

Person Interviewed: Robert Batley, Jr.

Interviewer: Helen Shannon

Date: June 6, 1988

Ms. Shannon: This is an interview with Bob Batley.

Q Is that how it's pronounced?

A That's right, uh-huh.

Ms. Shannon: About the Phoenix Mill and anything else he remembers about Ballard, early Ballard.

Q So it was your grandfather then, huh?

A My grandfather and his brother.

Q Uh-huh.

A My grandfather's name was William A. Batley, and his brother's name was James L. Batley.

Q I see. Now, did he continue -- did they continue as partners all through, or did they --

A They continued as partners until the year of 1928 when Jim died, James L. died.

Q Oh, I see.

A But their -- the family -- their family stayed with the business all of that period of time for the lifetime of the business, I think.

Q Oh, I see.

A The other family was involved through their stockholding.

Q Uh-huh.

A So you might say that--

Q So James died what year?

A 1928.

Q Uh-huh. I see. What do you remember about --

A About his -- the dy -- the time of death?

Q No, no.

A You mean about Phoenix?

Q Uh-huh.

A Well, of course, I was born in Ballard in 1920.

Q Uh-huh.

A So my early recollection of the mill probably was around 1930.

Q Uh-huh.

A And I can -- most vivid thing I can remember is any shingle mill that you walk into, the aroma is very sweet and very distinct.

Q The cedar?

A Yeah. And I remember that.

Q I remember that. We used to go over the Ballard Bridge. Remember how it smelled?

A Oh, yes.

Q Wonderful.

A Right, that's right.

Q Wonderful smell.

A So that was one of my earlier recollections. And also in the early days they used to have a company picnic. This is the days before unions, and they were more like a family.

Q Sure, uh-huh.

A And the mill would throw a picnic out at Golden Gardens.

Q Golden Gardens, huh?

A Yes. And the men would play horseshoes. And what they did, they brought two great big barrels full of sawdust, and they dumped pennies in there. So I remember as kids going in there and trying to find all these pennies that you could. It was a regular contest.

Q All the kids, uh-huh, uh-huh.

A That kind of stands out in my mind (inaudible).

Q Well now, was that the sort of thing that would have been done at a lot of company picnics or just --

A I would say, if I had to hazard a guess -- and I don't know -- but I would say that that would be rather common practice back in that period of time because there wasn't the distinction between the worker and the owner because most of the owners looked like workers and they actually did work in the mills.

Q Uh-huh.

A So there was a good relationship between the employer and the employee.

Q Uh-huh.

A I would say that that was -- that was kind of standard probably to have a company picnic.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A It was out at Golden Gardens, I definitely remember that.

Q Uh-huh. And as a child you enjoyed going?

A I did remember that, right.

Q Uh-huh, I see.

A I watched the men play horseshoes. I can see my dad out there playing horseshoes as a young man.

Q Uh-huh.

A That was -- you know, in those days picnics were a big thing.

Q Yes.

A Yeah.

Q True.

A Yeah, they were.

Q Well, I don't know, I think maybe we're coming back to that.

A Well, my wife and I with our family, we enjoy being together at a picnic. We sure do.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh, especially if it's potluck.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q That makes it marvelous fun.

A That's right.

Q Well now, where was the mill located?

A The mill was located on the north side of the Ballard Bridge and it would have been the northeast, if I can call it, northeast corner of the Ballard Bridge on Shilshole Avenue.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Now, that may not pinpoint it quite enough for you there.

Q Uh-huh.

A But it would be on Shilshole Avenue on the east side of

the Ballard end of the bridge.

Q Uh-huh.

A Actually we were almost under the bridge.

Q Almost under the bridge?

A Yes.

Q But you weren't where Cedar -- Seattle --

A They were on the other side.

Q The other side.

A They were on the other side. We were on the east side of the Ballard Bridge, and the property ran from 15th Avenue to 14th Avenue.

Q Hum, okay.

A That was the property that was involved.

Q I see, uh-huh, uh-huh.

(Discussion off the record.)

A But that mill had more than one life because I don't -- I know when that mill, that particular one that they speak of was built, and the only reference I had to it was built in 1901. But there have been an earlier mill. That, I can't say.

Q I see.

A Because I heard reports that there was an earlier mill, but I know definitely that the Phoenix Shingle Company, the one that was incorporated, was built in 1901 and burnt down in 1911.

Q Now, this is the one that you remember?

A That's -- well, no, I don't because --

Q No, okay.

A (Continuing) -- there was another fire.

Q I see. Now, what were you saying -- what was it called then, the one that you --

A They were all called Phoenix.

Q Oh.

A Phoenix Shingle Company.

Q Uh-huh.

A And the one that was built in 1901 burnt down September 30th, 1911. And then they rebuilt the second mill, and it burnt down in 1915.

Q Uh-huh.

A Same location.

Q Uh-huh.

A The third mill was built in 1915 and started operations in 1916. And --

Q So there was four years there where they weren't making shingles?

A Well, if I said that, I didn't mean to imply that.

Q Well, no, I probably made a mistake.

A The second -- the second mill ran from -- well, 1911 to 1915.

Q I see, okay. That's my error.

A Uh-huh. And then from 1916 --

Q That burned also, of course.

A The 1916 mill lasted until 1966, and it had a fire in 1966. That's the mill I remember, the one that was built in 1916.

Q Of course. Well, sure, uh-huh.

B Well, mills burning down was relatively common.

A Quite common.

Q Yes, uh-huh, I would have thought so.

A Quite common. They had -- they had -- most of them had refuse burners.

Q Uh-huh.

A And the refuse -- that's a great big thing that (inaudible)

Q Oh, yeah, that looks like a --

A (Continuing) -- a big round top on it and --

Q And came down like this?

A (Continuing) -- and if you're an early Ballard -- yes. And if you're an early Ballardite, you remember that the sparks used to fly out of those burners, and particularly Stimson Mill Company with their burner and their refuse. They'd throw sparks and cinders all over Ballard. Well, we all did.

Q Yeah, yeah.

A We all did in the early days.

Q Uh-huh.

A But that --

Q That was the reason that Ballard had the reputation of

--

A Setting --

Q (Continuing) -- getting all this stuff coming down onto the washes.

A Used to call it Ballard snow, though.

Q Uh-huh, oh, yes.

A Yeah.

Q Uh-huh.

A Ballard snow.

Q I remember that.

A Right, yeah.

Q Uh-huh.

A So the -- what was I going to say on the mills?

Oh, on the burner, right. On that refuse burner, on -- and Phoenix, the city was after us because we were setting the bridge on fire. It was a wooden bridge in those days.

Q Oh, yes.

A And we had little fires on the bridge and whatnot. And they put pressure on the mill owners to go ahead and put on a solid top. And we were the first and only mill that did that; we put on a complete metal top and had a sprinkler system underneath so that when the cinders would come up and go down, they'd go through a water screen and wind up in a trough and be sluiced out into the bay. So we --

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- we in one way, you might say, cut down on the amount of sparks and whatnot that we were spewing out into the --

Q The city was encouraging you to do this, but there was

nothing --

A There was no -- no --

Q (Continuing) -- no law about it?

A (Continuing) -- because as far as I know -- there may have been others, but I know that we were probably one of the first to put on a solid top.

Q I see.

A They weren't the most satisfactory because there was a lot of heat generated in there.

Q Uh-huh.

A And over a period of time you could burn those things out.

A When they were open, of course, the heat got out.

Q Oh, I see, I see, uh-huh, uh-huh. So some of the workers then perhaps didn't really like that?

A The -- no, it didn't have any -- it didn't have any bearing on the -- on the workers. You mean the burner?

Q Uh -- well, yes, having it come --

A Having it come down?

