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Who and what was here when you arrived in Hazelton?

Well Hazelton was here and all those farmers in the Kispiox valley were here because I arrived in Hazelton on March 5, 1918.

Were you born in Hazelton?

Yes.

What was your earliest recollection of Hazelton?

I was about, I imagine 3 or 4 years old, the town appeared to be busier than it is now, quite a few more building of course there were no nice streets when it rained, they were mud. Two hotels and about three restaurants.

Was Dr. Wrinch your delivering doctor?

Yes he was the one that bought me into this world and he bought my mother into this world too in 1898 when she was born.

What changes have you seen in Hazelton?

Well, of course it's more modern these days it was pretty well the seat of government, the mining recording office was here many more government agencies then there are now.

What kind of agencies?

Well there was the land office and of course there was no human resources office or welfare or anything like that. The police were here there was the provincial police, and the R.C.M.P. and there was one man called the dominion police man. But that soon went away.

What was his job?

I don't really remember.

What was the economic base at that time?

Mining, farming, Cedar poles, fishing.

Was there much of an exodus to the coast during the summer?

Oh yes the villages would be empty.

Tell us about some of the mining in the area.

Well there was the Silver Standard mine operated in those early days and before I remember the Roché de Boule operated but there

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was a great deal of prosperaty going on because there was a lot of pack trains going out in the spring and summer when the river goes down.

What were they looking for?

O.K. Anything. Gold, Silver.

Anything to make a buck?

Yes.

What about some of the logging in the area? When did logging first start?

In, lets see. Oh, I think the big push came on right after the second world war. Before that there was the odd little mill around but nothing to speak of.

How do you mean by a big push?

Well there was fifty sawmills around but nothing big. Small portable sawmills.

Who was some of the people who owned them?

I remember a few names. Harry Simpson, Dave Prett, Freddy Bug Hap Leary and his brother had one, and there was quite a few on the reserves and there was about eight people working on each and they did the logging too, about eight to twenty and they would go to one spot and log it then move to another and log that.

What kind of markets did they have?

Oh God!! They were cutting prime timber they were making 2x9x13 scaffolding and most of it had to be knot free now they allow more. But there was a good price for it you could ship it anywhere in North America.

How were the winter when you first came here?

Oh they were colder than they are now and there was no snow removal, of course.

How did they contend with it?

Just let it lie there and it would pack down. Put the cars away, in the fall and get them out again in the spring and use the horses all winter.

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What kind of activities took place in town, mostly, in the community hall?

Oh, dances, concerts, it was a great sports town during the depression. They were baseball teams from here travelled all over. Prince George, Prince Rupert. They even imported a couple of people to play for them. I forget their names now., but they couldn't find a job. They were able to get a room and food and a couple of bucks on Saturday night. So they came to Hazelton, to play ball.

Tell us some more about the sports in the area.

They played at totem park that's been there as long as I can remember. It's been rebuilt a couple of times. The poles were moved there sometime after the second world war, but I was away when it went up there.

You were away for awhile?

Yes. I was in the army and then I did some ship building in Prince Rupert.

What kind of schooling was available at the time?

There was a one room school with eight grades in it. A primary school with about forty kids, I guess. One teacher. And there was high school with one teacher and about thirty-four pupils.

Tell us about some of your recollections of New Hazelton?

Well there was a hotel there about where Simpson Sears is and the Omineca Herald was where the Chevron is and Larkworthy had his store down close to the station, it's apartments now. There was a school there about where the building supply facing the street the other way, not the one that comes down from the highway and there was a few houses there but that was about it.

What kind of interaction was there between New Hazelton and Hazelton?

Well, I thought it was good. There was a great rivalry in sport but I thought it was O.K. Well, there were one or two guys that would snarl once and a while. But it was O.K.

Was there difficulty in Transportation? Did you get over to New Town much?

No not that much, because the kid coming to High school had to walk both ways. They would have to walk down in the morning. I quit just before I wrote the exams for Grade II because I had a chance to go out on a job. So I left school.

Work at that time was more important than school?

Oh yeah. It sure was.

How much did you get payed for doing your job?

I took over the operation of the power plant at the hospital. I did all the maintenance for 59.60 a month for twelve hours a day. No time off. Every day, Sundays too and ~~when~~ I got married, they gave me two weeks off without pay.

What kind of work would that entail?

