

Continuation of an interview by Oonagh O'Connor, 1995

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

Interviewer in italics

0:00:00

A subdivision up in Von Donop?

Ted: Yes, that was their old homestead that they died on. Their graves are still there, they're about maybe 100 feet from the beach, right in the little anchorage.

0:00:15

Do you know the story of how they were discovered or buried?

0:00:20

Jack: Oh, Black. Well, Andy Byers found them, didn't he?

0:00:25

He went to the door to take something into him. He was sitting in a chair. He kept knocking, he wouldn't answer. He went in and found him dead. That would be the man, Black.

0:00:37

Gil: He starved to death.

0:00:39

Jack: Sitting in a chair.

0:00:41

Do you remember people who came and tried to make a living on Cortez and ended up leaving? Like abandoning their homesteads?

Jack: Well, the real old-timers did that, the ones before our time.

Gil: Young Black, he was well-to-do, and he wanted them to come to town and stay with him down there, but they wouldn't leave that wonderful land. They starved to death.

Jack: There was a ranch up above, across from Seaford, going towards Manson's. You see the ruins of old buildings there.

0:01:14

Have I seen them?

0:01:16

Jack: Yeah.

0:01:18

No, But whose buildings were they?

0:01:20

A man name of Quimby moved in there first, no, Bob Smith had a ranch up above him on the right hand side. He moved in there in 1911, according to the map I got. Then came Walter Quimby. He lived at the crossroads. He went in there in 1912 too, according to the map I got on that.

Nora: But she couldn't stand it.

He couldn't stand it?

Nora: She couldn't, huh.

And so they ended up leaving?

0:01:44

Jack: Yeah. 1911.

Who came to the island then?

0:01:49

Jack: Jim Smith, Bob Smith's brother. He lived in that bay across from Blind Creek. You familiar with that? You don't know Jim Palmer lived in there, did you? Never knew him.

0:02:04

Is that where George Griffin used to live?

0:02:07

Jack: No, not quite. He was in Blind Creek.

0:02:09

Okay, and this is across from there.

0:02:11

Jack: The bay is from across from there. He took that up in 1911. He died in 1931.

On Cortez?

Jack: Yeah, in his own house. He fell dead in his own house in 1931.

0:02:26

So why is it called Blind Creek?

0:02:27

Jack: I never figured out why that really was, but somebody said it just seems to run around in crazy circles, so they called it Blind Creek.

0:02:29

Gil: Well, you could go in there and miss the place.

0:02:30

Nora: Well, that's what I've heard that's why they named that, because it was so hard for the boats to get in, find the... to get in there? Yeah. Yeah.

And so do you know much about the history of that area? Can you remember?.

0:02:37

Jack: Well, we knew some of the people lived there. It was a Hayes family. We went to school with them over at Seaford.

So they had kids around your age?

Jack: Well, some of them around our age, yeah. Hayes family.

0:03:14

Nora: There was a whole family of them. They almost starved to death, too. Cause they had a father that wouldn't work.

0:03:17

Jack: Yeah. Oh, he wouldn't work, no.

0:03:18

Nora: No. But he had how many kids? About eight?

Yeah.

0:03:22

Nora: Must have had eight.

0:03:23

Did they have a farm?

0:03:24

Nora: No, not very much.

0:03:25

Jack: Well, they never did much.

0:03:26

No, they never done anything like that much.

0:03:27

So how would they have supported the family? Do you know?

0:03:28

Nora: Well, there was an uncle there. I think that's what helped. They had an uncle live in the yard, and I think he was on some kind of a pension, because he never worked.

0:03:30

Oh, I see.

0:03:42

Jack: Oh, he was Arthur Ashford? He was an uncle of Mrs. Hayes, wasn't he?

Nora: Yeah, he was her uncle.

Jack: Well, he had a pretty rough time of it.

Nora: But they used to walk through the woods. Good Lord, that was a horrible trip for a little kid, you know, right through the woods to the school. Must have been about three or four miles. Winter and summer.

0:04:02

Jack: Bare feet.

0:04:03

Nora: in bare feet.

Bare feet.

0:04:05

Gil: the cougars didn't eat 'em, eh?

