

Today we have the story of two people born on Salt Spring. Our interviewer Mrs. Dorothy Rotinouski, Memoth Millon born in Duncan in 1907. Dorothy wrote for the Colunist for over 1/4 of a century Today she is interviewing Dorreen Morris who's nee Krofften, the grand-daughter of Reverand C. Wilson and daughter of Mr. Fred Krofften who is the original owner of the Harbour House Hotel. With us also we have Mrs. Betty Stone nee Kingsbuty who's born in 1912 on the Old Divide. "Would you like to begin the interview Dorothy."

Interviewer: <sup>Betty Stone</sup> When did you parents come to the Island?

Guest: Well dad came out from Ireland in I think was 1903 with by a Australia with a pal Hue Green who also settled on the Island near Fulford. Daddy bought up on the dDivide and he was going to go in for Chicken faming only he didn't know anything about it. Mother followed him out the following year. They were married down in the church at Fulford. (Understand that the first couple married in that church.) Mother came out from Dublin she was a city girl and could never done anything, she found it terribly lonely where they were they didn't see people where they were for two or three weeks at a time. The chicken ranching didn't amount to anything so before the war dad was postmaster down at Ganges for Moat who's known as Granny Mouat what in those days. We lived where the Hastings are now and we're next door neighbors to the Krofftens so I sort of grew up with them. Then war broke out daddy joint up and we left for Victoria and returned 11 years after-wards.

Interviewer: True you were born here weren't you Dorreen?

Guest: || I was born at Harbour House

Interviewer: Which was a land mark and still is.

Guest: Whick was a farm House at the time in 1911

Interviewer: Was it run as a farm?

Guest: It was a farm until 1916

Interviewer: And that's when your mother -

Guest: My mother and my uncle Norman Wilson went into partnership for a short time .

Interviewer: That was when your father was over seas.

Guest: He was over seas.

Interviewer: That was Fred <sup>CROFTON</sup> ~~Krofften~~ wasn't it?

Guest: It was Fred Krofften yes.

Interviewer: And they started with tents?

Guest: It was tents and candle light and I think the Family ~~we all did~~ the cooking to start with until faithful Billy Eing came 40 years ago or so.

who? <sup>Back message</sup> <sup>Big Red</sup> <sup>Wilson</sup> <sup>1909</sup>

Interviewer: Yes well it was acually wasn't it that your mother felt friends of hers must be lonely with their husbands over seas, and asked them to come for.

Guest: Yes it was it just grew by you know knowing many people who owned it.. When you think of it it was \$14.00 a week or something like that, some of it was even cheaper than that weeks on end.

Interviewer: So you always lived on the Island, haven't you?

Guest: Yes.

Interviewer: So you have seen the tremendous changes that its come? Some bad some good.

Guest: Some is sad to see the changes, and others I think is all for the good.

Interviewer: But as a small town, what sort of are your memories of the Island, any how

Guest: They always, none of us had very much money, it was all like it was I think for anybody in those days. If anybody gave us 5¢ we thought we had a million. Which I remember very kind people giving to us.

Interviewer: Well not only that your fun would be made by yourselves.

Guest: Oh yes! My brothers went over digging potatoes on ~~Prevos~~ **PREVOST** Island when they were 12 and 14. Dad was over seas and we use to make money. You know this was during the war, when mother ran the hotel herself and then we had

Interviewer: The father must have been rather surprized to come home

Guest: Yes a growing faimily.

Interviewer: How many was there in your family?

Guest: There was seven, six before he went over seas. So he was left with little ones, but the older ones and you know Diana sister Diana was the older one.

Interviewer: Well your Grandfather Reverand D. F. Wilson was he not the first resident clergymen.

Guest: Well there has been contreversy over that, but I always believe that he was the first resident.

Interviewer: That he was here quite along time I mean from 1894 till..

Guest: 1912 then he went to Victoria.

Interviewer: And he lived in Victoria.

*Sioux*

Guest: 2 Yes They lived, acually came from Sew Saint Marie to Victoria on the burnside road, and that was the second burnsbury cause the old home in England was called burnsbury, and they called this home on burnside road burnsbury. When they moved to Salt Spring Isand in 1894 B Ornsbury which is now the Salt Spring Island golf club.

