The people being interviewed discuss their life at the Mission Indian Residential School.

Margaret: Well, who wants to begin? Who went there first? You went there first?

Lady: Yeah, I was there.

Margaret: What year was that?

Lady: 1906 (inaudible).

Margaret: In 1906?

Lady: Yeah.

Margaret: There's no need to whisper. It doesn't matter, you know. Just talk in the machine. I can't believe that people who went to the Mission are scared of a machine. (laughs)

Lady 2: No, we were talking about those kids. They want their yum-yums.
Lady:     Oh.
Man:      They want what?
Lady:     Well, you were sad.
Man:      They want their yum-yums -- candies. Oh yeah, they're always hoping for candy.
Lady:     Why did you start this?
Lady 2:   Like us, well, we're going to eat, go Grace's and have coffee.

Man:      That's okay. Wouldn't mind getting a few jammied(?) -- that's nothing, eh.
Margaret: Well, I suppose somebody had better tell me something about the days when they were at the Mission school. Do you remember who was in charge there when you went to the school?
Lady:     Sisters. We had Sisters at the Mission when we were in there. We used to make(?) them pieces of wood for the heater. Boys saw by hand, one on each side.
Margaret: Lot of hard work, eh?
Lady:     Yeah. Used to sleep ourselves warm.
Man:      You see Gilly's all scared. (laughs)
Lady:     No, like I say, we, us we used to use that saw. You all come to me, go to you. (laughs)
Margaret: Do you remember any of the Sisters that were there when you went?
Margaret: Oh, there's a lot of them.
Lady:     Yeah, lots of them.
Margaret: Well, who was the big boss? Who was in charge?
Lady:     Sister Saraphim was the Superior.
Man:      What year was that in? What year were you there?
Lady:     Oh, somewhere in 1920, '20 some. What year was it when we were there? I think 1920 I went in when you wanted to. And 1930 -- 1929 when I came out.
Margaret: Were you the first one in your family to go to the
Mission school?
Lady: No, she was the first one.
Margaret: You were the first one. Yeah, 1906 you said.
Lady 2: Yeah.
Margaret: Were those Sisters there when you went?
Lady 2: There was seven.
Margaret: Seven.
Lady 2: Seven Sisters and Father Boening(?) was our priest. He was a German priest.
Margaret: Oh yes, that's right. He was in charge of the Mission?
Lady 2: Yes. He was the principal.
Margaret: Did you want to go to this school?
Lady 2: Sister Superior was Sister Euphrasie -- she was the Superior over there. Sisters teaching the boys and others teaching the girls. And then there was Sister (name), and Sister that used to look after the girls. They all had work to do, them Sisters.
Lady: They were going to school right there the Mission, the children were going to school right there at the Mission. Sisters teaching them.
Margaret: Did you want to go to the school?
Lady: Of course I wanted to go to school, but they didn't want me to go to school.
Margaret: Who didn't?
Lady: My aunt. My aunt raised me. Alice told them to put me in, that I was a nuisance around here. (laughs) And then they would know that we were nuisance. (laughs) She came out of school, she must. (laughs)
Man: What about Percy? I don't ever remember you saying anything about the Mission. I talked to you quite a few times. I guess we never talked about Mission.
Percy: ...you how much I like it.
Margaret: Did you like it?
Percy: No.
Margaret: Did you run away?

Percy: (laughs) I couldn't count. (laughs)

Lady: Everyone was running away. (laughs)

Margaret: Did you run away as well?

Lady: Oh yeah, I did. No reason I run away, just follow the rest. (laughs)

Margaret: Oh dear, I was wondering why everyone kept taking off, you know. The priest would say, "Everyone runs away."

Man: Well, she ran off with a few of them and they got, there was all kinds of stories about, you know, when you...

Lady: Four of us girls. There was no boy in there though, just girls.

Man: And didn't you hide in the trunk, in the tree trunk or something?

Lady: No, there was no trunk, it was a step. The tree itself.

Man: But you hid in a tree?

Lady: No, just under the tree so we would be sheltered from the snow.

