

GOODWIN, MARJORIE

(WATSON)

Q. Today is August 8, 1977, and I am talking to Mrs. Marjorie Goodwin, here at her home at Thrums. Mrs. Goodwin you are going to tell me about your father's early days on Vancouver Island and how he got started in Victoria, so would you like to tell me about that?

MG Well, I'm not exactly sure of the date, but it was somewhere around about 1890 because I know that my Mother and Father were married. My father, as I told you, came from Scotland to, first of all Smith's Falls, Ontario and then to Perth, Ontario, then he moved out here.

Q And at that time he was employed as a monument carver?

MG Fancy stone cutter. And the first job that he did in Victoria was the Gates on Rockland Avenue and stone for the fence around there, which is still there.

Q On Rockland Avenue?

MG Yes, I'm awfully glad that the people who have subdivided that have left that there because it is part of the old times of Victoria. He worked also on the old Post Office, which was pulled down, and the Parliament Buildings. But the dust from the stone was bothering his lungs, so he had to give up that. Of course, that was after my Mother and he were married.

Q When were they married?

MG They were married in 1893. I have their wedding certificate upstairs. They were married by Dr. John Campbell.

Q In?

MG In Victoria.

Q Do you remember the church?

MG Well it was the First Presbyterian Church then, but my father met my mother the second night after she was in Canada. In Victoria. Because my father sang in the Choir in the First United Church. Also, my uncle, Mr. James Grant, and my mother was visiting my uncle and he took her to choir practise with him and there is where my mother and father met.

Q It's a beautiful story.

MG Yes, it's lovely isn't it? When they first married they lived in a little house on Fernwood Road, which is still there, but has been remodeled very much.

Q Do you remember the address?

MG I don't know the number of it, but it was between Pembroke Street and Gladstone Avenue, on the right hand side there. A little house built quite a long way back, and that's where my two sisters were born.

Q That's Airlie and Charlotte?

MG Yes. And I was also born there. During that time, my uncle, Mr. William Grant, bought a great deal of land out here at Gordon Head. He came into town and told my mother and father that there was going to be quite a good piece of land for sale in a lovely part of Gordon Head and near them and would they be interested. My father said "How much is it?" and told him "Five Hundred Dollars" for between sixteen and twenty acres. Of course it was practically all bush. And he said "There is a liveable house on it" and this house, the little house that was on it, belongs to Dr. Ash.

Q Is that the self-same Captain Ash as well?

MG That's right and he owned all this property and his house he called "Jersey Hall".

Q That's where it came from. I've wondered where Jersey Hall came from.

MG Yes. Because his wife came from Jersey.

Q The Isle of Jersey.

MG And he made it "Jersey Hall". And that's our barn. Of course we still call it the barn, but it's not used as a barn really, it's a tool shed and my son's garage.

Q Jersey Hall is now the barn. Isn't that lovely.

MG When they first came out they used to come out just in the summer time. I'm getting ahead of myself because when he said it was Five Hundred Dollars, my father said "You might as well say Five Thousand" and my Mother said "Oh, I don't know about that", because my mother was a Kennedy Scot, you know, and she used to put money in the bank sometimes at a dollar at a time. Of course, a dollar in those times was quite a bit. And she said "We'll just go down to the Real Estate man" and of course there were very few real estate men then. I think it was to a man by the name of Haynes, but I'm not sure. They all went into town in my uncle's horse and buggy that he had come into town with from Gordon Head and they bought the land.

Q And that was sixteen or twenty acres?

MG It was between sixteen and twenty acres, I'm not exactly sure, I think it was sixteen but someone argues with me and says it was twenty, but it was somewhere around sixteen acres. But you see they've taken a lot off for roads and that because you see it was all the part from Tyndall Avenue along Barrie Road, which of course was just a trail then, and Torquay which was then Pollock Road, and where Ash Road goes

through, on the other side. All that block.

Q And so, your father then, did he retire up here more or less?

MG Yes, he had to give up, as I said, later. When they first lived out here he was still going into work, but he was to stay in all week with my aunt and uncle and just come home on the weekends. Because it was too far you see.

Q Do you remember those days?

MG I wasn't born. Oh, yes I was, I was six weeks old, when we came out here, so I don't remember very much. By the time I can remember things quite a bit of the land was cleared.

Q Did your father grow things on it then?

