

DC . . . hotel that burned down. I remember when Sechelt—the whole big area—was the Union Steamship's picnic ground. All the big picnic tables where the main area is. But I didn't know at that time that I was going to meet my husband who owned so much of Porpoise Bay.

RL *Your full name is?*

DC Doris Florence—my mother's name was Florence—Ellams. My parents were from Liverpool.

RL *Your birthdate?*

DC July 18, 1917. Which means I had my big 85<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. My other daughter is in Bristol England, and they came for the celebration here.

RL *Where were you born?*

DC In Vancouver.

RL *And your parent's names?*

DC My mother was Florence B-e-e-b-y before she was married. From Liverpool. My father was Alfred George Ellams. He was born in Liverpool.

RL *Your siblings?*

DC I have one brother who recently died, Bernard Ellams.

RL *No sisters?*

DC No.

RL *You went to school in Vancouver?*

DC In Vancouver. Mount Pleasant School and King Edward High School. The old [Mount Pleasant] school I went to is completely gone now, it's a big shopping centre now, but they've got the Mount Pleasant name a short distance away.

RL *What work did your father do?*

DC My father worked for the Post Office.

RL *As a letter carrier?*

DC I think he started that way and then was in the office.

RL *What was the first time you visited the Sunshine Coast?*

DC It would be in the 1930s with my parents. I was in my early teens, I suppose. It might have been earlier – they liked to come and visit. They'd take the Union Steamships and they stayed at the old Sechelt Hotel which has since burned down.

RL *What was it like then?*

DC Oh, it was just a country village. The Union Steamships used to stop at different places.

It was just like going to Bowen Island, but we came to Sechelt instead. Went to the different spots on different occasions.

*RL How long would you stay, and what would you do while you were here?*

DC Well, I think they only stayed for a few days at a time. It wasn't until later with my husband that I stayed longer. As a child I didn't stay here very long.

*RL What would you do when you were staying here?*

DC Oh, play on the beach. It was always summer time.

*RL How did you meet Bruce?*

DC I met him through his sister. His sister and I worked in the same office—the B.C. Tel Office in Vancouver. We were long distance operators. He was in the Air Force at the time, home on leave.

*RL Bruce's full name?*

DC Bruce Ley Crowston. L-e-y. It was his mother's name.

*RL His parents were Angus and Anne Crowston?*

DC Angus Alexander Crowston and Anne – I think she had Matilda as her second name. That was her mother's name. – Annie she was always called. Annie Ley.

*RL And Bruce's birthdate?*

DC June 24, 1909. He was born in 1909 and died in 1990.

*RL And your children?*

DC Oh, I have two daughters. The first one is Ardis Anne, born 1948 in Vancouver. Her married name is Paton. The other daughter is Phyllis Diane, born in 1954 in Vancouver. Married name Phyllis Sutherland.

Phyllis has a family. She and her husband both have children—she had two children, her husband had 3 when they got married. So they don't have any mutual children.

*RL When did Angus come to the Sunshine Coast?*

DC Very early in the 1900s.

*RL Did he actually live here for a time?*

DC Not really. He was always back and forth, camping, that sort of thing. He'd take gear and camp and take people like Frank Eugene with him to go mining, prospecting. But he was also a land developer. He'd done quite a few subdivisions on the North Shore in North Vancouver. They were very successful, but the problem was here that he fell in love with Porpoise Bay. So—I'm not sure of the dates now—but when Herbert Whitaker was having financial problems and was selling off a lot of his Porpoise Bay property, Angus

approached him and bought all of Herbert Whitaker's property on both sides of the bay. So that would be early 1911, 12 or 13. I'm not sure of the dates, but I'm sure it was before the first world war. We've got it in the records somewhere.

*RL What was Angus's intentions?*

DC Subdivision. Land development. And he put in quite a big subdivision, just above lot 1473, which is on the far side of the bay, right into Snake Bay. But it was not too successful. Porpoise Bay wasn't well known enough and there were not enough people around. It seemed like the end of the world, it was so far away. So he eventually was going to lose the property to tax sales, so this is where we stepped in. Bruce was an adult by then and he managed to save the property from tax sale. We were always happy that we did.

On the west side, there were 3 or 4 or more than that, district lots that he had, 5 to 600 acres I suppose. And on the east side it was lot 1557, which is now the provincial park. My husband and I bought the district lot next to it, 1558.

*RL So he did prospecting—do you know where he prospected, or if he found anything?*

DC Oh, my husband would say, he would prospect anywhere. He had mining claims all up Angus Creek, and claims on Nelson Island. He had a lot of claims and had some claims that were a little bit valuable, but never anything really came of it.

*RL Did he find anything?*

DC Well, he would find samples and he would take them down and have them assayed, and they would be good, but there was never any proof that there was a large enough quantity to make it . . .

