

What is your full name and the correct spelling? A-l-l-e-n-a M-a-r-g-e-r-u-i-t-e R-e-d-m-a-n
Your birth date and the place that you were born? I was born in Vancouver on June 4, 1912.
At home or the hospital?

I was born in my aunt's home-my mother's sister, Mrs. Nellie Mowat (Charles).

Your maiden name? C-l-a-m-p-i-t-t

Your parents' names?

A-l-l-a-n and Marguerite - they called her Daisy. All the girls had nicknames.

Your mother's maiden name? D-u-n-e-t-t. She was born in Sco&and.

Do you know when she came to Canada?

I'm not sure. I don't think she was out here very long when she met my father. I would say about 1910.

Your father was born in Canada? No, he was born in England.

[Excerpts from obituaries: Captain Allan Outram Clampitt came to Canada in 1907. He worked for the Cliff Towing Co. on the tugboat Prospective #2. Clampitt "has been in towboats along the BC coastal waters for 42 years, his first tug being the pioneer SS Senator in 1910. " "One of the original 100 members who founded the Canadian Merchant Service Guild in Vancouver in 1917."

"He joined the MR Cliff Tugboat Co. in 1921 and was a partner in the firm for some years. Later he left to serve as skipper with Pacific Coyle Navigation Co., but returned several years ago to Cliff Tugboat. "

"He leaves former Vancouver swimming champion, Allena Clampitt. "For many years he was also the official starter at the famed Kelowna Regatta. "]

When did he come to Canada?

I'm not sure about that either. I think he was on the prairies for a couple of years. I think he came out about 1908. He came to BC about 1910, and he met my mother at my Aunt Nellie Mowat's home in Mount Pleasant. That's where I was born. Aunty Nellie's sisters all lived close together.

Aunt Nellie's husband was an engineer on the tugboats in Vancouver. They had four children. One of them was my nephew, Douglas Mowat, and after he had graduated from high school he had an accident and became a paraplegic. He was a wonderful boy.

What kind of work did your father do?

He was working on the same tugboat as Charles Mowat. One day he and my Aunt decided to have my Dad to dinner, and that's where he met my mother. She had come out from Scotland to help her sister with four children.

What was his job on the tugboat?

He was a deckhand, and he ended up being a captain.

Do you know who he worked for?

Yes, he worked for M. R. Cliff and many other companies.

Was he a tugboat man all of his life?

He did come ashore. He sold out his interest in the tugboat.

(Show's picture of tugboat.)

This was my Dad's tug-the *Annacis*. And it was at Christmas time. When they came to Vancouver, they just left the booms they were towing, and they were determined to get home for Christmas. You can see the Christmas trees tied to the mast.

He had an interest in that tugboat called the *Annacis*. He sold out-I guess it was about 1930, at the beginning of the Depression-and he just lost everything. It just meant that he had to go back to work. I was working by this time. He was lucky to get back to work because it was very hard times.

He worked until. . . he had his first heart attack in Kelowna. That was a place he liked to go every year for the big regatta up there. He wouldn't miss it for the world.

In those days, since tugboat men didn't always have time off between trips, my mother would put everything that he needed on the bed. He would come in, change his bag and leave again.

One time, I'd be about twelve, I guess, he put a tent on the top deck. His room, of course, was up there. He put this tent up and two cots for my friend and I, and we went with him as part of our holiday. We stopped at the booming grounds on this coast. His crew used to tease us and said we had to polish the brass to earn our keep. We played crib and they let us win, and all this sort of thing. It's that kind of thing that as a kid that you never forget.

Where did you go on that trip?

We went up to a logging camp and we went ashore. It was north of Powell River, in Jervis Inlet.

Redman 4

It was quite a trip because it would take them at least two weeks towing a boom to come home. And if they ran into bad weather they'd tie up to the Trail Islands. Then he'd climb into the kicker-a little rowboat-and come ashore and come and see us at the store.

When we moved to Selma Park, whenever they were tied up to the Trail Islands he'd get in his kicker and come right down to Selma Park, climb up the cliff and we'd have a visit. He'd keep a watch and when the towboat was close enough he'd take off and catch up to it!

In 1952 he was on a tug with a boom of logs and they had pulled in beside the big rock off Davis Bay. I guess he'd told one of them that he was not feeling well, and had gone up to his bunk. They had phones on the tugs by this time, but for some reason they didn't remember-and he was unable to tell them-that I lived in Sechelt. There was a doctor here at that time, but the crew phoned a doctor in Vancouver who had to go out to Marpole and over the river to where the airplane was. In those days there was a drawbridge across the river, and it was open which delayed the doctor even more. By the time he arrived on the float plane and got over the boom to the tug, my father was gone.

It was a beautiful September and I had asked my mother to come and stay with us for a few days because Dad was away. Then this happened.

His was the second largest funeral in Vancouver at the time.

Who put it on?

I guess the tugboat people got together and that was their remembrance. We always used to have flowers at a funeral, but there was a huge anchor made out of flowers, and a broken wheel. . . .

So you lived in Selma Park all that time?

Well, to get back at the beginning for here, we came up here in 1946.

Jack and his uncle were partners. Our old building is now the Workwear World building. There used to be two suites on top, and two kitchens. We had an oil-heating heater.

I think Bruce was about six then, and he was going to school. Around 1948 the Selma Park house came up for sale, so we bought it and had it until I moved here to Mermaid Street in 2006.

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We didn't live in it all that time. The partnership broke up so we came back to Sechelt, I forget when that was. But believe it or not, I lived in that Selma Park house for 35 years after I went back. I think we went back in 1971.

I'd like to get a little more genealogical information. Did you have any sisters or brothers?

I had a brother-John Leslie Clampitt. We both had diphtheria. At that time there was an epidemic in Vancouver of scarlet fever and diphtheria, and they had built two long, wooden isolation wards, one for diphtheria and the other for scarlet fever. I was only about nine then, and Leslie was eight. He'd had a mastoid operation, which was considered quite a serious operation in those days. People today don't realize how scary some of these things were. After the operation the poor kid got diphtheria -I was the carrier- and he didn't have the strength to fight it. My mother never got over that. He was her son.

