

INTERVIEW WITH MADELINE HOWDEN (nee Bradshaw)

Interviewer: Louise Ditmars
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Q: Can you tell me your full maiden name please?

A: Madeline Victoria Bradshaw,

Q: Can you tell me your father's name please?

A: William George Bradshaw. And for generations they've been William George.

Q: And your mother's name?

A: Sarah Paine Windsor. And Sarah Paine has been also come down from the generations.

Q: When were you born?

A: March, really it was the 30th, but my birthday is the 31st because it was in the middle of the night and nobody knew till the next day that I'd been born. So I call the 31st my birthdate. '96, 1896.[1898] I'll be 99 next March.

Q: Whereabouts were you born?

A: In Placentia, Newfoundland. Placentia was the old French capital when Newfoundland belonged to the French.

Q: So you were born in a foreign country?

A: Yes it didn't come till '47, it joined Canada, Newfoundland. [actually 1949]

Q: When did your family come to Saanich?

A: Oh we had an uncle here, but it doesn't matter but, Mother came to visit in 1906 and Uncle lived at Mount Tolmie. And it was lovely spring weather, warm and the flowers and trees were in bloom. In Newfoundland of course it was cold and miserable and she was very taken with it. So we came out here, she said to my uncle if you'll build us a house I'll bring the girls, that's us, out to live here. So you see, when I was born, well we were quite well off. Father was in the shipping business and he had his own boats and back and forth to Halifax with produce and so on. But he had a cold and Mother kept him home. And just before he died he was in

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A: her bedroom, she had a little fire and he was with me, the new baby. And she thought he looked a bit tired so she said back you go to bed. Well he never got up. He had pneumonia. And I was just twelve weeks old, five weeks old, born at the end of March and he died the first week of May. Dreadful. And there she was with eight children you know. And of course our income sort of stopped but we had lots of property and we'd sell a little property. That's how Mother brought us up. And we weren't well off but we weren't poor. You know we never felt poor. Mother was a wonderful provider, because you see we had these four acres at Mount Tolmie and Mother had a cow and we had chickens and she always had lots of milk and butter and eggs and food. We made our own bread of course in those days. And to come to town of course we had to walk. When I think of how my Mother walked to Victoria, did the shopping and carried home the parcels, all that way. What a wonderful mother she was. She was a marvelous person.

Q: And what was your uncle's name?

A: Augustus Windsor. And he had a property just under Mount Tolmie. Shall I tell you an interesting little thing about him? When they were building the Empress Hotel, you see it was 1906 and '07 it was built. He got the, and they had to fill in all the land, which had been a swamp. Well there's a little lake now at the foot of Mount Tolmie and he had, oh I guess the..Anyway he dug out the pond, carted the stuff down the Empress Hotel and filled it in from this little pond. And it's still there at Mount Tolmie. The little ducks make their nests their every year and raise children. It's lovely.

Q: What was his job? Uncle Gus?

A: Uncle Gus. Oh I suppose he was a farmer. He had apple trees. I don't know whether he had his own income or what. I never wondered about that.

Q: So your family came out, your Mother and how many children?

A: Eight children. Seven but my brother didn't come. He was at school in Montreal. But Mother and the eight girls came. Wasn't she wonderful. Of course I was nine, we were all able to look after ourselves.

Q: So who was the oldest?

A: My sister Ethel, Lytton she became, Mrs. Lytton. Eve Wenman, did you ever know Eve of Reg Wenman? Well Reg was our nephew by marriage.

