

So they would stay at the smokehouses. Yes, they would do what they need - ed. note make enough fish (smoked) as they would need. (Where would you pick berries?) We would go up to 9 mile mountain, we had 2 places - after finishing with the bush, after picking the berries, we'd burn it off every 3-4 years we'd go back, and burn the other one off. Boy , talk about berry picking.

(Q) How did you preserve berries?

They had wooden racks... But 1st you have to boil the berries and you had big thimbleberry leaves and you had a big "scane" - is it? It's made upof thin strips of cedar bark then you pour the berries on them , lay it on the racks and let it sun dry. After that isdone you can take a piece off and soak it and it's just like fresh. Everybody did it, but mostly the Indians.

(Q) How did you catch fish at Hagwilgyat Canyon ?

You used a gaff or they had a big basket. They would leave the basket resting at the deepest placeand I think they had pulleys to pull the basket out. They would pull it out only if fish were in it. They used this method for a long time. (When were they not allowed to do this, anymore?) In them days that's all they had. (Was this justfor the natives?) Yeah they could do whatever they wanted, I 've seen them catchup to a 100 lbs. of fish, that would be for the family (relatives) for the whole year. They had to do it with nets after awhile, but not as much as I had seen them do before.

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(Q) What condition were the roads in back then ?

I've seen it along, South town , oh yu'd bog right down (laughs) (Was it like an old cowtrail ?) Yeah just a wagon road. There was hardly any cars just Ford- Model T and Model A's. (were there any Taxi's ?) Yeah, ... Jack Robinson, he owned one. Allen Benson- he was the that owned the first one . He was the one that owned the Triangle Motors - he used to borrow a car from the Natives, he would pay so much. From Old Town to New Town it cost about 50 cents.

(Q) Was there a Church in New Town ?

... Yes I think it is up by Tommy Carr's place. Is it still there? (I Don't know) * Yes it is still there.

(Q) Was that loghouse there before, the one that is beside the Chevron Gas Station ?

Oh that one Yes it still there (yes) (Who lived here ?) I couldn't tell you, there was so smany people living here.

(Q) Was the train station theree, in New Town?

Yeah it was where the trailor is now. The trailor... yeah it was over more.

(Q) When did logging start?

... Oh that was quite awhile ago.

(Q) What about mining. did you mine?

Not here (9 mile mountain - Silver Standard) I worked at Red Rose mine. (What were you mining for ?) Tungsten. I worked for.. there for .. since 1940 for a couple years. (During the war?) Yes, We moved down when the Hotel was down by Simpson Sears is now by the tracks.

(Q) What company was in charge of the RED ROSE MINE?

CMNS, but I don't know what it is, stand for - Canadian Mining something... They opened that up after I left. Jack Jukal was my boss - foreman. We used to work from 6 (supertime) til 2 in the morning. We worked in shifts - 2 shifts. We'd blast, then we'd muck things up. Put plates down and cross bars up and put in about 20 holes, 8 footers. (WERE there any dangers ?) Oh yeah, you had to be careful. (Any cave-ins ?) In places it's pretty bad , you have to put in sprages at the same time, you have to go on the raise after we left the 600 level. And chutes, you have to put them in too. Then set off the blast, then the next shift will build up the equipment (holdings) and chutes. They'd draw it out with cars (RR) they have a tram . They would fill up a car's bin and load up buckets on the tramline and add timber to even the load. I've seen one thing let go and BOOF from the cable. We used to ride up in the buckets when we went to work. Supposed to be about 11 miles from the bridge. (Skeena Crossing) (did the tram go straight up?) No, we had a mill at the base and that's where the tram started. A little ridge and there's steps to the mill from our camp. And there's steps to the mill from the cabin by the mountain, at the mouth of the tunnel.

(Q) Did you camp over night there?

No, we were just working in shifts, 1 shift would set off the blast the other cleaned-up and set up.

(Q) Do you remember the flood?

Yes in '36(nod) yes a lot of houses got washed away. (what about the Totem poles?) They had to move them too, they moved some and they had some new ones put up. That's where the old hall used to be.

(Q) How did they move the Totem Poles?

The old custom way by hand and rope. Oh, I never saw them take them down. Some fell down at the ball ground.

(Q) What happened to Hazelton when the flood went through?

Well, there was a lot of wash outs. A lot of stores were washed out. A building - a pool room (OK Joe was the owner at the time ?) Yeah .. No, Jim Hauter was the owner of the poolroom. And then Ok Joe bought it after and made a restaurant out of it(Did a whole street get wiped out?) No, not really (Where did people get on the ferry ?) Down by the sewer plant. They had their towers up there.

(Q) So when did the highway go through here ?

Oh that was a long time ago. I don't know when.

((Q) What happened at the halls? besides dances.

They had potlatches, they'd sit against the walls, no tables back then. They had Moosehide and they would cut this up and give you a strip for moccasins. They wouldn't give out a 25 cents (for a haircut - laughs)

(Q) Did they have a barber then?

Yeah it was old man Benson - Allen Benson's dad. Same time they had their cab. 1927.

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(Q) So was Prostitution limited to Two Mile or was it part of Hazelton too?

No, just down here (in Two Mile). These guys in Two Mile must of had a pretty good time (laughs).

** ED.NOTE **

Prostitution was an old practise, even before our people became "pure". It was in the down town of Hazelton, but that was ruled out, due to the hinderance it gave the citizens. With that in mind, A designated area was permitted to allow for such activities, this area was 2 miles out of Old and New Town. Later to be called Two Mile. The point shown was that justice served it's purpose, and the history of a community was well served.

(Q) Do you remember the 1st cars?

Oh yeah the Model A's, Old Jack Robinson had one. Quite a few... It slowly picked up. Like I say Benson used to rent cars for Taxi, He finally got his own.

(Q) When was the Smith building made ?

Gee I don' t know... Their was a restaurant there, but it burned down. I don't know exactly what year it was.

(Q) Did they have a Blacksmith in town ?

Yes, it was, where the copy of it, is now. The guy was a heavy set man, and he had a cabin at the back.

They had a hall right along the river and a couple of houses, and they had a hall where Neil Sterritt lives...

(Q) The hall on the reserve, did they move the poles up to ballpark because of the flood?

, They moved all the poles up after the flood, the ball grounds were all brush, then they started to build on it and that's how they started the ballpark.

(Q) How did they start electricity ?

Oh that wasn't tooo long ago. The Hospital had it's own electricity. The power plant was right behind the the old Hospital.

(Q) How did they build the Hagwilgyat Bridge?

They start at one end, and they put in cement forms. They had to put up towers... How many cables I don't remember (How come there cement forms^{are} down lower on the cliff ?) I think that was whv~~ere~~ the old bridge was. It was long and thin bridge. I used to work on the bridge before they put in the steel grids^{ers}, boy in the winter it was pretty hard.

(Q) When was the highway built ?

Oh that was a long time ago, like I say it used to take all day just to go to Smithers. Just a wagon road. (What about the old road at the Maurice River ?) I think I use d that when I went firefighting

* We started talking about a picture that had a man sitting in front of the Hagwilgyat bridge in the early days of it's bu~~il~~ding, this man was named Eddy Olson , He had died after swimming in the Bulkley R. , He caught double pnemonia. There is^a Eddy Olson that bears that name today.