My dad was away on the tug when this happened. It was in 1922 and in those days there was no phone or radio, so they sent a tug up-they knew approximately where my dad was-and they brought him back to Vancouver to my mother.

My parents must have been allowed to come in to see him. I guess they were called about this, because I do remember my father being there and they had gowns on. They never told me why Leslie was not home. And I never asked. I guess, as a kid, it was just one of those things.

There were six girls in my mother's family, and one of them—Minnie-lost all her family to TB which was bad in those days. She always spent a lot of time with mother, and she lost her daughter to TB. (Minnie's daughter was: Dorothy Williamina Patterson. She died on July 26, 1937 when she was 25.) It was a terrible time. And of course, she also lost her husband to TB. He was sent up to Kamloops in those days. I think he was about ready to come home-or so I've been told- and somebody thought they'd take him out for a drive. They had an accident, they went over a hill and he was killed.

Aunty Minnie, of course, had to go to work, so my mother looked after Dorothy. It was well before the Depression, and then we ran into the Depression. I don't know how she made it. You know they didn't have -I think they called it monetary help-and I think my relations helped on

the side. She worked at the Bay all those years and they didn't have any pension in those days either. When she retired they gave her a basket of groceries with a chicken in it, and said "Thank you very much." I don't know how she made it! She was a wonderful person.

We haven't got back to Sechelt.

We will! If I could get your husband's first name?

He was John, but everyone called him Jack.

And his middle name?

I don't think he had a middle name.

John Redman.

When and where was he born?

He was born in England.

What part?

The south.

Do you know the year?

I think 1909. I think he was three years older than me.

Do you know his parent's names?

I think she was Kate and he was Ernest.

When did he Jack come to Canada?

I think they came out when Jack was about two or something like that-a lot of people were leaving England around 1911 or 1912. I think Jack said he was about two.

What did his father do?

He was a carpenter. A good old English carpenter.

She was a dressmaker, and they had four sons. Arthur (Art) Redman, who lives up here, Art and Mary. Mary's picture was in that Hospital Auxiliary piece in the library. And they lived here in Sechelt. Now their son lives here.

What were his other sibling's names?

Who?

Jack.

Arthur, Ronald (Ron), and Sidney (Sid)

So Jack grew up in Vancouver? Yes.

[shows picture of mother] This is my mother-you can see we're a bit alike-and this is Aunty Minnie. They were visiting for a couple of weeks at Davis Bay. They loved to come up here.

This is a picture of my brother. My mother never got over it. Any song, like Danny Boy, that was enough for her!

So you grew up in Vancouver. In the Mount Pleasant area?

No. We moved after my brother died to the West End. I was about ten.

Where did you go to school at?

Well, I started at Mount Pleasant where they've had all the fuss. Then when my brother died, my dad was determined to get her out of there, and that's when we moved to the West End. I lived there right through high school. I went to King George High School. Now that's been torn down.

I went through matric. In those days we just had three years of high school. Now I believe they have four. I kept some of those fronds for years, even after I moved up here.

My mother didn't like the West End and she couldn't wait to go camping in West Vancouver (Dunderave, at the foot of 24th), where now there are high rises on the beach. My parents had a tent which had a wood floor and they built sides on it. If they'd stayed there much longer they'd have had a house!

My Mom would want to be in West Vancouver as early May. When the weather was nice, she couldn't wait to get out of the apartment. (My dad thought it was quite right-which it was-for my mother and I to live in an apartment.) When school was still in session I would have to take the little old bus and the ferry from Ambleside to Vancouver. I remember meeting up with my chemistry teacher once and we travelled together on the street car to Lord Robert School.

That's how I met all my friends, including Bea Barker. Her mother and father were the manager and manageress of the Pavilion Tea Room, opposite the Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park. They lived upstairs.

Bea and I both had the mumps together as kids. The whole school had the mumps. I went to Lord Roberts School.

When I was in West Vancouver, my dad was always determined to have the month of August off.

The pier at the foot of 25th is where I learned to swim. [Picture of herself with swimming awards.] This is me. I swam in the Vancouver Amateur Swimming Club. (VASC) I won two BC championships and one Pacific Northwest Championship, which I won in Seattle. That was Oregon, Washington and BC. Some of that stuff is over in the China cabinet there. Sometimes, we'd win a big trophy sponsored by a company like Wrigley's, but since they wanted it back for the next year, they would give us another prize to keep, such as a pair of candlesticks.

The BC Championships I won were in Victoria at the Crystal Gardens, when it was a swimming pool, but for the Pacific Northwest Championship that I won in Seattle the pool was on the sixth floor of the Washington Athletic Club, and oh this was really something! We stayed there-it was a club and we thought we were pretty posh. But the trophy they gave me to keep was only about three inches tall and when I showed it to my mother she said, "Is that the best they can do?" I have never forgotten that.

I have a picture of me at the opening of the Kitsilano pool in 1931. [On back of picture it says First Silver Cup 100 Metre Breast Stroke - Age 19]

What do you think gave you the edge over your competitors in swimming?

Well, I liked swimming. I was a competitor. I practiced every day.

When I worked at the telephone company I would often have a broken shift, and in between I'd go to the indoor pool on Pacific Avenue and swim. Most of my competitions were indoors.

Do you know where the Dundarave pier is? They made an L-shaped tank there out of logs. They ran ropes through floats to make lanes, and that's where I had my first race. I was about eight years old and I swam every stroke I knew, including the dog paddle. I finished it at any rate.

Do you think it was an ability to focus that made you win?

I had the will to win. I was going to win. It was built in my, I guess.

Did you work after you graduated? Did you go to University?

No. I applied to the BC Telephone Company in 1930. It was the beginning of the Depression and the applicants were lined up from the door right around the block. It was just terrible living through that Depression! The Chief Operator at the telephone company knew me because of my swimming, but I didn't know her. She was a perfectionist and she would turn you away if you weren't perfect. When I pronounce "Fraser River" as "Frasher River," she said, "It's Fraser, s-e-r, not s-h-e-r." So I could have lost out, but since she knew who I was, and she was quite an athlete herself, I got the job.

