

Interview of  
Mrs. Doreen Morris

Typed by: Linda Kyle

- Doreen Morris (née Crofton) married Fred Morris.  
- mother was <sup>D.F.</sup> Mona Wilson (Rev. Wilson's daughter).  
- father was Fred Crofton  
- see pg. 14 in Snapshots of Early Salt Spring (R. Longtree).

Interviewer: Good afternoon, let's see, today is November the 20th and it is now approximately ten minutes past four o'clock in the afternoon. I'm sitting here in Doreen Morris's home on a very rainy, gloomy afternoon. We're enjoying looking at her old family history. O.K., we're going to start first with your Grandfather. No it would have been your great, great Grandfather.

Guest: No it was my Grandfather, Rev. D. F. Wilson, that arrived on Salt-springIs. in 1894 having been an Anglican missionary at the Chindwalk home in Sault St. Marie. Well they had a large family, ten of them, the three eldest were born there and then they came out on account of ill health. He spent a very interesting time in the east, travelling amongst the indians, trying to help them in the school and teaching them to make their own boots and carpentry and many useful things besides a slight education. On account of ill health, after fifteen years of it, each year he'd go back to England to raise money to help keep the Chindwalk home going.

Interviewer: Was this from the church?

Guest: Well, and when he would get some rich English friends or members of his own family who had some money to bring back to him to Canada to help with the indian, you know, the progress and the help they could do for the indians. As my mother once said, she said, 'I wish he'd spent a little more on our education.' But the three eldest Wilsons had a very good education and the younger ones.

Interviewer: You said they had been educated in the east.

Guest: They were educated in the east, yes, they went to Port Hope to school

and one boy, Bertran, went to Royal Millitary College. The elder girls had trips back to England, but my mother being one of the younger ones, was unfortunate not to get in one of these. I think the three or four younger ones didn't have those benefits, they were still in the nursery, as they were called in those days. Anyway, when he arrived in Victoria...

Interviewer: Aproximately what date would that have been, when he arrived in Victoria?

Guest: I imagine it was about 1893. They stayed there for one winter, it was very, very cold.

Interviewer: Yes, we're going to regress for a minute and pick up a few things that we feel are important.

Guest: When I mentioned about the three, the younger members of the family not having any education, I did forget to say that they did have a governess. They did have a fare education, but nothing like high school or anything to great extent.

Interviewer: Which she acted like a private tutor.

Guest: Oh yes they were well educated English governesses.

Interviewer: And then the three eldest children were born...

Guest: They were born in England, two boys and the daughter Evilan, who bacame Mrs. Toleson and then Mrs. Scott Richie. When the Grandfather's health was failing and they felt they could not stand the cold winters of the east, they thought of moving to British Columbia. They stayed in Victoria for a year and the Bishop Pearen, who was the Bishop, suggested to my Grandfather or offered him the parish of Saltspring Island. So Grand father landed on Saltspring Is. in

1984, he came by boat. Somehow he went to Cooper Island first and then on Ried Bittancourt, a very old timer, on his boat and landed at Vesuvius. There was only a trail, no road then, so he walked from Vesuvius to Stephen's Boarding House. Well, he was going to stay for several nights.

Interviewer: What street was that on now, was that called Central?

Guest: It's the road really leading to St. Mary's lake. It goes past St. Mark's. I don't know if it's the main highway. Stephen's Boarding House is right next door. Where the Cunninghams live now, and right next door to St. Mark's church. When he arrived there, he had a very good lunch and word got around that he'd hold a service that afternoon. There was no telephones on the Island at the time, it just went from people just let each other know. About 20 or 30 people arrived for afternoon service, which made him quite happy. then he returned to Victoria after looking around the Island to talk it over with all his family and they decided to make the move to Saltspring Island. He would accept the position of the Rector or Ricker as he was called in the old days. Then the great thing was to find land, and he did look around, he looked at Fulford then he decided that where the present golf coarse is now (it was 100 acres) and could be made into a nice farm, and there was just an old log house on it at the time which the younger members of the family moved from Victoria.

Interviewer: There is a photograph of the log house.

Guest: Yes, yes there is. They began to clear the land and patch up the log house just to make it livable.

Interviewer: How many people were approximately going to live in this log house?