MG Yes, he did. We had a farm with all kinds of fruit trees and strawberries. The strawberry rows used to go right from where Barrie Road is, right across the land.

Q Down to?

MG Down to the end.

Q To Ash?

MG Oh, past Ash, where the houses are past Ash. It used to be, my sisters said, that it took a whole day to pick one row of berries. You see, it was really good soil and they grew beautifully. Gradually they cleared the land, but they weren't happy in a small house. It was very small, so my father built another house over just exactly where Ash Road goes through. My mother didn't like wooden houses. She was used to the Old Country, where practically all of the houses.. when I was over there two years ago and saw all the houses, there wasn't a wooden house in the little village where she came from. They were all stone or some kind of..

Q And she would remember that from her childhood.

MG She thought, when she first came to Victoria, that the houses were chicken houses. You know, when she saw all these funny little wooden houses, she thought that was awful. My father said to her one day, "You'll have a stone house". And as they were clearing the land they came across all these great high granite rocks and Daddy had them all taken and he had them in a great big pile and finally they cut the stone bit by bit to build this house. He didn't build it, he cut the stone and Alex Stewart built it. You know the house over there..or is it pulled down now..you know, the house over there near Borden Avenue. Where the Borden family used to live. That's where Mr.

Stewart lived. He was a stone mason. And he built it. And Mr. Isaac Summers, who was a very old timer in Gordon Head, did the wood work.

Q Oh, he did the wood work?

MG Most of the wood work. These two pillars were trees down in the glen and my father had them taken down to the mill and turned. So, to me there's so much..

Q Do you remember the day you actually moved into the house?

MG Well, I'm not exactly sure, but I still remember helping my father. I was then going to school and I remember he was cutting the stone and he had a little old thing like a long spoon and in some way he would tapp the spoon and he would know where to split it. He made a little round hole to put in the tool to break it, then he had to take out all the sand, chippings, that were left in there before he could go down further to make the hole deep enough for his chisel thing to go in. And I remember, I was allowed to take this spoon and dig the dust out of there and I thought I was wonderful. Simple things, you know, that we were pleased with in those days.

Q Did your Mother, at that time, running the Post Office in Jersey Hall?

MG No, not in Jersey Hall, over in the old house, over where Ash Road goes through now. Of course there was no road then, this was Ash Road then.

Q All the way through, right.

MG No, this was Ash Road, this little bit of Barrie Road.

Q And so, when she was running the Post Office, do you remember how the mail got there?

MG It was brought out from town.

Q Every day?

MG No, once a week.

Q And so, would your mother then sort the mail?

MG Yes, and she had a little...I remember, it was like a box with compartments in it and the names of the people were at the top and she sorted it and put it into their pidgeon holes, was what we called them. And then, the people had to come and get their mail.

Q So, who would be in the area at that time?

MG Oh, of course the Vantreights were old timers here, the Strattons, the Williamsons, and the Clarks, Mr. Clark was a relative of the Williamsons. He lived..the house is still there..up on Tyndall Avenue, right next door to the Vantreights.

Q The little white house?

MG Yes, but it was a little red brick house. There's a street goes down there, between Vantreights and there.

Q Grandview?

MG No, it's the next one up. It's not a very long street, it just goes down part way. Down towards Hillcrest School.

Q Did the Houlihans come over to pick their mail up?

MG Oh, the Houlihans were there. The Houlihans were there a long time and there was the Strattons, and my uncle, the Grants, and the Dunnetts, the Summers, old Mr. Dean.

Q Would that be William Dean?

MG Yes. And the Woods, that's where Romy Smith and his wife live now in the old Woods home. The Pollocks, there was a Dr. Carson. He lived down at the house on Tyndall and Kenmore meets.

Q So, these people would then have to come and pick up their own mail. So you would have a steady stream of visitors.

MG That's right. When they knew the day that the mail came. Later on, of course, it came oftener. You know, when the roads were..in the beginning it just came once a week.

Q How long did your mother hold that job as Post Mistress?

MG Oh dear, quite a long time because she had it when we moved over here. for a little while.

Q Into Thrums?

MG Yes. And this little conservatory off our kitchen is where she had her post office things and then finally we got the rural delivery, so my mother gave it up.

Q And so she was the last Post Mistress in Gordon Head then?

MG Yes, she was the last.

