Mary: Well, in fact, there they are. This is Liz and there's her daughter, her two daughters. There's Jean Dawson. And that's Mrs. Johnson -- that's on the way up to the lake, we walked up to the lake one time. But that's Lucille. I'll just see what...

David: Well, perhaps you could tell me what was the year you first went there?

Mary: Went there in 1908.
David: And how old were you then?

Mary: I was a year old, so that early part is not too bright.

David: And how many years did you spend there?

Mary: Well, till I was sixteen, until we came down for school and went back... We stayed there till the two youngest had to go to school, which was, what was... I went there in '08, six -- 1914, I guess, we came to Vancouver. Then went up every summer for the holidays. My father worked in the saw mill though.

David: Oh, he didn't own the saw mill?

Mary: No, he didn't, he worked as, what would you call it, manager. No, it was operated under the R.I.C. Cannery Management.

David: Oh, I see. It was part of the R.I.C.?

Mary: I think it was part of the company that... I think that was B.C. Packers.

David: Yes, I'm pretty sure it was.

Mary: Yeah. It had the cannery as well, as far as I know.

David: Was there a cannery on the saw mill site to begin with? My understanding is there was a cannery called Victoria Cannery.

Mary: Now there could have been because those huge storage... these buildings...

David: Right.

Mary: ...are certainly large enough to have been a cannery at one time, but I never myself heard of it.

David: So the saw mill was built by B.C. Packers then?

Mary: I think it was put up at the same time. I can't give you accurate information on that.

David: It was there to supply the cannery with boxes, wasn't it?

Mary: Yes, they made boxes for the cannery and maybe for... They sold them, I think, to other canneries too.

David: Oh I see, to the Inlet?

Mary: Yeah, they weren't put together. They were just the makings -- do it yourself packages of cut wood. And I know
they supplied other building materials for the Inlet, because we used to have a freighter or two come in. But that is what would have been the cannery, certainly, if it was a cannery to start with and I'm not sure of that.

David: So how big was this saw mill itself?

Mary: Yeah, I'm looking for a picture of that.

David: Was it a very big operation?

Mary: Oh, I'll give you a picture of the cannery, of the saw mill. I've got one here for sure. Well, there's part of it there. And then there's other buildings. I've got an overall picture, though, in another album here. Those are the buildings where the workers lived, and that's the beginning of the Indian reserve right there. But all that was a whole line of houses. Well, the saw mill provided the lumber for all of that.

David: And it provided lumber for all the canneries in the Inlet?

Mary: I think anybody that wanted building materials, yeah. I think they were in business to sell. There was no other...

David: How many men did the saw mill employ?

Mary: Yeah, I've got a picture of the whole darn staff if you just give me a minute here. That's part of the settlement but it's the same part so it's not very helpful. That's not showing the actual cannery. That's old Cana Lake -- somebody rowing a boat out. I've got a mixture of old war pictures and every other old thing. No, that's none of that. Those are two totems that were brought down to Victoria.

David: Were they from R.I.C.?

Mary: They're from the Victoria side, I think.

David: They are, eh? They are from over...

Mary: Victoria saw mill side, yes, I believe, yeah. Well, I think they are up in the... I think they are now at the... They were Doctor Hart's. That was his farm and...

David: Who was Doctor Hart?

Mary: Doctor Hart was coroner of Victoria for years and years -- he was practicing physician over there. E.C. Hart and his daughter married Cliff Carl of the museum. And these were then transferred to that site. They were transferred at some time from the farm out in (inaudible) to the courtyard out in front of the Victoria Museum, you know.

David: Oh I see. So they originally came from Rivers
Inlet?

Mary: Yeah, these originally came from Rivers Inlet. Now whether they came from up the lake around that beach I don't know, I don't think so. They were in very good shape. And it was just, I know someone who can tell you.

David: Do you know who owned those poles?

