

RAMSAY, DOROTHY AND JUPP, URSULA

Q. We are talking to Mrs. Dorothy Ramsay, who used to live with Mileva and Tom Todd in Gordon Head, and you were telling me when you first ran into the Todds, you were Dorothy Fulton then.

D.R. Yes, well my mother was a great friend of theirs and they didn't have any children. They were always inviting me to stay with them you know, for weekends, and they would take me places. I got so spoilt and then when they bought the Cadillac and that was many years ago and there were very few cars in town then. You didn't need a licence or anything, it was just like a bicycle. If you had a car, you drove it or you rode your bicycle, whichever way it went. And, what were we saying a few minutes ago?

Q. How you came to visit.

D.R. So I used to go out there and visit with them and of course it was always extended. I never wanted to go home, I think cause I got spoilt. Well, every eleven year old didn't have a Cadillac to go around in in those days and my Aunt wouldn't drive. She didn't like the sound of the engine. And during the First War you know, when she was convenor at Mount Tolmie and Gordon Head parts, you know Gordon Head and Cedar Hill extended so far. And of course, I used to drive her everywhere.

Q. That was the Red Cross Station then. How did she initially get into that work?

D.R. Well she was very patriotic and she joined the Red Cross or seemed to know a lot of her friends were in there working hard, so we used to deliver every Tuesday to houses, just miles and miles of driving, pajamas that were already cut or wool for knitting. And then we'd pick on Friday, from whoever had something done. We were just on the go all the time.

Q. Those were rolling bandages and making socks?

D.R. Yes, and we had the school children come over, maybe you were one of them, no I think you would be older than that, I mean we used to have the children come from the school to the hall just across the street and they would roll bandages by the hour. When you get a whole slew of children doing it you used to get quite a few bandages you know.

Q. I was talking to Marjorie Watson and she said the war really disrupted their Sundays and it used to be that no one was allowed to do anything but go to Sunday School and walk on Sundays, but after the war they were allowed to roll bandages.

D.R. Oh yes, and during the war there were quite a few people, who like you say, before the war started wouldn't do anything on Sunday, and the Parfitt family down there, they were very churchy people and the children couldn't swim or anything, although they had a lovely summer home. Nothing on Sunday.

But when the war broke out, people just knit on Sunday and, you know, just did everything. They were regular heathens as other folk. But we always figured soldiers were fighting on Sunday, so why shouldn't we work for them.

Q. So, your family then, the Fulton family, they lived in Victoria?

D.R. Yes, mother lived in Victoria. She had four children, so she could spare me. Especially when I was always begging to stay there. But, when I used to first drive, I was so little, I was small for my age, and I would have about this much seat, you know about four or five inches, and all these pillows behind me. Of course, you remember in those days, it was the thing to offer anybody a ride, you know, horse and wagon or whether you had a load of hay, and when I used to stop quite a few people said well they thought they would walk today. I couldn't understand this and I said so to my aunt Millie Tod, and she said "Well, Dorothy, don't ask them, because I have heard people say "that little girl running around with that great big powerful machine". It just sounded like a child was driving an airplane, the way they were talking. We had many happy days, and all the Red Cross dances.

Q. Where did you go to dances?

D.R. Oh, in the hall but it was further up the hill, up next door to where Camerons used to live. That was built by all the district and Tommy Tod, that I lived with, Uncle Tom, he said that everybody did something, went up there and worked. And I asked him what he did and he said he was only about seven or eight years old so he used to go up on the roof and hold the nails for the fellows while they built the hall. So even the children got in there and worked.

Q. Tom's father used to spell his name TOD but by the time Tom married Mileva it was TODD.

D.R. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea why Tom changed his name?

D.R. Well, it wasn't Tom alone, it was changed before that you know. You see, they did a lot of commercial things with San Juan Island and they used to send over the sheep and the wool and they tell me, I suppose it was quite true, that they had TOD meant forty pounds of wool, so the Tods were getting so many parcels of wool that they added another D to offset that.

Q. So that's the story behind the name change?

D.R. Yes, that's how they told it there. Ursula, remember when you had Tom out and we had tea with you one afternoon? And you said "Now what did the people talk about when they visited"? And they talked about the good old days and old times and that was a good many years ago.

- U.J. Dorothy, talking about good old times, Sharon says there was some talk of some temperance society or great activity regarding temperance in Gordon Head. I don't seem to remember this.
- D.R. I don't seem to remember, I think there were one or two that talked about it. But I don't think it amounted to much.
- U.J. There was a Temperance Hall or something at Cedar Hill.
- D.R. Yes, that was where it was, the Temperance Hall there. They used to give dances there and we used to go. The girls would take some cake or sandwiches and the boys would pay twenty-five cents.
- Q. That was your box lunch idea?
- U.J. We had box lunches at Gordon Head too.
- Q. Where did the money go? To the Red Cross?
- D.R. Oh yes dear. I tell you who haven't been mentioned much. It's the Sadlers. Ursula, you mentioned the Sadlers in your book, but years before that you remember the Williamsons had the store. And, I mean they were very patriotic and hard working people. They had the first telephone switchboard in their house, do you remember that?
- U.J. Oh exactly, I can see that now.
- D.R. Yes, the two girls were employed by the Telephone Company and they had it right in their house. And we wound up the telephone, you know.
- U.J. Sharon was also asking about what we studied and what we learned in school. All I can say is I'm sure the work wasn't nearly as interesting as it is presented now-a-days. But I find it very hard to remember outside of very basic things. Nothing very thrilling.
- D.R. Of course, I went to St. Margarets.
- U.J. Yes, but when you came out in the Spring, you'd come for a month or two there, it seems like a month or two, with us. I was telling Sharon I envied you your curls because to get curls I would have to sleep on those dreadful rags.
- D.R. Did I ever have curls!
- U.J. Oh, you had lovely curls.
- D.R. Yes, that had to be put up in rags.
- U.J. Oh, you had it in rags too. I won't envy you any more.
- D.R. I'll tell you one thing...I think you should mention the Williamsons, you know, that had the store for so long. He had the first jitney out there, the first bus. But you know, it was the bootleggers that use to interest us when we were children. And I don't know if anyone else ever knew about them. You see we were the only house down in that corner. Then was Mr. Pearsons and the Olsens, but they were up the hill, but they were a long way up. My bedroom

was right over theand they'd come around Cormorant Point, shut off their engines, and you know you could hear every sound over the water. They'd get their oars, and splashing, and they use to come right in there to the beach. You'd hear them, even talking, and then they would be unloading something, you know, the rum runners.

Q. Was that during Prohibition?

D.R. Yes. They would cut up through Miss Finlayson's property. You see there was no building. But we were all so anxious, especially if I had a friend staying with me. I remember we wanted to get up and go sneaking along the beach to see what rum runners looked like. But Aunt Millie said "If you do, they'll probably hold your head under water and get rid of you".

U.J. "Accidentally drowned".

D.R. They would'nt want us to tell tales. But right in that Bay there, you know, that was one of the most popular places for the rum runners.

U.J. Of course, by that time I was living out on Ten Mile Point you see and of course there was little going on with the boats out there.

D.R. You see down at Mount Douglas Park there was hardly anybody there. We were the only house down below the hill. There were others up there, the Watsons ran the Post Office for so many years.

Q. That was in Thrums, that's the place on Dairy Road?

D.R. Yes.

Q. Your mother was also instrumental in starting the Saanich Welfare Society. How did that come about?

D.R. Well, she always seemed to roll up her sleeves and do something that needed doing. And she got a few people together, well she belonged to the Women's Institute for years and she was President.

Q. She was the first President, was she not? No, that was Elizabeth Grant, I think, after that?

D.R. And then she decided that there were so many poor people around that she should do something. I'm trying to think of the Mayor of Saanich at that time. A very patriotic man, anyway he encouraged her greatly. And there was an empty store way out there on Douglas Street and the man let them have it rent free because he wasn't able to rent it. That's when we used to collect clothes and go all around the District, get shoes, dresses, anything that people would donate. And she took them in there and she had quite a few volunteers and you know when they put them up on hangers and things they looked rather nice. And you'd be surprised, it was quite pathetic when people would come in without any soles on their feet, on their shoes. And you know, they would take time

to fit them.

Q. Did you give the clothes away then?

D.R. Oh, they'd give them away, yes.

Q. What else did you do there?

D.R. Well, I remember one incident, somebody gave us two or three beautiful evening gowns and of course, some of the ladies that were working there thought they should never have been donated because they were all hard working people and an evening gown wouldn't be of any use to anybody. So one day a lady did come in and said that they were very hard up but she had been invited to a very nice "do" that they had been accustomed to when her husband was working, but she didn't have anything to wear and wondered if they had anything that was just a little bit better than just anybody's hand-me-downs. So, the women that waited on here told her that this was no place to come. She scolded her for wanting a fancy dress and I remember Aunt Millie went out there and said this was a good chance to get rid of them if it was going to make the lady happy. Let's be glad. And they got rid of their very fancy beaded dresses and the people were very happy. I thought that was a nice attitude.