Q She was also President of the Womens' Institute.

MG Yes, she was. It was the first Womens' Institute that was on Vancouver Island.

Q Do you remember what year that was?

MG No I don't.

Q Was it already at 1917?

MG Oh I think so, yes, yes it was.

Q What was the purpose of the Womens' Institute? Why was it formed?

MG Well, it was really to get the women together, because they had so little to do. They went to town very seldom. And they would meet and

and talk and have demonstrations and various things. If you were an excellent sponge cake maker you would give a demonstration of how you would make a sponge cake, you see. If you could make hats well, you'd give a demonstration on how to make hats and teach the other women how to do it.

Q It was a system of sharing and helping one another.

MG It was.

Q You met then in the Gordon Head Hall?

MG They met in the Gordon Head Hall which was then at opposite where the Geoff Vantreight home is now, on Tyndall Avenue. That Community Hall saw many, many things.

Q Do you remember going there as a child?

MG Oh yes, I remember going there as a child and they always used to have a Christmas Concert. They'd have a huge Christmas tree, so big that they used to have a horse to pull it up. The ceilings were very tall, very high then and the tree reached from the floor right to the top of the ceiling.

Q Did they bring the horse inside the hall?

MG No they just pulled it and then they had to just drag it in. It took a lot of people. And it was all decorated with a lot of candles on it.

Q It must have been quite a sight for a young girl.

MG Never had a fire. I remember there was an old fellow who lived down on Feltham Road, Joe Tracey, he was the well digger. He dug practically all the wells in Gordon Head. He used to stand by with a bucket of water in case anything would happen. It was wonderful. We'd all buy Christmas presents for our friends there and that saved having to go around and everybody got them. And one year, when I was four, I had pneumonia and I couldn't go to the Christmas concert and the only thing that I wanted was a Teddy Bear. And old Mr. Dean, who lived down at the corner, ...he was the man who gave the land for the first school..he said "Oh, I'll get her a teddy bear, I'll see that she gets a teddy bear" and I was lying there on the couch in the dining room where I could see the light of the hall and I could see a bit of the tree. You know how a child has an imagination and I said to my mother "Oh, I can see my teddy bear right up there on the tree". And I didn't get it. And I was so heartbroken that my father went into town the next morning, all the way into town with the horse and buggy and bought me a teddy bear.

Q A treasure of your childhood. So, Gordon Head then, the Community

Hall, really was a Community Hall.

MG Oh, it was and we used to have all of our school concerts there too.

Q When did you start going to school then?

MG Well, I didn't go to school until I was seven because after I had pneumonia I was not very strong for a while. But my sisters used to teach me and I went to school when I was seven. My first teacher was Miss McMurray.

Q Was she from this area

MG No, she was from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, or somewhere back there. I'm pretty sure it was Charlottetown. But she used to do her hair up with one of the rats they used to have. You know, it looked like hair but it was sort of stuffing and she used to do it up like this you see, and we used to call her Mt. Douglas. Oh, she was sweet, but she was really too easy with us. When any of the boys did anything she'd say "What am I going to do with you bad boys?" and that would be all that she would do.

Q So it was an easy time for the young fellows at that point.

MG Yes. But they weren't too bad really.

Q Who did you go to school with? Was it a big class?

MG No, there weren't big classes then. There were very few children, only about twenty or thirty. But there was all the grades, you see, and we sat in double seats and then there was the teachers desk up on a little platform at the front and there was double seats and the stove was right in the middle up by the teachers desk. Those that sat by the stove roasted and those that sat near the back, on cold days had to wear their coats. It was so cold.

Q Where was your seat?

MG I really can't remember.

Q But the ladies sat with the ladies, right?

MG Oh yes, oh yes the girls..I went to school with Kathleen Jack, she was Katie Dunnett, and Bea Williamson, Linnie Williamson and George Williamson. I can remember the later years.

Q You went along then, to school at Gordon Head School, I think it was eight years, and then two years later you were back teaching the same class?

MG Yes, after I had been to High School...

Q Victoria High School.

MG Yes,..No, I wasn't back right then because I taught at Tillicum and

Tolmie before I taught at Gordon Head. But they moved me from Tolmie School in the middle of the year to take over the class at Gordon Head.

Q Had you requested to come back up to Gordon Head?