Nora: The least of the worries was the cougar. It was keeping warm and getting something to eat was the most important. Yeah, they were a hard up family.

0:04:18

What were you about to say?

0:04:20

Gil: the cops came to old Joe's

Nora: but that was in another place. That wasn't Cortez.

Gil: he wouldn't work

0:04:37

Nora: They never found out who killed her.

What was that you were talking about? That secret? You're saying there was a murder?

Jack: Down Turn Point, who did kill her? She was found floating in the water, an Indian woman.

And nobody knows the story

0:04:50

Nora: Just a girl she was, just a young girl.

Jack: Kathleen Louie. She was found in the water, but by the way she was killed.....

Nora: They were all in a big drunken binge that night.

Jack: They were drinking.

0:05:01

And was she related to Joe Louie?

Well she'd be a Louie, yes, I think she'd be(inintelligible) .Francis Louie's sister.

0:05:09

Jack: Boy, the way people on the Reserve, Indian Reserve, Squirrel Cove, they were always working at crummy anyway. Kind of crummy, you know. The older generation. The young ones seemed to have smartened up a bit.

So crummy in what way?

Nora: It was drink. It was booze.

Were there a lot of people making their own booze on the island?

0:05:34

Nora: A lot of people made beer.

0:05:40

Jack: I made lots of beer. I made lots of home brew, I'll admit. I haven't taken a drink since 1961.

Gil: I remember Phil, you know, you give me a drink of your... what the hell was that booze you made?

Nora: Oh, it was made out of fruit, that one.

Jack: Oh, that never hurt you.

0:06:05

Gil: I got a hell of a gut ache. He said, there he is, this old lady coming. "He's going to kill you. He's trying to poison you." He says, give him that, Jack.....

0:06:12

Jack: I made booze. I'd make booze later on. People drank and it never hurt them. It never hurt them.

So do you know any stories about the Caldwells? (Calwell) You said they used to live there and did some horse logging in Squirrel Cove?

0:06:30

Oh yeah, yeah. It's just above the crossroad at Seaford going towards Mansons.

0:06:34

Nora: Skid Road. The kids used to go by and, you know, and grease the skids with grease.

0:06:41

Cliff Caldwell, the one at Seaford, that was his job on weekends was greasing the skids. They pulled up there and decked their timber and they piled it and took it to a beach with horses.

Nora: Two horses, yeah.

0:06:52

Took the logs to the beach?

0:06:53

Yeah.

0:06:54

Took to the beach with horses.

0:06:55

And then a boat would come and take them or what would happen?

0:06:57

Jack: Yeah, tugboat.

Nora: Tugboat would come and take them.

Jack: Yeah, they had to boom them up and the tug took them

0:07:04

How many kids were there? The Calwells?

Nora: There was three boys and a girl?

0:07:08

Yeah.

0:07:09

And did you mention that there was a lake named after them or a couple places?

Nora: Yes, Calwell Lake

Where was that?

0:07:16

Nora: Right over there, the mouth of Von Donop

Why was that lake named after them?

Nora: Because they lived there.

0:07:22

Jack: They lived there.

0:07:23

Nora: In later years.

Jack: Oh, yeah in later years, yeah.

Nora: Before they moved over here.

the old Calwell moved over here and built the first store at Heriot Bay here.

0:07:36

Q. How about the Joneses? You mentioned the Joneses when we had the tape recorder off. Who were they?

Nora: The Joneses?

Yeah. I don't think they lived on Cortez.

Nora: No, they did. They lived in Theodosia Arm. Do you know where that is?

0:07:53

No. Well just describe it for the...

0:07:56

Is that further north? Just over by Point Sary (Sarah Point?) and over there. Looking into Galley Bays. You keep on going up that arm and that's Theodosia.

0:08:06

Gil: And I lived there and you go in behind that.....

0:08:09

Nora: We lived in there for quite a while. And they had ten kids in there.

You did or they did?

Nora: They did. Oh God, no.

They had ten kids in there. Wow. The Joneses, huh. And what, so do you have any stories about them that come to mind?

0:08:24

Jack: I never knew them.

0:08:28

Nora: No, he wasn't there

0:08:30

They weren't on Cortez.