I was operating the power plant and doing all the repairs in the hospital. Your grandfather came to work with me after I had worked two or three years, but we had to do all the carpentry, all repairs to wiring and had our own water system. So we had to look after that as well. We looked after the boiler that fed the hospital. Mow all the grass by hand, one of those that you pushed. In the early days when I worked there you had to saw thirty to forty cords of wood...with an electric wood saw because the old laundry man flatly refused to use anything else but a big huge copper boiler and he had it built over a fire and he would throw the clothes in there and boil them, all the sheets.

What effect did the churches have in the community?

They were better attended than they are now. There wasn't the attractions that there are now..

What kind of health services were there?

The hospital. When you got sick, you went there and that was it.

Was the Nurses school in full operation?

Yes. I can remember it. I forget when they closed it down but I remember it was going in full operation when I started school. That would be 1924-25. I had to wait a little longer because my birthday was in March...at that time we lived across from the hospital where Mikalows live. There was a big house there and my father was the foreman on the hospital farm after we moved in from the Kispiox Valley. Then later we moved down town because he figured it was too far to walk to school.

Tell us about some of your recollections from the valley?

We lived there until I was five years old and then we moved down where Petersons farm is, across the Skeena and then we moved across from the hospital. Oh! For a while we lived in a house right behind the hospital.

What can you remember about the nurses school?

Not that much. I was too young. My father was around there all the time because he did maintenance too.

Do you remember the shift from the old hospital to the new one?

Yes that was 1931. I think in January of 31 or was it 32? When we were living down town.

What do you know about the business community?

Well, the riverboats stopped six years before I was born. Of course Sargent's store isn't where it is now. It was about where the breeze way is between the store and the hotel and back farther. They had a big huge warehouse sitting about where the parking lot is. And then there was sort of a town square with hitching posts and rail for horses and that's where they had horse shoe throwing contests.

Can you remember Hazelton days?

That was the flower show they called it. Yes, I remember it well. In those days the men in town use to compete with one another for the best flower gardens. In June when you walked through the streets, the smell was almost overpowering of flowers. I remember Sargent made a float on his big open touring car. I forget what kind it was. The float was of a river boat and covered it entirely with roses. They worked all night to put the roses on so they wouldn't wilt before morning. Then there was of course the big sports day with baseball and races and everything. I don't remember the horse races they used to have on government street but my mother told me about them and there was pictures of them. They race up and down the street. Yeah, it was an active community.

Did you play any sports?

Yeah. I played baseball and hockey and did a fair amount of skiing in the winter. Downhill racing and ski jumping mostly. We had for a while, during the 1940's there was a ski tow up the Babine road there going up the hill there. Allen Benson had it. Then right there where they built that open air rink beside Totem Park, some of the men fell the large poplar trees and built a runway. We'd jump on the side hill there, of course we're done away with the side hill now. But that was too short. Down past South Hazelton on the river side of the tracks we had a real good ski jump.

What about some of the other sports Baseball, Hockey?

Well they had an open air rink about where the village public works is. That's the one I can remember. Before that they use to make them on the river.

Getting back to the businesses, what about Myros and Smith?

I can go right back to when Smith was operating it and that was where you go right up the street past the present building. On the left hand side, there was a big cribbing there holding the road up. That's where Smith had his store. But then he died. There was a gap in there, we lived in Smithers for three or four years. But Myros came along and he...I forget her name now, got married and Myros built a new building. The one renovating now and later they moved the old Smith building down to right straight across from the building they're renovating now and turned it into a high school and that's where I went to high school. The primary school was where Rosie Morrison lives. That's where it was; there and that's where the school yard. In fact, I think Rosie's house is built out of the material from the school. Smokey tore it down and then built a house there. It would be I guess in the fifties when they built the high school they have now. But by that time they had little schools all over town, renting rooms here and there.

What year did Myros close down or sellout to York?

It was in the early seventies. Myros built the house in two mile.

When was the R.C.M.P. barracks built down there?

Part of the building must have been built in the early thirties and then it was added on to. But I don't know when it was added on to. At one time they patrolled too, I think. They patrolled from Terrace to Burns Lake and they still had horses of course, they had horses right up to the forties.

What kind of entertainment was available? Show Hall, Dancing Girls, Newspaper?

They would bring a show down once a week. They had to bring these power plants down with them because we didn't have the proper kind of power. There was very little power in Hazelton, just some of those little DC plants. They were still depending on coal oil lamps and brass lamps. It must have been in the early fifties when they started up the diesel plant. That's when my brother Rod, went to work for them actually. They had been operating for a couple of years before that and he started with them in 1952.