Q. What year was that then, Mrs. Ramsay, that that got underway?

D.R. I can't remember.

Q. Was it already in the '20's?

D.R. Oh yes, in the '30's. I think so, yes. But I think you can look that up in some of the records. And I think that nice old tree, I'm jumping around, on Ash Road, that leans over? You know so many stories are written about the tree but they are so many miles out and I think that Saanich should preserve that tree. You know, it slants out and there's a few boards up there. Well in the early days, you see, the Tod children, there was supposed to be seventeen of them, they used to be made to sit up there and shoot down the panthers, or whatever it was that bothered them.

Q. Cougars.

D.R. Cougars, I guess, although there were panthers there too occasionally. But anyway, after the fields were clipped, the sheep would eat the bits, you know, they would let them loose in those fields and these animals would come after them, the Cougars. And the children had to sit up there with guns to protect them, and shoot them. It wasn't a playhouse at all, as people think. Somebody wrote in the paper that some Englishman bought it and he had it up there as sort of a little den, he had easy chairs... which is a lot of nonsense, cause who would do that?

Q. This was some time afterwards?

- D.R. That was in the paper not too long ago.
- U.J. It was all imaginary.
- D.R. Who was it that died not long ago?
- U.J. Oh, it was Dorothy Mitchell.
- D.R. Yes, I believe she wrote that. Well, that was quite far out.
- A. What did your Uncle Tom do then, on the Tod place?
- D.R. He never did anything as far as I know. Of course, they used to grow wheat and oats and things like that you know. But it was in a half hearted way in those days. Their big farm days were over.
- U.J. Then the war interrupted.
- D.R. Yes, and he was overseas in the war.
- Q. Oh, he was overseas?
- D.R. Oh yes, for many years and he was stationed with the army of occupation in Germany for some time. He was one of the last to come back.
- Q. How many acres did they have then?
- D.R. Oh, you'll have to look at Ursula's book.
- U.J. Between two and three hundred, I would guess.
- D.R. Yes, I would think so. But they owned all down there at Mount Douglas Park, you know, the waterfront there. The Tod's owned that in the early days. And the government wanted to know if they would like to exchange it or else the Tod's enquired from the government because it was too far away from the house, the barns and the fields, to go down there and plow. And there was all that bit in between, it belonged to the government. So the Tod's traded them the beach part at Mount Douglas down there for land near their home.
- Q. Did you ever remember them growing anything on their place?
- D.R. Oh yes, of course they leased it a lot in those days. When Tom was a small boy and his father was alive, they grew much. But they sold a bit of land then and they leased quite a bit of it. Lee Die, one of the old time Chinamen, very well known, he leased about fourteen acres of vegetables and there was some other Chinaman who leased another forty acres for potatoes.
- U.J. There was the one about, Henry Whitworth told the story, helping him to put a pump on those springs down there the year when we were so short of water. so he could water his vegetable crop.
- Q. Was that the hydraulic pump?
- D.R. When they had it going the Chinamen said the policemen were always coming around cause it was the wrong time to water, you weren't allowed to water, but when he showed them about his pump.
- Q. Was that a Municipal Bylaw then?

- D.R. Yes, there were certain days you couldn't water.
- U.J. It still applied some year later, I'm amazed that this year we are not able to water every day, so far.
- D.R. Aren't you?
- U.J. Not in Saanich itself, I haven't seen any regulation at least.
- D.R. On that farm there were many springs. It was called Mystic Springs Farm in the early days.
- Q. That's just up the road here.
- D.R. The Spring Farm, that's right, it was Cadboro Bay Mystic Springs.
- Q. Mystic Springs was owned by the Tod family as well?
- D.R. No. Who owned that? It was in the Sinclair-Finnerty country wasn't it?
- U.J. Yes, Sinclair possibly owned it. It's called Sinclair hill isn't it?
- D.R. Yes.
- U.J. Sinclair owned quite a lot of land there. They were early holders there.
- D.R. I was wondering about the people that built on that property?
- U.J. The English's had a lot to do with it.
- D.R. Where the spring is out at Tod's farm it must be very wet or they must have special drainage.
- U.J. Oh Dorothy, I walked through there when they had the great machinery working to get the drainage in there and I nearly lost myself down in the mud, because there were such great big drain things. And I stepped, it looked dry, and I started going down and I practically started clawing for the other side. There were mountains of mud.
- D.R. Almost like quick sand. Well that's when Tod walked all around and when he found there were springs there he decided to settle .
- U.J. Of course this seems to be what starts all settlements doesn't it?
- Q. How was the water up where you were staying, at Tom Tod's?
- D.R. Well they had a well down there, but you didn't have to go very deep for the well. The house was quite a distance from a spring.
- Q. Do you remember how deep the well was?
- D.R. It was about fifty or sixty feet. But there was some of them up in Gordon Head you know, that were quite deep, weren't they?
- U.J. Oh, the Dunnetts. Of course, Dorothy, down on our farm we had the well and there was the big tall tower house, you know, and of course that house, when Mr. Ormond had extended our old Dean house, down there, he had plumbing put in. There wasn't there in 1912, there were only two or three houses in Gordon Head that had running water and plumbing, and of course, Mr. Ormond, coming in with money, had built this and a windmill. But when the wind didn't

blow, we would have to pump the water up to that tower and when you turned the thing over so the water didn't come up the spout, but instead went up the tower, it was hard work.

D.R. Didn't you have a motor or anything on it?

U.J. We never had a motor.

D.R. Oh, we always did.

U.J. Well, that was of course later, Dorothy, when that house of the Tommy Tods was built.

D.R. That was their summer home down there, really and truly. They finished it off nicely.

Q. That's where you used to go and stay, at their summer home, is that correct?

D.R. Well it was their permanent home when I was there. But we were the only people down in that valley, yes.

Q. Mileva Tod used to work quite hard in the Gordon Head Community to bring in electricity.

D.R. Oh yes, she did.

Q. How did she go about that? Do you remember that? Were you still driving her around at that time?

D.R. Oh yes. But she was such a quiet timid little thing you would never think she would open her mouth anywhere.

U.J. Very gentle, wasn't she?

D.R. Yes. Well it was Mr. Grant, you know, Jimmy Grant the father, he was very progressive too, and they used to sit there and chat about how they could get electricity in Gordon Head. And I used to listen to them. And I remember her going into the B.C. Electric and they wouldn't listen to her at all, the farmers go to bed with the chickens, you know, there wouldn't be any light bill hardly. And she pointed out where they were wrong, they got up at five or six in the morning to milk the cows and they would use twice the amount of electricity.

Q. Before the city ever got up.

D.R. Yes. And she won in the end, they put electricity in. You know, everything was done very quietly.

U.J. She was a very clever woman.

D.R. She could accomplish a lot without having any arguments with everybody.

Q. So she just lobbied with the B.C. Electric Company, rather than signing petitions.

D.R. Oh now, she didn't bother with that. And then of course the telephone came along too. That was a wonderful thing for Gordon Head. I always remember

once when she was wanting to do some business, the Telephone Company was advertising you know "Do your business by phone". She went on to speak about having the phone moved or something to another room and she phoned the telephone company and they said they didn't do business on the telephone. So she really told them, the man was quite ashamed when she pointed it out.

U.J. They needed a tape recorder that time.

D.R. But Ursula remembers everything, I think, don't you?

U.J. Dorothy, I'm indebted to you for so many little things that I have.

D.R. Well I lived a little different life to what you did, maybe. In a way because I was little being brought up with grown ups. You know, we'd go and visit old timers and things like that, whereas you children would be in bed. Since I was the driver we went everywhere and did everything.

Q. Where did you used to go and who did you visit?

D.R. Oh, I think she was very friendly with the Pooleys, and you know many of those people in those days, the early days, and the Helmckens. This Helmcken now in the Archives in Victoria, he was just a boy you see when I was a girl. We used to go down and visit with his father, you know, the Doctor. And you know, game and everything was so plentiful in those days, the pheasants eating your peas and digging up your corn and I used to always be out shooting birds you know.

Q. For the dinner table?

D.R. Oh yes, and we'd take them to Doctor Helmcken and different friends, it would be a treat for them. But the Game Warden said he'd give anybody a reward if they would catch me shooting out of season but I guess I was lucky. One of the Tods, I guess I'm thinking of Charlie, he traveled a lot. He was a seaman, a Sea Captain, and he was quite a hunter and he used to teach me, you know, all sorts of bad tricks. So I used to go out there and have my gun in the bush, maybe Mount Douglas Park, and when the birds used to come out, you know, about supper time, I would shoot them from the bush and go back and pick them up the next day when it got dark. Everybody in town had birds, Shandleys, later Judge Shandley, and many people like that. But it was such a treat for them. And then I used to take the gun apart, quickly if I heard any voices or anything and I would put them under this stump and some of it behind this tree, and I remember the Game Warden came to me, he must have been quite close, he called out to me before he got really close, and asked me which way I was shooting. I just took the gun apart so quickly then and ditched it here and there and

everywhere else and so we came face to face and I said "I didn't hear anybody shooting".

