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Wallace Danes Born January 11, 1921

Miriam Danes Born September 10, 1928

What about your mother and father, we were just talking about that?

Well I don't know when they were born.

No, I meant to say who was your mother and father? You were talking about the cannery.

Well yeah, we, my father, like I say my father is Joseph Danes and my mother is Harriet Danes. Her maiden name is Muldoe, the daughter of Tommy Muldoe and Esther Muldoe. And each year we go down to the cannery, everybody goes to the cannery. Not like now a days you see all the wanders of the houses, nobody around. Just maybe, were I can't say it. Not to many people stay home anyway and most of the people go down to the cannery. The cannery were we go is the Belmore Cannery.

That's still there now?

No most of those canneries down the coast are extinguished, ther's nothing there now. Belmore cannery is in Oxtall, thats in the mouth of the Skeena river.

What about your mother and father Miriam?

Well my dads name is James Morrison and my mothers name is Birtha Wilson, thats her maiden name. My dad died while he was fishing down the coast, my mother is still alive, Birtha she is eighty-seventy years old now.

Have both of you in Hazelton through out your life?

No I,, I was born in Hazelton, but my parents lived in Kispiox Wallace.

Yeah I was born, born in Hazelton here.

What about stories and expiriences that have happened in the early years?

Well I think that was the expirience that have happened. Fishing. And the sailboat went down at the Belmore. Quit an expirience. I don't think there's to many people thats around here that fishes. And that sailboat I just managed to make it myself

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Do you have any stories or experiences Miriam?

I don't, I just forget, I have lots of stories I guess. Well I go to school in Kispiox and since I was a little girl I helped my mother after my dad died. I remember that when I was going to school my dad used to get up with mother. My dad, they get up and they would dress us like... they don't have those woolen socks. They have those cut blankets they wrap around... What would you call them? Then you would have your moccasins like you have your socks and they wrap those wool over again and they put your moccasins on that's really cold and that's my dad's job to do that while mother is getting breakfast ready. We don't have bacon and eggs. Maybe she has that fish, those salt fish and I remember she used to make that fried potatoes besides that porridge.

That was for breakfast?

Yeah, that's it. We hardly see bacon and eggs like we do now.

What about stories that were handed down from your ancestors?

(Miriam) Yeah my grandmother, that's my dad's mother always tells us stories but I never remember those.

Yeah there's a lot that can't remember them, there's so many.

✓ I was so small and used to stay over like when my parents come into Hazelton to get some groceries. We stay over with her. I love staying with her cause she tells us stories and she cooks, I like her cooking. All grandmothers are like that. I love staying with them. My mother and them would stay a couple of nights here and then, I don't know what they'd use I think they walk. Not many cars in those days I remember that Crosby used to have That's not too long ago hey? Model T. I think they have cars before. So is the radios because when my dad was alive he used to go down to Robert Wilson used to own a store. That's where Wilson's dad, grandfather. And they have a store and they have a radio there that's where they all the people that there past time was to go to the place and listen to the radio. We don't have radios.

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Did you have any stories past down to you Wallace?

W Yeah lots of stories, but I don't remember.

Alot of people say that they heard so many and they like to remember, but nobody asked them.

W I know a story about Gitanmaax. It's pretty hard to remember it now. Gou'ems and his brother that's uh, I don't know what you call it in umpsiwa but Sooget hooksten.

What does that mean?

That's dog turned into a human being. And Co'us visited this chiefs daughter that princess I guess and the chief was really strict. Their house and their every day shift just what they think of it. This man decided to go into this women it's not really a man because a dog, their own pet dog. This girl OObin(pregnant) and the chief put a matt when the baby is born they were dogs hey.

This women had babies and they were dogs?

Yes, that how Gitanmaax had started. And the chief would come and shake them off the blanket go outside and hollar to tell the people to move. He was the boss of the villiage. never left the girl behind.

Ah thats interesting.

Yeah, I coulnt remember exact how many of them, female, but one male is Gou'ems .

What does that mean?

