

Note: Also included are voices of Nora's husband, Gill Thompson, and their son Ted Thompson

Interviewer in italics

0:00:00

*Oonagh: ..... Jack Cowan on Quadra Island, BC and it's April the 11th, thank you Nora, and I'm Oonagh O'Connor. April the 11th, 1995.*

0:00:09

*So could you begin by telling me when your family arrived on Cortez?*

Jack: 76 years ago.

*What year?*

0:00:16

Jack: 1919. Our parents landed on Cortez Island.

0:00:18

*And did they have land there?*

0:00:26

Jack: No, they got land later on. They got land, took up our ranch there in 1922.

0:00:31

*Where was the ranch?*

Jack: Well, you might say it's between Squirrel Cove and Seaford.

*Oh, I see.*

Are you familiar? You're not familiar with Cortes.

*I'm familiar with Squirrel Cove, that's where I live.*

Oh, you're living there?

0:00:46

*Yes. Maybe I'm living on your old ranch?*

0:00:53

No, no. You're in Squirrel Cove?

*Uh huh.*

0:00:57

Like in the village, are you?

0:00:58

*Well, just on the way out towards the dump.*

0:01:00

Oh, up the hill, oh, yeah.

0:01:03

*Where was the ranch? Is it between Seaford and Squirrel Cove?*

0:01:06

Yeah, it's between Seaford and Squirrel Cove.

0:01:08

*On the water side?*

0:01:09

Nora: Cowan Ranch, you've heard of Cowan Ranch.

0:01:11

*I've heard of Cowan Ranch, but I don't know where it is.*

0:01:14

Nora: Just halfway and you turn to your right.

0:01:16

Jack: You're going up the hill, you see a road leading up into the woods. That's where it is.

0:01:22

*How much land?*

0:01:23

Eighty-nine acres.

0:01:24

*Eighty-nine*

0:01:25

Jack: We were there 24 years.

*Wow.*

0:01:28

*And how old were you when you went to the island, Nora? Did your parents take you there when you were young?*

0:01:34

Four.

0:01:35

*Four years old?*

0:01:36

*And how about you, Jack?*

Nora: You were 18 months and you...

0:01:41

Jack: I was two years old when we landed on Cortez.

0:01:44

*Do you remember arriving on Cortez? Do you remember your first day there?*

Nora: Yeah.

0:01:49

We'd come right to Squirrel Cove there. The Forrests were there then, yeah.

0:01:53

*Did you get off the steamship? Is that how you arrived there?*

0:01:56

Nora: Yeah. Union Steamship, yeah.

0:01:58

Jack: It was called the Union boat.

0:02:01

*And how did you get to your land? Did you walk? Was there a vehicle that drove you? Or horses? How did you get on the boat to your land?*

Jack: We had to walk. We had to walk around..... We lived in Squirrel Cove for a while.

0:02:16

Nora: Before we got the big ranch

0:02:18

Jack: We lived back in Squirrel Cove. A man named Swan Anderson owned a ranch. We lived there for awhile.

*Who was that?*

A man named Swan Anderson, we lived in his house

0:02:31

*Do you remember when your parents were making the ranch? What they had to do to settle the land?*

0:02:36

Both: Oh yeah. Oh God.

Nora: Because we had to help. We knew all about it

Jack: Once we grew up and older we had the help. Now growing up now, it's just about ten times worse than it was now when we moved in there.

0:02:47

Nora: It was just all Hudson Bay Teeing.

0:02:49

Jack: Just solid. It was just a lake.

0:02:52

*It was a swamp.*

It was a lake in winter.

0:02:54

Nora: And we built it up into a most gorgeous garden.

*How did you drain the swamp?*

0:02:59

Nora: Ditch

0:03:00

Jack: Ditches? No, no ditching machine either.

0:03:02

Nora: No, my dad dug ditches six feet deep.

0:03:04

No shovel.

0:03:05

Did you help, Nora?

0:03:07

Oh, yeah.

*What kind of work did you do?*

0:03:09

And I used to help them blast out the, dynamite the creek so the water would drain out down towards Seafood. Yeah

*Did you remember putting the dynamite sticks there?*

Nora: Oh, yeah. Yeah and holding the hammer while he put me....

Jack : drill, those old hand drills, you know

0:03:25

Yeah, she held on the drill turned it for me. Yeah. Yeah . We were....all day. We learned to work

*Did you grow your food there?*

Nora: Oh, tons of it, yeah. Oh, the most gorgeous garden. I've never seen one like it since.