0:08:32

Nora: I had two little kids in there, that one there and Bob.

0:08:36

Gil: They taught our kids to talk.

0:08:39

They taught your kids to talk?

0:08:41

Nora: They were nice kids, really nice kids, but they had a horrible life. Terrible life.

0:08:46

In what way?

Nora: Hungry all the time. The old man wouldn't work. Another one that wouldn't work. They were sure nice kids.

0:08:53

So did they have a garden out there?

0:08:55

Nora: Yeah.

0:08:56

To try and feed themselves?

0:08:57

Nora: Yeah, she did, yeah. The kids usually, they done most of it.

0:09:01

Nora: He finally must have been ashamed of himself or something because he shot him.....
no he set fire to the house and then shot himself.

0:09:14

Nora: He told them all to go to the store this day and they all went. And that's what he did while they were gone.

He set the house on fire and shot him.

0:09:23

Nora: I have to remember which to say first.

0:09:24

Jack: Yeah, he shot him and set the house on fire. (laughter)

And so what did the kids do then?

Nora: They all took off for Powell River. They moved them all to Powell River.

0:09:39

And was the mother still around?

0:09:40

Nora: Yeah, she was there, yeah. Yeah. I guess a lot of them live in Powell River yet.

0:09:52

Jack: I suppose some of them. They'd all been married now

Nora: They're all younger than I am.

Jack: It was Bert Jones wasn't it? He died on...

0:10:10

Nora: Oh yeah Bert did.

0:10:12

Jack: Vananda or Texada. I've got these obituaries and scraps.

Gil: I've lost my glasses somewhere

0:10:16

Nora: You left them in the bathroom when you shaved. Even I know.

0:10:20

Jack: I've been making scrap books since 1968 you know.

0:10:23

You have been?

0:10:25

It was a good way of keeping records. I'm making one now at the present time.

.....(unintelligible) was 17. You can (unintelligible)... the old ones. You find things you've forgotten.

0:10:37

Are you keeping notes about things?

0:10:40

Yeah, things in the newspaper, books.

0:10:42

No wonder your memory is so sharp. Could you tell me anything about the Smith family? You said you knew you used to play with the Smith girls?

0:10:51

Jack: Oh, at Seaford.

0:10:52

Nora: Yeah, Seaford, in that big house, yeah.

0:10:54

And so what were their names? Who were some of the people in the Smith family?

Nora: There was Katie and Nellie. Do you know Nellie?

Jeffrey?

Nora: Yeah, that's one of them.

Was she a friend of yours?

Nora: Oh, good lord, my best friend, yeah, my best friend.

Jack: Went to school at Seaford.

Nora: And there's one down the road here, Katie, married his (referring to Gil) brother. And there's two at the river. One married a Calwell. And the other married an Armstrong, yeah. And then Francis Smith was the boy. He lives at Willow Point now.

And do you guys used to pal around together?

0:11:29

Jack: Oh yeah we went to school with them

Nora: We were just like brothers and sisters, all of us. Nice kids.

Were they there when you arrived on the island?

Nora: Yeah, and their mother left them when they were just small.

0:11:46

Jack: Well, some of them wouldn't be very old when we moved.....

0:11:49

Nora: I think the young one, when she left, she took the young one with her. Remember?

0:11:54

Jack: Oh yeah, their mother left them, walked out and left them. Yeah.

Jack: 1923. She picked up and walked away.

Nora: Christ, Julie was only two years old then.

Jack: Julie was born in 21, wasn't she? She must have been two years old.

Nora: She was real young, so she took her and left all the others.

Jack: Yeah, just walked out on them.

0:12:13

So what happened?

0:12:15

Well, the dad had to look after them, try to look after them.

Jack: So they went to Seattle, and her relatives in Seattle.

0:12:20

Nora: Yeah, for a while, and then they come back there and got housekeepers.

What was his name? Which Smith was he?

Cap Smith.

0:12:28

Oh, that was Cap Smith.

0:12:29

Nora: That was the Captain Smith, yeah. Yeah, he was a good old guy. He thought lots of his kids.

