

SD: When did you start working in the telephone company?

WH: It was early in 1928.

SD: How did you get a job there?

WH: Well, I went with this woman, I ^{was} working ^{at} Woodward's, and we had Wednesday afternoon off, and she asked me not to go home, to come with her to, 'cuz she wanted to put in an application for a job. And so of course, I put one in too. And I started the following Monday. She's dead now, but she never did get in. But in looking back, it wasn't that I was smarter than her or anything, like that, it was a case of health, they chose you for health. A great deal, they were very fussy about health. I've never worn high heels. They had a signs all over the place about , she never wore high heels, and she was the beautifullest woman , and all this kind of stuff. That wasn't why, I was too vain to spoil my feet! And the other people were too vain not to wear - My friends used to say, Winnie you have to wear high heels, everybody does. I said, Well, as long as I don't, everybody doesn't. But it was kind of interesting, and I got in, I guess it was a time when they needed a lot and they took quite a few that were just graduating from high school, and all kinds of us. And the ones that seemed to be the smartest like us, we were just the quickest on the ball, we got the telephone at Seymour, and town, and everything, the other people went to smaller places, They turned out to be better in some ways, they got there raises almost before us, and things like that, because they were conscientious.

WH: (cont'd) There are people who can just do the same thing over and over, I mean I don't know that they like it, in the end, lots of them can't stand it, but they can do it more than others. I got to do something different, and in the telephone company, every day was different. I just loved it. And you worked seven thirty to , seven to three, or seven thirty to three thirty, or eight thirty to four thirty, so that was seven hours. And you had an hour for lunch, and you had fifteen minutes break. And that had all come in, because before they had been sitting there for four hours, and it all came in in the union agreements and things, It wasn't til I was there about a year that I got some, indirectly from different people that the people who had won the strike had been fired and I don't know just how long it was before I went to work. Because when you're young , you're like that, the time seems so long, it could have been six months and it would seem to me forever. And when you get to seventy, you just have to keep thinking, was it fifty years, or forty years. It's awful. The other day it was fifty years, on Easter Sunday, it was fifty years since I had broke my thigh on Grouse Mountain, my gosh, fifty years! At that time, when you're young you ^{never} like to think you're going to talk in the fifties.

SD: You mentioned that the people in the small places got their raises before you?

WH: Well, they weren't exactly small places, it wasn't so busy, I was trying to think of that one at Fairview, and different ones,

WH: (cont'd) they were more conscientious, they had different kinds of jobs to do, they took the calls in, put them on the B Board, it was all routine, and I guess they never varied, or anything, and they got in the good books, whereas we probably were a little more rambunctious or what have you, we obviously had we had the highest marks in the tests and things, and we also had perhaps, the better voices for sound and everything, and that's probably why we separated, But, I had the same experience in high school. Where, the year I graduated from public school in Vancouver, that was Seymour School, I was in Strathcona briefly, but that year, everybody went to high school on a recommendation, on a , call it, intelligence test, and it was being done all over the city I don't know if it's all over the province or not, I was too young to know much about the rest of the province, and it was so again, it was so unfair. My best friend was a dear Japanese young lady, but, she just had so much trouble with math, and she could have made it, but in intelligence test it's fast, and it's , you're working these things out automatically, and everything. And so, I went flying off to high school at the top of the class, and I, a few other people, there was a Jewish boy in the other class, but then was about five years older than us, and he did get higher marks than anybody in my class. But that class that I was in was the first time they'd ever gone to high school from that grade two . And all the years that, they'd just taken for granted that anybody that was in grade two, instead of grade one, because there wasn't room

WH: (con'td) for everybody in grade one, it was really awful

SD: They took it for granted that they wouldn't make it into high school?

WH: Yes! So they always spent another year there, sort of, but it didn't happen that way, I said I had to get out of there, I was fourteen and I was really worried. I said I was getting so old! And then when we went to high school, and I soon shunted into the commercial course, and it was these people that had so much trouble getting through, and most of them to write, and everything, they were the ones, their class, we were in all different classes according to the marks we got when we moved, they went way ahead of us, again it was shorthand was routine, typing was routine, it was really quite interesting how they had taken people and say that one, you know these other people were better for the tools of the society, you know this monotonous society, but when it came to doing anything with imagination, and we were much better. But ordinarily, people don't get those kind of jobs when they're in the lower grades.

SD: So was that 'cause you were working class kids that do you that they put an accent on

WH: Well they just figured nobody in that class was ever smart enough to go to high school. And my friend went, and they were Scotch like our family, it was terribly important that you had your education. But before that there'd been nothing. She was going to quit school, and there was nothing to do but housework. And I didn't want to do housework! Besides,

WH: (cont'd) I could type, we had a typewriter at home because my brothers had gone through () and you got kind of used to it, but I didn't really like working in offices very much. But I sure liked it at the telephone company. So fascinating.

SD: Can you describe for me what kind of work you would do in a day?

WH: Well, they'd come in, light up, and you'd put your plug in and get the number, and then you, if its one of our numbers, a Seymour number, you put the other plug up, and by that time of course, you're already on to the next one, you're doing something. But if its a Bayview number, or Highland number, or something, then you have to press a thing, and, repeat the number to the Highland operator, and she took it and gave you a bank number, so you put it in the bank that would connect it with the one in Highland. And in Fairview, I remember, they just had bank numbers, I've forgotten just how that worked, they didn't go out, it was all just bank numbers that most of those women I knew worked on. But ours was a bit different, but, then sometimes you got a chance, some of us to go on the other board, which was where the numbers were coming in, they were coming in from other places, and this is really exciting, because you're plugging in, and you're asking for a number, and at the same time you are taking the bank number that you have to put it in and it just goes and goes like this, it was just my cup of tea! You had to like that kind of stuff. I guess that's why I

WH: (con'td) got high blood pressure, 'cause I never could slow down! It was really quite interesting work. And some people's health went, and another thing, see, I had a hard time getting in because of my eyes. And I might not have passed that test but (whispers) the others helped me. And I got through the test. My friends, within months, they were all looking for glasses, because the board was so close, and this was my meat, and it was just drastic for them, they didn't, too many of them didn't end up without glasses. And, I'd had bad eyes all my life, I couldn't see the board properly at school. Now I can read even now without glasses I don't if I'm reading a long time, it's easier to have (), but I don't have to, I can pick up the paper and read it. And it was so good, and then the weekends, we spent on the mountains, you see, so that made, between that, it was sheer health whether they survived. And in that building in the summer, it was so hot! And their air conditioning consists of these big wash tubs full of ice.

SD: Is this the Seymour Street B.C. Tel?

WH: Ya. It was a great big, downstairs they had the , there was another station downstairs, but we were the main Vancouver one. Douglas, that's it, they were in Douglas downstairs. And they there was no heating, they had some fans which just moved it around, and many a time, people passed out. Sort of like when you used to see them back in the old days in the factories and the things. And, I , the only thing I had objections, of all the work I ever did there, was the fact that if it had been outdoors, or they'd had the roof off, I just would have, figured

WH: (cont'd) I' enjoyed everything about work. It was quite good, and they treat us very good, and they watched our health, and we had to have check-ups with the nurse, and what have you. It was a lot, ~~o~~a, very good place to work in those years. The irony of it was during the war, the union decided, I guess, they put the union ⁱⁿ for the first time, I don't know just when they did it, I know who could tell you that, that red-headed woman, Shiela! Shiela, Shiela, Morris' wife, I'll think of that in a minute, but Shiela was so thrilled, 'cause they got the union in, and they were working eight hours a day. And they were so proud of themselves. And they were getting paid by the hour. Well, we were doing a way better, because we were working seven hours a day, and we were getting just as much as they got. I just really felt sad,

SD: Was that in the thirties, that you'd been working there?

WH: I worked there in the thirties, but this was in the forties, when I ran into Shiela, and found out they had put the union in.

SD: But when were you making as much money?

WH: In the thirties, I've forgotten how much it was, but you know, if you get two dollars an hours, and then these other jobs, and think we got three, or something , and you got raises all the time, you got quite good wages in comparison to everything else it would seem, I can't remember exactly how much it was, but it was certainly more than anybody else, and telephone operators were looked up at. The teachers

WH: (cont'd) hadn't come into their own in those days! They used to go out of the city and work for seventy-five dollars. And now, often the expenses of boarding ^{where} they were would exceed what they were getting, practically, that they had to get some experience, it was really tough to be teachers in those days. They've come a long way.

SD: So was being a phone operator a status job for a girl?

WH: Yes. Well, there was nursing, and there was teaching, and there's a job in a bank, which most of us didn't know, at least, I didn't know what a terrible job it was in the bank, but I did know afterwards about my friend's brother, who couldn't even take a girl to a show, he didn't have enough money, you know the banks were as terrible, well, you know how they are know. We haven't been able to organize the banks at all. Have you followed the... it's pretty hopeless. Ya, I was on the picket line with (Muckamuck) a year and a half after I came over. It was very interesting experience. And people kept asking, "why, why?" and I said, well for one thing, we got our finger in the dike that's all. And it does stop the progress of being picked on us, although, how we're going to stop it now, with this, new way of doing things, they're just cutting everybody down and now they say they're not going to get this, not going to get that. I think it's going to end in revolution myself. Well, I don't think they're going to stand for it. You know, they're making so much a big thing about having thirty thousand people there to see the queen?

SD: You were saying that nursing, teaching and bank work was

WH: Ya, that was about the only , so called, respectable jobs.

Well then in the city, like here, you could get into the stores. They had a law that said that after you were eighteen, they had to pay you twelve-seventy^{-five,} I think it was, twelve-fifty, or, I think it was twelve-seventy-five. I never got twelve-seventy-five in the stores. I started off at seven-fifty, a week. And

SD: When was this?

