

Your Mother's maiden name?

Mary Ann - two separate words - Sellars. Her mother had married again, but when she was born . . . nobody's ever asked me that before! She was born in Scotland, too.

Your father's occupation?

His occupation? Which one? He worked in the post office in Virden.

As a postal clerk?

I guess that's what he was, and later a commissionaire.

Your siblings?

I had a sister, Vera Mary, and I have a younger sister, Connie Wylie. And a brother Bob-Robert Wylie

Your husband's name?

Clifford Connor.

Did he have a middle name?

No. I guess they knew they were going to have about 15 kids, so they were sparing.

His birth date?

His birthday was 1919 in England. Folkstone..

His father's name?

He was Clifford, too — Henry.

His mother's name?

Odd thing, her name was Peggy, too.

Was it Margaret or just Peggy?

Peggy. I don't know what her maiden name was.

He had 13 siblings?

Clifford did, yes. Nine sisters and four brothers. Norman, Jim, Mike, Peggy, Lillian

What date were you married? May 5, 1956

Where?

We were married at a church in New Westminster. I forget the name of it. We had the reception at the Vancouver Golf Club. We were looking all over for a place to have it. It was in May and so many people were getting married. Then someone said, "Well, you belong to the golf club, so why don't you ask them there?" And they were delighted. Because they had a kitchen and what not there. So we had the reception there.

Your children's names and birthplaces?

Mary Ann Connor-that's two separate words. Mary was born in 1962 at St. Mary's Hospital in Pender Harbour. And Margaret was born in St. Mary's in Sechelt in 1967. Margaret is married

now. She lives in Delta.

What schools did you attend as a child?

I attended the school in Virden, Manitoba. When we came out here I went in Carleton Public School and I went from there to Grandview Commerce, which is no longer there.

Carleton Public School is in Vancouver?

Yes. Joyce Road and Kingsway.

When did you start there?

Grade 5.

And Grandview Commerce-when did you start there?

That would be four years later.

Grade 9 on?

Yes.

And post secondary education?

Life.

What subjects did you excel in?

Spelling. Writing. History. Social Studies.

What ones did you have trouble with?

I guess of reading, writing and arithmetic, I'd have to say arithmetic. And shorthand.

What were your school days like as a child? Did you enjoy school?

Oh, yes. Very much. I had some real nice teachers.

What were your hobbies and past times as a child?

Kick the Can, mostly. Climbing trees. Ball. We lived in Vancouver, on Joyce Road.

Was that a city area or a country area?

It was a city area. So it was mostly playing with other kids. Then in high school it was basketball and grass hockey.

What year did you come out to BC?

1934. I thought that was engraved in my mind.

What prompted you to come to BC?

My father wasn't working at the time. His job ended, so he came out ahead of us. He'd been reading all the ads, such as Roger's Syrup. There were so many opportunities to come to Vancouver. So he went out ahead of us, then we followed after in 1934.

Where did he get a job at?

He got a job as a Commissioner - Investigation. He did a lot of different things. I don't

remember. I was too busy playing, I guess.

My mother worked. A lady down the road had a yards goods store-dry goods they call it. She worked for her for 25 cents an hour. She worked at the Sally Shop and then had her own dress shop. And she also worked up Granville for Edith Carruthers.

Oh, my father worked with a surveillance company . . .

A security company? Yeah.

What were your responsibilities at home?

Looking after my two younger ones. Just general things. When Mom was working too, I had to help in the house and help in the yard.

Was it a big house?

No, not very big. Big enough for the four of us, I guess.

What was your most difficult time as a child?

I can't think I had any. It just seems that everything was fine.

Where were your summer holidays spent?

Oh, they were spent at home. We didn't have much money then. The United Church Camp on Gabriola Island.

A friend of my mother's had a place up the Sumas valley. I went there once. The younger kids went there longer. On some farm that they had. It was a neighbour of ours.

What was your most happy time as a child?

Being with the other kids, I guess. I had some good friends that were my age.

Did you work? What career paths did you take?

When I first started to work I went to work at the Alberscorner store on Vanna & Joyce. It was right down by the Interurban tracks. We weren't far from the Interurban tracks.

