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My wife and I both came from Saskatchewan. We were raised in Saskatchewan. Coming out because of ill health we had to quit farming back in Saskatchewan in 1947 and came out to White Rock B.C.. We were there for seven or eight years where we were marvelously healed and felt the call of God to come in the lords work and were felt the call to come to a place called Hazelton, which we knew nothing about. When we arrived in Hazelton which was thirty years ago this month on June 26, 1955. We came up here with a car with a trailer, a '52 Meteor with a trailer loaded with some of our belongings shipping the rest up by transport. When we arrived here at Hazelton, Rev. R.G.Veil was the pastor at the Pentecostal and we came in to take his place. We live in his home for, at that time, which was his home and we paid at that time for a few months. \$25.00 a month rent for this home. It was heated at that time by sawdust burnt and we later returned it to wood burning. We finally purchased this home which we have lived in now for the past thirty years. But the reason why we came to Hazelton was because we had a real call of God upon our hearts. Especially to dark faces and we loved our Indian people and found there was a great work to be done. When we arrived here there were quite a number of churches at that time in this area. There was the Roman Catholic, the Anglican, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Brethren, the United Church, and some other churches had come in since that time. At that time cars were the order of the day. In fact, most of our Indian people had purchased new cars about that time. When I look at Hazelton now after thirty years we see such a change in it. It's a beautiful town now with a lot of new houses and new paint jobs. When we arrived here there were mostly all old houses, there were no pavement and no sidewalks. The was filled with horses at that time. Many times we had to chase the horses off the streets to drive downtown. Of course we had a car at that time. The one we came up with. Which didn't last too long. Up in this country, because the roads at that time were very rough.

Yes there was a hotel in town. What they called a hotel. It burnt down later on, it belonged to Sargents, Sargent's hotel we called it. I don't remember if there was a liquor store. But, I do know that Hazelton has certainly improved and has grown a tremendous lot since the time when we came here. Of course there was electricity here when came.

Pat York at that time was the mayor of the town. At that time I believe it was much easier to find a job than it is even now. It seemed that most people were working in those days. And I had no trouble to finding a job. We came up here with the monthly salary which they had promised to give if they had at \$30.00 a month. Of course the wages when we work on the job were, I think the first job I worked on was a \$1.35 per hr. I worked on building the new powerhouse and the highway dept't. maintenance place and we worked on the old telephone office, I guess it was. It was in town. And then the old Hudson Bay store, we did a lot of odd jobs and so on.

The grocery bill was a lot less than what it is now, but we found that it gone up. The prices have gone up in groceries as the price has gone up in wages.

When we first got here I read a book about the Skeena people I was all excited about it, someone wrote about the Hazelton area. So when I went to visit the hospital I was telling the folks I had just read the book, found it so interesting. She said so and so is nothing but a pack of lies.

The road to Kitwanga was just a trail the first year we were here. Otherwise people had to come across on the middle of the bridge. They would boat in the summer and cross the ice in the winter. They lost a lot of babies because people couldn't get to a doctor.

So the only hospital around the whole area was here in Hazelton?

Yes, they probably had to come to meet them. In those days there wasn't too many phones was there?

The villages had no power in those days.

You carry on from there. Where did you get at?

O.K. We arrived here thirty years ago. There were plenty of moose in this area. Each fall I was able to bag a moose to put in the deep freeze, for our winter meat, for which we were very thankful.

The roads are certainly a lot different to what they are now. The roads especially out to the villages were very very rough and very icy in the winter times. In those villages, most of the villages they had no electricity, no power. So they had no radios. We do remember going out to, especially the village of Kitwancool, which the road was in terrible condition. The old car didn't last. We used to get a new car every two years. They only lasted two years before the body was shaken up badly on them. There was no roads out to the Kitwancool village, but the first winter we were here they opened up a new road, the backroad which is still along the Skeena River and up by Visserman's farm now, and on to Kitwanga and on to Kitwancool. Otherwise the only way they had of coming in from the Kitwancool village was by train over the Skeena at Skeena Crossing. Or they came when it was frozen in the winter time, or by ferry or boat in the summertime. Of course the ferry was running at Kitwanga in those days. There was many times the ferry couldn't run because the river was either too high and too many logs going down the water, or too windy. Sometimes then the water then would get too low. And the ferry couldn't/wouldn't run very good because of the low waters. We were very thankful when they put the backroads in even though it was a rough road.

