

5. B.C. WOMEN'S LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT: GUIDE TO TAPES, SFU ARCHIVES

MRS. VIVIAN DOWDING

Mrs. Dowding was a pioneer of birth control in B.C. She was a member of the CCF and is still active in the NDP. Her work was influenced by Margaret Sanger and other early pioneers of birth control in North America. She was employed by the Kaufman Rubber Company, a distributor of birth control in Canada. In this tape she describes conditions in the 1930's; the distribution process for birth control devices; attitudes towards family planning; the role of the CCF and the church in relation to birth control.

MRS. JOSEPHINE CHARLIE

Mrs. Charlie worked in fish canneries for many years. She was a steward in the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union and active in the Native Brotherhood. The tape describes conditions in B.C. Coastal canneries from the 1920's onwards; family life on the coast; healthcare; the roles of Native women; union organization and its impact on the industry; preparation and processing of fish; race conflicts in the canneries; attitudes towards Japanese women after the War; housing conditions; saving a child's life; childbirth; strikes.

MRS. ELLEN BARBER

Mrs. Barber was one of the first women active in the Trades and Labour Congress. She was involved in organizing laundry and communications workers. The tape describes union conditions during the First World War; working conditions in the laundries; bargaining procedures; organizing the unions; the laundry strike and its defeat; the formation of the Minimum Wage Board; telephone workers' strikes; attitudes to women in the unions; working during WWII; post-war layoffs of women piecework; CCF involvement in unions; her family roots and her decision to become a unionist; women's suffrage; oriental workers and parallel attitudes to women; the Shirtwaist and Laundry Workers International Union in the 1940's; streetcar strike of 1918; Depression use of female labour; impact of the Russian Revolution; shipyard conditions; accidents in the laundries; women organizing in the 1930's.

MRS. ALICE PERSON

Mrs. Person has been active in the IWA. She moved to Webster's Corners from the Prairies during the Depression; got a job in the wood industry and was active in organizing her plant, as a member of her plant executive. The tape discusses relief; agricultural labour during the Depression; life in Webster's Corners; the Japanese community during the War; working in wood; organizing the IWA; equal work for equal pay; attitudes towards women workers; women's struggles against lay-offs after the War.