How long did you work at that corner store?

Just for a little while. It was a good thing I went to work there because she belonged to the Consolidated Grocers Cooperation. Not MacDonalds. It was a group of grocers in BC that got together for bulk buying. She belonged to that. Then a job came up in the head office down in Vancouver. So she put my name in and I got hired.

Another woman and I started at the same time. What they were doing was-the fellows that worked in the packing room-because they did small orders. Some stores would get half a dozen of this, and half a dozen of that. So we were there to replace the men. So as the men gradually went away and the men in the office started to go too, Margaret, my friend, she was hired in the office. Then they started hiring more women upstairs, so then I went down and replaced another man. So I worked there for ten years on the order desk.

An odd thing was, one of the people who phoned their order in was Jim Cooper-you know Cooper's Green? His daughter still lives here. I used to take his orders and he'd chat while he was doing it. I enjoyed talking to him. Now his daughter tells me they used to get a real kick on

this end of the phone as she and her mother were listening to what he was saying. So it was very nice to have that connection.

So you worked there for. . . .?

Oh, yes. Well, my father wasn't around much. He was badly gassed during the first world war and he had different jobs. But my mother worked at several of the dress shops in Vancouver and then she took over a shop of her own in New Westminster-the Rose Dress Shop. So she moved out there and there was accommodation above. By this time my brother had gone logging as a young fellow, and my sister went to work at the Pacific Command Treasury Department.

What did you do after the ten years?

Oh, before the ten years were up they got rid of all of the guys upstairs and started hiring me downstairs. So I worked in the office for really the main part of the ten years at the order desk.

Then I went to work at my mother's store.

How long did you do that?

Till '56.

When you got married?

Yes.

How did you meet your husband?

Well, working in my mother's store in New Westminster. There was a lady had a coffee shop next door and we became quite good friends. When she was getting married-she was marrying another merchant seaman who was Cliff's brother, Norman. So she invited me to the wedding and that's where I met him.

At the beginning of the war he was working in the mines in Quebec. As soon as war broke out, he had an old car and he made it to Halifax and went to sign up for the navy. And he said, "When do I start?" Of course, it was at the beginning of the war, and the guy says, "I have a stack [of applications] this high." So Cliff went down into Halifax to the pub and the people said you want to get in touch with the ships. So he had no trouble getting aboard.

So they told him to go to the place where they hire people on board ships. So he got put on board. And they were off the coast of France and he was on night duty and a bomb went off right next to his ship. It tossed him back and he fell on one of those bar things that you tie the rope on, and he broke his back. So they said he could go to France to stay in a hospital there, but he didn't want to stay there. So the ship was going from France to the Panama Canal, going back to Vancouver. So he stayed on the ship and I guess they fixed him up.

So he was quite a time getting better from that and then he was going to sea again. He was going to sea when I met him.

I think Norman continued to sail too.

When Cliff came back once from one of his trips. He worked in a gas station on 12th Avenue and he came up to Gibsons.

What brought him up here?

He had asked me to marry him, but I wasn't interested at that time. So he took off and went back to sea and when he came back he looked for a job working in a garage and there were a couple vacant, one of them in Gibsons. So he went to work there, and then eventually he and Fred _ took over that garage, and then the Shell garage in Sechelt became open and Cliff took that one over. The other fellow already had a house in Gibsons, so he didn't want to move. And later Cliff had the one in Halfmoon Bay.

He had arthritis so bad, even when he was sailing. He still kept on sailing. But he finally had to get out of the business. Then he went crabbing out front until they said, "You can't do that!" He'd just row out here and by the time he got in with the crabs-he had a pot all set up, which is why we have the cement out there-he'd boil the crabs and people would be waiting. They'd be lined up here waiting for him to come in with the crabs.

He couldn 't do it because he didn 't have a commercial license?

He had whatever he needed. I forget what he had to get. Also he built this cement pad out there and he got a stainless steel pot. It was a real clean operation. But they said he couldn't do that. In the meantime someone over in Nanaimo had a real dirty operation. But Cliff's operation was clean and the crabs were no sooner out of the pot then the people were waiting for them. But they closed him down.