Man: Oh, this is Margaret Whitehead, who is writing a book.

Margaret: On the Mission.

Man: On the Mission and the ranch. This is Laura Harry.

Laura: Yes.

Margaret: Hello, Laura.

Man: Laura would have went there.

Laura: Pleased to meet you.

Lady: Hey, what happened to my teeth?

Laura: Do you want mine? (laughs)

Lady: No. (laughs)

Margaret: Do you want to tell me now about that story about running away?
Lady: No, I been...

Margaret: Did she finish that story?

Lady: But there was no boy with us, you know. It was just four girls. Once I didn't, I never had any reason to run away, I just went along.

Margaret: Just for the fun of it?

Lady: Yeah. I was asked to go and I said, "Okay," and I went. I went pretty near for a week. Deep snow.

Margaret: You went in winter?

Lady: Yeah, January. Coldest month.

Margaret: Couldn't you have picked some warmer time of the month to go?

Lady: Well, it wasn't my idea. I was asked to go.

Margaret: Well, it's a pretty tough country in wintertime to run away in, eh?

Lady: Yeah.

Margaret: Did you run also from the school?

Lady 2: No.

Margaret: Oh you didn't, eh?

Lady 2: No, I told you (inaudible). (laughs)

Lady: Just the thing about the (inaudible) where the year was. Must have dreamed about it. Girls used to try this, "Oh, let's go back home." "Oh, I don't want to go back home." Especially when we were having them workers out there, bumming around the work. And we'd go back around the railroad. And we just would come right across that. (inaudible) get scared against the (inaudible). (laughs)

Margaret: But it seemed to happen all the time. Sister Patricia was saying that you're always running away just for the fun of it. You didn't run away to tell it to the boys, eh?

Lady: But we get whipped when we go back.

Margaret: Yeah. Was Father Boening there when you were there?

Lady: Not in our time. Father Aurore was there in our time.

Margaret: Was he German too, Father Aurore?
Lady: I wouldn't know if he was German. Maybe he was. Maybe French. Yeah, I think so.

Lady 2: He might be French because he knew how to talk Shuswap.

Lady: He knew about nine languages.

Lady 2: Yeah, he used to talk to us when we was there. He was advising all the...

Margaret: He used to talk to you in Shuswap?

Lady 2: Yeah, right along in Shuswap.

Lady: And the Sisters used to tell him, "Why don't you talk in English so we could listen?" You know, I couldn't explain anything in English good but I could explain it in Shuswap. Father used to keep us advised, you know. How come he didn't want the sisters to hear what it was he was saying.

Lady 2: They used to punish us when we talk in Indian. That's why we started English. Now our kids don't know the Indian.

Man: Well, all your kids know Indian.

Lady 2: Mine knows.

Man: Yeah, your kids speak Indian.

Lady 2: Yeah, but they talk funny though sometimes.

Margaret: They talk funny?

Lady 2: They don't say the words right.

Margaret: Well, did you talk Shuswap at school?

Lady 2: We used to, but we used to get punished.

Margaret: Oh. Because you were there to learn English, eh?

Lady 2: Yeah.

Man: What would they do to you?

Lady: Eh?

Man: How would they punish you?

Lady: Kneel down there for so many minutes or something.

Margaret: But I guess you could kind of talk amongst yourselves there when you were outside?
Lady: Yeah.

Margaret: As long as the Sisters didn't hear you?

Lady: Yeah. As long as they aren't around. (laughs) When we was, when I was there, we used to have a day for Shuswap -- it was on a Sunday -- because we went out for a walk somewhere and that's all we talk was Shuswap. (laughs) (Inaudible)

Margaret: So you had to learn how to speak English before Christmas?

Lady 2: Yes, we had to.

Margaret: From September to Christmas, that's...

Lady 2: Yeah. Nobody had to talk Indian.

Margaret: Was it the same for all of you?

Lady: (inaudible).

Margaret: Did you all have to do that?

All: Yeah.

Margaret: Learn it in such a short time?

Lady: They wanted us to learn quicker.