Jack: Oh, all out in front there, all the gardens.

0:03:46

All garden, it's a huge area.

*What kind of fruit did you grow?*

0:03:50

Jack: Just apples

0:03:51

Nora: No, well, we had every fruit you can imagine, and all the currant bushes, gooseberries.

0:03:55

Jack: Oh, yeah.

0:03:56

Nora: And then we grew everything, corn and tomatoes.

0:03:59

Jack: Every meal that went on the table came out of the garden.

0:04:02

Wow.

0:04:03

*Did you get many supplies from other places? Did you get your supplies from Vancouver or from the store?*

0:04:08

Jack: Oh, grocery, yeah. We did get some from Vancouver.

0:04:11

*From Woodwards?*

0:04:12

Nora: Sugar and flour.

0:04:13

Jack: Sugar and flour and rolled oats.

0:04:15

*Yeah, okay. Was the Squirrel Cove store there when you were there?*

Nora: What year was that that Ewart come in?

Jack: George Ewart came in the same year we did.

0:04:23

Oh.

0:04:24

1919.

0:04:25

*1919 was the first year of the store?*

0:04:27

He came up on the boat with our mother.

*Oh, really?*

Jack: He lived in a tent for a while while he got the store built.

Gill Thompson? They sent him up a lot of stuff, and they called him George E. Wart.

0:04:40

He was named Ewart, E-W-A-R-T. Ewart, yeah. George Ewart.

0:04:48

Gill Thompson (in background): He said I'm not a wart, either.

0:04:50

*What did they used to call him? What was your husband's saying?*

0:04:53

Nora: Oh, he used to... they wrote on the thing, George E. Wart. He didn't like that

*Oh, I see*

Nora: Ewart is his name.

*So how did your parents go about getting the land? Did they buy it from the government?*

0:05:08

Oh, you could preempt it. It was called preempting it.

0:05:12

*And could you explain what that means?*

0:05:14

Well, you just sort of rented it.

Oh, I see.

Jack They rented it from the government.

Nora: You just had to pay the taxes.

0:05:22

Jack: You paid the taxes.

0:05:24

*Do you remember going to school? Did you both go to school?*

Nora: Oh, we walked three miles to school every day.

Jack: We walked to school, yeah.

0:05:32

*And was that the school that was near to Stich's place, by Blue Jay Lake?*

No.

0:05:36

*Oh, you went to the Seaford school?*

0:05:41

Yeah.

0:05:42

The Seaford school, yeah, just above Seaford

Oh, yeah, the log school, somebody burned down. Somebody burned it in 1933.

0:05:47

*And did they ever discover who burnt it?*

0:05:48

Nora: Oh, yeah.

0:05:49

Oh, later years.

0:05:50

Nora: The kids told when they grew up.

0:05:51

*Oh, yeah?*

0:05:53

Jack: There were three buildings.

0:05:54

Nora: Everybody was blamed but .....

Jack: Oh, that was a dirty affair, yeah. People were blamed for it.

*And it wasn't those people?*

Jack: No.

0:06:00

*So was the Native Reserve there?*

0:06:03

Nora: The Reserve? Oh yeah.

*Right back in 1919 it was there?*

0:06:08

Jack: What is that? Squirrel Cove"

0:06:10

Nora: The Reserve, yeah.

0:06:11

Jack: Oh well, oh a long time ago. Oh yeah. I was talking to a man and say he's up the coast here in 1892. And he said it was there then.



*Oh yeah. And so did your family have much interaction with native people?*

0:06:26

Nora: No, there was no native people went to school.

0:06:31

They went to the Squirrel Cove school.

0:06:33

*The native people did.*

Some of them, yeah.

Nora: Some went down to Sliammon, of course, an Indian school.

0:06:40

Jack: Sechelt.

Nora: Sechelt, that was it.

*Do you remember going to school? Did you like school?*

0:06:46

Nora: Oh, yeah.

0:06:48

*Was it easier than working at the ranch?*

0:06:50

Nora: Pardon?

0:06:51

*Was it easier than working at the ranch?*

0:06:52

Nora: Oh, well, we had to always work at the ranch, but we always got to go down to Seaford to swim and all that kind of stuff.

0:06:58

We had to pull weeds out the garden on the weekends.

