

Name: **William (Gary) Billingsley**
28-5575 Mason Rd.

Birthdate: 15 March 1949

Parents: **William (Bill) Longmuir Billingsley**
Alice (nee Nelson)

Siblings: **Wendy (Steele)**
Cheryle (Billingsley)
Dale (Siebert)

Wife's Name: **Margaret (nee Himmel) (divorced)**

Children: **Randy (age 30)**
Jessica (age 23)

Date of Interview: March 26, 2002 at 5641 Wakefield, Sechelt.
Interviewer: Rosella M. Leslie

Dean: Some people I suggest you might want to contact are: Barry Chambers. He's about 4 - 5 years older than me. Lloyd Jeffries on the Indian Reserve (885-2795), he's a friend of mine—he would be six years older. He might be able to help you.

Faye Hansen. Dick Clayton. Alec Gibson—too bad he just died. He could remember when they were horse logging in Roberts Creek. But Pat—his wife—she may . . . Pat Gibson. She lives on the highway, corner of Mills Road and the highway.

Gary: Jody Karpenko.

Dean: Yeah, she was a Lawrence. She was raised here.
I wonder if Mark Steele would have anything—his grandmother was Ida Dawe.
Tom Gory. Cay Nelson. Sam McKenzie—Sammy's been here a long, long time. Sam and Pearl McKenzie. They live in Selma Park. It's F.V. McKenzie—Francis Verdon.

The Onos have been here a long time, but they weren't raised here. Sam and Tom would be good because they owned the service station. Bill McDermid, his dad owned a logging company here and a machine shop. Old Mrs. Wigard. Mrs. Louise Lang—our old school teacher.

Gary: Last I heard she was up at Shorncliffe.

Dean: Edna Wakefield. Now she lives in Gibsons but she spent a lot of years here. Here husband was one of the seven that drowned in Sechelt Inlet back in the '50s. And Rose Morrisson—Hauka now—and they did live down Pine Road. Her husband was Art. He worked in the mill. He was an electrician. If she's still here.

Wendy Steele. She lives on Binacle. She was Billie's daughter-in-law at one time. Another good contact would be Dr. Alan Swan. He walked up here last year, and he managed to walk up this hill. I mentioned Lloyd Jeffries, he's quite sociable. Jamie Dixon. See, we grew up with all these guys. There's Darlene Benner, too.

RL: To start off, could I ask your full names and spelling?

Dean: Dean Robilliard.

RL: Birthdate?

Dean: 13 December 1945.

RL: Parent's names?

Dean: My mother was Dorothy nee Brooker. My Dad was Thomas.

RL: Siblings?

Dean: I've got a sister—Jo Booth. She lives in Richmond. She's four years younger than I am.

RL: Children?

Dean: Teresa and Andrea.

RL: Wife's name?

Dean: Linda.

RL: Is she from here?

Dean: She's from North Vancouver. She's been here longer than she was in North Van.

RL: When were you married?

Dean: July 1966.

RL: Where were you born at?

Dean: I was actually born at the Vancouver General Hospital, but I was only there for the birth. We lived on Sechelt Inlet at the time. Only access was with a boat.

RL: Gary—your full name?

Gary: William Gary Billingsley.

RL: Birthdate?

Gary: March 15, 1949.

RL: Your parent's names?

Gary: Bill and Alice. William Longmuir Billingsley and Alice Nelson.

RL: Your siblings?

Gary: I've got three sisters. The oldest Wendy (Steele), Cheryl Billingsley, and Dale Siebert.

RL: Where were you born?

Gary: At St. Mary's Hospital in Pender Harbour.

RL: Your parents lived where?

Gary: Porpoise Bay.

RL: Dean, where did you go to school?

Dean: Sechelt, then Gibsons.

RL: Sechelt Consolidated School?

Dean: I went to the Sechelt Elementary School, then we went to Trail Bay Junior High, which was only there for a couple of years, and then we went to Elphie {Elphinstone Secondary}.

RL: Where were you living?

Dean: In Porpoise Bay. In Sechelt, really. It was actually by [what is now] the Sechelt Fireplace Centre. [5654 Wharf] But I was raised on the inlet the first 2 years of my life. I can still remember a little bit about being up there.

RL: What part of the inlet?

Dean: Well, now between Sandy Hook and McLean Bay my mom's brother had 32.4 acres and a boys camp there. In fact that bell there [on his wall] is from that camp. He sold the property in early 1950. We moved to Sechelt in 1948. But the only access when I was there was by boat. The road was approximately one mile up through a narrow bush trail and was seldom ever used. We had a little—we called them putt-putts in those days—with a cabin on it and my aunt and uncle lived there. The property is now owned by people named Allens and you can drive into it off the Sechelt Inlet Road.

I just thought of two more people who might have some memories—my old aunt, Connie Wilson—she's 88 this year (Dec 2002), and Ray Stockwell.

Gary: Peggy Alanson, too. Used to be Peggy West. She was from Pender Harbour originally.

Dean: And Jimmy Doyle. He could probably tell you quite a bit about his uncle and his brother with the logging and stuff.

RL: The boys camp—what was that?

Dean: Camp Buckhorn. Originally located in West Vancouver. It was a boys camp, that's all I know.

RL: When you moved to Sechelt, what did your dad do then?

Dean: I think at that point in time he was logging. He either had a sawmill or he was logging. I know he worked for the Red & White Store which was owned by Jack Redman. There's another person, old Lee Redman. She's still alive. And Bruce is alive.

My dad worked for the Red & White store for seven years. He was sort of a jack-of-all-trades. He was a bit of a butcher and he did this and that. And I know he logged for a long time—

Gary: I'm sure they all did once upon a time.

Dean: Yeah. He logged for a long time then he became allergic to cedar and at that point he went to work for Redmans. Then he started his own electrical business and became an electrician. He was an electrician here for years and years.

Gary: Harold and your dad and my dad all worked at the B.C. Fir & Timber Mill.

Dean: I remember Harold and your dad and my dad peeling poles when we were kids down at where Osborne's place was down by the Porpoise Bay dock. For money in those days. Winter 1949.

Gary: Peeling power poles, yeah.

Dean: We used to go down there and play.

RL: Do you know what years he was working for Redmans?

Dean: No. Lee Redman would know.

RL: Gary, what did your dad do?

Gary: He moved here with his family when he was two years old, from Kelowna.

RL: What brought him here?

Gary: Cheap land, actually. They bought a large acreage at the top of Mason Road up here. They had 150 acres at one time up there. My grandfather was more of a gentleman farmer. He had chickens and pigs and stuff, but he wasn't really big. He had one horse and one cow.

Dean: Just survival. That's what happened to my dad. He moved up here at a young age, too, to Halfmoon Bay and my grandparents built a stump ranch out of nothing. My grandmother actually built the house because my grandfather wasn't that well, and that property—Mac & Blo owns it now—or they did.

Gary: There's a house in there now.

Dean: Yeah, the one below Frankies. Frankie's and Annie's. I haven't been there for years. The Halfmoon Bay Creek was there and there was a waterfall at the creek. I can remember as a kid, we lived in Sechelt but we used to drive to my grandparent's place at Halfmoon Bay, but at that time it was in Redrooffs and it was on the waterfront. My mom and dad had a waterfront place which they sold to Eva Lyons. They couldn't afford it. My mom was telling me the story. The lots cost \$600—for a piece of waterfront. My grandmother's place is owned by someone named Richmond, the last I can recall. I put both my grandparents ashes out at Duck Rock, that's where they wanted them out in front of their house.

RL: Gary, what did your dad do?

Gary: When he got out of school—the school he was at only went to grade 10—and he went logging.

RL: Who did he log for?

Dean: Like the rest of them—Osborne . . .

Gary: Osborne,

Dean; Rotters

Gary: Crucil

Dean: Yeah, Crucil. My old man worked for both of them, too. There were tons of logging outfits here.

Gary: Pete Nagy.

Dean: Yeah, there were Stewart and Oike.

RL: Is that what Nagy Mountain is named for?

Dean: I don't know. Could well be.

Porpoise Bay dock hasn't changed a lot from the old days. There's more floats and I think the actual pier itself, the end is a bit smaller, but where the Royal Reach condos are, that at one time was a big swamp. We used to duck hunt in there and then it got filled up with sawdust and what not. All along that front, the loggers and the people of the inlet in those days, used to park their cars there and Porpoise Bay dock was the hub of Sechelt in the early days. All the wives and their kids would show up on Friday nights when the men would come home from being in camp all week. Because in those days there wasn't the air service. There were several small logging camps that employed people and they stayed in camp and came home on the weekends. Go up Sunday night and come back on Fridays. Some of those that come to mind for me would be Range Logging, Boulder Hill, Misery Creek, Ted Osborne Sr. in Narrows Inlet and then there was O & O Logging at the head of Narrows which was young Ted and his dad's. But his dad was running his own show, but it was called O & O at the head of Narrows. Roy Brett had the camp which later became Lawlers in Narrows Inlet. Those bigger operations stayed in business for years and years.

M & W, which was McDermid and Wigard as far as I know, had a fairly good operation up near Doriston. Bob Malpas ended up there, too, and I remember Charlie McDermid had wood on the north side, and Bob Malpas—he used to let us go up there to hunt—and later they pushed the road over from Halfmoon Bay when Roy Doyle had it and they dumped the wood down there—but years ago you could only go up from the inlet side, when Bob Malpas had that.