It's the name of the girl, Gou'ems. I don't know what it means. So in order for them to survive they go out and fish, they fish with a torch light it was, Yeah that lady, the mother and then every time they heard kids playing , so he take his torch and go home and here the dogs were laying by the fire they seen their mother coming with a torch. You know what I mean by a torch hey. A light. And been doing that for quit sometime in order for her to catch fish and she would catch fish cause the light would draw fish. Make a pail of cedar bark and catches them at night. And every time when she's out by the water you heard kids are playing

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so she's smart and left the torch by the river and everyone would sneak up on her and here those kids are human and just the dogs disappear. That's Gou'ems. Those boys they take their clothes right off and they were plain, they were human. Their mother just dived right in there and grabbed and seen their coat or belt or whatever you would call it. Threw it in the fire. Just Gou'ems the one that's still a dog. I think there was three of them. They would survive that way and they grew up to be strong young boys and real good hunters, the best hunters and go hunting and have plenty to eat. They get meat and dry it and store houses just full of food as those young people bring in food. Here the people that moved away there starving so I think one person come back to see whats happened to this girl I just sort of forget this story, but I just remember it here and there. One person come back to visit us so this women gave her something to eat and they take her to her family. The people start moving back. That's why these young hunters had lots to eat So thats how Hazelton started. Gitanmaax means fishing by the river with a torch and a light. Thats were we got the name Gitanmaax. This is a long story, if it was told properly I cannot forget. So thats how we started.

M I think one person, maybe the same person that came back hid a light cause they put out all the fire to. That keep them going.

W Yeah this girl was an outcast as far as their concern. That's the thing I forget about that, somebody pittied them, pittied this girl.

What about schooling?

Wallace , we had one school here and the old lady that was teaching us named Mrs. Dongate was very old. I don't go to school very much myself because my father was a trapper and he always take me out of school and we go trapping. My schooling , I just finished to grade six and started on grade seven when I finished school. And the education is not wide open like it is now. Your lucky to even finish grades eight and

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that's it. We don't go to high school. Just recently when they brought it to high school when the school was building. Like I say alot of changes are playing in the ogistra and we start eight o'clock and the people is really on time, everybody was on time in those days. We were finished at twelve o'clock. Thats when we finished.

Eight o'clock in the mourning to twelve noon?

No eight o'clock at night. It was really strict cause christiananity was going strong and nobody goes one minute after twelve and they don't dance on sunday. And a person comes in drunk, we usually escorted them out. No drunks aloud. Not to many drunks will make us disapointed onne in awhile. Nowa days it's more drunks it looks awful but it's different in those days. I think in the early days that people are more civilized than that now a days.

What about dancing? Was there dancing then?

Yeah you see them all the people and the young people there they don't waste the music and they don't put the lights out. You don't see American women go to the dance to watch the band.

How was your school Miriam?

I think I just went as far as grade seven. Like, I always babysit then sometimes my aunt Kate used to take me out and take me down to North Pacific Cannery to babysit so I missed alot of school too. Then in the fall we kind of stayed out late. We go down and my mother and my dad and my uncle and my aunt . They go down to... that's were they do their fish. Yeah Carniby, that's were they dried fish. We spent a whole month there. That's after we come back from the cannery they dried their fish and salt fish and they last for the winter months. So I don't, I missed some of my days in school. And when my dad died I tried to work when I was only thirteen. Worked in a cannery. I was filling cans. When I do lots of babysitting to help my mother. They don't have these welfare in those days, even the Indian department don't even help us through my uncle Peter and my

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uncle Bob that help us by groceries. Like flour, sugar, and milk whatever we use all the time and they'd help us out on that. There's no help from any, like they do now. All kinds of help, but my mother can really put up things. Like food, have a big garden to survive. So I really thank mother for being such a good mother to us cause she's a single parent and brought us all up forgot how many of us, there's lots of us and she never would, like some of our relatives would like to take some of us and she wouldn't. She wouldn't let go of us. they just want to help us, she wouldn't. I really glad and proud of her for doing that.

Okay there are other topics like floods, bridges, something to do with the Hospital, Packing, mining, telegraph line and fishing. Do you guys know any of these topics here?

