

*As a boy,*  
Richard worked in the coal mines before the 1912 - 1914 strike ~~as a boy~~. The strike occurred when the United Mine Workers organized because of unsafe conditions. The 72nd Highlanders were brought in to put down the strike and arrested miners in Extension, Ladysmith and Nanaimo. Mrs. Whisker's father was Secretary of the union and was forced to go to New Zealand to find work as he was blackballed for his union activities when he was released from prison. Mrs. Whisker's mother was a member of the Women's Labour League and fought for it to retain its labour orientation. Women were present on picketlines during the strike in support of their husbands and the strike in general. The women were independent and willing to take risks ~~and~~ the community pooled its resources during the strike, living off of hunting, fishing and gardening. The company evicted the miners' families during the strike. The strike resulted in longterm hostilities in the community between the families of strikers and strikebreakers. Mr. Whiskers later worked in the wood industry as a railman.

#### BILL WHITE

Bill White was President of the Boilermakers Local in Prince Rupert during the War at the shipyards. Many women from the community entered the shipyards. Mr. White was active in defending women's right to a job at the end of the War. The tape describes conditions in Rupert; the growth of the shipyards; battles between soldiers, workers and Native people; racism in Rupert; response to the entry of women into the yards; attitudes towards the Japanese, anti-war sentiments; the no-strike pledge and the Labour Progressive Party. Mr. White was a member of the Trotskyist organization at ~~this~~ time. Women were brought into the Prince Rupert shipyards as helpers or improvers, after taking a several months long training course in welding. The helpers strung the burners' hoses and the women were soon proficiently stringing their own hoses and cables. *After* The shift ~~would~~ *they would* get off, ~~and~~ drink at the Savoy Hotel. It became clear that women had been accepted into the yards when the crew accepted women buying rounds. Women ~~were~~ *also became* stewards in the union.

#### CONNIE WHITE

Mrs. White was born in Winnipeg and came to Vancouver. She worked first as a domestic and then later in a factory, making loggers' boots for \$9/week. After the workers were offered a 1¢/hour raise she quit, moving to a cap factory and then to Boeings when the War broke out. At Boeing many women worked as riveters on sections of the planes. She worked putting cold rivets in with a partner. The Boeing plant operated on a three swing shift basis. After the War, she, like many women, feared being out of work and moved to Woodward's bakery immediately, experiencing a drop in her wages. She married and did not return to work until 1955 ~~when~~ *on the* she became interested *of herself* in the ILGWU out of curiosity about ~~her and others'~~ *others* working conditions. She is presently Business Agent for the ILGWU.