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- Q: So how did you get by you say, your mother sold..
- A: Well we always had a bit of income coming from Newfoundland. I didn't really know what. We had a hotel in Placentia and there's still, Placentia Bay is called, there's a bay called Bradshaw Bay now, after us. We were quite a lot of property. King William IV gave us a grant of land, that's why we had such a lot of land.
- Q: Back in Newfoundland. So would your mother sell off bits of that?
- A: Bits and pieces of that you know.
- Q: So did you have any property here?
- A: Well the four acres the house was built on in Mount Tolmie: Palo Alto Drive and Cedar Hill X Road. And we had the whole block, which was just orchard and hay fields for the cow. But now of course there are houses all the way around it.
- Q: Do you know the address there?
- A: Well you can't miss it because it's the right of the, you go up Palo Alto Drive and there's the St. Aidan's Church and the hall. It's quite a large house with a balcony around it. You can't miss it.
- Q: A beautiful house. It must have been big.
- A: It was big, because we had upstairs there were five bedrooms upstairs. And there was a bedroom downstairs. But we all had two and two in the bedrooms you see, of course. Kids.
- Q: Can you tell me a little bit about the interior of the house?
- A: We had quite a good-sized living room with a fireplace. We had room for a piano and all that sort of thing. And a large dining room and a large kitchen. Very badly planned. The sink was at one end and the pantry was a separate room, just the opposite..I mean it couldn't have been worse planned. We've often talked about that. And of course we had a coal and wood stove.
- Q: You mean it was awkward when you had meals?
- A: Oh no, we had a big kitchen table and of course we always ate in the dining room funnily enough, looking at it. Because I think we'd always, you know, I was brought up with help in the house and that sort of thing you know. We always

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- A: had servants to look after us. So we always ate in the dining room. But the kitchen I think we had our breakfast, I can't remember. Anyway.
- Q: So I guess you were young and could easily adapt.
- A: I was only nine years of old. I was nine.
- Q: But for your mother this might have been a bit of a change.
- A: Oh my Mother worked hard. You know there was a lot of laundry. But Mother had twins and when my sister Florence was six, we had cousins come to visit and Kitty had spinal meningitis and of course we didn't know. And Floss, Florence, my sister, caught it. But Mother made up her mind, Kitty died of it, but Mother made up her mind that Floss was going to get well. But it affected...in her brain so she had epilepsy and by the time she died, she was in her thirties, it had been cured. But she was an invalid really all her life.
- Q: So it must have been a terrible shock for your mother, from having money to having much less.
- A: She was wonderful though.
- Q: She didn't complain.
- A: Never. Bright as a button. When we were, we'd be around the house, you know sort of grumpy, Mother said I don't know what's the matter with you girls. Grumpy. You know.
- Q: Did you help a lot, did all the girls help?
- A: Oh we did housework, yes, we had to do housework.
- Q: What was your job?
- A: Well I'll never forget I had to clean the stairs, upstairs and I did it and Mother was away and my sister, older sister, made me do it again. And she still wasn't satisfied and I had to do it again. I had to do those stairs three times to satisfy her.
- Q: So next time, did you do a better job?
- A: All those years. [laughs]
- Q: You must have had more jobs as you got older.

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A: As soon as, you know, in my family, the girls never worked. We were the first generation of girls who'd ever had to earn a living. But that's why Mother came to Victoria. She knew we'd have to earn our own livings. So my sister Ethel was a stenographer, Nancy was a stenographer, but changed to be a nurse and she went off to the First World War. And she was down in Galipoli during the war. And then Trix was a nurse at the Jubilee and as soon as she was through, she went off to the war. I think I have an awfully nice picture of Trix. Trix was very pretty.

Q: So how old were you when the First World War happened?

A: I was in highschool when the war..And I'll never forget it, the boys from highschool went off as though they were going to a picnic. And of course my beau was killed. I came across a picture from the other day, you know, anyway. Our whole lives were ruined. All the boyfriends were killed. Day after day there were lists in the paper of deaths. Was nobody left. And then of course when the war was over there was a terrible slump in Victoria and there was no work and the boys that did come back from the war went off elsewhere to get an education or to get jobs. So it was very lean times. We always had fun. We used to go to dances.

Q: Not too many boys.

A: As long as there was somebody to take us out.

Q: I guess you'd have to go out with older men. If all the boys were away.

A: I don't know. But my first job, I was just out of highschool and then we went to Normal [School], which was, I was at Mount Tolmie and Normal School you see was just walking up to it.

Q: Now Camosun College?

A: Yes. I was eighteen then and we were just girls and we lived a very unsophisticated life. In those days, remember that's eighty years ago. And I got a job at a place called Pachelque and it was near Lillooet and all they could tell us to go through meadows and we'd go from there.