Q. How old would you be at that time, Mrs. Ramsay?

D.R. Oh I forget, I did it for so many years. I guess I was eleven or twelve, or sixteen or so. I got fourteen quays with one shot once. And I was quite a little kid then.

Q. That was certainly a prize. How did they store food at that time? Did you just give it away?

D.R. Well we had a very good cellar that was dug down deep and we had an ice cream--well when refrigerators first came out. It was a round metal one and its up in the museum now. And they would bring the ice out from town. But before that we just had a very cold cellar, you know, damp and cold.

I was up in the museum one day about a year or so ago, two years ago I guess and there was this round refrigerator of ours, there was only about two in town. I think Aunt Millie bought it from Plimleys, that sold cars, I'm not sure but they sold bicycles and all sorts of things.

Q. Tom Plimley had the first car up in the Sidney area.

D.R. Yes, I remember them quite well.

Q. So you went out Sidney way quite a bit too?

D.R. Well they had it on Yates Street when I first knew them, when I was little. And I went into the museum this day and there were some people around looking at different things that had just been brought in and I had some friend with me, some out-of-town visitors. And I spotted our old, we called it the "white frost" and I said "Well there's our "white frost". And you know, your voice carries and two or three people looked and the man who is the attendant said "Do you know anything about this thing?" and I said "Yes, we had it for years." It was a round one, you turned the shelves around. He said "How about telling us something about it?". He didn't know it was a refrigerator.

Q. And there they had it at the museum and didn't know what it was?

D.R. Well it had just come in you know. But it was the one that we had in the basement.

Q. Did you keep cows or chickens?

D.R. Oh yes and there used to be an old Chinaman who lived on the property, in fact there were two of them.

Q. What were their names?

D.R. Kee and the other one was Kim, the young one.

Q. Kee and Kum?

D.R. They always had a cow and a plough horse, old Kate. Mr. Houlihan finally inherited Kate when we gave the farm up. Then there were four or five ride

horses, we used to do a lot of riding.

Q. That's when you weren't driving the car.

D.R. We always seemed to be busy and doing something you know. Collecting or donating.

Q. Where did you go to get gas for the car?

D.R. Well that was another thing. There was no gas stations in those days so we had the great big tank in the yard and you filled it from a spout. An enormous big thing and you put it in the car. Cause there was no gas stations then. And changing tires was simply something. I was so little for my age and those tires had seventy-two pounds of air. I don't know what they have now.

Q. About thirty-three.

D.R. And it was really hard work changing those and I used to do it and nobody seemed to be able to help me. They got in my way. But you know when you look back and see the things that you did you know...

Q. Did you think you were unusual at that time?

D.R. Oh no!

U.J. People didn't self analyse so much in those days.

D.R. No, they didn't. You just got ready, went to town. I don't think we were so conscious about what we wore as they are now, of course we all had a pretty dress for a dance and things like that.

U.J. I was in the Library up in the University the other day and there was an information centre with various sub headings as to what you wanted and you know there was a section called anxiety management. We didn't have time enough to think about ourselves.

D.R. We always seemed to be enjoying ourselves but I don't think we were put on... it was more natural in those days.

A. Do you remember going out to the Gordon Head Hall?

D.R. Oh we practically lived there. That's where we had dances all the time and you know, the Red Cross. But they moved that Hall. Why did they move it Ursula, do you remember?

U.J. Well it was because...it was on the corner there by Mr. Salsbury..it was when Mr. Salsbury retired from the C.P.R., I think it was Dorothy, bought that house, it was the Camerons and there was this piece cut out to the corner and I don't know what happened altogether, someone said that it was rather noisy up there and he didn't appreciate very much the noise and consequently... you know, Mr. McMullen, Colonel McMullen, paid for having that moved from there down. He was a friend of Salsburys and someone suggested to me that it was practically an act of friendship just to get a little peace and quiet.

But that piece of land belonged with that piece of property.

D.R. Well Mr. Grant gave that, didn't he?

U.J. Yes. And that would have been part of Homewood, Grant's first property, you see. So it sort of tided the thing out, but now you see it is cut up in so many pieces.

D.R. Well, you know in those days there was always something going on, you know, a tea for the Red Cross, a dance or something. When they used to give the dances you know, people would bring their children and make them comfortable on a bench with a pillow, a blanket and things. And I remember I used to go and collect a lot of these old, old people because they seemed to have so much fun at a dance and I seemed to enjoy doing that. I was always carting old people. Who was the lady who lived just down below the Hall?

U.J. Mrs. Woods.

D.R. Yes, Mrs. Woods. I used to even go down and get her and you know she was very old.

Q. Do you remember Grannie Grant?

U.J. That's the mother of W.C. and Mrs. Watson and so on.

D.R. I don't remember her, do you?

U.J. She lived in the little house down below the Williamson's store. That was Grannie Grant's house. I think it is still standing, only much modernized now. Down on lower Tyndall.

D.R. And I think Mrs. Woods had a son that was very high in the American Navy. And you know that poor little house got so run down and he used to come there with all his gold braids.

U.J. But you know, I often think about when we talk about these people being so terribly old you know, it's horrible to really realize that we are just as old. When you think of the age of their children and so on.

D.R. But that hall was really used and they used to use it on Sundays for Church. And I remember when we had a dance we had to haul all the benches out and we had to take them back in after the dance was over, which was hard work.

U.J. Dorothy, I don't know if anyone has a picture, but I understand there was a little turret over that front vestibule that was supposed to indicate that it was for church purposes too, you know, the little entry. But I have never heard of it being photographed.

D.R. I've never seen anything or heard of it.

U.J. Someone told me that that was part of the first design.

D.R. I don't think it had changed at all until it became a jam factory. But you know, cleaning the lamps and everything, it was quite an event.

U.J. But, you remember, we won't mention any names, but there was this man who was mentally inflicted, who, after they had locked that door he used to get up there on moonlight nights and be banging away with an ax at the padlock saying that it was supposed to be a community hall and no one had any right to keep it locked.

D.R. That was true. It was a community hall.

U.J. I can remember him shouting and so forth.

D.R. I can remember after picnicing down in Mount Douglas Park, all the young people decided we would go up and have a dance at the hall, somebody brought their accordian, you know, and the door was unlocked and you could just go in and use it. But you had to put the benches back and clean the lamps, that was the big problem.

Q. Mrs. Jupp, I remember somewhere along the line, that you had a fellow called Navick working for you, for your father?

U.J. Mattick. That was Mr. Mattick who has the big place, at least he's now sold it, out at Cordova Bay. Yes, he came there when he was about sixteen. Bill Mattick. You know him, Dorothy, he worked there at our place. He was the chap that lost an arm in the threshing machine, part of one arm, when he was about four.

D.R. Yes, one of the Todd boys did too.

U.J. Yes, that's right, Donald wasn't it?

D.R. Yes, Donald.

Q. That was one of Tommy's brothers?

D.R. Yes. There were so many, seventeen children.

Q. How could you ever keep track?

D.R. Well, they said they couldn't. Charlie said, he was one of the oldest ones, that he never did get to know his little sisters and brothers cause he went off sailing and to do things, and he always used to say that he knew me better than he knew his real sisters.

U.J. Have you seen this old Bible yet, that they talk about, with all the lists of children. You know, the one that the Griffins had, got it from June did you?

D.R. Where is it now?

U.J. Well, either June has it or her daughter Sharon has it.

D.R. Is that so. Is she still living there?

U.J. She lives on Nancy Hanks Road.

D.R. You should go and visit her. Its worth looking at, I think.

Q. And that dates all the way back to James and John?

D.R. Yes, Ursula, you'll know how far it goes back.

U.J. The last two names are written in by a child. You can see the handwriting.