Q Uh-huh.

A Well, the burner was separate. The shingle mill sat there. Here's the shingle mill; the burner was over here.

Q Oh, I see.

A You had conveyors going up into this big round brick oven that stood maybe 40 feet high with a top on it.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A And all of the refuse that we didn't use from the mill went up in there and fell down into the bottom of a pit and

burnt up. to take two things. Put them in one anything

Q Oh, I see. That was the --

A That was the burner.

Q (Continuing) -- reason for that?

A Just to get rid of the waste.

Q Oh, that burns up?

A But our waste was handled different. We had that waste that went up to the burner, but then we had -- the other waste went the other way, and there was a fire room over here.

Q Uh-huh. Did you have the waste go into one place?

A So all these conveyors here, the one that go into the fire room, we used that refuse for our boilers.

Q Oh.

A And we generated our steam for our -- drying the shingles in the dry kiln.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A And also they generated their own electricity. They had a turbine and the turbine operated by steam. And by operating by steam through the armatures and whatnot, it generated electricity so we had our own power plant --

Q Oh, I see, uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- for years and years and years at Phoenix.

Q Uh-huh.

A In fact, the early pioneers have said, those that were older than I was, that Phoenix was the first mill that was an electric-powered mill. That distinction, they said,

belonged to the two Batleys. But I don't have anything to my records.

Q Uh-huh. I think you just had one.

A That's true, but I do know we had a turbine.

Q Uh-huh.

A 'Cause that turbine lasted, oh, gosh, I don't think --

'47 that turbine was still operating so that's a long time.

Q Oh, uh-huh. Well, it certainly is, my gosh.

A Right.

Q Well now, did you work in the mill at one time or what?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you?

A Yes, I did. After I got out of the service, I went into the mill from 1946 until, well, 1966, till they had the fire. So for twenty years I --

Q And it was still called Phoenix in '66?

A Still called Phoenix Shingle Company, you bet.

Q I see, oh. But you hadn't worked in there as a child or before you went in the service?

A I used to go down there when I was in college, I think, and mail bands.

Q Oh.

A Not on a regular basis, but I did do that.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A I remember -- band mailer, they call it.

Q Oh, yes, uh-huh.

A Right.

Q That was --

A A little simple easy job that you just hammered --

Q Yeah.

A (Continuing) -- little nails into a stick with some metal strips that went around the bundle of shingles.

Q Yes. Uh-huh, I remember seeing those.

A And held them together, you know.

Q Uh-huh.

A (Inaudible)

Q Now, did you have brothers and sisters that worked in the mill?

A I had a younger brother that worked at the mill.

Q Uh-huh.

A He started -- he started working probably -- well, I was in the service at that time. I was gone for about four and a half years. Bill must have come into the mill about 1940, '41 he was working at the mill.

Q I see, uh-huh.

A Nailing bands probably.

Q Uh-huh.

A Yeah.

Q And then he went to college, too?

A Then he was in college, yes, right.

Q Then you never went back to it afterwards?

A Yes, then I did. When I got out of school --

Q You weren't nailing bands, though, any more?

A No. Let's see, no -- well, I got into -- I got into the office.

Q Uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- end of it where I was helping Dad with his books and payrolls and things of that nature.

Q Uh-huh.

A So I, from that time forward, I spent a lot of time in the office, and then I loaded my share of boxcars.

Q Oh.

A I really did. I loaded my share of boxcars.

Q Uh-huh.

A In the shingle company, it seems like you get -- if you're shorthanded here or shorthanded there, they need somebody there, well, then you might be on the green chain or you might be on the boom or you might be up on the splitter. So you get to do a lot of things.

Q Uh-huh.

A But you -- it wasn't a regular job.

Q Uh-huh. Well now, was it unionized relatively early, or was it never unionized?

A Oh, yes, it was union, yes, it was union.

Q I see.

A I -- it would be difficult for me to say when that union -- the Shingle Weavers Union is an old union.

Q Uh-huh.

A And they were part of the Carpenter & Joiner International Union, I know.

Q Uh-huh.

A Certainly they were active in 1935.

Q Uh-huh.

A And I -- I would hazard that by 1930 there was -- there was organization in the shingle weavers. But I know in 1935 they were definitely a force because they at that time -- the mills were working eight hours, and they got -- demanded and got a 35-hour week, which was seven hours a day --

Q Oh, my goodness.

A (Continuing) -- rather than the eight. And they were one of the first industries to go to seven hours.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh, I see.

A And so that -- and that applied to all shingle mills throughout -- not just our mill but all the shingle mills throughout the state. Most of --

Q Now, they worked no Saturdays and Sundays?

A In 1935 when they went to that seven hour a day, that was 35 hours a week, it'd have been Monday through Friday.

Q Uh-huh.

A Prior to that there had been Saturday work.

Q Oh, there had been? I see.

A Yes, there had.

Q Uh-huh.

A If you want to go back -- if you want to go back to the 1910, they worked ten hours a day, six days a week.

Q Boy.

A Ten hours a day, six days a week. And I can tell you what some of those men were making.

Q Yeah, I was wondering --

A They were making \$2.50 a day. That's twenty-five cents an hour.

Q Oh, boy.

A Some of 'em only got a dollar a day. The band mailer got a dollar a day or the wood picker.

Q Oh, good heavens.

A Times have changed.

Q Prices have gone up, too.

A That's right.

Q Now, you were saying twenty-five cents -- how much a day, too?

A Two dollars and fifty cents a day on a -- for a 10 hour day.

Q Fifty.

A Six days a week.

Q Um, boy.

A That was up to -- now up to -- up to -- up to -- I don't know whether it was the beginning of World War I or the end of World War I. I have reason to believe it might have been the end of World War I that they came in with the eight hour a day, forty hour a week.

Q I see.

A Prior to that they were working 60 hours.

Q And working through Saturday, too.

A Through Saturday.

Q Ye gads.

A Yeah. You had to be pretty stout, I would think.

Q I would think you would, too. What was the age of most of the people in the mill?

A Oh, gosh. Back in those days. In my day they were older from 19 --

Q They were older than you?

A Oh, yes, back -- as a class they got older and older and there --

Q Oh, really?

A (Continuing) -- weren't any new ones coming in.

Q Oh.

A So those that were cutting shingles at twenty years old in 1910, by 1930 why they would be 40, and then 1950 they would have been --

Q And they stuck with same thing that long?

A We had -- we had some men there at the shingle company, Jack Johnson for instance, who worked for us for over 50 years.

Q Oh, really. Oh, for heaven sakes.

A Over 50 years.

Q And pretty much doing the same thing?

A He was a shingle packer all of that period of time.

Q And then -- so their wages only went up with union demands?

A They went up through -- that's right, through union demands, right, they were making better wages. And then

from the 35 hour a week, they got to a 30-hour week.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A That's what the mill was running when --

Q Oh, really?

A Uh-huh.

Q Now, that was still five days a week?

A That was still five days a week, right, right.

Q I see.

A Right.

Q I had not realized that. My father -- my grandfather and
and I had a great uncle worked in a shingle mill.

A There was many of them.

Q But I'll admit I don't know a great deal about it. But --
now, did that mill run 24 hours a day, or did it --

A Back in the early days, I think it ran one shift, which is
the ten-hour shift that we're talking about.

Q Uh-huh.

A And then after the war, the World War I, they ran eight-
hour shift, and I think they ran that eight-hour shift
until 1935, and they went to a six-hour shift. The mill
then ran a double shift.

Q Oh.

A Two six-hour shifts.

Q Two six-hours. So the mill was definitely closed down
for a while there during the day?

A Oh, yes, oh, yes.

Q At night.