Q: This was a teaching job?

A: This was my first job. I was eighteen then.

Q: How many years at Normal School?

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A: Just the one. Highschool, Normal School. I was eighteen when I went. I was eighteen when I got through.

Q: So how did you feel the first day?

A: I'll never forget it. I was so lonely. Brought up with a lot of coming and going you know. And I had, I really should hunt up the picture and make you see it. Little half-breed children in a little room. And my first boarding house was a very nice little woman, half-breed, and her husband. Little log cabin. Anyway, finally I got a little, my own little place.

Q: They didn't have a teacheridge?

A: I stayed there, no. I stayed there till Christmas and I came home for Christmas. And the news was bad. My brother'd been injured, my beau was dead, my two sisters were away at the war. It was a dreary time.

Q: How was your mother doing?

A: Well she was a very buoyant person, she never grumbled. I never heard Mother grumble. Not much money. We always managed. We never were in debt. We never bought a thing we couldn't pay for. I, at highschool, I remember I needed new shoes very badly, but I knew Mother didn't have the money so I didn't ask, even ask for them.

Q: What schools did you go to?

A: Well we came to little Cedar Hill School. It's a funny little building now, right where the school was. Just up from St. Luke's Church, just on the hill. And we walked up there every day. But when it came to highschool, we had to walk in to the corner of Fort and Yates, was the old highschool. And then we were the first pupils in the new highschool.

Q: Victoria High.

A: Yes, the first pupils.

Q: Was it a nice building when it was new?

A: Oh, it was lovely.

Q: It looks so dark and forbidding now. So huge. So after the war, what went on?

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A: I went right on teaching, there was nothing else to do. Then I got a job, I was at Sooke for a year and then we had an awfully nice inspector, and my kids did quite well when they took the exams to go to highschool. So he got me a job in Oak Bay. So then I was at Monterey for years and sometimes at the Willows, sometimes at Monterey, back and forth in the two schools.

Q: For years and years.

A: For years and years, it went on and on.

Q: What were the grades that you taught?

A: Well, five was the highest, six was as high as I got. But I had everything in between.

Q: What was your favourite subject?

A: Well I must tell you how many children we had in those days. There was one year, on my register for the year where there were 53 children. But the most I had every day, all the time, was 50 little children. I look back now and I wonder how I did it. You know 50 little souls crammed into one room.

Q: No, they can't do that today.

A: No, it's a good thing too. But then children were different. They would behave themselves and they were quiet and I could manage them.

Q: If they were naughty, what did you do?

A: Well, I wasn't much for strapping. I made them, if they talked too much, they had to stand in the corner. One little boy kept chat, chat, chattering, I made him sit over by the girls' side. That was an awful punishment in those days, just imagine. Laughable isn't it? [laughs]

Q: This to him was a terrible thing.

A: I remember his name was Nehuti, and he became a doctor finally, he's dead now. I remember his chagrin when he had to go and sit on the girls' side. There was very little discipline you know in those days. Children did behave you know. I never had any trouble anyway.

Q: I think they're fairly noisy now.

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A: I don't think I ever strapped a boy in either of those schools. I can't remember ever doing it.

Q: Did they ever go to the principal's office?

A: Oh yes, send them to the principal's office. That was hanging over their head if they misbehaved.

Q: Did you have detentions? Did you keep them in after school?

A: Oh always. In big classes the kids who didn't finish the work had to stay and do it. Oh we'd be half an hour or so after school.

Q: Did they work fast after school?

A: I'd say they'd have to stay and finish their work. And one boy skipped out and went home. I phoned his mother and she sent him back. He had to come back and finish his work before he could go.

Q: I'm interested in the routine. Did children go home for lunch?

A: No, we took a sandwich, we took, I can't remember. We were never, I was never a very hungry person, ever. So you know Mother always had a good dinner at night for us.

Q: Did the children go home at lunchtime?

A: Oh yes, they did, practically all of them. Monterey and Willows. I don't remember anybody bringing their lunch in those days. You see mothers didn't work in those days, mothers were home with their families.

Q: So they had a good hot lunch?