Was the ferry privately owned?

No, it was a government ferry, it was a free ferry. It was run by the current of the river. There was also a ferry at Cedarvale. So we could go, there was a backroad from Kitwanga to the opposite side of the river on Cedarvale. We sometimes would take a drive through there even though it was a rough road.

We like this country. We still love this country. It's just such a beautiful place to live. It's the most beautiful place we have lived in since we have come to B.C.. We still like it here. We love our

Indian people.

How old would you have been when you arrived here?

I was forty-five years old when we arrived here. Many people laugh at me saying, "I was just a young man. My wife was forty-three. So now we're quite a ways up in our seventys. We're not so active as we have been over the years. We remember in those days the old hospital was here and Dr. Whiting was of the doctors and nurses and have done ever since. At that time we had the telephone office. As I said before we painted it. It was down in Old Town just across from the community hall, the Tri-town theatre now, was the old community hall. In the old community hall we used to have our rallies. Even I remember having the Remembrance Day meeting there on the 11th of November. The weather had got real cold. In those years were colder than what they are now. Sometimes we got a tremendous lot of snow. This one November 11th it was 18 degrees below zero on the old Fahrenheit. We went down to the Remembrance Day rally down there and they even had a parade down town. Everybody prittin' near froze at that time. But that community hall was used for most of the activities in the community.

Across the street was the telephone office. Jean Sterritt was the operator along with some of the younger folks at the time.

We appreciated all the people here in this community that gave us such a hearty welcome and we remember some of the old timers that had gone on since then and some have moved away. But we still have good fellowship with all the pastors of all the churches and are very thankful for the way we were received as strangers in this area. We feel that our work here as yet is not altogether complete even though we are retired from school maintenance job. I got to know most of the principals and school teachers and all the schools around in this Hazelton area, which is the Terrace school district #88.

When the Lord so marvelously healed me of cancer and my husband of very serious asthma. It put a burden on our hearts to come in the mission field. We didn't know where we were going when they told us there was an opening at Hazelton for the pastor for the Pentecostal Church. We didn't know where Hazelton or if there was a Hazelton in B.C.. We had a calling for the Indian people. We didn't there was an Indian in Hazelton. But as the Lord revealed it to me as I was praying. One day when we came here we saw the same sight as I saw in a vision. It confirmed to us that we are in place where God wanted us to be and it has proven that. As a pastor you generally stay in one place for two or three or four or five years and then move on, but our calling is still as great as ever and we are still here even though not in full time work. We still enjoy being with our people every one of them. We're so grateful to God for making up the way for us. Many things have happened since we've been here, sorrowful ones and happy ones. We thank God that we can join in with the sorrow of our people and the happiness of our people because we experienced all these. We are so thankful that Hazelton has turned into a real place of beauty. Go down through the town now and it's all new homes, new people, green lawns. Everything's got a real; what do you call it? Lifted up face? Face lifted up? Same with

the villages we are so greatful things are going as they are.

Jack never mentioned that we had a daughter with us when we came and she married an Indian fellow and raised a family. We lost him and then we lost their oldest boy. Through it all it just draws us closer to the lord and closer to our Indian people who go through the same sorrows as well as the white people.

At one time we were going to Africa, but it wasn't Africa that God was calling us to, it was up to Hazelton. We are thankful for the beautiful calling of the lord and all that he means to us.

The Royal Bank wasn't there. The Sargents' store was the old Sargents store. I remember going to that old store and meeting Bill Sargent and George Ingram. They were working in the store and Bobby Allen. They were young men then, running that store. Of course since then they've built a new store and the Bank is built where the old store used to stand. Hazelton has certainly improved. There was a little Bank when we came, it was a log building right down by the river. It was just a log place. The river used to come up high in those days. I guess they moved some of those places away from the bank.