What can you tell us about the newspaper?

Oh it was a small newspaper about the format of the province exceptionally 4 pages and that was operated by Mr Saul. I forget whether he sold the equipment to Terrace and it became the Terrace Herald

Originally that paper had been in Hazelton, but when the big boom went on and the railroad went through New Town. He moved it to New Town, but then things went flat.

Why did things go flat there for awhile, and expansion started in Smithers and Terrace?

Well it...it made once that railroad went through instead of everything coming on the steamboats and being distributed all the way up the Bulkley Valley; and as far as Prince George in some cases as far as Fort George then. That took away a lot of the economy of the country, the railroad going through, and I suppose mining dropped off a bit, prospecting although it went on until just lately. Well there's still a lot of it that goes on only now they use helicopters instead of pack trains and there was a big telegraph office here. I don't know how many worked in there but it was quite a few. Of course they had to supply the Telegraph line all the operators and line men along the way to telegraph creek. So the pack trains went out of here as far as the eighth cabin. Then from telegraph creek they came down to ninth cabin to distribute the food because the steamboats were still running up the Stikine to Telegraph Creek.

What part did you play in the war?

I never got overseas. I was mostly a teacher. I taught hand to hand combat, guerilla tactics etc. I was on my way to Burma when I took sick and ended up in the hospital and by the time I got out the war was long over, so it wasn't really a very colourful war for me.

What was public opinion at the onset of war?

Oh Hazelton was a town of old men and young boys. Everyone was gone that could possibly go. There was three of us that went. Marie Wilson, she's my sister, she went and my brother Phillip, he was in the first special service force. It was made up of Canadians and Americans who wore something like the green berets. Only they wore red berets. They had both Canadians and American officers who led them. He was killed at Anzio during the invasion of Italy. He was only 19.

Was there much of a change in the area as the war carried on?

Yes. They had to take 13-14 year old boys and put them on the public highways trucks to drive them. They couldn't get anyone else. They had an army detachment at Skeena Crossing to guard the bridge there. They had other roving patrols because they were prime targets and Prince Rupert was an important place.

There was no highway down there then. So they had to make sure the bridges weren't blown up, because there were people around that would do it you know.

When did that road go into Rupert?

It was finished before the war was over.

Was there much of a change in the economic base in the war?

Yes, well thats when the huge market for lumber came in streams and the small portable mills started operating.

What were some of the old industries that you don't see anymore I guess the mining was the only one. the pack trains as well and of course trapping has disappeared, that was a big one

What was the economy like during the depression? Did it hit this area very hard?

Yes but if you wanted to expend some energy you didn't go hungry because most people ate well that bothered to do some hunting or anythin like that. I remember my father had a garage and there were some days that there would be 1.25 in the cash registrar and that would be for labour, the rest would be meat, potatoes and eggs things like that; bartering. We were in the house, there was a big barn down where Steve Juhas has his restaurant right across the street from his place and then there was another one where Scotty lives. A big barn there where people could pat there horses when they came to town.

What do you know about the steamboats?

Just what I've read. As I say they were gone six years before I was born. When I was a small boy in Port Essington. I use to play on the the old Inlander. It was us on the beach there. The machinery had been stripped out of her, but other than that she was in one piece. Now I hear she has disappeared entirely. But that would have been 1928 when I played on her, and she was out of the water then about 15-16 years.

What do you know about the following places: Fort Steele?

I've just driven through it.

First Cabin and the telegraph line?

The cabins were rough by a days travel apart. That was 20-25 miles then. They had halfway cabins. They were just a small place, so that if a man were stuck during the winter, he could go there; then they had what you call refuge cabins which were just lean-to that they could light a fire in front. They would have wood and probably some kind of stove and maybe a little food.

Who took care of the maintenance of these places?

One of the big trucks that I remember here was a chain driven truck with solid rubber tires on it, Hugh Birch used to drive it it had no cab on it.

How were cars built back then?

Well I know one thing, that they're nice maybe to romance about but I wouldn't own one today. The weird lights would fall off a 10,000 miles and fenders would fall off because they were put on so clumsily. No heaters, even in sedans. If you were at 10,000 mile without a valve job you were doing good. And a 20,000 a ring job, bearing job and another valve job. No they can romance all they want about those old cars. I worked on those old cars I worked on those old cars. They were still around when I was working while a teenager, but working with a mechanic. I'd sooner have a 1935 model. Funny thing is that if you figured out the cost of a car in those days compared to the cost of cars these days in relation to wages, they are far cheaper now then they were then. For one of those cars you payed maybe 13-14 hundred dollars for the better model and I was calculating that when I were to work if I'd put all my checks in the bank, it would take me 3 years to buy a car and today it would take less than a year. So in relation to the dollar, cars have gone down in price and you get a much better car, everything in it, self contained.