Man: Would you come in, like when you came to the Mission, Lily, did you know any English at all?

Lady: Not much.

Lady 2: Not me, I don't know nothing when I went there. Not even "yes."

Margaret: Did you know how to say "no"?

Lady 2: Oh yeah. (Inaudible) when I don't know English.

Margaret: I bet you learned how to say "no".

Lady 2: Oh, I had to learn to say "no". But I had to learn English.

Lady: I guess most of these older people here didn't know English -- I didn't. Mathew said he didn't know nothing. Sister talked to him and he just looked at them, wonder what they say. (laughs) Oh, I don't know how we understood them.

Margaret: Well, the Sisters were French, eh?

Lady: And we didn't know what... Some of them were Irish.
Margaret: Some of them were Irish. I was going to say, how did they teach you English if they were French, you know?

Lady: Well, anyway, "la petite ma soeur." (laughs)

Margaret: Trilingual. (laughs)

Man: I remember Father Maurice telling me when he was there that he stopped that. He stopped the French Sisters from speaking French. Did he tell you that?

Lady: Yes, he did.

Man: Yeah, in front of the children?

Lady: Yeah.

Lady 2: But we used wonder, you know, when they didn't allow us our own language and then they talk French. That wasn't right. But I told one of them and they punished me. (laughs) Yeah, it wasn't right. I told that Sister (name). And they talk French and they don't allow us. I didn't feel good about it because we couldn't talk our own.

Margaret: How many of you were there in your class? Big classes, lots of children?

Lady 2: Yeah.

Margaret: Did all the children from your band go at the same time?

Lady 2: No, different. There was still a (inaudible), another reserve, they speak in French.

Margaret: Who took you to the Mission?

Lady 2: My parents bring us over there. Well, that was the only school there was over there. Or else we wouldn't know how to read right now.

Margaret: Were your parents allowed to visit you at the school?

Lady 2: Yeah.

Margaret: Any time they wanted to?

Lady 2: Well, it was hard for them -- the older people -- travelling, because they goes by team and wagon.

Margaret: Were you there all year?

Lady 2: Yeah.

Margaret: No holidays?

Lady 2: July and August. About four weeks first time we were
in this school and Father Aurore did six weeks after holidays.

Lady: They used to come out in August, just the first week of August, and end of September when we go back.

Lady 2: Yeah.

Man: Was that in later years too for you guys? The younger ones? How much holidays would you get?

Lady 2: When I start going to school in 1948 and the priest there was Father Maurice, and the Superior was Sister John the Baptist. There was a lot of Sisters there, there was quite a few of them. My grade one teacher was Sister Rose Marie, and in grade two was Sister (name) (inaudible).

Man: Oh yeah, right.

Lady 2: In grade three and four my teacher was Sister Judith Michael. Five and six was Sister Roletta, and grade seven I don't remember.

Margaret: Was Sister Patricia still at the school when you were there?

Lady 2: Yeah.

Margaret: Did she teach all of you, Sister Patricia?

Lady: Yeah, she was always a teacher.

Lady 2: Not me.

Margaret: Not you, eh?

Lady 2: And Sister Laura. Sister Laura was always there, and Sister Patricia.

Lady: Sister Patricia was in the kitchen when I was there. I went to school in 1945. When I first went to school Sister Angeline was my teacher and then Sister Cecile and Sister Loretta.

Lady 2: Sister Joy in Jesus(?) was in the kitchen when I was there.

Lady: Sister Gertrude was still there. Sister Lawrence was my teacher in grade six and seven. And grade eight I think was Sister (name).

Margaret: But it was different when you went to school then? Were you taught all day? Did you have classes all day, you know, regular school classes?

Lady: I went to, we went to the classroom at nine and we left from there about quarter to twelve or twelve o'clock. And
then we didn't go back there again till one. We left the classroom at three o'clock and then those times till supper was... Well, we had some sewing to do. We used to have a sewing room. That's where I learned how to use a sewing machine.

Margaret: Sisters taught you, eh?

Lady: No, I had to learn by myself.

