

JEAN SCOTT

Mrs. Scott first worked as a housemaid in Manitoba. As she worked for several employers, she began to make a connection between the bad treatment of domestic workers and the oppression of women. In 1946 she began working for the Retail Wholesale and Department Store and Packinghouse Union as an office worker. In this position she also put out organizing leaflets. She remembers the union contract establishing different pay rates for men and women doing the same work. She helped organize support for the union in the 1947 strike of meat workers and jam factory workers. She later worked for the IWA and assisted the White Bloc in the struggle for leadership of the union. She participated in a campaign to organize office workers which was able only to sign union offices and BC COOP. She felt that the unions organized their staff only under pressure and through the examples set by the Steelworkers and the VDLC. For a while, she served as President of Local 15, OTEU and acted as contract negotiator. ~~The BCFL~~ *She supported* ~~had a position~~ calling for equal pay for women. She believes that it was difficult for women to become trade union leaders and win adequate recognition for their work. *However* OTEU supported childcare and maternity leave. Their contracts acted as models for other unions in the BCFL on these questions.

BERTHA SOUDERHOLM

Mrs. Souderholm was active with Finnish community organizations in the Maple Ridge area during the War. The tape describes that community during the Depression; the cooperative movement; women's organizations in the community; work and organizing at Berryland; women in the War industry; conditions in the fish canneries. Webster's Corners where she lived had a long history of progressive organizing. Women in the Finnish community traditionally had their own organizations. Men in Webster's Corners worked in industry while women built and maintained the community. The Women's Defense League organized a defense of political prisoners during the 1930's. Later organizations gathered clothing for Finnish War relief. The unions in the 1940's established Old Age Pensions, Unemployment Insurance; Workmen's Compensation, Family Allowance and Medicaire. The labour at Berryland was very difficult as there was little automation. Women were called in to work and received only an hour's pay if little fruit was available. Women worked at Berryland on a seasonal basis, without the benefit of seniority, to supplement their household income and pay taxes. Women tried to organize and several women were fired. A wild cat occurred later on and the union was established. This created a seniority system and year-round work.

BARBARA STEWART

Barbara Stewart first radicalized during the Depression. She was present in Regina in 1935 at a citizens' meeting called to pro-