Guest: Well, it was only just a sort of temporary. I don't think, of course the older ones didn't come to the Island just then, but even so I don't think they could get eight or nine people in it. They immediately started to build, I mean I think they just camped in the log cabin the boys and one or two of them helped and started to build. They moved, they called their home in Victoria Barnsby, and they moved practically a whole, what they call a drawing room by scow over to the Island.

Interviewer: Were did they land, at Fulford?

Guest: No, Vesuvius was the name. Yes, Ganges wasn't it was either Fulford or Vesuvius were the main ports then. Ganges wasn't much thought of, which is surprising.

Interviewer: It was clear on the other side of the Island.

Guest: Yes, because it's central as we are. It was a central thing, there was a church there and a school house.

Interviewer: Let's see, there was a store there at Vesuvius Bay there too wasn't there?

Guest: Yes, Bittancourt's had it. And soon after they arrived they erected ~~ed~~ what they call central hall. So that's quite an old building.

Interviewer: Which is still standing.

Guest: It's still standing and been done over.

Interviewer: Now the movie is there.

Guest: Yes the movie. So eventually they had 100 acres of farm, and they farmed it to make a living.

Interviewer: With the older boys helping?

Guest: Yes with the boys helping, although the girls were very good with

rakes and hoes as well as cooking and making their own clothes.

Interviewer: Working as hard as the men, I imagine.

Guest: Well, they were the men, I must say were very good workers though, hard workers and good workers.

Interviewer: You might mention your Grandfather's income.

Guest: Yes he had the large some of 500 dollars stipine at 500 dollars from I suppose, what you'd call Victoria the and 400 dollars, generally from the collection taken by the parishners. So it made a total of 900 dollars a year for a large family to live on, but somehow they managed with great vegetable gardens and their own chickens and cows and tina horses.

Interviewer: So they probably never went hungry.

Guest: No. And then, of course, gradually they got married and moved to their own home, saw all the children.

Interviewer: I wonder how large the parish was aproximately, at that time.

Guest: It's very hard, I don't think there is any records of it, but I should imagine two of three hundred I don't really know. The three churches that Grandfather Wilson preached at were: St. Mark's at Central, St. Mary's at Fulford (which was built before St. Mark's) and then services would sometimes be taken in school rooms, at Fernwood or Beaver Point. So he had at least three services on a Sunday, driving just by horse and buggy or riding , which was a long trail in those days for him.

Interviewer: Did he go by boat at all?

Guest: No, not unless he was called out for any tradgedy or anything, but mostly it was all just Saltspring Island. He didn't take in the other Gulf Islands at all.

Interviewer: You mentioned that he studied some medical trading.

Guest: Yes he did at St. Guy's hospital in London.

Interviewer: This was on one of his trips back?

Guest: No, this was as a boy before he married, at least as a young man. For what they call they walked the corridor, or something, I mean he had enough training that he could be of help to anyone who was ill and there was no doctor available at the time. But finally a resident doctor did come to the island. But he did bring one of his Grand-Daughters into the world, Barrel Scott. She has written some good diaries too of Saltspring Island, she now lives in Lady-smith. My Grandfather was the Rector of Saltspring Island for 15 years before he retired, again on account of ill health.

Interviewer: And was he Rector of the three different parishes, or just one?

Guest: Well what you call the Anglican parish of Saltspring Island was the two churches because St. George's wasn't built then.

Interviewer: I wonder if he did that much travelling during this 15 years on the island?

Guest: Oh yes, he payed visits to all his parishners riding and then if he was at Fulford he would get asked to have dinner or if it was bad weather, stay over night in one of the houses before returning home.

Interviewer: We're reading out of the old dairy at the moment and the printing is very fine.

Guest: 1893 - 1911 he acted as Rector on Saltspring Island where for a time he worked with the ild time energy and faithfulness and gained the love and respect of his parishners. His health, again necessitated his retirement from active work and for a short time he was resided at Santa Monica in California.

Interviewer: Good Heavens!

Guest: Yes, well that was because of the weather. For a time he lived with his wife in Victoria. I think it was about a year he went down to Santa Monica. Then he and his wife were in Victoria.

Interviewer: How old would you say he is at about this time?

Guest: I just wonder if it says here.

Interviewer: In the seventies, perhaps? We have it pretty well established that he past away at the age of seventy-one in Victoria.