- D.R. They got it when they were registered, they were registered two or three at a time, do you remember? They had children so often.
- U.J. At any rate, they were all married before any of them arrived, which wasn't always so common. In the old days, was it? You know, you'd see lists of baptisms and the marriage at the same time. But there was no clergyman here to marry then, in any case.
- Q. So, you went ahead and got on with it.
- D.R. Yes, and the children worked so hard in those days, it was terrible. And they used to give them... old Mr. Todd was awfully hard on all the children. He'd time them and give them time to get to school, but they had to run all the way or they'd be late. And when they used to come home from school he'd time them, they had so much work to do, and if they were a few minutes late if they didn't run all the way, he'd punch them. You put in your book didn't you, about one of the girls, they all had jobs and one of them was to sew on all the buttons, and because she didn't get home, she was five or ten minutes late, she couldn't go to the Christmas tree dance. That's all they did, the old original times, they never went anywhere else. Oh, Charlie used to have to drive his mother about once a month to visit Lady Douglas.
- U.J. That was quite an occasion.
- D.R. Yes, I suppose it was.
- U.J. But I think Dorothy, this was a later time, a big jump in time from them, but in a way, in my time too, this at-home day that the women had regularly the second Wednesday or third Tuesday, those were very dignified.
- D.R. Oh they were. Yes.
- Q. What was a typical "at-home" day? Tell me what the day started out with. Did you get up and polish and bustle?
- D.R. Oh yes, and cooked and baked.
- U.J. Oh it was lovely, the food did taste beautiful.
- D.R. Yes, and there was no inviting because everybody knew your day was the second Thursday in the month.
- U.J. We didn't have printed visiting cards.
- Q. It was just understood?
- D.R. Yes, that everybody would arrive that day for tea.
- Q. And what time did they used to come around then?
- D.R. Oh, three or four.
- Q. And who would come?
- D.R. Oh all your friends.
- Q. Do you remember some of the people that would come through then?

- U.J. I can just remember the fact of you know, the sort of graciousness, and you know, of something really happening. Every thing had to be just so.
- D.R. Everyone was just on their best and everything was served so beautiful too, in those days. Hats and gloves.
- Q. Did the children pour the tea?
- D.R. Oh no, no children. It wasn't for children. It was, you know, real social. Just the ladies.
- Q. The Women's Institute, when your mother used to be a director of that, what was its function at that time? I understood from earlier days that they used to gather and share ideas.
- D.R. That's right. And making rugs. The Government used to send people out too, to teach people how to preserve fruit and all sorts of things. They learned a lot there. I remember they had an evening "do". They sent someone out who was going to give a talk, the government man. And of course this was for the men too, so the men attended and the hall was crowded. And this man got up and it was a discussion on teaching how to graft, you know, trees. Well I burst out laughing, a government man was going to teach them how to graft. I remember I could not stop and I was so ashamed and my aunt was so ashamed of me I think she wanted to push me under the seat. But you know, it's funny how when you can't laugh, but the man nodded at me and said "I get your point" and I was away down the hall. So he saw what I was laughing at and he didn't seem to mind at all, but to teach people how to graft!
- Q. When that's been the work of most of the pioneers in that area.
- U.J. Who wouldn't have survived without grafting. Later on, though, I think there came to be more of a sort of a criss cross of ideas between government departments and the practising farmer. Because I can remember when the Experimental Farm was out there, they would be coming in to our farm getting my father to try out experiments or seeing what he had to say about things and so on, as they were doing at lots of other farms too, I expect.
- Q. They came around, I think, with the British Sovereign strawberry in 1920.
- D.R. That wasn't a good keeper was it, the British Sovereign?
- U.J. Well it had a good flavour, but I can't remember it from that point of view. And yet it did displace the old McGoon, Paxton and Sharpless. The Paxton was such a rich smelling, remember that purply look it had? Perhaps the Royal Sovereign, was it Royal Sovereign or British?
- Q. British.
- U.J. Yes, perhaps it was better for those loads that they sent to the Prairies or something like that.
- Q. Well if it wasn't a good keeper though, it would have probably been the McGoon

that they would use.

U.J. There must have been something that made it preferable, because it certainly displaced the others pretty well.

Q. Now it is almost impossible to find a British Sovereign berry.

D.R. My Saanich has changed hasn't it? You'd hardly know it was the same place. You know we used to go out to Turgoose's, the Turgoose farm.

Q. Who was living at the farm then?

D.R. Oh I think old Mrs. Turgoose was alive when I was little, and there was Fred Turgoose and I think he had a couple of married sisters.

U.J. Is that still within what is still called Saanich?

D.R. And then there was the Brooks, you know about the Brooks farm. He married one of the Turgoose girls. Johnny Brooks, he was quite famous.

Q. Was that Emma Turgoose? When you were there? Or would that be one of her daughters?

D.R. I don't remember her name. She would be as old as my aunt would be.

Q. She would have been Emma Pope.

D.R. Fred Turgoose lived up here in the old Todd house for some time. Did you know? I thought that was very interesting.

U.J. No, I didn't.

D.R. I wonder what they are doing with the old Todd house, have you heard anything? I was on the committee for that.

U.J. Oh, the John Todd house, down here. No, it seems like it's gone to sleep for the time being.

D.R. Well I gave the museum two handmade dressers, you know, that were made for the Todds, well when they had seventeen children. They had to make their own furniture and everything. And I gave them, a couple of years ago, to the museum. I used to have them in my room when I was a child.

Q. At the Todd place?

D.R. Yes, they are all hand done.

Q. Tom Todd was the youngest son? What was he like? How do you remember him?

D.R. Yes. Well, he was very nice, very pleasant, very good looking. I think all the Todd were. They were all very well mannered.

Q. Tall boys weren't they?

D.R. Oh yes, six foot two or three, all of them. There was one, Frank, that was six foot seven. I remember the first time he came in and I had a girl friend staying with me, and you know, he almost hit the top of the doors when he came through. He had to put his head under and she said to me "I wonder what the weather is like up there."

Q. You don't remember him working on the land at all?

D.R. Not very much, as I said, they had most of it before the war and leased it out. He grew some oats and things for the horses we had there.

Q. So he was a gentleman farmer?

D.R. Yes, that's right.

Q. And most of the rest of the land was leased out?

D.R. Yes, or sold.

Q. Besides the rumrunners in the Bay do you remember any of the native people around at that time? Did you use to buy fish from them?

D.R. No, they never came out that far. But I think in the early days, down at Mount Douglas Park, the Indians used to come across from James Island and places and land there and walk into town. And they used to walk past the Todd farm, leave their canoes down there. They always dreaded them coming home because they might stay in town for a day or two and because they were always so drunk you know, and they would burn down barns and do anything. So Todd, with all his many children, he sat them at the windows with guns. See, all the children had guns because they hunted pheasant. Until they had gone by and you could hear them yelling and shouting and drunk. And its said old man Todd used to come around and give each one a kick once in awhile and make sure they hadn't gone to sleep.

Q. What do you remember about stories about Mr. Todd's wife?

D.R. The old Mr. Todd you mean?

Q. Yes.

D.R. Well I think she, poor dear, just worked herself to death.

Q. Well with seventeen children....

D.R. Yes, and you know, I don't think she even got to know her neighbours. She had to milk the cows and do the chickens because the men were out in the field, the boys and children, girls too, they had to work very hard. They had to put in hours before they went to school. And afterward.

U.J. Were there Indians working around there in your time Dorothy?

D.R. No, there were a few on Shelbourne Street, you know when they were putting Shelbourne through. And I think another thing, a family that worked on Shelbourne Street with their teams of horses, that was the McMorrans. I don't they have ever been mentioned, have they?

Q. Where did they come from?

D.R. Well they came from Cedar Hill there. But you know McMorrans Store thats out at Cordova Bay, if you went out there they could tell you many old time stories.

Q. You had quite a good tour then, as a young girl, through Gordon Head and down Cedar Hill way. You must have been able to bring a lot of news back and forth.

D.R. Well I guess we all met so often that we, you know, most people got the news spread quickly. Especially with the war, when you were all meeting for things. You know, they seemed to know everything that was going on. Especially when you had about five people on your party line, I think everybody did. And then they used to...what they used to do, you know there was a round handle on the phone and the phone for the neighbour would ring in your house so you would know which neighbour it was for. And often they would get as many as five on the line, so we could all talk at once about a dance or some arrangement we would want to make.

Q. A conference call.

D.R. Yes, but you can't do that today.

Q. No, now you have to pay double the price for anything like that. You had a real advantage then. Let's think about some of the advantages of the early days to Gordon Head. Would you think there would be more of an advantage of living in the early days than the present.

D.R. Oh absolutely. I mean now its nothing but living in town. The houses are close together and I think all the pretty spots are closed in. You can't see them. Oh yes, there is no comparison. And some of these houses, look to me like they are built on six inches of square land. You know the farmers of that part that I sold down on Shelbourne Street, have you been out there and seen the houses? They could shake hands. I think it's such a pity, it was just all open country.

U.J. I think its a great pity that they've let the lots get so small. That ten thousand was bad enough, and then the eight thousand four hundred and now its down to six thousand.

D.R. What's that?

U.J. Square feet for a lot. In some parts, I mean. Its a beautiful district. Mind you, I think its the airyness of Gordon Head.

D.R. I think we did more for others in those days. You know, somebody would say Mrs. So and So is sick and you'd pick her up and take her over to see Mrs. So and So, that would like to have her for tea. You know, it seemed to me that I was always carting people.