.....Unintelligible comment from Gill Thompson.....

0:07:06

*So did your father, did you know how to hunt?*

Nora: I knew how to hunt, but he never taught us. My sister and I used to hunt.

0:07:15

Jack: We used to hunt grouse. There was a lot of grouse around there then.

*And do you remember any hunting stories that you'd like to share?*

Nora: Well, I know one hunting story that was pretty funny. It's illegal what we did.

0:07:41

*It's too late to get in trouble.*

0:07:45

Nora: No, well, her and I went out pit lamping, which we did. Everybody did it over there.

0:07:50

Jack: Oh, pit lamping? People did that then.

0:07:52

And then...

0:07:53

*Could you describe what pit lamping is? It was a...*

0:07:56

A lamp on your head to shine the deer's eyes, and then you shot them. But anyway, she shot it and she missed it and it was coming at us? You know, it didn't know what it was doing, I suppose. When it had these big horns, I was scared stiff of it, so I picked up the... I must have picked up almost a log and killed it with it. Yeah, I hit it with a log.

0:08:16

*And knocked it out?*

0:08:18

Nora: Yeah, knocked it out. Then she shot it again.

0:08:20

*Do you remember that?*

0:08:21

Yeah. Gosh.

0:08:23

*And then, did you skin it? What would you do with it then?*

Yeah, I took it home and skinned it, cut it up

0:08:28

*How would you get it home?*

0:08:30

Packed it.

0:08:32

*Do you remember how you got water to the house? Did you have running water in the house?*

No, never.

Jack: A well. A lot of people had wells then.

Nora: But we didn't even have a pump.

0:08:42

Jack: Just a well. We packed it.

*Packed the water too?*

Nora: Then in the summer we had to carry it from a creek away down nearly to Seaford. For drinking water, because our well wasn't fit to drink.

Jack: We found a spring over on the other end of the meadow. We got water there then.

0:09:03

Yeah.

0:09:04

*And do you remember your mother doing the laundry?*

*How would she go about washing the...*

On a

*Scrub board?*

0:09:10

Jack: A cake of soap.

0:09:15

That was not the soap yet.

0:09:16

And they got clear from the machine.(unintelligible)

0:09:17

Nora: Got the clothes as clean as.. (phone rings). Who the blazes is that?

0:09:20

*So Jack, would she go down to the creek to wash the clothes, or would you haul water up to the house to wash?*

0:09:28

Jack: No, there was water in the well, but when it got low in summer, it wasn't fit to drink. We used it for washing.

0:09:33

Nora on phone: Well, no, it's awful. It's terrible. What are you doing?

*Maybe I should stop this for a minute.*

(Interview continues:

*What were the roads like?*

0:09:42

Jack: Roads?

0:09:43

Nora: They were roads and trails, just little trails.

0:09:46

Oh, yeah.

0:09:47

Jack: Because there were very few cars anyway, so

0:09:50

Nora: Didn't we have the first car? Truck?

0:09:53

Well, the first truck was bought from Hank Herrewig.

Nora: For \$75

0:09:58

*What year would that have been*

0:10:00

Jack: 1929, wasn't it?

Nora: Yeah, I think so.

0:10:04

*Do you remember how it got on the island?*

0:10:06

Nora: Now how did it get on the island? On a raft, I guess.

0:10:10

Jack: (unintelligible.. Hank Herrewig...Manson's Landing ) .....who brought it on a float or something.

0:10:14

My son used to bring the cars from Whaletown to here on a raft. Before they had the ferry.  
*Bob?*

Yeah, Bob did. Not with that boat either, with a smaller boat.

0:10:26

*Yeah? So you had one of the first..  
What was it like driving on the roads there?*

0:10:32

Nora: Oh, terrible. They weren't roads at all.

0:10:36

*Do you remember a story about that? About driving on the roads?*

Nora: Oh, many a story about being stuck on hills and stuff like that.

0:10:42

Jack: Yeah, well, they did get stuck on hills.

0:10:44

It wouldn't go up hill

0:10:46

*Did you learn to drive there?*

Nora: I didn't, my sister did. She learned to drive and I didn't

0:10:50

Jack: The old truck had no doors on it, was there?

0:10:53

*No doors on the truck.*

0:10:55

Jack: No doors either side. It was a 1917 model.

0:11:00

*What would you use the truck for?*

0:11:03

Jack: Well, we used to get freight.