MG No. I didn't want to come because I knew all the children. But, oh, it was just the most wonderful thing that ever happened. The children were just wonderful. And one of the girls told me that her young brother was afraid he was going to call me Marjorie when he went to school and his mother told me that he set a chair in the hall and every time he went past that chair he'd say "Good Morning, Miss Watson". And his father was an old so and so and nobody suited him. He was just the type of man that everything was wrong and he went to the School Board after I had been there .. the boy had been in my class for two years ... and he went over to the School Board and said it was very kind of them and he was glad that I had been brought to the school because his child had never learned anything until I taught him.

Q My Goodness, what a compliment.

MG I was so thrilled, but those were wonderful days.

Q You were a very young girl when you took on this responsibility.

MG I was only seventeen when I started teaching. I taught for a while on a special certificate you see. Children were different in those days. Of course we had bad ones too. The first year I taught school, not here, I had three children that were going to be sent to Reform School.

Q Where was that at that time

MG That was at Tillicum. And you know, two of those three boys turned out beautifully. In fact, one of them was a Provost Captain in the War. In the Second War. The Provost Core was the Police Corps. His other brother also became a policeman and they were fine boys.

Q They never ever got to the Reform School then?

MG No. I think that in those days, they were really sort of incorrigible kids. I had no trouble, except for one of them and that was the boy who the Captain in the Provost Corps.

Q What sort of things did you teach at that time?

MG Well, we taught all the things that ...

Q English, grammar?

MG Yes, all those things. But of course when I took my entrance



examinations we had to pass thirteen examinations to get into High School. Including oral reading.

Q So, was that the same for the children you were teaching then?

MG Pretty well, pretty well the same, but you know we had a lot of... some of the classes were pretty high. I had forty-four children one year at Gordon Head. But I loved it at Gordon Head. When I came to Gordon Head to teach the Principal's name was Miss Ozard, who had taught me when I was a child. And it was a wonderful association. She was just wonderful with me. We got along well and after Miss Ozard it was Connie Wright and Connie and I had a wonderful time. We used to take the children into the music festival.

Q In Victoria?

MG In Victoria. We won the shield every year for the rural schools. Mr. Lambrick was just one of our mainstays. The parents used to come with their cars and take the children into town to the festival.

Q So you were helping out then with getting all the parents involved.

MG Yes. All the parents were wonderful. When we had the Christmas concert all the parents used to come and help us put up the stage.

Q It was a long tradition then of community help?

MG Oh, very much so. Gordon Head was a wonderful ditrict to grow up in.

Q We're going back to the strawberry farming now, do you remember your father joining the Fruit Growers Association?

MG Well, I don't remember. I remember that he did belong to the Fruit Grower's Association and they had the building down at the corner of San Juan and Tyndall, where St. Dunstans, the Gordon Head Parrish Church is. They used to take their berries down there. But, originall my father had to supply Kirkhams Store in Victoria exclusively with strawberries.

Q And how did he get them there?

MG With the horse and buggy. Every night.

Q After picking. Did you have people working for you, to help you?

MG Yes, Chinese mostly.

Q And did they live on the property?

MG Yes.

Q Do you remember where it was?

MG They just lived and slept almost anywhere. They used to sleep out in the barn and we used to have a little house out in the back that they used to sleep in. One of them that worked for us, came back after my father had died and worked all that portion of our property.

Q Do you remember any of these Chinese fellows, as a little girl?

MG Oh absolutely. We had one called Moon and afterwards he bought our old horse and had a vegetable cart that he used to bring vegetables in around to people. But the one that I knew the best was Bun. Leong Foo Bun. Oh he was a dear. He came after my father died and said to my mother "Bossie Lady, I look after place" and so he did.

Q And helped your mother get things to the Fruit Growers' Association?

MG He just took over and had a real market garden down in the lower part of our property.

Q That's fantastic.

MG Chinese, you know, have several names. Besides the Leong Foo Bun, one of his other names was Hop Sing.

Q Did you ever hear of a fellow called On Hing? He used to come around and bring goods.

MG Yes, he was the one had two baskets over his shoulder.

Q What did he used to carry in them?

MG All that you needed. Needles, thread, handkerchiefs, towels, all kinds of things.

Q Did you use to look forward to him coming around.

MG Oh yes, we always loved to see him come around and see all the things that he had in his two baskets.