Vic Walters, he's still around here. He'd be a good guy to get a-hold of.

I can still remember some of the names of the camp boats. Remember the old *Lady Beth*? That was Osborne's boat, and Norm Edwardson ran that boat for as long as I can remember.

Gary: The *Blue Fir* was theirs, too..

Dean: Yeah. McDermid's boat was called the *Breeze* and that was probably the fastest boat in the inlet at that time. When you look at it now, it wasn't fast but it was fast then.

Gary: The *Blue Fir* was really something, wasn't it?

Dean: Yeah. And the old *Kalamar* was the one that Range Logging had. And I saw that boat years later up either in Sontula or Port Hardy when I was a kid trolling. It was up there. It wasn't a fish boat, but it was the old *Kalamar* the same boat that was here.

Ted Osborne built a boat and we thought it was something because it had a Cadillac engine and it was called the *Hunechin Chief* and it was fast. I think it might still be around today. It ended up being a commercial prawn boat, but the boat was changed from what it was. But Ted had that boat for a long time. But the old *Lady Beth* was his standby.

And what was the one that we used to go up to the Hydro's picnic at Clowhom? Was it the *Lady Alexander* or something? It was in the inlet, too. You remember it wasn't as fast as the *Lady Beth* and I remember as a kid we went up there for a family picnic and we all left Sechelt and went up to Clowhom.

Gary: I remember that boat as clear as day. I used to live up there once a long time ago. At Clowhom Falls. When I was 5 or 6 years old, so it would be in the early '50s.

RL: *How did you end up there?*

Gary: Well my father was working for—at that time it was B.C. Electric. He was stationed up there. So was my uncle, at the same time. They got out of logging and went up there and went to work for B.C. Electric at that time. Then the company changed to the B.C. Power Commission and then to B.C. Hydro.

Dean: Years ago, speaking of power, there used to be in Selma Park, on the waterfront, probably on the reserve, there was a power station there at one time. Right on the water. Right down on the beach. That was B.C. Power Commission.

Gary: Right at the head of the bay there.

Dean: When we were kids, that was there.

RL: *Is that where the boat launch is?*

Dean: This side of it.

Gary: Between the conveyor and the boat launch. There was a little power house down there. A small penstock ran down there, too—a 2-foot diameter penstock ran down to it from

Chapman Creek. There was an electric turbine down there.

Dean: My mom, years ago, used to work for the telegraph service in Sechelt. She was telling me on the phone not long ago that she can remember sending telegraphs from Port Mellon when they were Sorg Paper Compan of Middletown Ohio. She can remember sending telegraphs from there.

Gary: That's because there was no road. Not much of a one now!

Dean: I can remember riding in the bus up to Pender Harbour with old Bill Rankin on the old dirt roads years and years ago. There's another person, Bea Rankin, been around here forever. She was our old school teacher.

Gary: Pretty bright lady.

Dean: Yeah. She could probably remember a lot.

RL: What was that bus that you rode up to Pender Harbour?

Dean: It was owned, I'm sure, by Cecil Lawrence who owned Sechelt Motor Transport in the old days.

RL: What was it like?

Dean: I don't really remember. It was a rickety old bus. I can't remember. It wasn't big.

RL: Like a school bus?

Dean: I believe yeah like a small version of the school bus type. I mean they weren't the orange busses I don't think in those days, that we've got now.

Sechelt—I can remember the old Union Store when your Uncle Harry used to be the butcher there. I can still remember going in that store when I was a little kid and catching the Union boats from Sechelt and going to Vancouver in those boats. And I can still remember linen table clothes, the cutlery and silverware on those boats. Then they used to come in and unload freight there at the wharf.

When we were kids the natives had a pretty good fishing fleet here—I don't think they owned the boats, I think they were company boats, B.C. Packers and Nelson Brothers and perhaps Canadian Fish—but there was 3 or 4 seine boats I can remember, and then of course there was the guys that had their own gilnet boats. But they used to go up to Johnstone Straits and maybe they went further north, I don't know, but they had some pretty good seasons in those days.

Sechelt Wharf used to be a pretty busy place with the boats, and then later on the Home Oil and B.A. which became Gulf, which is now Petrocan. But Home Oil and B.A. had a

pipeline there and the tankers would come in and off load the products and they'd go to the bulk plants in Sechelt.

There used to be a regatta there in the summer time, because I remember guys used to fake falling off the wharf and drowning and somebody would swim out and rescue them. And there used to be swimming races and the natives had their racing canoes out there. Swimming activities and what not on the beach.

There used to be the old totem poles out front and the tea room, the roller rink.

Gary: Do you remember the old Porpoise Bay Wharf when it was alongside the rock bluff?

Dean: No.

Gary: It was over closer to the rock bluff.

Dean: We used to fool around there so much, I forget . . .

Gary: I can remember being there. Old Osborne's house was in there.

Dean: Yeah, now I remember.

Gary: There's a little park there where Osborne's was, that's where you said before that we used to party and stuff.

Dean: Right. And then old Mel Jeffries had his herring pond, but that was in the later years, probably in the '60s.

The rock bluff there, that's actually the big subdivision now, with the condos up there, was one of the few places here that I know of where you could get true Easter Lilies. They're probably gone now.

Gary: Trail islands, too.

Dean: Yeah. They still may be flourishing on the Trail Islands, but I don't think they're flourishing on the bluff anymore. We used to play there when we were kids. That was a big deal, that rock bluff.

RL: What kind of things did you do as a kid?

Dean: I don't know.

Gary: Played go-carts in the slough!

Dean: Yeah, where the marsh is we used to build forts in there. It was a bigger swamp then, and our dads used to shoot ducks down in there when we were kids.

Gary: We built rafts.

Dean: There was actually a log dump where that little park is that was dedicated to Ted Osborne, and just this side of that motel there was a log dump there. I got my first helicopter ride there

Gary: There used to be a bridge there.

Dean: That's right.

Gary: Osborne put that sawmill in across the way. That's what--

Dean: Made the sawdust.

Gary: That's where the townhouses are now.

Dean: Yeah, we got our first helicopter ride. Some guy came in with a helicopter and me and Doug Wakefield were down there playing with our BB guns, we were down there shooting whatever we did when we were kids, and this guy comes and asks where he can get fuel and we told him and he said, "Get in this thing," and he took us up and landed right across from Standard Motors, which is now the Daily Roast [5547 Wharf].

See, there used to be a park there where GBS is. I don't remember what it was called, but I can still remember the big covered picnic tables there. They actually had shake roofs and there were big trees in there and you could go through. It was a nice little place, actually, and the old annex, which was the washrooms and stuff, is still here today. It's a house and it's right on the corner of Mermaid and Trail, right across from the firehall. It's been renovated and renovated, but –

RL: That's the Bethel Preschool, isn't it?

Dean: Yeah. But that originally was the annex from that park. It got dragged up there with a cat or whatever.

Gary: Everything from there to the wharf was virtually bush.

Dean: Yeah, and that's where we lived, down that road in the bush.

Gary: We lived right across the road—on the east side of the road. I can remember that road when there was one lane, grass growing in the middle of it.

Dean: Do you remember old Mr. Reeves coming in the wagon with the vegetables and the horse? He used to come from Roberts Creek, come in to Sechelt and sell his wares.

Gary: Jim Mcredy with his eggs and goat's milk.

Dean: And there was a character here in those days, his name was Ronnie Hyde and he lived over in the old Konishi farm—a Japanese farm—and had these damned cows. And these cows were the plague of Sechelt! They were in everybody's yard in Sechelt. I don't care who lived in Sechelt, they always had Ronnie's cows at one time or another. They used to wander around like dogs these cows.

Gary: It was hilarious.

RL: Did he sell milk?

Gary: I don't think so.

Dean: I don't know exactly what Ronnie did, if he was just living on a veteran's pension. He worked in the B.C. Phone office in later years.

Gary: He was a Remittance Man, I believe. Story I heard anyways.

RL: Do you know what year that was that he was there?

Dean: He was there for several years. But he was there when I read meters for Hydro, and I read meters for Hydro in '66 and '67, and then I stayed with Hydro until 1980, but he was there for part of that time. He passed away.

There was another old fellow who was kind of a hermit, I guess you'd call it. He lived over in Porpoise Bay, up in the bush, and yet he got the newspaper. I used to deliver papers to this guy when I was eight years old. His name was Bill Leahee. He was another old character.

Gary: Fred Mills was another character.

Dean: Yeah.

RL: Tell me about the first ride you can remember on the steamship.

Dean: The first one, I don't remember if they were steamers. I just remember as a kid being at the dock and getting on with my parents and going to Vancouver and coming back. When you're little, I guess it was a big deal because they were big boats and you had the beautiful white linen table clothes and the crystal and silver and they had waiters. It was pretty impressive, I guess, when you're little. And I can remember them quite often coming into the dock because they came in on a weekly basis and unloaded the freight, because the Union Steamships had a store here, as you well know. And that store had

apartments upstairs, and offices and what not. Gary's uncle actually used to be the butcher in that store.

The first policeman that I can remember, his name was Nels Cummings, and he lived on the waterfront in Sechelt in one of the Union houses. My dad was involved with him then with the fire brigade as they were called in those days. I remember lots—I remember when the *Unimax* sank and they brought it in and took the bodies out of it right at the beach here in Sechelt. It was around for a long time.

