

Interviewed: February 16, 1976

Mr. Jack Anderson,
3920 Burke Street,
Burnaby, B. C.

- Born in Iowa, he came to B. C. in 1919.
- Went to the Peace River County with his brother to farm; he was about 15 years old.
- Came to B. C. and went logging.
- Tried trapping and chose Rivers Inlet, however, the trapping didn't prove to be very sensible (all the ground was taken) so he went logging in Kildala Bay.
- Stayed on and became a fisherman and cannery worker, started at Brunswick Cannery.
- Canneries were Rivers Inlet Cannery, McTavish, Kildala, Brunswick, Good Hope, Strathcona, Wadhams, Beaver and Provincial.
- Cannery started in Moses Inlet by Jack Henrique - 3 canneries run by one group - with a man named Rutherford who started a cannery in Goose Bay.
- Eventually Canada Fish Co. bought them out.
- Frank Henrique went into Moses Inlet to start a cannery, with help from his son-in-law, Louie Hogan.
- Very difficult in the 30's to make any profit, chum salmon cost 35¢/fish that would fill 48 one pound cans and the case would sell for \$4.00 fish were 4¢ or 5¢ a piece and the fish were 12 pounds or so.
- Sail boats were used in the 20's, over 100 boats sailing out of Brunswick.
- A group of Japanese from Green's Cannery which was used for boat building and a hospital was situated there.
- Boardwalk connected them and walking the boardwalk was one way of getting exercise.
- Fine bay at Brunswick for storing all the equipment on float.
- At that time you weren't allowed ~~to~~ power to fish, just muscle power, this was lifted in the 20's by the Minister of Fisheries named Pound.
- It took a while before everything got motorized.
- Licenses were issued for each districts, the Japanese were confined to the district to fish; some Japanese stayed at canneries all year round.

- When the regulations changed to allow movement on the coast, the Fraser River fishermen would come to Rivers Inlet and they were more cut-throat and the competition was fierce.
- The Japanese spread out on the coast.
- 1925 bought a converted boat with a Easthope engine; used it for 12 years.
- He logged as well during the winter and trapped too at times.
- \$1,000.00 a year at that time was considered good money.
- Trapping was a tough and lonely business.
- You were independent.
- Started logging^{off} hand loggers and used a Gilchrist Jack to get the logs in the water.
- Power saws were used in '48 and they weren't worth having; big noisy, poor motors, noise level ruined his ears.
- Preferred a good 7 foot falling saw nearby and it was used more than a power saw.
- Logging in '29 brought a Fordson power machine for \$1,500 for logging.
- Never expected to fish.
- Quit logging in 1950 and went gillnetting until 1970.
- Stayed at Rivers Inlet.
- When you don't know all the problems in the fishing area you're better off out of it.
- Heart attacks are common among fishermen, many die in their 50's because of the pressure on them to fish in less time.
- Every cannery had the Chinese group who stayed by themselves, they cooked outside in a big pot, they were good hard workers.
- Also Indians came from all over to work in the canneries.
- Everybody got along like gears in a gear-box.
- Lots of drinking and homebrew made of prunes, peaches.
- Cannery season, fall fishery, cannery crews would come in spring for new pilings, net menders worked in the spring, mostly Scotmen and Nova Scotians and also Indian women were favoured for hanging nets.
- Net loft boss got paid the most.
- All of this is gone now in Rivers Inlet.
- Canneries are more mechanized.

- Fish are stored in brine and shipped to Vancouver or Prince Rupert.
- Fishing used to employ thousands of people but not now.
- The licensing of boats , to limits the number of boats, helped to drive the Indians out of the fishing industry; they were very dependent on fishing and the licenses meant that the older boats could no longer fish.
- The license limitation was an attempt to stop moonlighting on the Fraser River weekend fishermen.
- Jack Davis was Minister of Fisheries, licensed the boat not the fishermen.
- License depended on the amount of fish caught the previous two years.
- This eliminated the Indian fishermen, not because he was a poor fisherman but because he was a poor businessman and their numbers are greatly reduced today.
- At one time Owikeno Village had 20 or more boats.
- They started spreading out as well, in the old days the Indian fishermen could get his boat and gear from the company and he was as independent as any of the fishermen.
- It was a good set up for the coast.
- "We're going about this fish culture in the wrong way; we develop the Fraser and the Skeena and the Nass but we don't do anything in the central area".
- The fish from the Nass and the Skeena are caught by Alaska fishermen and the ones from the Fraser are caught by Washington boats and the whole district in between we do nothing or very little.
- The hatchery at Rivers Inlet was a good start, it was run by Frank Kingley (?)/
- He developed different things but he never had the money that he needed.
- In '35 which was a big cycle year, all the eggs were washed out and that run disappeared.
- A hatchery might have saved the run.
- Catches have gone down as the gear is more effecient.
- Discusses strikes at Rivers Inlet.
- First strike was in 1922, which ended in the middle of the season with no gain.

- Discusses the switch from pay per piece to price per pound and the need for a union, to improve prices.
- Recommends two ministers of fisheries one for each coast.
- Fishing is much more competitive now than it used to be.
- Many fishermen have spent too much on their gear that is necessary like investing \$50.00 to catch a \$5.00 fish.
- Industry doesn't warrant this amount of capital investment.
- Talks of Dr. Darby and his work at Bella Bella Hospital.
- Story of Dr. Darby and nurses going on a picnic.
- Tells the story of a trapper named Fred, got mauled by a grizzly bear and the difficulty of getting him to hospital..
- Tells the story of Olson with a peg leg who was shot at by McLusky while he was sleeping and had the tip of his leg nicked.