I was there for 3 1/2 years and then a friend who worked on the PBX (Private Branch Exchange) for the Vancouver Sun Newspaper called my mother and said she was quitting her job. So I applied and got the job. I worked for the Vancouver Sun on the PBX from about 1933 to 1937. They were located on the 100 block of West Fender Street at that time, just a block from Woodwards.

What was it like working for the Sun?

I loved it.

What was a typical day like?

Well, I was always sitting at the telephone. There were two of us and we had lots of fun. They were a great bunch.

Like a big family?

Yes. And the sports fellows upstairs had offices up there and the editor. We were on the main floor, and that's where all the advertising people were. That was 1933 to 1937, I think.

You had Christmas parties and things like that? No Christmas parties.

You said it was just terrible living through the Depression. What was so terrible about it for you?

Not for me, but around me. For instance, I was working at the Vancouver Sun and one lunch hour, at the corner where the bus line was, at Cambie, and I came up Fender and turned the corner onto Cambie where the Province Building was. Here there were policemen on horseback who were trying to break up a crowd. I was young and I thought, "I'd better get out of the way," so I made my way up the steps of the Province Building until it was over. That would have been about 1935 or 1936.

Were you scared?

I don't think I was scared, I was probably busy wondering what was going on. But I guess there was a bunch of men making a protest to the newspaper-I guess they wanted to make sure they got their name in the paper.

But it was pretty bad.

But you always had enough to eat?

Oh yes, we were all right. Dad was on the boats, and we were well over the Depression when he had his heart attack.

What do you remember most about the second world war. You had rationing. What was the most memorable moments in those years for you? How did it affect your life?

It didn't affect me.

You didn't lose friends or anything?

No. None of the family were in the war. I think they might have been too old. I think Jack might have been the right age, but he was doing war work.

You didn't have a problem with rationing?

We just went along with it. I think sugar was rationed.

Did you do anything for the war effort? Make bandages, or things like that?

No. I think my mother did a lot of knitting. She was a great knitter.

I never knew him, but one of my mother's brothers was named Lyall. I don't know what war was on, but he went to Hong Kong and he died there of some disease. I told you how mother came out to look after Aunt Nellie's boys? Well, she named one of the boys Lyall after this brother.

How did you meet Jack?

My mother had another sister here in Canada. Their name was Earsman and they had lived in Alaska for years. When they moved to Vancouver they lived on Marine Drive. To get there we had to cross a couple of bridges, so it was quite a Sunday afternoon for us to go out on the street car. When they got to about 41st, the two tracks became one, and the street car conductor had to exchange a stick, so then they'd know the other one had gone down. They had to wait for him!

It was an outing for my mother and I. My Dad was away all the time, and she used to like to visit her sister. We walked right down Fraser Avenue, and over the bridge. My uncle operated this one pump gas station for Imperial Oil at Fraser and Marine Drive. The company built them a suite of rooms, like an apartment, and the gas station was attached to it. Jack Redman knew them, and his uncle Stuart was a great friend of theirs.

I was visiting there one day when I met Jack and he said he would drive me home. They had mentioned a Yukon dance coming up at the Hotel Vancouver and asked if I'd like to go, and of course I said yes, you see. And that was the beginning of that. I was working at the Sun at that time.

What was Jack doing at that time?

He was the manager of a B & K grocery store. His mother's brother-Tom Killick-had a string of

these grocery stores. Jack was managing the one on Dunbar.

We got married in 1937 and he decided to change his job. He said that W.H. Malkin Wholesalers had been after him.

The Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park was named after this Malkin and he was mayor of Vancouver at one time. They had Malkin's Wholesale. And then the war came along, in 1939, and Jack apparently was very good at the job he was given. He suggested what would go into the box cars, and that's what he did all through the war. He did a good job and it worked out not too bad.

So he didn't have to join up?

No. I guess he had a job doing war work, and he was married on top of it.

I guess Jack was a grocer man you might say.

Eventually, Stuart Killick and Jack got together and decided to go into business for themselves. I don't know Stuart's brother, Tom Killick, heard of it, or if Jack heard of it through Malkins, but they learned that there was a store for sale in Sechelt. So Tom (who owned all these other stores) went to Sechelt to look at the store and when he approved of it, Jack and Stuart bought it. That was in '1946.

Stuart's wife was Nellie Killick.

Were you worried about it, or did you think it was okay?

Well, to start with, before we were married, I didn't know there was such a place as Sechelt because we always had our holidays in West Vancouver. But Jack's people somehow got to know a property out in West Sechelt, this side of the Wakefield.

Like a homestead?

I don't know how the Redman's got to know them, but they leased a piece of this property and that's where they would go camping. I guess before I met them, Mr. Redman being a carpenter, built a little home. By the time I met them they were spending quite a bit of time up here, and then they'd go down to Vancouver where their son was and spend the winter. This was, I guess, in 1936, Labour Day weekend, and Jack said, "Would you like to go up and visit my parents?" I had never even been on a steamship boat. We came up here on a little old . . . they had a truck and it had two benches in the back. We called it the toast rack. We had something the same thing in West Vancouver. He would pick up the daddies and all the rest of the people and take them up to their places, then take them back again. I think it was 50 cents each way. Before the war.

So that was my introduction to Sechelt. But of course it was principally run by the Union Steamship here in Sechelt.

The other thing that was here was the Indian reservation and the Indian school.

That's how I came up here and met Mr. and Mrs. Redman.

Did you like riding on the steamships?

I didn't ride on them that often. It wasn't long after that when the car ferry came in.

I came u with John the first time on the Union Steamship. I remember coming up once with Mrs. Redman and her grandson, Don. We were at the wharf in Vancouver and Don had his hands

over his ears. I asked, "What are you doing, Don?" He said, "I'm waiting for the whistle!"

They never went on time. You'd be on time, but they were almost always late in leaving. And it used to stop at all these places on the way. We used to say, "You could have gone to the old country in the time it took to come up here!"