RL: What happened to it?

Dean: It was a fated fish boat. It sank a couple of times, but it met its demise here—I don't know if they ever refloated her after that—

Gary: She was changed to a packer.

Dean: I'm not sure. But she went between a tug and its tow and I guess she hit the cable and down she went. Toward White Island, somewhere in that general area.

Gary: They towed her into Sechelt, upside down. They could hear the people shouting underneath, but they couldn't help them.

Dean: That was one of the tragedies.

Gary: Five, I believe.

RL: What year was that?

Dean: It was in the '50s, but I couldn't tell you what year it was.

Gary: It could even have been the early '60s. It wasn't much after that that the tug blew up and sank out here. It was a ball of fire --

Dean: Yeah, I was reading meters the day that thing went down. It was called the *Gulf Master* – and it just disappeared. I remember being out on the wharf that Art James had – the Sechelt Wharf at that time had become privatized. It had burned and this Art James fellow took the old shed that was on the wharf and he used to smoke fish and he sold bait and he was kind of an entrepreneur at this dock, and he had power out there because I had to go out and read the meter, he was quite a yakker and he and I used to talk quite a bit— but watching this plane going around and around and around in circles. We knew something was wrong, but we didn't actually see anything happen. And Art got quite curious and phoned down to Al Campbell at Tyee [Airlines] and Al went up there and the next thing you know the chopper was coming and the next thing we heard it was a boat. We suspect it was hit by a torpedo, but nobody knows that for a fact. They got one of the fellows off the tug and flew him to the hospital here, but he never survived, so they never

found out what really happened. Just vanished—boom—right off the face of the earth in an instant. A big explosion. We never heard the explosion, we just saw the plane flying. I guess we were in the shed. I just remember it was a miserable day, rainy and windy.

Gary: We figured she was fired from a submarine –

Dean: Yeah, we don't know. But they never, ever brought her up and they know where she is, so.

Gary: I know where it is, too.

Dean: It was out by Trail Islands.

Gary: I never actually went down to it, but there can't be very much water there. It's not deep there—maybe 120 feet.

Dean: She's laying there somewhere.

There used to be a store right across from the Red & White Store in Sechelt, which is now Workwear World, and the other store that I'm talking about is now—

Gary: The flower shop there—

Dean: Yeah. It used to be the police station. Then it was Chrissy's Variety Store and that was Chrissy Johnston and her husband Andy who was the judge here and she later became our mayor. She ran the Variety Store forever. When we were kids she was there, and Jack Redman had his store there and Mr. Clayton had his store. The Catholic church has always been there as far as I can remember.

Gary: There was a big house where "The Dock" is now.

Dean: Jim and Phyllis Parker owned that house, he used to own Parker's Hardware in Sechelt. Their daughter Mary married Cece Gordon. Cece was actually from Granthams or down that way. That would be a good contact, because Mary was here as a young girl, and her grandmother lived in the house that the optometrist is in now—Grant Woods? That one, or the one next door to it. Because there was Onos, Ericksons, and Parkers, I think.

Gary: Mrs. Dunn lived where V & S Variety –[5674 Cowrie]

Dean: Mrs. Dunn, which was Jimmy Doyle's grandmother. I remember her voice—a crackly old voice she had.

Then when the Sechelt Inn—I suppose you'd know about the Sechelt Inn—there used to be

little cottages they rented down behind that.

Gary: Almost to the swamp. There used to be a swamp right in behind there. It was quite a steep bank in behind there. The big old tidal ____ was over top of the front. Where Pebbles Restaurant is, there was a regular ridge there and it used to be a lot deeper than it is now. It used to be all the gravel was pushed up by the surf or whatever, to build this ridge. There used to be a road along there at one time, and there were Union Steamship houses all along there.

Dean: Yeah, quite a bunch. A row of houses from Cook's right along up to the store, with the Sechelt Inn plunked in the middle. Then in behind it, between there and Teredo Street, like Gary said, it was a lot deeper than it is now, there were all these little cottages they used to rent.

Gary: Almost against the frog swamp. Because there used to be a 2-plank boardwalk from the Sechelt Inn across to where Cowrie Street is now.

RL: It went all the way to Cowrie Street?

Gary: Yeah.

Dean: Yeah.

RL: Mrs. Hemstreet said their were three of them.

Gary: There were two that I can remember. I can't remember three.

Dean: I just remember the two.

RL: I couldn't figure out how far they went.

Dean: The one went to Cowrie. I know the one Gary's talking about because we used to play on them when we were kids.

Gary: Where Clayton's house was, that's where you actually got off that, was at Claytons.

Dean: That's right. You went past Mrs. Claytons.

Gary: It would be somewhere near where that store is.

Dean: Yeah, between Trail Bay Sports sector and that other sector where Paul's Painting Place is. Mrs. Clayton had her house in there.

Gary: That's where that boardwalk used to end.

Dean: Yeah. And her house got moved to West Sechelt, down on the water.

Gary: Everything west of that to where the road was, was all swamp.

Dean: We played in there, and I can remember people by the name of Doucettes—French people—I don't know why I remember their name. Had nothing to do with them, I just remember the people when we were kids. There was—

Gary: There was not a lot of water in that swamp, but it was wet.

Dean: Muskeggy like. The low bush shrubs we called “Hudson Bay Tea.”

RL: Did it go all the way over to Porpoise Bay, or were there two separate swamps?

Dean: I imagine they connected underground, but no water course—

Gary: There was no watercourse through there. I remember down on Trail Avenue, there was a big swamp ran from there right down to the duck pond. But it didn't seem to join in between. But at that time, when we were kids, Mermaid street was the end anyway. There was no Dolphin Street.

Dean: We used to take the trail, which is now that subdivision from Medusa Street—remember that old logging road that used to come out from Ted Osborne's house—

Gary: Yeah, it used to come right in through where Hackett Park is.

Dean: Yeah. We used to shoot grouse in there and we shot deer there years and years ago.

Gary: One of these used to go down where Inlet Ave is now too. Used to go through that way, and it used to come out just at the top of the hill before you got to old Mel Jeffries place.

Dean: Yeah, and the other piece went down the power line and come out by your old house. You could walk in there and get on that road—

Gary: There was no power line then.

Dean: No, but the road went through there. The other one used to come down by Polson's place, right at the top of the hill. Cause Doug Wakefield used to come that way from their house and I'd go through the other way and meet him and walk to school through the bush.

Gary: Remember Mr and Mrs. Freyer?

Dean: Yeah. The old waterfront, I can still remember as a kid they had the tea room and whatever else, the roller rink, but sort of vaguely. Then we had a theatre there, and in the later days there was a salal plant there and Gary's mother actually worked in that plant,

and next door there's always been a restaurant. When I was a kid I remember people by the name of Cuthberts had it. It was called Cuthbert's Café. Then it became the Calypso Room, and remember Elsie and—I can't remember his name—and they had a couple of daughters, and the theatre, well Morgan Thompson ran the theatre for years and years, and then John Hayes bought it. The restaurant was also called Whispering Pines and then Parthenon.

RL: Did you guys go to the theatre often?

Dean: Oh, yeah.

Gary: It was the only thing on.

Dean: That and the bowling alley,.

Gary: Very few of us had televisions in those days. All you had was maybe one or two channels.

Dean: They used to have Saturday Matinees and I remember that when we were kids we'd go on the weekends.

Gary: It only cost 15 cents to see a show.

Dean: I don't know if Gary did, but just about all of us set pins in the bowling alley for old Mrs. Crucil when she owned it. They didn't have any automatic pin setter so we got paid to do it.

Gary: We used to get 35 cents an hour! For risking your life!

Dean: Yeah, it was dangerous back there, boy! Some of those guys could sure wing the ball.

Another thing they had good on the whole Sunshine Coast when I was a kid was baseball, and this does go to the '50s because Gus Crucil was our Little League coach.

Tape 1-side A ends. Side B:

Dean: . . . a Babe Ruth League, and then in the later years they advanced to have three—Babe Ruth, Little League, and Connie Mac (?). Teams came up from Vancouver and the Lower Mainland area and there was good baseball here. The coast got quite competitive, because we played teams from Port Mellon, because they had a team in those days—now this is going Little League, mostly—Gibsons had at least one team, Wilson Creek, because that's who we played for, and then Sechelt had a team, Roberts Creek, the Reserve and Pender Harbour. Then when it got to Babe Ruth, it was just Gibsons, Sechelt, I think the Reserve tried it for a few years, but didn't stay too long, and Pender Harbour. That went

on for years. Then the Connie Mac was just Gibsons and Sechelt, but that was the senior guys, boys fro 18 to 20. But there was a really good baseball program here, and really good attendance.

When the residential school was here they always had a really good soccer program up there and they used to have boxing in the gym. I can remember when we were in grade 1 or 2, I'm not sure which one, we used to go and do drama in that gym. Mrs. Slater was our teacher, and we used to go into that Indian Band gym and do dances. And they used to have all the May Queen dances in that gym. The May Day celebrations were held on the residential grounds. They had a really good field at one time and there was Maypole dancing and tug-of-wars, and whatever, all the booths and that. Then they had the May Queen's ball in the Indian Band gymnasium for years and years. Then it finally burned down.

Gary: We were there for that, too.