Interviewer: The big old House that was there burned down didn't it?

Guest: 2 Yes.

Interviewer: But it was a golf club befor that, just started when it..

Guest: 2 Yes, It was quite a few years before. To think uncle Norman I think he was dead when it burnt down wasnt it yes lois and Jack Kays.

Interviewer: In your sort of earlier memories you must have known almost everyone on the island.

Guest: 2 Yes we did. I can remember funny things about them all. Just Betty and I were reminising about old Mr. ~~Neneol~~ *Neneol* he used to drive a horse from Long Harbour and orders just when the first motor cars were coming in there was a gas Pump antrading company so he blithly would drive up and tie his rope around the gas pump while he went in to get his stores. And then he always visited the pub, Dads store the beer parlor about 1923 / 24.

Interviewer: That's when the pub was open?

Guest: 2 Yes it was after he came home that took awhile to get a little place.

Interviewer: I didn't know it was that long.

Guest: 11 *Betty Tomlie* The first car was Mr. Blackburn up on the Divide and then Mr. Bullock, Daddy was secretary of the agricultural show in those days and he wrote a letter to Mr. Bullock he had it framed for years. Doctor ~~Thomly~~ got it in the end or Gavin Moat, they wanted it asking Mr. Moat if he'd drive his car down to Ganges on a Thursday and round where the Mahon Hall is now, so that the horses could get used to the car, because thecream and the eggs and everything were taking off in every direction because of the car.

Interviewer: Because the horses were scared of the car?

Guest: 2 Yes

Interviewer: So he could only drive the odd market day.

Guest: 2 No, wasn't there another day when he the ladies wanted to ride on their horses or their ponies.

*Guest 11*  
Interviewer: Yes he was definately restricted to when he could drive the car, and when he would bring it down for the horses to get use to it.

Interviewer: Well Blackburn is that who Blackburn lake is named after?

Guest: 2 Yes.

Interviewer: It is now that museum. Well where were you born?

Guest: 1 I was born on the Divide just up behind Blackburn.

Interviewer: Well there was no road as we no it now it went over the Divide.

Guest: 1 Yes it went over the Divide to Fulford.

Interviewer: It was sort of like over a small mountain really wasn't it?

Guest: 1 Yes, we'd go up the mountain and collect 10¢ each and get a jug of wine.

Interviewer: Call it mountain Dew.

Guest: 1 Nelson's blood and all kinds of weird things an get a gallon of this stuff for 50¢. Drive home quite happy (never ran into any trouble no policeman no worries.) Not even in the ditches in those days, course I think that the cars the old Fords which we drove, couldn't go fast enough, the roads were very windy and you think you were going a terrific rate but it was just the bumps and the bangs that were going on.

Interviewer: And then you moved to Victoria and came back here though, Didn't you?

Guest: 1 I went to left during the war.

Interviewer: No but you went to school in Victoria for a while?

Guest: 1 Yes well I left the island when I was about two, and then came back when I was 13.

Interviewer: Oh! and finished school over here.

Guest: 1 Yes.

Interviewer: And then you were in charge of the telephone for..

Guest: 1 Well I went to work in the telephone office in about 1926 I guess, and in those days it was open from ten-one and five-seven on Sundays and it closed at 10:30 at night.

Interviewer: On weekdays?

Guest: On weekdays until during the war agter Japan entered the war there was a deal of Jap balloon landing being sighted on Maxwell Mountain or Musgraves I'm not sure which it was, one of the higher mountains. So I had to keep the office open all night cause we had blackouts in those days you know, I had to check everybody with blackouts. That was the first time that the office from then on it was open at night. In those days there was only 200 subscribers.

Guest 11

Interviewer: And party lines to.

Guest: 1 Yes, there would be seven or eight on a party line. And at night if there was ~~someone~~ <sup>any</sup> very ill we had sort of a three way plug ~~we'd~~ <sup>we'd</sup> plug them in with a doctor or if there was an emergency they'd either wait <sup>with Mrs.</sup> with Akins who was the agent or myself, and we'd go with them any emergencies, which there was once in awhile. <sup>and open the office for</sup>

Interviewer: Well ther would be no ambulance then would there?