What was their reason?

I don't know what reason they gave for it, but I know one fellow that came from the government was shaking his head. He knew what Cliff had here. But they just said, no he couldn't do that.

What was the garage he owned in Gibsons?

It was the Shell station. And the Shell station in Sechelt.

In lower Gibsons? Yes.

And the one in Half moon Bay-was that connected to the store? No. It was right on the highway. It's not there any more.

Where Redrooffs meets the highway on the north end?

Yes.

When you were married in 1956, is that when you moved over here?

Yes.

What made you change your mind?

Norm, his brother had been at sea, and he was marrying Nora. Cliff was best man at their wedding. So they invited me to the wedding because Nora and I were good friends. I don't know . . . things changed.

I guess Norm came back from sea twice. The first time I met him and then the next time was the wedding.

Did you work on the coast when you came over here?

Oh, I was gas jockey. Also, I did several different things. Selling door-to-door in Pender Harbour. There weren't many places in Pender Harbour where you could get something to eat,

but there was a lovely lady up there and I hit her place around lunch time. They dealt at the garage, but she didn't know me from there. But she invited me in and made me lunch. She was so nice-she was one of the old timers up there. I never forgot it.

Then, Mr. Clayton, they were right across the street from us and he wanted me to work in their place, but Cliff said no, he needed me in the office!

At that time they were just starting up here- a construction company named Hume & Rumble Trucks. We had their service contract, so they gassed up all their trucks at our place. So that was our bread and butter account.

Where did you live when you came here?

Well, Cliff was living in a little wee house in Gibsons. Then we moved to a place between Mission Point and Selma Park

Davis Bay?

Yes, but that wasn't what it was called then. Anyway, south of Sechelt.

How long did you live there?

About a year, I think. For a short while, anyway. Then one of our customers was a real estate guy-a fine old gentleman who lived out here. He'd take Cliff out with him once in a while and show him places that were for sale. One day they were out here and he didn't think Cliff would be interested in the waterfront down here because he thought it would be too much money. But we'd been in business for a while then and he brought him down here. As soon as he drove him here Cliff said, "This is what I've been looking for!" And it was for sale.

Also, the lot next door was also for sale and my mother bought that lot, so there was our down payment. She built a house on it, because she was getting ready to retire. So that's how come we got to be here.

So this house was already here?

Oh, yes.

What got you interested in politics?

I was chair of the Halfmoon Bay Recreation Commission for the younger people. The local director for the RD was Ed Nicholson.

There was a fellow here who had several sons, and there had been some problems about using the Welcome Beach Hall. So they had this meeting with parents and what not from both sides.

Nicholson was the representative from the Regional District for this area, and I chaired the meeting.

Anyway, what came from that was he asked me to be his alternate. I guess I impressed him because I could speak!

So that's how it began. I went to work as an alternate for Ed. Then he left before the next local election and I ran against Brett McGillivray. He had been on the school board. So he won the election. Then the next election I won that one and I was in there from 1979 until 1982 and from 1984 to 1996.

Those were some interesting times in my life.

Did you belong to any other organizations here?

Well, I belonged to the Sunshine Coast Golf & Country Club. I still belong. Just killing me that I can't get down there to play. I can't drive, so I'm not free to go down.

Did you work with the Parent Advisory Councils when your kids were at school?

I don't think so.

I joined the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary when they first started. A lot of the [original auxiliary members] were customers at our garage, so when they were starting that they invited me to come along on that first meeting. Rosa and Alan Swan, they were going to Hawaii for the year, or something and nobody wanted to run the meeting, so I volunteered. So I wound up as president.

Officially, I was the first president of the auxiliary, but Rosa was the instigator, so she was really the first president.

That's how I started writing. The Peninsula Times offered our auxiliary that we could have a space in their paper. Different ones took turns doing it, but the others got tired of doing it, so they hired me to continue on. So that's when I first started to write for the paper. That would be in 1962. I can't forget that because Mary was born in 1962.