Yeah the time the bridge was washed away in the bulkley here. I think it's 1936, I'm not to sure. We went around on a train to go fishing and I think there were two trains traveling together. It was quit an expirience when Hazelton had one of the finest ogistras and they make good use of them on the train when we travel and the train would stop at Prince George and each drive an equal way on this train. There's William Wale and Pete from the saxophone. Arthur Mowatt, George Simpson, Peter Brown on the trombone and quit an expirience. We, for some reason they side tracked at Kamloops. That's really an upset. We stayed in Kamloops for two days cause I think it was on count of the schedule of the boats I think. Can't get us all on on the boat. It was quit an expirience. And all this canneries, there used to be lots of canneries down there at the coast. Like I say, there's Belmore, B.A, there's H-sport, Carlile, Sunny Side, just Casear, not to much of Casear left. There's lots of other canneries that I didn't remember or didn't even see, but then we stayed in Sunny Side. When the sports days in Hazelton and Kispiox are the finalists in those days, like those people are more civilized than us in

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the olden days. And one time the Babine come down to play ball here and I remember they were here about three or four days ahead of time and Hazelton had a real good concert band then and I think there was thirty of them. They had a banquet for them, the babines, just a welcome banquet for them and the band played for them. It was the first time the babines ever experienced any thing like that. It was a real treat for everybody. When babine plays ball they bought a big bat from Mr. Dawson, the only place the only place where you could buy a bat I don't know what they used before that. They just bought a bat, the heaviest bat they could use. They are good ball players. I remember one of them Dicky Cowboy they call him he's a little short. I don't know why I remember Dicky Cowboy. Maybe just his name I guess and everybody calls him, I don't know his right name but they call him Dicky Cowboy and that's what they use in the line up, Dicky Cowboys up to bat. Maybe there not as good as Hazelton at the time but they were good ball players I remember we go to sports in Kispiox here and we walk we had no cars, maybe somebody will have a team of horses but we walk to have dinner, maybe halfways up maybe just about to Glenvowel creek. Just before we get to Glenvowel turn off. They would keep it going and they would keep it going and they would have another turn. They spent over night where the place where they are the sports in Kispiox. They don't come back at the night after the sports. One time we used the buggy into Glenvowel. Jimmy Danes borrowed someones horse and buggy and they run away on us in Glenvowel and smash up the buggy so we walk home. The horse ran away on us so were pretty fast runners, took us awhile to catch up with the horse Interesting. What about tracking, mining, or the Hospital those are the other topics we haven't talked about? Wallace) I trapped with my father his name is Geloget. It is the top man of the culdoe villiage, there used to be a villiage north of here. And there was a nother villiage, I can't remember. My father is the chief the top man of culdoe. The villiage they have one of the

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richest trapping grounds which this Mary McKenzie is using the name now. I remember we used to trap every day, we go out in the fall, come home just for Christmas and then go out again then we would come home in the middle of march. What was the entertainment in those days, like games, movies sports?

W Not to many movies here, not to many entertainment. There's no television, there's no radio. And when they do have movies they were silent movies in black and white. Not to much of that.

What about games? or sports? There was softball then wasn't there?

There's no softball, there was baseball. There was soccer and for some reason Hazelton never used to have a soccer team they were strictly baseball. And they do have ice hockey.

So we talked about commercial fishing and canneries. Is there anything else you wanted to include about that? Yeah the canneries and then, like Miriam said we fish. Fish here when my grandfather and grandmother used to have a smoke house right at the point down here were the skeena and bulkley met. One of the very finest smoke house I guess because right beside it is a natural swimming pool, the slew. Not like it is right now it's different grass it used to be, I mean the sand used to be really clean there. It's a real, everybody is used of it. They don't go to Seely lake or Ross lake, they come to the slew. They don't allow us to go on the river side, but some people do like Burt Chaples son was swift away by the river there and drown and Eidith McDougals son named nammy.

That was a Indian name?