Guest: He is buried in St. Mark's cemetary on Saltspring Island and later his wife died about 10 or 15 years later and is also buried beside him. She lived with some of the family and then she went to a nursing home. She died at the age of eighty-six.

Interviewer: I see, and did she spend the rest of her life on Saltspring?

Guest: No, she stayed at teh old family home, Barnsby, when my oncle Norman and his wife (Wilson) had taken over the farm and had lived at Barnsby and Granny lived there for a time with them, then she moved to Victoria. She was getting quite blind and so eventually she had to go into a nursing home.

Interviewer: And who was managing the farm at this point?

Guest: This was Uncle Norman Wilson, the second youngst son. He had a good farm especially sheep and he ran it as that and finally he turned it into a golf course. Which he found paid much more than the farming which was beginning, as most people know, he felt like money out of farms really. Not on as island where shipping all their vegetables and everything.

Interviewer: You could maybe feed yourself.

Guest: Feed yourself, perhaps, but not really. Well, the cost of making an apple box was one dolla\$, and then you sell the apples for about one

dollar a box in those days so it was a lot of hard work.

Interviewer: O.K. we've collected her thoughts we're going to talk about the younger members of the family now.

Guest: As we've mentioned Norman took over the running of Barnsby at first as a farm and then the golf club. The next one is Flosey, the nar-rater of George Boredale, they first lived at Long Harbour, which is where the Vancouver Yacht Club is now, no it's a private club I think doctors, it's opposite the Vancouver Yacht Club. Then they moved to what is now known as Sea Breese is what they started. One of the first water-quarters is what they used to call it in those days. Mrs. Boredale kept them beautiful and it was a great interest and she worked hard and quite late in life.

Interviewer: The beginning of the motel days.

Guest: Yes, it is what they call now Sea Breeze Cottages. And then my mother and father, who bought land from Jack Scaval, at least my father did, 100 acres and again farming was not very profitable. So when he was over seas, my mother turned it into at that time a small guest house, calling it Harbour House after the family home on Kingston Island.

Interviewer: What was your mother's name?

Guest: Mona, she was the eighth child of the revelly of Wilson. As we often said, and the hotel grew, the family grew as the children where nam-ed "D's" so there's seven "D's". We all took turns running the hotel as we got old enough to take any part in it at all. My elder brothers did the farming part because did wsa not so well when he came back from the war, although he worked hard himself.

Interviewer: Was he wounded in the war?

Guest: Yes he was slightly, he had a small patch. But that didn't stop him from working he used to wash all the dishes for about, sometimes,

thirty or forty guests.

Interviewer: So there were alot of travellers to the island.

Guest: Oh yes especially in the summer. In the early days it was more a summer resort and in the winter there would perhaps be school teachers or a few residents or guests. It really was July and August as we used to call it the summer holidays. We had families coming who would stay really for the two months, July and August. The rates were so cheap they couldn't resist it.

Interviewer: Were there harbour facilities at that time for sailing vessels like private yachts and boats?

Guest: Oh they would come in and anchour, but there wasn't any marinas like we have now. Again the water was clear and we, as children, we all used to swim on the beach at Harbour House. If we really wanted warmer bathing we walked to Vesuvius. We'd think nothing of it to have our swim down there. Or else up to Cusheon Lake to have a swim. But I suppose we were hardy we didn't mind the cold water at Harbour House at that time. It's all changed now with polution and everything. So we've seen many changes on the island I think. Then I don't think I've mentioned Keith Wilson, who was the youngst of the family. After he left the island he and his older brother Luellen went up to the Yukon like so many other young men from the island have searched for gold or make their fortune. They came back most of them broke, but Uncle Lu, he stayed on in Whitehouse for several years, worked in the post office there and in the hospital. So he rather liked the rugged climate of the north.

Guest: We're going to reveiw the seven "D's". This was your own brothers and sisters.

Interviewer: I think they started with the name "~~De~~ Dermitt" because they liked it

Dermott

and Desmond and Diana and I'm Doreen and so it went on so it never stopped and there's Denise and Delsy and Donovan, who is really he called Tap now, but he is Donovan, That's the seven, Dermot, Desmond, Diana, Doreen, Denise, Donovan and Delsy.

Interviewer: And in that order, Delsy being the youngest?

Guest: Yes, Delsy was the youngest.