Margaret: Oh you had to... (laughs)

Lady; Had to learn because I used to be one that was doing the boys' overalls, patching them up.

Margaret: The boys from the, from the boys' school?

Lady: Yeah. We done the boys' clothes; we mended their socks, their underpants and... He was in school the same time. (laughs)

Margaret: She was mending your clothes! (laughs)

Lady: But he was younger than me. We used to... When we didn't go to school we used to take him behind the bushes and lick him. (laughs)

Margaret: She'd do that because you get your holes in your clothes. (laughs)

Man: Yeah.

Lady: No, these ones didn't... When we didn't go to school yet we used to all play together, you know. He used to be the youngest from all of us. Three or four girls and him was the (inaudible) because we used to want to play toy him. (laughs) If he didn't listen to us, we'd lick him. I used to remember. (laughs) In our time we had to make our clothes at the Mission. Make everything -- underclothes, dresses, or all the sort of boys' shirts.

Margaret: Did you have a uniform? Did everyone wear the same clothes?

Lady: We wear all the same clothes on Sundays going to mass.

Margaret: You had special clothes for Sunday?

Lady: Yeah. We all had good (inaudible) clothes at the Mission. We used to have quite (inaudible). Yeah, we were all dressed the same way and the boys too.

Margaret: Did you have to make the boys' clothes as well?

Lady: Yeah.
Lady 2: Everybody did. That's how we learned to do our sewing. Most of the things that was used was made. Make our uniforms for Sundays, and our... Used to be seventy-three girls in when I was there. And fifty-two boys.

Lady: And after they increased, I guess. After I left I think there be more.

Margaret: So you had sewing every day, eh?

Lady: Yeah. Go to school from nine till eleven-thirty. And then one o'clock or one-thirty we'd go in the sewing room till three o'clock. And then play for half an hour and then we went and had to study till five-thirty. That's how it went when I was there.

Margaret: Well, what did you do in the evening?

Lady: We would play there in the playroom, or if it's in the summer we play out till nine, I think it's the time we used to go to sleep.

Margaret: Was one of the Sisters in charge of you at night then?

Lady: Yeah. In our dormitory there used to be two Sisters.

Lady 2: Used to watch them till they undressed. Them Sisters, you could see them -- they had blinds, but we watch them. (laughs) That's what we used to do, we want to see if they gets bare. (laughs)

Lady: Did they find out?

Lady 2: Yeah.

Lady: There'd be once in a while maybe get us sometimes and other times they go to sleep. (laughs)

Lady 2: Sister John the Baptist does all of us. (Inaudible). "Go to sleep." (laughs)

Margaret: Did you give the priest this much trouble?

Lady: Oh no, the priest is never be around -- he's down the boys' side.

Lady 2: Well, he used to visit the convent now and then.

Man: One of you was telling me one time about Brother Collins and his sauerkraut. Who was that, that he used to leave it down in the kitchen? Who told us about that?

Laura: I did.
Lady: Brother Collins was a sauerkrauter.

Man: Peter(?) might have something to say.

(Another person comes in.)

Margaret: We met in Vancouver.

Lady 3: Yeah, we did.

Margaret: We're just doing some recording in here. We have some good stories here. (laughs)

Lady: When we were at the Mission we had to let him know what we used to do.

Margaret: And they used to get into a lot of trouble by the sound of things. (laughing)

Peter: They used to be angels.

Margaret: I don't think there's any angels here. (laughs)

Man: Abraham (inaudible).

Lady: My brother, all the old men died. He must have left his clothes on the wall hanging, you know, used to have... Always dressed the same in a little hat, you know, and Richard and Norman, Harry were told to clean that stove downstairs and (laughs) Norman must have sent Richard for something upstairs and you must dress up (inaudible). When Richard was coming down the stairs and about Harry when he saw that guy there with Brother (name)'s clothes and he ran back upstairs. But this Norman there... (laughs)

Laura: You see, they were at the school, supposed to be there to learn, you know, and I don't know if we learned anything.