Mary: No. But I tell you in Victoria there's a chap -- Ted Hart, who is my cousin, and Babs Carl -- I don't think Babs would know too much. They'd know about those totem poles though. That's what they would know about. And they live over in Victoria, because those were theirs.

David: Well, I could see them at the museum, couldn't I?

Mary: Yeah, you could, yeah. Those are the people that... Well, I'll leave that page open there. That's R.I.C. gluing tanks. That's Little Beach, you know. Over where you come down to the river you'd walk through a path and went over to the R.I.C. along there. And that was the beach right across from the saw mill on the R.I.C. side. And there's the stacks of lumber. Now that's the dock that piles are left off running up the river a little.

David: That's quite a bit of lumber.

Mary: Oh, there was a lot of lumber. That was only one storage thing.

David: So it looks like it was a fair sized mill then.

Mary: Yes, I would think so.

David: About how many people did it employ?

Mary: Yeah, I'm sure I'll find that picture -- all the workers were taken. That's wintertime up there -- that's my dad. Did I ever, does she got a copy of that picture, I wonder?

David: I don't think it is among these ones.

Mary: No, she probably would know... That's a fishing boat. This was so poor I didn't think it would make a negative. See, that used to be a little Indian affair there, and that was the beach.

David: Now we're looking up towards the river here, are we?

Mary: Yeah, you're looking up there.

David: And the R.I.C. is over here?

Mary: Yeah.
David: Right. And this is the little island at the mouth of the...

Mary: Yeah, that will be it. Yeah, there was a bridge...

David: And there was a village site there, wasn't there?

Mary: Yeah, and...

David: And a boardwalk over to R.I.C.?

Mary: Yes, a boardwalk, yeah.

David: And was there a church in here, and a school?

Mary: Now I've heard of that.

David: I've heard references there was a church...

Mary: There was a school at Victoria Saw Mill.

David: Oh, the school was on that side?

Mary: Yes. Yeah, there was one. Now whether there was one on the other side or not... Here's some of the workers, they were Japanese. So I think it's in this one I'm going to find a total work force. They were East Indians, and Chinese, and... There's a picture.

David: Did the mill employ people from the village as well, Indian people?

Mary: Not in the mill as far as I remember, not in the mill. But it was quite a large settlement. That's the McTavish's Cannery.

David: Oh, I see.

Mary: Which is no longer...

David: Right.

Mary: But that's looking at a full view with that mountain coming up behind. And that's the Indian reserve we're talking about. And there's a freighter loading.

David: Oh yeah.

Mary: That's McTavish's. I don't know where that is. These are the Japanese houses where the workers lived, but I've got, I have got... if you have the time to wait for me to find it.

David: Yeah, I was just wondering... Can I just have a look at that one to see how many houses there were there?
Mary: Oh yeah.

David: I think there must have been at least...

Mary: That is not, yeah.

David: Looks like more there.

Mary: But here -- this is better list, I guess, isn't it? It goes right into the beach. This one wasn't the one.

David: Right. There's at least twelve houses there for workers.

Mary: And that was purely Japanese and their families. And then the East Indians and the Chinese lived in another section just off that. That's the R.I.C. side. And they stowed their logs over in McGlauklin (?) Bay. There's all their log storage. That was our house up there; it was a very comfortable place. Now wait a minute, I'm going to find that. There's Jimmy and Jim Dawson when they came up to the Inlet. They used to bring the logs in under the wharf and up the little river, and then up a stick, which is still there. I think that... We're going up this year for sure.

David: Are you?

Mary: We're determined to get up there this year. Now wait a minute, that's that one, that's done at the work force there.

David: So there are East Indians, and Chinese...

Mary: Yes, and Japanese.

David: And Japanese people, eh. How many would there be here? At least thirty-one there, eh?

Mary: Yes. That's my dad.

David: Oh yeah. And he managed the mill?

Mary: Yes, for the cannery. It was under their real management, you know. And that's over at the R.I.C.

David: And who would they be?