WH: That would be, let's see, I think I was fifteen, or going to be fifteen that year, so that would be 1925. And I worked, I thought, oh heck, I'm not going to pass this year, I've been fooling around, I came out before school ended, and worked right through til December, September and went back to school, because I thought everybody looked so old in the store! And people used to come up with their kids, and kids say, Look mom, it's just a little girl! And you feel kind of silly. But, by that time, he said he had great prospects for me, in training, in the clothing department, and () and all this kind of stuff, he didn't want me to leave. But I just got out of there, because I didn't like the way they looked. Anyhow, I wouldn't have been any good at these things. It,

SD: You went back to school

WH: I went to school ya, and I finished school, and then I went into it was just a commercial course, and in those days it was just two years. I went into () office

WH: (cont'd) because my brother had known the gal who had been there ahead of me, gave you a chance to practise your shorthand, whathaveyou, which was I was always practising, and never doing that good on, and I was too self conscious, you know, and then I , I didn't really like it too much but, we were sent out to different offices. I worked in the (Dominion?) Construction one time, for two months, and things like that. And I was so scared when I took down the phone, I couldn't hear a thing they were saying. You know, just from fear. And when I worked in telephone, it was a little different, you'd been trained, and trained to know exactly what to say, and your voice carried, and I never had any trouble hearing or anything, But, it's just what fear can do to a person. I didn't know what happens, ^{if you had to go,} I guess if you're desperate, you have to go out and look for a job. Oh, I'm still backward, but people don't believe it, because I learned, you can do anything, anything if you have to. You know

SD: Why did you end up looking for work?

WH: Oh well, we didn't, I didn't have any money at all, even when I was working I didn't have any money. You gave it to your parents. It was only a mother in our case. You didn't have any money. That was the disgusting thing. But my mother was always crying poverty. Well, at that time, my father was an engineer on the Prince George. And we had, had a tough time, before the depression, he'd been out of work because he'd hurt his back, we didn't have compensation,

WH: (cont'd) or something, or other, and he was always getting fired because he was a red, But anyhow, he had to get himself a job, he was a machinist after the First World War, so he'd gone and taken a ticket for Marine engineer, and that's where he spent the next twenty-six years of his life, he died just after he came off. He was working all the time for the unions. They had such dirty little ways. When they came in, they would, chalk everybody off, I've forgotten the name they had for it, and then you had to resign to come on again. And they'd charge you a dollar, or fifty cents, I forgotten what it was, seemed like a lot of money then.

SD: Was this the employers that did this?

WH: Ya, the boats, that was the Canadian National. Oh, they were full of dirty tricks. And then, of course, when the depression actually came, they fired all the Chinese, all the cooks and everything, and they were just starving, but they were all my father's friends, and they used to come down and hang around. He was in the boat so much of the time when it was in dock, because he was always it together again, it was such a boat that it always needed repairs and everything. He was I guess, the best machinist, and he had served his time in Glasgow. But this way, it's always been that you try to, you know, gyp them down. And then my father was getting on in life, so he really worried all the time about keeping his job, and he was sort of fighting for his job, and fighting, so one of these times, we didn't hear

WH: (cont'd) left

SD: This is what B.C. Tel, we're talking about? The women who worked there who wanted to get married would go to the States to get married so that

WH: Ya, they'd get married in Bellingham. I got married in Bellingham, but not for the same reason. I just didn't want my family to have anything, I was shy and I didn't want anybody to have anything to do with it. I probably would have changed my mind, which might have been a good thing. If I had had to wait for a big wedding or something like that. But, ya, and so, I didn't understand, because I didn't know a damn thing, and I didn't even know how a baby was going to come when I was having a baby, and finally I think, It's INCREDIBLE how ignorant we are and we talk about these fourth or fifth countries or what have you and the people being so ignorant. Oh my god! People are still ignorant today about a lot of things. And, they, gals would go around, and say, well, don't you know she's pregnant. I couldn't see anything. But, there's a look around your eyes, very often that they look for. And particularly if the person was doing a lot of work at home, and, tried to help with the food, and what have you, and still working at the telephone company, or just the fear that they might get found out. So as soon as they were found out, they were fired.

SD: If they found out you were married..

WH: Ya, or pregnant, of course.

SD: Was that written into company policy?

WH: Ya, I guess it was, I never really was sure about that, but, it must have been. It (wasn't?) Imperial Oil, and do you know, I can tell, you, let's see, what year would it be, my husband was in the Imperial Oil for forty, forty-five years. and about less than five years before he quit, he quit in '66, and it would be about '64 or something, he come home and he said, Oh that so-and-so, she won't quit. And I said, Who? And he said, You know, the girl that's pregnant. And I said, Well, why should she? And he said, Well, she's so big, you know, she gets in the way, that was sort of his excuse. And I said, Have you taken a look at Billy Letham lately? Billy Letham was the head of another department, Stan was the head of Sales and Services). Billy Letham, had a stomach like this, and his excuse was that the girl wasn't not being able to do her job, anyhow, I was just furious. He doesn't pay any attention to me, but lots of times afterwards, you find he does. I used to say to my daughter, he never walks across the road unless I plan it, but mostly he doesn't want you to know, but anyhow, after a while, he'd changed his tune. And, he was taking the other attitude, he loved to argue anyhow, so probably he jumped on a few people who thought she should leave. And he said to me, Well, she hasn't got anyway of keeping herself anyhow, and she needs the money. That was before () changed it around. Not only that,

WH: (cont'd) about til afterwards, when he'd had this big row about them trying to dock the guy fifty cents . My father and the chief engineer, evidently, my father had had such a row, that he had had a stroke, I guess. And nobody told us about, and we didn't know anything about it. It was about, six months or a year after that I guess, and he came off the boat, carrying the chief engineer's ticket, machinery, ^{their} tools and everything, they had so much, and they're both going off, () because the chief engineer had a bad heart, so my dad carried everything, and three days later , my dad died putting his shoes on, with a heart attack. Because, I got to watch that too, because I always think other people need help, and you overlook the fact that you just don't take care of yourself.

SD: What year was that, that he died?

WH: 1937, I guess it was

SD: So, you were working , before that though,

WH: Well, I wasn't working then, I wasn't working after I got married. Nobody could work after you got married, you got fired if they found out you were married. That's why the girls had all these horrible terminations for their pregnancies, and, the worst thing in the world was to let them find out you were pregnant and that, 'cause most of the girls that got pregnant, they needed the money. Often the fellows they were with, or ^{maybe} even married, you could go 'cross the line and get married in Bellingham, and they didn't know about it, that changed just about the time I

WH: (cont'd) but, '66 it was, less than a year, I think, before we retired, that there was no pension for the women. And the men made the pensions because they were the majority. There were some women that had worked there as long as my husband and everything, but the majority were the men, and I didn't understand this, and this woman started telling me about it, and she was angry, because she had worked there and she got married to this guy, so then she had no pension to lean back on, and he also had a heart (murmer ?), he was (), and she was so angry, and she told me, and I didn't believe her. So I asked my husband, my husband answers, he don't usually answer you see, well, I kept it up and kept it up until he said, Yes, it was true. Well, how could it be? How could a do a thing like that to the women, because everybody knows they live the longest? And he said, Well, you get a lot less. Of course you would get a lot less if you've got to pay for (). And I was so angry! And he was

SD: We were talking about pregnancy, and women getting pregnant, and being forced to leave B.C. Tel. That's where we were.

WH: Well, I think, I don't think there was anywhere where a woman was allowed to work in a public place being pregnant. My first experience was going into a school board office in North Vancouver, and this young woman, was very, decidedly pregnant, and I was so thrilled, I had a hard time to keep from jumping up and down.

SD: What year would that have been?

WH: Oh, that'd have been after the war. Ya, after the war, there

WH: (cont'd) a lot more of that. That women were beginning to work a little, outside. But still, nobody would hire them. I don't know if it's still today, but Woodward's doesn't hire two of a family. At least they didn't, and when Patty graduated from UBC, she didn't get a job, and I was working part-time in Woodward's in Park Royal, and she got a job at the one out there, at Oakridge, so I quit, 'cause I didn't want...she had to have enough money to go to Japan in the fall, and she hadn't got herself a job

SD: What about during the war were pregnant women allowed to work then?

WH: I suppose nobody would pay any attention, you know to them, I never worked myself, but, they would try not to show and all that kind of stuff, I guess. You see it was a disgrace to be pregnant! Looking back on it.

SD: It was considered that eh?

WH: Well, the whole attitude to it. You didn't like to go around the block or somebody's going to see you. But our families did that, and we inherited that. So that people just didn't go around. I think it was my second or third one, the third one I guess, that I had a maternity dress, and I went around looking very respectable and everything, () nice. Before that you just wore your old clothes and looked terrible. I went to the extreme I guess, in doing without things, so I maybe wasn't the only, lots of people took a little better care of themselves. My kids came first, and there's never anything left.

SD: You said you got married, maybe I'll ask you a few things about B.C. Tel first, you mentioned that the conditions that they got in there in the thirties, was because of the strike that had happened earlier?

WH: Well the only one I can remember, is the hours, that I thought they were getting paid less per hour, but they got their eight hour day. Well, who the heck wants an eight hour day if you're not getting any more money? Now I couldn't remember exactly what they got on that,

SD: Do you remember your conditions though? You said you worked seven hours, and you got an hour lunch break

WH: Ya, and then we got fifteen minutes off and if you worked late hours, like four-thirty to eleven, you had half-an-hour for supper, and fifteen minutes off, and that, only worked six and three-quarter hours, and you still getting paid eight hours. And when we worked on Sundays, we got time-and a-half. And the same on holidays. And if you wanted to work from eleven to twelve, when they often needed you, you got paid double time.

SD: And this is on Sundays, or generally, that you got double time?

WH: No, from eleven to twelve on weekdays, if you were, any day in the week, if you were working overtime after your four-thirty/eleven shift. If you got four-thirty/eleven and you wanted to get some money ahead, that's what you did, you took on the twelve.

SD: Did you work swing shifts, or were you on regular?

WH: Oh ya, you had to change all the time. But the real night work,

WH: (cont'd) I worked nights for a while, but most of the night work was just done by women, who had had to get married, and came in on a different deal altogether, I imagine they got the same wages.

SD: How many days in a row did you work?

WH: Six days a week, and then when the Victoriabunch came over, that would be in the thirties, I guess, when they closed a lot of the Victoria, they put in the automatics in Victoria, well, we had a whole slew of them came over, and then we had to take two days off every second week, instead of one. But you didn't get paid for it. But looking for days all the time to go up the mountains, we were very glad of it.

