

Transcript of an interview with Shirley Beaulieu by Oonagh O'Connor, 1995

O'Connor's questions and comments are in italics.

0:00:00

...of 1995 and I'm speaking with Shirley Beaulieu. How do you spell that?

B-e-a-u-l-i-e-u

..whose maiden name was Guthrie (unintelligible)

So when did your parents come to the island?

May of 1940.

Why did they come here?

Well, we came because Hector and Pearl Graham had moved here from Vancouver and they lived next door to us in Vancouver. It was during the Depression and there was no work down there. So they moved up here and found work, so my parents came.

How did you get here?

Union Steamship

Do you remember?

Yes

0:00:59

How old were you?

0:01:00

Three.

Oh, wow. Where did you come in on the Union Steamship?

0:01:03

Seaford. We came in to Seaford.

And is that where you settled?

Yeah. I don't remember much except being really afraid of the water because we've never been around the water.

Did you live near the ocean? Up here? Yeah.

At Seaford?

You know that hill that goes up? We used to call it Andy Byers'. Oh. See that? Yeah. *Is it the one that goes up to the Tiber Bay?* It must have been maybe a mile up there. And Grahams lived up there, so we lived with them for a while.

So you weren't coming to the island of strangers?

No, no, we lived with them. And then, let me see now. I think there was two different places we lived up there. And there was preemptions. You could just move into them.

Still in 1940, there were preemptions?

Mm-hmm.

Did your parents get a pre-emption?

0:02:04

Yeah.

0:02:05

What were their names?

0:02:06

Guthrie. Ernie and Jesse.

0:02:11

So how many children were there?

0:02:13

Three of us.

And were your parents used to city life?

Oh yeah, they'd never been out of the city. And my dad went logging with Hector. Yeah, they went logging.

0:02:27

On the island?

0:02:28

Yeah, yeah. I think they logged with a man named Art Marshall. In fact, that bay, not Mary Point, but the bay, I don't know what they call it now. It was called Art Marshall's Bay.

Is Bullock Point out there somewhere?

That's the north end.

So who else was living in that neighbourhood at the time?

Andy Byers was up there.

Really?

Have you heard of him?

Well, was that Ruth's husband? Or was that their son?

0:03:12

Andy Byers?

Ruth Byers, Ruth and...

0:03:14

No, I don't remember. I don't know of anybody else that was... *Any other Byers? Because there's some Byers that lived at Stitchville.*

0:03:22

And I think that was... they were Clarence's parents.

0:03:26

Oh, they would have been relatives then. See, Nellie would know more about that. And Peggy Newsham for sure. Because she used to do housework up there for him.

0:03:39

And so were they all here when you came?

0:03:42

Yeah. Just trying to remember. And Cowans were here too. Have you heard of them?

Yeah. I interviewed Jack and Nora.

0:03:52

Did you?

0:03:53

Yeah.

0:03:54

Jack's going to come over for a little tour of the gym next year.

Oh yeah, he likes to do that.

And that's how Nellie's going to let me interview her is when Jack comes over to her house. So, um, so they were your neighbours? You grew up knowing all those people? The Cowans and the...Smiths ...

Yeah. Because later on, I don't know how long we lived up hill in those little places. My dad at one point built a log house, a one-room log house.

And you lived in there?

And we lived in there, and I remember it was Easter. None of us were in school.

0:04:29

You were so young?

0:04:31

Mm-hmm. And one night there was a big storm and all these big trees came down. We had to get out of this cabin in the middle of the night and go and hide under these trees because they were falling down everywhere. I'll never forget it. But anyway, then we moved down to the corner of Seaford Road. And we lived there until we moved over here.

Over here being...

Mansons. Yeah. That was when my oldest brother had to go to school. Yeah.

So when you first came to the island, what were some of the changes that your parents would have experienced from city life that what would you think they were adapting to?

Oh, like... well electricity and running water and...

0:05:13

Where did you get your water?

0:05:14

Just wells. In creeks, probably. Probably a lot of it came from the creeks.