Interviewer: We're going to discuss the children's education.

Guest: The older brothers, Dermot and Desmond, went to school at Mr. Leonard Tolson's in Ganges, just opposite what was called the old creamery. For a time my mother had a governess for us and then we all went to what you call the public school, which is where the Catholic church is in Ganges now. But that was the school in those days, we didn't have the big high school.

Interviewer: Let's see that would be St. Georges church?

Guest: No, no it's the Catholic on Drake road. It's called Lady of Grace.

Interviewer: The little church?

Guest: Yes it's on Drake road. That was the school.

Interviewer: You can't see it from the main road.

Guest: No. My eldest sister Di, would take our lunch in a great, big lard pail with sandwiches and then we would all gather around her and she would hand them out. Each time at lunch hour. Then my younger brother, he went to Benson school. And then Mrs. Halley, who was a Cambridge graduate. She taught, Peter Turner was one, Piere Beon, my brother Pat and several of them went and had a very good education right to grade twelve.

Interviewer: This was in her own home?

Guest: Yes in her own home. She lived out at what they call the North End.

*S. Margolin's house?*

Interviewer: How did you transport yourselves back and forth?

Guest: The boys were just old enough to drive, I think.

Interviewer: Did you have and automobile?

Guest: Yes we had and automobile then, but we didn't drive, the boys, my brother Pat and Peter Turner, they would drive out each day.

Interviewer: How was that in the winter time?

Guest: Very cold. It was what we call an old Ford. Sometimes they'd be freezing they'd huddle down to keep warm and just their hands steering and one person along St. Mary's Lake he said he'd just seen a car go by but nobody driving it, it was just the boys trying to keep warm.

Interviewer: Well how about the younger girls now?

Guest: Well my youngst sister, Delsy, went to Mrs. Morehouses's school which is I didn't hear about that or know about that.

Interviewer: This is the little building located on Dorothy O'Brown's ...

Guest: On Dorothy O'Brown's property yes. And I did go to high school which was finally moved just near Mahon Hall, but it had been a chicken house so we all used to say we went to school in the chicken house but they did re-model it somewhat. But that's where the first high school was. I believe there is going to be a reunion of the grade nine people who were the first students to go to school in the chicken house.

Chicken house  
school

Interviewer: Do you recall any of your teachers? Did you have several?

Guest: Oh yes. There was Mr. George Brand, and Iva Parket, Archie Robertson. Mostly men of course we did have in the younger grades lady teachers.

Interviewer: How do you feel your education was?

Guest: Well it was fair but when we went to what we call grade school there would sometimes be forty children in one class. At least forty children in the school and the poor teacher was trying to teach from grade

eight to grade one, so that was very difficult for her and very difficult for all of us at times. But I think we learned more when we had a governess for a short time, then I suppose we seemed to do better when we got to high school and we probably worked harder or began to realize we had to learn something. The surviving members of my family are my eldest brother <sup>Dermott</sup> ~~Dermot~~, who lives at Windfrith in Ganges. Then I come next I'm the next oldest of the surviving, I live on Norton road. My sister Denise lives in an attractive little mobile home just opposite the Pioneer Village, or just behind Pioneer Village I should say. My youngest brother Pat has a lovely sea front home on Madrona Drive, Deep Cove. My eldest sister Diana married Graham Shaw, but she died. My youngest sister Delsy just before Di and then my brother Desmond, who is in the Canadian Sixteenth Scottish Lieutenant-Colonel, died just nearly four years ago.

Interviewer: Were any of the boys killed in the war?

Guest: Oh no. my brother Desmond was very badly wounded and my brother Pat was with the Princess Patricia's. He was wounded, he fought all the way through Sicily, but he was only slightly wounded, Desmond nearly lost his arm and he had very serious operations on it. But they came back to run the hotel you know and the war was over you might say. Then we sold in 1965 to Jack Guird, the hotel, which was sad in one way but we found that we just couldn't go on running it, we were all getting a little older.

Interviewer: There were not any of the younger generation that were interested in ...

Guest: ..... No they had all started going to nowadays they call them going to college and everything. They didn't work at just nothing but hotel life like most of us did. So any way we sold to Jack Guird and then as you know the main building was burnt down. They put up the new Harbour

House which none of us care for as much, I don't know whether I should say or not, but we loved that old building it had a certain charm and atmosphere. Famous tennis courts which you know have gone now.