Guest: No, and if there was a fire you just phone up anyone that was around

<sup>Guest 11</sup> Interviewer: And the questions used to get, we'd phone the telephone operator and say is the boat coming down the harbour, What time is Merie coming in, Or what was the time. Always very polite they got this awnser you know they'd give us the time. Or if there was a fire, where was the fire?

Guest: And Central would always tell us. And somebody would phone and they'd want so an so and we'd know that she was out playing bridge or having tea, and we'd say try Mrs. so and so she's home .

Interviewer: It was more of a friendly exchange than a telephone exchange.

Guest: It was a terrific deal on election night, because ther was definately Liberals and Conservatives <sup>Kings were Conservatives</sup> and Moats were the Liberals yousee and every time Uncle Fred would have a grandchild, there would be another Conservative or Liberal.

<sup>Guest 11</sup> Interviewer: It would be he'd phone Gilbert up and say I have another Conservative out.

Guest: 2 And they were you know.

uest: And would Moat reciprocate?

<sup>Guest 11</sup> Interviewer: Oh yes they were great pals <sup>Guest 1</sup> and I generally was working election night and if the conservatives were winning Major Turner was a great conservative and I get a little present from Turners store. And if Moats were winning I'd get a box of chocolates sent over from Moats.

<sup>Guest 11</sup> Interviewer: It was sort of up and down as if you had anything to do with it really.

Guest: But it was just Oh Bedlum.

Interviewer: Exciting I guess but I imagine just ordinary it wasn't to...

Guest: When St. <sup>Pauls</sup> Georges Church burnt down I was asleep then.

Interviewer: I never knew St. Georges burnt down.

Guest: Yes was up on the hill.

<sup>Guest 11</sup> Interviewer: It was called St. Pauls.

Guest: Yes.

Interviewer: Whereabouts was that?

Guest: Opposite Claire Butterfield's it was right on the hill there.

Interviewer: On Ganges Hill?

Guest: Yes, and Ivan Moat rushed down and woke me up and said the Church is on fire," and I rushed down and phone everyone around to go up.

Guest 11:

Interviewer: Take Mr. Bullocks house was burnt and the Harbour House.

Interviewer: Was that burnt while he was here?

Guest: No No, the knew people the Loas. <sup>was</sup>

Interviewer: Well he was quite a personality on the island for years.

Guest: Oh very much, he taught me how to drive. And he had a car, he was very large I guess you seen pictures of him, and the wheel of the car would go up so he could get in and then it would come back into place. He was an amazing person. He taught me how to carve ham and chickens. He'd have these dinners and he'd ask different girls to hostess them. And we'd have to know how to properly carve things. If you were asked to supper you would wear a short dress, if you were asked for dinner you would wear a long dress. And he had all these boys from the orphanage in Victoria. But also seven <sup>boys</sup> <sup>long dinner</sup> <sup>cost</sup> in a it was cream sauces and everything and all the time he was talking about a 18" waist, and here he was feeding us up we were almost groaning from food. And there was either a long pair of earrings, kid gloves, 16" heels. <sup>Green</sup>

Interviewer: 16" you mean 6.

Guest: 11 <sup>(Guest 1)</sup> (I mean 6 yes,) and he did tell us even if we went to Ganges to meet the boat to wear high heels and he liked a veil, just to give a good appearance <sup>Green</sup>

Guest: 1 <sup>Beautiful</sup> Beautiful kid gloves given to us, and he was a great one for gimicks he had something that would sharpen knives, he would'nt buy one he'd buy a case or alarm clocks he'd buy a case of alarm clocks. And he was terribly generous he'd give these things. <sup>Beck</sup>

Interviewer: I mean he'd give, say he bought the case he'd keep one and give the rest away is that the idea.

Guest: 1 Yes,

Interviewer: But they say alot of gals that use to come over here they'd go back..

