

R: *Full name and spelling?*

SB: Sophia Loraine Brackett

R: *Maiden name?*

SB: Bell

When and where were you born?

SB: August 29, 1928 in the Gulf Islands. Galiano Island.

R: *Your parent's names?*

SB: My father's name was Greg Anthony Bell and my mother was Clara Philomena—she was a great Catholic.

R: *Her maiden name?*

SB: Sylvie, I think.

R: *Was she related to the Pender Harbour Sylvies?*

SB: Somewhere about there when they got to the fourth generation of relatives. I'm not too sure there.

R: *And your siblings?*

SB: I had six sisters. One is gone .I had one brother and one adopted brother.

R: *Your husband's name was?*

SB: Lloyd John.

R: *His parent's names?*

SB: Clifford Ray Brackett and hers was Verna Faith Bowerman.

R: *Date of marriage?*

SB: May 13, 1946. We would have been married 50 years the year my husband died, which was 1997. So 1946 because we came here in 1947.

R: *And your children's names and birthplaces.*

SB: Bonnie Wigard. She was born on Salt Spring Island. There's a hospital not far from Galiano. She was born in 1947.

Lloyd Wayne. He's called Wayne. He was born at Garden Bay. It was the only hospital. We had the best of care there, though. I always remember that. He was born in 1948.

Ronald Anthony. He was born in 1949 in Garden Bay.

Wendy Gail, she was born at Garden Bay, she is 51.

Terry, he's 49, he was born in Vancouver.

Then there's Lynn and she was born two years later. She was born in Vancouver

And Mark was born in Vancouver. Two years younger than Lynn.

Timmy was born in Vancouver. Two years between Timmy and Mark and a year between Timmy and Dale.

Dale was born right in West Sechelt. I had him right at home. I planned it that way. I

always wanted to have a baby at home.

Edward (Teddy) born two years later at Pender Harbour.

Peter was born at Pender Harbour two years later.

Then Lori. She works at Clayton's. She's 38 this year so she was born in 1964.

And Jimmy's the baby and he was born in 1967. He's 35 this year.

R: *So you came to the Sunshine Coast in 1947?*

SB: 1947. We arrived on a beautiful April day.

R: *Where did you come from?*

SB: We came from Galiano Island. My brother-in-law owned the logging company we came with. His name was Earl Laughlin and his dad was a pioneer of Pender Harbour, and his relatives. We came across the gulf with our own houses (because we each had our own house) on scows to Halfmoon Bay. It was like a little town that sprung up overnight. When we got to Halfmoon Bay there was no power or nothing, but we had our own power. We had fridges and electric stoves, but nobody at Halfmoon Bay could understand this bunch that came in overnight and all of a sudden there was a little town. I think there was about 14 married couples came, and a crew of I think he had 50 single fellows.

R: *So, all of these families—did they all have houses?*

SB: They all came with the houses they had been living in on Galiano Island.

R: *So there were 14 houses came in?*

SB: Yes. Plus the shops and cookhouses and all these things. They were all pulled up on shore just above Redrooffs. We were like a little town. What used to be bush was all houses the next day with running water and our own electricity.

Redrooffs at that time was a real thriving resort.

R: *That must have been quite a trip, going across the Straits?*

SB: It was the most beautiful day! There wasn't a breath of wind on the ocean. We could cook in our house, we played cards. Bonnie was the only child amongst that whole group. No, Harold and Reva Pearson had Barrie. Barrie was a little guy, he would have been around seven at the time. Maybe older. I'm not too sure.

R: *Was it like a picnic atmosphere?*

SB: Yes. It was really nice. Because everybody knew everybody. We didn't know where we were going, really, because nobody had been here before.

R: *Can you name some of the families?*

SB: There was Reva and Harold Pearson, Pete and Tony Tschaikowsky. There was Rolly and Francis Heid. And Bill and Kay Stewart. Hank and Ed—the Olson brothers. One had a wife—Lydia was her name. There was Grace and Earl Laughlin who owned the company.

It was called Logco. Also Joe and Myrtle Boyd.

Grace was my sister. I had two sisters with me. The other sister was Pete Tschaikowsky, her and Tony Tschaikowsky lived at Halfmoon Bay for several years. Tony is gone now, but Pete still lives there.

R: *Pete?*

SB: Pete. Everybody knows her right to this day as Pete.

R: *How do you spell it?*

SB: P-e-t-e. Tschaikowsky—just like the famous composer. T-s-c-h-a-i-k-o-w-s-k-y. Then there was Ruth and Bud Emerson. They were a relative—people were kind of related in that camp—she was a sister of Earl Laughlin's. There were so many of us, I can't remember. Harold and Reva Pearson.

R: *Did the town spring up all together—muddy streets—did you have a street?*

SB: We were right on the road to Redrooffs, and it was a dirt road in those days, which is now paved. We had to go to Halfmoon Bay Store for our mail when the boats came. I think the boats that serviced the coast then were the *Gulf Wing*, the *Gulf Master*. Gulf and the Union Steamship. You'd get on the Union Steamship say at 5 o'clock and you were lucky to get into Vancouver at 3 in the morning.

Oh, they were slow boats, but the service was just something else.

R: *What was it like?*

SB: Well, you'd go to the dining room and you had white table clothes, silverware, crystal glasses—they served beautiful dinners on that boat. But you don't get that anymore. You get plastic.