Interviewer: There are some tennis courts there but they're not the same.

Guest: Oh no well I meant that they've just not been cared for. I don't think they even play on them at all.

Interviewer: Were there any famous cuisine or special meals that you were ...

Guest: Well here we are on side two now and our afternoon is now worn into the evening it's twenty minutes after five. We're taking just a moment for a little refreshment while we get our thoughts together. Now we'll carry on with our discussion on the cuisine, or the dining room dishes in the hotel.

Interviewer: Well I couldn't really talk about Harbour House without mentioning our faithful cook, Billy Ing, who was with us, Chinese cook of course, for over 40 years. He was so good natured and yet kept a firm reign on the kitchen itself. Of course we had plenty of vegetables, but his chicken dinners every Sunday were famous as well as coconut cream pies and chocolate eclairs. Well in fact he did cook anything but they were all delicious.

Interviewer: Where do you suppose he got his training?

Guest: I think he just wasn't restaurant cooking I'm sure he cooked for some well to do family in Vancouver because there was always hot biscuits and he could make home-made bread and shortbread and moca cakes. He wasn't just, you know, just stews and that sort of thing and soups. It was all sorts of delicious deserts.

Interviewer: Or gourmet.

Guest: Oh yes, I mean cury is most delicious curied veal and lamb and

dumplings with lamb stew. We didn't have a big choice, like you go to a restaurant these days and see about 40 things on the list but about 2 or 3 really good dishes.

Interviewer: How about the supplies for the kitchen like the sheep. Were those from your own farm?

Guest: Yes my brother, Desmond at the time had sheep and so he would have them.

Interviewer: The famous Saltspring lamb.

Guest: Saltspring lamb. People didn't realize that we used to get it on the menu all the time. Of course, we had our own chickens, spring chickens. Billy did beautifully the bride half spring chicken.

Interviewer: And the vegetables?

Guest: ~~Interviewer:~~ And the great vegetable garden. Plenty of fruit raspberries or our own, apples and fresh plums.

Interviewer: Oh there was an orchard on the farm too?

Guest: Yes, oh yes, there was a good orchard.

Interviewer: What would that be, like apples and pears?

Guest: Apples and pears and plums and Italian prunes.

Interviewer: And peaches?

Guest: I can just vaguely remember them, but I think gooseberries I can remember, rhubarb or course and all the vegetables in season.

Interviewer: In the early days, what did you use for refrigeration?

Guest: We had a great big ice-box. The ice was delivered by Island Freight. I suppose very early before we even had a ferry or a freight service, at least we weren't running a hotel then, I don't know, I suppose they had root cellars to keep things in.

Interviewer: Were they cold rooms?

Guest: Yes, cold rooms. But I just saw pantries and larders and coolers.

But I can just remember the ice-box before we had refridgerators.

Interviewer: Was there a cow also so you could have your own milk and butter?

Guest: Oh yes. Another funny thing the boys who are butters who milk the cows and the different girls that stayed at Harbour House, they used to love to go up and help them. So they would call the cows after different girls who stayed, there was a Clara. As I said, it was a family hotel in the early days until we got the parlour license and it became a little more, well not civilized, but ...

Interviewer: Sophisticated?

Guest: Well yes, I mean we got running water in the rooms.

Interviewer: Oh certainly there was no running water was there in the early days?

Guest: Well we had tents and you had to have a camper or an oil lamp, the people who slept in the tents get first.

Interviewer: So there was just a little out-house facility then?

Guest: Yes, for the tent people. Then gradually we got bathrooms added.

Interviewer: When did eldctricity come in approximately?

Guest: It was around about 1936 I think. But we did have our own engine..

Interviewer: Generator.

Guest: Generator and it used to be called the engine house. That would be put on. But my eldest brother, when he wanted to go to bed, maybe twelve or one, then the lights would go off for the night because he had to turn the engine off, he couldn't keep the engine going all night. So people got used to it, they had their candles but they couldn't read all night.

Interviewer: No like now. What about the hat water then, was that heated on like the cook stove?

Guest: That was heated on the stove and that was pretty well kept going all

the time, but if too many people had a bath they might use up all the hot water. And a lot of them had to swim in the sea, but for the amount they paid in those days they got a wonderful, I mean the beach parties were made up and picnics for the guests and tennis tournaments and clam bakes.