No, It was just a nic name. There was a Charlie Miers that was swept down that river. He's lucky he got shore at the river side and it was way late at night when he come home his parents and his grandparents still crying it's ah Miers son the one that used to own a store at... but he's lucky to have survived and he walked in while they were crying.

It must have been quit an expirience

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What about railroads, Churches or World war 1 or 11?

Would you happen to know anything about the world war 1 or 11?

Yeah, i was, I joined the army. Salomon Jack, Jimmy Danes and myself we joined the army. Archie Willan from New Hazelton and Buster Smith from New Hazelton. There was five of us Get on the train here, you should see all the people that seen us off. I think we were the only ones they seen off. Lot's of people from Hazelton joined the army. For some reason kind of excited when we passed Kitwaga there the whole village was there. I didn't go over sea, I just spent six months. I got a small little bone that broken on my right and that it bothered me especially with those army boots they had it really bothered me when were marching so I got discharged, but Jimmy and Salomon went over seas. But there's lots more from Hazelton that went.

Was there logging then?

Mostly pole camps they call it, that's the name. This one around here are poles and fishing. Either you go fishing in the winter you go to the pole camps. There's alot of pole camps that's were you make your livelyhood it's really next to nothing but something to do anyway.

What about the railroad, was there one in town here?

No, the roads were across south Hazelton and New Hazelton I guess I missed out on those days thats, I think the railroad come through Hazelton according to what I heard 1914 and those river boats there that the same thing as, I guess there out of buisness as soon as there railroad is in buisness and we don't know nothing about the river boats and pack trains. I barely remember that. A bunch of horses used to come through here they used to deliver the supplies to another place. Especially the telegraph lines I guess.

Would you like to include other things that happened while growing up?

They were pretty strong and church giong people and that was another thing that was very strong and all the villages

I guess that we used to go and visit each others and you hardly see any persons either there in church all the time. Like in Hazelton there's a church army and Salvation Army. If your late going into either one of them you have to stand cause it's packed all the time almost every night. The food that was eaten was mainly from the garden, plus you guys went hunting moose meat etc. ?

Yes, the people they don't realize that the store's only got just sugar and flour, rice. But you grow your own vegetables. They use canned meat, dry meat, salt fish. If your were an Indian you would be starving. They make you eat your plate pretty well off.

What about feasts, how did that begin?

I don't know how it started but it must have started in the early days we just go on into it and take it for granted.

The people that put up the feasts had to provide the food?

Yes

Like right now does anything change from the way they used to run the feasts?

Yes there is a change, they use money now. They didn't use money in those days. They used moose hide. That's one of the bad things about the feasts is when some people put in to much money. A feast is for funeral expenses paid for the expense. Thars what a feast is for, but some people just go over board and there is no need for that.

What kind of gifts were used at the feasts?

The gifts were anything like blankets, socks, shirts, just some of them but I was given a riffle at one time. It depends on what you do.

like helping out and that?

Yes, if you do the work right, that's what they do right now. What you see happening in the feasts. It's like there's alot of changes. Our peoples down fall is liquor .

Where there farms back then?

Yeah there's farm and oh Mickolinco, John Mickolinco. That's down here where Neil John is staying now.

What kind of animals?

There's cows and horses. John is married to, John is a Russian guy married to this black lady and next to that is

Donald Mackintosh, next farm is Johnny Mackintosh, Helen Beckner and I forgot the person that stays down there.

How did you travel, How did the people travel?

Well people, if the people have horse they, that's the way they travel, but no people walk or canoe. That's if they go down this way they use the canoe.

In the winter, do they have sleighs?

Yes and a toboggan and a team of horses, I mean dog sleigh .

Okay we talked about clothes earlier, what were they like then?

Mostly our clothes are handmade like my sister Dorothy, she usually makes me little cotton dresses and I just use these for special occasions like going to school and church and we just put on our old clothes. We don't just wear our clothes like I just keep my good clothes for going out and put on my old work clothes around the house. Like my mother, I always remember she has this special under, well I guess I just admire it that's why I remember it. It's made out of flour sack. It's really nicely made. It's a under slip, half slip with a wreal about three inches wide, lace. Same with the top and she doesn't wear this all the time just when she's going out like dancing and all special occasions she puts it on I noticed that and her best dress. I know that she just dressed in her old clothes at home, but when she goes out these special slip of hers. I think she still kept it for a long time I don't know if she still has it. I don't know. Cause she doesn't wear this all the time just on special occasions.