Margaret: Too busy having a good time, eh?

Lady: Yeah. I don't know what year was that that we used to look after Father Thomas, when we used to bring Father Thomas meals. We was scared of him sometimes. He just got right out of his head.

Margaret: Oh, he went senile, eh?

Lady: Yeah. So old, you know. Just sometimes we right upstairs to his room with his tray and sometimes it be real messy in his room. He'd have his chair way up on his bed and his bed is really in a mess, and it's nothing...

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)
Man: From all around it's hard to... You hear so much about it.

Lady: It was a lot of fun. (laughs) It was lots of fun being at the Mission anyhow.

Margaret: Did you ever do any work though?

Lady 2: Well I (inaudible) do my sewing and all that. Thanks to those Sisters in that way that I used to...

Lady: ...and all I used to do was sewing. When I got out they gave me a sewing machine.

Margaret: They gave you a sewing machine?

Percy: Me, I learned how to mend shoes when I was ten years old by Brother Collins.

Margaret: Oh, he must have been getting pretty old by that time, eh?

Percy: Yeah.

Margaret: Yeah, he was there a long time, like Father Thomas. Did you know Brother Collins?

Lady: (Inaudible). (laughs) (Indian)

Man: They were saying something in (Indian). (laughs) About Brother Collins... (Inaudible)

Lady: I used to tell Anita, Rose's sister used to be with me when I used to serve Father Thomas. I used to tell her, "Let's go and visit Brother Collins while we're waiting for Father to finish with his tray." She says, "No, I'm scared he'll clean our hand and our (inaudible) again." And I said to her, "Did he do you that?" (laughs) He was really glad though when the mother went to see him, Brother Collins. But Brother (name) was different. Even it seems like even if I met Brother (name), seems like he wasn't ready to say anything. That's all he would say is, "Good morning," or "Good afternoon," but he wasn't interested in talking that much.

Lady 2: Father Collins used to do have a nice garden just by the (inaudible). All kinds of vegetables he planted himself. And he used it for school, you know. (Inaudible) about it.

Lady: When I first went to school I know Brother (name) used to be making wood. Used to be chopping those long pieces of wood with no gloves on in wintertime. He didn't even have a hat on or not even earmuffs. Gee, I used to think, "That guy is a tough guy."

Percy: There was this (inaudible). Used to wonder how he
used to, you know, in this cold, at thirty below zero with no gloves.

Man: Albert Collins?

Lady: No, (inaudible).

Man: Did the boys used to have to look after the livestock?

Percy: Yeah.

Man: It was the mens' job, eh?

Percy: Yeah. Have to milk them cows.

Margaret: You did the milking?

Lady 2: The boys used to make wood. They had to go to carry it.

Percy: Well, that's later on.

Lady 2: Saw it. They used to (inaudible).

Margaret: Was the school always cold?

Lady 2: Oh, they never (inaudible).

Percy: We used to cook our muskrats in the burner.

Lady: Yeah. (laughs)

Percy: And beavers. We used to catch them in traps and sneak them downstairs and cook our beavers. (laughs) Boil our quid. (laughs)

Lady: I knew, I heard in their days they used to do nothing but bake bread.

Lady 2: Oh yeah, we used to bake a lot of bread.

Lady: But then it was already gone when we, when I got there. (Inaudible) About these long, I guess. Each one had their share making bread.

Margaret: So they taught you cooking as well? Sewing, anything else?

Lady: Yeah, we used to learn everything in our time. Sister Eleanor was making our bread. Not that much, they were buying some of it too.

Margaret: But the girls weren't doing anything anymore?

Lady: We were just in the kitchen, we just done some
cooking.

Margaret: Did you learn anything else besides the baking and the sewing?