They built a new Hudson Bay store. There are so many new places in town since we came.

We've had moose through our yard here. Three moose just standing out in the field here one morning. Another time a big Bull ran up across through the yard here and up the hill. I called Lou York, he lived at Two Mile. He got his gun, He went around the other way and he got 'em.

A got a picture of the bears. Old mother running out of the bluff here up the hill after her little one because her little one didn't get through the fence. Her little one turn around an' went back. So shw went up through the fence and up the hill. I got it all on movie. A little one crying up the trees here in the back of Janzes' hause now. Got seperated from the mother and crying half the night till the mother came back back to get 'm. It's been exciting all the way around.

Where did the post office used to be? Is that in Perry York's buliding down town?

Yes, it was in the bottom. And who was it had the store? The buliding up at Two Mile? Mr. and Mrs.? Myros.

Myros, Matt Myros had the store. It's in that same building that they call it the York's apartments. The building that the Tribal Council...

Matt Myros had the store in the bottom of it. The post office was next door wasn't it? They were all in the same building.

We did they use the top part for? Was it just apartments?

Yes, apartments.

Those were out for rent?

Yeah

What type of people lived up there? Were they loggers?

School teachers.

One time a cow moose and calf come across the Skeena and went right through the town. It was in Smithers where the moose when in through the store. But they went right through town and up the hill next. They're not so plentiful anymore either.

An Old Timer told us since we came here when the river was flooding high that those in Hazelton looked across the river and there was a cabin with smoke still coming out the pipe, went floating past Hazelton from Glen Vowell. It's a true story. It was still floating.

Do you know anything about Bill Sargents' house, the one he's living in now?

No. That would be a very interesting house to go through I think. That's where his dad built that house.

Did it used to be three different houses made together into one?

I wouldn't even know that.

Somebody older than us could tell you that.

Cause I remember hearing that one time.

Too bad grandpa Manning wasn't here he lived to be a hundred and one.

He told us how, when he come up from the interior from Merritt on the Telegraph Trail. They came with horses, mostly mules and everything packed on their backs. They didn't know how long it would take. They would have pancakes in the morning. Any that was left over from the crew. He would put 'em away and dry 'em out an' stack them away into a box. He thought, well at least he'd have something to eat. He said that crossing the Bulkley River at one place he said that one mule got washed off his feet. He went bobbing down the Bulkley River, his pack on his back. It crawled down out the side of the bank down further.

He said in (he talked in an English way) he was speaking about the Indians. He told them the young bucks would be on the leeway, with the wife behind him. There used to be 100 lbs. of flour in barrels those days, it wasn't in bags. He said she'd be walking with a barrel on her back and baby walking beside her and her husband be walking ahead of her. That was when he came and that was years ago.

He said they come when they were out of food and he was glad he had his old dried pancakes and soak them in water and eat them.

He came years ago when there was no roads, no railways. He come on the Telegraph Creek. Even yet, you can see in different places over at South Town on Polocks' farm, wire and insulators are still on the

trees below the Bulkley (Mt. Roche de Boule I mean). There's still some of the wires and insulators up on the trees.

Did they have to come over Roche de Boule to come over this way?

No. The line came from Burns Lake on through here and out that way towards Prince Rupert, I guess. The line went right across the Pollock's farm by Seeley Lake.

It didn't extend up north?

I don't know: It's all new to us. But I saw the wire and the insulators.

It was very new and very exciting to us. We're very thrilled of it all and the beauty of it. It's always been my nature to be an outdoor person. I'm interseted in other ways of living, coming from out of the bush country myself, raised in log cabin. The native people used to come up from the South and stay overnight with us, passing through.

This country is so much like Northern Saskatchewan. Except there are mountains. Although where we kive now, they got it cut down like the baldheaded prairies. We had alot of bush and alot of moose and bears. That's why I love it here.

Is it true that the first moose was sighted here in this area? Do you know anything about that?

You have to ask some older timer than me.