As a matter of fact, at our first meeting when I was president, I had to go to the doctor. I was feeling a little funny. The doctor was Dr. Paetkau, and his wife was vice-chair of the auxiliary. So I went there before I went to the meeting and he said, "How would you feel if I told you you were pregnant?" So that fit in perfect.

We had to travel all the way up to Pender Harbour for the delivery. There was just a small waiting room and it was loaded. There were some other auxiliary members there-Mrs. Clayton and some others. Even an Indian couple that I knew. We were all crowded in there, waiting to give birth. The mayor of Sechelt-Nelson-his wife was there before me and I had to wait until she came out. She had twins! Cay Nelson. So I was waiting for her to come out of there before I could go in. It was just Dr. Paetkau. He was the doctor that was servicing us all.

So they were all having deliveries, one right after the other!

Yes. I don't think he lost any, either.

What day was this? Octobers, 1962.

So we had quite a time there. And there was one poor little soul in the small part that they had for regular customers, and she was sitting right by the door to the washroom and all these public ladies were in line. She had to wait for her chance to get in.

But we had fun up there.

So, you belonged to the Auxiliary, and the Golf Club. Were there any other organizations?

Well the Halfmoon Bay Recreation Commission and the Welcome Beach Community Association.

You weren 't involved in the Parent Advisory Committee at the school?

No. Not that I can remember.

How many years were you chairman of the board?

Yes, from 1979 until 1982 and from 1984 to 1996.

I really enjoyed that. All of the fellows, such as Jim Gurney and Brett McGillivray, were in business of some sort or another. The different organizations, such as the BC Regional Districts and the Canadian one, had meetings and as chair I got to go to all of the meetings that each of them had. And I went to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 54th Annual Conference-Celebrating Communities Together-as the representative for the Regional Board. It was in Newfoundland. I really enjoyed that. Our administrator, Larry Jardine, he would come too. The Administrators always had a meeting at the same time as the Director.

We were at one place in Newfoundland, and they had a big auditorium. We were among the first ones to show up for the meeting and there was just one other person sitting in the middle of the auditorium and it was a guy from Vancouver Island! But that was great. They took us on a sailing ship right to the end of Canada and around. A big iceberg out there, and we saw the iceberg. Some of the places we went to were really great. I was at Montreal and Toronto, and Winnipeg. Did they have one in Regina? I know there was one in Alberta and BC. So I got to all of those places and it was great because you meet people from all across Canada.

I guess some of the other directors would dearly have loved to have gone, and had they expressed an interest the board probably would have said they could go, but they couldn't get away from their jobs.

Some of the things I went to, some of them went. They didn't have to be the representative. They were encouraged to go.

What were your goals when you started with the SCRD?

I guess the main thing were concerns for what was going on in my area. They were doing a fair bit around here.

What would you say was your greatest achievement on the board?

I don't know. It was a board. You don't take a separate seat.

So you are a team player, not an individual?

Yes.

And the Indians they came. Stan Dixon-they had an election for Area C. They were closing that out. Just below Sechelt, the Davis Bay area. Nobody wanted to run because they knew it was going to be a nonentity, so Stan ran for it. Of course, some of our best customers when we first had the garage were the Indians. One thing, Cliff let them charge and when he let them charge he'd tell them if they didn't pay they would not get credit again. He never lost a cent on it. They were our best customers.

So anyway, Stan ran for that seat and got in, and got on the board and they've had someone ever since.

Now, what was your question?

What was your greatest achievement on the board?

I don't know. It's hard to say. We really worked as a board that worked together. We did accomplish quite a lot of good things that were needed. But I think because of the fact that we worked together we were able to get them. Each year they elected me as chairman.

Brett McGillivray, he was a high school teacher, he ran against me, but each time I won against Collins, but I think mainly because I was available. And because I was doing it. But I think we worked so well together. Everybody is in there protecting their area.

What was your greatest disappointment on the Board?

Losing the last election! Although I guess it was time. Not so much that I lost, but who I lost to, I guess.

By this time Halfmoon Bay had grown a little more and there were quite a few people who ran. I didn't mind losing, but I didn't like the person who got in, and I'll leave it at that.