A Oh, yes. Yeah, almost have to be because there would be a certain amount of repairs that had to be made that you couldn't make when the mill was operating. So a lot of that night work would be done --

Q So they didn't run 24 hours a --

A No, they did not run 24 hours.

Q I see, uh-huh.

A Right.

Q Well then, since it was nonunion --

A Uh-huh.

Q (Continuing) --did they have any medical coverage at all?

A Well, it was union.

Q After 1935.

A It was union. That's right.

Q Uh-huh.

A Prior to that, I don't know. I can't answer that. I really don't know.

Q Well, as a young person, I'm sure you would not be terribly interested.

A Yeah. Well, it wasn't -- it wasn't much.

Q No.

A There was -- there was -- I know the State came in and and indemnified 'em if they lost a finger or an arm or a leg, but that came later.

Q Yes.

A And they weren't big payoffs either.

Q No, I imagine (inaudible).

A They were very small.

Q Yeah.

A They really were. It was only from after World War No. II that maybe the State took a more active part and came in and inspected the plant and pointed areas where they were hazardous to the workers. And they were very conscious about safety.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Then, of course, our -- in that business, in any manufacturing business, you're rated by the State, and your rating depends an awful lot on your basic industry and then your own mill experience so that if you had an injury, a big injury in your plant, chances are the rate that you paid per hour was higher.

Q Would go up.

A Yeah.

Q So that would encourage them --

A Right.

Q To be a little bit (inaudible) perhaps.

A Right, that's right. It was -- the shingle mill had hazardous -- the sawyers in particular --

Q Yes.

A (Continuing) -- was a hazardous job. No doubt about it.

Q If you had all your fingers, you were pretty --

A It was mainly fingers and toes.

Q Toes, too?

A Doesn't that seem strange?

Q What happened to toes?

A Well, they stand up here and they get the shingles off here and they put it on the tipper table. There's a saw running down here.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Right in front of them running like this. They're looking right down the saw on the tipper table. Sometimes their feet get stuck and if they stick their foot through there, that saw --

Q Yuuuu

A (Continuing) -- could come down and get their foot. That didn't happen too often --

Q Oh, no?

A (Continuing) -- but it --

Q Did happen?

A It did happen, right.

Q And they didn't have to wear safety shoes, huh?

A Some of them did, but they were usually up on deck where if they dropped the block on their foot, why it would crush their toes. A sawyer didn't bother with that.

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Q Is that how it's pronounced?

A That's right, uh-huh.

Ms. Shannon: About the Phoenix Mill and anything else he remembers about Ballard, early Ballard.

Q So it was your grandfather then, huh?

A My grandfather and his brother.

Q Uh-huh.

A My grandfather's name was William A. Batley, and his brother's name was James L. Batley.

Q I see. Now, did he continue -- did they continue as partners all through, or did they --

A They continued as partners until the year of 1928 when Jim died, James L. died.

Q Oh, I see.

A But their -- the family -- their family stayed with the business all of that period of time for the lifetime of the business, I think.

Q Oh, I see.

A The other family was involved through their stockholding.

Q Uh-huh.

A So you might say that--

Q So James died what year?

A 1928.

Q Uh-huh. I see. What do you remember about --

A About his -- the dy -- the time of death?

Q No, no.

A You mean about Phoenix?

Q Uh-huh.

A Well, of course, I was born in Ballard in 1920.

Q Uh-huh.

A So my early recollection of the mill probably was around 1930.

Q Uh-huh.

A And I can -- most vivid thing I can remember is any shingle mill that you walk into, the aroma is very sweet and very distinct.

Q The cedar?

A Yeah. And I remember that.

Q I remember that. We used to go over the Ballard Bridge. Remember how it smelled?

A Oh, yes.

Q Wonderful.

A Right, that's right.

Q Wonderful smell.

A So that was one of my earlier recollections. And also in the early days they used to have a company picnic. This is the days before unions, and they were more like a family.

Q Sure, uh-huh.

A And the mill would throw a picnic out at Golden Gardens.

Q Golden Gardens, huh?

A Yes. And the men would play horseshoes. And what they did, they brought two great big barrels full of sawdust, and they dumped pennies in there. So I remember as kids going in there and trying to find all these pennies that you could. It was a regular contest.

Q All the kids, uh-huh, uh-huh.

A That kind of stands out in my mind (inaudible).

Q Well now, was that the sort of thing that would have been

done at a lot of company picnics or just --

A I would say, if I had to hazard a guess -- and I don't know -- but I would say that that would be rather common practice back in that period of time because there wasn't the distinction between the worker and the owner because most of the owners looked like workers and they actually did work in the mills.

Q Uh-huh.

A So there was a good relationship between the employer and the employee.

Q Uh-huh.

A I would say that that was -- that was kind of standard, probably to have a company picnic.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A It was out at Golden Gardens, I definitely remember that.

Q Uh-huh. And as a child you enjoyed going?

A I did remember that, right.

Q Uh-huh, I see.

A I watched the men play horseshoes. I can see my dad out there playing horseshoes as a young man.

Q Uh-huh.

A That was -- you know, in those days picnics were a big thing.

Q Yes.

A Yeah.

Q True.

A Yeah, they were.

Q Well, I don't know, I think maybe we're coming back to that.

A Well, my wife and I with our family, we enjoy being together at a picnic. We sure do.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh, especially if it's potluck.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q That makes it marvelous fun.

A That's right.

Q Well now, where was the mill located?

A The mill was located on the north side of the Ballard Bridge and it would have been the northeast, if I can call it, northeast corner of the Ballard Bridge on Shilshole Avenue.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Now, that may not pinpoint it quite enough for you there.

Q Uh-huh.

A But it would be on Shilshole Avenue on the east side of the Ballard end of the bridge.

Q Uh-huh.

A Actually we were almost under the bridge.

Q Almost under the bridge?

A Yes.

Q But you weren't where Cedar -- Seattle --

A They were on the other side.

Q The other side.

A They were on the other side. We were on the east side of the Ballard Bridge, and the property ran from 15th Avenue to 14th Avenue.

Q Hum, okay.

A That was the property that was involved.

Q I see, uh-huh, uh-huh.

(Discussion off the record.)

A But that mill had more than one life because I don't --- I know when that mill, that particular one that they speak of was built, and the only reference I had to it was built in 1901. But there have been an earlier mill. That, I can't say.

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A Because I heard reports that there was an earlier mill, but I know definitely that the Phoenix Shingle Company, the one that was incorporated, was built in 1901 and burnt down in 1911.

Q Now, this is the one that you remember?

A That's -- well, no, I don't because --

Q No, okay.

A (Continuing) -- there was another fire.

Q I see. Now, what were you saying -- what was it called then, the one that you --

A They were all called Phoenix.

Q Oh.

A Phoenix Shingle Company.

Q Uh-huh.

A And the one that was built in 1901 burnt down September 30th, 1911. And then they rebuilt the second mill, and it burnt down in 1915.

Q Uh-huh.

A Same location.

Q Uh-huh.

A The third mill was built in 1915 and started operations in 1916. And --

Q So there was four years there where they weren't making shingles?

A Well, if I said that, I didn't mean to imply that.

Q Well, no, I probably made a mistake.

A The second -- the second mill ran from -- well, 1911 to 1915.

Q I see, okay. That's my error.

A Uh-huh. And then from 1916 --

Q That burned also, of course.

A The 1916 mill lasted until 1966, and it had a fire in 1966. That's the mill I remember, the one that was built in 1916.

Q Of course. Well, sure, uh-huh.

Well, mills burning down was relatively common.

A Quite common.

Q Yes, uh-huh, I would have thought so.

A Quite common. They had -- they had -- most of them had refuse burners.

Q Uh-huh.