U.J. I remember the 1918 flu. Of course my mother was dead by this time, but I remember how very kind all the people were around were, they were bringing all sorts of things.

D.R. Yes and do you remember the deep snow? That was really something wasn't it?

U.J. It was the deepest snow we've ever had recorded here.

D.R. Yes.

Q. Where were you at that time?

D.R. We were living out there. The drifts were so high that I think our dining room window... when you got up in the morning you couldn't see out of it. It was days before it melted.

Q. By this time you had gone to live full time with the Todds?

D.R. Well they lived there all the time, I was there most of the time. I think those were the good old days, as I call them. Everybody my age called it the "good old days".

Q. It seems to be a unanimous opinion.

D.R. I think everybody knew everybody and they were more thoughtful, kinder. I think.

Q. There weren't so many people there either. And you were more dependent upon one another?

D.R. No, I don't think so. But if you heard somebody's cow was sick you've have Tommy Todd running up to see if he could help or visa versa.

Q. Was Tom sort of the local vet then?

D.R. No.

U.J. That was old Dr. Ewen that used to come out from town, that was the Vet wasn't it?

D.R. Oh yes, I remember him.

U.J. And the blacksmith used to come out from town and shoe the horses. And somebody, maybe the butcher, killed the pigs and so on. I come in at a little later time than you, Dorothy, and a few years in childhood makes quite a lot of change. Its surprising.

Q. Especially at that time when so many things were happening.

D.R. But I think when the war was on, that first war, I never knew of any group that worked so hard. I never heard of any. They just went into it whole heartedly.

U.J. It was the good leadership we had. But I think Mrs. Todd was such an excellent leader in the first war, and Mrs. Mitchell, in the second. She was very competent. And, like Mrs. Todd, was able to do it so quietly.

D.R. Yes, and everybody seemed to like them too. There was no problems in trying to persuade anybody. When Mrs. Todd got the empty store for the Red Cross, everybody seemed to want to help.

Q. You still called the Saanich Welfare Society still under the auspices of the Red Cross then?

D.R. No, it was called the Friendly Help.

Q. It was called the Friendly Help. Where did she get that idea?

D.R. Well there's been one in Victoria for years and years, you know, and I think she just spread it out to Saanich.

- Q. And she knew about that. Did she get any help from Friendly Helpers in Victoria.
- D.R. No. We got volunteers from Saanich. There was plenty of them you know. People used to come and spend the whole day. Some only half a day.
- Q. Did people think of that as their sort of duty?
- D.R. Seemed to. And they seemed to enjoy it. If you weren't in there working at some patriotic thing you sort of felt left out yourself.
- U.J. Part of things, that's right. Mind you, theres more of a variety of things to do in Gordon Head now, Dorothy. But of course its not nearly as few.
- D.R. No, I went out there one day and somebody asked me if I knew Gordon Head at all. Everybody went to everything, didn't they?
- U.J. It's nice that there is still the little Gordon Head Store there.
- D.R. Yes. Who has it now?
- U.J. Oh, there is a couple there, a Chinese man and a French Canadian wife. It's quite an interesting couple there. They have eight children too.
- D.R. Well is the store enlarged, it must be?
- U.J. Yes, its been enlarged quite a bit.
- D.R. Then it was the Oliphants there and the Pearsons.
- U.J. Dorothy, who was that man, not Mr. Atlas, but you know that was out there for one summer. This was one thing that was never put down I think. It was down there your way, on that slope, near the Pearsons. A great health man. You know he was one of these men you see pictures of in the advertisements.
- Q. Sort of a muscle man?
- U.J. Yes, sort of a muscle man. I mean nationally and internationally famous. He was only there for a short time. Dorothy, I had a letter written to me since the book was published by a Mr. Blake who had the seed farm there at the corner of Ash Road and Torquay, you remember and he was the one who married...
- Q. Pollock.
- U.J. Yes, Pollock,...oh no, am I mixing him up with Holroyd? Oh no, this was Blake, and he was married up at the top of Mt. Douglas at daybreak, you know. They went up by horseback part way or something. And he wrote me a very long letter quite recently. He's living over in the Fraser Valley, still... well he must be getting on to eighty.. but still doing seeds and so on. But how they went up there with the sun coming up there with the sun coming up behind the San Juans and shining across the straits and how they had their wedding service. What a lovely thing.
- Q. Did you used to swim in the Bay.
- D.R. Oh yes, we always swam right there in the water.

U.J. I was in swimming last week.

D.R. It was cold out there but we didn't notice it in those days. We just got in there and swam. And, you remember we had the old canoe, that old dug out canoe that belonged to the Todds.

U.J. The Jim Todds.

D.R. Yes, of course that was just left when the house sold. We had some pictures of that too. I've got boxes and boxes of pictures.. I don't know what to do with them. Did I give you that picture?

Q. Yes, we should take those and have them copied for the Archives. Those are fabulous. The picture of Mileva by the first Cadillac car. Tell me about that, I'd like to know. When you first got into that car did you have any idea of how to operate it at all? Or did you just get in and say "Now this is it".

D.R. No, Tom, Uncle Tom operated it. It was their car really and he was the driver. But of course I think just with riding in the car I got so I could back it out of the garage, run up to the store for messages in no time. It didn't seem to me that there was any teaching to it.

Q. This large gas tank that you use to keep at the house. How did you get that one filled?

D.R. I think they used to bring it out. I don't know if someone delivered it or if they delivered it themselves. Went in and bought these large tanks.

U.J. Forty five gallon tanks most likely.

D.R. Oh I think more than that. They seemed to be enormous. But you know those cars used a lot of car in those days.

U.J. This is Mrs. Hawkay in one of these pictures isn't it Dorothy?

D.R. Yes, you see it on the back. That's nice of her.

U.J. It's a funny thing, this is the sister of Rober Scott that I was speaking of on the way in. I looked up all sorts of directories and everything and I've never been able to find her name as Mrs. Hawkay but I've never been quite sure of the way it was spelled.

Q. But wasn't Hawkay one of the teachers at Gordon Head School? Mr. Hawkay when James Grant went to school? He remembers him.

D.R. She never taught.

Q. No, no. Not Mrs, but Mr. Hawkay.

U.J. Did he. Well that might be so.

Q. Well I think he was one of the first teachers when James Grant went to school and that wasn't until '96.

D.R. He disappeared or something. It was always a mystery. Nobody ever talked or asked Mrs. Hawkay about her husband.

- U.J. Well he went back to live in the States and she didn't want to go down there.
- Q. So she stayed.
- U.J. She stayed with her brother and her brother never married his love.
- D.R. She was a very nice person, Mrs. Hawkey.
- Q. That was one of the ladies you used to pick up then?
- D.R. Oh yes, I used to take her to town, pick her up on the way home. She was very interested in the young people. She seemed to enjoy them. I think young people were very kind and thoughtful of old people in those days. There was no generation gap.
- Q. There wasn't time for that.
- D.R. No. I mean if old Mr. So and So wanted you to dance and you wanted to dance with the boy you hoped would ask you, you just got up and danced with him and fun just the same. They were all good dancers. Everybody had so much fun.
- Q. Do you remember Peter Merriman playing music at the hall?
- D.R. No. We used to have people by the name of Hunts come up. Played for the Red Cross.
- U.J. It would be about the time the hall opened in '98 when Pete Merriman would have been there.
- D.R. WE used to have the Hunt family. They were very patriotic. The mother played the piano and the father the violin. They were a very musical family and they charged just the large sum of five dollars.
- Q. For the whole evening?
- D.R. Oh yes. I used to go and get them and bring them out and bring them back again. Very nice people.
- Q. Well Mrs. Ramsay, we are coming to the end of our tape now. Are there any other special stories you would like to tell us now?
- D.R. No. I won't think of them I suppose until after you've gone.
- Q. Well, you can call me up and we'll try again.
- D.R. Yes, but it's too bad, I mean there should be more about the Todds and the Todd house. Don't you think there should?
- U.J. You mean the John Todd house?
- D.R. Yes. And the Bowker family. You know, I mean to say that was mingled up with Saanich wasn't it?
- Q. Where are the Bowker family from?
- D.R. Well Bowker married that old Todd's original grandfather, he married the daughter. Johnny Bowker did. So the father gave him quite a section of his property that he owned.
- Q. In Cadboro Bay?
- D.R. Right here.

U.J. Oh I had thought it was the Bowker, Todd and McNeill that married the three Macaulay daughters. I'm wrong there then? No. I've got mixed up, have I?

D.R. McNeill married ... this one, Johnny Bowker, married Todds daughter.

Q. Do you remember which one? I mean out of that whole troupe?

D.R. No, I can't remember. I think I was ladylike and called her Mrs. Bowker when I was little. I think the daughter was Anita and I used to be friendly with her. But this was a big heap of rock that they didn't use for growing anything and this was where a slaughter house used to be.