0:12:37

Yeah. But I often think about that, you know, it would be pretty scary to have little kids alone now, wouldn't it?

0:12:44

Oh, those kids.

0:12:45

Jack: In those days they lived alone an nobody ever bothered them.....(unintelligible multiple voices talking) Cortez Island in this day and age.

0:12:55

Nora: Different world now. Especially four little girls alone, you know.

Tape stops and start again.....

Jack: The whole population of the reserve went looking for them.

You were just talking about who vanished?

Andy McGee. They couldn't find him. Years later somebody found a big pile of stones with a skeleton inside from the..... one side of the skull caved in.

0:13:28

That's the one Katie found? Yeah.

0:13:31

Nora: Right on Picnic Point there.

0:13:32

Jack: Well, I'd never seen it. Yeah. So she found it anyway.

What did they think happened to Andy McGee?

0:13:36

Oh, he'd been killed. The side of his head had been caved in.

Nora: With an axe.

Jack: She could see that when she looked at it. He'd been done away with.

0:13:47

Do you know anything about Larson Meadow or the people who lived there?

Jack: Oh, Larson. Gus Larson.

0:13:52

Nora: That's up where Stitch lives.

0:13:54

Uh-huh.

0:13:55

Jack: The side of his Yeah, down below there. On the left-hand side of the hill, around (unintelligible)

0:14:04

And around the same time as your family?

0:14:07

Jack: He moved in there after Byers, I think. Henry Byers moved in there.

0:14:12

Oh, the Byers lived in the Larson's Meadow first?

0:14:15

Jack: No, up where Stitch is.

0:14:16

Oh, I see.

0:14:17

Jack: That area was Henry's property. He moved in there in 1923.

0:14:23

Nora: And his son lives down here now, right? You know Clarence, do you?

Well, I'm going to interview him in a few days.

Nora: Oh, are you? Oh, yeah. They're nice people.

0:14:31

Jack: Larson, I think, moved in after Henry did. (Note: these are 2 different places)

0:14:36

I see. Henry sold the land to them?

0:14:38

Jack: Hartman bought it. He bought it off Henry. He got a thousand dollars. He just gave it away, you know. The timber that went out of there, I worked to help load it. The timber that went off of that thing, He sold for a thousand dollars.

0:15:02

What kind of jobs did you used to do on Cortez?

0:15:05

Jack: I worked in the camps.

0:15:07

The logging camps?

0:15:08

Jack: Yeah, the logging camps in Cortez and back then.

0:15:10

So you used to fall trees?

0:15:12

Jack: Oh, yes, I felled timber. I worked for man named Art Marshall. Felled timber for him, worked for him.

0:15:20

Nora: Oh, at Jim's Bay.

Was the money very good?

0:15:22

Oh, it wasn't too bad. It was an income anyway.

0:15:26

Nora: Three dollars a day?

0:15:28

Jack: A little more than that, but we seemed to make out anyway.

0:15:33

Things were a bit cheaper then, then.

Anything else? Did you do anything else besides logging?

0:15:41

Jack: No. The later years I worked on the roads.

0:15:45

Q. Oh, yeah. What years would that have been?

0:15:49

Jack: The later years, later on.

0:15:51

Q. Like the 50s or 40s?

0:15:53

Jack: Yeah, the 50s, I guess. Working on the roads.

0:15:58

Q. How about you, Nora? Did you ever have any jobs on Cortez?

0:16:02

Jack: No, there was nothing there.

0:16:04

Nora: I just worked along with him.

Your job was raising the family?

No, it was working with him too. Every job in the woods he'd done, I fell timber, worked on the boom. Every job he did, I did.

You helped?

Oh yeah. First we started to hand log up, so we got our start for our camp.

So would you be one of the people on the saw?

Nora: Oh yeah. And I sawed all my own wood at that time.

0:16:26

Jack: Oh yeah. We sawed our own wood with the old crosscut saw.

0:16:28

Nora: I still get all my own wood. I don't saw it, but I split it all.

0:16:36

Nora: Yeah, I did work like a dog, I know, and then you had to go home at night and make bread and wash clothes and cook for the, you know. And then take the... I took my two little kids when they were only two and four up the side of a hill. He carried one and I carried the other and they played in the woods all day while we fell timber. Yeah. Took our lunch. They just thought it was a picnic all the time. It was hard work, I'll tell you.