What did you think of it?

I don't know what I thought of it, really, because it wasn't unlike West Vancouver in those days. There was nothing here, it was just more or less like going to West Vancouver.

Jack and I were married in 1937.

Where at?

At my home at 1126 West 12th Avenue. There were candles throughout the living room and dining room, and two baskets of flowers on each side of the fireplace.

There's a book of pictures I can't find. I have a beautiful picture of the table and how beautifully set it was.

So we went to live in south Vancouver. I didn't like it in south Vancouver because I'd never lived anywhere that I remembered except the West End, and all my friends were in Kerrisdale. But, we lived there for quite a while, until about 1945—because Bruce was born there.

Eventually we bought a home at 32nd & Crown in Dunbar, and though I didn't think of it at that time, it was a lovely part of Dunbar and a beautiful home.

I loved that place, but I don't think we were there a year. I was just getting to know the neighbours, when Stuart and Jack came up with this idea. We were to take over on November 1st, and in the meantime Jack's father built us a cabin on their property. (This was originally known as the Thompson property.)

This was in West Sechelt?

Yes, this side of the Wakefield. It was waterfront property, right opposite the Trail Islands.

When we moved up here in November 1946 on the Union Steam Ship, the cabin wasn't finished, and it was very cold. So we pulled out the bed from the so-called bedroom I forget whether we had the couch or something there and piled on all the bedding we could find, plus my fur coat. Bruce was only about five. We didn't have running water, we had a well and it was so cold that when we woke up there was ice on the water pail! We had no electricity. We had to have lamps. I thought, Oh, Lordy, what am I getting into?

Were they coal oil lamps?

Yes, although people had different ways of lighting their homes. Sometimes they used gas lamps.

Did you have an outhouse?

Yes.

They just had cottages in West Sechelt. Today, in 2007, you'd never know they'd been there.

Stuart and Nellie managed to get into the back suite, but the couple living in the front suite, he turned out to be a volunteer fireman and he said couldn't find a place. He looked over in Selma

Park, but you know there was nothing much available in those days for them rent.

So with that, we couldn't stay in the suite. Do you know there's a basement in that store where the Work Wear World is now? Well, it used to be open, and we had all our furniture stored there. Our furniture was brought up on a scow and landed on the beach. Then it was brought up and put in the basement of the store until we could move upstairs.

We never did get to move upstairs. We couldn't stay in the little cabin-it was just a shell. So we moved into the basement of the store, since we already had all of our furniture set out, and at least there I had an oil burning stove, so that was a little better. We had to go upstairs to the bathroom, but there were electric lights in Sechelt at that time. I fixed up a make-shift kitchen and living room with easy chairs and our bed and put up Bruce's crib so it would be a little bit homey. We thought we were secure because there was a cement foundation, but one rainy, snowy November night we were in the living area listening to the radio and the next thing I knew, water was leaking over the cement, and coming in right across the floor!

I said, "Jack, we can't live here and Bruce can't be crawling around in water!" I was so upset I went upstairs to the telephone. In those days to phone you had to crank a short and a long ring, or some other combination, and I didn't know one number from another. So I just kept cranking and finally somebody answered. It turned out to be the taxi driver. After I told him what happened he said, "Okay, I'll check with the lady at the hotel on the waterfront." There was a big home there-I think it was the Whitaker's-and it had been turned into a hotel called The Sechelt Inn. So the taxi driver said, "I'll phone her and tell her that you're coming and bringing your little boy." "Oh," the Sechelt Inn manager said, "bring them over right away."

It was a case of, "If my friends could see me now! I'm going home to mother's!" sort of thing.

I did end up going home to my mother's. We couldn't get that begger out. He told us one time, "Oh, I think I've got a place," or something. Of course, the first thing I wanted to get out was the washing machine. So Jack and someone carried it up all those stairs, and then he came out and said, "Oh, we can't move yet!" And they had to bring it down again.

It was awful trying to get into that suite.

Did you ever manage it?

Oh, we did eventually, but I can't remember when we did move in there. But we ended up with two bedrooms.

You must have been frantic for a while.

Yes, it was terrible. So that was my introduction to Sechelt.

When you moved in there, you were the only store on Cowrie Street weren 'tyou? Except the Shell Station.

Yes. They had one pump. And behind them lived Alice French. She started a little bit of a library. You might have heard of her. And then there was nothing until the school.

They built on to the school. I was talking with Dick Clayton not long ago about Sechelt. There is a picture above the Dairy Products in Claytons, about adding on to the school. Maybe you've seen it. You see the crowd there and up on this end is Mr. and Mrs. Redman. Dick said, "My mother and dad are holding me in the crowd!"

Everybody turned out to see this. There wasn't much else to see.

Bruce started school in 1947. At that time many of the kids came by bus and they would bring their lunch to school in lunch pails.

The store at that time was a general store. You had to give the order to the clerk and they 'd fill it?

We served the people. We'd write down everything, a pound of butter, and so on. And then we'd put that order up while they were there.

It wasn't too long after that when Piggly Wiggly started and other stores, I guess it was Safeway, and they started with push buggies. But there wasn't room for that in our store.

But Bruce was able to walk to school.

I guess we were there a year or so when Jack bought the house in Selma Park for us. We lived there until Stuart and Nellie pulled out and went to Wilson Creek, but eventually they went to Vancouver and we moved back to Sechelt..

Across from us was what they called the Village Square. These people came up about the same time we did after the war. They s^ent their first few nights and days at Rockwood Lodge, on the property. The Parkers and Langs. Mary Parker lives out in West Sechelt. Her mother and dad had the hardware store. There was a hardware store and a bakery and telephone office.

Studying map of Cowrie Street. I wasn 't sure if I got this right. There's the Shell Station and then there was Chrissie Crucil 's Tasella Shop, and then Gus Crucil 's home. . . .

Yes, that was their house.

Where Bruce Richmond has his accounting office now?

Yes, I think so. The store in front, Crucil built that too, and Chrissie Crucil had dry goods, I think, in that store.