Q. What did they slaughter here? Just everything?

D.R. Yes, I suppose. Now this is so built up. There used to be a row of poplar trees, do you remember Ursula, down from the old Todd house? Down the driveway?

U.J. Yes.

D.R. Well they are all gone. It's really a shame.

U.J. And there is only one or two pear trees left. But they have protected that.

Q. The family of the famous French pears.

U.J. Yes.

Q. Are those the ones?

U.J. Well these are the ones down at the corner of Shelbourne and Kenmore, that were planted in 1858 or something like that. That word French pears is new to me.

Q. They were supposed to be a cutting from a French pear tree.

D.R. There was one pear tree out there, that LaRitz had just made famous. A great big pear. I can't remember what the name of it was. Maybe it's still out there at our place. You know out there by Cedar Hill where we used to go in.

U.J. Oh yes. I don't know how much that's cut up that field there now, Dorothy.

D.R. Oh its all built up now.

Q. Where was that? Cedar Hill and what?

D.R. Shelbourne is at the other side of it.

Q. And that was part of the Todd place as well?

D.R. All that was. They all gave the land along it. It ran from Cedar Hill, well beyond, from Mount Douglas Park way back there way down to the beach.

Q. Well thank you very much Mrs. Ramsay. This has been delightful, and Mrs. Jupp of course.

- Q. Today is August 19th, 1977 and I am here speaking with Mrs. Ursula Jupp. Mrs. Jupp, last time we visited together we missed out, I think, on some very important details on your father's participation in this community. And also, I think we've missed out on you too a little bit. So we'll have a chance to review some of those things today. After Mr. Beattie brought you up to this first sixteen acres that Mr. Ormond leased to you where did you get started then. Was there a house that you came to?
- U.J. Oh yes. The house you see had been made over from the old Dean house by Mr. Ormond in 1906 and so it was really a very modern house for Gordon Head. And I think I told you that we actually had running water and plumbing and all the things, and hot water. And there was the windmill out there that pumped the water up to the tower house. Of course when the wind didn't blow you had to turn the lever and pump it up by hand up there, and that wasn't simple. But, at any rate, it was a marvelously comfortable house to come to after our little Alberta home.
- Q. That's right, you were in Colman, Alberta, right. A little bit cold and difficult.
- U.J. Oh I remember the marvel of the first morning and turning the tap on and finding warm water came out of the tap. First thing in the morning, you know.
- Q. Was it warm because it had come through the stove?
- U.J. Yes and there would be the tank.
- Q. Copper coil through the stove?
- U.J. Well I don't know if it would be copper or not, but still it was a great big tank there.
- Q. Oh that's fantastic. Hot and cold water in Gordon Head.
- U.J. There were a few other houses but not many at that time. You see, it wasn't until 1921 that the main water system came through. It was just pump, and you got your bucket of water.
- Q. On that sixteen acres there..we talked before and you said it was cleared, but was there anything planted on it at that time?
- U.J. Yes, there were one or two orchards on it. Gordon Head doesn't ever seem to have been notable for its orchards. A few acres of orchard. That land was all cleared and also there was a chickenhouse there for some hundreds of chickens which seemed to be quite a lot at that time. But, I think perhaps Mr. Beattie had built those, I don't know.
- Q. There were no chickens in it that you remember?

U.J. Yes there were chickens. When I came home from school I had to water the chickens and there was one nasty old rooster that used to pick my bare legs. I used to dread having to go in. You put the water in five gallon Kerosene cans upside down, with the tap at the bottom you know.

Q. Did you pick the eggs up then?

U.J. Yes.

Q. And where did they go?

U.J. They must have just gone to the store at Gordon Head. Somehow...this can't have lasted for so very long. I haven't too clear a memory on that. But at any rate, the strawberries were already well started in Gordon Head, really then.

Q. But were they on this particular property?

U.J. Oh yes, some of it. Mind you, you could only grow them for three years and then you had to move to another piece of land and let that lie or put ⁱⁿ another crop, a cover crop or like that. Potatoes or, of course at times, cauliflower and green stuff and so on, because the soil was good. But then, I think as I've said in the book, my father sent for these daffodil bulbs and in the course of time we got ^{to} the change ~~and~~ the whole district really.

Q. Your father was the very first man to commercially grow daffodils in Gordon Head.

U.J. And shipped them. I think the big thing was the fact of shipping them across water and across over the mountains to the whole population, the bigger towns you know.

Q. To Tatteralls in Calgary. Your father was a very community minded man. Did your mother participate very much in the community?

U.J. No. You see, my mother probably....she was taken ill three years after we were here. Besides which, you see, in those days when you have made two moves, we had moved to Alberta and then to here, you used up a lot of your finances. Everybody was working on the land. After my mother died and my father was in his forties, and at that same time the McNaughton family moved to Gordon Head and Mrs. McNaughton was a woman of wide vision. Had done a lot of public work in Vancouver and I think she recognized in my father someone who could have his time used up, who was very active athletically and so on. And so, consequently from that, came the Gordon Head Athletic Club and swimming lessons and my father, and later on Mr. Pearson, used to...

Q. So that would be after your mothers death in 1917.

U.J. Yes, it would be from '17 on then. And of course when we got into the '20's I expect that the flowers were getting busy. But by the way, we are omitting

the Sea Cadets that my father had and that used to meet at our house. In that, there is a big old barn on the corner of Ferndale Road there, with very big beams at the top, you could see the chalk ^{marks} ~~parts~~.

Q. Whose barn would that be?

U.J. Well that barn was built in 1896 and I think it was Edgar Vantreight that told me. It was this Mr. Ewing that built that. But at any rate, my father was very athletic and there was this big rope hanging down from the beams. And this was one of the things the boys had to do, was climb up this rope and so on. And I think it made them very sports minded. And there are people who speak of the good that my fathers many interests and activities did. I don't like to sound boastful.

Q. So Mrs. McNaughton then, did they form an association together, your father and Mrs. McNaughton?

U.J. Well, my father was President and Mrs. McNaughton was secretary. And I was showing you that old minute book that my brother-in-law discovered, in perhaps pulling down that old barn there, and in it is the notice they sent out for the first meeting. It says, I think it is right inside the front cover, it says "At exactly 8 o'clock" - my father was very precise about the time and I think that in, again I sound like one of these annoying people that one of those things that don't make Englishmen apply, but at any rate he found that meetings and so on were very frequently late in getting started whereas in his youth and homeland he'd been used to them being precisely on time. So its rather amusing to see that "exactly 8 o'clock".

Q. And George Watson who was at that time School Trustee, was instrumental in having approval of tennis courts being built on the school grounds.

U.J. Yes, on the school grounds. This was the extra half acre that was bought when the new two-roomed school was built and they knew they were going to need larger grounds too.

Q. And then the school grounds were probably used more extensively ^{then} than before for community recreation.

U.J. I'm wondering. Yes, there was also this field at the corner of Kenmore and Tyndall that Mr. Pither, Luke Pither, who was also benefactor of the neighbourhood, gave for use for sports and so on. I gather, I would say, as far as sports were concerned it was more outside there in that field of Mr. Pithers. But then later on the Gordon Head Athletic Club also had moved when the new school was built. Later on the old one-roomed school of 1891 was moved to the back and the Gordon Head Athletic Club was instrumental in getting that made into a gymnasium with a sawdust floor, you know, and rings

hanging and ropes and so on.

Q. Mostly gymnastics then would take place there.

U.J. Gymnastics, oh yes.

Q. And track would be outside?

U.J. I don't remember really, anything much in the way of track. But I'm sure that snapshot of there being races down at that football field, so we did have.

Q. Your father coached the teams then.

U.J. Well he certainly put the sort of spirit into them and now Grant Lindquist I think was another great helper in that. A very friendly, outgoing, kindly chap.

Q. Was there a PTA Association at that time?

U.J. I don't remember any...No, oh no.

Q. Definitely not then. Not anything that would even be vaguely similar?

U.J. When I moved back to Gordon Head in 1929 or 30 and my children were going to the Gordon Head School, there was a PTA there then, but I had been away from the district for eight or nine years.

Q. You helped to initiate some of the PTA's around in this community did you not?

U.J. Well I helped with them and with the one down at the Mount Douglas High.

Q. Lets talk about the Sea Cadets then. Where did the Sea Cadets come from?

U.J. Well they were the boys of the neighbourhood. Well I don't know what started Sea Cadets? There was a Reverend Mr. Henish, here in Victoria, that was very active in starting the first ones. And there were the Rainbow, they were the Sea Cadets in town. There were Sea Cadets and then there was the Navy League. Seems to be ^{me} there were the terms 'Sea Scouts', 'Sea Cadets' and the 'Navy League'. Or maybe I've got it the wrong way around.