0:11:05

Nora: Freight from the Union Steamship at Seaford, yeah. Animals, we had lots of animals.

*What kind of animals?*

Nora: Sheep and cows and chickens and ducks. Horse. Yeah.

Jack: Yeah we had a horse. I found him dead one day in a swamp.

Nora: Somebody shot him.

Jack: He was lying lengthwise in the ditch. We used to let him run all summer in the old meadow. One day I went down to get him. There was an unpleasant odour greeted us and we went to look and he was dead in a ditch.

0:11:39

Nora: I don't think he mired though.

0:11:41

Jack: I doubt it. No. What was he doing in a ditch?

0:11:44

Nora: Somebody shot him like that, at night or something

*Do you remember much wildlife around Cortez at that time?*

Nora: Oh, tons of wildlife. Deer and grouse.

0:11:53

Jack: Oh yeah, there was a paradise then for grouse. Yeah. Deer too. It was a good place that long ago.

0:12:01

*Do you remember going hunting? Huh?*

0:12:04

*Do you remember going hunting?*

Oh yeah

*Do you remember any adventures you might have had?*

0:12:09

No, nothing special. It was grouse hunting, we shot grouse. Nothing special about it. Jack:

*Do you remember when the roads went in?*

Jack: No, that was before my time, but there was a woman living at Seaford that knew. A woman came there in 1912 and she said that the road had been surveyed too before she'd come.

0:12:38

*Before 1912?*

0:12:40

Before 1912. She said it was 1911 or somewhere it was surveyed through. Some of the old men had come here earlier. That would be Jim Smith, remember?

0:12:52

Mm-hmm.

0:12:53

*And what were you saying about Joe McDonald when we had the tape machine off?*

0:12:57

*You were saying about he was a...*

0:12:59

Jak: Oh the road foreman. Oh. He didn't have a truck. He had a little two-wheeled cart pulled by a horse.

0:13:04

Ha ha ha!

0:13:05

Jack: That was 1925.

0:13:07

*And what was he doing there? He was a road foreman?*

0:13:11

Nora: The road foreman. That was his job, yeah.

0:13:13

Jack: Work on the road. They had foreman work on the road.

0:13:16

*Like filling in the potholes, that kind of thing?*

0:13:18

Yeah.

0:13:19

Nora: That's what they do over there now. They do it all in machinery now.

0:13:22

Jack: That was, that's what they did then.

0:13:25

*They're doing that today, actually. They're filling in some potholes on the road.*

0:13:30

*Do you remember the railroad? There used to be a railroad on Cortez?*

0:13:33

Jack: Oh, yeah, ABM.

0:13:34

*What was that?*

0:13:35

Jack: A logging over to the Lake.

0:13:37

*What's that?*

0:13:38

Nora: Gunflint Lake.

Jack: Where Ken Hansen lives.

0:13:43

*And where did the railroad go from?*

0:13:45

Jack: That run down to nearly to the beach, didn't it?

0:13:48

Yeah.

0:13:49

Jack: They took the logs out there. They had a cookhouse up on the top side of the road on the lake. That was ABM. They were there from 1923 to 1927.

0:14:00

*And then the railway closed down?*

0:14:03

Well, they were finished and then they burned the slash and left.



0:14:06

*And do you remember the railway being built?*

0:14:09

Well, there wasn't much to it, I don't think. I don't think there was much railroad there.

Nora: No, there was a bigger railroad at Carrington Bay, wasn't there? Yeah

Jack: That one over there, and the man killed by a boiler and a steam donkey blew up.

0:14:28

*Out at Carrington?*

0:14:30

No.

0:14:31

Nora: On the lake there, Gunflint, yeah. There's still pieces, they're putting a monument there for him

Jack: Yeah. In 1923, the year that ABM started.

*Who was that?*

The boiler blew up. We heard it at the Seaford School. We heard the blast.

*Wow. Do you know who it was that got killed?*

A man named Harry Hazen, wasn't it?

Yeah.

Oh, he was badly scalded. He was still conscious, but he died in the way of the Powell River. He was so badly scalded.

0:14:59

*Do you remember many medical emergencies like that that happened when you were growing up?*

Nora: No, we don't. We didn't.

0:15:05

Jack: No, we had very little of that.

0:15:06

Nora: I know. That's what I don't understand why there wasn't.

0:15:10

Jack: Well, people didn't go out as much then, either.