Do you remember your mother doing the laundry down in the creeks?

No.

Did your mother more or less stay with the kids then? Mhmm Or did your father just go with them?

We used to walk from the Seaford Corner up to Andy Byers' for milk. I don't know whether we went every day or every other day. That's three kids. We were under school age and we walked all the way up there and all the way back. Took us all day.

Did you have any animals?

0:05:56

Yeah.

0:05:58

We had a sheep dog we brought from Vancouver actually. And a goat, I think. And cat. I don't remember them, but I remember the dog. Yeah.

And did you go to school at Seaford then?

No. No. Over here.

0:06:15

Oh, really? Was Seaford School closed by then?

0:06:18

Yeah. There was no building there at all when we came.

Had it burned down?

Is that what happened to it? I hadn't heard. I didn't know that. Yeah, yeah.

0:06:28

How would you get to Manson School?

0:06:30

Well, that's when we moved over here.

0:06:32

Oh.

0:06:33

Yeah, yeah. And then my father started the first school bus here. Like, he used his truck and... he was the one and only bus driver for many years.

Somebody was mentioning that yesterday, maybe it was Ann Dewar, that he... he was a good friend to everybody, to all those kids on the bus line.

He retired in the 70s. I've got all that information at home, pictures and all that stuff. But he started out with his own old truck, and then he had an old ambulance from during the war. He used that. Oh, I used to get so sick in that. Yeah, never missed a day's driving.

0:07:13

Wow.

0:07:14

Yeah, all those years.

Where was the school in Manson?

Right here at the Dogwood Tree. The old log school.

And how many kids would be riding on the school bus approximately?

0:07:29

Did you know?

0:07:31

I don't remember. I really don't remember. I don't imagine there'd be all that many.

No.

0:07:38

You know.

0:07:39

It started maybe at ten and five. Um.

0:07:43

I don't know.

0:07:46

I don't know. Like I don't think he went to Whaletown. Like this road through the Gorge wasn't there.

So it was just from Squirrel Cove to Manson's Landing that you would pick up the kids?

I guess there was a school in Whaletown then.

I don't remember whether there was a school at Squirrel Cove.

0:08:19

There was during some of the times, I'm not sure about this time.

0:08:23

I know there was in later years, there was a new school put in there which didn't last overly too long. There must have been a school before that, but I don't know where it was. It may be in the hall or something. I don't know.

Did you ever go to the store at Squirrel Cove? Mhmmm Was that your local store?

0:08:42

No, they had one at Mansons.

0:08:44

And it was easier from the Mansons then?

Well, see we lived here by this time. Oh, you're thinking of before. I don't remember any of that. But a lot of people ordered, you know, sent to Vancouver for their food and stuff. They came on the boat. I think they might have.

Yeah. Yeah. Were you the youngest in the family?

No, second oldest. Yeah. Four brothers and myself.

Did you help a lot around the house?

Probably from the time I was about seven I remember doing mounds of dishes and stuff like that.

0:09:27

Do you remember what kind of things you used to do for fun?

0:09:32

Like I say we really like going to the creeks and watching things moving about. I don't know, we just did stuff. And we walked a lot. Like I remember when we moved over here, this was in the early 40s, still we used to walk from here to Cortes Bay just for something to do. It took us all day. But that was Blind Creek then.

Would you visit people there?

No, no, just walked.

Would you hang out mostly with your brothers?

Well, there was Robbie and his sister.

0:10:10

Did they move over here too?

0:10:12

They left the island for a few years, and I don't even remember how long they were gone, because they lived over here across the road.

Were there other kids you used to play with?

Yeah.

Who were some of the people who were here? McDavid's, have you heard of them?

0:10:52

Jerry?

0:10:53

Yeah, Jerry and Ann, yeah. And of course, Nellie's kids and Christensen's and Fretwell's and, who was here?

There was lots of people that were here that aren't here anymore now when I stop and think about it.

Was there time for playing, or did you have mostly chores to do?

0:11:15

No, we never had chores.