R: *Did you go on them often?*

SB: We went quite often to Vancouver. Usually on the weekends everybody would go, but we would go with the faster ones, which were the Gulf boats. They went really fast. If you went with the Union you'd spend half your time travelling there and back.

R: *How long did the Gulf boats take?*

SB: Oh, they took about 2 or 3 hours.

R: *You'd just go for the day and then come back?*

SB: No, we'd stay overnight. We'd all stay at a hotel, all of us and we'd go shopping and different things, partying of course. We were young them!

R: *Must have been a wonderful feeling.*

SB: It was really fun, when you think of it. It was the same when they left here and went to Knight Inlet. I didn't go. I stayed behind. But my husband went out there and we used to go in the summer to visit him. That was maybe 300 miles up the coast from

Vancouver. But there were bears to our door and everything. The same company went up there. Logco Ltd. was owned and operated by Earl Laughlin for several years.

R: *So how long were you at Halfmoon Bay?*

SB: When we moved to Sechelt, Terry was my baby. So we were in Halfmoon Bay, not too long. The first year Bonnie started school, and the next year we came to Sechelt. So she was six, and it was probably 6 ½ years we were there.

R: *Where did she start school at?*

SB: Halfmoon Bay. They had a little school down in the trees. She had to walk about a mile to go to school. We worry about not letting our kids out of our sight now, but she used to walk along that little road by herself.

R: *Were you not afraid of bears?*

SB: In those days nothing bothered you. It was different then today all right.

R: *She went to Halfmoon Bay School for a year, then which school did she go to?*

SB: To Sechelt. And that's where we've been ever since.

R: *Sechelt Elementary?*

SB: Yes. They all went to school here and graduated—some from Elphinstone. I think Jimmy was the only one who graduated from Chatelech, because it was just built.

R:

When you first came to Sechelt, you lived on the waterfront?

SB: Yes. Right down on the waterfront.

R: *What was that like?*

SB: It was beautiful in the summer. But in the winter it was very, very blustery.

R: *What was the house like?*

SB: They were built for summer, and that's why in the winter the wind would just blow right through in some spots. It was always stormy down at the ocean.

R: *Did you have electricity and everything?*

SB: Oh, yes. When we moved to Sechelt we had electricity. Of course, Sechelt had electricity, but Halfmoon Bay was off the beaten track.

I remember the road that went to Halfmoon Bay. Sometimes it was so muddy you had to get out and push cars. It was just like—well, I don't think two cars could pass, that's how narrow it was in spots.

R: *Was it high up?*

SB: No. It was the same road we go on now. They just widened it and paved it.

R: *What was in Sechelt when you moved here?*

SB: The only thing that was in Sechelt when we moved here was . . . we called it the Red & White Store. It was where Workwear World is now. That was the only thing there. And there was a little house on the side of the road where Richter—do you remember Richters? He fixed radios in those days—there were no televisions—he fixed radios for \$3 each. He had just like a little—maybe 8 x 10 – on the side of the road. It would be right across—on the side—I call it Parkers Hardware still—on that side of the road, but up a little . . . where Sears would be. And the road was a dirt road. Then as it went along, Parkers built that block, and Chris Johnston’s Variety Store, and the police station was there on the Main Street. They had a little courtroom and everything. And then up the street was Clayton’s little store, and I think that gas station was there.

It was unbelievable to look at it today.

R: *Must be hard to imagine where everything was.*

SB: That’s right. Of course, along the waterfront there would be the Union houses. A big Union store used to be there. In time they took it down.

R: *The little court room. I’ve not heard much about that. It was right in the police station?*

SB: Right in the police station! And it was so small. We went in to look at the police station when it was all built, you see. And there it was—a little court room. It wasn’t very big so there couldn’t have been too much crime in those days. Andrew Johnston was the magistrate, and Chris owned the other part of the store—she kept her variety store at the other end.

R: *They would have been working side by side!*

SB: That’s right. But I do believe they lived in the back. I don’t know. Maybe they didn’t.

R: *Were you here when they had the first election?*

SB: I kind of remember it, but . . . Chrissy Johnston was the first mayor. She was a lovely lady.

R: *You would have been at Halfmoon Bay during the election.*

SB: I don’t know if by that time they had such a thing as a village council. I think it was not long after we came to Sechelt.

R: *Did you work at all in Sechelt?*

SB: No. I didn’t start working until my last one went to school. Because I couldn’t bear to live in a house with no noise. I had the television and the radio going. So I, too, went to work, and I worked at the little school right out here. I was the Custodian and it was only for 2 ½ hours and I always remember when I started I thought I was getting so rich. We got \$3.81 an hour. So I stayed there for 25 years. As the time went on the school grew from several portables to as big as it is today, and I think now there are 266 kids there. When I started there were only about 39, but they had to fill the school so they took

children from the Residential School. When they left there were plenty of people to fill the school.

So, I went to work as I say and enjoyed every minute of it.

R: You spoke of the hospital at Pender Harbour—did you have any rushed trips up there?

SB: No, nothing like that. I always made it in time.

R: No accidents or anything with the kids?

SB: No. The night Wayne was born was a snow storm and I think there was a taxi took us out. Nobody owned cars that soon after the road because they were just getting the factories ready to build cars, I guess. Harold Pearson had the first brand new car up here. He was in our camp. After that everybody seemed to get them.

R: It would have taken quite a while to get up to Pender Harbour?

SB: I think so. Because it was a dirt road. It was quite snowy the night Wayne was born. But we made it. I always thought about going around that lake—it seemed so narrow there. However, we didn't have anything that happened that was unusual.