A And the refuse -- that's a great big thing that (inaudible)
--

Q Oh, yeah, that looks like a --

A (Continuing) -- a big round top on it and --

Q And came down like this?

A (Continuing) -- and if you're an early Ballard -- yes. And if you're an early Ballardite, you remember that the sparks used to fly out of those burners, and particularly Stimson Mill Company with their burner and their refuse. They'd throw sparks and cinders all over Ballard. Well, we all did.

Q Yeah, yeah.

A We all did in the early days.

Q Uh-huh.

A But that --

Q That was the reason that Ballard had the reputation of --

A Setting --

Q (Continuing) -- getting all this stuff coming down onto the washes.

A Used to call it Ballard snow, though.

Q Uh-huh, oh, yes.

A Yeah.

Q Uh-huh.

A Ballard snow.

Q I remember that.

A Right, yeah.

Q Uh-huh.

A So the -- what was I going to say on the mills?

Oh, on the burner, right. On that refuse burner, on --- and Phoenix, the city was after us because we were setting the bridge on fire. It was a wooden bridge in those days.

Q Oh, yes.

A And we had little fires on the bridge and whatnot. And they put pressure on the mill owners to go ahead and put on a solid top. And we were the first and only mill that did that; we put on a complete metal top and had a sprinkler system underneath so that when the cinders would come up and go down, they'd go through a water screen and wind up in a trough and be sluiced out into the bay. So we --

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- we in one way, you might say, cut down on the amount of sparks and whatnot that we were spewing out into the --

Q The city was encouraging you to do this, but there was nothing --

A There was no -- no --

Q (Continuing) -- no law about it?

A (Continuing) -- because as far as I know -- there may have been others, but I know that we were probably one of the first to put on a solid top.

Q I see.

A They weren't the most satisfactory because there was a lot of heat generated in there.

Q Uh-huh.

A And over a period of time you could burn those things out. When they were open, of course, the heat got out.

Q Oh, I see, I see, uh-huh, uh-huh. So some of the workers then perhaps didn't really like that?

A The -- no, it didn't have any -- it didn't have any bearing on the -- on the workers. You mean the burner?

Q Uh -- well, yes, having it come --

A Having it come down?

Q Uh-huh.

A Well, the burner was separate. The shingle mill sat there. Here's the shingle mill; the burner was over here.

Q Oh, I see.

A You had conveyors going up into this big round brick oven that stood maybe 40 feet high with a top on it.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A And all of the refuse that we didn't use from the mill went up in there and fell down into the bottom of a pit and burnt up.

Q Oh, I see. That was the --

A That was the burner.

Q (Continuing) -- reason for that.

A Just to get rid of the waste.

Q Oh.

A But our waste was handled different. We had that waste

that went up to the burner, but then we had -- the other waste went the other way, and there was a fire room over here.

Q Uh-huh.

A So all these conveyors here, the one that go into the fire room, we used that refuse for our boilers.

Q Oh.

A And we generated our steam for our -- drying the shingles in the dry kiln.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A And also they generated their own electricity. They had a turbine and the turbine operated by steam. And by operating by steam through the armatures and whatnot, it generated electricity so we had our own power plant --

Q Oh, I see, uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- for years and years and years at Phoenix.

Q Uh-huh.

A In fact, the early pioneers have said, those that were older than I was, that Phoenix was the first mill that was an electric-powered mill. That distinction, they said, belonged to the two Batleys. But I don't have anything to my records.

Q Uh-huh.

A That's true, but I do know we had a turbine.

Q Uh-huh.

A 'Cause that turbine lasted, oh, gosh, I don't think -- '47 that turbine was still operating so that's a long

time.

Q Oh, uh-huh. Well, it certainly is, my gosh.

A Right.

Q Well now, did you work in the mill at one time or what?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you?

A Yes, I did. After I got out of the service, I went into the mill from 1946 until, well, 1966, till they had the fire. So for twenty years I --

Q And it was still called Phoenix in '66?

A Still called Phoenix Shingle Company, you bet.

Q I see, oh. But you hadn't worked in there as a child or before you went in the service?

A I used to go down there when I was in college, I think, and nail bands.

Q Oh.

A Not on a regular basis, but I did do that.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A I remember -- band nailing, they call it.

Q Oh, yes, uh-huh.

A Right.

Q That was --

A A little simple easy job that you just hammered --

Q Yeah.

A (Continuing) -- little nails into a stick with some metal strips that went around the bundle of shingles.

Q Yes. Uh-huh, I remember seeing those.

A And held them together, you know.

Q Uh-huh.

A (Inaudible)

Q Now, did you have brothers and sisters that worked in the mill?

A I had a younger brother that worked at the mill.

Q Uh-huh.

A He started -- he started working probably -- well, I was in the service at that time. I was gone for about four and a half years. Bill must have come into the mill about 1940, '41 he was working at the mill.

Q I see, uh-huh.

A Nailing bands probably.

Q Uh-huh.

A Yeah.

Q And then he went to college, too?

A Then he was in college, yes, right.

Q Then you never went back to it afterwards?

A Yes, then I did. When I got out of school --

Q You weren't nailing bands, though, any more?

A No. Let's see, no -- well, I got into -- I got into the office.

Q Uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- end of it where I was helping Dad with his books and payrolls and things of that nature.

Q Uh-huh.

A So I, from that time forward, I spent a lot of time in the

office, and then I loaded my share of boxcars.

Q Oh.

A I really did. I loaded my share of boxcars.

Q Uh-huh.

A In the shingle company, it seems like you get -- if you're shorthanded here or shorthanded there, they need somebody there, well, then you might be on the green chain or you might be on the boom or you might be up on the splitter. So you get to do a lot of things.

Q Uh-huh.

A But you -- it wasn't a regular job.

Q Uh-huh. Well now, was it unionized relatively early, or was it never unionized?

A Oh, yes, it was union, yes, it was union.

Q I see.

A I -- it would be difficult for me to say when that union -- the Shingle Weavers Union is an old union.

Q Uh-huh.

A And they were part of the Carpenter & Joiner International Union, I know.

Q Uh-huh.

A Certainly they were active in 1935.

Q Uh-huh.

A And I -- I would hazard that by 1930 there was -- there was organization in the shingle weavers. But I know in 1935 they were definitely a force because they at that time -- the mills were working eight hours, and they got --

demanded and got a 35-hour week, which was seven hours a day --

Q. Oh, my goodness.

A. (Continuing) -- rather than the eight. And they were one of the first industries to go to seven hours.

Q. Uh-huh, uh-huh, I see.

A. And so that -- and that applied to all shingle mills throughout -- not just our mill but all the shingle mills throughout the state. Most of --

Q. Now, they worked no Saturdays and Sundays?

A. In 1935 when they went to that seven hour a day, that was 35 hours a week, it'd have been Monday through Friday.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. Prior to that there had been Saturday work.

Q. Oh, there had been? I see.

A. Yes, there had.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. If you want to go back -- if you want to go back to the 1910, they worked ten hours a day, six days a week.

Q. Boy.

A. Ten hours a day, six days a week. And I can tell you what some of those men were making.

Q. Yeah, I was wondering --

A. They were making \$2.50 a day. That's twenty-five cents an hour.

Q. Oh, boy.

A. Some of 'em only got a dollar a day. The band mailer got

a dollar a day or the wood picker.

Q Oh, good heavens.

A Times have changed.

Q Prices have gone up, too.

A That's right.

Q Now, you were saying twenty-five cents -- how much a day, too?

A Two dollars and fifty cents a day on a -- for a 10 hour day.

Q Fifty.

A Six days a week.

Q Um, boy.