0:11:16

No, I don't remember having chores. Well, it was dishes and stuff like that, but yeah, we just wandered around and did whatever. Yeah.

Did you feel there was something special about life on Cortes?

Yeah, I guess so. And you know, of course the Union Steamship used to come in, I think it was once a week. And of course that was a big day, we all went down there and...

To Mansons?

Yeah, yeah, watched it come in. And then the doctor, and they had the clinic at Whaletown. You probably heard that, did you? At the mission? Yeah, yeah, and then the boat would come over. So for any reason, we... There mustn't have been a road right through to Whaletown for years, but I don't remember that part.

0:12:06

But the doctor would actually come over to Mansons instead?

0:12:09

No, no, we'd go over in the boat to Whaletown. So there mustn't have been a road right through.

Whose boat would you go in?

It was a mission boat. Yeah. There's lots of things I'm realizing that you have to stop and think about.

Yeah, I forget stuff.

Was Mansons store going at the time?

Yeah.

Who was running it?

Summers were running it for a long time. They came in the 40s.

I heard that there was a cafe down there. Do you know if there was s a cafe?

0:12:52

That seems like recent years. Wow.

0:12:55

How long ago was that?

0:12:58

Betty will tell you. She used to work in it.

0:13:05

Could you describe this neighbourhood when you first moved into it? The main neighbourhood around Mansons?

Well, all that was here was the White House up here, which was Petznick's, and a school, a church, and the original hall, which is the main hall here. And our place was where Bert and Victoria lived. And then the place across from it, that old house, the big house there, do you know which house I mean? That's where we first moved to. It was there and then a year later we moved across the road. There was really old names for all these places and I think that one was McLeod. And then there was Fretwell's on the corner. Oh, Brooks, it was Brooks that lived on the corner then. Just on the corner out past, as you go towards Smelt Bay. *The corner of where you go to the gravel pit or where you go to Hollyhock?* No, just past, do you know where Ro lives? Linda and Ro? Right across from their place.

0:14:45

And that was the next house?

Yeah. Do you know that house across the road? That older one? That real old house? It's something like Johnny Manson's house. Somewhere in _____ at least it used to be.

0:14:53

You've never been in there?

0:14:54

No, never been in there.

0:15:03

My brother was born there, actually. My youngest brother.

What's his name?

David. Yeah. He lives in Cambell River.

So he was born there because that was where you moved first?

That's where we moved when we came from Seaford was over here. Yeah, and he was born there. Yeah.

And so did your mother have a help? Was there a doctor there?

No, no. Just my dad and my... Oh, my aunt was there. Yeah, my dad and my aunt. So that had to be during the war, because my aunt was here. Her husband was overseas.

So was that your mother's sister?

No, my dad's.

Was she helping out with the family?

0:15:58

I think she lived here for a while when her husband was overseas.

0:16:00

I better start writing stuff down, I'm forgetting.

0:16:06

Yeah.

0:16:07

So was your dad away logging a lot?

No, they logged right here. Well, that was one thing we used to do, was go out and go into the bushes down where we called the Jap Ranch, where the Japanese lived. We used to go through the bushes and there was the bottles, the pitch bottles. We'd take them off the trees and break them and stuff like that.

0:16:36

Do you remember the Japanese people there?

0:16:39

Yeah, my mother ended up with her sewing machine and a few other things when they had to leave. My daughter has the sewing machine now.

Do you know the story of them leaving?

No, not really. I know there was the man and his wife. Like, Nellie would know them. Nellie would know them for sure. Yeah. And the son. There was a son. They had to leave everything. It was really sad.

Was that more or less the feeling of the community, the story?

Oh, I think so. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

And did it just remain, um, what's the word, vacated or abandoned after that?

I don't remember anybody being there for years. And I'm trying to remember the people's name that bought it, but I don't know how long it would have been, like how they bought it or who they bought it from.

Must have been the government, eh? What was their name?

He was a professor from UBC.

Do you remember what kind of social life you had? Like what kind of things you used to do as you were getting older?

There seemed to be lots of dances. At Mansons Hall?