Guest: 2 <sup>Green</sup> It was with their ears pierced.

Interviewer: Who pierced ears?

Guest: 11 We all went to the doctor but he would do it himself if anybody would let him. He always gave you the little gold rings or what you call sleepers, that was the first thing he gave any body who got their ears pierced

Guest 1: *Better* But the shoes were really quite something.

Interviewer: Was he on to shoes to?

Guest 1: *Better* Oh yes, beautiful shoes, six inch heels.

Interviewer: But you couldn't wear those down to meet the boat?

Guest 1: *Better* Oh you were suppose to wear them as much as you could.

Guest 2: *Over* I can remember we use to if we had to many gloves turn them into Eatons and get a nice jersey or sweater.

Guest 1: Oh is that what you did I didn't know you could.

Guest 2: Oh yes they were very good about it.

Interviewer: Well they probably came from England in the first place.

Guest 2: No there was some from Eatons french kid.

Guest 1: Oh we'd have the long white ones you know which would cost a mint now. But he had a great big bureau in his bedroom numerous bedrooms up there.

Guest 2: When were you there?

Guest 1: Well I was numerous bedrooms and all these droors were labelled with different sizes of the gloves. And these boys were great at they'd have saxaphones and all different instruments in the kitchen, remember, we'd be having dinner and he use to entertain Frasar Thomly, anyone

Guest 2: *Tomlee*  
Leiutenant Governer Bruce.

Guest 1: There would be a little silence during dinner and you would hear terrific saxaphone going in the background.

Guest 2: The boys felt they cooked the dinner and then they were haveing fun and games.

Interviewer: One oppportunity for them though, I guess, it would be an education for them.

Guest 2: Oh yes and he was very good to them I think.

Guest 1: Well the log cabin was bought for one of his boys, he built the log cabin.

Interviewer: Which is now the crafts isn't it?

Guest 1: No it's now the ships anchor. *(Rita's Inn)*

Interviewer: The ships anchor?

Guest 1: Yes.

Interviewer: But among yourselves, where did you go to school?

Guest 2: Mrs. Ashton who was later Mrs. Oxyum *Ram*

Interviewer: And she had a little school in Ganges?

Guest 1: Yes kindergarten. Thats the one I have the picture of that I'm afraid I burnt. I had it put away for Miller and Toynbee and its diasappeared.

Guest 2: And them we all went to the public school.

Interviewer: Where was that?

Guest 2 : There was one where Mrs Case Morris, Gavin Moat lived at one time and them the next one was up where the Catholic school is.

Guest 1: And them we went to the Chicken House.

Guest 2: That was the high school.

Guest 1 The high school was a converted chicken house, on the agriculture grounds, behind the Mahon Hall.

Guest @ Ir's really where the junior school is now but it was a high school converted from a chicken coup as we call it.

Interviewer: Well they converted chicken coups during the war for housing so I guess it wasn't to bad.

Guest 1: *B* We had alot of sports on the island when we were young because we had alot of ...

Guest 2: keen athletics.

Interviewer: I was gonna ask you tennis was a very well, tennis was the main thing.

Guest 1: Tennis and grass hockey.

Guest 2: And the boys were basketball.

Guest 1: We played basketball.

Guest 2: Yes we did too. I think they were better than we were.

Guest 1: Well I wouldn't say that. Well <sup>Guest 2</sup> they beat the blue ribbons one time on Salt Spring) to go over to Shamanis and Duncan and play the black cat Cafe.

Guest 2: We weren't very popular in Duncan I don't think.

Guest 1: *B* No we weren't but thats another story.

Guest 4: *B* I remember we use to walk up to Saint Mary's Lake and you could skate right across the lake. And we walked up to Bullocks,

Guest 1: We did an awful lot of walking in those days.

Guest 2: yes, a great bonfire we'd have at the dge of the lake and skate across the lake.

Guest 1: We could skate right across Saint Mary's Lake.

Interviewer: It hasn't been frozen over I don't think since I've been here.

Guest 2: No I think it was only one winter was very solid. But Mr. Bullocks lake we did.

