

Interviewed: January 8, 1976

CANNERY WORKER: Mrs. Edna Tremeer,
3232 Tupper Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

- Worked on Quadra Island in 1932.
- Came to Steveston in 1948.
- Started in 1932; washers get 25¢/hour, kids on cans get 5-10¢/hour.
- Women tie kids to back at work.
- Every job done by hand in 1932 except can cutting.
- Fish packed by 1-½ lb. just salmon being processed.
- Worked from 7 in the morning til 12 at night, no overtime.
- Quality of fish better then.
- Cannery located on Quadra Island, housing provided by company.
- Butchers were Chinese.
- Japanese on Quadra Island celebrate the bombing of Pearl Harbour.
- No day-care facilities.
- Pre-union days workers in seperate canneries go on strike 1936.
- Describes wage rates.
- References to the Iron Chink, Littel Machinery in 1932.
- Cans brought to cannery; refuse dumped back into sea.
- First reduction plant 1941.
- Describes the "Steambox", a vacum packer.
- Boys 11 & 12 working in cannery in 1932, they got the cans for the women and were paid nickle an hour.
- Peddler then were hired by the Chinese.
- Describes the steps in processing the fish from talley man to packing.
- Took about 4 hours to complete one processing cycle; cans had to be ^{lacquered} ~~laceded~~.
- Women were paid less than men.
- Not many men working in 1932, except a few Chinese men working as butchers.
- Company provided camps to live in, no rent charges in cannery houses.
- Non-Indians get a guaranteed income.
- Whites and non-Whites kept seperate.
- When there was no work the Indians did not make any money where as the White girls got their guaranteed wage.
- Piece work was more profitable, there was no quoata set.
- She was 12 when she was working in 1932.
- Had dances in the net loft.

- The internment of the Japanese in WW II enabled the native people to make more money.
- Remembers her time in Steveston.
- Whites and Indians had kept separate in Steveston.
- The Native people leave Steveston because they "Took to the bottle".
- Steveston cannery camps in existence until 1959 then people pushed out.
- Hand fillers put out of work in 1950 by machinery.
- Hand fillers only for sockeye.
- Much machinery has come into the canneries of Steveston since 1948.
- Describes the "Rotorie" machines function.