A: Well they went home anyway. What they ate..But around that district, specially Monterey, they were easy to teach because they'd come from parents who were more or less literate you know, themselves. It's the poor districts that you have little children who have no background of much knowledge or music or anything.

Q: And what were the, you mentioned music, what were the special electives that they could take?

A: Well I took piano lessons for years and I never could really play. We used to have school, oh I guess they were tests, and dancing and singing. And I remember Hetty my sister, you see, she also taught. She was two years older than I, and

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A: she taught in the city. And Hetty always won prizes for dancing. She was a very good teacher. So I got a lot of my help from her. But we had to put classes who did dances. We had records. I used to buy records and they'd do the dancing from records.

Q: What names of dances do you remember?

A: We always had maypoles in the summer. At the end of term we had maypoles. You had to teach them in and out the maypole and that sort of thing. I can't remember the names but we had books.

Q: Did you do the waltz?

A: Oh nothing like that. More..

Q: Country dances.

A: Country dances.

Q: Square dances?

A: Square dances. It was fun.

Q: What happened to your salary during the Depression?

A: Well, it was reduced. So we had a meeting sometime after. The teachers used to all go to a meeting. And I suggested that they put back the money. And oh, the idea, giving us more money. However, we did get more. I was inclined to speak up for what I wanted. And we had no telephones. And I said we really should have a telephone in the school, because I left home about eight in the morning and I didn't get home till five or later at night and you were cut off from the world. You know, by the time I got home to Mount Tolmie, you know life was sort of terrible. So what did we want a telephone for?

Q: Well if a child was sick, a parent could call the school.

A: Oh no, nothing like that. I remember Hetty had a poor little soul who had diahrrea and she took the child home. Nobody home, so she gave her a bath, changed her into a nightie, put her to bed. Cleaned her up as best she could, gave her a bath. Left her children to get on as best they could while she did it. Hetty was very good at discipline too, she never had any trouble with her children. She'd leave maybe at half-past eleven to go and do something, or quarter to twelve and tell the children, now when the bell goes, out you go. So little children did as they were told in those

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A: days and no nonsense.

Q: Even if she left the room. Now tell me about the day, how did it start? Did you have prayers?

A: We all marched in to, Mrs. Woolaston played the piano. We marched in to our classrooms. And we were supposed to have a hymn or a song or something. But I didn't. Sometimes I put, I wasn't good at that sort of thing, teaching hymns. So I used to put a piece of poetry and we had a scheme for learning it [begun by Miss Bradshaw]. I put the whole thing out. They'd say it. Then the next, I'd cut out a word here or there and everywhere, and then they'd say it. And by the time I'd practically wiped it off the blackboard, the children practically knew it. Well Captain Dexter was the principal and he was suspicious that I wasn't teaching singing in the morning, so he came in one day and I said I wasn't very good at it, so we were learning a poem instead. So I said, let them say the poem they'd read that morning, and the whole class knew the poem. So he didn't say much about it.

Q: What school was that?

A: It was Monterey. But you know we had to teach this kind of writing you went round and round, you know that writing?

Q: McLeans?

A: McLeans. Well you had about forty little kids trying to learn this, and one year I made up my mind. I had the whole class able to do that kind of writing. Well I got scolded because some of the books had marks and so on. But I didn't say a word, I didn't say well I had the whole lot of them doing this. It was terrible to teach.

Q: What happened after that in the morning? Did you go into math class?

A: No, you used your own judgement, you taught spelling and writing and reading and whatever in the baby classes. Later on it was history and program. I was a great one for teaching them poetry because I think it's lovely to look back, I remember the poetry I learned when I was a kid at school.

Q: At Placentia?

A: No, here. So anyway.

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Q: So did you do the difficult subjects in the morning and the easier ones in the afternoon?

A: Isn't it funny, I can't remember how I did it, but anyway I was able to keep up. And then later on I was shifted to Willows. They got some new fellow, this was when I was teaching grade five. And he set the exam one..and both schools did it. And the next month I set the exam and we did it. And I had more children than he had, and we were teaching exactly the same things, but because he was a man, he was getting more money. Of course I complained about that. What did we want..That was because men had families and had wives and children. Well I said he hasn't a wife and he has no children, that I knew of anyway. So I think gradually we got the same salaries as the men. Exactly the same work you know. But because they were men they got more.