Lady: Lots we learn. Beadwork, knitting, crochet, everything. Cleaning up, fancy work too. We learn to make fire three o'clock in the morning. (laughs) I remember one time we went down... I think it was Sister Lawrence. We went down there, three o'clock she woke us up, us three girls. We had to make fire. And you know there was a lot of kids down there and they were fighting, really fighting down there and we was on top of the stairs and Sister was going right, starting to go down and there's them kids start teasing each other. And Sister's screaming around. (laughs) Right down there the Sister, she told them, "You go and make fire down the basement." I went and I guess she wanted to check if I was making fire. (laughs) I heard her coming -- I hide behind the heater, dark anyways. She opened the furnace and look -- there was food. And she went back and I made a man's voice, you know, she turns, she ran to the steps and she'd look and I'd come out laughing. (laughs)

Margaret: You were asking for trouble, weren't you?

Lady: She says, "Don't do this again any more." (laughs) Anyway making fire every morning -- it was in winter, making fire every morning.

Margaret: And that's what they were teaching you?

Lady: Yeah.

Margaret: To make a fire?

Lady: That's what we used to do when we come along. (laughs) Have no electricity. It seems like you, you women done a lot of washing by hand too, because all these wash tubs were all in there already when I got there. But us we had a big machine. You had to do the clothes by hand, washboard.

Margaret: Right. You did that too, eh? Washing by hand?

Lady: Yeah, (inaudible) ...Brother (name)'s clothes they were (inaudible). (laughs)

Man: They were what?

Lady: Brother (name)'s underclothes -- I didn't like washing them. They were too heavy and too big -- you couldn't wring it.

Man: Brother (name)'s underwear?

Lady: Yeah. He used to have a person to wash, or one child or two. And the boys' clothes and you had to have the same
every week. And I hate it when I used to have to iron, you know, those Sisters' bonnets (inaudible).

Margaret: You had to wash the Sisters' things too?
Lady: No, I had to iron.
Margaret: You had to iron...
Lady: You know, their bonnets? I remember we used to...

Lady 2: And that we used to have to do with that, iron it. They had certain things you had to put it in... (laughs)
Lady: They didn't have those that are just plain ones here. They had those that were, I don't know, fancy. Hole in it like, you know.
Margaret: Like that?
Lady: Yeah. And those had to be fixed by the girls, I guess.
Man: Some fresh tea here, lots of coffee.
Margaret: What did you do in the mornings when you were in school?
Lady 2: Well, we first go to mass, you know, in the morning after they finish wash up.
Margaret: What time do you get up?
Lady 2: About eight, I guess, seven. I remember seven...
Lady: Seven, I think.
Lady 2: Some get up at six.
Margaret: Did everyone have to go to mass?
Lady: Yeah, everyone had to go to mass. Boys and girls.
Margaret: Boys on one side, girls on the other?
Lady 2: Yeah.
Lady: You expect us to be mixed (laughs). We weren't allowed to look at the boys. If you look at the boys they get mad at us. (laughs)
Man: The boys, the seniors, used to have mirrors and look at them girls. (laughs)
Lady: That's true. In the chapel, you know. (laughing)
Margaret: Well, what about the girls? Did the girls have mirrors there?

Lady: I guess some of them might, yes.

Margaret: Or did you just pretend they weren't there.

Lady: I didn't have a mirror, I used to just look around and... (laughing)

Percy: And if they catch you, they kneel you right in the aisle. (laughing)

Margaret: So you had (inaudible).

Lady: You see, our yard was fenced with boards, our clean yard. We don't have to look down the boys' place down there. We're supposed to stay out from the other side. If we do go around there and look around then we get punished.

Margaret: But I bet you went anyway.

Lady: Oh yeah, we used to.

Man: What were some of the funny things that happened in chapel?

Lady: Yeah.

Man: Somebody was telling me something one day about something in chapel that was really funny. And it involved a nun.