A That was up to -- now up to -- up to -- up to -- I don't know whether it was the beginning of World War I or the end of World War I. I have reason to believe it might have been the end of World War I that they came in with the eight hour a day, forty hour a week.

Q I see.

A Prior to that they were working 60 hours.

Q And working through Saturday, too.

A Through Saturday.

Q Ye gads.

A Yeah. You had to be pretty stout, I would think.

Q I would think you would, too. What was the age of most of the people in the mill?

A Oh, gosh. Back in those days. In my day they were older from 19 --

Q They were older than you?

A Oh, yes, back -- as a class they got older and older and there --

Q Oh, really?

A (Continuing) -- weren't any new ones coming in.

Q Oh.

A So those that were cutting shingles at twenty years old in 1910, by 1930 why they would be 40, and then 1950 they would have been --

Q And they stuck with same thing that long?

A We had -- we had some men there at the shingle company, Jack Johnson for instance, who worked for us for over 50 years.

Q Oh, really. Oh, for heaven sakes.

A Over 50 years.

Q And pretty much doing the same thing?

A He was a shingle packer all of that period of time.

Q And then -- so their wages only went up with union demands?

A They went up through -- that's right, through union demands, right, they were making better wages. And then from the 35 hour a week, they got to a 30-hour week.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A That's what the mill was running when --

Q Oh, really?

A Uh-huh.

Q Now, that was still five days a week?

A That was still five days a week, right, right.

Q I see.

A Right.

Q I had not realized that. My father -- my grandfather and and I had a great uncle worked in a shingle mill.

A There was many of them.

Q But I'll admit I don't know a great deal about it. But -- now, did that mill run 24 hours a day, or did it --

A Back in the early days, I think it ran one shift, which is the ten-hour shift that we're talking about.

Q Uh-huh.

A And then after the war, the World War I, they ran eight-hour shift, and I think they ran that eight-hour shift until 1935, and they went to a six-hour shift. The mill then ran a double shift.

Q Oh.

A Two six-hour shifts.

Q Two six-hours. So the mill was definitely closed down for a while there during the day?

A Oh, yes, oh, yes.

Q At night.

A Oh, yes. Yeah, almost have to be because there would be a certain amount of repairs that had to be made that you couldn't make when the mill was operating. So a lot of that night work would be done --

Q So they didn't run 24 hours a --

A No, they did not run 24 hours.

Q I see, uh-huh.

A Right.

Q Well then, since it was nonunion --

A Uh-huh.

Q (Continuing) --did they have any medical coverage at all?

A Well, it was union.

Q After 1935.

A It was union. That's right.

Q Uh-huh.

A Prior to that, I don't know. I can't answer that. I really don't know.

Q Well, as a young person, I'm sure you would not be terribly interested.

A Yeah. Well, it wasn't -- it wasn't much.

Q No.

A There was -- there was -- I know the State came in and indemnified 'em if they lost a finger or an arm or a leg, but that came later.

Q Yes.

A And they weren't big payoffs either.

Q No, I imagine (inaudible).

A They were very small.

Q Yeah.

A They really were. It was only from after World War No. II that maybe the State took a more active part and came in and inspected the plant and pointed areas where they were hazardous to the workers. And they were very conscious about safety.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Then, of course, our -- in that business, in any manufacturing business, you're rated by the State, and your rating depends an awful lot on your basic industry and then your own mill experience so that if you had an injury, a big injury in your plant, chances are the rate that you paid per hour was higher.

Q Would go up.

A Yeah.

Q So that would encourage them --

A Right.

Q To be a little bit (inaudible) perhaps.

A Right, that's right. It was -- the shingle mill had hazardous -- the sawyers in particular --

Q Yes.

A (Continuing) -- was a hazardous job. No doubt about it.

Q If you had all your fingers, you were pretty --

A It was mainly fingers and toes.

Q Toes, too?

A Doesn't that seem strange?

Q What happened to toes?

A Well, they stand up here and they get the shingles off here and they put it on the tipper table. There's a saw running down here.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Right in front of them running like this. They're looking right down the saw on the tipper table. Sometimes their

feet get stuck and if they stick their foot through there,
that saw --

Q Yeeeeee

A (Continuing) -- could come down and get their foot. That
didn't happen too often --

Q Oh, no?

A (Continuing) -- but it --

Q Did happen?

A It did happen, right.

Q And they didn't have to wear safety shoes, huh?

A Some of them did, but they were usually up on deck where
if they dropped the block on their foot, why it would
crush their toes. A sawyer didn't bother with that.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A He could have, I guess, if he wanted to

Q Well now, my memories of my uncle again --

A Uh-huh.

Q There were lots of times when his mill was closed down.

A Yes, that's right. They didn't run all the time because
you depended upon the source of logs.

Q Uh-huh.

A And if the logs got -- a storm was out there on the
Sound, and you had a tow coming down from Port Angeles,
they wouldn't even venture out in the storm; they'd wait
until the storm subsided, or maybe they stilled them
and so that you didn't have the raw materials to work
with at certain times and that would shut down. Other

reasons: Maybe the market was slow, and you build up with inventory and you were bulging at the seams and you had no orders. So you shut down until you work your inventory.

Q I see.

A There were various reasons.

Q And then when they were shut down, they didn't earn their two fifty a day?

A No.

Q So they didn't have anything. Is that it?

A They -- back in those days, 19 -- now, that's 1910, that two fifty a day, no, there was no unemployment that I'm aware of.

Q Uh-huh.

A Not at all.

Q So they simply didn't have anything coming in then?

A That's right, that's right. See, I think a lot of these things came in probably with the . . . the Roosevelt administration.

Q Uh-huh.

A In 1932.

Q The young people just do not understand that at all.

A Right, yeah.

Q It's always been there, and that's --

A That's right, that's right.

Q It hasn't always been there.

Well then, weren't they also affected by fires in

the woods?

A Oh, yes. Oh, yes. They -- if -- well, during summer months, July and August and September if you had a dry summer, then in some places they had to shut down, they called it a hoot owl where they could only operate on a midnight shift to get logs because the fire hazard was so great.

Q Uh-huh.

A And then other times when there absolutely was a ban on any type of logging whatsoever because of the fire damage or danger.

Q Danger.

A In the wintertime, you had mud. And so they had their problems in the winters, too.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Right.

Q Now, the majority of your raw materials then from --

A The majority of our --

Q (Continuing) -- by water with these big tows?

A Yes, by Foss Launch & Tug Boat probably did most of our hauling of cedar logs, and they came principally out of South Bay, which is just north of Olympia, Weyerhaeuser logs. They were sorted out for us, and I think we probably had Weyerhaeuser logs for twenty-five years.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A But prior to that, there were -- we bought logs from all over. There -- in those days you had a lot of what you

A call little gypo loggers.

Q Gypo, uh-huh.

A And they had little shows here and there and the other. So they'd bring 'em to the water, and you had all kinds of timber out there. And as a millmen, as I understand it -- I didn't know those days --

Q Uh-huh.

A That you could walk over this bunch of logs here and they'd say, "Well, what's your price?" "Well, eight dollars a thousand."

Well, you'd -- then he goes to the next guy over here, and he's got some that look just as good for seven dollars. So you had lots of logs in those early days and lots of independent loggers to buy from.

Q Uh-huh.

A Hood's Canal was a -- was an excellent source of logs for us in the early days.

Q Uh-huh.

A But we did buy from later years Weyerhaeuser, Crown Zellerbach in Port Angeles and then from Simpson Timber Mill in Shelton were our three principal suppliers.

Q I see. Well now, in the early days --

A Uh-huh.

Q (Continuing) -- were they all brought in on log booms then?

A They -- yes.

Q On high water?

A They -- the only way that they could get -- none came in by rail. They all came in by water.