. . . . and then your Red & White which is now Work Wear World.

Well, when we started it, it was called the Sechelt Service Store.

Right.

And then Ted Osbourne was next, and then Dolly Dunn.

Dolly was quite the gal. She had come out from England as a war bride (WWI:1914-1917). She said, gosh when they saw Canada on the uniforms, and then she met this fellow, and thought to have acreage, well that was really something! But when she got here [and saw what it was really like], she said, "I walked through the orchard and picked a lemon!"

So this is how she felt when she came out here to Sechelt of all places!

Another lady who was friends with Mrs. Redman, and they had come up after the first world war. Mrs. Woods. And Vi Gibbons is her daughter. When she was a little girl Mrs. Redman and Mrs. Wood became very good friends. I think it was somebody from the old country, you know. And Vi would come down as a little girl and watch Mrs. Redman making bread. Mrs. Redman had four sons you see, nothing but boys. And each were married and each had a boy.

Well, Vi was just a cute little girl and Mrs. Redman called her "her wildflower." And Jack Mayne had a . . . people would come and stay there for a week or two. *A lodge?*

Yes, an inn, you know.

At their house?

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Yes. If you look at the back of their house, because I walk past there every time I go shopping, it's a glassed-in porch, and that's where they had the dining room.

He was quite a boy, Jack Mayne. He would go around every morning seeing the boys in the stores.

Checks the map.

Across the street from us was the . . . he was magistrate for a while . . .

Andy Johnston?

Yes. And she had a jewellery store, and I have a ring I bought from her. Eventually, that was the court house. They made it the court house.

What was it like working? I guess you saw it build up around you?

Oh, yes. And I saw all these trees come down where the Bank of Montreal is, and different stores develop in that block. Where the Bank of Montreal is was once Union property and they used to have picnics there. People from Woodwards and other Vancouver businesses would come up on the ships, and they'd have races and so on. They had tables with roofs over them for picnics, and then our kids had their sports day there. I've got a picture of me and I have a straw hat and shorts on and I'm holding a rope for the races. I looked a sight for sore eyes. But I lost my Bulova watch that day. Never did find it.

But that's where we had our sports day.

I often think about this bog being there (between Teredo Street and the Boulevard) and if anything will come of building there. Because when we would walk over to the waterfront, we'd walk on planks, and they were quite soggy, you know? Now there's no sign of a bog.

They must have put in a lot of fill.

Yeah, I wonder. I wasn't interested, I guess.

So, you got to know the native people quite well through the store?

Oh, yes, I did. They had the residential school still running, so we stayed open for a couple of hours on Sunday so they could come and buy oranges and apples for the week. So that is how we started getting to know the Indians. That went on for quite a while.

Next thing I knew, we got so busy people had to have another store here. We were the only store then.

Clayton's wasn't open then?

No.

The Union Steamship store was open when you came here?

Yes, I think so. [Union Steamship's General Store closed in 1956.]

I don't remember when the [Union Steamships] stopped coming up here. [November 1950 the USS ended their Fender Harbour-Jervis Inlet, and their Howe Sound runs.] Because Jack had to take our truck to the wharf, such as it was. And I bought him a jacket with a hood, because it was winter. But they must have closed shortly after.

After the highway came through.

Well, the highway didn't come through until '49, and it was the ferry that built that highway. Blackball, that's right. But there were only about half a dozen cars here in 1947, and Bruce knew all of the cars and all of the ships that went by.

For a while all the medical help we had here was a nurse. I think she came shortly after the war. Eventually we got a doctor, and he lived in the Union Steamship cottages on the main street. I don't remember his name.

Dr. McCall?

No, this was the doctor before him, but I don't think he lasted long. Bruce would remember him. And then Dr. McCall came.

I forget when we came back into Sechelt. We rented the house in Selma Park for about 20 years. And then in 1971, when everything went wrong again, that's when we left the place and moved back into Selma. So I was there 35 years this time, and then I moved here and sold the house in 2006.

I always left the running of the store to Jack, but when they got busy, he'd call me down, so I worked quite often in the store. That's when I'd get the native girls to help me upstairs.

You know Theresa Jeffries? She was a girl I had working for me for quite a while. And now the girls come to me and put their arms around me still and hug me, and say, "Oh, Mrs. Redman!" Just recently I bumped into Theresa and I wouldn't have known her, she looked so smart! So much older, of course. And we got chatting and she said, "Mrs. Redman, I think you taught every Indian girl how to iron a shirt!" You see, the nuns had taught them how to iron, but they taught them how to iron a lace collar! I would leave my ironing - in those days you know we dampened them. Some of the girls even came Selma to work. One of them used to walk all the way to Selma Park.

When I'd have a Christmas dinner, and I was working, I'd have these Indian girls come and they'd do all the dishes. I would teach them what to do. We got along like a ton of bricks.

One day one of the girls was doing the dishes and she was crying. I asked, "What's the matter?" She said, well, she'd just had a baby and it was standing and somehow or other, I guess it tried to climb out of the crib, and it fell. She took it to the doctor and when she came back the baby still wasn't very happy. So she went back and the doctor said, "Oh, babies of that age don't break their legs. They have green limbs."

I said, "Well look, you get on the next ferry and go to Vancouver. When she eventually came back she told me the youngster had broken his leg!

But we got along, and you know, they've never forgotten me. They still come up and put their arms around me.

But I just couldn't work and do the housework, too, like we used to do.

So what was your job in the store? What did you do?

Oh, I waited on people, and put up their groceries. Sometimes I helped bag chickens. We had to put them in plastic bags and get all the air out then tie them.

In 1963 Ben Lang built that Lang Block for us, and we moved the store there. Louise still lives in Roberts Creek.

After a while I got fed up with living on top of the store, because by this time we had more cars, and they would drive up to the store and all the dust would come up. Anyway, I was continually dusting.

Ted Osbourne Junior had built a home that was almost a view home. You know where Onos live? Well, the house this side of it, that has a big chimney, was empty, and Jack said, "I'm going to see if we can rent that place." So we moved into Osbourne's house, and that's how I came to know the Onos so well. Diane Allen came to work for us, and I think her mother did, too. I think all the gals came to work for us. We always have a chat when I see Ruby. It's Diane who is a hair dresser.