Mary: They're... well, that's before... No, those were probably... well, they might be fishermen, of course. I didn't know any of those people. That's where the superintendent... Indian houses at Rivers Inlet, that's the Indian houses that used to be the other side. You know down around, yeah. That's McTavish's. Boy, I was going to repaste these. Do you ever get time to do your photographs? I don't know of anybody that ever does. But I've got some more. And that's the same picture, group of employees -- 1908. That was taken, he's got
it recorded. West coast, oh yeah, that's when they came over in the summer from the west coast to the island on the Quinna(?). That's a group -- they came over...

David: To work?

Mary: Yes, to work in the canneries. The canneries were going full blast in those days. That's McTavish's looking out. What's that?

David: That looks like the cannery.

Mary: R.I.C. Cannery, yeah. Those were all the hatcheries when the little hatchery was at that...

David: Oh, that's the hatchery, is it?

Mary: Yeah.

David: That was a big establishment.

Mary: Oh it was, it really was.

David: How many people worked in the hatchery.

Mary: Well, I only remember one man and his family and, you know, youngish family. And it was a long way up the lake and we had no way of getting up there, you know. And he never came down, hardly ever came down. (laughs) But one time we went up -- we actually met him up there, or he came to me, that or something.

David: What was his name, do you recall?

Mary: I couldn't tell you. You know my sister might remember more than I do, because she was... I went... She's eight, nine years older -- she was about eight or nine when she went up there. And I think she would remember some of that other history you would like better than I do, because I was much younger. And she's in town -- she lives up at Gibson's and she's in town right now. I haven't found the one I'm really looking for and that's a big one and it's... (Another person comes in.) That's the other person that might... Do you like -- sorry for the informality. We don't wander usually around here, as long as we get something in the mud(?). ... of some kind and he was in there as a bookkeeper. And he lived beside us at Victoria Saw Mill and his children are alive. But they didn't stay nearly as long as we did so I don't know, but they might have some pictures that might be useful. But I'm still going to... If you give me your address I'll find that other one, and in Renko's Chronicles (?) as a matter of fact there's a duplicate of that picture.

David: It would be down...
Mary: It's to the right.

David: Yeah, just after that?

Mary: Yeah.

David: And that was, was that a permanent, like your family residence?

Mary: No, that would summer... No, that would be a summer one.

David: And about how many houses were Indian houses then?

Mary: They must have been five down there, five. Well, we do have another picture of that which shows that reserve.

David: Would you know the names of the families who lived over there?

Mary: I surely wouldn't. No, I just couldn't help you out there at all.

David: And there were at least two totem poles on the beach there?

Mary: Yes, they are there, and I did tell Danny if he ever needed evidence that, you know, that that was always considered an Indian reserve.

David: So the land south of the saw mill was considered an Indian reserve?

Mary: Yes. It was the only sandy beach up there and then our water supply came from a little beyond it, from the creek beyond that.

David: Oh, I see.

Mary: You know what we call McGlauklin (?) Bay, do you?

David: No, it confuses me, the McGlauklin (?) Bay to me is Bella Bella, is up by Bella Bella.

Mary: On no. This in around here, this is the end of the wharf -- there's the end of the float. All in around a bay that runs in around and then the... oh golly.

David: This would be north of McTavish now?

Mary: Yeah. It's the head of the inlet north...

David: Yeah. Well, excuse me, I'm using the wrong directions. This is east and west.
Mary: Oh yes, you got a map? Oh, I've got one too, I never thought of it.

David: Now this is McTavish Creek. Now the saw mill would be...

Mary: Oh, it's named. This a land map? Yes.

David: So the saw mill would be what, this right here?

Mary: Right in here, yeah. And this bay here we always called it McGlauklin(?) Bay.

David: I see, and this creek here would be your water source then?

Mary: Yes.

David: That's the (Indian) Creek. It's an Indian name.

Mary: I guess so. Yes, and then their reserve was just starting at the mouth of that creek and running towards the saw mill.

David: And running up to it.

Mary: Yeah.

David: I see.