Q. Was this an official regiment then?

U.J. Oh no, I don't suppose it would be more than a dozen boys possibly. But don't forget how small the population was.

Q. When I said official regiment, what I meant in terms were they recognized?

U.J. Oh, recognized, yes. And one year we had a car in the May 24th parade, I remember, with Edgar Vantreight driving.

Q. Down in front of the Empress?

U.J. Yes. I remember riding in this car, with the boys too I suppose, on account of my father. I can remember driving by the old Dominion Theatre, but I can't remember...

Q. That's generally where the parade was down in front of the Empress on the 24th of May. That's wonderful.

- Q. So, then, what would be the sort of function of the Sea Cadets?
- U.J. Well they learned to handle boats...that photograph that you reproduced of my father is in this what they call "whaler" I think, this boat that they learned to row in and to respect the sea. This was one thing my father was very keen on. Then I think it was social to some extent, they learned the morse code and knots and on our kitchen wall for a long time was a drawing of a diagram of a full rigged ship with the full names of the sails. Really one thinks now a days, what was the importance? But still it was something, its a knowledge that boys acquire I guess.
- Q. And they used to meet at your home?
- U.J. In the kitchen down at our place. And went out in the barn and climbed and so on.
- Q. How often?
- U.J. Well I don't know, if it was once a week. Seems to me that was quite often.
- Q. Were they also part of this group that would belong to the Gordon Head Athletic Association?
- U.J. Oh I would think so, yes. Yes, I'm trying to think if they were contemporary, more or less I think, yes. Mind you this isn't too many years out of the many years that Gordon Head existed, that we are speaking of. They were very good years I think. And I think remembered by a lot. Of course time is passing now.
- Q. So you used to have a lot of young...were they teenaged children? Young teenagers?
- U.J. Yes, twelve to eighteen, something like that most likely.
- Q. So the Edwards home was quite an open place then for the children of the area?
- U.J. Well yes, but rather strange with no mother there really. What I mean to say I'm wondering really how tidy the kitchen actually was.
- Q. When you had a dozen teenagers meeting quite regularly, I can imagine.
- U.J. I would like to tell you one thing though that really happened. People would drop in sometimes, but at bedtime we always had hot cocoa and Ormonds hardtack biscuits and so on, home made butter you know, that sort of thing. My father played the tin whistle and you know, listening to that and having cocoa...
- Q. Your father was also not only concerned about teaching the young men with respect of the sea on the boats but also in the water. He used to do swimming lessons.
- U.J. Well that wasn't only young men, it was everybody through and through.

Q. Where did those take place?

U.J. Down at St. Margarets usually because that was a slightly warmer beach, a flater beach. We, ourselves, most frequently used to go down to the bottom of Paul's Terrace there now, but that's steeper and so on, but all I can remember of swim lessons was at St. Margarets, Margaret's Bay. I don't know why that got used, St. Margaret's, you know, for a long time.

Q. What sort of folk would be there, for swimming lessons?

U.J. Well, I would say it really was predominantly feminine and I don't know what age it would go up to, some girls, some young women, some married mothers and so on.

Q. Was this all part of the Gordon Head Athletic Association?

U.J. Yes.

Q. And so that was one of its programs as well?

U.J. Yes.

Q. Can you think of anything else that they sponsored?

U.J. Well there was, of course, Mr. Watson's singing classes in the Wintertime which were very nice and there was football and various concerts and then, of course, the war was on then so they were helping to put on functions to raise money for the Red Cross. But I feel we are spending a lot of time of what was short period, to me it seemed very interesting and to anyone who lived in Gordon Head then. And it made a good community.

Q. What happened to the Gordon Head Athletic Association?

U.J. It just gradually, when Mrs. MacDonald and my father let it go it really...

Q. What time would that be?

U.J. That would be in the early 1920's. There was only about six years I suppose, but you know the years in your middle teens and so on, it seems a long period of your life at that time.

Q. Well, I think as well, it helps to shape a lot of the young people that were around at that time.

U.J. I there there's a lot that would still, mind you, now well, if you were a teenager in the 20's..

Q. Your father then became very busy with the flower business.

U.J. With the flowers and so on. Yes.

Q. Did you maintain that same sixteen acres.

U.J. Oh yes, it increased. Rented land next door to us. Mr. Mitchell who lived next door died quite young with a bee sting, I don't know if you've heard that sad story, and we rented their land.

Q. How many acres was that?

U.J. Well in the end there was thirty-eight acres.

Q. And that was all leased, you hadn't purchased any of it?

U.J. No. By the way, we leased Mr. Ormond's for six years, but in 1919 there was a marvelous strawberry crop and very good prices. And so that gave my father enough capital and Mr. Ormond was willing to sell. And I can remember that was the first holiday we had and my father and my sister and I went to Vancouver and Chilliwack and Seattle. But that was the first holiday.

Q. In 1919 and so at that period he bought the sixteen acres that Ormonds had previously owned and leased to you. Do you remember, or have any idea...

U.J. Of the price? No, I don't. And it included a house. I know it would sound pitifully small now.

Q. I imagine it was a great, great amount of money at that time.

U.J. I know my father was paying that off for many, many years. I forget how much a year.

Q. Did you mortgage it through Ormond?

U.J. Yes, Mr. Ormond was very generous in his arrangements. Oh, yes, I was forgetting there was the other five acres that we bought that was just the millstone around my father's neck. This was bought in 1912 or 1913. The five acres through which Grandview now runs, the middle part of Grandview.

Q. Where the school was? No, not the school, the hall was? At Grandview and Tyndall?

U.J. Yes, but you go down the hill to the East, down towards the sea, down the slope there. Where Narvaez Road is and so on. It was next to the Mitchell's. Now I think that my father bought that, isn't it dreadful to think of now, it was \$1250 in 1912 or 1913 when there was a big boom on and it was bought for much less many years later. I know that the first payment on that, as I discovered long after, a good bit of it came...my mother's father had sent out some money, he said "Well you'll be getting some of this sometime and you might as well have this now." But I can remember paying. This thing used to come from the brokers in town and it said it was time to pay on the mortgage. And I can remember it was always a blue day when you saw that come because money was very hard to get. After the 1940's, you know, money wasit took you a lot of work.

Q. What about this five acres then, what did you grow on that?

U.J. More tulips and daffodils as you read in the book. It was gradually extended to tulips. Yes, that was where Colonel Woods there next door, this man retired and came back after the war, retiring to the Coast from Winnipeg, and wanting to grow something and saying "Well, I don't want to go in competition with you and grow daffodils. And he started to grow tulips.

Q. I don't know, did we say who you bought the five acres from?

U.J. No, I think it came through B.C. Land and Investment or something. I don't know if we knew the owner. But then, later on, he rented from Mr. Johnny Smith,

another five acres to the South of that, which was in bush and which we cleared. This is the land through which Grandview widens more or less now and all those pieces there over where it joins the Vantreight property.

Q. So as a total then you had thirty-eight acres. The land that you leased from the Mitchell family would only be what, about five acres?

U.J. Ten. But mind you, they would have kept some of those acres around the house. He may have only rented five. I can't remember just how, what made up that total. It must have been ten there. And he had later what was the Twinings. Anyway practically from where Ferndale is over as far as where Grandview runs up now, straight up through there, a line straight up at the other end of Grandview and then this new part of Grandview circles through it.

Q. So then, in '44, Bill Mattick bought out the property?

U.J. Yes. Bought out the stock.

Q. How long did you hold the land there?

U.J. The land? Gracious me. My father had divided the property between me and my sister. We were all the family.

Q. Was Pamona still living on the property then?

U.J. My sister and her husband, yes. But they only have three quarters of an acre left now. My sister still has all, well I mean until recent subdivisions and all this last big thing, she kept hers. But I, first I sold the five acres the lower part of Grandview was on. That was sold to one of the radio stations in town here. It was afraid it was going to have to move one of its transmitter poles and they wanted to get five acres of land and do you know, I forget I forget, imagine after all the interest my father paid, fifteen hundred dollars an acre, seventy-five hundred dollars for five acres. Then CJVI didn't have to have it and they now have their poles over off Cedar Hill Cross Road, isn't it? And so then that was bought from them. Its pathetic to hear that that sold for not nearly as much as when my father paid so much. It's shocking. Then I still had five acres left on top and I occasionally had people renting it but it was difficult. Then the real estate people began to want to subdivide and taxes were going up and so on. It was costing four hundred dollars a year or something, so I....it was very hard to part with it.

Q. I imagine so. But its nice to know that Pamona still has three quarters of an acre And the original house.

U.J. She's still in the original house, yes.

U.J. Yes, and how the trees have grown.