SD: Was there still any kind of union or association there then?

WH: No, there was no union there at all.

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TAPE ONE

SIDE TWO
TAPE ONE

SD: But there had been a union in there.

WH: Ya, there had been a union before I came to work there in '28. And I don't know just how far back it went. Couldn't have been too far.

SD: When did you get married?

WH: '33. I worked for a while, I would like to have worked

SD: longer, but I told my mother I got married, and she told everybody

WH: (cont'd) so I figured I'd get fired, so I quit!

SD: And then did you get involved in the CCF?

WH: Not so much for a few years. Actually I guess it was , I went to things in the thirties, but not very much, I think it was going into the forties, really, or maybe '39. No, my son was born in '41, no it was more about '41, '42, I met a woman named Dorothy Nisbett-Jones, she's still got a song in the song book. And she was a Christian. I was a Christian at that time, and she was a Christian, and she was one that lived everyday. And I knew her for quite a long time. And I went, actively doing things, I'd always belonged, I guess, and gone their meeting, but door-to-door, it nearly killed me. Some of these places, the guys just made fun of you and laughed. I was still quite young, I guess, and it was terrible. But anyhow, I tried to do everything Dorothy wanted me to do. I looked after Dorothy when she was in hospital until she died.

SD: And what organization was that?

WH: That was in the CCF.

SD: So, when you went door-to-door, what kind of work did you do?

WH: Well, you asked people if they'd join the CCF. You have to remember, in the depression, the, my friend Ruth had the files, and only burnt them a few years ago, that there would only be sometimes, in a whole block of people, there would be five people , on both sides of the block that don't belong with the CCF. You know, it was just, what else was there?

WH: (cont'd) And the Conservatives, I was on the North Shore, and Dorothy (Steeves?) was our member there, and the Conservatives went and voted with us to get something else in besides the Liberals. Hoping that there would be some mistake. But the CCF never quite got, strong enough. One of the biggest failings I found the CCF had in my lifetime, certainly fifty years, is that they never had faith in themselves. The press, or the opposition would come out and say the most horrible things about us, and who would believe it first? Our members. That was one of the things that used to drive me up a wall. Mind, it was an extremely interesting organization, and then we went into the NDP, which were in the odd position of, well, we were supporting it because the labour was coming in, but at the same time we knew there was lots of things wrong with it. It wasn't going to be nearly as active, or as left-wing as the CCF.

SD: In the early days of the CCF, what kind of role did women play in it?

WH: Well, they were like in every other organization, they did the work, and raised the money in the background. They had these women's clubs. It was quite a few years before we wiped away our women's clubs. Mrs. Webster, Daisy Webster, she was one of the one's that was very active in the women's group. She's still around. I haven't seen her lately, she was working down four/eleven for a while. I think she's the one told Tom (Allsvery?) I was a Communist or something, because he, oh () you can't tell, 'cause Tom's a little

WH: (cont'd) old nut, you know. He asked me to help him. When I first came over here, I helped him organize the first meeting, and the election, and then, I saw him with Daisy, and they were looking at me, so I figures she was telling him I was a Communist. But, I still go to Daisy if I need, if she can get me any help or anything. I was trying to look into the organizing of the Homemakers. I put in, I don't know if I told you, I put in this, last April I put in this line in the Supervalu Store, and it was a very difficult thing, the social worker came to us and the , with the recommendation of the Supervalu , and the president of this West End network that I had just come into, and we were propositioned to take over a line to get Senior Citizens who couldn't get out to phone us, because you can't phone into a store, unless it's a little store. And so, I kept saying, Well, what do you keep talking about it for, as usual, so I got stuck with doing it. Although this other woman was going to help me, but she backed out before we even got going. So I put that in, almost single handedly, and it's been in now a little over a year, but I () anything to do with it. I don't like the way it's running, My idea was, union said it was OK, we ^{were} getting four dollars an hour, but we had to stay away from them, and stay outside the union. But actually, we were contributing to our sisters the difference between four dollars an hour (than?) what we'd get. It was seniors working for seniors. And they could never hope to pay, anybody what we were doing like somebody

WH: (cont'd) phones in, gets a hundred dollars worth of groceries, and they have all these things, and they want this brand, and they want that, and you have to go find the exact thing, and the size, and you have to listen while they tell you about their husband just came home from the hospital, and it's a really fascinating job, but, the people got into it now, they just want the money, and I don't like it the way it is. I want it spread now, and maybe moved into the unions, I can't get any backing, so I just let them have it. I'm hoping maybe in the East End, I might be able to put one in. But imagine those people. Sometimes they tell you they haven't been out the house for a year. And some of them can't walk, and some are blind, and you touch with so many people. And sometimes you went to see them, but you haven't got time to do that kind of stuff, but it was a way of the government shunting a bit of the responsibility, because they were going to cut down on the Homemakers. On the other hand, we'd never know what's going on if we didn't get in there. And we have learned a heck of a lot, and now Elsie's working over the, not, the same outfit, the Social Working Department, to see if we can get one in Safeway. This other store is expensive. And I don't know how it'll work out, but it does provide money. You see, this money didn't have to be declared, it goes through the network, which is an OAP, Old Age Pension Group, and so people could get the odd four dollars, and a friend of mine, a couple of them have needed ^{the} money so bad, that was partly why I came,

WH: (cont'd) at first I was quite happy to get it too for my rent, but they do things the way I want them to. I don't want to be, they just sort of, in fighting, for the money.

SD: I want to go back a little bit to the CCF. In that period of time, women were still behind the scenes?

WH: Ya, well they were, but, I mean, they did, as far as, it was the Women's Auxiliary, and they reported, and handed the money in and all this kind of stuff. But women were not completely because we had those people like, oh I can't think of the names readily, but three or four members, we had them in the City Council, and we got them elected. And of course, people like Dorothy Steeves, and these different people. And Dorothy Steeves was wonderful. She started her career trying to disseminate information on birth control. That's how she came in. She was quite a right-winger for many long years, but she became very left as the years went on. She was quite a person. It isn't so very long ago she died.

SD: Did you work on any of the campaigns around birth control?

WH: No, I have never worked on plans and birth control. I was very ignorant. I had the woman come to me, somebody sent her to me, I was already pregnant with my fifth one, I think, It wasn't that I didn't practise it, but my children were born over twenty years. And so many things can happen in twenty years. I was going to say, there were a lot of women that were doing a lot, Mrs. Dowding of course,

SD: I did interview her.

WH: Oh you did, isn't she wonderful?

SD: Ya, really

WH: I keep being astounded all the time that she's still living, Glen, she was quite a person. And Dorothy Steeves took an awful lot of flack. And then of course she took it terrible flack in the CCF, here she was, during the war, it reminded me seeing that queen, and her son was flying over Holland, and she was being accused of being unloyal to the British () and everything. They defeated her at that election.

SD: What about, during the war, did women,

WH: We were very active during the war. I went, I belonged to the Council of Women, they're a, local Council of Women, they call themselves. And we went to West Van one day, one week, month, and our place the other. It was sort of, it was all over the place, and eventually I was president of it. But when I first went in, I ran into the, CCF women, and it was because in Halifax, they were trying to organize the soldiers to go and break a strike. And I got up in great fury, her I was, Do without my husband, raising my children for what? For him to go and be a strike breaker! And I got so mad at this speech, so afterwards they came to me, especially this Dorothy Nesbit-Jones, and she said, You know, you should belong to our organization. I said, Ya, I'd like to. They were quite astounded. So from then on, I worked in the Women's organization in North Vancouver.

SD: Was it a pacifist organization?

WH: Oh no, it was just part of the CCF. Some of us were very radical, and some of us were just mildly socialist, what we

WH: (cont'd) mean by socialist is people having a decent chance to live. Nothing, it's like my father, he was so far red, and all he was doing, was, he lead a big fight for goggles, in Winnipeg in the round house because he had got some red hot steel in his eye, and he wanted the workers to have goggles. And he was nearly ousted for being a red. I mean, that's the way they did it. Now-a-days, they're finding it hard to blame everything on the Communists, now, but they did it very good. The church fell during the cold war. I never left the church 'till the cold war. My father was an athiest, I kind of figured I was a christian, but they never asked me to join their church. So I never was in. But I ^{only} have, out of my six kids, I only have ^{one} that's in the church, the oldest one. She's what you call a "practical christian."

SD: This women's group at the CCF, did you do, any work with the unions?

WH: No, we didn't. We just followed what was going on, and we had a, lectures all the time, telling us what was going on, and people like Ernie (Winch), one of the greatest persons I guess, they were lucky enough to have. He was the one that, took the horror out of the mental institutions, and the prisons. It's too bad there isn't more in history written about Ernie (Winch?). He was so great. But we did a lot of raising money, and having socials, and then of course, it was always the elections. We raised the money for the election and what have you. And it was, it was quite a few

WH: (cont'd) years before I even went to a national convention. I went to Montreal. We had, it was just after Winnipeg had brought out the , this, new, constitution where they quit saying that they want to eradicate capitalism. And I was so angry. I said, From then on, we're going to have somebody 'cause we always stayed home and let other people go, because we didn't think that was the most important thing. So I went to Montreal. I was astounded to find that the French people were so close to us. 'Cause I expect them to be right-wingers, having read so much about them, under the church and everything. It was quite an experience. I crossed the country in a bus. Five days and four nights, you had to go through the States in those days.

SD: How come, what was the relationship between the LPP and the CCF?

WH: The LPP

SD: Why did you end up joining the CCF, and not the Comunist Party?