RL: Your fathers were both part of the original Sechelt Fire Brigade/ Do you remember the first time you went down to the fire station?

Dean: I can remember when my dad was working for Redmans they had an old Ford delivery panel truck, and I can remember once we were out—he was delivering groceries and I was a kid and was with him—and we went to a fire somewhere, I couldn't tell you where. I can remember more as I got a little older and I think it would be late '50s, probably '58 or '59, but the Fire Department in Sechelt had an ambulance, and it was the only game in town. And they used to take people right up to St. Mary's in Pender Harbour from here. I can remember going to a few gruesome automobile accidents with my dad because we got called and we just went. He was babysitting us or whatever, and away we went. I can still remember as a kid—I don't remember going to any fires, but remember there was a big shed sitting just up from the Cenotaph—I guess in where the Regional Board Offices are, they used to have a big pole and the siren was on the pole.

Gary: I think it was right where Teredo Street runs through there now.

Dean: Yeah, it was right in that area. Because the siren used to sit on a great big Jesus pole up there, and they used to ring it every Wednesday night—well, we did for years, it was tradition, eh. But they just had a shed there.

Gary: A shed with a tank trailer in it.

Dean: Then there was the big house on the corner. Who owned that? Right by the Village Café, right across from where the IDA is.

Gary: Big white house.

Dean: All the stairs. Jim and Faye Hall lived in it.

Gary: They should have kept that house as a heritage site.

RL: Wasn't it Whitaker's at one time?

Gary: Yes, it was one of Whitakers, and there was someone else in it—started with a B. I remember the people who lived there were really friendly and they had a white picket fence around the outside.

Dean: Yeah. Neat and tidy. Then they had the old doctor who used to live in Selma Park—Dr. McColl, you might have heard of him. I remember him. I can remember a lot of the old fires when I was a kid. I remember when Totem Lodge burned down. Not the Totem Lodge that's here now—there was a Totem Lodge in Selma Park.

RL: Yes. A gentleman died in that fire.

Dean: He died. I can still remember the story your dad and my dad used to tell—he died and his long-johns were still sticking out—he never got them on in time before he succumbed to the fire.

I remember some house fires. I remember when Charlie Stewart's house burned down because our parents were all at a party at our house on December 26th. They were all firemen, and they were all together.

Gary: And the church fire. The wharf fire.

Dean: We had the Indian band gym and I still remember that night. It was cold, I remember, because we had frost on our gear and we were thinking what would it be like in Winnipeg?

Gary: You must remember the Sechelt Inn when it burned, too.

Dean: Oh, yeah. I was working in Parker's Hardware when that burned down.

Gary: You weren't a fireman yet.

Dean: No, I was only about 14 or 15.

Gary: But you and I were both up there helping out.

Dean: Yeah.

Gary: Pulling hoses and stuff to help the firemen out.

Dean: That's right. Then the residential school was a bad fire. I still remember going there and opening the door as a five-gallon can came rolling down the stairs. I said to Gilbert Joe, "I guess we know what started the fire, eh?" Could never prove anything. That was sad when that went. That was a landmark.

RL: A lot of the wharf fires were vandalism weren't they?

Dean: Well. . . Let's not comment on that. There's a sad story goes along with one of those fires. It involved a death, so we won't talk about that. But that was actually what caused the end of those fires was that little girl.

Gary: There was a lot of spontaneous combustion was going on there.

Dean: It was all water under the bridge. It's not a good thing to talk about. The wharf's gone, and it's gone.

But that wharf was a fairly busy dock. But Porpoise Bay dock was really the hub because that's where the industry took place, but the other one was where all the goods came in for a long time. Then eventually we got the Blackball Line. At one time there was a dock at Selma Park, and I don't really remember the dock, as such, but I can remember in front of where the breakwater is, now there is a big cleared area? That was a field, just a grassy field, and it used to go down to the beach, approximately where the breakwater is, though it was a little different then, and they had a regatta there every year. Because I remember Mike Morehouse and I won a rowboat race there. They used to have boat races—not as big as the one in Sechelt, and there were less watersports, but in the field they used to have sack races.

Then the Martinez family started the original drive-in, called the Malawhana Drive In.

Gary: Right on the reserve there.

Dean: Yeah, and that's the first place that I can ever remember getting soft ice cream in Sechelt. I think that had to be in the sixties, because we were driving then. Tommy had his Buick and I had my Plymouth and then my Buick

I got married in 1966 when I was 20, so it probably was 1962, 63 or 64. Then they moved down to the Casa Martinez. But that was a busy little drive-in. All the kids and police and everybody used to go there.

Gary: The Legion was right across the street from it. Sechelt Legion was right there.

Dean: Yeah. Graduated from that to what it is today.

RL: What was it like at the drive in? You'd come in with your cars?

Dean: Oh, yeah and go get your hamburgers and pop or coffee or soft ice cream, or take your date there after going to the theatre. Whatever, you know?

RL: Did you socialize, with a bunch of cars going together?

Dean: Oh, yeah.

Down in Porpoise Bay, on the east side, Crucils had a pretty big and busy logging operation. They had a big booming ground there, and I can still remember those trucks crossing the road there, and at Wilson Creek where Jacksons came down, and at Halfmoon Bay—all three because you used to sit there and listen for their air horns when they crossed the highway because the drivers had the big off-highway trucks and they just blasted on the horn and crossed the highway with their loads.

Gary: Because they couldn't stop!

Dean: All the steam coming off their brakes because they cooled their brakes with water. Well they still do the off-highway to this day. But there was some beautiful wood came off those hillsides when we were kids—tremendously big wood and lots of it.

Then Lambs had a logging operation over in Tuwanek. When we were kids you couldn't get to Tuwanek by road, you could only get there by boat. Remember Laddie Taylor taking us up there when we were Boy Scouts, and we camped at Tuwanek. He had a boat called the Huloma, it was a nice kind of a tug. He took us up there when we were Boy Scouts and we used to camp on old Joe Spangler's property.

Gary: I'd forgotten about that!

Dean: Remember the old house and the old player piano upstairs.

RL: Would that be where Tranquility Cove B & B is now?

Dean: I couldn't tell you. Actually, as far as I know that house was destroyed.

There was a little creek by the property and the guy who had the place was Joe Spangler. I never met the guy. I was just a kid. Frank Newton was the scout master and Tick Payne was the RCMP corporal and the Wilson Creek scout master, and we had the two troops up there.

I remember somebody fell and hurt their legs and we were flashing SOS with a flash light and somebody came ashore with a boat and picked up whoever it was and took him in.

Then when old Flying Phil was the Highways Minister they pushed the road out there, because he was trying to get it up to the Bible Camp, but he never got that far. That was the story. Politics in action.

Gary: When was the road actually pushed through to Sandy Hook?

Dean: I remember when it went through, but not what year it was.

Gary: It went to Lamb's camp . . . Lamb's camp was in Tuwanek.

Dean: Well, Lamb's camp was where Jacksons dryland is now.

Gary: I can remember going in there with my dad and at one time he didn't have vehicle and he walked to work and he was working over at Lambs. Your dad, my uncle and all three used to walk together—a five-mile walk in the morning to go to work. And five miles back out again.

Dean: I remember that property where we lived when I was a kid, there was no road into that property, but I think that goat trail was in to Lambs, because the old man had that sawmill in behind in that property. In summer he showed me when I was a kid, he took me back in there and there was an old house in there. You know what I'm talking about—across from where we found that guy dead in that car that time?

Gary: About what was then known as Walker's place?

Dean: Joe Walkers place, yeah.

Up in Halfmoon Bay in the bush, there's an old homestead up there and I wish my Grandmother was still alive, but I can tell you the name of the guy that lived there was John Tjensvold, he lives out in Halfmoon Bay. He actually took me in there—he's younger than me—but they got into this place and they made shakes. But I can remember my grandmother and grandfather, and my dad, telling me about his place. It was a homestead in the bush and an old hermit lived there, and I think he finally went senile, and my grandfather and someone else actually took him out of there. He used to have an old horse and he'd come into Halfmoon Bay through the bush. He dug a mine up there and [when] John took me in there the old fence was still there, the buildings were gone, but the outhouse was still there and it had the neatest louvred doors, and it was all hand carved out of cedar. And it was all louvred. They had many goats and the goats were inside their house—up on the tables and everywhere, and well tolerated.

Gary: Behind Homesite Creek.

Dean: Yeah, sort of in behind Homesite Creek, and then you walked up kind of a bank, then crawled through this little hole and then boom, there was an opening. And it wasn't very big, but you could stand up in there. And this guy was mining something there, I don't know what. But John and I went in there and just looked around and went back. But the old place is there—it's all collapsed. I can't remember the old fellow's name, but he was a

war vet or whatever.

I just know my grandfather walked up to get him out of there for the cops or something.

RL: Did your father's talk very much about the fire brigade, what it was like when they first started it?

Gary: Oh, yeah.

Dean: We used to talk a lot about that at the firehall.

Gary: The firehall still has a lot of pictures and stuff from those days.

Dean: When Gary and I were in the Fire Dept in our younger days, our dads were still very active in there and for quite a few years, and you had guys like Tom Gory and some of the other old timers—Harold Nelson, Sam McKenzie, Tom Parish. Some of the older guys that maybe weren't the original, but they'd been there for quite a few years and they knew the history. They used to talk about it all the time.