*RL What kind of things did he find?*

DC I know he had some iron claims. And . . . I can't think of the name they called it. Rudy Riepe had the same claims close by to my father-in-law. But eventually he stopped looking. It was just a hobby with him. Although he started a company—Sechelt Mining & Manufacturing Company.

*RL What was the manufacturing?*

DC I don't know, because he never got around to manufacturing. I think that was a day dream. He was more and better at development of the land itself.

*RL The head office of his mining company was?*

DC Vancouver.

*RL What was his residential address in Vancouver?*

DC It was on Davie Street. That was when I knew them, they were on Davie Street. Cardero was where the big family home was located.

RL *So you and Bruce were married in 1945, and that's the year you came to the Sunshine Coast to live?*

DC No. We lived in Vancouver. When we first married, my husband was still in the airforce so my parents turned the upstairs of their place into an apartment. So whenever there was spare time we would scoot off to the Sunshine Coast. He had a little cabin he had built right beside Angus Creek, near the water. We used to spend a lot of time there.

Then when my daughters came along, we used to bring them too. Ardis, our elder daughter, started school in Vancouver and went to Mount Pleasant school. Then when it was time for Phyllis to go school, I think she went to kindergarten there, and then we said we have to make a decision—where are we going to live? Where are the children really going to go to school? So that's when we moved here permanently. Ardis had already started school and was in about grade 3 when we came here.

I'm trying to think of some of the names of her teachers. Some of them are still around.

RL *So that would be 1961?*

DC No, it was in the 50s, because Ardis was born in 48.

RL *So she'd have been about 10?*

DC Yes. About 1958.

RL *That's when you built your house at Porpoise Bay?*

DC Well, it was the little cabin and it got a little bit bigger. Actually, what we did, it was one of those little cabins that's on skids and we took it with a cat that we had onto the neighbouring property that we bought—Lot 1558—and we dragged that house along the trail and set it up on that lot. There weren't so many restrictions then. I don't suppose they'd let us do that now, or not. We had our own power plant, our own well, and outhouses, that sort of thing. Gas lamps and kerosene lamps. I remember studying by gas lamp.

RL *Why did you move the cabin?*

DC Well, on lot 1558 my husband decided he was going to build a small sawmill, which he did. It was just too far to go back and forth, so that's why we took it down there, so it was closer.

RL *Could you describe the house for me?*

DC The little cabin? Well, it was just board and batten and we painted it a dark brown with light coloured trims and it was very attractive, and a shake roof—shakes came off our property. And of course, once we moved it, we did get plumbing in. Not many people know what it was like to live without the amenities that we are used to now.

RL *How many rooms did you have?*

DC Oh, mainly just kitchen, living room and at first only one bedroom, then we added on.

RL *How did you do your washing?*

DC Well, we had a gas motor washing machine until we got the electricity.

RL *And you hang the clothes outside?*

DC Oh yes. What was fun was the well, especially when we got a fire in the roof. We had to race back and forth to the well with buckets of water. Luckily it was only a small fire. Put everything out.

RL *Chimney fire?*

DC Yes, I guess that was what it was.

RL *In winter?*

DC No, I wouldn't think so.

RL *Were the kids little then?*

DC Yes, they were fairly little then.

RL *Did you do a lot of canning?*

DC Not a lot. Some.

RL *Did you have a garden?*

DC Oh, yes. We always had a garden. As my children grew up they remembered the strawberry patch because I used to let them go in and have fun in there. I used to grow peas and beans and potatoes and carrots. Standard sort of things. And I always had a rhubarb patch.

RL *So what would you can?*

DC I always canned beans, because I would have a lot. And some of the fruits. The kids used to love going on a hike and picking huckleberries. They loved huckleberry pie. Course, that's something we don't have now. We don't know where there's any huckleberry bushes anymore.

RL *Is that the blue huckleberries?*

DC No, the red ones. They made a really lovely berry pie. Of course, there were always blackberries. The little brambles were nice. But I didn't do a lot of canning. Too many other things to do.

RL *What work did Bruce do when you moved here?*

DC Well he set the mill up and had a crew in. He didn't operate full time—only part time. Then eventually, I don't remember what year, we started the Porpoise Bay Campsite. In between District Lot 1558 and 1557 was like a little piece of pie, and it was a little Indian reserve. We leased that from the Indians and that was the main part of the campsite

because it had already been cleared and there were just a few old fruit trees on it. And part of the waterfront in 1557 where the government campsite is now, and part of it on 1558.

*RL What did you offer for the campsite? A firepit and a cleared spot?*

DC Yes, that's right. And my husband made picnic tables for every campsite. There were outhouses and water on tap. And for quite a while we would lease a campsite area for each person that came and brought their little trailer. Some of them would leave them over the winter—they'd rent them for the year. We did that for quite a few years.

*RL The mill—what kind of machinery was it?*

DC Oh, he started off with just a little small Bell saw, but they cut very good lumber. And he got a planer and he planed lumber too.

