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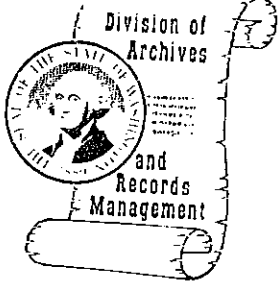
ACCESSION NO. WCT 75-1A m	TAPE NO.
INTERVIEWEE'S NAME MR. FRED LADE	

RELEASE

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INTERVIEWER MICHAEL A. RUNESTRAND	DATE 10/9/75
COMMUNITY ADVISOR Don D. Eklund	DATE
PROGRAM COORDINATOR Jimmie Fredrick	DATE 2/22/77

x Fred Lade
SIGNATURE (INTERVIEWEE)



TAPE ARCHIVE SHEET

INTERVIEWEE'S NAME Fred Lade BIRTH DATE 1887

HOME ADDRESS _____

INTERVIEWER Michael A. Runestrand

INTERVIEW TITLE A HISTORY OF THE SUMAS AREA AND THE SHINGLE MILLS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

INTERVIEW DATE October 9, 1975 TIME _____

INTERVIEW SUMMARY Family background; Migration to Sumas; Early Sumas; Work experience,
shingle mills; International Workers of the World (I.W.W.); Effect of World
War I; Prohibition, smuggling aliens & bootleg; World War II and the National
Recovery Act; Memories

RESTRICTIONS None

PROPER NAMES OR COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSIONS USED Nova Scotia, Canada; Canadian Pacific Railroad;
the B.B. & B.C. Railroad; Sumas Hotel; Burpee-Lettson Mill; Jamison Mill;
Everett; Jones Lumber Company; National Recovery Act (N.R.A.); Prohibition;
World War I; Depression; World War II; the I.W.W.

INTERVIEW AND RECORDING QUALITY _____

DOCUMENTATION _____

Mr. Fred Lade

October 9, 1975

"HISTORY OF SUMAS AREA AND INFORMATION ON THE SHINGLE MILLS
IN THE NORTH COUNTY"

Interviewed by: Michael A. Runstrand

Washington State ORAL/AURAL History Program
Washington State Archives, Olympia, Washington

Accession No. WCT 75-14m4, Tape No. 1, Tape Sides: 1&2, No. of Pgs: 22

Mr. Fred Lade
October 9, 1975

Accession No. WCT 75-14mr, Tape No. 1, Tape Side No. 1

Mr. Michael Runestrand: Well, we're here today with Mr. Fred Lade; and Fred, what year were you born?

Mr. Lade: It was, 1887.

Mr. Runestrand: What was the date?

Mr. Lade: July 1st.

Mr. Runestrand: You were born..not in Whatcom County, were you?

Mr. Lade: No, I was born in Canada. Nova Scotia, Canada.

Mr. Runestrand: Were your folks Canadian citizens?

Mr. Lade: They were when they came to this country, yes. That...I think that my father was naturalized about...somewhere about 1905..'06, and of course I was under age at the time and became a citizen through his naturalization.

Mr. Runestrand: What did your folks do when they were in Nova Scotia?

Mr. Lade: Well, my father was a hard rock miner, and I think he followed that pretty much all his life. Gold mining.

Mr. Runestrand: Did he do gold mining up around this area?

Mr. Lade: No. No, when he first came here the..there was quite a lot of excitement about the Mt. Baker district, and some of the principle characters learned that my father was a miner and they wanted him to go up into the district and look at their mines. And he asked 'em one question that seemed to settle the matter as far as he was concerned. He wanted to know if the territory was shook up badly, and they told him it was..which of course it is..very badly shook up. And he said he didn't think there would be any purpose in him going there as that kind of a territory wouldn't yield anything in the way of gold. They might find a little spot here, a little spot there, but no leads into anything worthwhile which panned out pretty much the way it was.

Mr. Runestrand: When did you come to Sumas? What year?

Mr. Lade: We came here in...in March, the 4th, in 1899.

Mr. Runestrand: 1899.

Mr. Lade: Yeah.

Mr. Runestrand: So you were what? Eleven years..no, ten years old?

Mr. Lade: I was eleven years old.

Mr. Runestrand: I see, okay.

Mr. Lade: Yeah. I was eleven years old.