I can remember guys saying they used to be pushing the trailer, the wagon with the hose—they had to push it by hand. Then we got some trucks. In my time there, when I joined we still had the old army truck which we donated to Roberts Creek? And Pender Harbour got our first pumper, the old Ford, when we got the International.

RL: Was Gibsons the first Fire Department on the Sunshine Coast?

Gary: I don't know if it was Gibsons or Sechelt. Possibly Port Mellon had the first one.

Dean: That wouldn't surprise me at all.

When Gary and I joined, it was sort of still under the old regime, then it started to modernize and then in 1979 big changes happened. The Justice Institute got on the scene with training and what not, and we transferred from the old hall to the one that's there today.

Gary: There was only 12 of us when we first started.

Dean: Yeah, and then it got to 15, and when it got to 20 we thought, "Man what a big group!" Now I don't know how many are there. There were 30 when I left. My memories of the Fire Department are basically all good ones. We had lots of good times, lots of good social times and we went through some pretty hard times, involved with deaths, especially when it's kids.

Gary: Bad accidents.

Dean: Stuff like that. And then when we built the new hall it was kind of a trying time. I was chief at the time and it was a trying time because we were trying to function out of the old hall and move into the new hall. It was just a tough, stressful time, but we got through it and the guys are doing a good job to this day.

Gary: Lost a lot of characters.

Dean: Yeah, we did lose a lot of characters. They're still doing a good job today, but from my opinion, it's definitely for the young guys. Especially the volunteer thing. And we were pretty young when we were there. I guess there's been a few father and sons there. Two of us here, and Derek Nelson and his dad . . .

Gary: Derek's still there.

Dean: . . .and Tony Pike and his son, and Brian and George Flay. There's been some pretty neat guys go through that place. And they had a couple of lady firefighters going through that place, I don't know if they still do or not. They never did in my time there, but it happened shortly after when they got the first female firefighter there, and everything worked out fine.

RL: What are some of the good times you had together?

Dean: Oh, social events. Picnics on the beach with the kids and the firemen. Then we had our own functions where we tried to raise money, we had dances and fireman's balls, etc. Then the trustees started to put a firefighters appreciation night on for us. When it first happened we just had a big party, but later on, as things got more serious, we realized you couldn't be drinking and fighting fires, so you'd ask another fire hall to come and babysit your hall. So they'd send a crew that was familiar with our equipment and looked after our fire hall while we had our party, then we'd return the favour for them. I think actually Halfmoon Bay was doing ours once and we had a fire.

Other than that, there were lots of good pranks that came out. We can tell you a few, some you don't want to hear. When we had the new hall, the very first party we had after the new hall was up was to celebrate the new hall. I was Fire Chief at the time and we had this guy by the name of Claire Foster come up from the Fire Marshall's Office to present some long term awards to I think, Sam McKenzie, Tom Gory and somebody else got some pins from the government for longevity in the fire service. They were there and Halfmoon Bay was looking after our hall, and they had had their hall built just before that on a grant and the remnants of their old hall was an outhouse. They brought it up to our hall and tried to get it up on the roof, but they didn't succeed because they were afraid of wrecking the building. The next day we took it back to their hall and torched it and called them out to a fire. There's parts of the story I'll leave out because you don't want to hear it, but we had a lot of fun.

They were good times. There were lots of good pranks along with Sechelt and Halfmoon Bay. There are probably letters in the archives. We had a lot of good fun and Roberts Creek was good. Then we had another function that I enjoyed—and this happened in the later years—they used to have one fire department would host a dinner for all the fire departments. We all took turns—Gibsons did it, the Creek did it, we did it, Halfmoon Bay did it and Pender Harbour did it. And you'd charter a bus and go and just make sure there was a crew stayed behind in case there was a fire. Not everybody went. But they were usually good times and it was lots of fun, and a social thing. Good for the whole coast.

Gary: Done in the summertime, too, so you could go camping if you wanted to.

RL: How big is a crew?

Dean: You mean the total numbers? When I left, there were 30 members. I don't know what they have today.

RL: When you say you'd leave a crew behind, how many would that be?

Gary: 4

Dean: Yeah, 4 or 6 depending—

Gary: 4 would be the minimum.

Dean: Yeah, a minimum of 4. But there was always somebody couldn't make it because they had little kids or whatever.

RL: And you were always called out by telephone?

Dean: Yeah, telephones, then eventually we went to—

RL: I understand you had a telephone tree.

Dean: Yeah, but in the end did we have pagers? I don't think so when I left. I left in '89, so . . . Yeah, we had a telephone system and I can still remember when I was a kid—

Gary: The phone used to ring differently too.

Dean: Yeah, totally. And if I was talking to you and there was a firecall, it would override the main.

But prior to those days, when I was still a kid at home, when your mom and my mom used to get out, and they had a group called the Fire Belles, which were the wives. If there was a fire, the telephone operator would call a couple of the firemen and then the wives would start to call. They had like a telephone tree. And we sort of had that system, didn't we?

Gary: At one time we did.

Linda Robilliard: Whoever talked on the phone had to stay on until they answered every phone call.

Dean: Yeah, that's when it went to the first B.C. Tel system. Because some of us—there was only a handful of those phones out to start with, then some more went out. Then eventually we all had the phone thing.

So it was pretty adequate. I guess now they have the 911 thing and I still have reservations about how good that is, because when they used to have the Anderson Alarm here in Sechelt, when you told them there was a fire on Joe Road, they knew where Joe Road was. They knew where whatever was. I was never involved with 911. Anderson Alarm, as far as I was concerned, did a good job, but the big push was on for 911. I've heard some good stories and some bad stories, so I can't really comment on that.

RL: What made you stop?

Dean: I was just burned out. I guess I could have stayed longer and tried to get a 25-year pin, but I wasn't in it—I spent 23 years there, and 19 of my 23 years I was involved in the executive and office. I don't know, just one day I went there and we got a brand new truck and I just could not get excited about going out on this new truck. So I said to myself, "Why don't you step down and let the young fellows do it."

I never missed going to fires, or anything like that, but I . . . I didn't even lose interest. I just didn't have any desire anymore. There was no more thrill left. Plus I had my own thing, I was fishing for a living, self-employed, and I'd just had enough. At first I really missed it, but now I don't miss it at all. Of course, I miss the comradery, but I don't miss the 3 a.m. calls. But I admire those guys and give them lots of credit for doing it.

The sad thing about the volunteers service in small communities is that it is an expected service. And you have to be real professional about it, and I think in some cases they actually do maybe even a better job than the paid guys because they're trained on everything.

RL: Where did you take your training?

Dean: Well, in the early days we just trained ourselves. You could get books and films and what not. In 1979 the Justice Institute came on the scene and the Volunteer Firefighters Association was evolved before that, and usually the chiefs would go to those conventions. We went to one in Sooke one year. And you got some stuff out of that, talked to other guys, what they did, etc. But when the Justice Institute came on board, they got involved with the volunteers throughout the province and there's actually training courses you can go to, you can send your officers there. They got training and brought it back. Then our department went to – we evolved a training officer, and they

all started to do that—and we had some really good ones that did a lot for our department. Bob Wing was one of the first ones when I was in office, with us. Then Chris Caldwell did it for years and did an excellent job and received some pretty high awards for it.

It's just pure dedication. People went out and learned. When the J.I. got involved, you got a lot of live burns and stuff. Burn old houses. They showed us a lot, and the whole conception of fighting fire, you know, "Put the wet stuff on the red stuff" changed and it got quite scientific. Even a lot of stuff that we were taught is not kosher today. They do it differently. It's just better.

RL: *That must have been pretty hard to be in the fire department and working at a job at the same time.*

Dean: Well, I think in the small communities—at least in my experience—the employers were really good. I worked for B.C. Hydro, never missed a payday. They were really good about it. The fellows from Port Mellon, where I am now, would stay back and I don't know what happened with their pay there—

Gary: Never got it.

Dean: —yeah. But they were pretty good in the small community. The guys who really lost out were the self-employed guys. There were a lot of the guys who were self-employed, because that's how you got your day time fire fighters. Because if you were available in the daytime around Sechelt, and the siren went, you went to the fire. But if you were in the fire department and working in Gibsons or Port Mellon, or logging up the hill, you didn't have a clue there was a fire until you get back and see that the truck's out, or something going on at the hall. You'd drop in and help hang hose, or whatever you could do.

Sechelt was lucky because there were 3 guys at Standard Motors when it was there—if you talk with the McDermids—you know about Standard Motors and old Reg Jackson and all that stuff? Okay, we'll go into that later. But there were three guys there, Butch and Tommy Ono and Sam McKenzie, they were right there. There were three guys got to the truck pretty quick, and then there always seemed to be some other guys around Sechelt and we'd end up with 3 or 4 guys. Some times you'd end up with skimpy crews and sometimes you'd end up with too many people. It would just depend on what it was.

We had a fire one time just across the street so we ran down the road going, "Whooh whooh whooh whooh!" It was just a chimney fire, right by the old fire hall, up by Bob Kent's place. We ran up there with the ladder.

Another time we towed a Christmas tree out of the fire hall. We took off and forgot the tree was tied to the back of the truck. Towed it down the road, lost all our decorations.

Oh, there's been some funny things happened.