R: You said you had really good service up there?

SB: Oh, we got the best of care there! Even though we were all put in one big ward—mothers and people waiting to go to the hospital down town—really sick people. And babies—they had a little nursery on the side where they kept the babies. But I always remember what good care we got there with the nurses, and the food was excellent. Of course it was very small when I stop to think. It's quite easy to make food tasty if there's only a few.

R: I have a map here of Sechelt. When you lived on the waterfront, which of these houses was yours?

SB: Ours would be the first one to the right of the Sechelt Inn. The Sechelt Inn was right where the Driftwood Inn is today. Last house down. I remember that boardwalk so well!

R: Someone said that was built with planks from the wharf.

SB: There was only two boards and on each side was bush and water and you never knew what was down there.

R: Was there a railing?

SB: No railing. You just walked right through. That was our street through the boardwalk.

R: There was one that ran from the waterfront along what is now Trail Ave?

SB: Just behind where Clayton's little store was. And this one [Inlet Ave]--t only went a little way, behind the Village Café or somewhere.

R: So just about to Cowrie Street?

SB: Yes, just about.

R: *Someone said there was one here, on Ocean Ave.*

SB: Ocean Ave. That could have been there too. We didn't have to take that one.

R: *Were you able to drive your car right onto the boulevard?*

SB: At that time, I think, yes. Because we lived next door, and the house next door was always kept for the RCMP. And he brought his police car home every night.

R: *How long did you live there?*

SB: We lived there for quite a while. Because our house caught fire one night, in the chimney. The mortar in the chimney I guess dried out and caught fire. It was seeping through. Wayne noticed the smoke and he woke me up so we got them all out of there. Never did burn right down, just sort of burned behind the chimney. So we had to find a new house and we came up here. There was a house on this property, so we came up here and bought the house, property and all. That's where we've been ever since. When we built this house we took the other one down. We built this house 25 years ago, 1975.

R: *How long had you been in the waterfront home when it caught fire?*

SB: Let me think now, we'd been there from Halfmoon Bay—Terry was the baby and then Dale was the baby. Terry was about two when we moved to Sechelt, and he would have been—when we get to the 40s I lose track! We've lived here 40 years, so I'd say not long at Sechelt. Six years, I think.

R: *I think you told me one time you used to have picnics or Weiner roasts out on the beach?*

SB: Yes we did. And all my kids learned to swim there because we lived right by the beach and I taught them. Lynn was only three and she used to swim out to the diving float with us. Jump in the water and she was like a little duck.

R: *And the wharf was still there?*

SB: Yes, the wharf was still there.

R: *Tell me about the Weiner roasts you used to have.*

SB: I was going to tell you something else—on the other side of Sechelt—the Red and White was there, but on the side where the Bank of Montreal and all those buildings are, and the Cozy Court, that was an open field, and that's where the Union Steamships used to bring all their people up from Vancouver for their big picnics. Woodward's people. It was called Spencers then. And all it was was just like rolling hills—little hills. There were a few trees, but there was no police station or anything there. Those Dolphin apartments. Nothing there except trees.

R: *I've got it marked here that the picnic grounds ran from the Shell Station all the way up to Dolphin Street, then over to the Gibsons Building Supplies—*

SB: Yeah, that was the biggest area.

R: *That's where the picnic tables were?*

SB: That's right.

R: *Then it went all the way down here to the Cenotaph, and then over?*

SB: That's right. There was puddles in it and everything, but everybody used to come. It was unbelievable. I don't remember ever being there when the boats came up because that was before our time, but it was like a big rolling field out there.

R: *Was it still being kept up when you were here?*

SB: The picnics weren't on.

R: *Was the grass and everything kept up?*

SB: Yeah, it was really a nice area—like a park there. No post office there. Nothing. I don't remember where we went for our post office. I do believe they built a building where IDA Drug Store is. Our post office used to be there. That's the only post office I remember. Right next to IDA, where the locksmith is.

R: *Where the Bank of Montreal used to be. Up above Tony's Lock was Dr. Swan's office.*

SB: That's right! And there was another court room there, too. They moved their court room and that's where they went to. And I remember the doctors being up there because I remember going up there to the doctor. Then Swain built the building across the street. Jack Mayne's has been there forever. Now it's owned by Grandma Wigard. That's a pretty little place in there. That house must be so old.

Then you went from along by Jack Mayne's—there's the bath shop and Margaret Hums—that was built by this Richter fellow that was fixing his radios. I think he bought up a lot of land behind there. He did very well. He came from Germany. I think Mrs. Richter still lives out at the family home in West Sechelt. Unless she's sold it.

There used to be this story that went around about this guy that they put in jail. They even had a jail up where Johnston's were. I guess the policeman went home for dinner and when he came back the prisoner was gone. But he knew where to look for him. He'd walked to Wakefield. That's the story they always told—I never found out who it was. But the policeman never worried, he'd just go and get his prisoner and bring him back.

R: *Do you know which police officer it was?*

SB: No. I don't. Cummings used to live next door to us. He was such a nice fellow. He's long gone now.

R: *Do you know of any characters who lived in Sechelt?*

SB: Characters. I don't know of any real characters. It was wonderful in those days because everybody — there was no worry about working or nothing. Everybody was raising there family—it was just after the war and I know my husband had just got home the year or two before, so everybody was happy and everything seemed to be going well for everybody. Nowadays, everybody's worrying about work and it's a shame. Work was plentiful in those years.