Q You were saying that you were brought up in a fairly strict background. Is that so?

MG Well, strict, but not unkind.

Q I didn't mean that. Do you remember special treats that came along?

MG Oh yes, our special treat was about once a month going to town to go to a show or something. To the old Majestic Theatre that I think was down in the lower part of Yates Street. And there was also one called the Bijou, but we called it the Bi-jo. We used to go and see The Perils of Pauline. Of course that was later on. We used to be going once a week then, on Saturdays. That was our treat to go into town to the show.

Q I was just thinking Mrs Goodwin, that perhaps you could tell the story about why "Thrums" is called "Thrums".

MG Oh yes. Carriemuir, where my father was born, was a weeding town. Beautiful little place. And the bits that are laid over the floor after the weeding, Scottish people call them thrums.

James Barrie, who wrote the Window in Thrums, also lived in

Carriemuir. He was a distant relation, a second cousin or third of my father. All of them were related in those little villages. And the people there called Carriemuir the Thrum toon. In the old days they always named houses and when this was built and it was all built of stone and my parents were from Scotland and because of the connection with The Window with Thrums, that's why it became to be called "Thrums". Daddy, if you'll notice at the top at the front, there is a little coloured glass window that my father put in there purposely. He called that the window at Thrums, because you see James Barrie had wrote The Window in Thrums and the window in his first place he could look out across the glen. That's how it got to be called Thrums.

Q There was a lot of Scottish families in Gordon Head. Did you ever do jigs or scottish dancing?

MG I did a bit, but not much. In those days there was not much chance to. But a great number of the people, the Williamsons, the Dunnett, the Grants, they were all Scottish.

Q I was just thinking, as well, that you lived all of your life in Thrums.

MG No, at first...

Q No, I mean since your family moved in here.

MG Oh yes, I've lived all of my life here.

Q And when you were married, your husband came here to live as well?

MG Yes, because my mother was a widow and she asked my husband if he wouldn't come and live here. Because you see, he was a sea Captain and was away a lot and I was company for her.

Q And for you as well.

MG Yes.

Q What year were you married in?

MG 1934.

Q And that was the year that your husband came to live in this house as well.

MG Yes. He grew to love it very much and he did a great many things for my mother. He was very handy.

Q Did you continue to teach at that time?

MG No, you weren't allowed to.

Q Oh, the special certificate was..

MG No, no. When you married you weren't allowed to teach any more.

Q So up until that time though, you did teach?

MG I taught at .. now let me see...let me figure it out. 1921 and I was married in 1934.

Q So there was the end of your career.

MG At that time and then after my husband died, which was twenty years ago, I went back teaching.

Q At Gordon Head?

MG No, I taught at Quadra Primary. And I think those were ten of the loveliest years of my life. The children there were just wonderful. I liked it very much because we had Chinese, East Indians, Native Indians, Dutch, Hungarian, all kinds of nationalities.

Q Very cosmopolitan place.

MG Oh yes. Lovely children.

Q I was wondering too, here with your life at Thrums, how long your mother lived.

MG My mother lived until 1947.

Q You have children now?

MG I have one boy. He lives with me. He's an old batchelor.

Q I was going to say I was wondering what was going to happen to Thrums. You've got plans to keep it in the family?

MG Well, my son just loves the place and he says I am to be here as long as I am able to keep going.

Q Of course, it's your family home.

MG We love every corner of it.

Q How much land have you got left now, Mrs. Goodwin?

MG I have about two acres.

Q And you don't garden that any more?

MG Oh no. We have our own vegetable garden and a few fruit trees.

Q Are there any of the old famous French pears?

MG Yes, we still have them. There are three pear trees. One of them doesn't bear very well. It's getting too ancient. But we're not cutting it down.

Q We're coming to the end of our tape Mrs. Goodwin, is there anything else you can think of. There are so many good stories.

MG Oh my, there are so many stories. When my mother first came out here, my mother had to go down to the beach to wash.

Q At Margaret Bay?

MG Yes, well it wasn't quite a Margaret Bay, but right at Seawood Terrace,

right where it goes down there. There was a lovely spring at the bottom there. She used to go down. She'd carry me on her back as a baby and take my other sister with her and down she'd go. They had coal oil cans down there on the beach and she'd build a fire and they would boil the clothes, you see, where she could get the lovely fresh water. And then she'd put them on the rocks to dry and then when they were dry she'd put them in a basket and put it in the bush somewhere down there, take us home and then go down later on and pick up the basket.