Interviewer: Approximately, just for fun, what did they pay for a room in those days, lets say a couple?

Guest: Well I think in ~~peace~~<sup>tents</sup> it was fourteen dollars a week. And in the ~~bo~~ house 18 dollars.

Interviewer: And did that include meals?

Guest: Oh yes.

Interviewer: My word!

Guest: And all these as I said it was very different, but if it hadn't been for all of us working we didn't really get wages until later on otherwise it couldn't have been run because the cook got his pay but we did the waiting my sisters. The boys ran the farm.

Interviewer: Did Billy the cook live there at the lodge?

Guest: Yes he had a little cottage behind the kitchen.

Interviewer: And there was a, well they didn't call it licensed liquor then, but there was a bar there?

Guest: No we didn't get a pub license until again 1930 I imagine or something like that and it was just for beer only.

Interviewer: I imagine the restrictions were just as strict then.

Guest: Yes I think while the family were there we didn't ever have what we call a cocktail license or anything like that. If anybody was having a special party you could always get a license for the day. Like for a wedding or special dinners or like Christmas night.

Interviewer: Were there ever any famous people that ...

Guest: I think there were a great number of famous, at least well-known people, whether they were writers or just to think of them right now I can't remember them. But there were many amusing characters too. Many of them would write stories about Harbour House and the Irish way of running a hotel as they used to call it.

Interviewer: Irish way?

Guest: Yes, Irish way.

Interviewer: Was that a compliment?

Guest: I think it was meant as friendly. They used to call it a friendly, chummy hotel.

Interviewer: Well a family hotel.

Guest: Yes it was and it was very, I mean they could have cups of tea whenever they wanted and blazing fires going in the what we call the little drawing room and the big lounge. Bridge was a great thing every evening for those who wanted it. Sing-songs, very musical evenings.

Interviewer: Someone that could play the piano in the family or was it all ...

Guest: No, my sister-in-law, Dorris Crofton she was a well known. She taught music here on the island for years. She just died last year. But she was a great musician and a wonderful teacher.

Interviewer: Let's see we haven't talked about your father yet. Let's progress a bit there.

Guest; Well, he came as a boy of 19, no I think he was only 16 when he came to Saltspring Island and he came out to stay with Jack Scavell.

Interviewer: Now this is where the Crofton comes in.

Guest: This is where the Fred Crofton yes Fred Crofton, my father came out from Ireland at the age of 16 to stay with Mr. Scavell and then eventually he bought the property the hundred acres which is now

the Harbour House Hotel. Then at the age of 19 he married my mother, they were very young.

Interviewer: Your mother was that age also?

Guest: No she was just two years older. And as I said she was Nona Wilson. So they lived at Harbour House and I think we've pretty well covered the early days of a farm life 'til the war. Dad had a great Irish sense of humour and he played tricks on the guests if he could in fun. Anyway he was very amusing to them all and if he really liked someone, he'd give them early morning tea at seven, at least six or seven in the morning. I don't know if everyone appreciated it. I know one morning he came up to me very early, but it was only to get me out of bed to wait on tables. I didn't want his strong, black tea. Anyway, I did get up.

Interviewer: That would wake you up wouldn't it? The strong, black tea.

Guest: Yes, oh yes.

Interviewer: We're are going to discuss I think for the moment present day families. Doreen's own family her husband and her, it's three children?

Guest: Yes. I was married in 1938 to Fred Morris who I think many Salt-spring Islanders will remember. He also served in the Navy during the war and we had three children, Wendy, Robert (known as Bob of course), and Jim. They had their education on Saltspring Island except Bob went to the university school in Victoria for three years. It was a happy home during the war I spent most of my time at Harbour House and my husband was away, as I was able to help and drive the car for them. I only had the two children then, because Jim was born after the war. My husband Fred, drove what we call the bus before the war, into Victoria, not a great big bus of course but a seven passenger car. It went right across on the ferry so it was

very convenient. He also was asked to do a lot of shopping for people. Sometimes somebody would ask him to get a pair of stockings for them size or colour and he'd have to go hunting around because he did have to spend the day in Victoria before he came back.

Interviewer: Which ferry was this now?