Q: Yes, I remember that. It's still happening actually in some places.

A: Yes. They're getting a lot better now I think. Women are nearly always getting the same as men now. Not necessarily.

Q: Did you have to lead recreational activities?

A: Yes we did. We stayed after school, you're still expected to stay half an hour you know, after school. But you took games.

Q: What kind of games?

A: Ball games chiefly. Basketball.

Q: What did you coach? Basketball?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have girls and boys?

A: Girls. We had softball too. The menfolk coached the boys.

Q: What were the wages like for you?

A: Well you see during the war we were so glad to have jobs and any money, so we were well off...So Hetty's salary and my salary and Trix you know.

Q: What did Hetty and Trix work at?

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A: Trix was a school nurse and Hetty taught at Quadra Street School for 25 years. This is her watch, given to her when she was 25 [years]. She was a very popular teacher.

Q: But in the Depression they cut your wages back.

A: Yes but they put them back after that. I had to ask for it, mind you, but we got it put back. And you know, compared to the people who had practically nothing, everybody thought we were well off, being teachers.

Q: Now, going back to the Depression, at home, what kind of things did you do differently, if anything? Did you have to grow a bigger garden..

A: We always had some garden and we always had food because we had plum trees. I had a very nice little fellow owned this big tree, he had a farm nearby, And he used to be nice to me. And my birthday, I think it must have been about my fourteenth birthday, he brought me a Madeline pear, a Bradshaw plum and a Victoria plum. Three trees he brought me for my birthday, it was my name, Madeline Victoria Bradshaw. Wasn't that lovely? So I've always been very lucky. You know I have..

Q: What did you grow, what did your family grow in the garden?

A: Potatoes. I remember, I'll never forget my junior year. Instead of the Easter exams being before Easter, they decided to have the exams when everybody came home, came back. I don't know whether it was a short term or what it was. Anyway my sister Trix, Floss was in hospital and what do you get in hospital? She had to go into the fever place you know? And Mother had to go to nurse her. So it was the Easter holidays. So we had an old uncle, Uncle Albert, and we put in the potatoes and we did all the, you know in the spring, those days, the house was torn apart and you washed everything, dusted everything. And so we did all the spring cleaning and we planted the potatoes in the garden during the Easter holidays. And I suppose I was tired out when I went back and I didn't do well in my exams. And I was called before the principal. Why had I done so badly? Well I was ashamed to say I was working so hard. I hadn't studied and I was tired out when I went back to school. Because we had to walk three miles there and three miles back every day anyway.

Q: How old were you then?

A: Well I must have been about fourteen, fifteen.

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Q: A very sensitive age, you don't like to admit anything. So you didn't tell?

A: I didn't tell. I was put back in old Mr. Andrews, taught maths and I wasn't very good at maths. And I was put in another man's math class, couldn't understand a word he was saying. I guess my brain was addled by then. So old Pat Andrews got me back in his class. Took pity on me really. Everybody's been awfully good to me all my life, they really have. I've had a lot of looking after. Anyway old Pat had me back in his class.

Q: And you got through.

A: Yes. I remember we had a dance at school. And of course I was out in the country and I couldn't go, so Pat offered to have me spend the night at their house if I wanted to go to the dance. So I remember we furbished up a dress for me and off I went to the dance. But of course I wasn't like the other girls, they were town girls you know and they had their boyfriends and everything. But I remember dancing with one of the teachers. Fellow called Yates. That's all I can remember about the dance, I danced with him. What awful innocents we were you know, living alone in the country. Just leaving school as Mother wanted us to get home as soon as possible, we'd start off to walk home. Well so we didn't stay for games or anything. Home we went.

Q: It's a long way.

A: Yes and then we had our homework to do at night.

Q: But you were fit.

A: Well we had our health, didn't we. And rain or shine we never, I can't remember ever getting to school wet. I don't know what, we didn't have raincoats. Three miles there and three miles back. Thought nothing of it. But in those days, dear, everybody walked everywhere, unless you had...some money. Very few people had it...