Q What were some of your chores as a girl?

MG Oh, all kinds of things. But I was the baby and I was five years younger than my next sister and so I was ... I started to sweep floors or something and one of my sisters would say "Oh give me that, you're not doing it properly ". But we used to have to herd the cow.

Q One cow?

MG Yes. We'd take the cow out on the roadside and let her eat and all kinds of things. I've done everything around.

Q Did you have chickens?

MG Yes, we had chickens. Sometimes we had pigs. And of course, they would be killed and they had to be salted for winter food.

Q Where did you store your food, especially meat?

MG Well we didn't have any place to store meat, but the pork they salted it, you see, and put it in a barrel. And vegetables, we used to build a circular sort of thing of dirt, put straw on it, put the potatoes on it, cover them with straw and then cover them with earth and then put a little pipe in to let air into them. Same thing with the turnips and carrots. And when we wanted them in the winter time we'd dig them out and then cover them up again. We used to buy tea in great big chests lined with lead. And hundred pound barrels of flour. Because they couldn't go into town all the time.

Q That was your once-a-month trip. And there was no deliveries done at all?

MG No.

Q What sort of things were you accustomed to eating as a child?

MG Oh, we had chicken. We had all the things. A lot of vegetables. My mother was a marvelous cook and could make something out of very

little, to tell you the truth.

Q Do you remember electricity coming to town?

MG Oh that was a long time later. When this house was built it wasn't wired. It had to be wired.

Q That was in '21, I think, that electricity came.

MG Yes, Mr. Irvin, who is married to my cousin Helen Grant, he wired the house and the same with the water you see, we didn't have water. Then it was wells that were dug. Oh, I can remember Joe Tracey digging the wells. We always used to be frightened, you know, when he was digging the wells. He had to go down a hundred and twenty feet.

Q Hand dug?

MG Yes, hand dug.

Q That's amazing. Did you case the well afterwards?

MG Yes, they cased it. The old well was cased with wood. The second well that we built was cased with round cement rings that my father made. And they had wires set into cement, you know, they let them down on these wires.

Q Why did they build a second well? Was the first one gone dry?

MG Well the first well was, you know, the casing I suppose was rotting. And so they dug the second well. The water used to be stored. We had a big storage tank away up high behind the house. We had water in the house long before we had Municipal water.

Q Your father also served as...

MG He was Councillor, then Reeve and on the School Board. When he was Reeve that's the time the first water was..

Q That's right. Watson for Water. That was his slogan.

MG Yes, it was.

Q And your mother continued to work in the community as well?

MG Oh my, yes. I think my mother was...every time anybody was sick in the community, my mother was always called for. She always went and she was great. Both of my mother and father did a great deal for the community. Not only for the community, but for the city as well because my father was president of the Music Festival Association when he passed away.

Q I was remembering too, when I think your Mother worked too with Nellie McLung to set up the Temperance Movement here in Gordon Head.

MG No.

Q No, that's not true then.

MG No, she didn't. They were friends, very very good friends. Mrs. McLung brought the news to us the death of James Barrie. That's why my boy was named Barry because my father said if he ever had had a son, he was going to call him Barry, but he didn't have any boys. He just had the three girls. My nephew is called Carey, after Carey Mueller and my son is called Barry.

Q The Gordon Head School was moved eventually.

MG Yes. The school was right at the corner of Grandview and Tyndall and that was where the one room school was and then they built a two roomed school at the back. But they moved the old building to the back which we used as sort of a gymnasium and then that school was burned down and then they rebuilt it. It was after it was rebuilt that I came, because I was the one who saw the fire. I was coming down in my old Model T Ford Coupe from my school at Tolmie and I saw the fire at the school and reported it.

Q And what did they do?

MG Well, the fire engines came.

Q Where did they come from?

MG Oh, over from Royal Oak way. The only place where fire engines were.

Q And of course they must have carried the water with them. By the time they got here then...