Mr. Runestrand: Why did your folks choose Sumas?

Mr. Lade: Well, there was at that time..a great movement from the East to the West. We had just pulled through a pretty rough time back in Massachusetts. What they called..the year of the panic, was..'18....and what the heck?...

Mr. Runestrand: '93?

Mr. Lade: '93, I think it was, and my father was very fortunate. When he came from Nova Scotia to Massachusetts, he got a job right away for a dollar a day. Seems ridiculous now but it was..he was very fortunate to have it at that time. And a great deal of talk then about the opportunities in the West. And some of our relatives had already come out here, and they were writing back telling us what a wonderful country it was and chances and so forth. So dad just decided he'd pick up and come.

Mr. Runestrand: You got out here by rail, right?

Mr. Lade: Yes. We came over the Canadian Pacific Railway. They were offering rates at that time..what you called colonization rates..and we travelled on those colonization trains. Just sort of a glorified boxcar. But thousands of people were comin' that way.

Mr. Runestrand: Can you describe what one of these boxcars would have looked like?

Mr. Lade: Well, yes; it's just very much like a boxcar from outside appearance, but inside they had a stove rigged up in one end of the car and along either side of the car except where there was one or two windows on each side they were

bunks that could be let down at night and raised up out of the way in the daytime. And people were not nearly so particular about their ways of travel or of getting somewhere as they are today.

Mr. Runestrand: Did they have a bathroom in this...car?

Mr. Lade: Oh no, no, no. Bathrooms were something..very, very few of ...anyway as far as that went.

Mr. Runestrand: Well how did..how did one go about relieving himself then if the train was moving. Did you do it at a stop or something like that?

Mr. Lade: Well, really I've forgotten just what the facilities were regarding that thing. See, I..I was a boy, eleven years old and I had too much other interests to think about that. (Chuckles) Oh boy, that was a great trip for a boy to take in those days across the prairies where there wasn't anything... anything...towns of that sort from when we left Montreal til we landed in.. we didn't go to Vancouver, we stopped at the junction over here to come to Sumas.

Mr. Runestrand: When you got to this area..when you departed the train..took your belongings, did you have people here to meet you?

Mr. Lade: Yes. Yes. Yes, there's a little story in connection with that though. We had bought tickets through to Whatcom. That's where our folks were at the time that we last corresponded with them and in the meantime, they had moved from someplace close to Bellingham or Whatcom to Sumas. And they were on the lookout from then all the time...there was one train a day came from the Canadian side across the border and through to Seattle, and they were watching this train everyday and when we arrived in Sumas and was makin' the change from the one train to the other they picked us up and we got off here and we've been here ever since.

Mr. Runestrand: You were telling me they had a de..what, a deterrent house or some type of...?

Mr. Lade: Detention.

Mr. Runestrand: Detention house, or...?

Mr. Lade: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: Was that when you first came here they had that?

Mr. Lade: No. No, that came here..that came in sometime later. When we first came here there was very little..oh..bother, crossin' the line one way or the other. You just were free to cross back and forth and it wasn't until some-time later that they began to patrol the border and see who went through and why he was goin' and so forth.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay. Well, the border wasn't any problem really then when you first came here. Did you..what was the town like when you first came to Sumas?

Mr. Lade: Well it was..it was a mixture of mining and lumber..loggers..very little farming, very little farming. And the shingle industry hadn't started yet..only in a very, very small way. So it was mostly mining and lumbering. Of course the railroad was what gave a big boost to the town.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. You had the railroad going from Sumas to Seattle? What was...?

Mr. Lade: Oh yes, that was a long time before the B.B and B.C. Railroad came through Bellingham.

Mr. Runestrand: That was the line you're talking about?

Mr. Lade: Um hum.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay. How many buildings would you say were in Sumas when you first came? Lookin' back? Or by..oh, the..by 1900? A couple of stores, a hotel, a few saloons?

Mr. Lade: Well, I suppose there were more buildings occupied by saloons than any other one thing. There were several hotels of a sort.

Mr. Runestrand: Do you remember the names of any of the buildings when you were a kid in Sumas?