0:15:12

Nora: No, they didn't have much, you know, way to get hurt.

Jack: No, not the same way.

0:15:17

Nora: No cars running around.

0:15:19

No.

0:15:20

*And did your mom help you, like when you had wounds, would she look after that? Or did you ever get, you never really got hurt?*

0:15:27

Nora: No. Never had broken anything. None of us, all of us, five of us, never had a broken bone.

*You had five kids in your family?*

0:15:34

Jack: Five of us, yeah.

0:15:36

Nora: Three of us left.

0:15:38

*So you ended up raising a family there yourself, Nora?*

*Is that right, on Cortez? You stayed on for...*

Nora: Yeah. Yeah. Von Donop Creek, you see, I moved up there.

0:15:48

*Did you meet your husband on Cortez?*

0:15:50

Yeah.

0:15:51

Oh, yeah, yeah. And then we moved to Von Donop and...

0:15:53

*How did you meet your husband?*

0:15:54

Oh at dances and stuff.

0:16:04

*Do you remember the dances?*

0:16:06

Nora: Oh, that's the only recreation there was, was the dances. You had to look forward to them, I'll tell you.

0:16:11

Jack: Seaford school dances.

0:16:12

Nora: Yeah, and then we used to go over to Refuge Cove, do you know where that is?

0:16:15

Jack: Yeah, we went to dance there in the 20s.

0:16:17

*And would there be live musicians at the dances?*

0:16:20

Nora: Oh, yes. Yeah, real nice music, old music.

0:16:23

Jack: Oh, there was, yeah, there was music. Piano, accordion, guitar and violin, yeah. Banjo.

0:16:36

*So you'd walk to the dancers at Seaford? Yeah. Would you ever go to the dances at Manson's?*

0:16:41

Oh, yes.

Jack: We had the old truck.

Nora: Walked there and walked back at five in the morning.

Jack: Yeah, the old truck went after a while.

Nora: Yeah, but not to start with. We never thought anything about walking from our place to Mansons Landing, that was easy. It was only five miles I guess.

*So whereabouts in Von Donop did you move to? You were saying it was kind of north?*

Nora: Yeah, it was on the north end of Von Donop. Real nice place it was.

0:17:11

*Were there any other families around you?*

0:17:13

No, nobody. Just alone, yeah.

*And where did you... did you stay on the Cowan Ranch still, Jack, or what did you do?*

0:17:21

Jack: No, we moved out. . Moved down to Squirrel Cove.

0:17:25

*Oh, your whole family, or just you, or...?*

0:17:29

Nora: Him and... and mother, my mother.

0:17:31

Jack: Yeah, my brother in Vancouver.. We moved down to Squirrel Cove. I was there 33 years.

*For 33 years you lived in Squirrel Cove?*

0:17:40

Nora: In a little shack that was beside my sister there.

0:17:45

*The house that fell down?*

0:17:46

Jack: Yeah. A small house there on the side of the hill. Yeah. We lived in there. And I was there for 33 years.

*And did you end up selling the Cowan land, the Cowan ranch?*

Jack: Well, I did, yeah. I fell heir to it, and I got rid of it.

Nora: Sold it to Mac and Blo, didn't you?

Jack: What, Mack and Blo?

0:18:07

Nora: They took the timber off it.

0:18:09

Jack: Who the hell did I sell it to?

0:18:12

Nora: Yeah, you did, I think. Yeah, you sold it to McMillan Bloedel. I'm sure of that.

Jack: Bailey logged there.

Nora: Yeah.

Jack: Bailey. I think Bailey took timber off there for us.

0:18:24

*And how did your father make a living?*

0:18:26

Nora: Tug boats.

0:18:28

Jack: He worked on tug boats.

*Just like your son.*

*And what would he do? Would he be pulling boats up and down or loads of logs?*

Nora: Yeah, or coal down to all sorts of things to Vancouver Island he took stuff to. What was the name of the place he...

0:18:47

Jack: He used to go into Union Bay to get coal for them.

0:18:52

Union Bay.

0:18:53

*And did you ever go in the boat with him?*

0:18:56

Nora: No.

0:18:57

Jack: No, never on the boat.

0:18:58

*So was he away a lot?*

0:19:00

Oh yeah, months and months and months at a time. Mother had it all on her own there.

0:19:04

*Five kids?*

0:19:05

Nora: Yeah. When we first moved there, too, we went up in... Do you know where Teakerne Arm is? Now that's a hellhole.