By this time Bruce was old enough that he went deep sea.

Sailing?

Yes. Jack had a cousin who was a captain on the SS Fortune. They called into Vancouver and one day he came to visit me, and he said he was short of a cadet and would Bruce like to go to sea. Of course, when he asked him, oh, he couldn't wait to go! So this is a picture *of him* when he was a cadet.

He was very handsome.

That was in the early sixties.

So Bruce never worked in the store?

Well, he eventually came home and went to work for us, but he was only back for what seemed to me a short time when he said to me, "Mother, I think I'll join the navy."

So, Jack looked after mostly the management of the store.

Oh, yes, he was in charge. We had a meat department, too, and he had very good butchers. There was a chap, Albert, who died not long ago, who was our butcher for years. He lived in Selma Park and I was told that he was good to seniors.

How many years did you work in the store?

I really was in the store off and on, I think until we left in '71. I'd think, "I'm not going to work any more, to heck with it!" And then I'd get a phone call, "Please come and help us!" So that's how I kept going back.

But in 1971 we left.

So, then you more or less retired to Selma Park? You didn't do any more business after that?

Oh, no.

There was a Kurluk-I think there are two or three boys-and one of them was living in the house and we had to ask him to leave. So they did.

But I had a lot of work done to the house, the interior. I had the old house fixed up very nicely.

It's one thing I don't like about this place. I'd like the walls to be painted-and apple green or something. I wake in the morning and I think, "I wish they were a little softer."

My husband worked at the lodge at Clowhom Falls for Bubby Cronin.

Yes, Ed and Betty Laidlaw lived there. I was at their wedding. And unfortunately, I was at his funeral. Betty's father worked for us. Wally Berry.

Where did your husband work at Clowhom?

He was the caretaker of the Cronin's lodge up there. He said Mr. Cronin said your husband was one of the best people he 'd dealt with.

Well, they were one of our best customers, of course. They used to phone us from Portland, just as if they were living across the street, and give us their order. I was amazed at them, but of course, they were well off. They'd order boxes of groceries and we'd get it all ready and ship it down to the wharf. I don't know if Ed took it up to the Falls or what.

One day Betty phoned me and said, "How'd you like to go to Florida? Mr. Cronin has invited us on a plane trip to Florida and he'd like you and Jack to go." It wasn't for his employees-it was for the people who owned the stores that Electrical Distributing sold to.

I told Jack, but of course he could never get away to do anything. Betty said, "That's okay, you can bring a friend." So I phoned Eve Moscrip. She and her husband, Orv, were partners with the Onos and Pearl and Sam MacKenzie in the Standard Motors garage. Eve said, "Oh, I'll have to ask Orv." She phoned me back and said Orv asked her, "What are you waiting for?"

So Ed drove, Betty, Eve and I, down to Seattle where we got the plane to Florida, and Eve and I enjoyed it fine. It was September, the end of the season, and we had a beach bungalow that cost about \$7 for Eve and I to share. Oh, God, we thought we were in heaven!

I had been to Florida before, and to the Bahamas. So I said to Eve, "Would you like to go to the She said, "Okay."

I had got a big conch shell on one of my trips and she thought she'd like one to take home. So we bought one right at the pier, instead of at a shop. I think it was 25-cents or something. Later, when we were driving back from Seattle and Ed said, "What is that awful smell?"

Then we realized it was the conch shell. There's fish in them, and a little bit offish had been left in the shell. So when Eve got home with her conch shell, Orv wouldn't let her bring it in the house. After bringing it all that way from the Caribbean! We often laughed at that.

He hosed it down and she had to leave it outside before she could bring it in. Are the Cronins still around?

They don't own the lodge anymore. Bubby and his wife divorced and he remarried. Last I heard he was living in California.

I think I've still got a Christmas card from them.

My husband, John Alvarez, was the caretaker at the Clowhom Lodge after Ed Laidlaw left. He was therefrom 1971 until we moved down in 1991 when our son started school.

Some of the logging families, that happened to them. They moved into Sechelt because their children had to go to school.

You did a lot of work with the logging camps, didn't you? Supplying groceries to them. Oh, yes. There were Osbournes, and . . . McDermid. She lived up here. That was Roy Wigard's parents. Yes. They lived next door to us on the Selma Park waterfront.

I was at the Wigard's wedding-Spencer and Bonnie Wigard. She works for Clayton's sometimes, and her brother, Terry Brackett, is in the real estate business. In fact he arranged our house sale. The Brackett family, when we knew them, all lived on the waterfront. Their mother had about 13 children didn't she?

We didn't want a stranger to help us sell our place, so we got along fine with the Bracketts.

I knew the Crucils, of course, they were right next door to us. Rudy and Bruce play golf together.

Before we lived here, Jack bought me an old car, and had it brought up here. I think it was an old Chev. That was so I could pick him up at Roberts Creek so he could have that much more time here on the weekends. That's when he was working for Malkins and I'd come up here for the summer.

That's when you were staying on the Redman property in West Sechelt during the summer?

Yes, Jack's dad built us a little cottage. I have pictures of that, too. I guess we were living in Dunbar towards the end of staying there, and we'd come up here for the summer.

You know, I had been a very active person-I was a swimmer and I played tennis and badminton. And I came up here and there was absolutely nothing-and I mean *nothing* but dirt and dust.

I had all my friends and relatives there, and I come up here and there was nobody. Occasionally had my mother come up and a friend or something. But actually, there was nobody up here that was a member of my family.

So you felt alone for a long time.

Yes. What happened with me-there'd be a meeting, such as a PTA meeting, and when the hospital auxiliary started up, and the church-Anglican Church. And I said to Jack, "Everytime when I go out, I come home with a job!" And this is what would happen.