Q Or truck?

A Well, we didn't even have a truck. There was no place for them to spill their logs so, no, it came in -- we could have taken 'em by rail, but then we had no way of getting 'em out of the gondolas.

Q That isn't the way it was done obviously.

A Yes, was by water.

Q Strictly by water.

A Yes. And of course, in those days you didn't have the government lock.

Q Uh-huh. Uh-huh, sure.

A So you had to wait till you had a high tide and you had some water to bring the logs in with.

Q Oh, uh, well, you add a high tide. You could bring 'em in any day, though, at high tide, couldn't you?

A Yes.

Q There was never that low?

A At high tide, no problem.

Q Uh-huh.

A No problem.

Q Uh-huh. I remember those big huge log booms.

A Uh-huh.

Q 'Cause I lived in Bellingham and --

A Oh, yeah, that's a milling town.

Q Yes. Yes, it definitely is a mill town.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q Maybe I'd better look and see what I was supposed to do here.

A Okay.

Q Now, you stayed with the mill then until it burned in --

A Yes, I did.

Q (Continuing) 1966? But you didn't retire then?

A No, I was a little bit too young to retire.

Q A little too young.

A I went to work for the county.

Q Oh, I see.

A And I worked for the county for about 18 years in the department of assessments.

Q And then you retired?

A Then I retired. Then I was old enough to retire.

Q Oh, good. You're enjoying it?

A Yes, you bet.

Q My husband has just retired.

A Uh-huh.

Q Well, do you remember about your family's -- how your husband -- how your father conducted his business? I mean did he go work every day or what?

A My father, yes. Well, starting with my grandfather, he worked every day.

Q Uh-huh.

A In fact, he even worked ten hours on Sundays. I see a lot of Sundays. I've got an old time book that gave me

this information.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Where they -- both he and his brother worked ten hours a day every day. I think they might have had a half a day off in one month of October in 1907.

Q Oh, for heaven's sake.

A So that's all they knew was work and come home and eat and collapse and get up for the next day.

Q Uh-huh.

A So it was nothing but work in those days.

Q Yes, uh-huh

A And my grandfather, the one -- William A. Bayer, both he and Jim, but William A. lived to be about 78 years old, but he broke himself down in health just mainly by physical exertion, just working too hard.

Q Uh-huh.

A I know in -- they had a kiln fire in '23, and he was in there pushing out these great big kiln trucks that had 85 squares of shingles on 'em and --

Q Oh, my goodness.

A And he just overextended himself, and from that time forward he had health problems.

Q Oh, goodness sake.

A My dad went right along with him. Dad wasn't as big a man as my granddad, so he had maybe more physical limitations, but he worked right along with him.

Q Uh-huh.

A Sure did.

Q And that was --

A Every day.

Q That was pretty much the way it was done in those days?

A That's the way that that mill operated. It seemed like everybody worked; there wasn't anybody that stood around in a business suit and overseed anything. They all had overalls on and got their hands dirty.

Q Oh, I see.

A At least in that size operation that we had.

Q Yes, uh-huh. That's nothing. How come that mill lasted longer than the rest of them?

A Well, I don't know that. It did. That was the last shingle mill in Ballard -- one of the first and also the last straight shingle mill.

Q Uh-huh.

A I would like to think that good management had something to do with it.

Q Well, it probably did.

A And that they -- and they didn't -- they didn't put the money on their backs and whatnot and that they were successful because they were hard workers and they had a very good relationship with a wholesaler, Mr A.L. Dunn.

Q Uh-huh.

A Mr. Dunn was the founder of the current Dunn Lumber Companies.

Q Is that Dunn Lumber?

A Yes, he was the founder.

Q Oh, I see.

A The senior Mr. Dunn.

Q Uh-huh.

A And he came out to the mill I think in 1910 looking for some mill that could furnish his customers with some shingles. He got together with the senior Mr. Batley and they developed a relationship, and he sold most of our product for 40 years anyway.

Q Oh, I see.

A I'd say easy 40 years. Probably about 45 years until he -- he retired from the wholesale business.

Q Oh. So most of it went to Dunn Lumber then; it didn't go to --

A Most of it -- no, most of it -- Mr. Dunn was a wholesaler, so he would have customers back east that would want a carload of shingles delivered to Lexington, Kentucky. We'll say Holmes Lumber Company was his customer. He would give us the order, which we had a standing list of orders, and we would load the boxcars.

See, we had to load about two and a half boxcars a day to keep up with our production. That's just about what we produced.

Q Uh-huh.

A So in the early days when business was very good after the war, that's what we were shipping out, about two and

a half --

Q Oh.

A Say two and the next day three boxcars of shingles, and he sold all of those.

Q Oh, I see.

A Most of our shingles -- well, with the exception some were sold locally to the lumber yards for shingles, roofs. But a lot of it went back into the farm belts and the Midwest and some down south and . . . There was a very good market in those days.

Q Yeah, I guess because --

A Yes, there was.

Q That was -- because that was the only kind of shingles there were.

A Yes. They -- John Mansfield didn't come in until the '20s, I guess, and he started making inroads into the shingle market, and then --

??? Q So it did gradually put the kibash on your business?

A It did -- it did -- it did hurt the shingles because in some towns they put bans on wood shingles; you couldn't use wood shingles because of the fire hazard.

Q Uh-huh.

A And so we -- they ran across a lot of restrictions in certain places for the wood, but the farmer out on the farm, he liked the wood.

Q Uh-huh.

A He put the tar paper on there, and if he'd get a good

windstorm or rip off that tar paper, he didn't have any roof. So he liked the shingles because that shingle stayed where it was.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Very popular in the farm belt.

Q Oh, I see. Well, it was also the old established thing to use.

A Yeah, right, right, right.

Q Farmers are a little slow to change.

A Yes.

Q Anyways so . . .

A Right.

Q It'd make a difference.

A Right.

Q Now you -- you said that your father worked ten hours a day, too?

A In the early days, he did as a young man before he was married.

Q But after that he slackened up some?

A Well, let's see. Dad -- I was born in 1920. Dad, I think, was -- was a shingle packer, packing shingles so he would have had to have worked ten hours a day packing shingles.

Q Uh-huh.

A And then he went to business college, and because they needed some -- Jim Batley, I think, was having health problems at that time and he took care of the books, and

I think they thought well, it would be nice if my dad, Milton, would have a little knowledge of bookkeeping and whatnot. And so Dad went to Wilson Business College downtown during that period of time.

He worked part time and went to business college part time during those early years. And then after that -- I don't think he went back to packing shingles. He could still pack 'em, but he then became more of the office manager and bookkeeper.

Q But his father stayed there?

A Father was still there.

Q As long as he --

A His father was there but not -- not all of his life. His father -- in 1935 his father in the meantime had deteriorated because of breaking his health then, but when 1935 came along and they put in the six hour a day, he said, "Milton," he said, "I just can't run a mill on six hours a day." He was working ten hours a day.

"Six hours a day," he said, "I just can't run a mill that way."

Q Oh, my goodness.

A And he was older and he was probably about 67 at that time. And so from that day forward Dad was the big one there with his dad always in the background.

Q Oh, okay. That must have been difficult.

A He never got too -- he never got too far away from the mill, but he wasn't there on a regular basis.

Q Yeah. I see. It must have been hard --

A But he was always the boss.

Q I bet that was hard on your father.

A It was, it was, it was.

Q Now, did you ever have that situation?

A I had that same situation, but my dad was a different sort of a man than than his dad.

Q Uh-huh.

A I could . . . I wasn't intimidated.

Q Uh-huh.

A But my father -- and I think Dad might have been intimidated by his father.

Q Well, yes, in those days.

A A little bit.