Q: So back in the Depression, did your mother do a lot of sewing, knitting?

A: We used to make our own clothes. I made my own first dress I wore to highschool. I made it myself you know.

Q: You were pretty good? [at sewing]

A: Sure, we had to..Mother was good but,..Mother was not used to being poor.

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Q: Did you have a sewing machine?

A: Oh yes we had a sewing machine.

Q: A Singer?

A: I guess so.

Q: Treadle?

A: Yes. Pedals.

Q: Probably a Singer. They're great, they never break down. They last forever.

A: I liked sewing though anyway, I liked making clothes.

Q: So you would buy some drygoods?

A: Drygoods, Mother used to bring home. Once she brought home stuff, I guess she got it very cheaply and Hetty and I made dresses and we hated them, they were sewed of very gaudy material. But I suppose they were cheap, and Mother got it for a bargain. And you had to wear them, there you were.

Q: What kind of materials, was it cotton?

A: Cotton. We must have bought coats for the winter and that, you know. Children take everything for granted don't they? I was hard on boots. Harder than shoes. But of course we did so much walking anyways, rain or shine.

Q: Did girls wear sturdy shoes?

A: Boots.

Q: I just want to know a little bit more about the garden. You had lots of potatoes.

A: Potatoes we always had. We hadn't been brought up in a vegetable-growing..I remember in Newfoundland we had a gardener who grew the vegetables. But we must have grown carrots later, we must have, but I don't remember. We had a lawn and we had flower beds and roses, but I don't remember much in the...But in those days...I'll tell you what we did have lots of: dandelion greens. We were brought up on dandelion greens. You see in Newfoundland the spring comes very late and there was nothing green. And we used to have cabbages and we used to get barrels of turnips, that's the way we bought all our stuff, in Newfoundland. So Mother used to get sacks of turnips, I know that. We used to get them

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A: from Sooke, very, very good turnips she bought. It must have been a hundred pound sack or something, would last us for the winter you see. So white turnips and potatoes and cabbages. Don't remember much about carrots. But you know dear that's a long time ago. Eighty years ago.

Q: And you had fruit trees?

A: We had apples and plums and pears. So always we had fruit. And we had lots of jam, Mother used to make jam.

Q: Did you have any small fruits?

A: No, we hadn't any strawberries or raspberries. Oh we did have raspberries. Yes we had raspberry whistles, I remember.

Q: But no loganberries?

A: No, no loganberries.

Q: And did you have chickens?

A: Chickens, and lots of chickens to eat. And lots of, Mother raised ducks, little ducks. She used to set the hens on the duck eggs. Because which, now, over on Palo Alto Drive, you see that was laid out for a racecourse originally. Did you know that? Yes. Our property was right at the edge of the racecourse, Palo Alto was the name of the favourite race horse when that was laid out. So that's how it got the name Palo Alto Drive. And there was a sort of a hollow. And every winter that filled with water, it was a pond, and our ducks used to go down there and paddle. Sometimes they'd lay their eggs and we'd have to go and drive them home every night. And sometimes you would call them, they wouldn't come. We had a neighbour who'd a little dog and we'd get him to get his little dog. He used to explain to the little dog to go and drive the ducks, and he used to drive the ducks home. Childish. I'm telling you the silliest things, aren't I?

Q: This was a normal life out in the country.

A: Oh yes, very country. I remember going just to get food for the ducks. Weeds, and we used to mix it with the, I suppose it was a sort of a mash. Feed the ducks on this, greens that we went and got out of the ditch you know. Country farmers. A very simple life. We had an awful lot of company. They used to, it was a nice walk to come out on a Sunday, our relatives or friends. To come walk out from the city for a Sunday. So we got absolutely sick of every Sunday having, so one Sunday we decided we would not be home. So we went up onto Mount Tolmie and sat, and we could see our house. You