I started the May Day in Sechelt. Do you remember the May Days? Well, I ran the May Days for twenty years. I had seen the May Queen in West Vancouver, and I thought, well we could have a May Queen up here. So, I think it was for about twenty years that we had a May Queen and a parade. Really had a good day, something like Fender Harbour, but they started after all of us.

I speak of Mary Parker, but I forget all the girl's names, but we'd have a May Queen and I think she had two attendants from the school and four little flower girl. Winnie Toynbee was an English war bride. The Toynbees came out here after the war, and built the Driftwood Inn. One of her sons is up at West Sechelt. Winnie Toynbee used to work with me on the May Day event,, and Pearl McKenzie, and other people helped.

We used to have two of the RCMP on each corner and they looked really lovely, but one year after we had it all planned for the May Queen to be escorted to the park, another organization had the rides and things going on the other side. So I wrote a note telling them off. I don't think they thought even for a minute that it bothered the crowning of the May Queen and all the rest of it. So they did stop it for the next few years.

They gave me a certificate in 1968. I was living in Sechelt then, and it was late in summer or fall when someone came knocking at the door. It was Mr. Farewell, and he had brought this "Thank You" certificate. Wasn't that nice?

Did you know Bergliot Solberg? The Solbergs?

I knew o/'them. They used to come in right at six o'clock when we were ready to close. We used to get so darned mad at them! They'd come strolling in and I'd say, "We're about to close." They didn't pay any attention. They still walked around and got what they wanted. They were quite a pair.

So, you worked with the May Day, and what other things did you work on in Sechelt?

I was president of the Sechelt Hospital Auxiliary. I've just been made a lifetime member. I was president when the hospital was opened, about 1964. I think that's the picture that's in the library. One of the girls wrote me a note thanking me for the picture. It's got Rosa Swan, and Mary Redman-she was my sister-in-law-and I think Peggy Connor was in it.

The Connors came just after the war and ran the Shell Station. He was a nice chap. I think they had two girls. We knew the girls pretty well. They moved out to Halfmoon Bay.

What kind of things did you accomplish as president of the Hospital Auxiliary?

Well, one of our main money-making things was a smorgasbord and dance at the old Legion Hall. I think we did it more than once because when we sold tickets-I think they used to let us use the bowling alley to sell tickets, and people were lined up to buy them. It was great fun getting ready for it.

That was Harriet Duffy's idea. She was Norwegian, I think, and she mentioned smorgasbord, so we went for it.

What kind of things did you get for the hospital with the funds that you raised?

Oh, I don't know. They're still working on that sort of thing. I think they usually had a list.

Did Jack belong to any organizations?

No, he was too busy. He wouldn't belong to anything. But he would work behind the scenes. Like on May Day he would supply weiners for all the different stalls we had. He'd work behind the scene. I think the Legion made Jack an honorary member for what he did. Now Bruce is a member of the Legion, and his wife's family were old Legionaires. Did you know this building next door was the original Legion? That's where Bruce and Gail had their wedding reception.

When did Jack pass away?

1983. He died of cancer. He was a very heavy smoker, and he had cancer down his throat. Dr. Burtnick was very nice to him.

Did you ever get to like it in Sechelt?

No, not really. But now I've been restricted in my driving, even though I can drive a lot better than some of these people that I see around here. So that halted me from going to Vancouver.

I'll tell you a story about my driving. It would be 1952, the year my Dad died in September. Mother loved it up here. She was determined that she would come up here to live, because of course I was here. So I went down and took over my Dad's big car. Somehow or other, we had Auntie Minnie with us, and we were driving during the 5 o'clock the rush hour. I drove along 4th Avenue as far as Dunbar, and then turned right on Dunbar and then right again. I don't know what we were stopped there for, but when I pulled in a police car came up along side of us and let the siren go.

I've got a recording of that. Bruce¹ used to love to play it when he was a kid. My mother and aunt said, "What have you done?" sort of thing. The policeman leaned into the car and said, "We stopped you not for doing anything wrong, but for doing everything right!" In those days you used hand signals: left and then up turn right, and your hand down to stop. And I, of course, had to turn on Dunbar and then turn again, and I never noticed them. It was being recorded!

When I came home I was all excited because they gave me coupons for dinner and so on. It was something that they were pushing.

But, of course, I was coming back to Sechelt so I couldn't take advantage of the dinners. Somebody in Sechelt said, "I heard you being stopped and interviewed as a good driver."

Not long ago I was playing bridge and one of the men that I know quite well, his wife was a good friend of mine, too, playing golf. I didn't realize it, but he was following me down to the Wilson Creek Hall where we played bridge. He said, "You're a good driver!" I said, "I know."

So that's why you stayed on the coast?

Well, I can't go and take my car, and I can't be bothered with the bus.

Did Jack enjoy meeting the people? Was that what he liked about the store?

I think he was just in love with the grocery business, you know? He was in that store from 6 o'clock in the morning until at least 6 o'clock at night. He would look after the fruits and vegetables, that was his thing. I told you he liked gardening.

That's what he was doing when he realized he had something the matter with his ear. He was gone within six months. In January 1983.

How did he handle retirement?

He worked for the ferries for quite a while, and as a watchman, and at the Roberts Creek Golf Club in the shop.

His specialty was, was soccer. He was a very good soccer player, apparently. Before I met him. He went to school in south Vancouver, McKenzie High School.

The rest of the family-there was Sid, he never married. He had a place in this home and he taught piano-a music teacher. When he came up here he'd be the choirmaster, get a little choir together. But we never heard him play the piano. I guess he had enough of it during the day. But his Dad built him a little tiny cottage in Vancouver next to their house so he wouldn't be bothering them

all the time with the pupils. When I first met them, Sid was doing that.

Ron was married and he just lived down the block from us in Vancouver.

Then Art and Mary lived over here kitty corner-you know Whitaker Park. Their son came up here with his wife and he ended up living in their house. Now they live in a condo in Porpoise Bay.

As I said, at first there was nothing to do here. Then Chrissie Crucil built the bowling allies and that was the one thing I hadn't done! Wasn't that something? I'd done everything else-played golf and badminton. And everybody bowled. We had ladies teams and mixed teams and business people. Everybody and his brother bowled. Bruce was a pin setter. I think he was a little scared sometimes that he was going to get hit. So that was quite good and it went quite a while, but I think Chrissie closed it down eventually.