Mary: I think I've got a clearer map. What are these little islands? No, there's the (inaudible) River.

David: Oh, this is the mouth of the river. This is where the summer village used to be, right? This is the R.I.C. lot here, I think.

Mary: Yeah. How did this little...?

David: Now the saw mill would be where abouts in this...?

Mary: Well, it must be in that land, that section.

David: Right in this lot here, eh?

Mary: Yeah.

David: Lot 255.

Mary: Yeah, I think so.

David: And then the Indian reserve would go from...

Mary: This way.

David: South of Lot 255, which would be mostly Lot 4 then?
Mary: Yes, it would proceed from there.

David: And then right to the mouth of the creek, (Indian) Creek.

Mary: That doesn't go right to them.

David: No, I think it doesn't quite make it there.

Mary: Yeah, and this would be where they stored their logs all in there. It was a quiet bay. But look, they owned all this too, you know.

David: Who did?

Mary: The B.C. Packers, I think.

David: Oh I see, yeah. Who owns it now then?

Mary: I think they still do. It changed hands once. It changed hands for about $600. I went into the land registry office because I really was determined to get a piece up there, for sentimental reasons, and it was all owned, taxes had been paid on everything. But it was transferred from... There was one transfer in there but I can't remember, but the land registry office has the whole history of the land in there, in Victoria.

David: It does, eh?

Mary: Yeah. I went through the whole works and that's when I picked up this map. But they called this... oh yes, they called it the same name, haven't they, (Indian). Yeah, well that's McGlauklin(?) Bay there -- it's never been named that on any map.

David: Right.

Mary: It's just a local.

David: When did the saw mill close down then?

Mary: The saw mill burned down.

David: In what year would that be?

Mary: That would be when I was fifteen and I was born in 1907. Oh, I was fifteen. What year would I be fifteen?

David: You would have been fifteen in 1923.

Mary: All right, that's when it burned down. We never went back again after I was fifteen. And that was a very sad affair. There was no way they could get water to the scene of the fire.
David: What was the cause of that?

Mary: The fire? Well, the saw mill was running, you see. It was the sparks and there was no efficient water system. They had a row of buckets along the top of the big building, and oh, I think it went up just like that. My father was on his way over to the R.I.C. side out in the middle of the space there, and he couldn't get back in time to do anything. They just couldn't do a thing in that summertime and with no proper hose system.

David: So did all the houses go as well?

Mary: I don't think the houses all went. I think our house and other houses were torn down, you know, for the lumber that was in them because there was nothing left. The Indian houses, though, were never dismantled, you see. They were there many, many years afterwards. So that's another point for them.

David: Yeah, they continued residence there so they weren't really there just for the purposes of the cannery only.

Mary: No, no, no. They came quite on their own. They had nothing to do with the cannery.

David: I see.

Mary: With the saw mill, rather -- they did with the canneries. And then it was never rebuilt, I guess. Fishing methods had begun to change, too, by then. So that ended the saw mill, but you know that great big pile of bricks.

David: Right.

Mary: Well, that was a place to burn sawdust.

David: Oh, I see.

Mary: And all in back of there is sawdust piles where the trees are all growing now. But there was just solid sawdust right up that little creek.

David: Really!

Mary: Yeah.

David: So when you were growing up there, were there many other children there with you as well?

Mary: No, no, there were only the children of the R.I.C. The manager had children and the superintendent had children.

David: How about the Indian children from the village? Did they have much to do with them?

Mary: They only came over to pick alderberries. They never
came over. There were no Indians on the saw mill side excepting at that little reserve. But they came to pick alderberries and my father had a lot of raspberries which he used to turn over to them. And they would be over picking the raspberries and that's really all that were on our side. They came in their canoes, I guess, from the other side of the river. And there was, down at the far end, a little Japanese boat-building place and there had been a charcoal burning place up by where the cemetery was. That had gone and there was a little school house.

David: Who ran the school?

Mary: This is before my time -- there was no school when I was there.