Interviewer: But tennis there were other tennis courts other than those at Harbour House.

uest 1: Mr. Bullock had a tennis court we use to play with mrs Hally<sup>9</sup> out at the North End.

Guest 2: Mrs Hally<sup>9</sup> and the Bess<sup>+</sup> I don't remember Simpsonsons Much.

Guest 1: Yes Simpsons. Another thing in the old days the boat, I forgotten whick is the one that is suppose to come in and they..

Interviewer: Well the Mary came for a long time, but I don't know what earlier than that.

Guest1<sup>!</sup> I am thinking of Dad and George Boridills time the boys that use to like to have the odd drink, they'd go on board and the captain would take the boat out. *Probadale*

Guest 2: They had a barge.

Guest 1: I think they had to be what five miles out then they'd open the bar then bring the boys back. One time Dad and George Boridill came to and they were in Nanimo together. They'd order their liquor it would be in kegs you'd get a keg of scotch and ~~mom~~ use to say that all the good boys around would spot their name on the keg and you would have visitors around for the next two weeks dropping in.

Guest 2: In those days the girls and the ladies did't drink at all it was just the men.

Interviewer: Even wine? *1913*

Guest 1: I dont think so. They didn't smoke either.

Interviewer: Not in public anyway?

Guest 1: Talking of smoke , my nurse when I was being born was Granny Chies and she's grandmother of the Acremens, greatgrandmother. *ackerman*

Interviewer: She only died a few years ago didn't she?

Guest 1: Well she when we were up on the Cranberry, of course I was born up in the Cranberry, not in the hospital or anything and granny Chives. was the nurse and she was sitting of the bed smoking a pipe, mother could see her through the window. *glas mirror*

*out of order*

Guest 2: School concert and a dance.

Guest 1: Dance you'd go to central and you'd go to the Divide and you'd go to Beaver Point and Fulford and you'd take them all in.

Guest 2: And all the yachts use to come from the Vancouver yacht club, that was in our girlhood days.

Interviewer: That was the big event.

Guest 2: Oh yes!

Guest 1: And there was always a Saturday night dance, at Harbour House when we dress up we never went, before the war, it was evening dress definitely,

Guest 2: It was after the war that one started wearing just ordinary clothes. these yachts use to come in their sporting clothes and here were all the girls in their long dresses. We'd wear a bunny coat to go on board for a drink after.

Interviewer: Didn't the navy use to call in here quite often.

Guest 1: Oh yes, I spent my 21st birthday on the ~~hood~~. And then they'd have a dance up at Barnsbury then Mr. Bullock had the navy up for dinner one night.

Guest 2: Remember thenight there was a <sup>whist</sup> Wis drive up at Barnsbury and a naval ship was in and Admiral, a french name I can't think of it, anyway he came ashore in his full dress uniform and brought one of the officers with him, and as the wis drive they were a little late to play that they were taken up to a bedroom to play poker, which insulted the admiral tremendously, not to be everything stopped and he included.

Interviewer: But there was, in before the second world war, a branch of Branch of Scottish here wasn't there.

Guest 2: Oh yes,

Interviewer: On the island?

Guest 2: Yes and actually brother Desmond was the first, you know, what you call it Lieutenant Desmond Kroften. He was in charge of the company here and Harry Nicloes was the sergeant. Colonel Babty use to come over and teach us highland dancing.

Guest 1: Then during the war alot of the boys from Sydney, the airforce, Uncle Norman had bonds that he hadn't any sons over seas so he would give them free for weekends. They would come over, there were alot of the English airforce that were out on leave sort of not sick.

Guest 2: They had a, at Pat Bay wasn't there alot of English men went..

Interviewer: And he would put them up at barnsbury?

Guest 1: War effort sort of deal.

Interviewer: Sort of let them have a good time while they were on leave.

Interviewer: She was the mid wife was she?

Guest 2: Yes. Well Doctor Beach and Doctor Baker.

Interviewer: At first there would'nt be any doctor here?

Guest 2: Well I know Grandfather Wilson developed a helter brought cousin barrel Welrol into the world because it was a rush call and he had don't know what you call it walked the hospital and somenguy's and he had a certain amount of training, so he brought the granddaughter into the world.