Q. Any of the ones that you planted?

U.J. Yes and you know the little ones that have seeded themselves since we came there and now they look like they've been there an ~~enternity~~. *eternity*

Q. I think maybe we should move over a little bit. Lets talk about Wildwood and how Wildwood got its name and how you came to live there.

U.J. Wildwood was even named Wildwood in 1912 when we came here and we used to, I think I mentioned before, drive over each summer in our horse and carriage for lunch with the Ormonds at their summer place on Ten Mile Point. Having lunch out under the big Arbutus tree on what is now Seaview Road. At any rate, I always wondered about this lovely place Wildwood that was down here. This was one of the very early subdivisions in Gordon Head, in fact, the first residential subdivision put into Gordon Head was when Mr. Appleton subdivided all his land along Arbutus cove here into two acre lots in about 1908 or something like that. This Mrs. Bannerman had bought this. Then when George McConnell came to Gordon Head and started Madrona Farm and had this English professional woman gardener, she, Mrs. Bannerman, had her lay out ... that is why we have the circular part. But the house that we are in now wasn't built until we came here in 1941. By that time I had one marriage come and gone and had two daughters and I had worked for ten years down on the farm.

Q. Which farm was this?

U.J. My father's farm. I was living there. My sister was doing the housework mostly. In fact, when I came there in 1929 or was it '30, she was still going to school, to high school. I did a lot of the business end and animals, the physical end of packing and invoicing and so on. And extending by a lot of correspondence and no typewriters, all over Canada to extend the sale of daffodils.

Q. So you were working very hard then at the business end of it.

U.J. Oh, very hard.

Q. Your sister was tending house, your father was in the garden...they were working hard too.

U.J. As I said he was born...he was getting to be a fair age by this time too.

Q. Now Mrs. Jupp, I was going to ask you about "From Cordwood to Campus". Why did you get interested in it? I know that you were a teacher and that you were a history and geography teacher. Did you have a natural leaning then toward history?

U.J. Oh, I always loved words. Well, I think I liked writing and literature. I remember when my first marriage was in difficulties, I had a feeling that I wanted to do something about writing. This of course was when the '30's were starting

and there wasn't money to do anything very much. Just to come and work on the farm sort of kept us fed and together and so on. And then I married and my husband was ill because he had this stroke up in the Aleutians in the war and he was a Marine Engineer. So it wasn't until after he died...

Q. Your marriage to Frank Jupp?

U.J. Yes, my marriage to Frank Jupp. And I acquired three nice stepchildren. All the children were pretty well grown up except the daughter you met just now, Nancy Craig, who was only fourteen. And so, I started...I don't know, I saw this course in journalism in night school up at the College which was down at the old Normal School at that time, that Dr. Leachman was giving and I took that and then they were doing some work on widening Shelbourne and I thought "That's a subject that will give a lot of people interest". So I did a lot of research and I got what turned out to be a two-part article. The terrible thrill the first Sunday it in print, you know. So then, of course, one thing leads to another.

Q. What year would that be then?

U.J. 1958, I think. Yes, it all seems so very slow. Late starter, my children.

Q. You've been going full strong since then though.

U.J. Right.

Q. Can you tell me a little bit about the work that was involved? When did you first get interested in writing history about Gordon Head and why?

U.J. Oh, well having written about Shelbourne Street and I always had been interested in roads, the names and so on. Even in the days in Gordon Head here when I was still on the farm and Mrs. McNaulton and Miss Nellie McLung had this current events club going. I remember giving a talk there once on the names of roads and the district and things that I had found out about it. So, of course, I started to enlarge and I think a great many of my earlier articles were based on the names of roads and this led to my interest in people and so on. So, eventually after I had had twenty-six articles printed in the Islander, everybody was always saying "Why don't you have it in a book? . . . I had always meant to keep them." I found so many people interested and I myself was very interested and enjoying it, because I like words, you see. And, so it grew. But it was a lot longer job even making a book, it seemed, even though I had my scrapbooks and so on.

Q. When did you begin then, actually, putting together the book?

U.J. Let's see, that came out in 1975. Oh, it must have been about two years before that and I knew that if I put it out I wanted to get it published in September to get the Christmas market, which meant you had to get it to the printers in June or May. Of course, you see, in the meantime, I had done this other sea thing through, having been a member of the Thermopolae Club, which was a sea lovers club and this, of course, my love of the sea goes back to the fact of being born

right in the midst of it so much. So I had got used to using Morris' printers and the joy of being with them, so I thought that I would like them to do this book too. So I knew that I had to get it in by May and I was hoping to have it out for 1974, but I didn't manage it. But it took me all my time, more or less, to get it done.

- Q. Would you like to share how you went about doing some of the research? You had already accomplished quite a bit through your articles in the Islander, but I am sure that there was still an awful lot more to it.
- U.J. A lot of physical work, Sharon. You know, in the old days before they had the newspapers on microfilm that you went down about four storeys under the Archives down into the sort of morgue or something, down below, you know those great huge volumes. I remember an article I wrote once about the lighting of the Parliament Buildings and Legislature in town here. I figured out that I lifted a quarter of a ton of newspapers before I got it done. And of course, you know too, how one thing leads to another when you are looking at old newspapers. And then of course, people were very helpful and very kind everywhere you go. People have a lot of patience and the ones who have the most patience, one doesn't dare use their name where one is going to exploit.
- Q. Primarily then, your research was done through Archival research. Did you visit any of the people you became familiar with?
- U.J. Oh yes, that was very interesting too. Mind you, in the earlier part I had done all the research, you see I first did a group, after I did Shelbourne Street, I think I must have done a group of five articles on Gordon Head. At that time I found it a little bit difficult to persuade the Editor of the Islander that a series of articles would be interesting. I don't think that they had used any series. Not that they appeared consecutively, I think they may have occupied up to two years possibly. Maybe not that long, I can't remember the dates now, but it worked out and at any rate it has been very satisfactory because it has given a lot of pleasure.
- Q. Certainly to many of the families of Gordon Head.
- U.J. And yes, it's strange to say, even other people who are visiting here. One of my earliest thrills was one of my earliest sales. This woman wanted two more copies because one of them was for a professor of history in Minneapolis or somewhere like this, who was Jesuit and had a PhD and so on. I was terribly flattered.
- Q. Would you care to guesstimate how many you've sold?
- U.J. Well, I've sold more than 1700 now. I had 2000 printed and even this year I have sold 170. So, I'm hoping when the Christmas trade picks up I will have sold 200.

So that will leave me with about 200.

Q. Are you selling them privately then?

U.J. I do to some extent, yes. I do if people come and say I want to get a book from you. But if they say where can I get one of your books, I give them the nameof book shops that are handling them.

Q. What book shops would those be?

U.J. Well at present, Eatons, Munros, Ivy's, Hammonds and Beaver and Shelbourne Pharmacy sometimes, and Dalby's Pharmacy at Cadboro Bay. I hope that I'm not leaving anybody out.

Q. You've got wide distribution then.

U.J. Yes.

Q. Did you do most of your agent work yourself?

U.J. I have done it entirely on this one, so far. I may get rather tired of it in the course of time. For instance, my home port. I don't do any work on myself any more. In fact the copies now are all in the possession of the Thermopylae Club. And I have only about 15 Deep Seas, my second sea book. But what I shall write next, it won't be as extensive at any rate, because it took too many years to get that together. I have several ideas about what I would like to write.

Q. Do you want to share any of them with us today, Mrs. Jupp?

U.J. No, well when I say No, the nearest thing to the top of my mind is about theplane that was built in 1932 and flown from the airport up here, or field, and I understand someone has built a replica of it and still has the remains of the old one and I have talked up in Courtney with the man who built that. A lot of interesting stuff behind that. I also want to write about a friend that I met on a freighter coming from England who is eighty three and having her first book coming out this September and who had an article about her work... her work is more in drawing, some children's books, you know, with captions. But Audrey Thomas wrote a story about this Elizabeth Hopkins in McLeans Magazine. But I met Elizabeth in 1954 and I think when she comes out in October, I knew her first.

Q. And you like to write a story or books on Elizabeth Hopkins.

U.J. Just a story. What I would like to write a book on is my three great uncles.

Q. In the Scilly Islands and their farming.

U.J. Well, the one I think I told you about, the labour leader. The one to whom the words were spoken...Well, Uncle Dick, this is labourer's day, indeed the first time that Labour Day got it's name was a labour leader in the States making his statement to Richard Trevelly and then, another one, who was a clergyman who discovered he had a right to the old French title of Marquis d'Travelle, and the other one was very interested in gardening and did quite exotic things in that way and said at eighty-three "I'm only beginning to learn about it."

Q. Well, thank you Mrs. Jupp, for this today. We've enjoyed it.

U.J. Thank you Sharon. It's been gracious meeting someone who is so enthusiastic.

Q. Thank you.

Interview with Ursula Jupp by
Miss Sharon Manson on August 19th,
1977.