R: *What kind of work did your husband do?*

SB: He logged. He contracted for my brother-in-law. Which meant he would take a crew in there and take out the logs right to the water. He contracted out for years. Falling. Everything with the contract. Falling. What they call “yarding”. Then take them right to the water, then they would leave. That was there job.

R: *So he travelled around a lot?*

SB: When we were at Halfmoon Bay there was always a Saturday night dance held in the Halfmoon Bay Hall in those days. And everybody would come for it. Of course, we had 50 single guys, and I think it was Rotter’s Logging had about 150 single guys. So when you went to a dance, you danced because there was a shortage of ladies around. Every weekend they used to have a big dance.

Then Earl Laughlin’s partner in Vancouver would fly up to Halfmoon Bay and visit us for the weekend. They’d pull the plane up on the grass and the pilot would stay, too. It would be a night of sitting there playing cards or drinking or whatever they did. Everybody was at the party. Next day they’d pull the plane off the grass and away he’d go back to Vancouver.

R: *What kind of things did you do for entertainment?*

SB: Well, as I said they used to have the Saturday night dance. And when they didn’t, every taxi on the place would be busy taking everybody to the Wakefield Inn. That was the only bar, or place you could go. You couldn’t dance there. But after you had a few drinks there was a dance in Roberts Creek so everybody would go to Roberts Creek to a dance. In those days they used to have live music. They’d have orchestras come up from Vancouver. Mostly western. Everybody looked forward to Saturday night. When we didn’t go to Vancouver. We went often there too. We always had our house parties in camp.

But there wasn’t too much. There wasn’t any sports—they had their own ball team and they’d play amongst themselves, but there was nothing organized yet. Like there is today. You can bowl or curl. There was no golf course at that time. We made our own fun. Spent a lot of time at the beach.

R: *What did your kids do for entertainment?*

SB: Well my kids went to school. Oh they swam. There wasn’t that much here for kids. I remember most of the kids used to get together and people would take them to town to skate in Burnaby. That’s when we had good ferry service. When we had 15 boats a day. I can remember when we had 15 boats a day and the last ferry would leave Horseshoe Bay at 12:15. They could play hockey, got to the show and still get out to the ferry and come home.

That would have been in later years because before that, when you went to Vancouver here, there was a funny old bus—Cecil Lawrence owned it—it was a funny old thing.

Wasn't a big bus, it was small. We would go to Gibsons and you'd have to get aboard this boat that was called the *Machigonne*. That was a long time ago. You went downstairs, down in the ship and there was a coffee bar and everything. That boat took you over to Horseshoe Bay. I think an hour it was that took to get over there. But if you had a car and you wanted your car to go into Vancouver there was a scow there with a tug that they'd put your car on that. They'd take your car, but they wouldn't take you. And you'd meet it—it might get there today, it might get there tomorrow. If there was a real rough storm sometimes they had to pull in behind Bowen Island. So a lot of those cars were pretty rusty by the time they had a few trips to town because of the salt water. But I always remember that little boat. Everybody down there had breakfast and if that boat had ever upset we'd be like rats in a hold. But it got us there! And we'd come home and there'd be a bus waiting for us. Cecil Lawrence used to have the first bus up here.

Yes, Sechelt's sure changed.

R: *I guess it made a big difference when the highway came through.*

SB: The highway always was there.

R: *I mean paved.*

SB: Paved, yes that made a difference. Then there were many more cars, too. And by then the ferry was running. We had better ferry service then, as I said. And it used to come in from Gibsons before they moved to Langdale.

R: *I guess coming from Galiano and the Gulf Islands—were you raised on the Gulf Islands?*

SB: Yes.

R: *So, ferries must have been a part of your life all of your life.*

SB: Over there we didn't have the ferries, but we had the CPR boats. And that boat used to travel the Island, go to Powell River and back down—the triangle route. But now, they don't have very good service there at all. When we go we have to have a reservation to go on the ship and if it's full, you don't get one. Sometimes they break down and sometimes it's too stormy. It's not the same now as when we were younger. We go up there and after the ferry's gone, there's nothing and you're stuck there whether you like it or not.

R: *What was it like being a young mother here on the Sunshine Coast?*

SB: Well, I don't know. I was a stay-at-home mom, so I was busy all the time, and when you're busy time goes quickly. I was always busy. I think I would have enjoyed being a mom anywhere because I always liked babies. Right to this day I still get babies to my door, as I have 30 grandchildren and as of June 3, 2002, 9 great grandchildren.

R: *So there were no particular challenges living here?*

SB: No, there wasn't, because this is what everybody did after the war. We all got married young and had babies. Everybody did. You didn't see mom's out working. You'd see mom's out walking their babies and things.

R: *Was it a supportive community for kids?*

SB: I think so. Sechelt was. Halfmoon Bay had very few kids there—only about 10. In those days they opened a school if there were only 7. Sechelt wasn't that big. The kids loved it. Crime rate was nil.

R: *Most of your kids still live on the Sunshine Coast?*

SB: Yes. One lives in North Burnaby, one lives in Caulfield—Laurie lives there. And Ronnie lives up in Campbell River with his family. Wendy lives in Salmon Arm. The rest all live here. All have their own businesses and homes here. I don't think they'd leave. We do have 4 generations here now.

R: *We were talking about Lloyd's work—where else did he work?*

SB: He worked for my brother-in-law all those years. And he worked for Rudy Crucil and Teddy Osborne.