0:18:14

That lasted all night.

0:18:16

All night, and you went home when the sun was up and the chickens were all crowing. And I remember I really liked dancing. My dad would take me to the dance to start with when I was about seven. And he'd come and get me at midnight. Yeah, yeah.

He'd leave you there?

Well, there was lots of... You know, everybody was there to look after me. Yeah, yeah. What else did we do?

Were there live bands?

Elmer. And a few others. And a few others, like Jack Summers. He had a banjo, and who else?

0:19:02

I was just trying to think of a lady that used to play the accordion. She lived at Whaletown. Her married name was Jackie Langdon, I think her was. Maybe it was her sister that played. I don't remember what else they had besides dances. There was lots of dances though.

0:19:28

Did you ever go to picnics?

0:19:32

They used to have a picnic at Smelt Bay. I think it was just once a year. I can't remember what they called it. And everybody took their own lunch and then they set it out on all these big tables.

0:19:45

So it was like a potluck?

Yeah.

0:19:48

And your whole family would go?

0:19:50

Yeah.

0:19:51

I remember Eleanor's mother used to make ginger beer. Eleanor Milne. I remember her mom making all these bottles.

Was her mother Mabel Christensen?

0:20:04

Yes.

0:20:05

She's written some poems I was reading in the library, and she used to describe, she wrote one about a picnic.

0:20:11

Really? Did she? Yeah. I remember there was a man, um, Bartholomew, his name was.

You remember him?

Yeah, oh yeah, I remember him. Yeah.

0:20:25

And you remember his wife?

0:20:26

No. I think faintly I remember this really quiet person. I must have seen her once. A name just popped into my head. It was Dan Lowe and I'm trying to remember where that name came from, but it must have been down where Elmer lived. But different Lowes from the ones you know? Might be something you might want to ask Nellie who Dan Lowe was. I think it was down around Elmer's on the lake there. For some reason that name just popped into my head.

Did you know the Mansons very well?

Oh, that's what we used to do. Like, there was five of us by this time. We lived where Bert and Victoria live. We used to wait and we'd hear the horse and buggy coming down the road. He had this big gray

horse, Uncle John. And he'd come along and we'd hear him coming. We'd all jump on the back of the wagon and we'd go down to the wharf with him. Just thought of that.

Was that usually when the steamship was coming in?

0:21:41

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

0:21:43

That was one of the things we did. But we just wandered around, of course. We skated in the winter on the ponds and stuff.

Was that at Jack's Pond?

No, that was actually, that wasn't there. That was Hector Graham's brother-in-law's place. His house and the orchard and everything was there. Yeah. And he built that house across where Suzanne lives. Hector built that for his sister.

Where would you skate?

There was a little pond up by the cemetery. It's probably all logged away now. In the bush. That's where we'd go skating. And we did go on the lake, but... I don't remember that, must have been around the early 50s when we skated on the lake, and not this lake, the other lake, over by Ken's. We used to go over there, and Ken and Hazel lived in the little old house down by the water, down by the lake, the old farmhouse, and we'd go down there, and there was always... I'm trying to remember.

0:23:10

But there was people named McCrae's that lived along the lake too. But anyway, there was always boxes of skates and everybody just traded and helped themselves. My dad used to drive the bus over there and take us over on the bus. I think we had quite a few little house parties too, like as kids. We'd get together and have these little parties. And we had a teen town. That was another thing we had.

What's that?

We'd just come up here and play records and dance and stuff like that.

Very often?

I don't remember. Eleanor might remember that more.

0:24:00

It was probably once a week. I think people played cards a lot too. There was card games and we spent all our time in the nice weather at the lake swimming. Swimming and walking and just... But I think I got... once you get into your teens, there really wasn't enough to do by then.

Do you remember school?

0:24:28

Mm-hmm.

0:24:29

Did you like it?

0:24:31

Yeah.

0:24:32

Was Mr. MacDevitt one of your teachers?

Yes, for years and years. I went to school in Vancouver to start with. We were at Metro Town. I stayed with my grandmother. Went to school there.