Q In those days.

A Yeah, right.

Q Well, what kind of people did you have working for you?

A Well, gee, we had all kinds of people. We had family men, we had fishermen that would fish during the -- a fishing season and then come and look in the mills for a job during the -- the closed season for fishing. We had our share of -- I'm going to say drunks -- that's not a very nice word to use.

Q Uh-huh. No, I know what you mean.

A But tavern -- tavery people. We had our share of those, and some of 'em were excellent workers so you put up with their shenanigans .

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A And then you had some really fine men that -- that, like I say, worked for us for 35, 40 years that you couldn't have asked for a better relationship with those men. And some of them were -- Tylers, in particular, Cal Wrightenaur (phonetic) and Ted Springstead (phonetic) and Roy Robinson, Jack Johnson. I mean four -- Russell Thigh (phonetic) in the fire room. We had a lot of regular employees that stayed with us a long time.

Q I see. Well now, what nationality were most of them?

A Well, let's see.

Q Or were they?

A Well, there were some Scandahooivians (phonetic), of course. Scandinavians with the fishermen. I don't -- I don't recall -- we had a few Indian descent, American Indian, we -- I'll tell you what we didn't have. We never saw any Oriental or you didn't see any black.

Q Uh-huh.

A Or Mexican. So they were mainly Caucasian.

Q Uh-huh.

A Yeah.

Q I would have thought so in Ballard.

A Yes, yes.

Q It was even when we came to Ballard.

A Yes.

Q That was the case.

A Yeah.

Q So, uh-huh.

A No, Ballard didn't have any.

Q Huh.

A Yeah.

Q Now, what was it you did in the mill then? Did you take over from your father?

A Yes, I did because my dad died early. Dad died in 19 -- well, not early as far as the mill goes, but Dad died in 1961. So then I did from that time forward. I was in the mill.

Q I see.

A But I'd been there all along.

Q Uh-huh.

A And then Dad had some health problems himself. He had a heart attack in '55 and he spent some time in California, so from about '55 on I kind of took more charge maybe because of his health problems.

Q Uh-huh.

A But he was there.

Q Now, you didn't take over when grandfather was still --

A No.

Q (Continuing) -- coming --

A (Continuing) -- I -- no, I did not. No, my grandfather died in '45, and I was -- I was overseas at that time.

Q Overseas, yes, uh-huh. I see.

A Right. No, I wasn't even in the mill really at that

time.

Q Uh-huh. Now, you only worked eight hours five days a week, didn't you, pretty much?

A Yeah. Let's see. When -- when I -- that was about it. It was a six-hour shift, but I was working probably eight to five would have been my normal, but then we started sometimes second shift at seven. So I could have been there from seven to five but not on a machine where I was working all the time.

Q No, I see, I see.

A Right.

Q But now, when your brother -- when your great uncle died, all they did was own shares, his descendants?

A Yes. Jim and -- and Bill had equal shares. I think Bill had one more share than Jim. Why, I don't know, but anyway they had almost an equal share in the company. They had a third partner in there, a fellow by the name of Ward and he had a minority interest in it. And then they had a few other minority stockholders in there, but the big stockholders were Jim and Bill, and when Jim died, of course his family then had the stock of Phoenix and if there were dividends, and there usually were dividends declared, then they got their share as did Jim --

Q Now, did that support that family, continue to support that family or --

A It -- let's say it helped.

Q It helped.

A It helped.

Q I see. They had to go out and do something else?

A Well, I don't know that much about that family. They had a daughter Margaret and I've known Margaret over the years, and she's not living today. They -- they were able to live quite comfortably.

Q I see.

A So there was no hardship ever.

Q Uh-huh.

A Right.

Q I see, uh-huh.

A No hardship.

Q Well, I think you've asked that -- answered that.

A Okay.

Q Get a kick out of it. Somebody young had written this up, and they said, "Did you get it from the north Cascades?" And I thought you wouldn't get logs from there in those days. Right?

A Ah -- ah, well, you say north Cascade. Now, we did get logs out of Sultan which is kind of on the way up to the north Cascades.

Q This is true.

A And --

Q Now, how did those logs come?

A Those logs came in probably to Marysville.

Q Oh, I see.

A And to the log dump at Marysville --

Q And then --

A (Continuing) -- and then towed down.

Q That's right. I see.

A Uh-huh.

Q I remember seeing those -- that log dump.

A Do you? Yeah.

Q Quite often. Yes.

A Right. Right off of that -- what's the name of that slough there? I can't --

Q That's --

A There's a slough that runs in there and it's on that slough, the one I'm recalling.

Q Yes, yes.

A Right.

Q Is that Ebey?

A Ebey, that's it, Ebey Slough.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Right.

Q Well now, what did you do with the logs when they came in?

A Ah --

Q They came in on the tow?

A They came in on the tow, and we pulled 'em a couple of rafts at a time up to the mill, sideways to the mill. And then our boom man would break open the boom sticks. You have boom sticks that keep the logs in place. And

then we would -- they would move the logs down and put them on our slip. And it was a great big bull chain with big buckets on there, iron, coming down into the water, deep into the water. And you put the log up in there, you poke it up there on the -- it was floating.

Q Uh-huh.

A Up there. These lugs would pick it up and move it up the slip like this and then into the -- into the mill proper where you then would --

Q So your man on -- that did this had to be on logs all the time?

A Yeah, he was the boom man.

Q Yeah, boom man.

A He was the boom man.

Q That's all he did.

A And then he gradually -- he had a winch out there and he had his peevee and he would winch -- as you started using the raft, he'd be able to pull it down close to him by using his ropes and --

Q Now this was pretty much of a senior person, wasn't he, and quite experienced to be able to do that?

A Well, he was pretty skilled. The boom man had to be pretty skilled --

Q Pretty skilled

A (Continuing) -- on the water. Yes, he was.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Yes, I'd consider him so.

Q And they didn't fall in very often?

A Occasionally they would. They'd fall in, but they'd always get themselves out.

Q Uh-huh.

A We never had any problem with that.

Q You didn't?

A No, no.

Q Oh, my goodness. I know it used to just amaze me that they could --

A They're just like cats on the water.

Q Yes, they really are.

A Yeah.

Q It's amazing, for goodness sake.

A Yeah, just like cats.

Q So you brought the logs in?

A Into the mill.

Q And you put 'em into the mill. And then what happens?

A We put 'em up in -- there's a great big slip like this that pulls 'em out of the water and up into the mill. When it got up into the mill -- and in those days most of your logs were round. They were nice logs.

Q Uh-huh.

A Big logs. We had a great big cut-off saw, eighty-four inch cut-off saw, and we had a cut-off sawyer and he would control that saw and drop it down and start sawing that log right to.

Q Oh.

A He had a bumper, there was a bumper there on the deck, and as you brought the log up, it hit this steel bumper and couldn't go any further. Well, that was the length that we wanted for our shingles at 16 inch.

Q Oh.

A So it hit the bumper and stopped, and then he'd drop his saw down and cut that off, and then they would take that big -- now, you got a round doughnut -- or not a doughnut but a round log now, and they'd turn it, roll it, flop it over on our splitter, and the splitter was on a steam piston. You dropped it on the table and then the splitterman would throw a lever here, which was a steam lever, and it would throw that carriage with that log

into the saw. Then you'd pull it back and then you'd twist it half turn; run it through again so that round log now becomes four quarters.

Q Uh-huh, I see, uh-huh.

A Like that. Then from there it would go into a chute, and the block piler would pick it off the chute, carry it over to the sawyer's table, and then the sawyer would take that, put it into his carriage and then step on the lever, and then the carriage would go through the block of wood. And each time it did, it would peel off the shingle, and he'd pick that up and put it on his tipper table, grade it one, two or three and throw it down the chute to the packer down below.