*RL Who did he sell to?*

DC Locally.

*RL Where did he learn milling?*

DC He was one of those people who could do anything. He more or less learned it himself.

*RL What did he do in the airforce?*

DC Mainly he was stationed in Prince Rupert and Aliford Bay in the Queen Charlottes. I think it was in the hospital. That's when I met him, when he came down for leave at Christmas time. He was very good at first aid and that sort of thing. But he did all this work in the hospital.

He didn't have any particular skill. He was one of those who quit school in grade 9 because he didn't like school. But he shouldn't have done that. As I say, they lived in English Bay and every week he would walk all the way from English Bay, all the way up to the Vancouver Public Library, which at that time was a very respectable area. But he would come back with stacks of books. They weren't novels. He taught himself every subject under the sun. We had the camp ground and some of the young people used to gather round, and they thought he was a professor. Because anything they wanted to know, he knew. They used to like to sit and listen to him talk.

We always say, he was one of a kind. My daughters say I should write a book, "Life with father."

So, I guess it was around early 1960s when the government approached us and wanted to buy DL 1557 for a campsite. So they negotiated for a while and eventually decided that we kept 1558 and they bought 1557.

*RL Did you keep running the campsite after that?*

DC Yes, for a while. We discontinued doing it over on the 1557 corridor, but otherwise we kept on.

RL *Then eventually you sold and came here?*

DC No. Eventually we sold 1558 to a developing company. Before this we had bought this double-wide mobile and put it on District Lot 1558. My husband had already built with his cat most of the road in through to West Porpoise Bay and it was enough to get our double wide in there on to the spot. So we were sort of pioneering all over again on the other side of the bay, not too far from Snake Bay. That's where we put the double-wide. On Lot 1473.

RL *You were there for how long?*

DC We've been here 15 years. We bought it in 1987. When we sold 1558, we moved our double-wide, first of all to a mobile home park in West Sechelt and it was from there that we moved to DL 1473. So that would be in the late 70s, early 80s.

RL *What did you do once you moved over there? Was Bruce still working?*

DC Well, he was working then on a subdivision, putting a subdivision on the market for 1473 for the half of it that was closest to Sechelt. Everything was going very well, we had our plans for the subdivision, all the work done, and we had people wanting to give us deposits, but the government red tape—they wanted us to change this and change that, can't take a deposit until the whole thing is proper. Well, that brought us into the next season and the slump came. So values of the lots went down and we had our financial problems and we had to get out of that. Eventually we did, but like I say, we didn't make a great deal of money off of it. But we were able to buy this mobile home park here in 1987.

RL *What was life like at Porpoise Bay when the kids were little? Who were your neighbours?*

DC Well, DL 1558 has quite a bay into it, and the kids, especially Phyllis, my younger daughter, used to holler across the bay to the Scotts—Cathy and Bill Scott—they were our neighbours across the bay. We knew all the Scott children, the Stockwells. That property, years before, Bruce's father had owned that and sold it.

RL *Did you get together as neighbours?*

DC Not very much, no. The children all did. They used to all walk down and get the school bus together.

RL *The road wasn't paved for a lot of years?*

DC No. When my elder daughter started school—I know the Stockwell children had a real bad time—they had to go on this terrible highway down to Gibsons school

RL *To Elphinstone?*

DC Yes. But they were getting around to getting it blacktopped. But Ardis, when Chatelech

was first built, it only went to grade 10, and after that they had to get the bus to Elphinstone. But by then I think the road was paved. It was better. Whereas Phyllis, she went right through Chatelech.

*RL What would a typical day be like for you when the kids were little?*

DC Well, I had quite a few things to do looking after the campsite. Bookkeeping, and other things. And of course, the mill was still operating spasmodically. In fact the mill—if you remember the *Beachcombers*. They had this old mill. They came up to the mill and had a whole program made up about it, somebody's ghost. They filmed an episode there right on the mill site. At that time the mill hadn't been operated for a few years and it was a bit dilapidated. Once we were working at the campsite, we didn't do much milling any more.

*RL I bet you met a lot of people.*

DC Oh yes, of course you did. My husband already knew Ray Brown—they'd gone to school together. He was the Beachcomber's café owner.

The campsite did take up most of our time.

*RL The kids caught the bus right up on Porpoise Bay Road?*

DC Yes.

*RL Coming here from the city—what was the hardest part of adjusting to it?*

DC It wasn't hard. I'm a country girl at heart, I guess. I love the country. My husband had brought his mother and I and we were staying at the little cabin. He showed me around before we were married. He said, "I think you married me for the property." We'd been in the boat and went along the shore line. Of course, the huge trees were all to the water's edge. There was nothing here then. We even went across to 1473 where the old Whitaker homestead was. My husband remembered when the boat house at the beach was still there. When I came along, people would stop there and take some of the lumber away, put it in their homes. When I came there, we'd find the odd piece of lumber and Bruce would say, "Oh, that's from the old homestead that Whitakers had." Lot 1473 where we eventually moved our mobile to.