Tape 1 of 1, side A ends. Side B begins.

[Lloyd worked at logging until he became allergic to the moss and trees.] He was allergic so he couldn't log anymore. So of all things, they decided to re-school him, and where did they send him with this machine? Back in the bush. It didn't make sense, did it? So back he came with welts all over his eyes and all swollen. So the doctor told him that he had to get out of there. So his best friend owned the Wakefield at the time and he died one morning. He was 44. He left three boys and they were all underage and couldn't run the bar, so the boys asked Lloyd to run the bar. So he was there for years at the Wakefield. He had to take an inside job away from the bush and was there for many years until he retired.

He would mow the lawn [indicates large back yard lawn] and if he touched any of those trees or something, he would just come up in welts. After all the years in that bush and it didn't bother him!

R: *What was the name of the owner of the Wakefield?*

SB: At that time his name was Rick Radymski. That would be Senior because there is a Rick Junior.

R: *What community organizations have you belonged to?*

SB: Oh. I do nothing but volunteer work for the Legion. I'm always there. Cooking dinner for Friday nights or making sandwiches. I'm always there. And I've also volunteered for the hospital for the Legion. Hospital visits. And that's about all that I've been doing. Then the PTA and all that, I went through. Baking cakes forever. When it was time for Easter or whatever. I also was a member of Rebakah Lodge when we had enough members to grant one.

R: *What was the PTA like?*

SB: Well, I'm going to tell you, there were only about six of us who used to show up at the meetings.

R: *That hasn't changed!*

SB: No. It's always the willing horse gets the load, they say. We had more fun. We'd get all sorts of things done though. Like, when the school was in we had several trucks hauling—big gravel trucks, maybe 10 or 12—coming up and going down. So we decided it was time they had a 4-way stop at that corner because of the kids. Well, after the PTA meeting we went down to the cop shop one night and told them and they told us where to go and these people would help us. So we got in touch with the road department then and they came up and put in a 4-way stop.

There were several things we got done while we were in the PTA, which we liked. We'd put on these hot dog sales. Norah Robson and I would put on hot dog sales and spend all day making hot dogs down there at that Sechelt Sports Day. We did all the hot dogs. It was a fund raiser.

Then in later years when our arena was getting going we all helped with that. Because it all started with debentures. When that arena was built. We all bought into it. We had to get so much—I don't remember how much—but we had to get so much and then the government put up the rest. And it was all volunteers who put that arena up. Because our kids needed a skating arena around here. Most of the kids loved to skate. I know our kids did.

Then we'd sponsor little teams for baseball at school and stuff. And t-ball. We did good. There was Fern Nelson and I can't remember who all there were. Doris Finley. Myself. They always had good teachers over there, so they were right in with it.

R: *What has been the best part of living in Sechelt?*

SB: Well, I don't think I would know of a better place to live. It's been good to us. Our kids are all well and healthy and they were all able to go through school. And as I say, most of them have their own business. And nice families—they all have nice families. A lot of them married local girls. I've always liked it here. When my brother-in-law's company left, we were the only ones who stayed behind, because we were only going to stay a couple of years, make the money and get out of logging. But we never left! And we never will.

My sister is the same. She still lives at Halfmoon Bay. Pete Tchaikowsky. She doesn't have any family. Tony's dead now—her husband. She has a partner.

R: *What was the most difficult part of living here?*

SB: I don't know. It was a real challenge to raise our big family, my husband and I, but he always worked and then I got out and worked too. We never had to stand in the Welfare line—I'd have dug ditches first! We were from a family that always survived and worked. I don't know—I can't think of any bad things. The worst thing that ever happened to this

family—we had one really bad accident. The boy that was here today? He lost his foot. He was working down in the Sound with his brother and one of those boom boats, he fell overboard from the boom boat and he just managed to get up on a log in time but the boat hit just below the knees. So he has a prosthesis. But you'd never know it. He dances and plays ball and does all sorts of things. You'd never know. I keep forgetting he's got a wooden leg. That was the worst thing that ever happened to them. And I think we had one broken bone—Wendy broke her wrist. The day the cast came off she climbed the same tree and broke her wrist again!

They went through the measles and mumps—the normal.

Sechelt's been a good place to raise kids. When I raised my children they weren't like the kids today. My kids weren't allowed down in Sechelt at night. They played up under the light at school and they played till 9 o'clock then came home. And if they wanted to camp out, they'd go up in the back lot and camp. When they got bigger they'd have a bottle of beer and have it up there. But they were never allowed out of their own district. Like Halloween—they were never allowed to go down into Sechelt and go all over the country. Because, I think kids should stay in their own yard. I've had people drop kids off at my driveway, somebody said they were all the way from Gibsons.

My kids didn't do that. I would have died if my kids were out at 2:30 in the morning! In those days they had a curfew—they had to be home when I said because I lived here and my husband was in camp, so they couldn't worry me. So they had to be home. But they were always good. They phoned me. No matter what time of the day or night.

R: What do you see as the greatest change in Sechelt?

SB: Greatest change. It's for the best anyhow, whatever it is. I think the biggest change is the ferries that brought a lot of people up here. A lot of people go through. There must be a lot of people who go through this town in a day. And you go down there on a weekend and you can't even find a buggy most of the time to shop with!

I guess that new store will be opening down at Wilson Creek. [Canadian Tire] That will make a difference. Prices will be very different.