0:17:06

And would you get very good money for the trees that you fell?

0:17:09

Nora: No. No. Very poor.

0:17:13

Did anyone ever talk to you about, we talked about this before but we didn't say it on tape, so I'd like you to talk about the Native Reserve by Mansons.

0:17:26

Jack: Oh yeah, well, they all died from the smallpox. One man had told a story to me, a resident of Squirrel Cove, a man name of Smith McGee. The story was there was Indians on Marina Island, as it's called now, and they said there was smoke coming up from the reserve, one man went over to have a look, and he found them all dead. They had died from smallpox. Just one baby was left alive.

0:17:56

And did they take that baby back with them to Marina?

0:17:59

Jack: I don't know whether they did that or not, but they just one, all the rest were dead.

0:18:04

When would this have been around?

0:18:06

Jack: Well, according to what you hear, it was 1885.

0:18:10

Nora: Well, didn't the Haidas used to come down and war with them down there at Smelt Bay?

0:18:13

Jack: Oh, yeah, they went away down there

0:18:14

Nora: That's why they find so many artifacts there.

0:18:17

Jack: They used to go, well, they fought among themselves around here, the Indians here.

0:18:21

Nora: But the Haidas used to come down in their canoes, too.

0:18:24

Jack: According to history, they went as far south as what is now Oregon. In their war canoes.

0:18:28

Jack: I don't know what it is, it's just in history. Those skeletons that were over there on Green Patch, up on the hill.

0:18:37

Jack: They were still there when Nellie Jeffery moved in. The skeletons were over there hanging a cliff. She figured that was the one that died down the reserve. Put them in there.

0:18:47

What cliff was that?

0:18:49

Jack: Over from the Mansons Landing Wharf. A place they called Green Patch. I don't know what they call it now.

I think they still call it that.

Jack: She said it was up in there, under an overhanging cliff. It was pitiful to see little tiny skeletons, little kids that had died.

0:19:06

Yeah.

0:19:08

That was the smallpox?

0:19:09

Jack: Smallpox, yeah. That was a white man's disease.

0:19:13

Nora: (to Gil) you still looking for your glasses?

0:19:15

What about Joe Louie? You mentioned him earlier.

0:19:19

Jack: Joe Louie.

0:19:20

Joe Louis. Is that his name?

0:19:21

Yeah.

0:19:22

What about him? Tell us the story about him.

0:19:24

Oh, I don't know anything special about him. No, nothing I know of

0:19:29

What about his disappearance? Did he disappear?

0:19:33

Jack: No, he didn't disappear.

0:19:36

Did his boat have an accident?

Jack: Oh the Joe Louie, oh that had a fire on a boat.

Was he from Squirrel Cove?

Jack: He was from Squirrel Cove, he vanished I think, another one I forget his name, Clarence Pielle, I think he vanished. And they found on woman on the beach over by Squirrel Cove, she'd drowned I think. It was quite a jump off a ferry. I never really got the full story on it, the fire ... They never found the boat.

0:20:10

Did they think maybe it was a murder or they weren't really sure?

0:20:16

Jack: No, I doubt it. They're a bugger for drinking, you know, those people. Some of the things they used to drink, I don't know how he got away with.

0:20:27

Like what?

0:20:28

Jack: Oh, that'd be shoe polisher or anything else. AquaVelva.....Listerine.

Was there any such thing as a liquor store in those days?

0:20:39

Jack: Well, there was no liquor store in Squirrel Cove then. Irv Reedel got that. Irv Reedel that owns the store. He put that in there.

0:20:48

Was there one in Refuge Cove or anywhere?

0:20:51

Jack: I think there is one now. I think they got one later on.

0:20:54

But in the, say, the fifty.....

0:20:57

Jack: In my time there was no liquor store, no.

0:20:59

How would people get liquor?

0:21:00

Jack: Well, I guess people would go to Powell River to get it.

0:21:03

I see. And so most people made their own, would you say?

0:21:06

Jack: I suppose some of them maybe did. I don't know what their home life or habits were, but...