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- A: see in those days there was nothing built up. And we just waited until they came and they sat around and they sat around. And we waited until they went home before we went home. We decided we were not going to be home every Sunday afternoon.
- Q: So people couldn't call you, they would just show up.
- A: Oh no phones. They just came to visit. A nice walk and have a cup of tea. We were always very hospitable with our cups of tea and Mother used to make lovely scones. She made a big batch on Saturday. We were always bringing our friends home. We'd come home from the football game on Friday, and we had a friend who was an American. And she came home with us one day after a football game. Well, she said, she never saw anything like it. More came in, and more came in. She said the more came in, the more Mother seemed to smile about it. She loved us to bring our friends home instead of going out. And of course everybody smoked, but she didn't want us to smoke. Well we had the odd cigarette at a friend's house. So when we told her day, we had a meeting, my sister Hetty and I with Mother. And we told her, Mother now we smoke in our friends' houses, and they all smoke, and we can't smoke. So, Mother let us, but we didn't, weren't much smokers. And we soon stopped it. I'm sorry for people. I have a friend now who's up in her sixties and she's still smoking like a..terribly sad isn't it? She just would like to smoke, she just can't give it up. Sad isn't it?
- Q: So did your mother do other kinds of baking like bread?
- A: Oh yes, we made our own bread. We had a bread-making thing, which you turn the handle and it mixed up the..you know with yeast and that sort of thing. We had our own bread and we had our own butter. We had lots of milk. So we had a very healthy diet. Lots of eggs.
- Q: Where did you get the milk?
- A: We had a cow. Mother paid me 50 cents to learn to milk it. Worse 50 cents I ever earned. That on I had to milk the cow. And we were still teaching school and going out every day to teaching, and we still had this old cow. And she got old, so we got Mother to sell the cow. By this time we were teaching school. And I used to teach at Cloverdale. Now if you can imagine Palo Alto and Cedar Hill Crossroad. And I walked down, right to the end of Cedar Hill to it ran into Quadra Street, and Quadra down to there, to teach. And I walked there every morning. And walked home at night. So we did an awful lot of walking when we were young. So that's the thing to do, is walk, really. I don't walk much now, but whenever

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A: I do, days like today I walk down for the mail and I walk up the stairs. Up and down. Do my exercise that way.

Q: So in the wartime, what changed.

A: It was very doleful. Victoria was terribly sad...then the Second World War.

Q: Yes the Second.

A: Well my husband didn't go to war, but he was teaching at the University School. And we had an apartment there, you see.

Q: Now, I haven't heard about him, you got married to him..

A: When I was forty.[1938] Too old. So he didn't want children. And he had his own. I had two very dear stepchildren. Jocelyn and David, both live in Vancouver. Well they come over to see me quite often.

Q: He was a teacher?

A: He was in the army in England. He was a gunner, but he was very well educated, Cambridge and you know all that. But he wasn't a good provider, poor dear. So.

Q: So you both worked.

A: I taught at the school for little children, for the mornings for the little children, at the University School.

Q: I thought that teachers weren't allowed to be married?

A: Oh no. And you had to take out, you were given three. You had been putting in, putting in, and then you had to take out your money. You were given three months to take out your money. Mine was soon spent.

Q: I'm not sure I understand.

A: You had to take your money out, that you had saved. You weren't allowed to leave it in the fund to give you anything. So all those years I taught, I got nothing for it in the way of a dividend.

Q: So when you got married..What was your husband's name?

A: Howden. Patrick. He was a Major in the army.

Q: Where did you live when you got married?

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A: At the University School, an apartment in the brick building. It's been torn down now and made into classrooms. I don't know if you know the University School, do you? Well, that's where we lived. He taught there and I..He taught games, history and different things. And I taught the little kids. Then Mr. Scarrett was the principal and he died. They had a new principal then..then I don't know what we lived on. We got a place in the country and went up to Shuswap Lake. And I don't know, Pat always seemed to have a bit of income because his people were very well off in Scotland. Edinborough. He was an Edinborough man. And we were poor. It was terribly cold in the winter and there was a little lodge nearby and we met a lot of Americans and people, and these people from California said why don't you come down and work in the winter. So down we went and we worked in different places. I was in San Luis Obispo with a family and finally we got down to Santa Barbara with a very nice old fellow. And he was living alone. And I was the housekeeper and Pat drove his car and took him to the doctor and all that sort of thing. And we were there for twelve years. And it was just like being home. I could invite the neighbours in for tea, or give a party for the neighbours or you know, it was just like being home.