The main ones that I worked with through the years, any of them would have been good as chair. Jim Gurney, Brett McGillivray. They were all good guys.

It must have been delightful for your daughters to grow up here, [at Welcome Beach]

Oh, gosh yes. They just loved it. So did their friends. It's been grand.

Were there any humorous moments when you were on the board?

Oh yes. Quite a few. I should have kept a record of what we did, but we had a lot of good laughs. And of course, our Administrator, Larry Jardine, he was good. He belonged to the Administration organization so he knew what was going on and he was supposed to bring things that we might want to vote for here to have. So he was very good.

What was it like being a woman as Chairman of the Board? Did you have any difficulties?

I had lots of protectors! They were very good.

They didn't dismiss any of your ideas because you were a woman?

Well, mainly they brought the ideas in. Except for anything I had for my area. They were experienced in business and education and everything. Brett ran against me several times, but I won out on him. Not because I was better than him, but because by that time I guess they were happy with me as being the chair. But if I couldn't be one, he was a good one to have.

How would you sum up Sunshine Coast politics?

I think we were lucky having the board we had.

What qualities would you think a person would have to take to Sunshine Coast politics.

They really have to know what the people in their area want. That should be their top concern, what's here. Especially now. What is here? What have we got? What do we want? Because, I know you have to have business and what not, but still you have to know what the people that are living here, that have moved here because they like it here, you have to respect their wishes to a certain extent.

We had times when people were strongly against things. I can't think right now what those would be. There was a strong contingent who stayed outside after the meeting from R.C.

How did you find was the best way to find out what your community wanted?

I guess, I was writing in the paper since I first started. I didn't do it for that reason, but I think people knew how I stood on things. So I got a good idea of how they wanted things to turn out. That would be for this area, not for other areas. And the other directors they stood up for what they wanted to see.

You would get out into the community a lot, especially for Fall Fairs and things like that?

Oh, gosh yes. In the Halfmoon Bay Country Fair, I was chair of that. The country fair we have every year. One year we were having the first country fair, the senior group here, the Welcome Beach Community, were going to have a bazaar or something like that. Around 1986 where BC was offering money for people to run their own thing to raise their funds. I was chair of the Recreation Commission at that time, and there were a couple of little groups around here.

Anyway, we decided we would pull together and have one big fair, because there weren't that many of us. And so Canon Alan Green was there for the area of Coopers, and Mary Tinkley for the Welcome Beach Community, and a lot of the people that were involved, at the first meeting. And Jim Cooper, he had trailers and what not there, but he let us use his park to have our first event where we pooled together and had a big country fair. We've had that ever since. I think it's in my column this week.

We were going to alternate chair people from one year to the next, but somehow I ended up as chair until a couple years ago. The others were quite happy the way things were going. They'd run the bingo and some other things, and it always seemed that I ended up as Chair. But we had a good group that were from different parts of Halfmoon Bay. It was working good, so they never bothered changing it until finally I resigned so they could get someone else!

One person was with the Halfmoon Bay Recreation Commission and she was so good that I pushed her into being chair, and she did a marvelous job. Anyway, they all pulled together, so it didn't really matter who was chair. Just someone who would call the meeting together.

It sounds like you had a real gift for pulling people together and getting them to work together.

Well, I don't know. I enjoy people.

We didn't have any real problems. The seniors who built the hall here had a few. I can't remember what they were. Maybe they were a little protective about their hall. We had one school event, or something, and there were parents there.

I was lucky, I had lots of good friends that were here.

I guess working at the gas station you got to know people well.

Yes. I got to know people here before I moved out here. Then of course, we've always gone to the events at the hall.

When did Clifford die?

1997. He died at the hospital at Powell River. Lovely big hospital up there. He had quite a time because he snored. They used to have to take him out of the bedroom and they'd have him near the nurses station during the night.

Why was he in Powell River?

Well, he was in St. Mary's and they had him out in the hall because they were crowded I guess. I don't know what the reason was, but thank goodness they moved him up there because he was fine there. Really good.

It was like a nursing home?

Yes, I guess they must have had extended care. They had him up walking and they really did things for him. They had the time and were able to do it, and he was just fine up there. They kept him right by the nursing station at night. The last time I went up to see him, he was sitting there.

