

Interviewed: January 28, 1976

Mr. & Mrs. Howard,
436 Steveston Hwy.,
Richmond, B. C.

- Mrs. Howard first started working for North Shore Packers.
- She was paid 25¢ an hour.
- This was shortly after the war (1946).
- Worked sometimes from 6 a.m. til midnight.
- Worked until all the fish were done.
- Worked only when fish came in.
- Didn't get paid overtime for extra hours.
- In later years got more money and overtime.
- All women had to be at least 16 years old.
- There was no extra benefits in 1946.
- A pension plan finally came into existence.
- Mr. & Mrs. Howard are both on pension.
- Mrs. Howard enjoyed working under Andy Kirk (foreman).
- B. C. Packers used to process herring, tuna, oysters, clams & shrimps in the winter.
- Mrs. Howard cooked about 30 tons of tuna a day.
- Mrs. Howard used to shock oysters (describes the process).
- They both have seen a lot of changes in Steveston: "Steveston was the biggest community on the Island!".
- When Brighthouse started building up everything left Steveston.
- There was a dress shop in Steveston, 3 hardware stores, some grocery stores, about 7 restaurants, pool halls and beer parlors.
- Steveston was much bigger in its early years.
- The union has brought all sorts of benefits: overtime, 5-day week, etc.
- Mr. Howard relates the story of when he was fighting for better safety regulations one of his opponents got drunk and ran him over with a car.
- The reduction plant in Steveston really used to smell.
- The canneries have gotten all sorts of new machines: i.e. "The High Speed Machine" which canned $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins.