

Interviewed: February 24, 1976

Mr. Tony Paiger,
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- Mr. Paiger is the foreman of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.
- Started into the canning industry in 1945 at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.
- They hang, sell and buy gillnets.
- The nets used to be made of cotton, they are all nylon now.
- The cotton nets required more upkeep than the nylon ones do. For example, they had to be kept dry and they had to be "blue-stoned".
- "Blue-stoning": putting the nets into a copper sulphate solution to kill the bacterial life.
- The nylon nets are only bluestoned at the end of the season so they won't smell so bad.
- There has not been any change in the machinery at the Gulf of Georgia net loft as they only use a tow motor.
- Gillnet boats have changed substancially: they were mostly wooden and 30 ft. was a big boat, now they're mostly fibreglass and average 40 ft. have V-8 and diesels, they used to cruise at 5 or 6 knots.
- He was not in Steveston during the war.
- The Gulf of Georgia net loft handles more fishermen and gear than they did 30 years ago.
- When he started with the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, it was processing herring and they employed two to three hundreds people.
- They are now in the herring roe business.
- "Net work is by its very nature, has to be done by hands".
- They take the raw materials of a net and make it into a net at the Gulf of Georgia net loft.
- About the U.F.A.W.U. he says: "I think they've done more good than harm".
- There has never been any problem between the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and the U.F.A.W.U. according to Mr. Paiger.
- Has never been aware of any racial tensions.
- The process of "blue-stoning": You just soak the net in a solution for half an hour to an hour, then let it drain dry. We dry them because they are lighter to handle. Blue-stoning you get rid of any bits of fish or fish slime, it keeps the rats out".

- When the nylon nets came in the work at the Gulf of Georgia net loft changed, as they didn't require the consistent blue-stoning, they didn't have to be hung up like the linen nets, they could just be baled.
- Monofilament nets are used for herring but they are illegal for salmon because they were found to be too efficient.