Percy: Oh no, this is in the classroom. You know, we used to have, we used to carry fish hooks in our pockets, you know, when we finished fishing. And who was it? Was it (name)? Or one of them silly boys got lead shot in it, you know. And Sister was going back to the blackboard, and he's fooling around with this hook and he throw it and it caught on Sister's veil, you know. He was untangling his hook going up there. (laughs) (inaudible). (laughs) And the Sister still had that hook in there. (laughs) The boy I was saying about, that funny thing happened in church. Some of them silly guys they had a little baby garter snake in his shirt pocket. Look cross them girls and do this and the little snake (inaudible). (laughs)

Lady: That was the same thing, Sandy Hart he done with me. We were just coming out of the chapel and he came behind me and he said, "Celina, you want to see something?" And I said, "No, not if you're going to hand it in my hand." And he said, "No, it's in my pocket." And he opened his pocket like that and one snake stuck out about that, and gee, I really hollered, you know. Holy! I just about heart attack. And I got paraded back in church and got told to behave myself. And I was saying that was him I was trying to blame. I was trying to say that
was Sandy and they said, "You done the hollering." I got out of there and I went after Sandy Hart. "You better not scare me with no snakes, mice, or frogs." I'm really scared of them.

(laughs)

Man: Who was it that said that about the nun in church, when she did something? Who was it? (laughs) It might have been from some other place, some other village.

Lady: Maybe the other village. I never heard anything.

David: We so quiet in church (inaudible). (laughs)

Lady: You were quiet? (laughs) I don't believe that, David.

Man: Were you there in the old church? With the old one or when they had the new one built? Were you in the old log church too?

David: No, no, no.

Lady: The old church was built further out.

David: We used to go in church up the (inaudible) side.

Lady: ...just below the grave here.

David: You know where the powerhouse is now? That's where the church used to be.

Man: That was the log one, eh?

David: No, there was another log one on the side.

Lady: Yeah.

David: Right where that school is now.

Lady: It was in our time.

David: We used to make our teacher cry, you know, trying to keep us in. We write ABC on the blackboard and we sneak out the window, you know. It was just the girls inside, the boys would be outside. (laughs) There was no such thing as nurseries or kindergarten -- grade one right in (inaudible).

Man: Right into Greenwater?

David: Yeah. I don't know how we all passed.

Lady: When I went to school in Kamloops in 1953 I felt more brave than when I was in Mission. That's where I seen Brother Joseph over there. And he started asking me about all these hockey players from over here. Asking me who was alive and who wasn't living. He named all them boys, including my dad in one of them. He said, "Is your dad still alive?" And I said, "I'm
his daughter and he's dead, years ago."

Man:      Was that the year you were, was that the same year
that Mathew was in that hockey team?

Lady:      Yeah, he asked for Mathew, and Joe Clemine, and David
Johnson, and Tommy Johnson, and Joe Dan, and Louie Amine, and
Peter Crease. He asked for all these people.

Man:      When I think of that I think of this year is Amelia's
fiftieth wedding anniversary, and they were married in Mission
on Groundhog Day. And there's a picture of Mathew, was it,
that was the day that he was playing hockey?

Lady:      I don't know.

Man:      Well, you were getting married.

Lady:      Well, I know we got married and he was playing hockey
that same day.

Man:      Did he marry you before or after the game?

Lady:      He said he didn't give a damn if you got married but
he play hockey. (laughs)

Man:      You had the (inaudible). After the wedding was over
would you roll back to Alkali in the wagon, now how...?

Lady:      Sleigh.

Man:      In a sleigh.


Lady 2:   So you had a sleigh ride for your honeymoon?

Lady:      Yeah, I had this good sleigh ride but I pretty near
froze. He didn't have enough blankets. (laughing)

Man:      What happened around the Mission there when you had
Confirmation, when the Bishop came? Was there anything kind of
special or different?

Lady:      Yeah, we used to have, you know, alders, tree alders?
And we used to go out and get our flowers, you know, used to be
flower girls. We used to go, I don't know really where after I
was three, used to be three, and he says he used to have the
mass around, you know, around the yard, around the garden.
There was a garden there and used to be going around.

Man:      That would be like for Confirmations, when he came to
the convent?

Lady:      Yeah. Used to be a whole bunch of children that he
would...
Lady 2: Bishop Duncan, I think he was the first here. (Inaudible).

Margaret: Bishop Duncan?

Lady 2: Yeah, Bishop Duncan.

Margaret: Oh, you remember Bishop Duncan?