How come?

I don't remember that part. I don't know why. My older brother did too. I think at one point we had thought of moving back. For some reason, both of us started school down there.

Did you ever think you'd end up spending the rest of your life on Cortes?

0:25:19

No. No.

0:25:21

But it's like home here.

0:25:24

Yeah. Yeah.

Did you know the Jefferys very well?

0:25:32

Yeah, I did. Yeah. Well, yeah, that was, there was Joan. Joan's my age. She lives on Quadra.

0:25:41

Joan?

0:25:42

She was, yeah.

0:25:45

Is she Betty's sister?

0:25:46

No, Nellie's daughter.

Oh, I see. Yeah, yeah.

0:25:51

And so she was around your age?

0:25:53

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

0:25:54

Did you know Mrs. Jeffery?

0:26:01

Nellie's, you mean Nellie or Granny Jefferys?

0:26:06

Mary Jeffery.

0:26:07

Oh yeah, Granny Jeffery. And him, I remember him. He used to help cook the Christmas dinners in the hall here. They used to have a big Christmas dinner every year. Oh yeah, I can still see him helping out there.

He was a good cook?

0:26:31

Yeah.

0:26:32

And what was Granny Jeffery like?

Oh, she just seemed like a nice elderly lady, like, you know, a Granny.

Is that what everyone called her?

Yeah. And then there was Freemans, you know, that lived out here. Eva Freeman and her husband. My dad had a mill, a sawmill with him. You know, they lived with him? Like out where Bruce lives? So we used to go out there and spend a lot of time when we were kids and I'd visit with Eva and you know just as a kid hang out in the house with her and we'd take picnic lunches and go down on the beach and stuff like that; spend the whole day out there.

While your dad was working?

Yeah him and George yeah makes me really think talking about like I really get thinking lots of things I've forgotten.

0:27:40

Can you describe the house that you lived in here at Mansons?

It was really old.

0:27:47

I guess it's been torn down now, hasn't it?

Yeah, but not all that many years, you know. And when I think about it, it wasn't really that big, I think it had two bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and this hallway. That's all it was.

Was it made of logs?

No, no. But it was old, like, it was old when we moved into it.

Was there water running into it?

No. I think there had been. The one over here had had water into it. But everything was rusty. All the pipes were all... You know, they didn't have decent pipes in those days. Like everything rusted and...

0:28:45

So what did you do with the water?

0:28:48

Packed it from the well. Yeah. Yeah, I remember my brother doing it. I don't know how we never fell into those open wells. But you know, I was just thinking the water must have come from way up the road because we didn't have any pumper and the thing, like, when it was pumped, piped into the house, it had to have come from way up the road. Otherwise it would never you couldn't get it from the well without a pump. There was no pumps. Yeah, there was no hydro, no running water, no indoor plumbing at all

Did you ever feel scared?

No.

Not of wild animals?

No. Oh, no. I didn't like the dark too much, but I was never afraid of, never ever afraid of wild animals.

How about your brothers?

0:29:44

No. No. No.

0:29:45

Did they protect you?

0:29:46

No, no, we were just all... yeah. But like Whaletown and Squirrel Cove, that was just like the other side of the world. *You never hiked over there?* No, just to Blind Creek. (Cortes Bay)

0:30:17

Yeah.

0:30:18

So you didn't really know people there?

0:30:22

Well, in the early 50s I guess.

0:30:25

Yeah, kids from there came to school here and we got to all be friends. I remember once walking from a dance at Squirrel Cove. That was in the early 50s.

All the way here?

Yeah. Not by myself, but a bunch of us.

Did you take trails?

No, no. We just walked all the way around the road. The roads weren't too much more than trails. Even now, it's funny, I got in a vehicle recently and it's funny. After all those years, you know, the branches hung over the roads a lot and the vehicles didn't have windows in them, so you're always ducking. And just recently I got in a vehicle and ducked when we went. I couldn't believe that I'd done it!

Did your dad ever tell you stories about driving the bus?

No. No. No.