What about houses, what were they made of? How did they look?

Well our house was a log house and just a one room place and a wooden floor. Well we have another room, but they just use that as a storage area and it's made out of lumber and probably they just built that, but we just have a one room. I remember she really kept the house clean. The floor was nice and white, scrubbed all the time. In those days I seen they have wooden houses, nicely built houses in Kispiox in my days, but I think

the house we stayed in belonged to my dad's parents.

So you stayed out Kispiox then when you were small?

M Yeah then I was married then I moved here.

How far did you have to walk to get into town? Was it a long ways?

Did you guys go by horses?

M We usually walk into town that's when I was a little bit older
Not too often though hey?

M No, like I remember one time, I think my dad always goes trap-
ping and he goes for a long time. I don't know cause I remem-
ber they tried to come back before our sports day on the 10TH
of May and he tries to come back before that I know. Sometimes
my mother maybe wants to visit with my uncle Bob Pierre he
works in the store, Sargents store and we all walk down from
Kispiox to here I think she have a child on her back the smallest
one. Can't remember the smallest one at that time. Used to
pack one of the child. We'd walk. Like I say we'd maybe spent
couple of days with him and were ready to go back again.
What kind of work did you have to do then to earn money?

M Well I usually babysit and then when we go down the canneries
I babysit with my own brothers and sisters. Then after my dad
died I started working in the cannery. My mother works in the
cannery filling cans.

Where there any other relatives living in Hazelton or in Kispiox?
Yeah.

You guys were always from Kispiox and in Hazelton?

M Yeah we have our uncle Peter here and Emilia stays in Hazelton
and Dacy Olson and my aunt Kay Sterritt. Yeah we have lots of
relatives in Hazelton and also Kispiox.

For storing food, would you have it in one storage place or
in your own house?

Yes my mother have her own storage place like that little thing
they built out and they have this seller. That's where they keep
the potatoes and vegetables. And their fruit, their jarred fruit.
Where there feasts for weddings too?

Yes they have feasts for weddings. Our mother said that, I never
been to the weddings when I was a little girl, but my mother
said they served soup in those days just like a feast they put

up.

They didn't have gifts then?

Oh, I don't know maybe Mary M^cKenzie would know that.

What did they do when a person was sick, like what kind of medicine was given to them?

M When a person gets sick. Well they make there own.

Something about bark?

W I think Devilclub was the main one.

M What do you call those tea leaves. I forgot what you call it now. That's their laxative. Just taste like tea. I think they boil it hey. There about this long the leaves. They boil it and they just drink it and they just drink it like tea. That's the other medicine that I know of. And ooligan greece for colds coughing.

Berry picking, was that done alot? Would you store the berries for food too?

M They trade for whatever they make here, I guess they trade it with the Nass in order to get ooligan greece and ooligans, dried ooligans.

Have any of you either made moccasin boots, blankets or spinning wool?

M I remember mother makes those aduks they say, she makes those and she makes those moccasins. I don't know if she does the wool too. I remember she used to, like the new wool and like she unravels the socks, the warn out socks. Then she uses the spinser. The new wool and the old wool together she makes a new pair of socks again that's all I remember. She usually do it. I don't know if she spins her own wool, maybe she does. What about the language, when did you learn how to speak Indian? Oh, I speak my language when I started to talk. Still speak it. I'm not good at speaking english. Cause I talk my own language.

Did your parents talk to you alot in Indian?

Yeah, they don't talk english. My mother doest talk english. How old do you think you were before you started talking regular in indian? *Quit young though hey?*

Yeah, both my parents they speak my own language. When were in

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school we speak our own language.

Even in school?

Yeah well amongst our self like I hear the children now they speak english. But just when were right in school like when were out like playing we talk our language.