R: I guess you would have seen a lot of fluctuation in the prices over the years. Initially it must have been really expensive to shop here.

SB: That's right. Really something. It was very expensive to shop here. When we were in camp, we would order all our groceries through Woodward's—send our list down and it would come back on the boat. All our fresh meats and everything. It was wonderful, because we got Woodward's prices. And in those days, when the stores sent you anything out, whether it was Sears, Eatons or whoever, they paid the freight. Nowadays, you buy anything from Sears, that's your problem. Get it home as best you can.

Things have certainly changed, but probably for the better.

R: *You wouldn't have had the selection in those days.*

SB: That's right. But I find I don't shop locally. I shop for food, that's about all I shop for. Anything major, like a stove or washer or dryer, I went to Vancouver. I'm sorry to say.

R: *Because of the selection, or the prices?*

SB: The prices. Last year I bought a battery for my ride-around mower and it was \$38 or \$48. We needed a new one this year and it was \$58 plus tax locally. It had gone up that much. Everybody's holding on by a shoestring, I guess and they've got to make it when they can.

I think the places in Sechelt that are the busiest are the food stores and the cafes.

Wherever you go at night you notice a lot of cars around the cafes, so they are busy.

R: *Is there anything you'd like to see return from the old days?*

SB: Well, I'd like to see better ferry service. You know, that you don't have to sit in line to come home most of the time. I shouldn't say we "have" to sit in line, because very seldom do we do, but a lot of people do. Sometimes it's late—Lori will leave here and she's still got an hour to wait down there. But she enjoys coming up here to her job at Claytons. She commutes from Caulfield 3 days a week.

R: *Is there anything that I haven't asked you that you'd like to tell about the old days?*

SB: I don't think so. Halfmoon Bay, as I say, it was just like a hamlet when we came here. And the people looked at us as if we were aliens from space, because all of a sudden all these people arrived with their houses yet! And they invaded their privacy. They had that attitude.

R: *Did they warm up to you?*

SB: After a while they were all right. After a while, they were fine. One woman used to say—as time went on we'd go to Christmas parties—and she'd say, "Those loggers from over there bring their kids and they always dress the best." She would say things like this, "Who wants to compete with them? They should just go back where they came from." It would go on like this, but we never paid that much attention. They were in their own little world up there. But now it's wide open. Everybody lives in Halfmoon Bay.

R: *Coopers Green—did you ever go to the lodge there?*

SB: They had the Redroofs Lodge. And you know, we lived just above Coopers. On the highway there. There's an S-turn going down there, a sharp turn. Well, we were right to your left, our house sat right there. And I tell you, they used to have so many people at that summer resort. He had cabins there. Lots of little cabins. They tore half of them down. And that dining hall, that was called—where the hall is now, the Regional Board uses it. That place used to have wonderful parties and dances too. We used to go there dancing when we couldn't at Halfmoon Bay. Had a big fireplace. They used it for dining, first, then they'd move all the tables out and have the dance on Saturday night. And all the old timers from Sechelt used to wander up—like Orv Moscrip, Jimmy Drummond from Gibsons. All these different old guys that are long gone.

R: *Did they play?*

SB: They'd come for the party. Most of the time they'd bring a bunch with them. I don't know how they got there—they must have got there by car of some kind. You had to worry about the road, though. When it rained it was just mud.

R: *There was a lady there I heard who used to have old English teas.*

SB: Oh, that was Queenie Burroughs. She's gone too. She just died last year. She was up in Shorncliffe. She was a nice old lady. She used to have the teas and welcome everybody. She used to make lovely tea. That was her thing. She liked people.

R: *Was she part of the resort?*

SB: No, she just lived close by. She was one of these people that always showed up at things.

R: *Where was she from?*

SB: She was from England.

R: *An aristocratic background?*

SB: Just an ordinary English lady. She had 2 or 3 sons. Her daughter, Mary, still lives here. Her daughter lives in Sechelt, but she has been very sick. I don't know if she's home or in hospital. She was raised in Halfmoon Bay, too. In fact, Lloyd had a crew come to work for him one day, and Mary met her husband there. She married one of Lloyd's crewmen. That was the English lady's daughter. You could always depend on her if you had a tea or something, you could depend on her coming and she'd always bring a friend. She loved to keep up on the news. I think she wrote for the paper.

R: *I was in the museum in Gibsons and I read a little paper, it was the Halfmoon Bay News. It didn't have a date, but they told a story about Mr. Heid, when he took his float into camp and he had goats on the float. He forgot them and there was a storm when he came and he had to go out and get them. Quite a funny story.*

SB: I don't know, now. But that probably was the same. Because I know the first year we came here—I remember we went to Pender Harbour—it was their big regatta up here. Harold and Reva Pearson—that was his first wife because Phil still lives here—anyhow, we went to Pender Harbour and that's when we met all the characters up there and they would tell us different stories. I didn't see no newspaper though.

R: *Who were some of the Pender Harbour characters?*

SB: Oh, there were a lot of them. One guy wrote a book about Pender Harbour and I think they were going to sue him, but he left and went to the south seas. He was from the Donley family. Donley's lived there for years.

R: *What book was it?*

SB: I don't know what the name of the book was. Because I bought it, and I don't have it any more. That's when I was in Sechelt. It was just a little book.

There must have been characters around, but as I say, I don't remember. I was so busy

raising my big family, I guess. Because you never went nowhere in those days when you had kids. You were busy cooking, sewing, ironing, washing—there was no end. But I enjoyed every minute of it. And when they all come home to me now, I can't believe it. And they're all mine.