MG There wasn't very much left. But I can remember the old policeman coming around on his bicycle. Mr. Brown. He was a dear. There is so many things that I can think of. The way we used to have pork and bean suppers up in the Hall. The whole community came and we used to have the most wonderful times. Then then had Five Hundred Parties. That's the way they did a lot in the First World War. Now the First World War broke down our Sunday business. During the First World War on Sunday you weren't allowed to do anything, but to go to Sunday School, go for a walk or something like that. But during the War we started rolling bandages. They had little machines that we used to attach to the table, so we were allowed to roll bandages. I was only a youngster, you see, in the First World War, but my mother had taught us all how to knit. And I knit socks. We were allowed to knit and roll bandages on Sundays.

Q To help the fellows in the War. Did a lot of the young men around here leave? To go to War?

MG Oh yes, quite a lot of them. Of course, there wasn't a great many, but a lot of the Gordon Head boys did. Both wars.

Q Where did your husband come from? Was he a native of Gordon Head?

MG Oh he was a native of Victoria. He was born in Victoria. He was born over by Swan Lake.

Q Oh yes.

MG Corner of Swan Lake and Falmouth. There's a little house..you'd run right into it when you came down the road.

Q Were his family dairy farmers?

MG No. His father owned a grocery store. But my husband loved the sea. So did his brothers. Two of his brothers were both on the sea.

Q Your husband was a Captain?

MG Yes.

Q That's wonderful. That's great.

MG He loved the sea. He could do anything. He could set his hand at anything.

Q Quite a handyman. You'd need to be self sufficient living out on a boat most of the time.

MG Oh yes. He believed that women should never scrub floors. I never scrubbed a floor all the time I was married. He did it whenever he got home.

Q Did he come home often?

MG Oh sometimes he would come home once a week and sometimes he might not come home for maybe four or five weeks. But I wouldn't dare scrub the floor. He'd be very cross at me. He spoiled me, in fact.

Q Well, that's a nice story to tell. That's great.

MG Now, my mother also came from Scotland. She came from north of that. My son gave me a trip to the Old Country for Christmas two years ago because he wanted me to see where my mother and father had been born. He had been over twice, and he was determined that I was going to go and so that's the way he made me go.

Q That's great. So you got to see all these places.

MG You have no idea, the feeling it was, to go into those two places.

Q And feel where your family had come from.

MG Yes, it was just wonderful. All the places my father had talked about around Carriemuir. It's so beautiful around there. Just beautiful. And of course Glans Castle is part of Carriemuir. My father used to go and play there in a little band when he was just



a boy.

Q And that's where he got his interest in music which he developed over here.

MG My grandfather and my great grandfather were both music teachers.

Q So there is a long history of music and also teaching in your family.

MG Both sides of the family. My mother's too.

Q Of course they met in the choir. That would be an appropriate place

MG And I sang in the choir for thirty-five years.

Q Your sisters as well?

M Never did. What did your sisters eventually do?

MG Well, my sisters were stenographers.

Q Where did they work?

MG At the parliament buildings. One of my sisters, having they were married, went to live in Seattle.

Q Was that Airlie?

MG Yes. You know, she was my oldest sister, there was seven years difference between us, and yet we were so close to one another. Our ideas were just the same.

Q And Charlotte sat in the middle.

MG Yes, she was the middle one. Her name is Lalonde now. Her husband is dead. He only died a few years ago.

Q Has she any desire to come and live at Thrums.

MG No.

Q She left it behind.

MG Well, she was living here when I was married but they wanted to go and have a home of their own. So, they did. But it worked out alright for everybody.

Q Thank you very much Mrs. Goodwin, it's been a wonderful story.

MG I don't know that I've told you any thing that's of any worth. My sisters had quite an adventure when I was quite a little child. They were picking Salal berries or some kind of berries, blackberries or something. And a cougar lifted its head from behind a log. They picked me up and ran.

Q Did the men go back for the cougar?

MG Oh, I don't know what happened, that's just the story as it was told to me.

Q Do you remember eating game when you were a child?

MG No, my father wouldn't hunt, but people would give it to us. The deer and the cougars, bears and everything, the marks of their paws would be around the house, Even when we were at the other house on Ash Road.

Q Do you remember your family ever buying fish from the Indians?

MG No, I don't remember that. The Indians were ...oh, I mustn't say it. It's not very nice. They were just good workers, like the Chinese.

Q And after the Chinese came, the Indians pretty well disappeared as workers around here.