0:21:11

I guess it would depend

Recording paused

0:21:16

Mixed voices: History of Tiber Bay.

It's true, it's Turnpoint?

Jack: Not the point, what was it called?

0:21:20

Mary Point.

0:21:21

Jack: Mary Point, yeah. Turnpoint, couldn't leave that alone.

How come?

0:21:25

Jack: I don't know.

0:21:26

Nora: They changed it to Mary Point.

0:21:27

Oh, the name you mean, I see. How did they get that name, Turnpoint?

0:21:44

A. I don't know. Seagulls, I guess.

0:21:48

So what about the history of there? What do you know about that space?

0:21:51

Jack: Oh, a couple of characters down there we never really knew about.

Like who?

Jack: It was mentioned Edgar Schofield. He lived around there. Nobody ever really knew who he was, but he died in 1930 after an operation in Powell River. I'm thinking of the story he was a ship's captain, but drinking, he had a problem with him.

0:22:14

So he lived by himself out there?

0:22:16

Jack: He lived down there, yeah, at Turnpoint, him and his wife. There was another man further down, he called him George Ranson, he called himself, but we found out later years that wasn't his name.

0:22:27

Oh, how did you find that out?

0:22:30

Jack: Through a letter somebody wrote about him in a newspaper after he died.

0:22:34

Oh yeah, and he was just using that, do you know why he was using that?

0:22:39

Well yeah, according to one story he'd been in a mental home for trying to kill a man he

worked with. Well can I tell you, remember when Lena said he had to report to the police every six weeks.

0:22:50

Nora: Yeah.

0:22:51

Did the police come over to the island much?

0:22:54

Not much in our time, no. No, we never had seen them.

Recording paused

0:23:01

Nora: We used to visit them all the time.

What were their names? The people who lived there?

Carr Smith and Tom Marflett

0:23:06

And where did they live?

Nora: Right in the Von Donop Lagoon.

0:23:16

Jack: Yeah, they moved to Squirrel Cove.

0:23:18

Afterwards?

0:23:19

Yeah. Built their house, the house I'm living in is where they lived in.

0:23:23

Oh really?

So you lived there?

0:23:25

Jack: Yeah, they brought it across. It was brought across. It was an old house. (Brown Cross?)

0:23:30

So first they had it up in Von Donop and then they brought it down to Squirrel Cove?

0:23:34

Jack: Brought it to Squirrel Cove, yeah.

0:23:35

And so what did they do?

0:23:38

Jack: They were retired. He'd been in the army at this time. Marflett worked.

Nora: Carr Smith, he was an Englishman.

Jack: Comes from the South African War and the First World War. But the other man just worked in his time, I guess.

0:23:52

When would they have lived in Von Donop?

0:23:55

Jack: It must have been a long time ago. I found a newspaper on the wall outside, it was a family of (unintelligible), dated 1925.

0:24:06

Nora: That was before Teddy was born, so he was born in 35.

0:24:10

Jack: Yeah.

Nora: About 33 or something.

Jack: I found it in the wall, I don't know how old that house is.

0:24:17

So that would have been when they were living there? In Von Donop Do you think?

0:24:20

Yeah.

0:24:21

Yeah it was.

0:24:22

And when did they move down to Squirrel Cove?

0:24:23

Jack: What year they moved in, I don't remember.

0:24:26

Nora: I don't remember when they moved, no, because I wasn't there then.

0:24:28

So what kind of... were they nice people?

Yeah, very nice people.

0:24:31

Oh yeah, they were.

0:24:32

How would you visit them? How would you get to visit them?

0:24:34

Nora: Row down there.

0:24:35

Jack: Oh, you rowed in those days or walked.

0:24:38

Nora: Rowed down in the canoe I did.

0:24:39

How long would that take?

0:24:41

Nora: Oh, an hour and about. Yeah. I used to row from Refuge Cove to Squirrel Cove, Seaford, in the canoe.

For the dances or for what reason?

0:24:55

Nora: No, just visiting.

0:24:56

Jack: That's just how you got around in those days.

0:24:58

Nora: When we were first married in Von Donop, I didn't have a stove. No stove.

