen.

Where is that?

Alfred, up north when he left he spoke your language fluently and I was his teacher , I was alter boy and he ask me what we called that or this.

Any stories that your mother father , aunts uncles told you .

Helen, I dont remember,

Alfred, well all I remember only stories told me was the . Well a true story is when my granfather Joseph and another old man they were young at the time , they called him Jonas grandmother said that father Morris wanted somebody to climb the mountian out here Roce de Boule and he chose them .I think there was three , all I remember was two . My grandmother said they started out at 4 oclock in the morning from the Hagwilget church , and the people stayed right there , they were all out side the church must of being around 1910. I think it was and they went up by noon ,I guess they brought wood along , and they light the fire over there just about to the top . And let the people know where theyer at. And people could see the smoke and ah oh 15/20 minutes later gee must of being , heard the shooting up on top of the mountians they fired they fired shots . So they seen smokf from mussel loaders jus below the top, that when they knew thats they got to the top. People were down here praying their hearts out for them father Morris I guess behind it .Eveybody were scared I dont know what they were scared of , Johnny David was saying he told me that to. Johnny David from Moriectown.

Alfred, ya

You play lot of sports .

Alfred, not to many , only once a week here wednesday night was show in New Town in the 40s

New Town hall .

Alfred, yes in the hall

Helen, the o;d hall not the one standing now .

Alfred, yes the old hall

Where was that at?

Helen, toward the station there

Alfred, were Stib Willein is living now thats where the old hall use to be 50 cents to get to watch a movie

Thats on wednesday night .

Helen. oh when ever they have it.

Alfred, and it was eull evey time , and then on saturday nights in Hazelton hall. Tow shows a week was no T.V.

a bit of radio . was no radio here the 30s . An old man lived in two mile down where O.K. Esso is, he had a radio people use to visit evey night listen to the radio.

What do you remember about the Old Town area what was it like down there,

Helen, no houses between oh ya the old guy you were talking about

Alfred, Taylor George Macbain, there three houses down where the church is old Senden, and two houses that are still there ther only five houses between Hazelton and New Town , I mean Hagwilget oh six with old Louie Martienson across the river by the creek and there was no lights just totaly dark people were scared to walk on the road dont remember what we were scared of.

What do you remember of New Town, of the people that use live there ,

Alfred, the Willens they always been there .All the Spooners that are here now have always been here Bert, Homer, Hank, and the Sargents, Smithes

What about highway construction

Alfred, nothing the just pensioners use to work on it . make work projects .Telegraph lines, we use to go picking berries ,my granmother use to pick berries in ah down on up in nine mile mountian . She huckle berries at the foot of nine mile mountian and we use to see the line that went through there part of the old telegraph line.

Ever go over the line yourself ?

Alfred, ya were the telegraph line runs through . You go across through two mile see that ridgethat that what it would follow . On top of the ridge and then it goes north to Kispiox somewere the wires were around there if yougo to nine mile today youly see those wires some places you could find some insulators to. My grand mother use , in the 30s two camp sites were still the people that built the C.N. there was two camp sites you could see up on a just north of Ross lake and still see the housesat that time still standing . So that was only 20 years after construction was finished. Still there in the 30s.

Did you do any commercial fishing

Alfred, Ya everybody like I said I first went commercial fishing I was thirteen.

On a big boat or a small

Alfred, small boat 1939 , when I first went fishing



Commercial fishing power boat , a old sail boat converted to power. I fished out of Nelson Brothers cannery

Any whites work there from around here?

Alfred , I dont know I worked in Nelson Brothers cannery, then worked in cassyare , Carlyle, Port Edward Carlyle across the Skeena on the other side I fished there I fished out out of Cassyare.

Jack Mitchill was in camp Bordon he was in the tack core thats why he didnt go over seas he had to learn more

Had to be petty smart to to get into the tank core he was a private he was tropper different from the infantry you didnt need any education , the one Jack was in was more technical

From LeJaque school did you get any further education that in the form of high school?

Alfred. no

Was there a high school down here?

Alfred, ya just a small little one

Was St Marys school always there?

Alfred, 1959 when it was started

So all the people from Hagwilget went there

Alfred, were in school here they called Hagwilget indian day school or Roch de buel indian day school.

Where was that Alfred

Alfred, that was one of the log houses right in the village once I remember the one I went to . They moved to were the band office is now that was a school to start with

That was used to 1959.

Alfred , yes

Then St marys

Any whites go to Hagwilget

Alfred no they went to there own school .

Is that st marys

Alfred, No no they had public school

All the houses down here are some remaining from when you were young?

Alfred , not a one.

Helen the one next door built recently

Alfred, in the last 30 years . There nothing left from up to 1900s . The old houses you see here now is started in 1949. The rest are all , I dont think there any thing left . The church is only one 1907 . I think and that was built by indian money . What Johnny Daviad said his father was head cheif of Hagwilget Smogylgym when they made collection from all the trappers in the area, was quite a pile of money She had to pack around in a hacker tied , one day she told her husband gee I am going to lose this money I dont watch out. I have a suggestion to make to you , she told him , her husband Smogylgym She said that , we could use this money well lend it Totall the trappers all the head trappers of the W Wet suwet en. And they have to pay it back with in the year. Just like they do at the feast with intrest . So they let word out that it was up that money was up for loan for trappers . o everybody borrowed, quite a bit of money she had, with in the year they paid back and it

to quite a bit sum of money , thats what started the church building in Hagwilget.

What was her name ?

Alfred, gee I forget now Mrs that ,Johnny Davids mother Old Mrs David.

Alfred, cheif David,Johnnys father funny name he called him Rosevelt. I dont know why he called him that , he sa says his name is Rosevelt he was Smogylgym. So that when the church fund started . said that after it was built every family in the Wet suwet en . My grandfather bought the bell that still there you know alter bell That 3 bells because a her son Thomas George was alter boy so they bought that bell and people same with the bell same way through collection

So that every thing in that church is made through vollenter

Alfred, ya vollenters and indians them selves. There was no white community around then in 1907

How was the lumber made

Alfred, they said Mary , said they put up a saw mill some one had a saw mill in Glen Vowelland a they sawed the lumber there and they rafted it down to Hazelton from Hazelton they hauled up in wagon across the bridge and then there was no bridge at that time, So they had to dump it across the bridge and the people they said like Joshua Hollen and Mary George 3years old they held to pack lumber across one at a time even dogs packed lumber up from the canyon. So it all had to be packed across the river every bit of lumber thats there. So then the church is out side services befor that?

Alfred, no no they had small building, they had a log building for that.

So every thing was log houses.

Alfred, ya loghouses.