

Tape Interview-Clarence Schroeder  
Summer Of 1988

WHEN DID YOU FIRST COME INTO THIS COUNTRY CHARENCE?

Well, I left Saskatchewan in 55, I worked in Edson, Dawson Creek, Alaska Highway. I worked in the oil rigs up there, Chitwyn-then I come up this way. That's when I discovered my brother was up this way. I hadn't seen him in ten years. THAT WOULD BE BEFORE YOU LEFT YOUR OLD HOME PLACE, HE WOULD BE OLDER THAN YOU?

Yes.

WHAT MADE YOU STAY HERE WAS IT THAT YOUR BROTHER WAS HERE?

Well, I don't know, I've left several times, but I always come back.

WHAT SORT OF WORK DO YOU DO?

Worked in mills, a bit, mostly in the bush-felling. I worked down the coast-Vancouver for awhile. I always come back to Hazelton.

WHEN YOU WERE AT VANCOUVER WERE YOU WORKING IN THE BUSH?

Yes!

SO THEN YOU CAME BACK HERE, DID YOU EVER WORK IN THE MINES HERE?

No, I never worked in the mines.

WHAT IF ANYTHING, DID YOU FIND DIFFERENT WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO THIS COUNTRY?

Oh, I don't know-didn't seem to find too much difference Northern Saskatchewan wasn't too bare.

WHERE THERE LOTS OF VIEWS?

Oh yes, and small mountains and trees in the northern parts, I worked in the bush there and on the farms.

SO IT WAS A LOT THE SAME FOR YOU THEN?

Yes mostly small cuts and power saws in the bush. Some of those power saws were almost as big as the guys packing them.

THE BIG PROBLEM SEEMED TO BE GETTING SOMEONE TO REPAIR THE THINGS?

Yes.

WHAT KIND WERE THEY?

Hornets, rugged old things-big titon-awful things, hard to start.

DID YOU DO TRUCK DRIVING OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

No-mostly falling, seem edgrt.

YOU'RE OVER HERE AND PLANNING TO BUILD A HOUSE HERE YOU'RE PROBABLY PLANNING TO STAY A FEW MORE YEARS?

I kinda like it here, plan to stay here now.

WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO HAZELTON YOU SAID YOU "WOUND-UP"

AT SKEENA CROSSING. WHAT WAS IT LIKE DOWN THERE THEN?

I'd heard the name Skeena crossing, I figuired a big town.

I wound up there on the train. I walked down to the cafe and the first person I saw was Vi Pawell.

THAT WAS BEFORE SHE HAD THE CAFE IN CEADARVALE?

Oh yes.

WHAT WERE THEY LIKE BACK THEN, BUSY PEOPLE?

Oh yes! The place was right beside the road, there was gas pumps there too, and a store. There was quite a few small mills in then days, my brother he had a mill out of Skeena Crossing. George bawie, he run the store.

SO YOU STAYED AND WORKED WITH YOUR BROTHER FOR AWHILE?

Yes, for that winter.

THEN WHERE DID YOU GO?

Back to Hazelton.

WAS THE SILVER STANDARD AND THOSE OTHER MINES STILL OPERATING THEN?

No.

LET'S GO BACK TO SKEENA CROSSING WHEN YOU FIRST MET VIE HES (PAWELL). HOW DID THEY TREAT YOU?

I walked in the cafe. Vie said, you a stranger, where are you from? So I told her and she said "Are you any relation to Lloyd Schioeder? "I told her he is my brother" I asked her where he was and she told me to hurry and have supper and they'd drive me down. turned out he was in the hospital in Hazelton.

GUESS HE WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU?

Yeah, I didn't know he was up in this country.

TYPED BY  
JILLANE SPENCE