

- 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 ~~entirinity~~. *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.