He had good care here, but he certainly had wonderful care up there. Of course the girls couldn't get up to see him so often, but they did what they could. And one of his sisters came out one time. He was in good spirits the day she came and they really had a good meeting.

Was he involved in politics at all, or did he leave that up to you?

Oh he was on the Credit Union board. I believe he was chair for a while. When he was in the garage.

He was also with the Gibsons Rod & Gun Club. He was active on that.

Did you have a sail boat?

When Cliff was first out of the garage he had a charter boat. He went into the charter business and had a boat specially built. Called it the *Clegmar*-a combination of all our names-Cliff, Peg, Mary and Margaret. It was a nice big boat-28 foot. I think it is lying dead up at Secret Cove. Because it ended up there. He did quite well at that. Took people to different places, and they came from different places. There is a book around somewhere with the names of the people he took out.

Where was it moored?

Right out front here. He kept it there and then he'd pull into Secret Cove. He'd go in there to pick up people.

What year did he give up the garage?

I'm not sure.

How did he feel about you being in politics?

I don't know.

Ed Nicholson came and asked me to be his alternate, so that's how I sort of slid into it. At first I think [Cliff] didn't mind me being in, but he was afraid of what people might say to me. Whether I could ride out the storm of being in politics. Other than that he was quite pleased, I think.

The only thing, when I was working and old Mr. Clayton was looking for someone new in their grocery store which was right across the street from us, and Cliff said No, he needed me to work in the garage. So you see, I could have been selling groceries all of these years.

What was Sechelt like when you first came here?

Oh it was lovely. Some of my best friends are still people from then. There was a lovely house close to us, next to Redman's grocery store. Lee [Redman] was with me on the Hospital Auxiliary. There was the church. The minister of the church was a fine fellow and on Sunday

morning he'd come halfway up the road and he and Clifford would be calling back and forth to see who had the most customers! He was a real character.

The jewellery store was there, Christine Johnston-Judge Johnston's wife. Right across the street from us was Bert Sim's electric shop, and Morgan Thompson had his men's store next door.

There was the old library.

Yes! That was where the Hospital Auxiliary were first meeting. The Sechelt one.

And there was the office where the RCMP were.

And there was the old house that the real estate guy had. Bernel Gordon.

I wonder if the hospital bought that old house and built the thrift shop?

I know that Bill and Dorothy Smith, he had that good bake shop there. It was really good. He was a good friend.

Parker's Hardware was there. And Eva Lyons was on that side, then moved over to the other side. She had a dress shop.

Joan Hansen worked for Eva Lyons and then she took it over. Her husband was a logger. Andy Hansen.

Across the street two fellows had a furniture store.

Do you think it was friendlier then, with everybody knowing each other? Oh, gosh yes.

I know right at the corner there was a man whose house is still there. He was quite a character. Crucils had that store right next to the garage.

French's were right next door to the garage on the right hand side. Frank and Alice French. She owned the land that the garage was on. She came out from England to marry this Canadian soldier, I guess after the 1914 war. Can you imagine someone coming from England and ending up in a little country place? But she was a real livewire.

Did Alice French ever indicate she was unhappy here or did she like it?

Oh, I think she enjoyed it thoroughly. It seemed to me that she was very active in the church. She died going up the stairs. St. Hilda's.

What would you say is the Sunshine Coast's greatest asset?

The people. We have had some good people who have moved things along, and people who have supported them.

Were you on the SCRD when they tried to get the Rec Centre in Roberts Creek? Shortly after the SCRD first formed. They had a big referendum.

I remember what we wanted for this area, but I wasn't a part of that. Cliff was. [In 1977] everyone was having something for their area and what the people in this area wanted was a playing area. So they asked Cliff if he would find out where they could have one. So he looked around and he found the place where they have it now. He applied to the government to get the land. They figured they were going to have to buy land, but he applied to the government and a government representative came out and they found the place they have now. What they were

asking for was enough for a ball field. The local people were all behind it and the government in its wisdom gave them the whole big lot, which is now Connor Park. They wanted to call it Cliff Connor Park, but people knew I'd been part of it too, because I was on the board, so they called it Connor Park. So that was his big achievement here. He did a lot of good things on whatever boards he was on. Of course, his health sort of held him back.