Apparently Herbert Whitaker had moved from there quite a while before hand, but the boathouse was still there and that's where they said he would hear the Union Steamships whistle blow and they would zoom over in their boat and go to the wharf and meet the boat. It would be around the time of the first world war, before I was born.

One of the District Lots that he owned was 1473, and part of it was the old Konishi farm. I hadn't met him, I'd met one of his daughters. My husband knew the sons really well. They had quite a garden and they sold their vegetables in Sechelt.



*RL What were they like?*

DC Oh, they were a very nice family apparently. Bruce would often talk about old Konishi and his wife. She was so upset and when the war came the government required someone to bring the Japanese people in. I'm trying to think of the boys' names, but I know one in particular, Bruce took him down to register. They all had to register. And then of course the whole family was shipped to the interior somewhere and the farm was let go to wrack and ruin. Then eventually some Englishman got permission to take it over. Not that the Konishi's got anything out of it. I'm sure they didn't. Bruce said it was a marvellous farm—they knew just what to do. But that's part of history. We see an awful lot on tv with David Suzuki. They had similar problems when growing out.

A lot of the things seemed so real that Bruce would tell me , and I thought, no I didn't know about that, I just know from what he told me. But years later I met the one daughter. She came up for some reason—a very nice lady. But the others never came back.

That was the old days when things were very different. Like Selma Park. I know they had a cottage in Selma Park too that they'd stay at a lot. You could lease an Indian lot there. And he'd talk about Selma Park and the dance halls and all the things that went on then. If he was still here he'd tell you a few things.

*RL That was your husband? They'd stay there when he was younger?*

DC They'd stayed here a lot, yes, growing up He didn't particularly. He had one brother and two sisters.

*RL Did either of them settle over here?*

DC No. Bruce was the only one interested, although Cyril did for a while. His mother stayed in the cottage in Selma Park and he would sometimes stay with her.

*RL Did you have a car when you came up here?*

DC Yes. The car was brought up by Union Steamships. They'd swing it over onto the dock. You couldn't drive very far. At first you couldn't even drive to Gibsons.

*RL Where could you drive to?*

DC Well, just into Sechelt, really. Back and forth. It was a rough ride. I didn't drive at first, just my husband. When I had just learned to drive, you know the bridge that goes over—I guess it's Burnett Creek—where the bridge is now—all it was was two big logs that had been smoothed off to make the surface flat. So whenever I approached that, I would get out and look and make sure that my wheels were in the middle of these logs, and then I would bravely drive over them! I was very brave. They weren't that big of a log, there wasn't much space there. That was kind of scary. It's what I remember most about that road.

RL *So I guess washing clothes would be an all-day job for you?*

DC Yes, it did take up some time. But with a little gas motor it wasn't bad. And then of course, once we were on DL 1558, we had electricity. On East Porpoise Bay, whatever that time was, the hydro was going into Pender Harbour, so everyone in Pender Harbour was selling their power plants. So we bought one of them. So we had this cute little power plant. Well the problem with this cute little power plant was, if my husband wasn't there, the kids would say, "Can you put the lights on?" Well, I'd go out there, this great big wheel to pump it up. Sometimes it would grab and they'd say, "Hurray! It's working!" And sometimes it would not start, so we had to go back and light lamps until Bruce got home.

So that's how we got our first electricity there. Then of course, once it came in, we didn't have to use the power plant.

RL *So when did the power lines come in?*

DC It's very difficult to remember dates. It was 1964 or 65. It would be in 1966 that we sold to the government, so it was quite a bit before then. 1960 maybe.

RL *You did shopping with your car. Did you shop in Sechelt?*

DC Oh, yes. Earlier on it was the old Union Steamship Store, when Mr. Hackett was there. It was a real old fashioned grocery store. On tv sometimes they show it.

RL *With the counter out front and you ordered everything from there?*

DC Yes. You'd go to the counter and they'd bring you things. Not like a supermarket now. And Mr. Billingsley was the butcher. Harry Billingsley. Right there he would be cutting the meat for you that you wanted, it wasn't all done ahead of time. So many people I think about are just not here anymore.

Prices were very reasonable. My husband used to say he remembered when bread was 5-cents a loaf at Woodwards. Well it was a bit more than that by my recollection. "That was before my time," I'd say to him.

RL *Was it when Claytons opened their store that it became an aisle store? Or was Spanglers Red and White like that?*

DC Red and White—I think you could get things that you wanted and bring them up. The first stores I remember that you could go up and down the aisles was the Piggly Wiggly in West Vancouver. My family had a little cottage in West Vancouver and every summer back and forth, and I always remember I was 10 or so when the first store that we could go in and go up and down the aisles was the Piggly Wiggly. I guess people thought that was a good name for it. They lasted a quite a few years, the Piggly Wiggly stores. Then maybe they just changed names.