MG Yes, the Chinese were so good, such good workers. And such good friends too. I can remember walking home from Victoria High School too, after it was dark. I belonged to the Portia which was the debating society and whenever they had a meeting it was quite late when I got home. My mother used to come down Torquay, which was then Pollock Road, to meet me. It would be getting dark and she would come down there carrying the lantern.

Q And that was a good long walk too, wasn't it? It was about five miles.

MG Pretty near six miles.

Q Would you do that once a week or every day?

MG Every day.

Q Morning and night?

MG No, we were taken in in the morning.

Q And how did you drive?

MG Well, either the people who had cars...my Dad used to take us by car. When Daddy took us in the car, he took us right to the school, but when the other men took us, fathers whose children were going to High School, we went by horse and cart and they took us to the Mt. Tolmie streetcar, which stopped where Mayfair Drive comes in.

Q And so you'd ride the streetcar the rest of the way. How much did it cost to ride the streetcar?

MG Oh dear, don't ask me, I can't remember. Not very much, probably five cents. I remember I used to be given twenty-five cents a week and we always used to go down to Reddy and Taylor's Bakery that was at the corner of Gladstone, opposite the Emmanuel Baptist Church, and buy, what we called Napoleons. They were tall things, cakes, rolled in jam and then in coconut, and then a swirl of icing with

a cherry in it.

Q That must have been the biggest thing going.

MG Oh, we were given this twenty-five cents. Five cents to buy a bowl of soup, to go with our sandwiches. But we used to save up and not have the soup and go down to Reddy And Taylor's. I was petrified the first day I went to Victoria High School. You know, coming from a little two-roomed school and going there with all those people around. And I was small, I grew later in life, as I was getting older. But when I went to High School I was quite small. In fact some of the boys called me the Decimal Point.

Q So, when you were in High School then, you went back and forth every day. How many years did you spend there?

MG It was four years, because I took Preliminary, Junior and Matric. And then I took Senior Matric.

Q Which would entitled you to teach then.

MG Yes.

Q Were there quite a few people who went right through?

MG I had to go to Normal School then.

Q Oh, the Normal Teacher Training School.. Where was that?

MG That was up at where Camosun College is. That's also where I went to take my Entrance Examinations.

Q Just to get into the High School or to get into...

MG Yes, to get into the High School.

Q Did your whole class go down then, from Gordon Head?

MG There was only four of us I think.

Q That decided to go on?

MG Yes, that were in, well it wasn't called grade 8 then, it was called Senior Fourth. My sister Airlie had to go to Sidney to take her entrance examinations.

Q Why the difference?

MG I don't know, but I remember we went out one Sunday to find a place where she could board. It was a long time to go by horse and cart to Sidney to find this place. When she went my Dad went with her in the morning down to the V & S Railway, the Victoria and Sidney Railway and she went out on the train. She thought it was so wonderful that she travelled by train. On the silly old V & S Railway. She stayed out for the days out there with people by the name of Fairclough in Sidney.

Q And she went all the way through her high schooling there too?

MG No, she didn't go to High School. She got into High School but then she went to Sprott Shaw.

Q For stenography.

MG Yes, for stenography and then she worked in the office at Kirkhams.

Q Oh, before she went to the parliament buildings?

MG Yes, before she went to the parliament buildings.

Q What sort of things were available at Kirkhams.

MG Groceries.

Q Well, was there a good selection of goods. Was it a dry goods store?

MG No, just groceries. That was up on Fort Street then. Oh, I can't explain where it was as everything has changed so there now. It was just below Blanshard.

Q The Hudsons Bay was the biggest store then.

MG That was a long time after that. The Hudsons Bay came in a long time after that.

Q They never held a store at all?

MG Not before, not that I know of.

Q They were here though, in Victoria, they owned farms and land and that sort of thing.

MG Oh yes, but they didn't have a store.

Q Were there any stores in Gordon Head while you were growing up?

MG Well there was only one small store, that was Mr. Williamson who ran it.

Q Oh, he was the storekeeper. And what sort of things did he have in his store?

MG Groceries.

Q And you would sort of go there if you ran out, was that the idea?

MG Well no, we used to buy a lot of our things from there. It was only a little tiny store. And then later it was moved up to the corner. It was right outside their house. Of course, their house is not there anymore.

Q What corner is that?

MG Well it was moved up to where the store is now. They moved it up and then Mr. Sadler took it over. Of course it was enlarged and part of it is still there.