WH: Well, I guess, of course, my father had been in the founding of the CCF, and then the LPP came along and it sounded so much, mind you I had such good friends in there, it sounded so much like, well for one thing, they supported the Liberals during the war, and they did things like that, and they were obviously, lots of things they wouldn't have done that were so stupid, but they were getting their orders from other places. And also everything I heard about it is that, I knew some great people, in the end, that belonged to, it wasn't the LPP then, they were thrown out by then, Malcolm Bruce,

WH: (cont'd) and Fred MacNeill, great men, during the, unemployed strikes, and things. They were thrown out of the Communist Party. Have you read the Canadian Bolshevik? It just come out last year I guess. It was researched by Fred Bullock, who's dead now. Somebody else had wrote up so much. The pity of it is, there's so much to it. And that carries through the whole of the period, of the Communist Party and everything, and all their mistakes, and all this kind of stuff. I guess it seems to go a little heavier on their mistakes than on other peoples, but because they were so much clearer, and the times have changed. It, there were people who were in it like Dorothy () McNair, she said the other day on TV, well of course, and a lot of people have said that, everybody in the thirties was a Communist, or if they weren't, they just didn't care about the world, because that was the only way you could exist by a new regime, get rid of capitalism. And it's still that now, but they, they got to slow him down with the armament day on the 24th, or something, they're marching I think.

SD: So, you ended up in the CCF, because of your family.

WH: Ya, and I thought it was the socialist, I think I was a right-wing socialist, because, my father was a pacifist, and I never could see, I would probably have gone for having things a bit milder, just to get them, what have you, until the year's I (were in?) and could see how stupid it was, and how you never got anywhere. So I think I sort of evolved into a radical socialist, and then I met Ruth Bullock. I don't know if

WH: (cont'd) knew the Bullocks, and Ruth was about my best friend. We did many a election. We plastered the whole of the City of North Vancouver, for some guy that we had no use for. But that's what you did. I mean, Ruth and Reg were such honest people. You took on something, and they did it, boy, and there's so few of those people in the world. That was my kind of people. But, I never could see, and then later on, when I ran in the municipal elections, the Communist Party told their people not to vote for me. And to vote for this Doctor, what was his name now. It wasn't Doctor Brown, it was something or another, and boy were they sorry when he got up and told them about what they were to do with their kids when a holocaust comes. They weren't going to take them over there, everybody was supposed to go up and get their kids, it was so outrageous. You know up at Hamilton where our kids were going, you get three cars and you can't get down again, and here they were saying that the school was going to be dismissed and there's a creek down one side where they'll all be drowned, and the other ones, the road is jammed. And he was really, so we had quite a fight.

SD: What year was that that?

WH: I don't know, I ran several times. I ran for Alderman against Pat Burns, and he beat me by about thirteen votes or something, and that was the first time Pat Burns got in. I wish I had kept those papers, 'cause I don't know exactly how many votes it was. But,

SD: Do you remember approximately what year it was?

WH: When I ran against Pat Burns? It was when my granddaughter was born, ah, she is twenty-three, so you take twenty-three away, and it comes to about '59 or something. I ran before that. On , for School Board, and I ran, oh, I ran with the Communists, we called it a Labour ticket. And I was accused of being a Communist on the platform, and I never denied it. I told them if they wanted to discuss party politics, well we'd start with theirs, since they had brought it up. But they knew I wasn't, but they were just trying to make me, run. you don't, this was the audience, you know. If you don't run, they can't chase you, and since I've been preaching that all my life to my kids, I had to keep reminding myself of that. And it's true! You just don't try to explain a thing away. People that really floor you, they say, Ya, wasn't I stupid! How can you ball them out? It's really quite something.

SD: You were really active then if you ran for

WH: Ya, I was very active in the CCF. Scrubbed the floors, and did the mail, and did everything, all the dirty work. We didn't get the jobs, well once, I put my name up for nomination I was trying to remember who was running that year. It was a provincial election. I didn't get the nomination, but I just did it for, I've forgotten why. Challenging somebody.

SD: What about, did you ever get involved with, the, organization that Ruth and Reg were part of?

WH: I never completely understood it. I got involved with it to

WH: (cont'd) the point where I liked to go to their classes, and I liked to learn, and Reg used to teach a class down the West End, and I was pretty good at being able to read a book, and then give him a summary of it. And I learned a lot, lot of books I'd have never have read, that way. And, I admired them as people, but, their organization for functioning, like our kids were expelled from the CCF, from the NDP, for, two of my kids were, for being Trotskyists. Well, they don't let you, they're sort of, most of their meetings are just, they're like what'd you call, educational and discussion. And sometimes you hear about what's going on in other parts, with the Trotskyists but they don't really, they don't really belong to the organization. So that you don't have to worry about it, because you're not in it. I suppose it would be a great big executive that handles everything. And the kids were even less in it. The, it just came to hear what was going on, and my daughter Jackie who is, she puts out the Militant, in New York, she, was thrown into it, sort of, because she wasn't even going to join the NDP at first, but her sister Margaret had joined and she had to give her some support, but, right away they were dubbed as Trotsky's when they came in. My oldest son tried to get into the ^{carpenters} union, and they wouldn't let him in. Later on () tried pretty hard to get him in, and he threatened to throw him off the top of the building. Lucky for () (Dominikov?) he left because Sam (Willowby?) was so mad at him. But they do

WH: (cont'd) all kinds of things. Patty went to Japan, which would be away back in, this is what we call the CP, these are the kinds of things that they did, and wasted their efforts because, they one time sent a man, Eiserman (sp?) to ask me to run in a local election, I think that was before I'd ever done it. And I might have done it, but I was pregnant, nobody knew it, I had been pregnant about six months. But I might have done it, and they wanted to support me and everything, but, most of the time they didn't support me. And they, you know, they were kind of dirty. Although, a lot of people have come up and said (whispers) I don't care what they say, Winnie, I'm going to vote for you again. 'Cause I had a lot of friends and, they were nice old people all those years in there. But they were confused and they figured they had to do what they were told. And I'm just not that kind of a person.

SD: This was in the Communist Party?

WH: Ya

SD: And what was the name of the Trotskyist groups?

WH: They called it Trotskyists. Oh, different times had different names. When the kids got expelled, it was the Information Centre on Hastings St. Later on, they were another place on Hastings St. I can't even remember where because I was only there a couple of times, if I was. And then they went to that bookstore on Granville St., where they were until they got thrown out of there. They got a beautiful place now, but it isn't so busy. But they carry on their education.

SD: Who excluded your son from the Carpenters' Union?

WH: The carpenters! You know the Carpenters Union was controlled by CP. If the, Russians hadn't come in during the war, the Communist Party could have shut down the shipyards, in twenty-four hours, and all kinds of other places. They had really fantastic control in those days. But then they had to wiggle, and it changed things. They were scared that the Communist Party came in, it was a bit different to have, say, different things, and they got different things to say. It was too bad.

SD: When you say they could have shut down the shipyards,

WH: They had control of all the key unions. I've been told that by people who really ought to know, and they're dead now. Like, um, what the heck is his name? Real nice guy. Oh, there were some great guys worked on that waterfront.

SD: Why didn't they, what difference did it make

WH: They didn't have to, because Russia came in on our side so then they were all with the war. They went to war. But, if they hadn't, if they had gone to the other side, and when we were worrying about the Japanese, (laughs). Mind you, they were the workers, so they would have had an awful lot of support from a lot of people who never had any use for the Communist Party.

SD: How did the CP get that kind of control over the trade union movement?

WH: Well, where was I reading? I can't remember now, somewhere about the control, and all through this book, I'll loan it

WH: to you, if you want to read it sometime. I got a copy and, I loaned it to my son, I'm not sure which son has it, my son on the North Shore

SD: I was at the CP, you said it was CCF was powerful in the union.

WH: Well, the CCF were not. They were so called, union oriented, but not the way they are today. You see, until they became the new party, the NDP, that was why they brought them in because before that, like in Ontario, the, they would get great subsidies, from the unions, for their political campaigns, but we never got very much out here because, there was always people in other parties saying we don't belong to that, so we're not going to vote money for it, and that kind of stuff. So they thought it would be a great idea bringing in the workers as it were. So it was mostly from the right-wing organizations they brought in, it was quite interesting. I went to the founding convention with my daughter Jackie, we road the day coach there and back, and she, we, found so interesting there was some people that I had known for years and years and I knew whether they were Communists. I knew them as well as they knew themselves, and they knew me, and there they were, having a vote at the NDP and all that. We got kind of a bang out of it. And there was quite a lot of things that happened. But, they always get so narrow. When an election, as far as the NDP is concerned, when an election comes along, they want to be () so that they'll get elected by everybody. This is something we've

WH: (cont'd) arguing from the day one.

SD: What's the argument?

WH: Well, you've got to act on behalf of your people. Because the others may vote for you, if you make it look as though they're your people, but, the chances are they'll leave you in the ditch anyhow, and even if they don't, if you get there, supported by them, you're not going to get anywhere. You can't implement any of the things that you want to do.

SD: I have some general questions about working women in the thirties, and in the forties. How did women see working, did they mostly see it as something you that you did for a temporary period of your life?

WH: Oh yes, everybody expected to get married, I guess. And then a lot of girls do still, at least up 'til a few years ago. It was the same idea. And still, in certain homes, I'm sure, they all expect to get married. The only thing is, unless they're blind, they'll find out. They can see that it doesn't matter whether you want to, still want to work, when you get married, because you're going to need the money if for no other reasons.

END OF SIDE TWO
END OF TAPE ONE

TAPE TWO
SIDE ONE

WH: walked for three hours in that wind yesterday. I got hit

WH: (cont'd) down here, I think.

SD: How about communities, how did they look at women who worked.

WH: Canadians?

SD: Communities

WH: Oh, communities. Well, they gossiped if you had children. You should be home minding your children, you know, that kind of stuff. Many of the people who stayed home, didn't pay any attention to their children anyhow. I often felt that those that worked often gave more attention to their kids when they came home, because they appreciated them more even then, but you were looked down on if you worked because most of the people we knew weren't in a position to hire somebody who would be very reliable to look after their children. You couldn't do that because you'd have to give them more wages than you were getting.

SD: That must have been hard. That must have been really hard for women to not have proper child care.

WH: Oh ya, they didn't have any child care at all. They had a relative, or a neighbour, or somebody looking after your kids. A lot of people are in the same position today. There's an awful lot of people who need child care. I'm going to have a day care centre, I think, in my building. A co-op, I hope.

SD: Did women ever try to organize for child care in that period of time?

WH: No, not unless they were individual. My oldest daughter, when she was up north, she always organized ^{it} to the point where, of

WH: (cont'd) course she had day care in, I mean she had pre-school, it was called pre -school, Dorothy () McNair put in the first pre -school west of Winnipeg.