David: Oh, I see. Was it the church-run? Was it run by a church organization, do you know?

Mary: Had to have ten children so I think it must have been government.

David: Must have been a provincial school then.

Mary: Yeah. And then...

David: What did you do for school things?

Mary: Well, we had to come down, we came down to Vancouver for schooling. My sister went up to Bella Coola and my brother went to Victoria -- they were older. And then the rest of us were a little late starting school, you know. I think I was seven before I started. But by then we moved down to school. But the other big family up there were the Gibsons. And he was a bookkeeper and I think he was, had perhaps been a minister.

And his relatives were all in Victoria, and there was an article in Weekend or something and I phoned up at that time. So I don't know whether they would have any more information. I don't know how long they were there. They left before we did, anyway.

David: Who supplied the mill with the lumber?

Mary: They cut their own logs. Oh, the logs came down the river.

David: They came from Oowikeno Lake?

Mary: Yes, they did.

David: And who cut them up there, would it be Oowekeeno Indians or would it be white men?

Mary: No, that would be a small logger, I think. I
can't...

David: Would it be a hand logger, do you know?

Mary: Yes, I imagine so. They weren't very large booms, but they'd float them down the river. They didn't need to even ride them down, or tow them down. So they wouldn't be very big booms or they would have got caught.

David: I was just wondering if the Indian people contributed, sold logs to the saw mill. Because I know a lot of them were hand logging up the lake, and I just assumed...

Mary: They were in those days? Well, that's where they were then. I never did see any of the people that would normally tow down a boom of logs because they weren't towed. And they used to be watched for at the mouth and picked up there. So I don't know who would be logging. If the Indians were active I guess it would be them, then. And then they were taken in and up a slip way, up that little creek slip way. There's two... there's another little creek between McTavish's Creek and that other one down there on the Indian reserve. You know that little creek?

David: Yes.

Mary: Well, the logs used to come in there and up the slip way, they were finished lumber by the time they came out and they all -- planed and cut and finished.

David: There was one photograph in here that shows this saw wheel. It seems to indicate that it's at R.I.C. and I was wondering, was there...?

Mary: Oh, that was a water wheel, I think.

David: Oh, that's a water wheel. I'm not sure where it is now. Did that turn a saw, that water wheel?

Mary: That provided power over that side. That was before our time I think, maybe early years before I remember anything.

David: There's great big water... here it is.

Mary: Yes. Now that's walking up to what used to be the store and that's at the R.I.C side.

David: Now that provided power, did it, for the machines?

Mary: Yes.

David: That huge water wheel.

Mary: Might have provided power for the canning machines.
David: See, he says it's for sawing wood here.

Mary: For sawing wood!

David: And maybe this was after. Would this be after...?

Mary: No, that's before, and then maybe they built the mill after that. But that was left. I mean I remember the wheel, I don't remember any of its history.

David: So this probably was before, well, before the saw mill was actually in operation.

Mary: It must have been.

David: When would the saw mill have been built then?

Mary: I don't know. I think that book would give it to you, you know. Whoever started the cannery probably. Although this is... the cannery was all built and functioning when that water wheel was in use, but it might not have been in use even then, you see. He took a picture of it.

David: Right.

Mary: But it doesn't mean that this was in...

David: No, that was not necessarily been used, right.

Mary: No. It was always stationary as I remember.

David: I was wondering, did you ever visit the houses that were on the island across from R.I.C.?

Mary: Never.

David: About how many houses were there, would you have any idea?

Mary: Oh, you mean the houses on that little beach?

David: Yes.

Mary: Oh. Well, we used to walk down there, yes. But we never knew... I still regret the years that we were there that...

David: I'm referring to that little island there.

Mary: Oh! That's the one on the R.I.C. side.

David: Yeah, the one that showed the two totem poles there. That one that... Remember we said there was three totem poles right here.

Mary: Oh yes.
David: I'm just wondering how big a settlement was that?

Mary: That's about it.