That little Sechelt Mini-mall—there's Johnny Oregano's and the Daily Roast [5547 Wharf]. Well, when Gary and I grew up, Reg Jackson built the building there. It was a machine shop to start with. Then the machine shop got moved to the back, and Standard Motors, which consisted of—now if you talk with Sam McKenzie you'll find out more about it—but there was Sammy McKenzie, Orv Moscrip, Tommy and Butch Ono, as far as I know, were the 4 principals. They leased it, and they had a service station and a mechanical shop there. It was there for years and years—

Gary: They had the whole block—

Dean: And they had a big Allison Aircraft engine for a monument up on the roof that old Reg put up there. Charlie McDermid took over the machine shop when he eased out of the logging, he liked machining and he had a machine shop in the back for years, and the other boys were in the front, and it all worked hand in hand there.

Across the street, where the Esso is, used to be a Home Station. It has several different owners—Leo Johnson, Jack Nelson, Don Hadden, and others.

Gary: Gordon Fawkes

Dean: Yeah, I think it was Gordy Fawkes, and then Jack Nelson went into the Shell with Neal. So that was the Home Station and that became the Esso Station. There's always been a gas station on that corner as long as I can remember. Not quite as it is today, but there was a gas station there. Used to have dirt out there by the pumps.

Gary: Shell Gas Station. Frank French had the first one I can remember.

Dean: And he had a taxi office there.

Gary: Taxi office was at the Shell Gas Station.

RL: Mrs. French had a library there. Was that in the old library building?

Gary: I think it was behind the gas station. It was not the same building.

Dean: They had a house there. There was a fence there.

Gary: Closer to the road.

Dean: And then the other taxi office was Harry Sawyer. He had it before Frank Hall did. And they were in where Les English's building is, but it wasn't that building. It was an old white-boarded building, by the orchard there. There was a taxi there, and the bus depot.

And then Hansen's Transfer had their big warehouse where that cabinet place is, by the Chinese restaurant [5550 Wharf], just above it. Hansen's Transfer was pretty well the main trucking place in Sechelt for years and years.

Gary: And there was Chief's Building Supply next door.

Dean: Yeah, Chief Caldwell had—where the Chinese restaurant is—they had Sechelt Building Supply and I have an apron in my shed out here that says Peninsula Building Supply and that's the one where Parsons had —

Gary; Where that mini mall is now.

Dean: Yeah, where Galiano Market is.[5531 Wharf]. Then Norm Watson had the lockers in there, and they used to do Tyee Bait. They used to freeze the herring and employ people there. Eric Knutson was first. He started by Crucil's house in a small shed. Then Tom Gory, and then Wes Harowell, had the shoe repair shop.

Gary: And Mrs. Crucil had the Tassela Shop.

Dean: Yeah, where the Olde Donut Shop was, now it's that little Costco connection [5714 Cowrie]. She had that for years, along with the bowling alley.

The block where the Village Restaurant is (southwest corner of Cowrie and Inlet) used to consist of — the restaurant's always been there — a lady's shop, a drug store, a bakery and Parker's Hardware. Parker's Hardware was the main hardware store in Sechelt for years. It later became a Marshall Wells. Jim Parker still owned it when it was Marshall Wells, but Frank Newton more or less ran the business. Frank went from here to Ashcroft.

RL: Was that McLeods?

Dean: It was Marshall Wells first, then it became McLeods.

Then there was another was another hardware store across from the corner, C & S Hardware. Curry and Swain. Bill Swain was the mayor here for a long time. Then Morgan Thompson had a men's wear shop in that block.

And the post office was down there. Upstairs, was it a doctors office?

Gary: No. Doctors office was across the road above Tonys Lock. Dr. McKee had his offices up there.

Dean: And McKey had his office in his house, too. I still have stitch-marks in my thumb from when he sewed me up in his house there. That was the house that Ernie Booth lived in, across from the firehall, on the other side of the street.

RL: What was your work history? You went to school in Gibsons to grade 12?

Dean: Yeah, but I logged in the summers and I decked on commercial fish boats in the summers. You know, typical kid thing. Worked in the gas station, worked in the hardware store. Anything to make a buck when you were a kid. Then I started logging and I logged for a while. Then I went to B.C. Hydro for 15 years and I quit them and went back logging. I did a bunch of things after that—B.A. Blacktop, 101 Contracting. I went logging again, then did some bucking contracts, stuff like that. I went to Port Mellon off and on in between and then I bought a gilnetter and went fishing. I've been involved in the fishing industry since I was a kid in some capacity or another, because I worked on packers and I always went out fishing, even on my holidays when I had these other jobs, I went on commercial boats quite a bit. Then I sold that gilnetter and bought another one and did the herring thing, and fooled around in the fishing industry, then ended up at Port Mellon and that's where I'm staying. Too old to do anything else.

RL: How about you, Gary?

Gary: I pretty well skipped for that guy.

Dean: You're a world traveller.

Gary: Not so much with a fishing trip. But I graduated from high school and worked during school for much the same as he did, worked in hardware stores, construction companies. Before I graduated from high school I got a job with B.C. Hydro at Clowhom Falls. Summer work to start with and then became a full time job.

RL: What did you do there?

Gary: I was a general tradesman's helper. Doing everything from bridge building to log gathering. Whatever needed to be doing, we did. That kind of petered out with cutbacks and whatever and I came back down to Sechelt and applied at Port Mellon and got a job there.

RL: Did you know Kyme and Effie at Clowhom?

Dean: Oh sure.

Gary: Raccoons.

Dean: If you talk to Sammy McKenzie, he bought Kim's boat. The one he had to go back and forth to Clowhom with. An old flathead Ford V8.

I remember when Solbergs actually sold their place in Sandy Hook. I don't remember who bought it, but they bought the place and then subdivided it and moved the house to property Paetkau had over here on Porpoise Bay and they stayed on that for a long time and now it's where it is now at Chamberlin Bay.

I remember the old boat we used to call the *Bismark* that they built and they sealed the seams with pitch.

RL: Who did that?

Dean: I guess their father built the boat. You'd have to talk to Bergy to make sure. It had an old Vivien or an Easthope in and it used to come down the inlet once in a while.

I can remember them [the Solbergs] from when I was a kid. As I said, I was a wharf rat and was always down at the Porpoise Bay dock. They lived on the inlet in those days, and it was a long way to go to Sandy Hook in those days by boat. They used to come down—my Mom said when I lived up the inlet and I was only 2 years old and younger, I knew who was who by the sound of their boat engines.

Gary: There weren't that many boats on the inlet to start with!

Dean: No. There was an old fisherman here, his name was Bill Anderson. He was an old scot and he lived in Porpoise Bay—he built the first house that Gordon Wing had, not the new house up in Porpoise Bay, but the first one. That was Bill's fancy house, but he lived over by where Schroeder's lived first, on the water. But he had a little boat that had a live well in it and he used to keep his cod and stuff alive and he'd sell it at the dock at Porpoise Bay, and I can still remember him dressing those cod as a kid and he laid the heart on the bull railing and it was still beating. And all these people are oohing and ahing. I can still remember that cod heart beating! He'd say, "Now you know it's fresh—see the heart hasn't even stopped beating yet!"

They used to sell fish off their boat to the public and I think old Fred Schuett when he had the *Sea Farer* was selling his spring salmon, I think to Clayton's store. I don't think in those days you had to go through all these inspections. Probably got better quality because it was handled less. Catch them, take them to the store and sell them.

Then, on Indian land—there used to be a bunch of boats up on the beach that were old wrecks that we used to play on over there on Porpoise Bay. At the head of the bay they would drag up the old fishing fleet, the old derelicts and we used to play on those boats when we were kids.

Tape 1 ends. Tape 2, side A, begins:

Not recorded: Frank Yates was the Nelson's Cleaners' driver, and a bus driver forever. He raised a big family in Selma Park. One of his daughters, Wendy Yates, was the May Queen.

Dean: ... John Yates was the manager for B.C. Ferries at Langdale for years. He just retired a couple of years ago. And he just lives up on the highway here in West Sechelt. His wife, Heather Parker wasn't born here, but she's been here since elementary school.

RL: What were Bergy and Minnie like when you were growing up?

Dean: Probably a little more active, but really not a lot different than she is today. She's been a character. She's always been around. I've always seen her with her gun and her dog and her boats. She's been a fixture here since I was a kid, and she's part of the coast. I don't think Bergliot's changed a lot. She's had to go through an awful lot of changes that probably she didn't want to in her lifetime, I would think. She grew up totally under different circumstances than I did. But she's always been the same—always had the cowboy hat and the two women used to dress up once a year. You'd see them with a dress on. I believe they went to the PNE, but I wouldn't swear to that. Eric Knutsen got the girls to clean up and take better care of themselves.

That bobcat [pelt] on my wall there was one of Bergy's. She trapped that and I bought the pelt off her and had it mounted in probably 1967, because I was still reading meters.

I only read meters for a year and a half and then I went on to other things with B.C. Hydro. I worked for Hydro for 15 years in various capacities.

I don't remember them being any different then. I remember the fellow that Minnie married, Henry Drey, had a boat called the *Argyle*, and it was a fishboat. He used to come into the dock at Porpoise Bay with a lot of prawns and stuff. I remember old Henry. Then there were two brothers here that used to come down to Sechelt in their boat regularly, and used to build boats—the Gilmores. George and Donald Gilmore lived up in Doriston for years and Jardines lived in Doriston. They've been up there for years, and the Jardines made a lot of their living fishing dog fish for the war effort, for their oils. I believe they fished them right around either Egmont or right inside the chuck at Doriston itself, right out in front of their home.