Lady 2: (Inaudible) I knew he used to be the Bishop.

Margaret: Did Bishop Duncan confirm you?

Lady 2: I don't remember if I was confirmed. I guess I must have been, but... (inaudible).

Man: He was the Iron Duke. (Inaudible)

Lady: Must have been before this.

Lady 2: Yeah. He came after because they used to have another name too, you know, when you used to be confirmed. That's why I didn't never have another name. I don't remember being confirmed.

Lady: I forgot the Bishop's name that used to come. Seems I have his name in my head and I can't remember it.

Margaret: So you don't remember being confirmed at all?

Lady 2: No. Well, you must have because they used to have another name, you know, but I never had another name. And I was wondering if I went through it or not.

Margaret: Maybe you missed it. Maybe you were sick or something.

Lady 2: Maybe, I might.

Man: You're not necessarily worried if it's really old, old, old-timer, eh?

Lady: That's, oh no, no.

Lady: No, (inaudible) and make me feel really young. I'm only thirty and I feel like I'm a really little kid, eh. (laughs)

Man: Yeah, that sounds ancient, doesn't it.

Margaret: Yeah, I don't remember any, you know, anything... Like when I went to school I was, it was 1953 and I was just in (inaudible). I went there for four years. And then it was the time they just built the new school so we wouldn't remember the old building. I don't know what it looked like.
Lady: No, it's all burnt down.

Margaret: Yeah.

Lady 2: Sometimes I go, I go travelling in that, in my mind, in that convent.

Lady: Yeah, the old convent. (laughs) You never even seen it?

Margaret: No, I don't remember. Like maybe when I went to school I was six and I don't have no memory about it. Even when we went to town, go to school in town so, you know. Like this in 1961 and there was nobody ever went to school in town before so we were the first ones to be bussed to town. And that was, you know, different for us than when they were kids.

Man: What year was that?

Margaret: It was in 1961, '62. These Indian kids from the Mission to town, they started integration then. But there was some go to school, probably high school, in Prince George and some in Kamloops.

Lady: You must have maybe just when the school when I was leaving Kamloops, because I left Kamloops in 1953.

Lady: Yeah, like I went to Kamloops too after when I left. In 1962 and 1963.

Margaret: But you said Kamloops was a lot different than the Mission?

Lady: Yeah. I thought I was more free over there.

Margaret: Well, they had Sisters in St. Ann's, didn't they?

Lady: It seemed different, I don't know.

Man: You went there too?

Lady: There were twelve Sisters... Were there twelve yet? Yeah, there was twelve. There were 600 when I was there.

Margaret: Because at the Mission I thought, you know, that they had 350 kids at the time when I was there. It was, you know, full capacity. They couldn't take any more. And then as soon as I left in 1960 they were cutting down gradually.

Lady: When I went to the Mission there were seventy-five girls and fifty-six boys and that was it. And I found it real big when I went in Kamloops -- over 600. Over 300 boys and over 300 girls.
Margaret: Yeah. Well, because there they had right up to grade twelve, graduated from that school. And I think that's probably where they got most of their first graduates. (inaudible) public school, because, you know, it wasn't until, even in this area, it wasn't until 1965 we had our first graduates. There was nobody, and even then it's not... Like we still, at this time, we haven't got anybody in university. Some feel that somewhere along the line we haven't developed the education. Well, how long did you go to school for?

Lady: Eight years I think I was in school. I was in school nine, nine years. I think I was about nine. I was ten when I went (inaudible). Oh yes, she was asking us about how many years -- I was nine years, going on my nine when I left. Wasn't... I left in February.

Margaret: How old were you then?

Lady: Nineteen.

Man: See, she couldn't leave the school... You never went home before you were married, did you?

Lady: I used to come home, you know, for the holidays but...

Man: But you had to work?

Lady: Yes, but my aunt made me put up hay with her, yeah.

Man: But you were telling me one day that you had to, when you finished school you stayed on working in the Mission or something. Was that you?

Lady: No.

Man: Oh. And you were married right then (inaudible)...

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