Interviewer: Well the hospital it self is now the community center?

Guest 2: Yes. That was, Doctor Beach donated the land that was I think brother Pat was born in that hospital I think he was the first of the Kroftens to be born there. We all were born at home. *Kroftens*

Interviewer: Was he the youngest in the family?

Guest2: No then Delsy. I know we all had to work harder, it was something that was drummed into us. As somebody said " We worked hard and played hard" but you know we loved sports, but we all had to work harder least I remember.

Guest 1: But as Dorothy said about making our own fun, true they were all house parties in those days and tennis parties.

Guest1: Sort of about three centers really there was Barnsbury, Harbour House, Mr Bullocks for offical things.

Interviewer: How about down at Fulford?

Guest 2: And Fulford was the white lodge ar' the white house as it was called in those days.

Interviewer: And that burned down two or three times.

Guest 2: Two or three times.

Interviewer: Until there is nothing there now.

Guest 2: At first we were'nt allowed to go to public dances like the Mahon Hall or Central.

Guest 1: Oh we were always chaperoned.

Guest 2: Yes .

Guest 1: Mrs. Bes\$ was a great chaperone.

Guest 1" But there was a terrific amount of dances. And then later when we were going to school, schools everywhere, there wasn't a central school, everyone would have a school dan ce and you's be going the whole week of school.

Guest 1: An then during the war there waqs quite something Captain Bestors the head of it acually any plane going over while you were on the phone you'd get a call from Fulford and you'd have to clear the long distance line through to Sydney, and you'd time it like when the call came in at Fulford this plane was spotted, and there were spotters right across the island. and you'd have them calling in from Fulford this plane was spotted . *Call and more*

k

Interviewer: Just to ensure safety.

Guest1: Any plane that went over was spotted.

Interviewer: This was after Pearl Harbour?

Interviewer: Yes because the ships all use to be blacked out.

Guest 2: There was a certain name for it.

Guest 2: I remember blacking out Harbour House with old blankets the whole thing and on the night of Pearl Harbour when they said imnent danger. As Betty said probably the phone was kept open but Charley Toynbee at the end of Moats Point didn't have a radio had no news had his light on all night going full blast. And the rest of us all suffering.

Guest 1: The same night *balloons* bloomers were suppose to be spotted they had, I forgotten what you call them I think Dermit was one and *Ceral* Wag and I had to call all the self defense, and they got in Ceral Wags, truch or a couple of trucks and roared up the mountain.

Interviewer: Expecting them to land on the...

Guest 1: Invasion to happen.

Guest 2: I don't know what they would want to invade us for. really I mean we weren't.

Interviewer: No but was it..

Guest 2: Well one did land at Sydney, well that would be near James Island, but I mean acually Salt Spring was of no vital interest for any Japs. Anyway they had to be on the alert.

Interviewer: There were several Japanese faimilys living on the island then weren't there?

Guest 1 : *Belt* Yes, they were mostly evacuated like they were from everywhere on the coast. I remember one day they all left on the Princess Mary Oh another thing that was quite interesting was when the Dukeabors were on Peir Island and Pier Island was taken over completely by all these Dukabors and they'd bring them in on Princess Mary they had them all down below and we'd go down to the wharf wen the boat came in which called in about three times a week. You'd see all these Dukabors chanting and singing. Alot of people got jobs from here on Piers Island as guards.

Interviewer: When did the ferry first start do You remember?

Guest 2: Oh god I don't know, 31.

Interviewer: Not until them! you had no way of getting.

Guest 2 : There use to be a little, Frank Kroften would drive a taxi down to the wharf and there was Laciter.

Guest 1 : Laciter had a little launch to go across to Sydney.

Interviewer: It was you might say watertaxi.

Guest 2: There was Laciter than <sup>Pollocks</sup> Pawlics later.

Interviewer: This would be a water taxi?

Guest 2: Yes.

Interviewer: And it would run in ruff weather?

Guest 2: Oh no, and if we didn't have a car we'd have to get on the old flying nine was it and it was later the coach lines.