There used to be a school at Doriston. I've been in the old building. I spent a fair bit of time up there in my younger days. I used to stay at Gunnar Jardine's. And George Gilmore has always been a fixture here, and his boats. He built the *Tammy* and several others. His latest was the *Hamett*.

Gary: Remember the old school house down at Porpoise Bay? I lived in that when I was first born. The A-frame is there now—that's the property the school house is on. And there was a school here up on School Hill (now Norwest Bay road).

Dean: In fact, this road was called School Road at one time.

RL: The one at Porpoise Bay was your house?

Gary: Yeah, when I was first born. We had an outhouse and everything.

Dean: Yeah, I remember having outhouses. And I remember when you guys built the house up by our old house.

Gary: Around here there were just outhouse. There was no inside plumbing. I remember the native ladies would cut through from the wharf and use our outhouse for the odd time. We painted the seat one time in the outhouse, and we all knew about it, but I guess they didn't! There was this big removal of paint!

Dean: There was old Randall up in Roberts Creek had a huge chicken farm at one time.

Gary: Randall's farm used to have lake there.

Dean: Yeah, Pat Cronie owns the property there now. My dad put the first power into that place. I remember going up there as a kid with Herb Stockwell's gravel truck. I guess I helped, I don't know how old I was, but my Dad shovelled that thing full of chicken manure and brought it home for the garden and we had a good garden for years. I don't know how many loads he had, a couple I think. I remember going in that road—it was a god-awful road in those days.

There was another logging outfit up in Halfmoon Bay, called Stewart and Oiki.

RL: O-i-k-i?

Dean: Yeah, I think so. They were Japanese people. There was Doug Oiki and Fred Oiki. Fred had logging trucks here for years. Doug moved away, but I can remember him when we played baseball, he was a terrific umpire. Perry and George were the boys.

Then the bridge flooded out a Chapman Creek when we were kids.

Gary: Used to call it Mission Creek.

Dean: Yeah, Mission Creek. That bridge got totally washed out. It was the eve of the Fireman's Ball and they lost all their money. We weren't in the fire department—we were kids—but I remember our parents. That got washed out and that whole area was flooded right down to...

Gary: Where Canadian Tire's going in.

Dean: Yeah, past there, right down to where the mall is now. In fact, in 1966, 67, I was reading meters for Hydro and that Mission road, Tswacome Reserve there, was under water. That was in late September—a few days before Jo's wedding.

Gary: About 3 feet of water.

Dean: And there was an aluminium boat in someone's yard and I took a pole and I poled to each house and read the meter. I would walk on the dirt, and I remember Bob Normington was the boss and he said, "I got to hand it to you. Nobody would do that, they'd just estimate

it and say they couldn't access it." He laughed over that.

Gary: I was still going to school in those days.

Dean: Where the Bella Beach motel is, there was Vic's Trading Post. It was a post office and store at Davis Bay.

Gary: Where the restaurant is now.

Dean: They had a little café there and the store. It's the Ichiban Restaurant now.[4748 Sunshine Coast Hwy.]

Then Jack Whitaker lived next door in that big 2-story house. He was our baseball coach.

RL: The night that the residential school burned, were you both there?

Dean: I was there, but it wasn't at night.

Gary: A weekend, wasn't it? I was away at the time. I was travelling.

Dean: I was at both those fires, but I missed the church fire.

Gary: I was at the church fire.

RL: What was the feeling about the residential school? Was everybody pretty sad?

Dean: We tried to stop it.

Gary: The building was already condemned. It was no longer in use.

Dean: That's right. It was obsolete.

Gary: Mysterious fire.

Dean: Yeah, the school was obsolete. The gym had long-since gone and that. But it was a landmark and personally I was sad to see it go. But I was sad when they disbanded it. It was a sad time for the coast. It was part of it here, it was always there and there were always kids there, and the fathers and the sisters were there. They had their house—the priests and nuns had a place right there.

It was sad that Sechelt lost that actually.

RL: But the natives didn't seem to mind?

Dean: Well who knows. With all that's come out now, maybe they were just glad to see it gone. I can't answer that. We were pretty naive in those days. We didn't know that kind of

stuff was going on.

Gary: Probably a few horror stories from over there.

RL: Did you interact with the Sechelts a lot?

Dean: Oh, yeah. We went to the show with them, played soccer and ball-all sports. Swam, fished. Always out on the dock in Sechelt. We grew up together!

Gary and I both worked with some of them, then I logged with quite a few of them, being in the fishing industry, I know a few of them and Lloyd Jeffries and I are personal friends, but that goes a long way back from my dad's time.

RL: Were there Sechelts in the Fire Department?

Dean: Yeah. Kennedy Paul. Mel Jeffries. And now I believe Glen Dixon and one of the other boys is on it.

Gary: There was talk at one time of them starting their own fire department, but it never came to anything.

You remember the days we used to have to canvass for money for the fire department?

Dean: Yeah, door to door.

RL: I read where someone said you hated doing that.

Dean: Yeah, we did, but it was the only way we could get money. Actually, they only did it for about three years when I was there and then they adopted the system of trustees and taxation. But we did it.

Gary: We'd go door to door and ask for money for the fire department.

Dean: And being the rookies—

Gary: We were sent out. Money's always been tight in Sechelt here. The '70s weren't bad, but the '50s and '60s were pretty hard.

RL: Do you remember when the ferries started running?

Dean: I can remember getting the Blackball ferry at the Gibsons wharf.

RL: What was that like, compared with today?

Dean: It was a ferry ride.

Gary: It was a lot slower. It used to be an hour and a half trip at one time to get across.

Dean: It was slower. But then, I guess if you look back, the whole pace of life was slower.

Gary: There wasn't near the traffic, neither.

Dean: The ferries are a part of life here, and personally I hope they never go away because if they ever push a road around or put bridges over here, it would ruin it. As far as I'm concerned, and I guess I'm a bit selfish. But I figure the place is ruined now. I liked it 30 to 40 years ago when there was hardly anyone around here. You did not what you damned well pleased to do, but you could do things. Both Gary and I are outdoors-types and you can't even go up in the mountains now. It's shut down because it's parks and people are whining and complaining, de-activating roads. People don't know what they're doing up there.

Gary: Can't go cut firewood anymore.

Dean: It's not like it used to be. In other ways its better—we have better stores, better transportation, better medical. So I guess it's called paying for progress.

Gary: I like the changes myself. I'm happy to see the changes. As far as I'm concerned, the place is nothing but improved. There's the odd thing I could say that isn't for the best, but over the long run, it's for the better.

Dean: It's going to be better for the kids that are here. It's been a good place for me to raise my kids. I think it was a great place for my kids to grow up, and we're close enough to Vancouver to get all of Vancouver you want. Unless you really love the city, and then, what's stopping you from moving there? A lot of kids from here do go to cities and there's not probably too many guys like Gary and I who have been raised here and virtually stayed here.

RL: How is that you both stayed here?

Gary: I went away for a while. I was gone for five years to New Zealand. I came back again.

Dean: It's home again.

RL: Gary, I didn't ask you about your wife or children.

Gary: My first wife was Margaret Himmel. I met her in high school here in Gibsons. We were married for 19 years. Two children. Randy is 30 and he lives in Haney, and Jessica is 23 and lives here.

RL: Are you married now?

Gary: I'm a bachelor.

RL: This has been great. I think you two could talk all night about this.

Dean: Well Gary and I talked about it in the car going to work. We've car pooled together for the past ten years and every once in a while one of us will say, "Do you remember?"

There was never a lack of things to do because we're the type that are outdoor people. My dad and Gary's dad were hunters, so we got to go hunting. They both fished, so we got to go out in the boat and go fishing. We cut firewood as kids—that was our chore. We were just outside and there was never a lack of something to do. And there was always work to do at home. Chores at home, and if there wasn't we played outside. There were not gymnasiums. We had the theatre.

Gary: You made your own entertainment.

Dean: Yeah, and we just did it.

When we were teenagers we helped the RCMP quite a bit if there were searches going on for bodies, or whatever. I remember finding a stolen car one night. They'd looked for it for three weeks. They wouldn't let us drive it, because they couldn't start it and we could. It was hilarious. That cop laid for us for months after that. We were drinking and we found this car in the bush. It was stolen from Porpoise Bay from that same area, but in a little bit different era, the guy was a tug boater and there wasn't that many cars there. That's when we had the airplanes and everything else, but he was out on the tug and that's where he left his car and somebody boosted it. We were about 17, I guess. Me and Tom and Eddie Burdett, and Jimmy Stockwell.

It's been a good place to grow up.

Gary: Tom McCourt is another name.

Dean: Yeah. He wasn't born here, but he came at a young age. He was about 12. Came from Coquitlam or whatever.

Who else is around?

Gary: Jim Wallace has been around for a long time. He's back driving cab now. Came here when he was 8 or 9 years old. Mid to late '50s.

Dean: I was in school when that terrible drowning took place in the inlet, and Ann Morrison, it was her dad who owned the boat and the logging show. I remember she came to school that day—grade 6 or 7—part of the Sechelt Elementary school. I remember she said, "Oh, the men didn't come home last night." I remember saying to her, "Oh, they'll be okay, they probably just stayed up there because it was lousy weather." We all went to school together. Doug Wakefield—his dad was one of them.