Guest: This was the <sup>Sy Peck</sup> ~~Safateck~~ it was from Fulford to Swartz Bay. That was the ferry at the time. Some of the things were quite extraordinary, the shopping that he did for people. Even a corset I think or something like that. I think we had ordered it but he to anyway go and pick it up. Then at that time there was no liquor store on the island so he would have to go to Sidney he had orders from different people on the island.

Interviewer: I bet that was a busy day.

Guest: That was and he had to have plenty of cash, sometimes over a hundred dollars he had been phoned for and he had to pay it out and then collect it when he came back. So it was busy at the time for him.

Interviewer: He was really almost the island taxi cab driver then.

Guest: Yes only a little further to travel. But our first home was the King house which really where Greenwoods is now when we were married. And then as I said war broke out and we moved to Harbour House, at least I did, and he was gone for the duration.

Interviewer: Did you maintain your home, the King house?

Guest: No we were only renting it, so when we came back this did belong actually, the present house I'm living in now, belonged to the Japanese the D.D.A. took them over and so we bought this through the Department of Veterans. And lived here ever since and he died just before four years ago when he couldn't do anything he was sort of a mechanic and also drove a school bus and he was dearly loved by all the children

because he is very fond of children and he always was known as Uncle Fred. He was one of the favourite bus drivers.

Interviewer: Well let's talk about your children, the eldest.

Guest: The eldest was Wendy, she was educated on Saltspring Island right up to grade 12 then went to Victoria and went to business school and she'd only been there 3 months when she was able to teach and pay for the rest of her learning at business school by helping others, which was a great help. Then she, of course, met and married Peter Bowsfield, her husband they have two little girls and very sad to say, they lost the youngest one, Tracy the eldest one Tara is a beautiful girl now 14, but little Tracy died when she was four years old. That was a terrible shock to us, but Wendy waited a year or two and overcame this gasty shock and they adopted two little girls, two sisters, they adore the little things. And she's been a marvelous mother to them and call me Granny and feel as if they are really just part of the family.

Interviewer: How old are the girls now?

Guest: They're seven and five.

Interviewer: Oh they weren't twins?

Guest: Well no they were sisters though. The little one was just a year old so she was just like a baby really when Wendy and Peter got them. They live in Victoria, out in Oak Bay in a very lovely home and very happy. And then Bob is the next one who's just two years younger than Wendy and he lives in Whitehouse and he married and his wife was a nurse they had a very nice home in Whitehouse and they don't seem to mind the cold weather, they've just come back from a holiday in Hawaii which I think they might need. Anyway they say it's a great life really up there, people are friendly and they have all the sports and

he loves the moose hunting on snowmobiles and that sort of life. They do get to see us about twice a year which is nice, and I've been up there . And then Jim my youngst son was just married four years ago to an island girl, Lynn Carlson.

Interviewer: Lynn Callson it is?

Guest: No Carlson, yes. They live in North Vancouver and he's with the Park's board. But he was the only one in the family to get his B.A. he went to the University of Victoria and he loved writing and he had artistic talents too. I think he's doing better off to make his money in the Park's board then to try the writing which could always be a hobby.

Interviewer: It takes a long time to be famous.

Guest: I think so yes. It's an extraordinary thing out of our entire family, I mean I'm thinking of all the cousins, there's always been one particulatly artistic one out of each family. I'll mention my cousin Barrel Wetherall and another cousin Gladys McDermit who writes and also has done very clever work in potery and paints beautifully too. We've got a number of her paintings. So it's rather fun that there has been artistic members in the family. Those fortunate enough to be given the talent, or have it I shoud say.

Interviewer: Yes and in looking at this old family diary many of the drawings of the old homes are not just photographs they're so carefully put together. We're looking at this charming, well it was the annual wasn't it that your son ...

Guest: Yes well he, I mean all the children wrote in it, but he wrote a great deal, he wrote on Saltspring Island and then he wrote the story of Harbour House and then he did a rather small comedy, at

least a comic one, that was considered the best article in the book.

I think it was so original.

Interviewer: And what's the date on the year book?

Guest: 1966.

Interviewer: Well that's a lot of Saltspring history right in it.

Guest: Yes and on the annual he did his own drawings of the schools.

Interviewer: The cover?

Guest: Yes the cover. Of course everybody has contributed to it Daphne Mouat and many of them.