

Charlie Austin

Survived the depression no jobs by making cord wood and saling it born 1920 ~~September 10~~ ^{September 10} . We use go trapping Topley camping by the railway out north ward of Topley ~~stat~~ station set up tenttlogs built up so high then tentoon to ply tent over it heater stove for heat ,timber cracking its so cold . Up there with mother father brother Frances Adam Pierrie nephew of dad, Marian That was in between Topley landing and Topley .Young to remember all I remember ,all what I remember we d be cold in the winter that the timber its so cold the timber splits. The winter I remember dad taught me how to trap no beavers but martin, fisher and we snare coxs coyotes trappen martin I know how build wooden trap with dead falls called Goh still know how to make it Fur market low in the depression . Seldom went out cause of the cold weather . that hunting ground up there belong to my uncle Michial Leon from Babine area grandfather Danial Leon sons using it and his boys trapping on it they register it. Indian law Danial Not suppose to mother side remain frog clan son diffrent clan by mother difficult to get dad still register sons names Patty Leon sons dont belong to frog clan not entitled he knows that there fireweed clan . the fire weed clan by the ir mother and their not suppose to inherit hunting grounds Patty knows this called me up to have look at the area their sons hear about this they start beefing they dont want out siders on the land their different clan . My frog clan the land suppose to go back to the head cheif. thats the old way. went back over to trapping just local trapping useing snares. Then worked in a saw mill with 44 to 47 working at Silver cup road sawmill worked there them days there was no bull bozers had use a team of horses to skid logs to the mill , and did some trapping useing dead fal falls thats good to use the animal dont suffer or struggle trapped 31 miles just a single line Thats where my dad went I didnt go out there with him on the old Babine trail . Hunting area people owened a narrow valley between two mountians. They thought that nobody owned loggers got permisoin from game officeals to, log in 1967

School in Smithers , in Smithers quite a while my dad worked around there for farms used axes crosscut saws to clearing land and pulling stumps with horses piling them up and burying them. 25 dollares an acer 20 square feet by 20 square feet to get up to 25 dollares, done pretty fast , also acre contract 1934. Willie George drowned in the canyon while we lived in Sithers .1935 dad got rumitisumin his leg and cannt work, he was carpenter by trade during the summer worked clearing land to sick leg bother him to much so he got aftre

the government agent office to see if they could help he pay taxes on schools and his kid not even in school. Government agent wrote indian office . Call dad the office answer back Hazelton office ask use to move back to Tsykya , they would supply farm implments plow disc so we could work the land no problem move back and well supply you with everything to live off the land. In 1935 moved back in that year deptment of indian affaires B.S. people never got nothing from them since the log building Leonard house across was a one room school house . School was filled with 25 kids , not much 20 any ways long way back and now the rest of use attening school most of them sick didnt go to school Walter Joseph his sister Pete Gray, Joe Sabastian, Willie Sabastian. Margret Jennie , Teacher was a English man Mr Browning up by the church the bell rings at 9 oclock for school kids I guess that was al right I was 10 or 11 maybe more then that , for the first day I hear the laugauge they talk only english I didnt understand a word of english , I remenber them praying in english the lords prayer couldnt make out what they were saying. Can sigh my name read the news paper. went to grade seven when my began to change kids all lauge thought whats the use of staying in school if kids are going to lauge at me so I drop out today I regret Dad cut cord wood for the elders in the village 10 dolla res cord wood , today put $\frac{1}{2}$ cord wood and they charge 50 dollares , then 1 cord of wood 10 dollares things were cheap in stores , 10 cents a loaf of bread , groceries today costs paper bag full 100 dollares, things bought in the store were cheap . Hudsons Bay, in Hazelton , Lackwarthy dry good groceries ice out in the Williens . Fresh meat when Joe Watson came form Smithers with fresh beef . Lackwarthy bolony in ice in sawdust no friges dont know about about friges bolony or can meat was all . Village had 3 or 6 head of horses mares stalion ranged from here to South Hazelton bridge at Ksan Highway this road was seldom used . Hazelton business was with the canniers . Down the bridge New Town station and store supplies cedar pole camps The high level suspenson bridge sways when a car comes on it sways like a swing logging trucks have 6 or 7 poles they take it to the C.N. station , didnt have much traffic . Ice on road glare ice there was ice on the bridge take slay ride right across start at the church and go to the ESSO station, no ice on the road go from the church to the water gage on slay ride at 2 oclock in the morning by moon light . school was out then Jack Michell , brother sister jackies sister back from La Jaque , they come back in the summer your dad his brother Bert they come back for summer holidays . Did you go to La Jaque also? Charlie, no never went priest wanted me to go, heard

about the place, heard stories about it that is was a rough place may be they were just rumors I dont know Joe Sabastian was up there a few years , I heard that kids can,nt take the displine and they run away and they freeze up on the lake just rumors though I do,nt know . That old school not there today torn down some fond memories for those who went there though I guess, got my stories mixed up.