SD: Oh ya? What was that?

WH: That was the neighbourhood house on the North Shore. And we were on her committee, myself, and Johnny (Ottowells?), she's now Mrs. Rankin.

(TAPE REPEATS FROM BEGINNING AT THIS POINT)

and a couple of other people who I could remember if I thought hard enough. As far as I know, that was the first day care. And all, in all ()'s life, and she did it on TV again, she never mentions that part.

SD: When was that?

WH: That was, Patty was three, or was she four? She was four, and she was born in '38, so she'd be four, that'd be '42. And she had to go to day care, I already, I had this, son who was forty-one, ^(sic?) and, I had so much to do, with the garden and the clothes and everything. And I just had to send Patty there, because she was always into trouble. And so I tried to get her in a kindergarten, and they said, Oh we'll take her next year because there aren't very many kindergartens. And then Dorothy came, and I heard Dorothy come along, she'd gone to Winnipeg and taken this course, and she'd come back and, she wanted to set it up for son. And, after she got it set up, she faded out because, she was a social worker, she had other work to do.

SD: How did it get set up? Did you get government funding?

WH: Well, the, this neighbourhood house, it was a big old house before it was where it is today, and it, there was a Red Feather grant, but to get the Red Feather grant properly, we had to have it so's that they were taken full time, up to, like I always sent Patty just half a day. Or else brought her half a day. And, so, we had to get this grant, and that was very hard, but we made it

SD: That was a private grant?

WH: No, it was from the Red Feather, but we had to prove that it was taking, we were saying that the women are going to war work, and they want to leave their children, and that kind of stuff. So, I never, I had to put my time in, like we all had to put some time in, but we had a woman, she lived down there, and she was a ex-nurse, and things like that. It was quite a job getting those little toilets and everything in that old building. And we were there, I don't remember what year they moved across to the new building.

SD: Did you actually have to re-build the building?

WH: No, no, but were able to put, somehow or other they put in little pots, and little toilet, and it wasn't too bad, we had to pass, they were quite fussy because they went, I think there was somebody in town doing one, I can't remember. Somebody told me this woman had the first one, and of course North Van, you don't hear anything, you're way out, and you don't unless you listen to the telephone, I mean to the radio, you don't hear anything. I never could hear the radio with six kids running around. Sometimes, sixteen. But, it was quite

WH: (cont'd) a step, and it's still going, although it's having a awful battle.

SD: Was it twenty-four hour child care?

WH: No, it was twelve, it was morning nine to six, or five, I've forgotten which. The whole day. Before that we just had half a day, which most pre-schoolers go to school half a day, and most kindergartens, they go to school half a day.

SD: And what kind of women used the child care centre? Was it mostly women war workers?

WH: I guess there was a few. I can't remember. I, Mrs. Ottowell, she was working, Johnny, she had this boy the same age as Patty, and, I can remember the three of us, and Mrs. McNair had her son. I can't remember the others, who came there. Oh, our neighbour, she had come down sometimes, his father was dead, and she like to send him down there before they started the kindergarten. Then my kids all went to kindergarten. Different kindergartens, depends when they growing up.

SD: How many kids were there?

WH: Around there? I can't remember. We must have had a dozen at a time. Because she had to have somebody helping her, so we all took a day, to work with this woman who ran, And then we had to have meetings to raise a bit of funds. There was a woman, whose name I can't remember, and she lived up, way up Cambie Heights, and she was a Conservative. She was very good with her money, and her help and buying things for it. And mine, I had my tables and chairs and everything.

WH: (cont'd) When I was back a few years ago, they still had the table that was, the Quintuplets? The year of the quintuplets were born, Eaton's, or Spencer's it was then had this table in the window with, thing, a later on they sold it off, and I bought it with these little chairs. And they had it there for a long time. They probably haven't got it now. But I haven't been ^{back} too often, although (Mugs?) goes over all the time, they're still fighting for their (clause ?), or something or other.

SD: So, that was the first child care centre, at least on the North Shore. What was the government attitude towards child care during the war?

WH: Well, they just didn't pay any attention to it. They would have said there's no demand for it. You see, kindergarten's ^{people} and pre-schoolers didn't do it. You were told that you send your kids to school when they was six. And, that, you don't teach them to read before he comes. "Their eyes are not ready for reading." And now, today, we see these kids reading at three, and four, and five. I knew later on, I knew a woman, who, well her husband was a big shot named Pierre (Loyal?) or something, and she had these twins, and she taught them to read at three, away back when, well, I guess it was quite a long time ago, I guess it was in the fifties. But it wasn't done. You just didn't teach them. I didn't teach even Patty. Patty went to school three days, and they hadn't taught her to read, and she was wild. I sent her to the Catholic School because she couldn't get into the

WH: (cont'd) public school, because she was only five when she got through with the kindergarten. So she went to the Catholic school for a year. Donna went to the Catholic school for a year, because she couldn't get in. The idea was, that if you get these kids too soon, they'll go on with their education. That was the way my mind was working, and girls had to quit, once they got pregnant, or once they got boyfriends, they lost interest so, Patty and Donna went through on scholarships four years apart. And, it's a good idea to get them started early, but that's only come in recently. My grandchildren, my goodness, they could read all kinds of books, long before they was six.

SD: When women became more radical in that period of time, what were the things that influenced you? Why would you choose to join something like the CCF? or

WH: Well, after the war, you couldn't get things, and (Sheila?) Young had this meeting, I wish I could remember the organization, she called it. She used to have meetings down the foot of Lonsdale or something. She was fighting for diapers for us, at that time, I had an after the war baby, Jackie, and I knew what it was like, you just couldn't get these things. And, also they had the big margarine fight, that was when they got margarine. Everybody says that Jimmy Sinclair put in margarine, but, Sheila Young, put in margarine. And she just made Sinclair eventually have it passed in the house, but she, it was her persistence, and her endless persistence, or writing, and writing, and

WH: (cont'd) talking on it, because there was no margarine, and everybody couldn't afford butter, even then, although it,

SD: Was margarine illegal?

WH: They just didn't have any, and then when they first brought it in, they didn't have any colouring with it, and it was that horrible white colour, and kids thought they were getting lard. So, it still was no good. So they brought the colouring in that you put in separate, before they start making it looking. See, they weren't allowed to make it like butter. I don't know what the laws were, but they must have had some dairy products must have had some law. So margarine was a wonderful thing for kids, especially some kids, that were growing, getting pretty hefty and they didn't really need something like butterfat.

SD: You couldn't get commodities that you needed.

WH: Ya, you couldn't get things, and I can't remember, I guess, people were wanting a better life, I can't remember anything very definite though, for granted, that's all we could have, that was, see, my husband worked for forty-five years, and I never had anything. () and things, and you think, well, I made all the kids, Donna was in second year university before she had a bought coat. And you just figured, this was your lot, and you're so conditioned for it. So it isn't a wonder that they went off their heads. Every which way until they come down again. They're really, see what they do want, and make sure that they get those and they don't get some of the things that don't want. But it certainly has changed a lot.

SD: Do you remember what specifically, you met a woman who was involved in the CCF, and you talked to her, and Dorothy Nisbet-Jones , and you got actively involved, do you remember how you felt when you started to get involved?

WH: Well, I figured I was a socialist when I was five or six, you see. I didn't know what a socialist was, but to me it meant being nice to people, or something like that, and my father was one, and I knew that, although looking back on it, I know my father started out as a Fabian Socialist, you know, really mild, but he was certainly dead against armaments, or war, or anything like that. He burnt the khaki suits they brought home. But, so, it wasn't hard. So, I figured I was there, and I'd never done anything, I had a good excuse, I guess. When you're working you went up the mountains and you used to start as a , the Communist Party had, just near the foot of, you went up over Seymour, to go to Seymour, you went up over the side of Dog, from the creek, and the Communist Party had a great big building they were building, oh, it was huge! Big logs and everything. We used to stop in there and argue at nights and things, but I really didn't know too much. But I was arguing with them. They never did get that thing finished. It was too big, it would be ridiculous.

SD: That was the meeting hall or something.

WH: We built cabins on the mountains, you see, you could just build them then. And that's where we spent the weekends.

SD: On Seymour?

WH: Seymour. Well, first we went up Grouse, I broke my leg on Grouse, in 1930, Easter Sunday, and then when I got well enough to go again, they were already on Seymour, and built Seymour 16 up there, shack. One of the shacks is still standing. But it was a great place to ^{spend} your weekends. All you needed was a transfer, you know, a street car ticket with a transfer and a ferry ticket.

SD: So who would go up there? Was it just working class people,

WH: Oh, everybody, no there were other people who were particularly, I have pictures around, I got tapes on the climbing of the mountains. My husband has the first ascent on a couple of mountains. The big one out there.

SD: Oh, that's fantastic.

WH: The street car on Grouse mountain, and you walked up there. But it grew and it grew, as far as I was concerned, and we took, we bought skis, took about a year and a half to save up enough money to buy skis. And then you went up and spent the weekends there. And then they moved, they felt it was getting too crowded, and they moved to Mount Seymour.

SD: That was your family who moved?

WH: No, the "gang". There was a lot of people. They were called the Seymour 16. There was supposed to be sixteen of them. They built this big shack, quite low down and then eventually, they built another one almost at the peak of Dog Mountain. When you look across, its Dog Mountain you see, and then Seymour, you just go down the hill and over the ski. And

WH: (cont'd) we used to ski all the way up to the Pump Peaks, and all the way down again. Really exciting. And it didn't cost any money you bought () wax for your skis, and you brought some food, I had to buy my food, but most people brought their food from home, and things like that. You had a wonderful weekend. And then today, it costs thousands of dollars to go skiing.

SD: You'd cross country though eh?

WH: Ya, mostly cross country. I broke my leg on a hill. I shouldn't have been on the hill. We did, just , went down hills by the lake, and that one, that main one on Grouse, and things like that, but we didn't, we weren't doing real skiing for, we didn't have those kind of skis, so we just kept to cross country skiing. It was really good. And a year later, well less than a year after I was off work for six months, and then, I was back skiing again. It was really nice.