RL *Did you go to the Spangler's store?*

DC Yes. Then after that it was the Redmans who had that store. I remember them more than I do the Spanglers. That store didn't have the old-fashioned look about it. I remember when the Claytons first put their store on that corner. Clayton's house was on that corner and they moved it to West Sechelt and put up their store.

Then in the 1960s, one day my husband and I saw in the paper that they were starting the Arts Council on the coast here and were meeting in Gibsons. My husband was a pianist and I was sort of a pianist and also a painter—I do water colours. So we went down to that first meeting when the Arts Council was set up. Mr. Burns was our first president. Then eventually we got the little gallery shop in Sechelt. I remember when that opened because it was 1967 and we missed the opening because we went to Expo '67 in Montreal. I think I was the fifth president of the Arts Council and that was when we got the Arts Centre built. Clarke Steabner was the designer and he was the one who got the grant to get that building started. It was an awful lot of work, going to different businesses and things to get enough money to complete the building. The grant was really a work grant—Clarke was teaching log construction. If you've been to the building you'll see how it was done. So that was quite the time. 1970 was the date that the Arts Council finally got its final charter through as a charitable society, but we started in 1966/67.

So, we got involved in a lot of things.

RL *Your husband was a pianist?*

DC Yes. One of the things he did growing up was he had a small band and he was the pianist for the band, and they did a lot of travelling up in the Cariboo country—he knew that very well. This was before my time.

RL *What was the band called?*

DC I should remember. In those days each player had a little stand with velvet and a fringe—it was really gorgeous. What were they called? I've got them all—they're stored in the closet. But I never heard them play. It was disbanded before I met him. Of course the war came along.

RL *What did he do on the peninsula for playing?*

DC I don't think he did anything musically up here. Once he disbanded that group that they had, they never got back to it. He'd keep playing. We always had a piano.

RL *You had a piano in your house?*

DC Oh, yes. The girls took piano lessons.

RL *Did you have sing-songs, things like that?*

DC Not very much, no. He was interested in classical music, really. That was one of the problems with the band, I think that's why the band disbanded because they weren't in agreement as to what to play.

*RL So his interest in the Arts Council would be?*

DC Well, he helped a lot at the Arts Centre. He brought a lot of his equipment—backhoes and such—to help with it. He donated a lot of time, and all the shakes on the roof of the Arts Centre came off our property, and a lot of the lumber too. But most of the logs came off Clarke Steabner's property in Roberts Creek.

*RL What was your husband's interest in it? Just to be able to listen to music?*

DC Yes, but the Arts Centre as a whole, it's got a lot more than just the music.

*RL Kind of a continuation of what he did at the library in Vancouver, learning?*

DC Oh, yes. I'd say so. He was interested in going to any events that we had—the concerts, and various things. We started Countryside Concerts—Allan Crane was our president then.

*RL You helped as well, because you did art work?*

DC Yes. Like I say, I was president when we built the Arts Centre and we had a big opening. But I stayed on as director for quite a few years, and got involved in all the different . . . I'm still in charge now of the volunteer attendance. I phone and get them all—we have different shifts. I'm still involved in the Centre.

*RL I think it's marvellous the talent we have on the Sunshine Coast.*

DC It is. Wonderful exhibits.

*RL You paint as well?*

DC Yes. I haven't for some time. I do water colours. There's one on the wall.

*RL Where did you learn?*

DC Oh, I took different courses here. I didn't do it in Vancouver. My art teacher in high school, I was her favourite. I did very well in Art in school. My best paintings would all go to the exhibition—the PNE? And you never got them back! I'd rather have my paintings then have them there.

But at first when you're married, you're busy and have things to do. You don't have much time for that. Later on I did quite a bit.

*RL What were your experiences with the Union Steamships. What was it like going on them?*

DC Well, it was nice. I liked it. As a child I thought it was great. It would stop at all these different—Hopkins Landing, Grantham's Landing—all these different places, and was very interesting. Then they stopped doing that and they had the — what's the name of the company that took over? They had the smaller ships. At that time, that was when the highway was finished and you could get back and forth on a ferry that had cars on it, whereas the Union Steamships didn't.

RL *What did you like best about the Union Steamships?*

DC Well, my brother and I used to like to explore all over the ship. We liked to be able to land and have your picnic tables, and the beach, of course. But what I really liked growing up was \_\_\_\_\_. That's when we had the little cottage over in Hollyburn. When you visit there now, you can't see a thing, but we used to come back and forth every summer. Then we started coming back in May and we used to get the little ferry—there was no bridge in those days. The little *Sunrisa* and the little *No 5* and there was a #6 as well. We'd go back and forth to school—we'd have to get up early. Then it all quit when my brother had to go to high school, and you just had to get up too early and it couldn't be done anymore. But for about four or five years, up until he was about—of course high school then was grade 9, not like it is now when they start younger.