War time came Joe Sabastian and I down by were. Allens Sabastian built his house we were cuting wheat by hand that grow there they rent the place ,so we were cuting by handwith knives,car stops by Joe Wilsons place your granddad ,we were working we saw who it was we ran to the bushes they were recuting for the war timeand thought they were going to take us.Didnt know though they grab me later on by mail they conscription I got called up to the army in Vancouver ,little mountain army camp .Out of luck indian boys got to be fit me I was unfit .Touch of T.B. docter just found out give my letter to him he wrote them and told them that I had T.B,.Person have to be real fit to be in the army ,that reminds me of that prince that qiut the army.What the heck you hit by machine gun bullit its all over ,I was real disapointed but might have been buried over in Italy,or France. Johnny made it and came back , in Penlton Bay in 195-ended, He was in France ,Germanys some bum stole from him and killed him.

Dad was a boxer the old settlers around Smithers tought him some, trained in Vanderhoof for six months training they told him not to mistreat what he learned .Young I guess he get into a fight he use it.

Hazelton hospital had collapsed lung in 1939,.

In 1937 out in Fort Babine in June 10th sports days, june sportsday, we had brass band they call use out there to play band we were playing ball to , some of the boys were cowboys they ride wild horses and steer, they had stamped rodeo at the same time and I remember at that time I was pretty weak wonder what the heck make me weak had to lay down all the time the beginging of the sickness I got hold of in the lung that was bad. After I came back from there went to see docter I was on my way to see a movie on saturday night docter Whitying he took x ray befor that ,on my way back I dropped in on him go to the movie or stay in the hospital right now the thought a little bit I knew that people contacted T.B. in those days they usually die but he told mewe got you checked in the early stages just a little less then a dime size spot on your lung if you start treatment right now you,ll get over it .I want to go down,you have better things to do then stay in the hospital I thought about itsitting there go to the movie right now or stay in and get better so I chooseto get better I was in there 3 months as a bed pataint .Then they

discharge me then about 4 years treatment from home every body do little work to make money but I was staying home dis sickness the only cure for it is rest so I stay home and go for treatment every week for at least 4 years down the hospital oh that was hard life sit around people all talking that I was lazy that I never work then doctors told me that I got one more treatment to go that's all right then Smithers airport start hiring out then in Smithers they're going to build a big airport gee I start thinking again just one more treatment I misout on a job up here and wages were 60 cents an hour oh that's high wages 60 cents an hour I want in on that I kept thinking one more treatment I guess I'll make it out all right so I jump the train 3 o'clock morning train to Smithers had to wait for one week the Chinaman there give me room and board until the work started I got on with Johnson construction all kinds of construction outfits in on that of building of the airport, start working there one more treatment escaped tired of laying around the benefit of laying around here me talking right now people think I lazy. ever since then I worked with just one lung, the Pope fire, in Kispiox pack a bunch of tools on my shoulder straight up a hill, gee I get tiered easy I put up with all my working days work in sawmills working with horses team in a bush some times the mud was right above my knee in the mountain, foot of the mountains skidding with team of horses, in Red rose the other side of Roch de boule that were the hardest time I had mud skidding logs then up dar up Willien camp nine mile Two Mile spring time, had hill gose straight up like that they had one big horse up there they build a shoot like this here down the hill side up there on the bench that were I was skidding put the logs there and use my peave to push it down gee it shoots down the hill .. Oh stripping season in May coming down those hills its sloping well with spruce did, nt have a hard time but with balsame was soft bark on them soon as you start of with them the whole darn back just slip right off just like grease hit the big horses feet like this they slide so I had to turn the horse around oh that was alot of fun tiersome did lotsa work and with just one lung and after all these years they got that am after they done my heart sugery they went and done start my lung that was to much that was two operation at one time in addion they move to my lung they use vacume to clean it all off it must have collected that sputum and things on it just incase in they use vacume to clean it all off they had a hose in there. Magret seen it I did, nt I died twice use electrice shock to bring me back to life, now I have a hard time is numd leg hurt right up here my hands my head my eye see my eye this side the pain dose that kind of strecking thats caused by sever nerve damage only time heals that so are the other oh I, am ok.