David: That's about it, eh. There's about five or six houses there.

Mary: The warmest water up there, occasionally we'd go there to swim. But that was the size as I remembered and then you went through a trail here right out to the river.

David: Was there a church or a school there, do you know?

Mary: I don't know. This history of the Gibsons said there was a minister. There were two lots of Gibsons up there, I think, and the first one, I think, conducted a mission school there and a little church. Yeah, and his name was Gibson. That was in the history that was published in the, I don't know, Weekender or something, paper.

David: Oh, I see.

Mary: Yeah.

David: What year would that Weekender article be? Is that a recent article?

Mary: That was when we were in Victoria.

David: Is that an old one?

Mary: You know I wouldn't be surprised if I haven't got it somewhere. I can mail you stuff, you know.

David: Okay.

Mary: ... that I can't find today. Don't know... And this charcoal burning thing, that was another thing that was carried on up there and I can't understand why. Because up on the hill by that little cemetery there was a place where they burn charcoal and now what would they be using charcoal for?

David: I have no idea.

Mary: No. And they smoked a lot of fish. My dad had a smokehouse and what not.

David: I was wondering, how did the...? Well, we have now white people, and Japanese people, and East Indians from India. How did everybody get along?

Mary: (laughs) The Japanese got along very well.

David: Was there any friction or...?

Mary: There was no... well, in this picture... Is there a
picture of the residence for the...? No, on the other side of this there's a great big sort of residence, like. And the East Indians and the Chinese lived in that and they did not get along. (laughs)

David: Sort of like one big bunkhouse for them.

Mary: A big bunkhouse, yeah.

David: And yet there was separate little quarters for the Japanese?

Mary: Yes, they were all quite separate. Each one had an individual home.

David: Well, why the difference? I'm curious.

Mary: I don't know! The Japanese houses were built. I can remember them being built. Although they had their wives and children, that was one thing.

David: Oh, they had families.

Mary: Yes they did, and the others didn't.

David: So the single men, they'd put them all together?

Mary: That would be the single men, that would be why, yeah. But the Japanese were very fine citizens of that area, and great workers, and they had their wives and children. And those were partly our playmates were the Japanese children. But there were no other children except when the Gibson family lived there and they had five. But they weren't there very long. Then after that it became summer so, you know, long holiday and there were more people around. And the union used to... the union only came in -- or the C.P.R., whichever boat it was. The (name) only came in once in two weeks in the winter, so we were pretty isolated in the winter.

David: How did you occupy yourself in the winter then?

Mary: I can't remember. Marbles. (laughs) I don't know what we did. I just can't remember, but I know it was the happiest time of my life what I spend up there.

David: Did you do lots of fishing?

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Mary: Oh, we fished for little trout in the dam -- there used to be a dam there. It is a wonder we didn't drown in that. It went down in a great deep hole and was full of slime and old stumps and every other thing, but that was our drinking
water, anyhow. Yes, we fished, but we used to wander a lot. The only big orders were to stay away from the water.

David: Was there much wildlife at that time, still -- deer, bear?

Mary: Yes, yes.

David: There was, eh?

Mary: There was, yeah.

David: Do you know if the Indians were still doing lots of hunting at that time?

Mary: You see our contact with the Indians was very limited, come to think of it. A lot of... I don't know who actually lived there and who came over from the west coast to the island. I had some very nice Indian things that I'm sure were Nootka from the west coast of Vancouver Island. I'm trying to think of some other... (name), the dentist used to be up around there, and Dr. Darby's people -- they were up every summer.

David: I guess the Inlet was quite a busy place then when all the canneries were operating.

Mary: Oh, it was a hive of activity -- there were twelve canneries, I think, on the Inlet, yeah.

David: At one time.

Mary: Yeah. And oh, my goodness, yes! There was no lack of things to do. In the winter the Dawsons used to come over and we'd visit over there and we'd have some kind of parties with whoever was available. Oh, it was just marvelous times in those days.