SD: If you got hurt in those days, and you were off work, how did you support yourself, how did you support yourself?

WH: Well, we had somekind of a health thing, it wasn't an awful lot, I think it covered my ambulances, I don't know of anything else. But, people lived at home, and I was in the hospital fifty-nine days, well, I shouldn't have been in this long, it wasn't really my fault. The weights had broken and they hadn't got them fixed right away because then they were scared to take them off in two weeks, and three weeks and it went on and on, so but I did pay almost the whole works myself, out

WH: (cont'd) of my salary.

SD: From B.C. Tel, this was?

WH: Ya. From my, I had a little bit of money. Of course my, our family was, my mother would nag and nag anyhow, saying, We don't have debts, we don't have (), but, nobody hardly ever paid. It was just, you didn't make enough money to pay a hospital. Hardly anybody ever paid hospitals, or doctors. But, we always paid our doctors.

SD: Would the doctors come again, if you didn't pay them.

WH: Well, a lot of them would, on the North Shore, when we lived there, we had this old man, and he was terrific to me. My friend didn't like him at all. And then, Doctor Martin told me one time that, well, I knew that they had a huge bill, and I said, well they were hard up, and he said, Well, they paid this, that, and the other thing, you know, so they look into it. Some would, and some wouldn't. I know Doctor, the man that the high school's named after,

SD: Telford, was it?

WH: The high school in North Van, the big one, junior high, but you see, my husband was working all the time, and when I had my first baby, nobody I knew paid for their babies, except us. And you went upstairs and had it, and you had exactly the same food, according to my friend, who was having one, and she said, And you'll pay for yours, she says, The only difference is they cut your orange, and we had to peel ours. So people just didn't pay for those

WH: (cont'd) things, so that's why the doctors should have wanted Medicare so badly. Isn't it? And they did, I guess to a certain extent, because they'd never have gone for it if it hadn't been for that.

SD: That's really interesting, I never knew that.

WH: And people didn't have money to pay for those kind of things, it's sort of ridiculous to think that you could () that kind of money. If I had spent it on clothes and things, I wouldn't have been able to pay mine. I think I paid () four or five dollars or something. But they couldn't have made me , when it really came down to it, because it was partly their fault.

Trying to get the whole office to quit their jobs because they were trying to give them a (cut?) in salary. So it turned out only him and this other fellow would quit. So he went up to, they bought a second hand car, and he got as far as Oliver. Taking the, gas from the various places they could get it, but () he was a real begger. But there was a woman who lived on the island, who was secretary, and she did as much as I guess, as putting in that union as Jim did. But he was sort of the,
union

SD: Which was it again, it was?

WH: Canadian, B.C. Pack-, Aylmers Ltd. And they didn't have a union in there when he first worked. He got this job in Oliver, he went up there , and they said, if you wait 'til the tomatoes are ripe, we'll give you the job, what you call it, not organizer, but, its,

SD: Business agent?

WH: No, does the actual work, receiver, that's it, Andso he hung around and he got it. At that time it was, they were having the big fight, about, "a cent a pound, or on the ground." If you didn't give them a cent a pound, they weren't going to go back to work. But anyhow, he worked there, then he came back to Vancouver. () back to Vancouver, or something, I don't know. And they, and for he worked Aylmer in Vancouver. And he put in the union there. Oh, I wish I could figure that name. She had a place up the island on the highway where she sold Chinese stuff, long before around had ever heard of China. I should be able to think of her name. She was well known, she was really terrific. Guess she would be older than I was, I don't even know if she's living now, or not. Then, he he played around with that job, and, oh brother, was odd, he could do anything, and he always got away with it. Then, went back up to Penticton, and he was the secretary up there. And then he went off again, on his bike one day, and wasn't heard from , and then he showed up in the air force of all things, because he was a pacifist. Really, absolutely stunned, he was a great big guy, he come in my house in this air force uniform. And he wrote to his wife and said if you send in your papers, you'll get your allowance. They had two kids. And he'd just go off like this. But we told her he did this when she got married, and she wouldn't believe he'd leave her. Anyhow, and then,

SD: So they organized for the union in the thirties?

WH: I didn't really. I wasn't in a union, if you know what I mean.

SD: But did he, then? 'Cause if he

WH: Ya, the thirties. Ya, I guess it would be, but it was forties, I think it was the forties before you got the union in. That was the forties or the fifties. Because you see, as a receiver, he had all the strawberries and everything. Sometimes he worked for twenty-four hours. Because there was no freezing. And then, when they were running they had to keep on using them, going out and what have you, and so then, they put him on salary. It wasn't very good at seventy-five dollars a month. (He?) made sure that he didn't earn any more than seventy-five dollars a month. He reminds me of Reg Bullock. Reg Bullock wouldn't even have his bowel movement at home, he'd go to work and have it on his time. And Reg had a big, got a new job, and he looked the job over, he was, a pipe fitter, something or other, anyhow, he'd look the job over, and he'd think, Well, I could do that job in thirty minutes. Well, I'll take an hour and half, that'll be good enough. And even they would do it twice as fast as any body else. He was really quite a character. He was very clever. His mother had wanted him to be a lawyer.

SD: So you say that Ruth had () before Reg?

WH: No, I don't think she did. Whether they came to it at the same time or not, but she was deeper. Reg was really smart, and he could beat the guy out and do all this kind of stuff,

WH: (cont'd) but that wasn't Ruth's idea of proper politics. She was quite different. And Reg changed quite a bit. Oh he could really do something. Like, I went to a meeting, and we used to have three, four clubs in the North Shore, and Ruth and Reg belonged to one club, and I wanted to get something passed. Reg couldn't manoever, didn't get, you know, that kind of stuff, or didn't get on, or something, always the smart, he got (kicked?) () I guess, plenty by (). Not because it was () at me, or anything like that, because Ruth and I never became friends. For a long time. She came by one day during the war time. I was digging up a garden and it had a lot of that weed in it, like an ivy weed, kind of, and I said, Well now my husband's away, I can get rid of this stuff, because the guys at the office told him you just dig it under, it kept coming and coming. And she had a long conversation. And during the war, she went to work, as a gardener for somebody, trying to pay the money because she had to get a divorce, she'd left her husband. And Reg never had any money () soles on his shoes except paper.

SD: Did you ever feel tempted to go into war industry?

WH: I never had a chance. I mean, I would have thought my kids are most important, but I don't know how I would have felt about it. I certainly wouldn't have wanted to go into a factory, or anything like that, because I'm not the type.

WH: (cont'd) But, I had this woman come and live with me for a while from Winnipeg, and she had a 'leven and a thirteen year old, and my oldest daughter was about nine, maybe not that, and my third child, Stanley, he was about a year old, and he was just crazy about her. He didn't know whether she was his mom, or I was, and he didn't care, sort of, and she just loved going around vacuuming and doing things. So I decided I'd go work in the telephone company. And I went and made an application, it was two days later and her husband got a discharge and they went home to Winnipeg.

SD: So, you couldn't go back to work basically because you couldn't get child care.

WH: Oh ya! I wouldn't have left my kids. And I wouldn't have left my kids just with anybody. But she was so good. Then we could have split the money, you see, and we'd have been rolling. I don't think I had more than eighty-six bucks a month. At any one time. The kind of dirty things my husband does, and he explained it when he said he was joining, and we'd said, you know, people used to say to me, I don't see how your husband can work for Imperial Oil, and you're always running around doing things for the CCF. And I said, Well, if you can't be free, what's the use of being anything? So, and he never bothered him, course, he wouldn't want to bother about anything. And he, in a sense, kind of believed that. So when he said he was going to join the army, people said, are you going to let him. My doctor was wild. I said, Well,

WH: (cont'd) person has to decide what they're going to do. That's it. Afterwards when I looked back on it, the nerve, you know, isn't that he wanted to be a soldier, had no intentions of ever shooting anybody, but he wanted to see the world. But he had, it's funny, but he had told me about his brothers, especially the youngest one that joined the army, and that was the only reason they went 'cause, they were in a miserable job. That was the same thing. Just to get out of it. But, I don't know why, but looking back on it, I was kind of glad to see him gone. One less to. And he said well, the Imperial Oil make up the difference in the money. Well, it sounded pretty good to me, I thought, gee, you know, ^{'course} I'm kind of dumb and don't listen to the whole thing, sometimes, and I thought, gee whiz, I have as much salary as we had for when he was home, and there'd be no car repair, and cigarets, and all these things, no clothes, I thought it'd be terrific. Well, the Imperial Oil do is, like he was getting a dollar a day, or a dollar and a half a day, and after, and then he got some stripes. As he, that's (long discussion about raspberry jello here) and everything else, I'd get about two bucks, maybe slightly more, but darn little.

SD: You mean by the time they took the deductions off?

WH: Well they took all the, ya. Because his salary was so low anyhow, if he had left a little later, when the salaries went up. So I was really ^{quite} disappointed at how little I had.

SD: You mentioned going into the hospital to have your kids, did most women go into the hospital to have their babies?

WH: Most people didn't have any, the place, was home, I wouldn't have wanted to have my children at home with my kids there. 'Cause you always think of people, there's yelling, or something. And I never had to yell or anything, having my kids but I don't want people to know when I started having my pains, I don't want anybody around, 'cause I feel then I have to act as if I haven't got a pain. And I just wanted to go naturally. So, I , would never have, if I had a choice, I would have gone in hospital because, I didn't know anything about it and I figured the doctors would, and you hear of people having them. I was a little afraid in case something happened. Actually, the first one, the head was coming out before the doctor came in the door. So, I was having it alone anyhow.

SD: In the hospital?

WH: Ya, it was the 28th of February and there was seven babies born that day, and some more that night, it was just, it was a general nurse, and they didn't have a nurse. 'Cause they'd got this young fellow, I don't know he's the intern or what, and they had him dressed up as a nurse, and he was acting nurse, and there was this other young gal, she must have been just a trainee, she was terrified. And he went to do something, and she was alone with me, and she was shaking, and I was holding her hand and patting it. I didn't know anything about having a baby, and I was having this pain, but she the one. So any how, when he came in the door, he said, Give her an anesthetic, give her something,

WH: (cont'd) And they said, She won't take it. Well, you know, I'd heard so many stories, and all I'd heard that if you take anything, it'll affect your child, and it will, if its', the baby is far enough up or something. Well I didn't know when it was coming out and tearing you all to pieces, that it couldn't hurt the child. So, I said, no I'm not having it.