When you say a better model, what would be the difference between a good one and a bad one?

Well, a model T retailed in Hazelton for about \$750.00, and well say one of the big studebakers and Nash would be about 1500.00. They were much more power.

Did they have air conditioning?

Oh no. The air conditioning was the air blowing around the windshield. You had to stop when it started to rain and put curtains around the side. No they were nothing like they were now and of course the roads were poorer, if you were a good driver you could make it to Smithers in 2 hrs. that was in the thirties. No there was no comparison. An odd thing was there was an airplane flying here when I was five years old with big game hunters. Old George Burns bought one. That's how my stepfather came into the country he came into overhaul because he'd been a mechanic in the air-force in the First World War. But when he wrote up the estimate on it, George Burns thought it was to much, so he sold it. The first radio, I remember you took turns putting the headphones on to listen to it. There was a family named Coxes that live right next to the pentacostal. Well their house was were Mae Simpsons house is now and they had a radio. Once in a while us kids would get in there and we could put the headphones on and listen a bit.

What was family life like?

It was certainly alot tighter than it is now. You did things as a unit. If you were going to have a picnic that was a big thing. Nice weather was to go out and have a picnic, both summer and winter, I carried that on for a long time even with my own family. When the kids were 8,9,12 years old we use to go out in the winter time and have picnic somewhere. Four mile bridge there use to be a big beach there. It's gone now on the other side by that pully and that was a great place to go. You could go swimming there, because the water didn't move out very fast, so it warmed up a bit. But families did things as a unit not

like now when one goes one way and another goes another way. Of course the boys had alot of wood to cut every year. Saw it all by hand with a five foot cross saw. Split it, carry it in, bring coal in, carry the ashes out, carry all the water for the day. We had a large family you see, there was nine of us. My mother and father also. So that meant a forty-five drum of water everyday had to be carried from the river. We'd carry it in buckets and make quite a few trips. When we got old enough we'd drive a truck down to the river and fill it, drive it back, then transfer it to another container. There was several people in town wh made a living carrying water to the restaurants and hotel. 10¢ a bucket. Chinamen with the pole over there shoulder and the last one around that carried water for a living is Robert Robinson. He carried water for a living.

What foods were available then that aren't available now?

Well for one thing, there was sea foods that you could buy in the Hudson Bay that you can't buy now. Like seaweed would come in cakes and dried herring eggs and dried oolichon things like that are about all. We didn't have the fresh lettuce and those kind of things in the winter time at Christmas time they would bring in one for Christmas but that was about it. I can remember corn growing. See it was almost a solid building triangle motors is now. That lot was a lot larger those days and it all burnt down one night and I don't remember when it burned. I think I was living up the Kispiox at that time. Then Dr Wrinch bought it and planted corn there one year. There is a picture downtown of Bill Sargents father and Dr. Wrinch standing beside the corn and it was many feet taller than they were.

Did you use a lot of canned foods?

No. Not really. People had places to store food. But mind you for people that were going out on a pack train, or for those working on the telegraph line all their food had to be canned except for fresh meat. They hunted for fresh meat. They were also supplied with fresh meat even their butter was canned, their potatoes and their vegetables were canned.

How was your salary divided up each month?

Just by the seat of your pants. When I was first married I paid 10.00 dollars a month for rent for a house. It was one of the more modern houses. It had a pump in it. You didn't have to carry water, you could pump it. That house is still standing, just back off where Trombleys live. There is a little log house that was 1940. When I got married they raised my rent to 75.00 dollars a month. If our total bill at the store was over \$20.00 dollars, my wife would get upset.

What was the overall effect when the public school and the Indian school were amalgamated?

Well, we got much better...a wider variety of teaching. Mind you, I have no complaints about the teachers we had. A teacher that handled from grade 8-13 was doing a pretty good job and I don't think we really lacked that much except our lab was pretty primitive. But it was better all around and there was a good gym built; see that was both primary and high school at the time. It was the first amalgamated school in B.C., could have been in Canada.

How many people lived here when you arrived?