Coming here was like a continuation of Hollyburn. That's how I grew up in the city, but going to Hollyburn was like the country.

RL *Were you and Bruce ever involved in local government?*

DC No. My husband was a member in the Liberal party. I went to some Liberal meetings in Vancouver. And I've been to a few here. I was interested in politics when Gordon Wilson was here. He was a member of the Arts Council and he would put on plays at the Arts Centre. He was quite involved, so that's when we got to know him. He was very good.

RL *Who do you think was the best mayor of Sechelt?*

DC Well, I liked Bruce Milne. He came from the Arts Centre, too. He was our secretary for quite a while. He joined there when he first came here. Anybody that's sort of interested in writing, the Writer's Festival and music and the arts. They're generally interested in everything, and politics too. They're more rounded out people. So many people just like one thing and say to heck with everything else. I can't see that.

RL *Did you know the Solberg sisters?*

DC Oh, yes! They used to row up and down the inlet in their great heavy, heavy boat. They didn't have a motor in it in those days. Bergy used to stop off at our place and see if we wanted a fish, and of course we would always get a fish from her.

When we were living on the east side, that's when she would do that. The west side of the bay was her hunting ground. That's where she did most of her hunting. She didn't tell us that, but we knew it anyway. She used to get her bear and cougar and deer. I don't know if she had legal license for them, or even if you had to have one in those days.

She grew up on the bay, and then of course when she eventually got a motor for her boat, we would recognize that putt-putt-putt and knew when she was coming.

I knew her father, too. He worked a lot on the roads, building the road into Porpoise Bay.

*RL What was he like?*

*DC* Oh, he was an odd type, I guess you would say. They didn't really bring the girls up properly. Somebody said Mrs. Solberg was a school teacher—then why didn't she teach the girls anything?

*RL Bergy said she wasn't a teacher.*

*DC* I didn't think so. I can't see anybody who was a school teacher, not teaching their children. I just couldn't believe that. I never met the mom, she never apparently left the house. But he was a big man, and he was nice enough. Everything had to be very rough and very crude. Bergliot said to me that she put up some hooks in the wall so she could hang up some clothes and he picked them up and threw them on the floor. He didn't think they should be hanging on the wall. So no wonder whatever clothes she had were not in good condition.

I always remember seeing her with her sweaters. They were more mended than they were sweaters.

They didn't have anything when they were growing up. They were quite young when they were here. I don't know who came first, them or us. She seemed to always be there.

*RL How old would they have been when you first met them?*

*DC* Oh, they'd be quite young—in their 20s.

*RL Were they pretty?*

*DC* Not really, although Bergliot was quite pretty, except for the large nose. But she was quite pretty. They were always very pleasant. It was Bergliot we knew more than Minnie.

*RL How has Sechelt changed since you first came here?*

*DC* Well, it was just a little village then, and it's a big metropolis now. That's a lot of changes! I remember a celebration a few years ago, and they took pictures, and nearly everything was gone. They had pulled down all the old buildings and they were planning on building the new ones, but there were no new ones built. So the pictures looked very odd. It didn't happen at the right—the celebration of a certain year, and the buildings hadn't been built. But after that, Sechelt was a modern town, not just a little country place anymore. They're even doing that to Roberts Creek now. Not just a little store. Roberts Creek is sort of what Sechelt was a few years ago.

*RL You never regretted coming here?*

*DC* No. I liked it here.

RL *Who were your friends?*

DC Well, we used to have friends come up from Vancouver quite a bit to visit. We weren't ones for a lot of friends. Hans Lehmann and his wife—German people—we were quite good friends with them. And Sieg (Lehmann). I knew Sieg growing up, and he's older now! Everybody is. His parents have both been gone a long time now. A lot of the friends that we had aren't here anymore. And my husband has been gone for 12 years now. So mostly my visiting is with relatives. My daughters and their families. Rita Fitzgerald is my best friend, and she lives in Sechelt. She's in a little apartment now. And my friend Dorothy Gillespie lives in the same apartment building, but she's over 90!

So when your friends start going, and you think back . . .

RL *Did you ever have any medical emergencies when the hospital was up in Garden Bay?*

DC No. Some people did, though. If you asked me when the hospital started here, I wouldn't remember.

We went to a lot of events that we put on in connection with the Arts Centre. We had a lot of friends and people we knew there. Some are still here.

RL *What would you say was the hardest part of living here?*

DC Well, not having the facilities. Life was harder. We were used to more modern conveniences and they didn't have them at first. But later on we had them. And nearly everything was here. At one time we could go to Vancouver for concerts and things and get the last ferry home. There was an 11:30 ferry. Sometimes you had to leave something before it was quite finished to be sure we got that last ferry back. But then it turned out that you always had to stay overnight, and that became expensive. It was great when we had 11:30 ferries, but they won't do it now. We can't get them back.