0:19:16

Jack: Moved up there in 1920.

0:19:18

Nora: Yeah. With all us kids and not even a way to get out of the darn place. There's only an old little rowboat....And all kids. The oldest was what? Twelve?

Jack: Yeah.

0:19:30

Nora: And they'd never been in a boat in their life. And they had to row to Squirrel Cove.

Jack: They knew nothing about canoes or rowboats or anything.

0:19:38

*No, you'd row there for supplies? And where would you go to school then?  
You didn't go to school when you were in Teakerne Arm?*

0:19:48

Jack: No, there was no school up there. We were out of school.

0:19:53

*Were you the only family up there?*

0:19:55

Jack: Yeah, we were the only family there.

0:20:00

*Do you remember, was it hard or was it fun? What do you remember about that experience?*

0:20:06

Nora: No, we didn't think it was hard, really.

*It was just life?*

Yeah, just life, yeah.

*So, were most of your playmates from your family, or did you have other playmates?*

0:20:16

Nora: No, not then

Jack: No, not then, no.

0:20:18

Nora: Just the family, yeah.

*What about when you moved back down to...*

Nora: Squirrel Cove

*Do you remember some of your friends from those days?*

(Knocking at door)

Nora: Come in! Hi.

New Voice: I see a pair of little shoes here.

0:20:36

Nora: Well they're not mine if they're little ones.

*They're mine. They're all the way from Northern Ireland.*

0:20:42

Nora: What?

*Shoes, they're from Northern Ireland.*

0:20:44

Nora: For pity's sake.

0:20:47

New voice: So have you been getting the goods?

0:20:49

*Working on it, yeah.*

0:20:50

Oh.

0:20:51

*Are you going to join us?*

0:20:52

New Voice: Well, I don't know whether I could add anything to it. These guys have a lot of wealth of information, probably a year after

*. So, Nora, do you remember any of your friends from those days?*

0:20:55

Oh, yes. One lives right down the road here.

*Oh, who would that be?*

0:21:19

Nora: Thompson. She married his brother. Katie.

Jack: Schoolmates.

Nora: All the Smith girls. There were four Smith girls and they lived right at Seaford. Right where Doreen Guthrie lives, down that way.

0:21:32

Nora: There's four girls and one boy.

Jack: The house is gone, though.

Nora: Yeah, the big house is gone

*So that house is gone and there are newer houses now at Seaford*

*Is there a road named Cowan Road?*

*No, it's Smith Road that's down there, is it?*

Nora: Well, there's Cowan Road too. That's the one that goes up to our old ranch.

*Oh. When was that put in?*

0:21:49

Jack: Well, in the year we moved up there, I guess.

0:21:52

*1919?*

0:21:53

Jack: No, 1922 we moved up onto the ranch.

0:21:56

*Oh, right. 1922 when you moved up.*

0:21:58

Nora: 1922. We had to put our own road in too.

0:22:06

*How did you do that?*

0:22:07

Nora: By hand, mattock and shovel.....Not the way they do it now.



*So did you grow up on Cortez?*

0:22:10

New Voice: Are you on tape?

*Yeah.*

Oh, you guys on tape now?

0:22:13

Nora: Yeah. Yeah, he grew up on Cortez.

*What's your name?*

0:22:16

*Maybe you could introduce yourself.*

0:22:32

*What's your name, so you can introduce yourself?*

*Ted.*

0:22:35

*Hi, Ted. I'm Oonagh.*

0:22:36

Hi.

0:22:37

Ted: Yeah, I won't interfere with this. I'll let you guys go ahead and get this.

0:22:41

*So you're Bob's brother?*

Ted: Yes. Uh-huh.

0:22:44

And you are Nora's son.

0:22:45

Ted: Uh-huh.

*Well, did you want to see?*

Ted: So have you been traveling back and forth to Cortez Island quite a bit?

0:22:53

*I live on Cortez.*

Ted: Oh you live on Cortez

0:22:50

Nora: Squirrel Cove.

0:22:54

*Yeah. Maybe right across from the old ranch . I'm not sure where the ranch is. I'd have to find that out. I live on the water side right by the ocean.*

Nora: Oh, she must look towards Lund then.

0:23:00

*Yeah. I look at Refuge Cove.*

0:23:03

Jack: Oh, Refuge Cove. Oh, you're down the beach then.

