

THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM



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A WOMEN'S LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT,
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THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM

A FOUR PART SERIES ABOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN'S HISTORY IN THE 1930's, 40's AND 50's WHICH CAN BE SCREENED IN FOUR PARTS, AS A TWO-PART DRAMA OR DRAMATIC FEATURE, OR AS A TWO-PART DOCUMENTARY OR DOCUMENTARY FEATURE.

THE DOCUMENTARIES TWO FORTY-EIGHT MINUTE DOCUMENTARIES

THE WOMEN OF WOOD COMMUNITY ACTS

Logging, British Columbia's largest single industry in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, shaped the lives, economy and conditions of people in Canada's west coast province. This documentary series chronicles women's experience as spouses and relatives of loggers and mill workers, and as spokespeople for their communities. Based on personal interviews with women from East Indian and white backgrounds, The Women of Wood and Community Acts creates a rich testimony of their experience in logging communities.

Concentrating primarily on Vancouver Island, women attest to parallels and differences in domestic life, child rearing and health care. East Indian and white women each had their own priorities and institutions; from the International Woodworkers of America Women's Auxiliary, to the Sikh Temples at Mesachie Lake and Paldi. These organizations were essential to the construction of community, creating both support systems for female members and better conditions for the community as a whole.

The Lull Before the Storm documentaries combine personal testimony, location visuals, excerpts from cinema and television of the time, and archival footage and stills from Vancouver Island. The juxtaposition of historical television advertisements for a luxurious lifestyle with the real life stories of those dealing with limited resources, reveals a humorous and poignant account of daily life in the history of B.C.. A reunion between a group of Sikh women as well as a conversation between two members of the IWA Auxiliary provide forums for lively discussion. The Women of Wood concentrates on living conditions, while Community Acts emphasizes activism, organization and cultural tradition.