Of course, as I say, there are more things going on here now. At that time there was nothing on here. But we have our Coast Recital Society that we belong to, and concerts. Last Sunday there was this marvellous Russian pianist. I appreciated it.

RL *Did you know Ray Stockwell's dad?*

DC Yes, Old Mr. Stockwell. I knew him very well.

RL *You were in kind of the same business together with the sawmill?*

DC Yes, he had a mill too. That's right. Of course, people did that in those days. A small mill because you had a lot of logs on your property. You started off cutting just your own. I knew Herb Stockwell and his wife, Dorothy. She belonged to the Arts Club, too. She was a singer.

RL *Did your girls get married here?*

DC Well, Phyllis got married here. She married Bruce Richmond, but that didn't work out

two well. They divorced. She has two children. Now she's very happily married to Doug Sutherland. Sutherland Concrete.

*RL If you could bring one thing back from the past, what would it be?*

DC Something that's not here now? Well, I liked the country atmosphere more. It's getting too much like a city now. We liked it more. That's how they spoiled Hollyburn. Hollyburn was like that when we were growing up, and now . . . they did keep a few of the little old cottages that were along the waterfront, and they're now historic buildings, little art galleries and things. But here—they've just got a few.

Before we got the Arts Centre built we rented the Whitaker House on the corner—

*RL Where the IDA is now?*

DC Yes. That was Whitaker House. That was our first Arts Centre for quite a few years. We tried to have it saved as an historic building, but when they looked at it they didn't have these nails that were flat nails. If they'd had flat nails, we would have saved that building as an Arts Centre. But I'm happy we didn't because I like the Arts Centre we've got. Some people say, "Why didn't you build a modern building?" Well, you'd never get the money for it! We got money for it because we were teaching log construction, and it was Norman Watson who was on the council at that time. He said, "Well, the city owns these two lots." There were 3 lots right on the corner where we are now. He said, "Well, I bet we could get that from the village." So that's what we did. We leased those lots, and they eventually put them all into one lot, for \$1 a year. As far as I know, when I was president we paid our \$1 a year, so I guess they're still paying \$1 a year. So we own all the buildings and things, but the village actually owns the lot.

But we had fun at Whitaker House. We rented out some of the rooms. We had a glass maker, and a little antique shop sort of, and we had some other little shops in there. But then it was Stan Anderson, and H.B. Gordon—remember him? I think it was they who decided to buy it and put a modern building up there. We tried to save it and couldn't. So that's when we started looking for a place to build an Arts Centre and Norm Watson came up with the knowledge that the village owned these lots. They had their works building on one of them. So we had to put up with that work shed for quite a few years. Eventually it was pulled down, and we had control of the whole thing.

*RL Whitaker House was a taxi place once, was it not?*

DC Yes, it was a taxi place for a while before we got it. Bruce Richmond had the taxi place there. He and a friend.

*RL Jim and Faye Hall had it once.*

DC Yes, that's right. Then of course, Bruce became a CGA. He worked with Mr. Beacham. Now Emily is working towards hers.



RL *It must have been interesting in the 60s to have a campsite. Did people come mostly from Vancouver?*

DC Oh, yes. We had regular ones who would come every year.

RL *Did you stop working when you got married? Did you ever work in Sechelt, other than managing the campsite?*

DC No. I worked with the telephone company in Vancouver.

RL *What was your telephone system like when you first came up?*

DC We didn't have it at first. We didn't worry about it when we first came up, but when you get children, they want it.

RL *Was it party lines/*

DC Yes, I suppose it was.

When I was working for the telephone company, a lot of it was on the radio and I liked that. I talked to all the different boats. Calling the different ships. I don't know what they do with that now. I used to know all the different names of the people. Some of them would try to flirt with operators, and say things that we had to be careful what we said back.

RL *Did you know any of the operators here?*

DC No. I didn't even know who the operator was.

But I remember the first Credit Union. There was a little, wee tiny office, and one person working in it. At first it was called the Roberts Creek Credit Union, but then it was changed to the Sunshine Coast Credit Union. Johnson! She's the one who broke her leg very badly. Something to do with her horse. For quite a long time she came into work there with a big cast. She was the only person there. There was a little taxi office. And that was where we had our first gallery shop next to that before we got Whitaker House.

RL *That was where the new animal hospital is?*

DC No, it's right opposite the Cenotaph, that little building there. An accounting office.

Sechelt's on the map now. Of course, even now, a lot of people have never heard of it.

RL *Were you here when the wharf burned?*

DC The Sechelt wharf? I was here, but I don't remember it burning down.