0:23:05

Nora: Oh, I see. I thought you were on the other side. I see where you are now. ...Well, that's a nice view, isn't it?

0:23:25

Jack: The house is Jack: up there on the hill, in that case, is it?

0:23:28

*No, it's right on the water.*

0:23:29

Right on the water?

0:23:30

*Yeah.*

0:23:31

Jack: Well, I've lost track of the place.

0:23:32

Nora: Would that be down where Cap's Purchase is, down that way?

0:23:35

Jack: Not that far down, is it?

0:23:36

Ted: Well, are you right in Squirrel Cove, south of Settlement? Or are you along the beach between Seaford and Squirrel Cove?

0:23:42

Yes.

Jack: Oh now, we're getting somewhere. You're along there, right on the beach.

0:23:46

*Uh huh. It's a new house here.*

0:23:48

Jack: Oh, there's houses up on the hill from you, isn't there?

0:23:51

*Oh, behind? Yeah, that's right.*

0:23:53

Oh no, I know where you mean. The man named Warren Workman lived up there.

Nora: That's where Woolley lived, isn't it?

Jack: Woolley? No, Woolley was up the other way. Up the hill past me, where I used to be. Woolley, he lived in, going up with the right-hand side. Doug McGillis, he sold out, he's living in Whaletown.

0:24:16

*Yeah, that's right, he's still there*

0:24:17

Doug McGillis.

Nora: He worked here.

Jack: Yeah, he was working for the...

0:24:21

Nora: Quadra Builders.

0:24:22

Jack: Quadra Builders.

0:24:23

*Do you remember any of your friends, Jack, from when you were a child on Cortez?*

0:24:27

Jack: Well, just the one we went to school with.

0:24:29

*Like who was there at the same time?*

0:24:31

... different families. The Smith family she talked about.

Nora: Calwell family, too.

Jack: Calwell, they lived up above the crossroad at Seaford. They were there from 1924 to 1927. They logged in there.

0:24:46

*So they were just there for a few years, but you remember them well?*

0:24:49

Oh, yeah.

Nora: Related to them, even.

0:24:53

*You're related to them?*

Nora: Yeah. Yeah, well, my sister's girl married a Calwell. She lives down here in Drew Harbor.

0:25:07

*Right by where you live.*

0:25:09

Yeah, right across the road, yeah.

Jack: Boy, I just took her to the corner (?), yeah.

0:25:14

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

0:25:17

Jack: Oh, there wasn't much to do. Very little to do.

0:25:20

Nora: Oh, God.

*You must have played some sort of...*

Oh, lots of games, made our own fun, yeah. And went swimming in the summertime. Always walked down and go swimming.

0:25:30

*Did you build forts?*

0:25:31

Nora and Jack: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

0:25:34

Jack: School, yeah, we used to have games at school. We thought it was something, you know.

Ted: Where are you from Oonagh, the city or country?

0:25:41

*Both.*

0:25:42

Ted: Both. Well, now, I see things here that I can see you're probably not getting a clear picture.

0:25:49

*So do you remember the very early people on Cortez that were there, maybe even before you arrived?*

0:25:55

Oh, they were. Cap Smith was living at Seaford. . They called him Cap Smith. There was another man there named Charlie Smith, worked for the CPR. They were at Seaford.

0:26:06

*But they weren't related?*

0:26:08

No, no relation. There was another man named Jim Smith up above Seaford. He was no relation either.

Gil: He was the captain of the Cypress Queen. We went up to Refuge Cove. The Cypress Queen took the scow up and Cap Smith was skipper on her.

Nora: He wasn't really a captain, was he?

Jack: No, he run the store for the Thulin brothers at Lund. He got the name Captain and just stuck with them. He vanished in 1932.

*He vanished?*

0:26:38

Jack: Down at Turn Point, you heard of that?

0:26:39

*Where's that?*

Jack: You've heard of where Tiber Bay is now.

*What did you used to call it?*

Jack: It used to be called Scopie's (?) Bay because we knew the man who lived in there. Edgar Scopie (possibly Schofield?), he died in 1930. Now it's called Tiber Bay

0:26:59

Ted: Mary Point now. It used to be Turn Point.

0:27:01

Cap went down there looking for seaweed for his garden and he didn't come back. They found the boat up on the beach and he wasn't around.