Jack: You had a drum.

Nora: I had a little drum heater, that's all I had. And I used to make bread and cakes and pies and row them down to his sister's, bake them and take them back. She had a stove and I didn't.

And where would his sisters be?

Nora: Down there we were talking about where them people were buried, the Blacks. They were anchored there in a float house. That was his sister, yeah. She was married to a Calwell again. This one.

0:25:42

Nora: Yeah. Stuff on a gas barrel.

How did you make soup? Say that again?

Nora: On a gas barrel.

0:25:50

Jack: you cut the top off.

0:25:52

Nora: Do you know what the gas, big gas barrels are for?

0:25:55

They used to pump gas out of them?

0:26:02

Yeah.

0:26:03

Jack: Wasn't a very big one, was it?

0:26:04

Nora: They cut the top out of it and put a draft under here. You ever been in Doreen's (Thompson) house?

0:26:07

No.

0:26:08

Nora: Well, she has one.

0:26:09

Oh, yeah.

0:26:10

Or not now. No, Lisa had. Do you know Lisa, Bob's wife?

No, not well. . I've never been to her house.

You haven't? No. No, she's got one. Yeah, that's all I had to cook on.

0:26:17

Wow.

0:26:18

Gil: You've got a 45-gallon drum, you said?

0:26:19

Nora: Yeah, Bob had a 45-gallon.

0:26:32

Jack: Yours was smaller.

0:26:33

Nora: I had a 30.

Jack: Yeah, yours was smaller, I remember

0:26:35

Nora: Yeah. Because I only had a little house. Two rooms. Now they have to have such huge houses.

0:26:45

Jack: People just go buy them anyway.

0:26:47

Nora: Like the one across the road, two people in it.

Jack: No radio or TV, we were just happy then too.

Nora: You made your own entertainment.

Gil: She tells everybody about her big house. She got us a big house

So Jack, would you ever go up and visit your sister in Von Donop when she was raising.....

Jack: Oh yeah, I used to go in there

Would you row up?

Jack: No

Nora: Didn't you used to go up in our boat? My mother went in there and she visited me too.

Jack: That one time at Christmas she went in there. That was the night it was so rough.

The night it was rough?

Jack: Oh boy it was rough. Yeah.

Nora: Well that never bothered us.

Jack: That boat, pretty good at the time of the storm.

Gil: Boat

0:27:33

Nora: Our boat.

0:27:35

Gil: Tug?

0:27:36

Was that the Robert?

0:27:37

Nora: (to Gil) No, it wasn't a tug. It was a fish boat.

0:27:42

Nora: It's the.... Nora Colleen.

0:27:46

Gil: Oh, my boat.

0:27:47

Nora: Yeah, named after us. He named his first boat after my first name and my daughter's first name

Nora Colleen?

Nora: And then our second boat he got, he named after our second name, it was the Evidale. My name is Evi hers is Dale.

Jack: The Robert boat, it was called the Robert.

0:28:06

Nora: Yeah, but we changed it.

Jack: You changed it, yeah, I know, but we called it Robert.

Nora: They're still going, both of them, too.

0:28:14

So did you used to fish for a living, too?

Nora: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I love fishing.

Gil: Well, the Evidale is practically a new boat.

0:28:21

Nora: Oh, I know it is.

0:28:26

Nora: We only had it....

0:28:27

Gil: Six years old.

0:28:29

Nora: Yeah, we got old too fast and couldn't be out on it. I'd like to be out there right now. I just love the water.

0:28:36

Well, it looks like your son might be able to take you out soon when he's finished.

0:28:37

Nora: Yeah, when he gets his big boat.

0:28:38

Nora: Yeah. Yeah, he just launched one yesterday, his small one.

0:28:40

Gil: Did he put the little boat in?

0:28:41

Nora: Yeah, beachcomb boat's in, yeah.

0:28:52

Jack: Did somebody have a log house up above you? I remember meeting people in there somewhere.

A young couple? Were they a young couple? Yeah, I've seen a log house.

Recording ends

Disclaimer: This text is transcribed from an audio recording. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some places it is incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription errors. It is posted as an aid to understanding the oral history, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.