RL *When you walk along there now, does it bring back memories of when you came up as a kid?*

DC There's no resemblance. Nothing to remind you. Because when we first came on the old steamships, my husband would know quite a few people on the reserve and we'd walk down on the reserve. Mainly we'd go to see old Frank Eugene [aka Isadore], and I was so

shocked when we opened the door and went in, as to how they lived. The whole place was bare. They didn't have furniture or stuff, they just sort of used it as a camp. Like a wooden tent. I was taken aback when I saw the inside.

I don't know what the other houses were like on the reserve. That was the only one I think that I was in. Didn't look anyone really lived in it.

Frank Eugene or Isadore. He was known by both names for some reason. I didn't realize that was official, but both names are in [Helen Dawe's] book.

*RL What was he like?*

DC Oh, he was very nice. Very nice. Friendly.

*RL Was he a big man?*

DC Quite big, quite broad.

*RL Do you know what his history was?*

DC No, I don't know anything about his family.

Bruce was quite friend with Clarence Joe—not Clarence Joe Junior. I knew him as a young man.

*RL How did Bruce become so acquainted with the Indians?*

DC Well, I guess mainly because his father would come and want to do some mining exploration and he'd go to the reserve to see who would come with him. And of course, some, like old Frank, used to say, "Oh, yeah, I know where there's some . . ." And of course they did lease a cottage in Selma Park from the Indians. So they got to know a lot of them, and they'd go partying at the Selma Park Hall. They'd have dances every weekend. There was Reg Paul. He used to say, "Where would we be now if you white people hadn't come? I'd still be in the middle of Porpoise Bay rowing and fishing."

When you look at the older pictures of the Indians when we first came, they didn't look very happy, did they? Of course, they were just taking a picture. You had to be still, so naturally you were fed up and didn't want to be there. So maybe that wasn't a true picture of what the people were like. But you never saw a picture of them where they were happy and smiling.

*RL Of course, they'd been pretty devastated with small pox.*

DC I remember some of the first city councils and people that were there. H.B.Gordon, Christine Johnson.

*RL What was she like as a mayor?*

DC She was okay as a mayor. We didn't know as much of what was going on as we do now.

We didn't have regular newspapers. We didn't get them on a regular basis.

*RL Were you involved in the school very much when your kids were going to school?*

DC Well, I'd go to the school meetings. But we weren't quite as involved. More so than my generation. My parents never ever came to the school. It just wasn't done. My parents never put a foot in the door because they were never asked to.

*RL You didn't belong to the PTA?*

DC I didn't belong. Mainly because at first I didn't drive. I relied on my husband. But I remember Ardis wanted to go to something and she was devastated because he said he couldn't do it. I said, "Well that's it. I'm going to learn to drive." So I did and ever after that I was taxi for the girls.

*RL Who taught you?*

DC Well, there was a friend of ours, he's long since dead too, Alex Hunchack. He used to work for Bruce quite a bit. He was the one who taught me. I wouldn't try driving with Bruce. He'd be impossible. You should never learn to drive from your husband!

But it's a necessity here. You just can't get along without them. He wouldn't drive when the kids needed to get somewhere. Unless he considered it important, you didn't need to go.

*RL What sort of car did you drive?*

DC Well, some of them were not very elegant. One was. It was a black Lincoln and it was very nice. I really liked that car.

*RL The one you had shipped up here on the Union Steamship—what was that?*

DC That was an old car. It might have been a Ford but I don't know. Now I pay more attention to cars, but I didn't then.

Tape stops, then continues:

DC . . . odd in a lot of ways. Like when I wanted this bathroom built on the cabin, Bruce wouldn't do it. I had to walk all along the beach and up to the mill, and I would drag down these big boards, 10-inch boards, I guess they were. And when I had a stack there big enough, and then 2 x 4's and things that we needed. He was too busy looking after the campsites. I built the bathroom and of course, once the room was on it was simpler to get the bath and stuff. But I remember that, lugging them down from the mill.

*RL That must have been hard, having an outhouse with 2 little kids.*

DC Yes. I decided it was simply time we had a bathroom.

*RL You'd have baths in the kitchen in a round tub?*

DC Yes! That's what we did. A round tub in front of the kitchen stove.

*RL A wood stove?*

DC Yes. A wood stove. Then later when we got the mill going, it was a sawdust burner. We had a sawdust burner on it. The sawdust from wood you just cut, you'd put it in and it started to burn and then it would burn a big hole, and then it would smoke. Eventually we decided that sawdust wasn't the best, unless it could be dried first, and we had no way of drying it. It was fine if you were there, you just had to knock the side and it would go down anyway. But in the middle of the night, you'd wake up smelling smoke and dash madly in there and open up doors and windows and get the smoke out and bang the side of it and get it going again.

Things that would never enter people's heads now.

*RL Did you make your own bread?*

DC Yes, quite often I would. At first I would when it was less convenient to get in and out.