Mr. Lade: Oh yes, yes. The large hotel that they had at that time was called the Sumas Hotel. It was a three story wooden structure. And when we came here it had just been moved from where it had..it had been erected to right up in

the center of town. It lasted for quite a number of years, and then it was torn down..new buildings were built. There was just one street that was really occupied with business buildings of a sort.

Mr. Runestrand: Was there any..was there much development on the Canadian side of the border right across from Sumas?

Mr. Lade: No, no.

Mr. Runestrand: How did..how was news brought up? Primarily by railroad? What was happening, say, in Lynden or Everson or Bellingham..at that time, Whatcom....Sehome?

Mr. Lade: Well, at that time we had a paper in Sumas.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Lade: And...

Mr. Runestrand: What was it called, do you remember?

Mr. Lade: I think it was called Sumas News. There was one time shortly after that we had two papers. Just what the second paper was called now I'm not sure.

Mr. Runestrand: The..the population of Sumas..just trying to figure out in your own mind..what would you place it at when you first came here? Of course the surrounding area, but people that would do most of their business or shopping in...

Mr. Lade: Oh, probably three hundred and fifty..four hundred people..somewhere along there.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Well, Fred..you say you got here when you were eleven, and you were tellin' me the other day you went to work when you were twelve, is that correct?

Mr. Lade: Well yes, in a sense it's correct. I quit school. The year I was eleven we'd moved over to Clearbrook, and there was some of the..no, I started the fall of 19, and..18 and 99, I started to school in the fall of that year, and I think it was before the school finished in 1900 that I had quit. And.. I don't know..I had a little trouble with the teacher, or the teacher had a

little trouble with me or something. And dad told me I would have to go back to school or go to work. You looked around and you saw there was so terrible much work to be done that if you had to do your share of it, you'd just as well start..get at it. There wasn't very much offered for a boy at that time.. I mean to get an eighth grade education. There was no point in it very much. And I think I had about five years probably..probably the fifth grade of school when I quit.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. What..what made you want to go into the shingle business? Or was that your first job? In a shingle mill?

Mr. Lade: (Chuckles) Well, I had to go to work, see.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, what I meant was..there were probably other jobs around.. logging or...or something in town?

Mr. Lade: Yes. Really, my first job that I earned money at was greasing skids on loggin' roads. They called 'em skid greasers. I was probably..oh..I think I was fourteen years old. It wasn't a kid's job, it was a man's job. They had an eight horse team haulin' logs from the woods to the mill and I don't know..ten hour day. That meant that you had to work at least fourteen hours .. two hours before and two hours after work.

Mr. Runestrand: Is that right?

Mr. Lade: Especially in the wintertime. And we stayed in a bunkhouse. Oh, I forget just how many men there was in there..probably ten..twelve, eight..ten ..twelve men, in just a twelve by fourteen perhaps, bunkhouse.

Mr. Runestrand: Uh huh. The name of the camp where you were greasing the skids.. the corderoy roads...?

Mr. Lade: That was the..that was the S. L. Jones Lumber Company, out...Northwood.

Mr. Runestrand: Northwood..now, for those that may not know the old names for places around the county, where would you place Northwood at? A little bit South of Sumas, wasn't it?

Mr. Lade: Oh..quite a bit South of Sumas. It would be on what is now known as

the Northwood road; and those at all familiar with the country knows where the Northwood store is. And the Northwood mill, the S. L. Jones Lumber Company mill, was on the corner of the Pangborn road and the Northwood road. It was about a half a mile straight north of where the present store is.

Mr. Runestrand: What..what type of wood were you going for? Or, were they going for when you were greasing skids?

Mr. Lade: It was a combination mill...sawmill and shingle mill.

Mr. Runestrand: So you were gettin' cedar out of the woods?

Mr. Lade: They were gettin' cedar as well as fir, and they were using what was known at that time as a double block machine to cut the shingles with. Probably a capacity of a hundred thousand a day.

Mr. Runestrand: For one man?

Mr. Lade: Well, one man did the sawing.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah.

Mr. Lade: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: The...when you got your job workin' in the mills, and you were staying up at the camp then, did you...was the family in such a financial state that you got to keep the money you earned or did you have to help out with the family financial problems?