SD: So you had a natural birth?

WH: Ya, I had a natural birth. I've had, I've been torn seven times. So ridiculous, isn't it?

SD: And how were birthing conditions?

WH: Well, in the hospitals, they were pretty good, most of the time. When I had Jackie after the war, it was terrible, in North Van. It was so crowded, and wasn't much room. And they were just bringing in that new idea, you don't have to lay on your back for ten days, you, in twenty-four hours you're out, and all that kind of stuff. And it was such a wild place. I kept saying, gee, I wish I had my typewriter. Because nobody'll ever believe if I try to describe what this place has been like, and how it's gone on. And then, I was fanatic about wanting to feed her, because I was bringing her home to a house full of kids, and I didn't want her to get the germs and things, so I was trying so hard, and I had a terrible time feeding my babies because, of, nipples are flat, and it's awfully hard, and they swell up and get so hard and I always feed them for a month or two, what have you. I was trying so hard to feed her, so hard that I was running a temperature for the first

WH: (cont'd) time in my life. That's the first time I heard of me having a temperature. And, they came along, and I said, you know, trying to feed her anyhow. And the next time they brought her up, they just put her down, and the milk ran out of her mouth. And here I was getting prepared to go through this wild thing of feeding her, and trying to force her, and I just let out a yell!

SD: Were they giving her formula?

WH: They were feeding her in the nursery! And I just let out a yell. And the nurse came running out, and she said, the head nurse, she said, Have you offended my nurse? And I said, I don't know who I've offended, but how can I feed my baby when you feed her in there? And she started to say, We didn't feed her, and the baby poured some more milk out. Well, she said, we always have to feed them in there, 'cause it takes so long, or something like this, you see they were cutting down the staff. They were telling people not to bother going through all what I go through to feed your baby, because, it's, you're not going to feed it in the end anyhow. But, I usually fed them for two or three months, and I think that was terribly important especially with what I had to do around the place, and everything. The last time I fed Mugs, was when Stan fell in the ditch, and we were afraid he had drowned, but Patty had a hold of him. We used to have big ditches out in front, for the septic tank.

SD: So, you fed them to immunize them?

WH: Ya, and for to give them a good start. You see, if I'd been able to feed Jackie, I'll never know, because, as it was we had to go and get her, get, her named, and birth certificate down so's we could get the canned milk. And for some, I don't know why she had to have the canned milk. But she had asthma and eczema, I mean all her life she was sick, until well when she was, ^{eighteen} we thought she'd never be able to earn a living. When she's eighteen, she went down to Toronto. And she never come back. Well, I mean she never came home to live. Patty left at seventeen. Never came home to live. In fact didn't see much of her until she had her PHD at Harvard. And they did it on their own. But, they'd been ^{kind of} brought up to be independent. Although sometimes I felt they kind of overdid it, but that's the way they were. And I think it's much better, looking at all my kids' friends and the people that are still hanging on to their kids, and. This generation has had a terrible time and the ideas we have fostered on them in a different world, a world that's a way up here, and their parents are down here. Really. You still hear people saying, But we gave him this, and we gave him that, what more could he want? The kid never wanted those things to start with, but we did because we didn't have it. And we really started off pretty hard that way.

SD: What about women's health in those days?

WH: Well, I guess there was a lot of people having abortions, I remember my friend, is dead now, and she one of her tragic

WH: (cont'd) ones was she lived in a very tiny house, and then her mother came down, and they were quite hard up, of course this friend I suppose she didn't have ^{an awful} lot less money than I did. But, she had to have her hair done, and she had to have stockings, and things like that, she was that type. And so, she was having a terrible time. And she had a miscarriage, I don't know how many she had, but she brought it on herself I guess, 'cause I went there one day and she was just looking like, death itself, and, finally I got scared and went and phoned this doctor, I was trying to think of his name, who had a school named after him, anyhow, he came out, and he was really good. He said, Hmmm, I think we'll just take you up, and clean you up, he says, never even said it was a miscarriage or anything, and she knew darn it well it was. But she did that once too often. and so that the next time, she had a little girl, long after she should have had any, and, she was born kind of retarded. Maybe she had tried to get rid of it, I don't know. But her mother was living her, and everybody was so close, there's no way she could do anything. But she lost so much blood, and then so did another friend of mine who had had a number of miscarriages, and I didn't dream of it then, but looking back on it, it was just because they were desperate. they were having them. And the things they were doing. So people didn't really know any other way, except using needles, and, oh god, the whole thing, you know this had made me feel ill. To even think about it. But it did happen such a lot, and then, these

WH: (cont'd) darn people came along in a generation later on, and said, Oh, well, you know we must save all these babies, these unborn babies. They couldn't feed them, they couldn't look after them, and, still they were insisting they have them. And there was this birth control was still illegal, you know, it was illegal go around telling people how to use these things.

SD: Was it in the thirties that these women were trying to abort themselves?

WH: Oh yes, but I imagine they've done it all through history.

SD: But those cases

WH: Ya, they were in the thirties, twenties, thirties and forties and even fifties. Ya. Maybe they were () for all I know. And the nearest I could figure out, the difference between them and me, like I could do twice as much work as they could, I sometimes did all my work and came down and did theirs. But I had the blood, and they didn't. I didn't understand enough about blood and that, they just didn't have the strength. It really wears you down, you have a few of those, especailly when they're not attended properly. At first you don't ^{want to} even tell the doctors if you can get out of it.

SD: Were women afraid of being prosecuted? Like sent to jail for...

WH: Oh yes. Well, my daughter Jackie had an abortion in her generation and she was just finishing high school, last thing in the world she wanted, she had do something, hadn't worked, and she was horrified. And we had a friend, who had a friend, who was

WH: (cont'd) supposed to be really good, and she went up and had an abortion. But Patty said it wasn't the right one, she should have come to Japan, Patty was in Japan at the time. Well, I didn't have any money to send her to Japan anyhow. It cost enough money, I think it cost about, a hundred and seventy-five dollars, or something, they charged. None of my other girls had any problems. Now Mugs has had a hysterectomy. Patty's had a hysterectomy, and Jackie needs one. I, Mugs said, it's all these chemicals. Oh sure, its affecting the women this way.

SD: What kind of, when you were in the CCF's women's groups, did they do any work for women's rights?

WH: Occasionally we had resolutions, ya, I can't remember off hand what they were, but they were resolutions against this and that. And you always had to fight against the right wing for them, so I know we must have had some good ones.

SD: And how did people in the party see the women's involvement? Like, were you respected, were you treated as..

Wh: Well, I think they felt, lot of women, the older women, felt it was our place to raise the money and do the work. And that () for quite a long time. We put on everything. I don't know whether it's changed now, but ^{up until} the time I left the island, the Legion was still run that way. And

SD: The Women's Auxiliary ran..

WH: Ya, ya, it was really quite a shock. And they spend that the women raise. Of course the Legion stinks as far as I'm concerned. That's why I didn't find any place to go in, in Parksville,

WH: (cont'd) because I made no bones about what I thought about.

SD: What about the men, in the CCF, did they respect the work that the women did?

WH: Some did. But I think most of them thought women could step back and they, when it come to nominations, or things, it was pretty hard. Every once in a while somebody would have a resolution that there'd be a woman on there, or so many women, and they said you can't legislate those things because then you'll be telling them who to elect. And all, the kind of excuses they used. And they used them up until the time of Barrett! Remember when we marched on Barrett after he got elected. And, he was doing something up here at Commercial Drive or somewhere, we all marched down and he wasn't for women's rights. It took a defeat and a couple of other things ^{to hit him} before he was interested in woman's rights. Because, maybe in his background too, you see, the women would say, I want to be a woman, you know. What's got me is, is, people are like that. I remember this young woman saying, Oh you people, I want my husband to do that, my husband, this and that. And these people, leaving their husbands... all this kind of stuff. And her, brother, sister-in-law, and, came to see me, on the island, and then she said, Would you guess who's left her husband. And out working for herself? Was the same woman. Because too many people can't understand a thing until it's their own position. Because the people that condemn the worst things, even then they can't, like, my daughter-in-law,

SD: During the war, how did people feel during the war about women working, was it much more accepted in the society?

WH: About women working? Oh, they were , yes, they were in different status altogether. They were helping the war effort. And they were respected. Maybe somebody criticized them because they weren't staying home minding their kids, but that was just because they wanted to go too. But, there was a different pattern altogether, and there was this, feeling that after the war, my friend Dorothy Nesbitt, I wish I had that little book, she wrote a book on what would happen after they came back. It was just a little tiny book which she put out herself. And it was just shove the women back in and not...

SD: I'd love to see that.

WH: Ya I don't know what happened to it. With the moves and what have you. There was, people could see that that's what's going to happen . But see, when they came back this time, there wasn't the desperate need, because when they came back from the First World War, they were so poor, they didn't have anything. But this time, they came back with their gratuities. And they had a chance to go university with their gratuities, so they had a chance to live on them for a while. So it wasn't all of a sudden, the same unemployment feeling.

SD: That's very interesting.

END OF SIDE ONE
TAPE TWO

SIDE TWO
TAPE TWO

SD: About the World War Two attitudes, so the guys came back with gratutities. What happened to the women though, did you see a real change in attitudes towards women

WH: Well, I noticed, for instance, in the school, it was, you didn't, take effect right away. But the lunch, lunches, what I looked after sometimes, they women were still sending their kids with lunches, but they were already beginning to complain and everything they should be home looking after them, and that kind of stuff. But for a long time these women had to go on working, of course some of their men didn't come home. And some of them probably had left them. And all kinds of things had ahappened. And, then some of them just got used to working, and they wanted to work. And some of them that I know worked for the rest of their lives, after they came home. They never, you get that paycheck coming in and it's really something. The whole thing in our society, brought up that if you don't get , something, if you don't get some money, then it's nothing. They wanted me to have these people volunteer in the store, and everything, then(they'd?) () nothing, because, according to society, because we're not getting any pay.