David: Well, I want to get back to this... I mentioned about how the people got along there and you said there was some -- the East Indians and the Chinese didn't get along. Did that mean that there was a great deal of...?

Mary: I think there was a lot of fighting, yes. My father was in charge of all the staff and everything and I think he had quite a few things to settle. He was the Justice of the Peace of the area, and as far as I know he was -- he certainly acted like it. The Japanese really didn't have anything to do with the other workers.

David: I see. They stayed to themselves, did they?

Mary: I beg your pardon.

David: They stayed unto themselves?
Mary: Yes, as far... I've never seen them mixing.

David: Were there much other social difficulties like gambling, or drinking, or... Was that a big part of life up there?

Mary: Well, it was more in the winter than in the summer, I think, yeah. The people that stayed on probably. Yes, there's a fair amount of drinking, there was. Not in our little section but the R.I.C. perhaps a bit more.

David: While you were up there did you hear of any Indian dances or potlatches being given?

Mary: Yes.

David: Was that still happening?

Mary: Yes, that was still happening. Yeah, that's when there was quite a bit of drinking going on. But that was the elderberry wine they had then; they made it out of the elderberries, yeah.

David: How was the potlatching, or the dances -- how were they regarded by the white people? Was there much opposition to the fact...?

Mary: No, there was no opposition that I ever heard of -- they were just having a potlatch. And, you know, that you wouldn't get much work done, I suppose, and that there'd be a fair amount of noise and activity. But we just heard, "They're having a potlatch." But there was no disapproval or any of that sort of thing.

David: What time of year would that have been, about? Was this a winter activity?

Mary: Oh, you got me there. I'll tell you now, here, Francis Stone, who lives up (name) way, his father was the policeman.

David: Right, yeah.

Mary: Yeah, have you had contact with him?

David: Well, I know of the name. No, I just know that Mr. Stone was a policeman there for quite a while.

Mary: Yes. Well, his son is still...

David: And he's been (name), is he?

Mary: He's up around there somewhere -- Halfmoon Bay or somewhere. I did ask him at one time if he had any pictures when I was turning them in to the museum, but he went through his album... Are there any of these pictures you'd like to
sort out?

David: Might as well, yeah. And what... Did he work at other places before he went to Rivers Inlet?

Mary: Oh, he was a miller. He had a saw mill.

David: Oh yeah.

Mary: A grinding mill for...

David: In Nova Scotia?

Mary: In Nova Scotia, yeah. And times got very hard and he and five children... By that time Dr. Hart had moved out. And my father's sister was married to Dr. Hart and they settled in Victoria, so she heard of this position. He was very handy with machinery. And we all came out and went straight to Rivers Inlet -- my poor mother.

David: Was it... it was quite a hard time for your mother to raise the children out there?

Mary: Oh yes, especially within no time her one child was drowned.

David: Really?

Mary: Yeah, right in front of the house. So then on, you know, it was just a real no-no about the water. She really had a tough time. And bringing five children out by train wasn't anything funny either. In those days there weren't very many people to give you a hand. So she lived up there. Such an alien country, really, from a farm in Nova Scotia.

David: Yeah, that's quite a change, isn't it?

Mary: Yes it is. And losing her son so quickly.

David: Did your family... I'm just wondering now about what kind of food you were eating. Obviously you're eating lots of fish. What about vegetables, did you grow any vegetables?

Mary: My father had a garden, yes. We grew vegetables but very short growing season. But yes, we did. And with the boat we got our other staples from the store, which were shipped up. And of course there was always venison and mountain goat. I remember mountain goat, venison and fish, fish, fish. (laughs) Far as I can remember our meat was venison, because there was no cold storage or anything. I don't think we had any meat shipped up. And fish(?) ducks, always fishy(?). So I guess that's what we lived off -- the country.