Did you ever play tennis here, because they had quite a few tennis courts here, didn't they?

No, there wasn't anything like that. We tried to play badminton. One time the RCMP started - you know what they call the orchard? Well there were a couple, he and his wife, and their name was Jack and Lee-isn't that funny? They liked badminton, and we tried to go to the place on the waterfront that was used for a dining room, but the ceilings were too low..

The pavilion?

I guess it was called the tea room. So we gave up, but we tried.

The next thing I guess, it was years after, when a fellow we knew asked if we were interested in a golf course. I said, "Of course we were." So that is how it started. Bernell Gordon. They lived across the street from us. He was interested.

So we were right in on the beginning of the golf course. I still had my golf clubs, believe it or not. My dad had bought me a matched golf club set, so I still had my golf clubs. And people were amazed at me playing golf and doing so well. And I had to say that I had played in Vancouver. You see, I did all those things but I couldn't do them up here! And my badminton racket's still sitting in the closet in the frame. Now, of course, my golf clubs have all gone.

I did teach my two grandchildren how to play golf. That was something that Jack was doing. They call it the Pro Shop. They never had a pro for years, but you would sign in and maybe buy golf clubs and that sort of thing. Jack was more or less a volunteer and worked in the Pro Shop because it gave him something to do. So one day I decided to take the boys-they were about ten or eleven-to teach them golf. I told them to do this, and that and the next thing. And finally Ryan said, "Grandma, I'm a southpaw." Of course, he had the wrong clubs! We were quite close to the Pro Shop and I went up and said, "This kid is a south paw." So Jack gave him left handed clubs.

Now he's a very good golfer. They both play golf. Darren lives in Victoria. He's in the navy. An engineer.

What part of your life would you say you were proudest about?

Oh, I think my swimming because I won two BC Championships in Victoria and the Pacific Northwest Championship in Seattle. We used to go to Victoria every November and have a regatta there. It was great fun for us. My dad, if he was around, used to love to come too. Then he'd take the month of August off and they'd have a wonderful regatta in Kelowna. They had

swimmers from the states come up and they had stands for people to see. Even after I was married and had Bruce we went up to Kelowna. As I say, my Dad took a great interest. He would be a starter of the races. I have a picture of him: this was a perfect start. The girls are up on the block and they're ready to go, and they've all got their heels up, and he's got his gun up in the air.

I remember one time when Jack was asked to be the "starter" at the golf club and he said to me, "You know I've never shot a gun off!" He had to have a big shotgun.

When my Dad would go to town in Kelowna, he'd always go to the men's clothing shop and they had a straw hat ready for him. That was for him during the regatta. They had a huge regatta and the girls, as I say, even came up from Seattle. And they did something that you might see on tv now, what we called fancy swimming. They had something like ribbons on their wrists and maybe on their ankles and on their hair, and they glowed in the night. They did different positions-acrobatic swimming. Just beautiful.

I told you that my dad sold his share in the tugboat. We wanted him to take the money and have a trip to the old country, but oh, no, he didn't want do that. He had to go up to Kelowna. He said he never wanted to go back to England.

I took Bruce up their when I finally had him, and my mother, and we would rent a motel right on the beach, for about \$2 in those days. Gosh, you couldn't even look at one for \$2 now.

There was a long distance swimmer and she married and lived in Kelowna, right out on Westbank. It was something quite new in those days, an electrical home. That was when my dad had his first heart attack, so I took my mother up to Kelowna and we went to visit this girl. We were having supper and they had this terrible storm, lightening and wind. They had these trees in Kelowna with very shallow roots, and the trees and electric lines were coming down, but I thought, we're okay, we've got rubber ties. So we left, because we had to go see my dad, and I just drover over the electrical lines. I had never heard that you don't do that because we didn't have that happen very often in Vancouver.

What kind of things do you do today?

I enjoy the local paper. And I used to enjoy my golf. I played on Lady's Day and then quite often someone would call, "Are you going to come and play on Thursday?" In that way I had a lot of sociability. But when I had to give up golf, that was sad. But I do play bridge.

Did you ever find that being a woman restricted you in any way?

No. I was brought up to mix, and that you had to get along. I learned to swim when I was about 8 years old and I was still swimming when I was 20. So that was a good many years. I always had something to keep busy. My dad saw to that. He taught me how to play golf. You know Hastings Park? Did you know there was a 9-hole golf course there? That's where I learned to play golf, at Hastings Park. We used to go there. I was about 16 or something like that.

Now, especially during the winter, I play bridge. We play two or three times a week and that gives me something to look forward to.

And I'm a great reader. That brings me to something I bet you don't know. Do you know where the first library was in Sechelt?

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In the Redman's Store?

Yes! You know the stairs-I don't think they're there anymore. They tore down that top half. But the girls got busy and used bricks and pieces of board to make shelves, and that was the beginning of the library. It was empty and Jack said if they wanted to they could start a library up there.

Mrs. French had a library. Was this after hers?

Yes. I don't think that really came to anything very much. At least, I didn't read anything there.

But I think I'm No.4 on the list. Ada Dawe was ahead of me, and I forget who else, but I didn't manage to come first to join the library. But I guess I'm at the top of the list.

Do you still go to the library?

Yes, I go every two weeks. I'm a great reader. I like biographies. Interesting to read about people and what they have done.

What would you say was your greatest contribution to Sechelt?

I don't think I made much of a contribution. The Hospital Auxiliary perhaps. I was president from 1964 to 1965 and I recently received a life membership pin. I think Rosa Swan received a pin as well. Betty Laidlaw pinned mine on me.

I'm going to be on a bus in the July 1st parade this year (2007) with members of the Hospital Auxiliary, and Bruce is in it also, carrying the "colours" for the Legion.

I'd like to end this by saying that I have two grandsons, and three great grandchildren: Christopher & Madalyn Redman in Victoria Morgen Allena Redman in Sechelt.