Did you ever go commercial fishing down Prince Rupert

Charlie, Ya Margret and I went down there like everything else we just make a living thats all every year the big commercail fishermen go down there they came back so many thousand dollares in the hole they call it so manyth thousand dollares unpaid bills they leave behind to work for the next fishing season Magret and I we were just new, Magret was working in the filling cans in the cannier across there use to be two canniers across the ocean one was Clarkston one was a now I forgot the one I worked in now I forgot the name of it any way we worked there at the end of the season we were thirty five dollares in the hole so we must of done good. The others they get so many thousand dollares in the hole . They had to pay our way back on the train we had a lot of fun commercail fishing .After that I sould of stuck with the next year I got a better job working on a saw mill worked on lotsa saw mills in my time Smither Gordon Jewelson and then Chapman saw mill between Smithers and Telkwa I done Evelyn Gordon Chapman saw mill work train I was a pitman they call it ditcher use travel to Terrace now I remember now it must of being June cause wild straberries were ripe the ditcher was loading gravel for delivery some were else as a pit man we did,nt have nothing to do just our hours counting up, 17/18 hours a day the wages were not that hi high it was 35 a hour 35 cents an hour all I did was fill my self up with wild straberries that was in Terrace but unloading rails was hard work we unload five miles of rails Palling that year to this side of Burns Lake . Little tongs put on the rail just like you use to load ceder poles, plant the tong on the rail two of use standing on each side of the rail steady it lift put it out on next to the tracks , one guy he was setting tongs up theresshorty we call use to call him Swed, I guess he did clamp them tongs no right on one side and one side got caught good it just fliped that rail over on the edge dat edge cut of his toes right here poor buggertook him in a cabose trip to Burns lake hospital and den a wash out came in Terrace oh we ran down der that a hard work for us big rocks that big they put cable around it hook it on the ditcher put it up on the car , fill the car up take it to the wash out dump down where the wash out is ya lotsa work I did in my life . lotsa other work I am going to skip some it What about in Hazelton?

Charlie ,oh ya it was I guess you could call that a way of life can,nt just sit around when there fish running you goya put up for the winter and happy doing it fish would come up . The more fish you put up the bet better for everybody in the winter time if , theres alwa ys some surplus of fish of dried fish that my mother

trades or sells to the commercail fish people after they come in they finshed done down the coast and people always comes to my mother for dried salmon they give her dried fish egg dried herring egg Olgoons trade her for t that some years it cost money to buy 500 hundred dry s salmon it runs in to the thousands and yet the next year the same thing , the same amount of fish comes never run out after a peck run of fish in the river down here in t the narrowest part of the canton you could see the back of them fish so some them they use say there so many fish down there you could walk across the river on there back thats only the saying fish woulded stay there use them f for bridge thats the way it was down the canyon , then the jack spring oh I woulded mind those little jack spring about that big little spring salmon lotsa of them they use made out . The older day they use to do nothing but gaffing feel around put your gaffe stright down with a hook like that just feel around you could feel a fish you feel kind of soft thud likethat between the fish and you kind of go like that with your hook that was quite a skill as soon as you feel it you , fish like you pull it up a you catch fish like that. Some time a big spring salmon when you touch a spring salmon you could feel it its a spring its kind a hard when a Sockeye salmon there only that big kind of a light touch but if its a big spring solid its heavy oh heard to pull them big spring salmon up they have kind of hole down they river like that , is boulders they all over down there they have kind of place were they lay th they taking rest to go up river and thats were we catch them and take one out and they go down again they go up in school and a nother one is there bunch of them come up thats why when there running good you catch them and you throw them up anotherone then all of a sudden nothing keep doing that for five ten minutes nothing so I go up sit down have a smoke sitting around waiting for those fish to fill up the hole again they get scarde stick moving there and a nother bunch thats how gaeing is done later onwe got a let see now fish going upthe falls not like MoricTown falls just like going up there guess . slating like that and fish they go up there some times they just about jump on top then fall back down wash back But the place close to the rock there like dis the river right here falls we stand right up here we could see the fish whenits running could see it just below the suface we could see there back streaming up theffalls there on the shalow water well somebody got an idea they build a wire mesh fish net like they call it dip net my dad use to make quite a few of them make out wire chicken wire fence about that long in side about that big the round heavy wire that big put right down on the shlow side on the edge were the fish are running. put it right in there track there they just jump in like that tail to tail them thing going up the river we catch four of them in about a second we throw it up like that and guy standing there fish is just jumping around hit them over the head with the stick by that time we got a

nother one guy he just keep on going like that , thats when the fish is running good run a good couple days two or three runs a season I think , I forgot now how many runs thats when a big crowd of fish come up form the coast .I like the day I hear they,er catching lotsa fish in Skeena Crossing in Kitsaguckla that means that they,ll be here in two or three days everbody get ready here shareping gaff hooks gaffpoles oh getting ready fixing dip nets puting horses in field,by the time the time they hit our canyon they,were ready for them to start our fishing for the winter oh my everybody packing fish ,smoke houses all ready wood .