Oh, I don't remember, I don't have the faintest idea. There was quite a few more houses. There was quite a few living in two mile at that time. Our population, I'm sure, has gone down right in the village of Hazelton.

What can you tell us about Two mile? It seems like kind of an interesting place, but no one has much to say about it.

Well it's only hear-say with me. When I remember there was a dairy there across the road from Bensons. Ed Sweet had a dairy then. He sold to someone who sold to Sendons. Then there was quite a few oldtimers living in cabins up there. From its hay day when the pack trains operated it has gone down hill since then. That's when the pack trains were operating from Hazelton into Manson Creek.

Was there one event in the past that you find extremely interesting?

Well we would have to go to the flood of 1936. In '36 all the lower streets in Hazelton was covered, quite a few houses were washed away, we would drive out to four mile bridge when it was really high and of course the bridge was much lower then it is now, you would see the houses coming down from Kispiox all in one piece and a big whirlpool would suck it down and it would turn up match wood on the other side. We went up to Silver Standard mine and Glen Vowell was all under water they had to move up to the highway to get away from the river. It was all a combination of: heavy snowfall, late spring, hot weather, then came warm rain from the mountains, it came in June. This year it would have happened if that warm rain that we got last week had come about a month ago we would of had a flood.

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Crime and police protection, what do you remember about the police in the area?

When the police were downtown they did much more foot patrol. If there was a break in they seemed to know just who to go get and throw them in jail. But there wasn't that much crime. No vandalism parents made darn sure that their kids didn't do any thing wrong there was a bunch of old men that use to hang out in front of the old Omenica Hotel were Alice Maitland has her store now, on beches and if they seen a kid acting up on the street they went up and cuffed them one and you didn't go home and tell your mother for she would cuff you one four times harder for acting up on the street we use to call them the league of nations. there are big many colourful characters back then: sourdough McKay, we use to like to go and visit them when we were kids, lots of stories to tell but if there was a lull in the conversation he didn't stop talking he started talking to himself and at baseball games you could always tell he was around, he had the loudest voice in the country I remember him and another old timer from Smithers, Bud Dawson walking around with a handful of money betting on the baseball game, I didn't know so much about them but they had fancy names for all these people; Pea Vine Harvey, Stringbean Wilson, Laughing Swede, Galloping Swede, Black Olson, they had colourful names.

Can you think of any trouble that you got into that you find amusing now?

No, I think the worst I ever did was throw rocks on Bud Grant's roof he lived where Sarah Marshall lives we'd stand up on the hill to get him upset. well the trouble you got into at home was far worse. if you did anything, cause your parents would really jump on you, they didn't waste no time either I don't remember my dad or my stepfather ever slapping me. Cause my mother she was only 4'11" but boy she sure ran the place. Parents were way more strict then than now cause they didn't want the family embarrassed by the actions of their children, they didn't hurt us.

What type of clothing was fashionable?

Well there was no synthetic material then in the winter time it was wool and in the summertime it was cotton. But I remember in the 1930's the great thing for the boys to wear was blue denim bell bottoms with a red triangle on the side, that their dad cause we weren't allowed to go to school in blue jeans. we had to go to school in dress pants and a proper jacket, white shirt polished shoes, I don't know if the school enforced it or if the parents enforced it, but you had to go to school dressed up. We started at 9:00am, had a recess at 10:30, lunch from 12:00 till 1:00, another recess in the afternoon and you were out at 3:30, the discipline was very strong while you can imagine one teacher teaching eight grades there could be no noise, you even had to be careful to put your pencil down quietly. one blackboard at the front and one at the side?

What made you stay in Hazelton?

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I liked the country my mother was born here, my grandmother was born here and was about 50. My father came from Sweden, My grandfather Mac Intosh was born in 1936. The first Hudsons Bay store was down there where they have the cenotaph. It was there. Then they built that one that's the warehouse now. And...I've just forgotten that was in the 1929 or 1930.

Wasn't that the old fire hall?

No.

Where was the fire hall?

They had a little bit of a one down there about where the paddle wheel is. They had one of those two wheel cart with hoses on it, and lots of buckets there, because when they'd have a fire they'd have a string of men from the river up to the fire, passing buckets to one another.

So you didn't have a volunteer fire department?

Uh, Uh. But the Hudson's Bay store sold everything that a pioneer store sold in those days. A full coverage of things. Sargents did the same thing. Myro's pretty well the same. They were all basically "General Stores".