R: Do you ever have big dinners with everyone there?

SB: Oh, yes we do. We're going to have our family reunion this year in Campbell River at my son's. We're all going there. Teddy has to stay behind that night because his daughter, Brianne, graduates, so then they'll all fly over and we'll meet them. But, we'll all be there. We get together twice a year.

We had weddings in our yard, grandsons. Everybody gathers. Once a summer we have a big barbecue then Teddy has a sleepover. Everybody comes home to stay for the night. Put their tents up there and they really have a ball. That's Teddy's sleepover weekend. They have a golf tournament and the whole bit.

R: Does Teddy live close?

SB: Teddy lived up in Cook's place, but he sold his house now and is moving to Davis Bay. But he's not too far there. Wayne and Bonnie live in Davis Bay.

I know I'm the anchor here. When it comes time for any big thing, they say "We're coming up and we're having a barbecue!" I know when the time comes . . . I said, "Well, you just keep this house when I'm gone, just for your sleepovers and all your celebrations."

My Mom died two years ago. She was 95. Lloyd's dad lived to 105. The year before they'd drive him up here and he'd sit and play crib all day with the boys. Then they'd move outside and he'd sit in the sun. He'd never sit and sleep, like a lot of them do. 105, and then one morning he got up and tended to his business, went back to bed, and he was gone. He lived a good life, so what more could you ask?

R: Did you or Lloyd ever go fishing?

SB: No. Lloyd fished one year. He had his Dad's gilnet boat. I don't think he ever made a fortune.

R: I mean sports fishing.

SB: No, but all my kids do. They're all fishermen. Lloyd used to go out a lot, with friends on a Sunday, but he wasn't all that enthused about sitting out there all day. But Peter has a charter business—the son that was here. He charts out of Secret Cove. But I don't go out. I get seasick.

So that's why when I go I go on cruises. I went to Alaska a few times on a cruise ship. It's a beautiful trip. There's another one that leaves from Florida and goes through the Panama Hotel, then to Hawaii and back to Vancouver. It's a 14-day trip. I'd like to take that one, because I've never been through the Panama canal.

R: *It must have been a real nice community here. Everyone knowing everybody else.*

SB: Well, this is another thing I was going to tell you. At one time we knew everybody, didn't we? And now you go through that mall you'll be lucky to come across one person you know. We used to go to town on the ferry boats and you knew everybody. It was like a big hey day, everybody having coffee together. You go on the ferry now and you're lucky to find somebody you know. So that's the changes in Sechart.

R: *What did Lloyd do in the war?*

SB: He was a sergeant in the end. He was on motorcycles. He did all the running for the officers. He was wounded at Caan, when they had the big invasion there. A mine blew up and he lost his left eye and he was all full of shrapnel. They didn't think he'd see again even with the other eye, but he did.

R: *Did he ever have problems with the shrapnel coming out?*

SB: Yes, it used to come out and the doctors said that's the way it will be, and some of them will stay forever. Because, I know my dad was full of shrapnel during the first great world war. Years after pieces would come out.

R: *What did your dad do?*

SB: My dad was the Superintendent of Highways over on the Gulf Islands. He was Greek. I always hand it to that man. He came out from Greece when he was 15. He was on the boat—he came out on the *Carpathea*—is that the boat that went when the *Titanic* sank? Something like that. Well, he came out to Canada in that boat, and that's the boat that I think was right behind the *Titanic* when it sank. Anyway, he went to Kamloops and worked on the railway when he was 15, then he joined the army when he was 17. He was 7 ½ years overseas, and then he came back. Couldn't talk very good English—until the day he died, he still spoke broken English! Of course, when his buddies came around, he talked Greek. Mom used to say, bless her heart, when she knew they were coming she'd say, "I don't want you talking Greek now because that's really rude. Because I think you're talking about me." I always remember her saying that!

However, he was the road foreman for all those years. When he died, they couldn't find his birth certificate. Couldn't find it at all. Finally somebody came across it back there in Greece—I guess they had it stockpiled the way they do in Ottawa—and they sent somebody back there to look for it and they found it. They found out that when he retired after, I forget how many years, and we found out after he died, he was 80-something. He worked all of those years! When he was 65, he was still 15 years older than that. Because in those days they didn't keep very good records. They kept them, but maybe they didn't file them properly. I don't know.

R: *And he met your mom?*

SB: In Canada. After the war. He married my Mom who was Canadian born and raised here. She was from the Gulf Islands. There's a big family of Sylvie's and we often think of

who is married to who. No most of them are gone in that generation and when you try to get a family tree going, you run up against a brick wall. Because, her grandmother—nobody knows what her last name was. It was odd because in their generation, it didn't matter what your name was and we never discussed this kind of stuff because there were other things to do. We had to pack water and chop wood. They had other things that were more important.

It's the strangest thing. When I went to Alaska last time, we went up to Skagway, and took a big tour up into the snow. On this thing it said we would be seeing different places. So they took up and one place was the Brackett Wagon Trail. So I was very interested. Took pictures and everything. This wagon trail, all it was was a trail around the mountain. But it was a wagon road. But do you think I can find any information if it was a relative of ours? So one of my sister-in-laws found that Lloyd's dad came from Upper Canada, so she said, "You know I found out that guy is related to us that started up there. It was quite a history about us. And this lady that she talked to remembers the Bracketts and said they lived in a big white house on a river and there were several sons and something happened one day that they had a big blow-up and they all took off and went different ways. In those days there were no trains or anything. I guess the train was the only thing. But they got to B.C. and down to the states in different places. Well this was an uncle of Loyds, I guess, two or three generations back. And that was where he ended up was in the Skagway when the goldrush was on. So naturally everybody was going that way. But it was interesting because she said, "That's as far as I could go." Nobody else seemed to know anything.