He sounds like he was a good-natured man.

Oh, yeah. Quite quiet, you know. You'd probably enjoy talking to them. They could tell you, well, he's pretty quiet, but my mother could remember and tell you lots of things. They live in Oyster River.

That's quite possible. That's not too far.

0:32:03

No.

0:32:04

Just down by the farm there, by the UBC farm, at Oyster River. I was going to say, if you phone them, it *would be a good idea just to say what you're doing it for, like you did with me.*

What's their number... 923-4829.

They eventually moved off the island?

In about 1980.

0:32:35

Why?

0:32:38

No, no. My dad had built a house there in his spare time and people had rented it and then they decided to move. The island is still really special to them. They're in their 80s now, you know.

0:33:05

I used to see that they lived here.

But they'd remember a lot of stuff that I don't remember. Like, well, they would have known more about...

Like probably what year my dad started driving the bus, and about how many kids, and all that kind of stuff. But he's pretty quiet, so...

Did you travel much when you were small?

0:33:37

No.

Did you spend much time on the island?

Yeah.

Did you go to the boat?

0:33:41

No.

0:33:42

Did you go fishing?

0:33:43

Yeah, we used to go down to Mansons, if you want to call that fishing. We used to go down there. We all

had a little, I forgot about that. We all had these little fishing lines for shiners. They were little wooden things. We all sit down there on the wharf and do a lot of fishing. I don't know what we did with these fish when we caught them, but they were just shiners and stuff. Yeah. Yeah. It was busy, like there was all those cabins down there and then all these summer people that came and the airlines were in here every day and it was really busy, we thought, down there. Always heard planes in and out steady.

And what do you remember about the cabins that were down there for a long time, who was staying in them?

There was a lot of people, and there's several people on the island now that used to come here as summer people. You know, like Debra Fontaine. She was one of them.

But you used to stay in those cabins?

Mm-hmm. And Debbie Gray. And we got, you know, we got to know them. I think we probably always looked forward to those people coming.

Oh, yeah. The change or...

Yeah, well, they always, you know... There was lots of kids, lots of new kids.

Do you remember when the ferry came to the island?

0:35:24

Uh-huh.

0:35:25

Yeah, that wasn't very long ago.

0:35:40

Just a comparison.

0:35:42

It just seems like yesterday. That's new news. 1969.

0:35:50

Were you excited about it?

0:35:52

Or were you feeling sad?

0:35:54

I guess we looked forward to it.

0:35:56

Yeah, it was 1969. It was the fall of 69.

Had you ever gone on a Union Steamship? Did you do that very often?

I think I went and stayed with my grandparents in Vancouver every summer. Yeah, every summer I'd go down there for a while. I always felt though that we did miss out on things when we got to be teenagers because there wasn't really that much to do here. It seemed that there should have been something more for teenagers.

0:36:52

I guess more people. Like I went off the island and worked away for several summers when I was in my teens. That was better because I got to meet more people and I really liked to meet people. Yeah. I worked up at Naumu, actually. Up by Ocean Falls. Yeah.

0:37:22

How old were you when you did that?

0:37:24

Um... 16, 17.

Was that your first job?

0:37:30

Yeah, it was.

0:37:32

Do you remember what your wages were?

0:37:34

I remember one time having a \$50 bill and thinking that was really something. So that was probably for two weeks. Yeah. I used to do the janitor work for the hall and I think I used to get something like a dollar a week. We used to have movies in the hall once a week. They'd bring films in.

You'd clean up?

Yeah. I think it was a dollar a week I got.

0:38:09

Yeah. Yeah.

0:38:11

Well, now it's a volunteer position.

0:38:13

Yeah.

0:38:14

Yeah. But there wasn't that many vehicles on the island, you know, then.

0:38:19

There was probably only three or four. There was my dad, and Baron Jeffery had one. This Mr. Monten up here had a vehicle. And I don't remember any other ones, but there probably was one or two, maybe.

And so was it a big thing to get a ride in a car?