Were there any specialty shops?

Well not that I really remember, but in the early days there were stores that just sold women hats, there were stores that sold mens clothing, shoe store, shoe repair and real estate office. I don't remember the big restaurant and hotel that was there were that building, Myro's old building that they are renovating but blackjack Mac Donald had a hotel there that ran twenty-four hours a day, waiters in white coats the whole bit.

Was there much of a night life: bars, pool halls?

Well there was three beer parlors, there was one...well no not right in Hazelton there was two in Hazelton one where Alices store is now and the other one was down on the river bank. there was two hotels down there that burnt down one after the other then there was a hotel and a beer parlor in south Hazelton and one in New Hazelton and I barely remember the Hazelton hotel that sat where Bob Blackstock and Dickie Browns house. There was the Hazelton Hotel there and outside of that concerts and dances that was about it for the night life of Hazelton.

What about a blacksmith, was there one here.

Yes there was. The first one that I remember was down opposite Steve Jushaz beside the big barn that was there then the next one is where the omenica building is now. Teddy, I forget his last name had a blacksmiths shop there, then there was three garages in later years, one, my dad had one right where the cenotaf is and then triangel mtors thats the way the highway ran into town not the way it does now, it came down by the salvation army and down by the

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Anglican church then down to 'kaen and across the river thereon t the bridge to South Hazelton, and you could drive at almost any t time to kissegukla and if the wae her was dry you could drive to cedervale

So the roads were basically just mud?

Oh yeah they were just wagon roads

Did you ever get stuck?

Oh yes, many, many times. We were always getting stuck with wagons going home. Up the Kispiox Valley in the Spring. The wagons would be in the mine up to the hubs.

How populated was the Kispiox Valley at that time?

There were probably as many then as there are now. The population dropped drasically for a long time, then it picked up again. Because of the depression and that, people moved away or died off. There were alot of single men living up there. Almost the whole valley was taken before the first world war, but then when the first world war came, they were all young men. They went to the Army. Most of them didn't come back. I mean they didn't come back to this area, I don't think they were all killed, they just settled somewhere else. Because they had a post office and a small store, just this side of Marty Allens.

How long have you been involved in the village? With the village council?

Thirteen years. I think if anyone remembers back six or seven years, we've made a great change in Old town. Trying to keep the original concept, but it's pretty hard, you have to judge between the two. What we're trying to do is have a mix of the new and mix of the old. That's what we're after.

Is there plans to eventually change June's place as well?

No I don't think so. We have tried, but June didn't go for that. Because we had lots of money to do that. We paid 60-80% of all costs, renovate the buildings on the outside. Oh, we'll be off and running pretty soon. We'll have all kinds of ideas just sort of simmering. To make Hazelton a better tourist attraction. We worked 5 years on that craft shop. Got it underway. It's doing well. Its a nice place. More people are becoming interested in bringing in home crafts.

Do you think there will be a pick up of tourists now?

Oh yeah.

Do you find it becoming a major industry?

That is what we want, because we have no secondary industry. We

haven't got any land for secondary industry. So that is why we're going after tourists...I'd say in another five years you'll see a big change. We're just trying to get enough money together to start developing that area towards the river. We have over five hundred acres, but that's going to be costly to get a water line over there.

When did they put water and sewer in town?

Well water has been in town for quite awhile. There was a small system working, up by the Salvation Army was a big well underground. When the spring wasn't supplying enough water, Sargent used to pump water up from the river, up into the system, and then it would run back down. But in 1966, I guess...no it was earlier, when they put in water from the lake. I've forgotten when though. But in 1966, we did quite a rebuild job, when they first paved the streets. Then it was about that time when we put the sewer plant in. Three years ago we upgraded the water system in town. Some of the lines were too small. Just before we repaved.

What can you remember about South Town?

Well it was very small, when I can remember. There were a few people living there. There was a hotel, and in later years, a store. The Sargent family from New Hazelton built a store there. But there was no school right in South Hazelton. The school was down where Johnny Aantjes lives. Way out by Seeley Lake. That's where the school was. Many kids that were living on this end of South Town they came down to Hazelton to go to school, it was easier for them.

Was there a road between New Town and South Town?

Yes, but it was just a trail. In the dry weather you could drive it.

Just enough for one car?

Uh, huh. That's all these roads were. All over.

So they had lots of turnoffs in case you met someone?

No. Just put one wheel in the ditch. They weren't that deep of ditches.