And the older group are dead. There's just our group and we can't find anybody that knows anything.

R: How did you meet Lloyd?

SB: You know how I met Lloyd? My family knew his family. They all lived on Pender Island at that time, my Mom and Dad, too. Lloyd knew me—oh, he was 15 and I was 10—and he thought he was a big wheel, you know? And he used to work next door and I used to see him often. But that was as far as it went, because I saw him all the time. Then he went overseas and came back and of course we met again, and that was that. He was 23 when we got married and I was 18. In those days, people got married young and had babies young. Nowadays they sit around and wait. I think it's nice. Laurie said "You're better parents because you're more set in your ways." And I think you have the patience. Where young ones, you're all trying to get a home together and there's so many different things you disagree on when you're young, whereas, when you're older you sort of talk it out.

R: What did Lloyd's parents do on Pender Island?

SB: I think he worked in logging and mining in those days. Lloyd was born in South Wellington on Vancouver Island, which was coal mines, if you remember, years and years and years ago. And that's where his mother had Lloyd.

Then he started logging. Worked for B.C. Telephone in the old days, when he was younger, but he gave it up because in those days it wasn't worth working for them—the wages were so small. Nowadays, you get into BC Tel, you're set for life.

R: When you were first in Sechelt, what was the telephone service like?

SB: Oh, we had the funny old phones when we went to Halfmoon Bay! You have a – a short and two long was my ring. I think it was 7-something. I forget. It was only two little numbers and you had to crank this phone up and ring. The funny part was—even when we lived here, and we moved up the hill here 40 years ago—the guy who used to live next door—he would listen in. Party line. One day somebody phoned me and said, “Is my kid over there?” and I said, “No, he's not here.” Well a voice came and said, “Oh, I saw him going down to the creek with a fishing rod!” Well it was the guy next door! I said, “What are you doing on the phone, Frank?” “Oh,” he said, “I just picked it up to phone and I heard you.” But he used to sit there all day, I know, because you could hear the phone come on.

The neighbours on this side have lived here as long as we have. John and Anne Walker. She's a paramedic on the ambulance and he was a logger. They had five girls and a boy and we had all the boys here. So our kids were raised together.

We bought the property off Frank Walker. His mother owned up the street here, and over there. She's dead now. Strangest thing, Walker and his mother were both in Shorncliffe together. They'd sit side by side at the table and not know they were mother and son. She lived to be 90-something.

You don't find too many people living that age nowadays. But they are living longer.

R: I guess Lloyd must have met lots of people at the Wakefield.

SB: Oh, he knew so many people! When we had his funeral, you couldn't have got another person in or out on both sides of that Legion. It was unbelievable. And no matter where we went—we'd go on trips down south and he'd meet somebody he knew. “Aren't you Lloyd from the Wakefield?” He was very popular. Lloyd loved the public. He went out of his way to be nice to them, which is good.

Tape off and then on, talking about skating rink..

All hockey players. Anytime there's any kind of sports in there. But a lot of people say, “What do you do up here?” And I'm busy all the time. And I live alone. I don't have no kids. I've got the yard to do and all sorts of things that I'm doing.

People that come up here who are bored, I can't see it because there's always something to do. People say to me, my that's a beautiful place to live up there, and it really is. I don't know what will change to make it really different. But I think that trip to Malibu is really something—more people should know about it. It is a long way to go up to get there, but if you're on a holiday it doesn't really matter how far you go.

Even the schools here, the kids never had any problems. At one time the dope was quite rabid around here, and I used to say to them, "You've only got one reputation and boy if you ever lose that, you're gone. So don't let them suck you into drugs." I'd say that every day, and I'd say, "It's a narrow path you have to walk, but you can do it." And not one of those kids got involved with drugs.

R: When Lloyd worked in the Wakefield, did you go down there a lot?

SB: No, very seldom I would go because there was no reason for me to go. I like a drink of wine or something like that, but I wouldn't go down there just to sit and have a drink. No, he'd go and do his shift and come home, because he wasn't drinking. He didn't like the night shift because it was so noisy in there. They'd get in there and the music would be in there and you couldn't talk. So he was always glad to get out of there. So he had the day shift. But years ago we'd all go down there because it was the only place to go. Now you can go anywhere and have a drink. Even in cafes.

R: Was the movie theatre still running on the waterfront?

Tape ends. From written notes:

SB: Yes the kids used to go to the movies. It cost 5 cents to go in. And they had the dance floor. I remember when an all-Negro band came and played.

The kids would roller skate there. And there was a bowling alley where the new Vet's place is. My kids used to set pins. My kids were never out of work. They'd set pins, peddle newspapers, help someone move. Everyone, as they grew up and got a car—if it was a new car—I wouldn't buy it for them, but I'd be behind them. Not one of them had an accident

Where the theatre was in Sechelt, there was a doctor's office. The doctor's name was Inglis. He used to come up from his home in Gibsons. After he left, a Dr. Duncan McCall came and there was a Dr. McKee, then Dr.'s Swan, Paetkau, and Burtnick. By this time we had our own hospital.