From his back injury?

Yes. And he got arthritis in it, too. But he didn't let it stop him, really.

So, that was his contribution.

If you had any advice for someone entering local politics, what would it be?

That they be sure and listen to what the people in their area want and go for it. Go for the majority. Of course, sometimes the majority isn't always right.

They have a ratepayers group up at the hall. We went to some of the meetings.

We had some good old timers that built the hall up here. One lady, Mary Tinkley, she used to write for the paper too. She was a very active person.

But we had some good people that supported stuff for Halfmoon Bay.

What has been the greatest part of living on the Sunshine Coast?

Living right here!

The people I've met and know up here.

What made you like people so much?

I don't know. I guess, when I worked in the dress shop I met a lot of people. I guess I've been lucky. I've met good people.

The lighthouse keepers used to leave their car here. He was a tall fellow. Their child had some problem and his wife was over in Victoria where the child was being treated and he came over to use our phone. I remember it was low tide, and that was when Mary was just a little kid. He had to walk all the way in from where his boat was. He took his gear. He had to go back to his lighthouse, then was going to come back again to use the phone. So I said, "Could we go over and see the lighthouse?" That would be about 1963 or 1964. So he took us over. They had a different light then, but I went up to the light they had then. He had stacks of newspaper all over the place.

It is quite different now. I've been over since, but it is all changed.

Then Jim and Ethel Kippen came there and we became good friends with them, too. Jim was the one who kept his car here. So we saw him every time he came in to go to Sechelt.

On the other side of Merry Island there is a great gathering of birds, just at the side there. All kinds. I think she was recording the birds and she caught something from that. He retired a little earlier and they went down south somewhere so she could get treatment, but eventually she died.

He was living with his son in Richmond.

They were a very interesting couple. They had been at other lighthouses. Ethel was a great gal. A

great cook. His son comes up once in a while.

So your daughters still live here on the coast?

No. Mary bought acreage up Trout Lake Road. She was always horse crazy and she has a horse and a mule and chickens. And a bear that comes around.

The house that she is in is older than her. I forget who used to have it. Some old timers. There used to be some great old timers that were here when we were first here. She has a back porch where the door isn't much good and she's had the bear come right in on the other side of the door to her. Of course, she's six foot tall, so she looks right back at him! She keeps reporting about it, but they never do anything about it. He's an old bear.

She's had a few close encounters with him, but she has two big dogs and I think that helps keep him away.

He's come right up the back porch. She had an old freezer she kept there and he took that down off the back porch and took stuff out of it.

Peggy Connor telephoned the interviewer on July 3, 2006, and added the following:

The war years:

At beginning of war they started the Canadian Women's Training Corp so I joined it. When they finally started taking the women. My father met me down there and said you mother doesn't want you to do that. So I joined the Canadian Women's Training Corp Band instead. We marched in all the parades. I was lead trumpeter. Besides marching in parades we went to all the small local camps. The other group that put on things during the war, they trained us and we put on skits. So that's how I spent the war years. I was still working at Consolidated Grocers then.

The biggest parade we were in was from Georgia & Granville down to Stanley Park. Wherever there was a parade, we were there.

There was a small group out at Pt. Atkinson, so we'd go out and perform out there. They'd serve us coffee and we'd have a bit of a dance out there. So we entertained the troops.

Canadian Women's Service Corp was formed because they weren't taking women in the army then. When they started taking them, I was older and didn't go. But they provided some of the money for the costumes.

Added note July 29, 2006, not recorded:

Dorothy and Jack Hall lived here at Welcome Beach. He was a tire salesman. They had a small building beside the house that Dorothy used for painting. She'd have us all in to paint. Jack had collected stuff from all of his trips up the coast. One lady who painted with us used to be a lighthouse keeper on Big Island. I'm going to paint that little house one day. Quite a number of local people painted there.

The main house was just torn down so the new owners can build a new one.