SD: So there's changes in school, around lunches, so did they get rid of the lunch program or did they take out the..

WH: No, we still had, we always had a lunch program because there was always, I don't know, why there was always kids, Queen

WH: (cont'd) Mary was, pretty close to the poor working class area, it was closer to (Keith?) Road there, and we always did have quite a lot. We had trouble with the principal. I had a program for soup and stuff like that, and he would have these damn machines come in and let them have popsicles and fudgesicles (sp??) we had () awful fights. Charlie MacIntyre, although he was a real good guy. But they always wanted to raise money, and they were always raising money, and...make you sick, and of course then the kids would go to the corner store or get these fudgesicles, and instead of eating their dinner.

SD: Were there changes in dress, or the kind of...

WH: Ya, they changed from time to time. You know during the war they went long skirts, like they usually do in the depression. Kids had them down, close to their ankles, I think some of Patty's skirts, and I don't know when they started to get shorter. Quite a while.

SD: Were there changes in the kind of food available for people during the war? Would there be fast foods ?

WH: I don't think they had really come in very much at that time right after the war. Canned soup was as far as you'd go, really. No, I don't know when the fast foods really got popular.

SD: Did you know women who worked in war industry, and did they ever talk to you about feeling like, that they wanted to keep their jobs, or that their jobs were just temporary.

WH: No, I don't think I ever knew any women that worked in the war. You see you're isolated in your house, unless it's a

WH: (cont'd) friend of yours, or something. My next door neighbours were all married, and across the street there were older people, and , I can't remember anybody.

SD: Amongst a lot of housewives was there a feeling that women should not work , after the war?

WH: Oh yes, I'm sure it was. They talked about getting rid of (women on the) buses and everything, but the union closed in on that in a hurry. I'm sure they were talking about getting a lot of people out, but it didn't work too well, because people had got used to the idea, and they realized they had to do it more subtly. And of course they did it with wages didn't they? They always had it with wages, and they made sure that the women got that much less. That they hadn't been paying the women less, they'd have been much more willing to take the women in, it was like the IWA, that was when the terrible mistakes they made, I guess that was the Communist Party. I don't know , they, were trying to get rid of the Chinese and the East Indian people, and they wouldn't let them in the union. So the mill would hire these people at half the price!

SD: When was that, that that happened?

WH: When did that happen? Oh god, I don't know, it's in Reg's book. But I can remember when this happened. I don't know which year, I guess it would be the fifties. I don't know when, it would be in the library in The History of The IWA , I suppose.

SD: I should check for that.

WH: So they took them into the union. Lot of places did that in the end where they had tried to keep them out of the union.

SD: Did you grow up in B.C.?

WH: Ya, we came in 1917 to Victoria. From Winnipeg, came from Glasgow in 1911. And, then you went to Vancouver at some point?

WH: Ya, '22, there was no work, see, my father had finished with the shipyards and couldn't get enough work, and he got a job on the Prince George after he passed his ticket. And the Prince George used to make this, go to Seattle, Vancouver and back to Victoria. Well then it quit calling in at Victoria. So my mother said we might as well move to Vancouver. Besides there wasn't work for the boys, really. My brother was in grade, matrick, and he was only fifteen. This was the oldest one that we had come out here for, he was supposed to be dying of T.B. when we came, that's why we came here. And he came to Vancouver and went to (Sprat Shaw's ??) was working in nine months after that. My other brother had no trouble getting a job neither.

SD: Came to Vancouver and sorry I didn't hear what you said, he went to where?

WH: He went to Spraight Shaw's (phonetic sp!) It was the commercial school, it was a college. You paid twenty-five dollars a month. My brother Jim he was a character, he came along and he joined Duffus, which was the second best one, and he and his friend cleaned up a bit and what have you and didn't have

- That
- WH: (cont'd) to pay anything. ^Twenty-five dollars a months was a lot. We paid that for rent on that old building, the first building we lived in, at Commercial and Hastings. It was an old building and we had five rooms there, upstairs and a stove in there. And it was twenty-five dollars a month. That was a lot of money, for, the twenties.
- SD: What kind of work did you do as a housewife? Once you were married. Do you remember your routine a bit?
- WH: What was that?
- SD: Your routine, as a housewife, like the kind of work that you do? You had kids, I guess?
- WH: Ya, I was in everything. We brought our kids up in the church, there's no community centres in those days, and I was still a Christian. Even pushed my husband into getting a Cub pack one time, I tricked him into that, he had it for about nine years because he doesn't change much. But I was, I had the junior CGIT, and I had this, and I had that, and my son came to me and said, ^{Ma,} ^I can't get into the Cubs because (), I said, Go and get your father, I've had it! I can get the dinner, and you'd go running upstairs, and then you're back again, and, oh gee, and you work, and you're just sort of on a string all the time, and all the time you're working for the CCF, and going to meetings, or raising funds, or something. There wasn't much time when you weren't doing something. So,
- SD: What about actual housework, what would you do?
- WH: Well, I was fanatic about my floors, being clean, and I scrubbed them all except the living room and the hall, because they

WH: (cont'd) had beautiful hardwood floors , and a carpet on it. But the rest, I washed and scrubbed them all. I'd the kitchen, great big kitchen that I did everyday (), when the kids were little, any how. And I did the garden, I got rid of my husband, away, and I was able to grow a garden. I have some pictures, great big peas and stuff, all raspberries, used to put a hundred and ten quarts raspberries before they could have any pies.

SD: Was that, that kind of work, like having a garden, and putting up fruit, typical of most women?

WH: Oh ya, everybody canned, ya, . And I can remember the day before Mugs was born, I went downtown, we were living on 14th and Jones, and I had to go all the way down to 1st Avenue, on Lonsdale to get the apricots and then I pushed, () baby, was Stan, on the buggy, on the wagon, and kept one of the other kids, I guess it Donna was helping, push, and I had to do that all the way home. And then I had to can them that night, and the next day, Mugs was born at noon. And you know, that's just how life went, and, it was, one of the reasons my husband got away so much, because I was so busy. If I had, hadn't been able to do things , I'd never have been able stand it, and that's what happened to me when I got older. I had all those strawberries and stuff on the island, I was just killing myself trying to keep up with everything.

SD: How about laundry?

WH: Ya, well, eventually had a washing machine, but you had to go

WH: (cont'd) the basement, and you had to,

SD: What about the thirties? And the 1940's, did you have washing machines then?

WH: Ya that's kind. I never had an automatic washing machine until Patty put one in my house in Parksville a few years ago. And that was because Patty wanted to come by and use it.

SD: So how would you do the laundry?

WH: Just by the other kind, well the kind that,

SD: The ringer?

WH: Ya, ya. It took so long because you had to be there to empty it and take some out and put some more in, oh dear, it was very time, and then you hung it all out. Nobody hangs it out now-a-days. More's the pity.

SD: And cooking. What did cooking involve?

WH: And when my daughter got about ten, she was very good. Donna was terrific. Never had to ask her to do anything. I rarely asked my kids to do anything. I didn't make them stay home and look after each other, or that kind of stuff. But once and a while, Donna would say, Get out of here! Go on take the day off! Get out of here! And I would worry while I was gone, but anyhow, it was a nice thought. She was terrific. And then Patty was four years younger and was hopeless.

SD: So, did you cook all the meals pretty well?

WH: Not only our family, but all the people that came! We didn't have any locks on our doors. And everybody came. One time I remember, my husband went into the living room and this guy laying on the chesterfield, and he come and he said, you

WH: (cont'd) know, there's a guy down there, and he hasn't even got a blanket on! And I said, Who cares! ()) He didn't even know him. I knew who he was because my friend had asked my if we could set him up, because she was having other company and she didn't have room for him. And I said, OK, but I went to bed and he hadn't come. So my husband comes down in the morning and sees " A poor guy without a blanket on!"

SD: What would your routine be in a day? When would you wake up?

WH: Ya, you'd make the beds, or air them, you had to air them first, and as the kids got older everybody was supposed to make their own beds, except once a week when you stripped them all and changed them, and all that, at least once a week. And then you had the dishes to clean up, and if the floors need washing, if they didn't then you, or the washing, sometimes you'd get the washing going, and start washing the floors, back down the washing, and back and forth. And you finally get the washing hung out, and you then the afternoon, you'd take it in and iron it all. And of course, they had to be, find room in there to do the garden work when the weather was all right. And there's quite a lot.

SD: And between that you'd be making meals?

WH: Oh ya, make the food, ya, you'd make cakes and pies, we were great on pies, 'cause they were mostly fruit pies, and I didn't use sugar and stuff. And everybody, we always had meat or fish, but not very much of it, it would never hurt anybody, besides it didn't have all the chemicals it's got in it now. And then

WH: we had vegetables, my son told somebody once that we had, turnips, he says, all the time, which is () it seemed to him. And I tried to explain to him there weren't too many vegetables you could get in the winter, except the canned one and we tried not to use those.

SD: What about when kids got sick? Did you go to doctors, or did you nurse them yourself?

WH: Well, yes, I was very good at getting my kids to the doctor in case there'd be something wrong. Patty got scarlet fever, when my husband was in the army and Mugs was on the floor, crawling around, and I put her in one room, and sterilized everything, and nobody else got scarlet fever. But it was a long thirty-one days. Ya, they had a lot of children's diseases, but, not as many as most. 'Cause we were kind of fanatic about the germs, and things, at least () people think it's silly, but you do save a lot of time, and it's the same with training the kids, and everything. People say, Oh well, it's not right to do it, but we didn't have diapers that would dry, we didn't have the kind you could throw away, and diapers were heavy, and you couldn't even always dry them, got a dryer later in life, but...

SD: So you mean it was important to train your kids.

WH: Ya, cause, you just couldn't... and as soon as they were awake I dashed up in the morning and took them to the bathroom, so then you didn't get all these sheets to...dry, didn't always work, but, you worked at it. I took Stan to the, young Stan was only about five and I took him get his tonsils out

WH: (cont'd) and I never even thought of getting a taxi. We
went on the street car.

END OF TAPE TWO
SIDE TWO