Charlie Willen had a horse,Able Joseph had a horse ,and a George had a horse and a Domnic most of them did,nt have any they use there back pack it up pack board people were strong and healthy .I use horses pack horses .somet times horses are out on the range thats when we us pack boards .Those were the good old days of fishing down the Hagwilget cayon .

Name the first settlers came to Hazelton could you name a few? Your mother and father knew them.

Charlie ,oh the first seltters oh ya well all I know is the Spooners back here and .At the time they call it the fish commisioner they called Joe Allen he was down there just write down how many fish you make in the smoke house things like that is what he,s for that all count fish he never restrict how much you catch or any thing ,just count keep track of the count .But as far as the settlers there was lotsa white people at that time , but now you here somebody moving in Smithers welcome wagon and all that theygot on the news paper in the old days things like dat no such thing as that, we hear new people coming in ,lot of them settlers came in I think when the rail road when the rail road was going by other business set up I read a book on fronter days magazine one time I read off a Goodacer was working young man at the twenty mile house up here passed Beam and I knew that old log building big log building there that was the building they,er talking but there the road houses and Goodacer worked there they go ahead of the rail road crew they build houses for business serving as hotele room board al themold, Scotiey Mckray ,Scotiey Mckray died long ago ,Goodacer he still have now he owns the Goodacer supervalue in Smithers his brothers and sons their the early frontier white people there pretty smat they now how to make money ,well the since then the I think then the technology is pretty well advande,s these days education people got have lot of advaned education to make a go of life in this time can,nt go to saw mills and get a job like that or go to a constructiongota have education for ever ything these days if you go haying time farmers start

putting up hay for there fames use to go over there with a pitch fork make a few dollares now its all machinery farmers dont hire you now its all machinery carpenter th same thing use to go out pine cone picking if somebody w whats if forsty wants it now that is done by machine to helicopter , person like my self got no chace only chane I hpoe for is 6/49.

But looking back at I had a prttey good life I enjoyied working , some memories that I recall sometimes is ride around on horse back up on Babine tail some were in May June riding on mountian sife looking at the seenary green leaf and grass for the horses up on the mountian range up on Babine were we use to do some prospecting shooting at ground hogs and trarmages boy they make good soup them tramages better than any darn chicken. mountian when you got up to the rockies lota grouse they blend with the rocks you can,nt see them very well just the movement yo spot there just like pigons but bigger . Moose hunting i the same fall time use to go out catch our horse form so uth Hazelton so in the summer time they sleep during the day you just walk around all of a sudden you could here clag clag (bell ring) they shaking there head lot of mos quitosq we chase them back here we coral them then we go outfall time at twenty four mile we ride on horse back we got to ride on horse back because of tall grass on side hill widerness shoot them from the horses them horses are trained ,shoot on top of them one horse is not trained for that I did,nt tell Peter William loan him that mare me and Bert and Herb Willson he left they left useto cook bunch of young fellase went up a side hill to hunt moose they left to watch the camp and cook evening meal oh Stanly George andI left at that camp big cast iron pot with sand make the best steamed rice put h ot rice I forgot to put the led on turn out some thing l like a glue ya Peter real mad when he got mad from a hun ting trip that daysitting on top the white horse that all he rememberit start bucking. Use pack horsesto twenty four mile can them with vegetable turn out just like store canned meat balls Magret make lotsa of them make them out of the put them in jars like fish mixed with beef fat some times pork eat my turn out good I like them better than whiteman canned meat seal them tiet air tite no contamination like I read in .What the

heck the indians there not that stupid not to seal there can would be a wast of time if its contaminated people would get sick of it and dte they do everything the right way as far as canning is concered indians they know their wise just some crazyy people now a days theu they seal that can the jar ring on there just lightly some time they the guy over just put or seal tietly I do it my self I do it titly but the one that licks it just a thud the one that sealed titly it rings . Talking like these cause of the new last year the depptm ent of fisheries making the indians look bad if indians eat contaminated fish there,d be no indians at all today.