Gil: Old Cap had one of his spells

Jack: Well, nobody knows what he did, he just vanished

0:27:14

*So what about other families like the Corbys? Do you remember the Corbys?*

0:27:18

Jack: No, he was just himself wasn't he?

Nora: He was just one old guy

Jack: He died in 1914, I think, according to old timers.

Gil/Ted?: And what did he do there, John?

Jack: He cut wood for the tugs. The steam power engine, the tugs in those days, they burned wood.

0:27:36

Gil/Ted?: Wood to create the steam so they could tow wood.

0:27:39

Jack: Wood station, he cut wood for them.

0:27:41

Gil/Ted?: And what else did he do?

0:27:43

Jack: He used to bootleg too.

0:27:45

Gil/Ted?: He made blackberry wine and so did I.

0:27:47

Nora: Yeah, well that was okay.

0:27:49

Jack: He had raspberries and he used to sell wine to the crew.

0:27:53

Nora: Yeah, sure.

0:27:55

Jack: But not much was known about him I guess.

0:27:57

*Fuel for the people and fuel for the boats.*

0:27:59

Nora: Yeah.

0:28:01

Ted: That particular spot's unique. It's under the highest mountain on Cortez Island and it sweeps down to Lewis Channel and looks up Teakerne Arm where the homestead is and there's a sort of a gravelly beach, sweeps out and sort of cuts off part of Lewis Channel. It's very notable, a notable spot. That mountain now used to be called, we used to call for years, Corby's Mountain because of him. Because his preemption takes part of the mountain in.

Nora: What's it called now?

Jack: Cliff Mountain.

Ted: Cliff Peak

Nora: Why do they do that?

Ted: If you had the map here you'd be able to pinpoint these things.

0:28:40

*And so what happened to his land? Who sold it or who bought it?*

0:28:44

Ted: Well the last people who owned it that I know is from McMillan and Bloedell. They went around in the 50s and bought up all the old preemptions. Whoever would sell land, they bought it. Threw it in their tree farm so they didn't have to pay any land tax on it. Six cents an acre that

way. Until it was convenient to subdivide it or whatever. But anyways, they did that and the last I heard they owned it. So now it would be Naranda and Lee.

0:29:08

*How about people that were there when you arrived then? Do you feel like you've covered the old-timers that were there even before you got there? Or can you think of any other families?*

0:29:24

No.

Nora: Well, that was Seaford, but what about Squirrel Cove? We landed there. Forrests were there then.

Jack: Forrests were there then, yeah.

0:29:30

What did the Forrest family do?

0:29:32

Nora: Had a store.

Jack: Had a store, I thought.

0:29:34

*So they had the store before the fellow that came on the boat with your mother?*

0:29:39

Nora: Ewart?

0:29:40

*Ewart, yeah.*

0:29:41

Jack: I don't know what year they acquired that store.

Nora: I don't know who had the store first.

Gil: Forrest had the store first then George Ewart

Nora: What year did Forrest come there?

Jack: 1914.

Nora: 1914

*And was there a big family, the Forrests, or was it...*



0:29:51

Nora: Three boys and a girl, yeah.

*And did they go to school with you?*

Jack: No. No, no, it was before. They were't of our generation. They were older.

Nora: My sister married a Forrest.....

0:30:05

*So you were saying that there's a lot of people buried?*

Ted: There's a couple, an old couple that died of starvation there, and they're buried right at the mouth of Von Donop Lagoon, where it enters Von Donop Inlet.

0:30:08

Wow.

0:30:09

Gil: There's a fence around that grave now.

0:30:10

Ted: Yeah, there's a little fence around the grave.

0:30:29

Ted: And now it's a small subdivision that Lynn Lakeburg put in. You can't miss it. It's a notable spot where the lagoon runs out.

0:30:58

*A couple starved to death living up there.*

0:31:01

Ted: Yeah. What year would that be that they died there? Do you remember? It would be in the early 30s?

0:31:07

Jack and Nora: Yeah, it was the early 30s, yeah.

0:31:10

Ted: Do you remember their first names?

Nora: No.

Ted: I've gone up and looked at the graves.

*Did you say that was the Blacks?*

Ted: Blacks,

0:31:19

Ted: yeah, a couple named Black.

Gil: Well, their son come up and wanted them to go to town, he had a place down there, but they had all this wonderful land and it was starting to get hard.

Nora: Yeah, starved to death. They were sitting on good timber could have sold and lived, you know.

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