Q: So when was this? Was this after the war?

A: After the war.

Q: 1950s?

A: '50, sixties, up to the sixties.

Q: Well that was interesting, because you stayed in Shuswap in the winter, sorry in the summer, and then..

A: We came back in April and went off in October. We had six months of Shuswap. I had a lovely vegetable garden, I was great on vegetables. Corn, you never ate such corn. And we had geese, and we had chickens. We used to buy the babies when they were little and then as they got older we used to can the chickens. We sold them. We used to buy roosters, and then by the time they were grown up they were worth about five dollars apiece, big roosters. It was marvelous how you can get on. And we had apples and fruit.

Q: Were there a lot of people from England settling there?

A: My nearest neighbour was a lodge, he was half a mile away. And the post office was about two miles away. There was one old man who lived on the road going down there, very few neighbours. Remember, dear, that's sixty years ago, no forty

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A: years ago. Now you wouldn't believe Shuswap Lake, it's houses all around it.

Q: So what year did you quit teaching?

A: 1938.

Q: When you got married you quit teaching.

A: Had to. But I did teach at the University School, the little children.

Q: Because they have different rules at private schools.

A: Yes. Anybody, anybody was fool enough to teach for them.

Q: Now I know a little bit about that school, the wages must have been a wee bit low.

A: Terrible, terrible. Pat got 75 dollars a month. I got ten for my little children. But we were poor. I've been poor so much of my life. But it's wonderful now you see..Pat loved living in the country. His idea was the country. So I got absolutely sick of it, so one year.. I used to come and stay with Hetty who lived just up the road on Beach Drive. She had a nice big home. And she never married, she didn't want to marry, she didn't want children. And anyway I, with the money we earned, I saved enough to buy a place out on Ardmore Drive. A little house and I had a carpenter come and increase it and build it up. And then we rented it in the winter and come back in the summer you see. Well I got sick of that, too. So anyway, I sold the house and turned it over to the Royal Trust and Pat went his way and I went my way, and there was the end of that. So.

Q: So by this time, were you at a retirement age or not?

A: By this time I was sixty years old.

Q: Not quite retirement age.

A: But I was retired as far as anybody went as teaching.

Q: So what then?

A: Oh, I substituted. So I was staying with Hetty one winter, it was awfully cold up at Shuswap and she needed somebody at her school. I said ask the principal if I could come. So he said sure. So I went substituting at her school and then I went to the School Board in the city and they took me on as a substitute. And I stayed with Hetty till we went. Soon as

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A: the holidays we drove back up to Shuswap. So I, one way and another I got quite a little money. Built this house. So when I retired from working, I came to live with Hetty, I sold my house and the Royal Trust invested my money. And I, Old Age Pension, I have no need to use any of that, so I have lots to give away, I have lots to live on and here I am.

Q: Here you are in Oak Bay.

A: Best time of my life. First time in my life I've had enough money to give to hither and yon. All's well that ends well. But I really am ready to go on. You know it's very boring here alone. Hetty and I lived..she died three years ago. She was ninety-seven. She was a lovely companion. We liked the same things. Not the same books. She liked more fiction, I liked more biography and things like that. But she was lovely to live with.

Q: [Question not recorded: How have you seen Saanich change?]

A: All Gordon Head and all what is now the Uplands, that was all solid forests. And the Hudson's Bay woods in beyond Mount Tolmie was solid..There was Cedar Hill X Road, but there were forests on both sides. And where the University is now was solid forests.

Q: So you've seen all that change?

A: They've seen the whole thing come down and you know, houses built.

Q: But the house that you lived in as a child is still there, at Mount Tolmie.

A: Still there. Do drive by. Palo Alto and go on, probably two or three hundred feet and you come to the house which has stones and a few trees in front and a porch around it. That's our old home.

Q: Thank you very much.

A: Honey I'm sure I've bored you to death.

Q: Not at all. It's been very interesting.