Oh yeah, but I mean nothing can go very fast because the roads... at first. And most of them weren't really... like they were just little old trucks. Like I don't remember any car at all. They were trucks. Real old trucks. I should have brought some pictures to show you. Yeah, I got like she just, I think she got copies of them or something like that, because I got them all back. I was actually looking at them the other day. Oh, I think I've got one in my purse of the old school down here. *Do you know who the teacher was that taught you?* No, I can't remember her name, May knows, probably.

0:39:47

Yeah, I can't remember her name. I know that May knows because um, maybe I don't have that picture now.

0:40:02

Can you describe the schoolhouse?

It was really neat. It was just a little log schoolhouse with a wood stove in the middle of it. Or it wasn't at the end, maybe. And had these wooden floors that were all oiled. One side was all windows. It was just that little tiny with a log, where the dogwood tree is, just that little piece of ground.

Were you going to school there the same time Robbie Graham was there?

Yes

Do you remember the time that he put the 22, the bullet in the heater?

No. Maybe. Was it in the log school? Did he say? I have a question. See, at one time, pardon me? *You told a couple of stories about school.* Well, at one time, it got to be where there was, they had school in the hall in the church, and they had too many students, so there was kids everywhere.

I don't know where that picture's gone. There it is.

0:41:43

Wow. That's a lot of snow.

There's the dogwood tree. This is looking down that way. I think the hall would be right here.

And that's the first place you went?

Uh-huh. I don't know why they ever tore that building down.

That's what they did, was tear it down?

Yeah, I don't know why they ever tore it down. And it probably would have kept forever. Does that affect the school property? It would have been school property. It still is school property today even.

With the restaurant?

Yeah, he's leased it. Yeah, still. The school board never sells any of their property. Still, it'll have property everywhere. Seaford, Squirrel Cove.

0:42:35

You know, the kids used to walk from, I remember they used to walk from Cortes Bay to school.

0:42:44

Who would be coming from Cortes Bay?

There was Becques. There was Becques and Frank Hayes and his sister and Bob, you know. And there was Hayes's, Becques, and Mascal.

Who were the Becques?

They actually weren't related to anybody.

0:43:22

That's why you're so nice and stuff. I forgot a relative.

0:43:25

The house is still there. It's the one up on the rock bluff as you go down Red Granite Road, and it's on your left just as you go down right into where the store and everything is, where the cabins are. And if you look, you'll see an old house in there. Well, you know, it's probably been fixed up and that was Becques.

There was no road or anything in there then.

Were there a few kids?

Just the boy and the girl.

0:43:51

But they had a store down there.

The Becques did?

0:43:55

Yeah, they had a store. The daughter, the last I heard of her, she was living in Nanaimo. That was years ago.

So, was it just water access?

0:44:01

There was a trail. I can't remember where it went in from. Over by the wharf somewhere, I think. I remember we'd walk to Cortes Bay and Blind Creek. You'd go straight, we'd go right down there, and all of a sudden there'd be a fence. And instead of turning around and going down to the water, that big area there was just a fence. That's as far as the road went. Well that's where these people named Roarks lived.

0:45:01

That was Hector's brother-in-law and then they moved over here.

0:45:04

And so the fence would have been to keep the animals in?

0:45:08

Was that the pig farm?

Why does the pig farm ring a bell?

Maybe that was what Robbie mentioned about a long time ago, that someone without the pigs had a pig's farm.

Oh, maybe it was him. I think that was in the 20s. Maybe it probably was him then.

0:45:28

Huh. Yeah. Well, it had to have been him then, in Cortes Bay.

0:45:33

Well, that was the only relative of his anyway that was here, so...

I didn't know that. It would have been hard to get the animals here...

Yeah. They would have. *Robbie told some funny stories about bringing animals over here and...* And his barge.

0:45:55

Yeah.

0:45:56

I'll be thinking about this the rest of the day. Well if you come up with more stories you could just jot them down.

Yeah, it's funny how you forget all this stuff and it just, you just sort of remember the odd thing instead of, you know, and then gradually it all starts coming back.

I think that's why some people say it's best to...

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