Q Oh.

A And he'd put it in bundles, and then it would be hauled out to the green end and put on kiln trucks and put into the steam dry kiln.

Q Oh.

A Where it stayed for maybe three or four weeks.

Q Oh, in other words, you worked with green -- green wood, green logs then?

A Yes.

Q And did all the drying after it was --

A That's right.

Q I see. Well now, it sounds as if these logs were pretty darn good quality logs.

A In the early days they were excellent logs.

Q And those -- they wouldn't even use those for shingles anymore, would they?

A I doubt it. No, most of those logs today, if they're going anywhere, would go into cedar lumber, clear lumber --

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Certainly not into shingles. In the last few years that the shingle mill ran, we were getting what we used to call the butt cuts. In the early days, you know, when they logged --

Q I know. Way --

A They cut off up here.

Q They -- yes.

A So it round up there. But in the latter years they were going down and you were getting swelled butts on these logs.

Q Uh-huh.

A And that saw couldn't go through all of 'em. You had to go in and chop out a --

Q Oh, really.

A (Continuing) -- chunk and then the saw'd come down and make another pass and then you'd have to chop out --

Q Oh.

A It -- times changed.

Q Was that because of the size or what?

A Because of the size and shape of the log.

Q Oh, I see.

A It became more difficult to handle the cedar when you were getting that type of --

Q Uh-huh.

A (Continuing) of timber. And that's what it resulted in because they were hydrating it.

Q Uh-huh.

A They were picking out the lumber or the logs that they wanted for their own mills, and you got what was left over; whereas in the early days they got all kinds --

Q Sure, uh-huh.

A (Continuing) -- and they didn't worry about sorting.

Q I see.

A This is down at the -- in your South Bend, I'm speaking of, Weyerhaeuser's operation down there.

Q Uh-huh.

A Where they brought it all in by logging train and dumped it into the bay and did their sorting down there.

Q Uh-huh.

A And then we'd tow it up from Olympia up to here.

Q Well now, the mills were in no way automatic then?

The people doing the work had to --

A There was -- there is, as far as I knew, for every operation there was in the mill, there wasn't anything that was automatic.

Q In other words, it was up to the man who was --

A There was a man there that usually governed whatever it was. The man on the --

Q I see.

A The man on the cut-off saw also brought the log up.

Q Uh-huh.

A And if I've got that log down there that he's put on the slip, I can start -- I can pull a lever here and that starts that bull chain and runs that log up to where I can stop it.

Q Uh-huh.

A So he controlled the log coming up and also controlled the saw going through . . .

Q And there was always men, wasn't it?

A Oh, yes, always -- always men in the shingle -- it wasn't automated.

Q Uh-huh.

A The -- the shingle mill -- the original 1907-1910 shingle mill was a little different operation than the -- than the last mill that they built. The first -- the first mills that they had were what they call a line shaft mill, and that is that they had steam power and they -- but the steam power ran a line shaft through the whole mill, big shaft, and then all of the individual machinery would be hooked up to that line shaft and that would run their saws and everything off that one great big line shaft.

Q I see.

A But the earlier -- the later mills then had electric motors for each individual machine; whereas before it was all done with belts.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Yeah.

Q Well, in a hundred years and somebody listens to your tape, why --

A Yeah.

Q (Continuing) -- they'll say, "Oh, my goodness."

A Yeah, right, right.

Q "That's different."

A Yeah, right.

Q "That's different." So . . .

A Yeah.

Q And your saws were how big, did you say?

A Well, the shingle saw was about 44 inch. That's the one that went over here and cut the shingles off.

Q Uh-huh.

A And the clipper saw --

Q So in other words, no log that you handled would have been any more diameter than 44 inches?

A Oh, I'm sorry, no. I thought you were talking about the shingle saw.

Q Oh.

A The cut-off saw --

(End of side one.)

A So we had some interesting things in there.

Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

A Well, you can see.

Q Oh, yes, uh-huh.

A I don't know how this ad could survive all of the fires --

Q What are you going to do with it?

A You know what I think I'm going to do with it is take it down there to the -- to your museum and --

Q I think you really should because that's where that sort of thing belongs.

A Yeah, that's right.

Q And otherwise they get lost.

A That's right.

Q You know, so --

A I think -- I don't know how it survived three fires, but somehow it did.

Q Oh.

A And I remember being in there, in the third mill and saying, "Gee, look at that, how did that old book" --- I think it was in our old safe that we had.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A And I said, "Boy, that's somethin' that should be kept." And I'm sure tickled that I kept it.

Q Well, yes.

A Well, here's the mills that were there that they listed in October. This is 1907.

Q Uh-huh.

A And our name happens to be on the front, but naturally you'd put your own name there, I guess. Phoenix Shingle

Company, Acme Shingle Company, Motor Shingle Company --
am I writing -- going too fast here?

Q Well, it's -- get this recorder to -- it doesn't really
make that much difference, but --

A Okay.

Q Uh-huh.

A Motor Shingle Company, Starr, and that's S-t-a-r-r,
Shingle Company.

Q Uh-huh.

A Starr, I think, was a mayor, an early mayor of Ballard.

Q Oh, uh-huh.

A Campbell Shingle Company, Sobie, S-o-b-i-e, Manufacturing
Company, but they were shingles.

Q Hum.

A Then they list Wylie hyphen Schumaker, that's S-c-h-u-m-
a-k-e-r.

Q S-c-h-u-m --

A A-k-e-r. Wylie-Schumaker.

Q Hum.

A And then the next one is Taylor hyphen McLoughlin, M-c-
l-o-u-g-h-i-n.

Q Hum.

A Now change that. I think that McLaughlin is L-a-u --
is that what I said, or L-o?
Q You said "o".
A I think it's "a". It looks like an "a", McLaughlin.
Q Uh-huh.

Q And these were shingle companies in 1907?
A These were all shingle companies in 1907.
Q My gosh, huh.
A There was a Tergin, T-e-r-g-i-n, Shingle Company.
Q How did you spell that?
A T-e-r-g-i-n.
Q Okay.
A Tergin. I never -- I don't know that one at all.

Cascade Shingle and Woodland, W-o-o-d-l-a-n-d,
Woodland and the last one that they've reported --
Q Was that W-o-o-d-l-a --
A N-d. Woodland. Maybe I said "lawn". Woodland.
Q Uh-huh.
A And the last one here is Nichols, which is N-i-c-h-o-l-s.
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
eleven, twelve. There's twelve -- twelve shingle mills.
They didn't list any lumber companies; they were all
shingle mills.

Q Oh, for gosh sake. Now, Nichols, N-i-c --
A N-i-c-h-o-l-s.
Q Now --

A If I can read that writing.

Q Some of the times it's really difficult, isn't it?

A I know it.

Q Well now, all your company did was make shingles, though;
it didn't do anything else?

A It, for most of its life, it did nothing but make red

cedar shingles.

Q (Continuing)-- it couldn't have been too --

A Oh, yeah, sure

Q (Continuing) -- a difficult problem.

A No, no, we were -- always had union employees from that day forward.

Q Uh-huh.

A And we always negotiated on an industry basis.

Q Uh-huh.

A So then all of the mills were affected by whatever came out of the negotiations with the Shingle Weavers Union.

Q Uh-huh.

A In fact I used to sit on -- on some of those negotiating committees back in the early '50s.

Q Uh-huh.

A And so I can say firsthand that it was done on a very --

Q It was --

A (Continuing) -- business-like manner.

Q It was industry-wide, though?

A Industry-wide.

Q Certainly. Was that -- that was one of the first unions to do that, wasn't it, to close down a whole industry?