David: Could you recall whether the Indian people were doing much trapping at the time?
Mary:  Yes, they were trapping.  They would be trapping but not on our side.  They trap on our side now.  I think the (name) do, on the Victoria Saw Mill side.  But there were no traps laid out there that we were ever warned about, "Don't go there," or you know, "Keep out of here."  I don't think there were, they were only there in the summer that I can remember.  But then we stayed the summers as we got older and maybe they stayed the winter but I don't think so.  But those houses have stood up well, I think there were about five.  One or two of them... I've got another picture of that showing just the Indian reserve.

David:  That would be really good if I could get that one.

Mary:  And one or two, yes, I'll really have a good...

David:  I was going to ask you -- over at the R.I.C. Cannery, did that employ very many people from the village, Indian people from the village?

Mary:  Well, I guess they employed all that wanted to work because they brought them over by the (inaudible) from the other island, from the Vancouver Island, you know, from the west coast.  That was that big arrival there on the wharf.  There's some houses all right, but you can't see them very clearly -- they are flat-roofed ones.  There's the two big ones and there's two sort of flat ones in there.  Those would be just natural split cedar.  I had a better picture than that.  When you're young you think things are so big -- that the Indian reserve was practically next door to us there.  I think I used to have to walk a long ways.  (laughs)

David:  Yeah, I think things do...

Mary:  They sure do.

David:  Different proportions.  I had a nice, a very fine photo I'm sure you would have appreciated.  It was... I made some copies of it.  This came from Hilda Smith in Port Hardy.

Mary:  Oh yes.

David:  And what reminded me of it is this photo.  I think it's of that same spot and it's a picture of three older Oowekeeno people.

Mary:  Oh!

David:  ...Thomas and a woman named Agnes who married a Mr. Moore, Agnes Moore, and another fellow; and it's a beautiful photo and in the background you can just make out these (inaudible) mountains, it's a very fine photo.  I've had a couple of copies made of it.
Mary: Oh yes, that would be beautiful to have. This was the only one we had was that, you know. And it's very -- it's fading badly, if it ever was bright. It's quite in the distance of course. Yeah, we sure had lots of snow up there.

David: Was it really cold there in the wintertime?

Mary: Oh, fairly cold. That one with the big icicles, you know. Yes, it was pretty cold. We stayed up there one year when... I was out of school when I was fifteen, I think. It was the following summer that the mill burned down. But that year there was an awful lot of snow.

David: Were you using wood stoves or oil?

Mary: Oh yes, wood. Great piles of wood from the saw mill. Wish I could find that one of the river -- a bit better showing the houses.

David: Well, I have about five photos here that I was wondering if I could copy. Can I borrow this one, and that would make six, and maybe you can see which ones I'm taking.

Mary: Yes.

David: Three of the employees. A good shot of the fishing skiff coming from McTavish, just as they're getting ready for a tow, I guess.

Mary: Is that at McTavish's, would you say?

David: Yeah, that's what it says on it. And this shows the Indian village quite well and the totem poles.

Mary: That shows it very well. And the docks.

David: And then these two of the saw mill itself.

Mary: Yes. I think this is probably the overall one that we have.

David: Right.

Mary: Yeah.

David: That would be very good if I could borrow those.

Mary: Yes, well...

David: And I'll make copies and return the originals to you.

Mary: Yeah, do you want to make a little note of...

David: I've made notes of what he had, what you had in your album of identifying the time and the place.
Mary: Yeah.

David: I think there are six in all.

Mary: One, two, three, four, five, six. Did Dawson retire? How many years ago, Allan? Oh, that's quite a few. Lucky (speaks to her dog). I think it just went from one to the other.

Allan: In the '60s, wasn't it?

Mary: Yeah, it's a long time ago. Well, he sampled the cold and snow anyhow. That is, I'm looking for that one of the Indian reserve which I wish I could find for you. But I will come across it, where I got a picture of the totem pole at least that used to be over there. Oh, that's in your envelope isn't it?

David: Right.

Mary: That's the mess house. But they were that type of house, they were real nice...

David: You had a photograph of those two poles, I was wondering...

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