Linda: Edna Wakefield.

Dean: Yes, her husband was one of those who drowned. And he was one of the principals' with Range Logging that I mentioned earlier. Stan Wakefield. Those guys disappeared and I can remember my dad being out on that search. Probably your dad was, too.

Gary: I remember walking the beach looking for them.

Dean: My dad, they were out in the boat, and they found Cy Gordon's toque. It was the only thing they found.

Gary: Mary Gordon is still around.

Dean: Cy's wife? No she's not here.

Gary: His daughter's here.

Dean: Richie Loma's brother is still here. We were talking about the accident at Christmas time, at an open house and he was there. His brother's wife was married to Wilf Nestman. Debbie at the Credit Union is Richie's daughter, but Pam isn't. Because Richie was just young. And there was Tak Furuya, the faller.

Gary: Used to live on Tyson Road.

Dean: There was Tak, and Richie, and Stan, and Cy, and Jack.

Gary: I still can't remember the name of that boat that used to go to Clowhom.

Dean: That was the big white one that had the varnished railings on it and stuff. It was a big boat, but slow.

RL: What kind of fishing did you do?

Dean: As kids, sports fishing? Well, we were wharf rats. You'd fish for shiners, and perch and cod off the docks.

Gary: Flounders.

Dean: Then as we got older we went fishing with our dads out at Trail Islands and in the inlet here. Salmon and cod. Same as today. Just that they were a lot more plentiful. There was no problem ever getting one.

Gary: I remember as a kid going down to Burley's Rocks there and casting a hand line.

Spinning a hand line over the top of your head with a shiner on it. Well, our job as kids was to catch the shiners for bait. Put a big hook through a shiner and throw it off there, and let it sit for—I use to tie a slip knot into the line, so when a cod got a hold of it and started grabbing it, it would pull the knot lose, so you knew you had a fish on there and you'd pull it in. Rock cod and ling cod, right off the rocks there, no problem at all. That was a family outing.

Dean: In the late '50s or early '60s for sure, because Linda and I got married in '66, and I took her fishing at Sargeant's Bay. Sargeant's Bay had an unbelievable run of spring salmon come in there every summer and they were huge fish and they were plentiful. There was no problem with fish out there. They were Columbia River fish—they had tags a lot of them, and they gradually disappeared. I guess we played a part in it, but also the damming on the Columbia is what really finished it off. But the fishing at Sargeant's Bay was something that probably would counter anything in Campbell River or up north as average size goes. There were some in the 50 pounds, but it wasn't common. But in the 20s and low 30s was common and lots of them. That's when the mooching started. Every one used to troll when I was a kid, then they started fishing there with little 8-foot prams and they mooched with live bait and 1 oz lead or 3 oz lead, whatever we used.

Gary: I was out there one time with an 8-foot pram and got two that were identical twins—two 38 pounders. And I landed both of them. Boy that was a scrap!

Dean: You had a double-header on?

Gary: Yeah, a double header. Two 38s just like that.

Dean: I can tell you stories about guys falling overboard out there and just hilarious things that happened. Guys throwing the anchor and never letting go, and going overboard. Guys drunk and falling overboard. Just crazy.

There was a fellow came up here, his name was Gordy Gordson and he was the Bank of Montreal manager, but he was the relief guy and he came up here and got into fishing and he was absolutely nuts about it.

I remember one of the big fish I caught when I was a kid working in Parkers Hardware—and I don't know if it was in Sargeant's Bay or where I caught it—but it was a big fish, it was in the 30s or 40s this fish, and I put it in the freezer at Parkers as a display to sell fishing tackle and then gave the fish to Greene Court! Just gave it away to the people. I was just a kid then, too. That was my dad's suggestion.

I know we used to get fish and my Dad with the fire department, and then Tick Payne was the cop and they knew who needed food and who didn't, and there was lots of fish given

to people here in those days.

Gary: There wasn't much welfare around in those days.

Dean: We certainly didn't need it.

RL: Well, I think I'll end this here.

Gary: Talk to my sister Wendy. And Mark Steele.

Dean: Faye Hansen up the road here, she's been here a long time.
Linda's mom used to come up here when she was a kid.

Gary: Wendy might have pictures and stuff. When mother passed away here a year ago, Wendy ended up with all the pictures. Mom had pictures of all the school kids sitting on the front steps of the school up here.

Dean: There's a lot of history here. I'm interested in this because I've grown up here. There's some people here, that are maybe just a bit older than us, or younger than us, but they've got better memories than us. You get a group talking and a lot comes out.

I don't have any artifacts. I've got that bell, and I've got an Indian basket upstairs that Mary Jackson made, a tray. I kept that. And I've got a couple Indian carvings that were done. Then I've got Bergy's cat there.

RL: It must have been a really good feeling to have grown up in a place that your parents had lived in for a long time, and knew everybody.

Gary: Oh yeah. I remember where we lived when I was a kid, if twelve cars went through Sechelt it was busy! In a day!

Dean: Yeah, dirt roads. I remember we used to hose the road down in front of the house to keep the dust down from the cars.

Gary: It would dry out before a car came by anyway.

Dean: We used to make kites –

Gary: Dean had a kite landed on a power line down there. It was there for about 15 years. The other side of his house.

Dean: Yeah. That was funny.

Halloween. The time they blew up the powder shed up at Crucils or something. Someone lit her off and man it shook Sechelt. Man it shook Sechelt, that one did.

RL: When was that?

Dean: I don't know. I was a kid.

Gary: Mid '60s.

Dean: It was before I got married, I think.

RL: Was the fire department called out for that one?

Dean: No.

Gary: It was just a big bang in the bush!

And the fireworks went off that time at the end of the wharf in Sechelt.

Dean: Yeah, that was Tommy Ono, eh? The fire department used to light fireworks at Halloween and Tommy was out there one night and he had a little too much to drink, and he dropped a cigarette into the box of fireworks and "Bawoom!" There's your display, folks, it's all over!

Gary: Dick Wagner was a member at that time, too, and he was the only one who had a powder license. The fireworks required having a permit and they had to get a permit to set off the fireworks.

RL: Did they always have fireworks when you were little, or did that just start?

Gary: When we were little. I can remember being really young and going up to the wharf to watch the fireworks. They used to always set them off at the end of the wharf offn Sechelt.

Dean: I can remember the regattas a lot. Like Renny Lumsden and those guys used to participate. These were the guys that used to fall off and pretend they were drowning and have teams go out and save them. It was a pretty good regatta, but it didn't involve power boats or anything. It was mostly swimming stuff and beach activities, and on the wharf.

Gary: Rowing contests.

RL: They don't seem to do anything down there anymore.

Dean: No. The natives don't even have their canoe out much. They had it out a couple of years ago for some big deal for a while, then that got put away. But they used to have a couple or three or four of them. They used to be out there all the time when we were kids. We never got to go in them, but they did. It was neat because we'd be up on the dock and they'd be paddling right below you.

Gary: Natives only.

Dean: The totem poles. If you talk to Lloyd Jeffries, there used to be a bunch of totem poles along the front where the Royal Terraces is now and I believe they went to Victoria.

Gary: To the parliament buildings there.

Where the Pebbles Restaurant is now and where the Royal Terraces are, all along there were poles. There were houses, too, in behind them. There were a lot of them.

Dean: There was, because I remember cars used to park there when we'd go into the theatre and the poles were still up then. Like I said, before that there was a tea room.

Gary: In the early sixties, '61 and '62.

They grabbed them and just took them to Victoria.

Dean: One of the jobs when we were kids, we all had paper routes.

Gary: Chores. Feed the chickens. Split the firewood.

Dean: You know who else lived in Wilson Creek was Avril Lucken. I don't know what her last name is.

I was trying to think of anybody down there who is still around. Eddie Lewaren.

Gary: ___ been coming here a long time too.

Dean: I remember him and Renny Lumsden shooting those cows of Ronnie Heids in the ass with arrows they made with nails in the end. Chasing the cows out of the yard. Just kids arrows, I don't think they hurt them very much. Fell out after a few steps.

I remember when they put the power line through.

Gary: Yeah, because I had to move.

Dean: I remember cutting the bush down--

Gary: We used to live where the power line crosses Sechelt now. Where Tom Lamb's building supply is there. Hydro just sort of said, "You're moving. Here's what we're giving you."

I think Mom and Dad did all right with the deal anyway.

Dean: Yeah, I remember when that went through. We lived just north of Gary's place, there. The house is still standing.

Gary: Dad had to _____ to put the highway across from Osborne's there, \$500. He built a house and everything and I'm sure he didn't have to go in debt for it, so Hydro was pretty generous.

Dean: I remember when your dad got that brand new '58 Chev car.

Gary: Chevy _____

Dean: Yeah, a brand spanking new shiny grey car.

Gary: He paid \$1600 for that.

Dean: Edna Wakefield got a brand new red and white 55 Dodge two-door hardtop. I remember that car, too.

Gary: Who was the red and white Rambler.

Dean: Remember Marge Ayton with that little Nash convertible. Powder blue or orange. It was very small.

And Norm Watson had that La Salle car.

Gary: Ben Lang had a Rambler.

Dean: Yes he did. He was the druggist.

Tape ends.