Mr. Lade: No, I was one of the proudest boys in the state of Washington. I had twenty dollars for my first month's work, and I received a twenty dollar gold piece for that. Gold was the money...currency at that time...very little bills, and I gave it to my mother. It made me very proud. So I was getting my board as well as the twenty dollars a month there, and board. In those days you have very little use for money.

Mr. Runestrand: Did you...well when we were talking before, you mentioned your religious background as a child, was Mormon.

Mr. Lade: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: When you were working in the woods, did that cause any problem?

I've heard the loggers were.....you know...

Mr. Lade: No.

Mr. Runestrand: A hard drinkin' bunch of fellows, and.....

Mr. Lade: Yes, yes.

Mr. Runestrand: Would you tag along with 'em to the saloon or whatever....
when you'd been up in the woods?

Mr. Lade: No, no. No, no, I didn't....I didn't. I....my father was pretty strict about what I did. He regarded card playing as gambling...any kind of card playing as gambling, and we were restricted...we couldn't drink coffee, we couldn't drink beer, we couldn't drink any kind of alcoholic beverages... which was all right, as far as I was concerned. But the reason that they... we were restricted from those things were not the proper reasons, you understand. The proper reason should have been for health rather than obedience to the church you see..

Mr. Runestrand: So...so the folks maintained that position and then you followed suit. When did you...when did you leave greasing the skid roads and start bein' a punk in the shingle mills?

Mr. Lade: Well, I was a punk in the shingle mill really, before I started greasin' the skids.

Mr. Runestrand: You went out there for perhaps more money then?

Mr. Lade: No. No, they...yes, I wasn't makin' very much when I was packin' shingles there as a punk in the mill. And I thought I'd try this skid...skid greasin' job. And after...oh, I don't know...it seemed to me it was a very short period of time..because no boy of my age could have stood it for very long...and I think it was probably two or three months. And then a man had started a shingle mill over in that vacinity, and he was lookin' for a packer.. somebody to pack shingles for him.

Mr. Runestrand: Another mill besides this S. L. Jones mill?

Mr. Lade: Yes. And I got started in there as..packin', and I worked for him for quite awhile, and I think I really started sawin' while I was still workin' for him.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Do you remember the name of this place?

Mr. Lade: This is something that it's pretty hard for me to remember..names.. awful hard.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, that's fine. Maybe we can get back to it later.

Mr. Lade: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: The shingle mills around the Sumas area, how many shingle mills would you say there were...say 1900 to 1905..when you were startin' to get into the trade. That many mills around this area?

Mr. Lade: Well, there was either three or four mills in Sumas at one time. And that was probably up to 1905..1906 or '07..because by that time they were starting up just as fast as they..the companies that were makin' the machines could turn them out.

Mr. Runestrand: Is that right? Well, I imagine when you first came here there was quite a bit of lumber on the land, but I imagine by 1905, you had a little bit cleared off, is that right?

Mr. Lade: No. I wouldn't say that by 1905 there hadn't been much change in the farming aspects of the country because they were so busy at that time in getting the shingle bolts off that..and it took several years to clear land. I mean you slashed it one year and then you had to wait for, say, three or four years for the stumps to rot, and what farming was..what they were doing was just among the stumps..all the big stumps was left, you know and they'd plant among the stumps and get what they could..hay or grain or whatever they'd planted. But they were able to have quite a little pasture on the land that was burned over and seeded to grass seed. It wasn't until after stumping powder came in.. and I just forget what year that was that there was actually very much land cleared.

Mr. Runestrand: The..the conditions within the shingle mills you worked at.. you know..the early 1900's, ... were the conditions good in the mills?

Mr. Lade: Oh no. Terrible, terrible.

Mr. Runestrand: Can you tell me what you mean by that?

Mr. Lade: Well, at that time we had no union. We had no state regulations at all. They..they hadn't started those things. There was no protection on the machines. It wasn't until the boys..men were bein' butchered so badly that they come to think about puttin' guards on the machines to prevent some of that.

Mr. Runestrand: Uh huh. Was there compensation by any of the companies around this area for, say, a guy loses a hand or anything, would the company help pay medical bills?

Mr. Lade: No, not at that time.

Mr. Runestrand: Nothin' huh?

Mr. Lade: No, no.

Mr. Runestrand: What about workers within the plant chippin' in a little money for poor old Fred that might have got his....knocked off?

Mr. Lade: Well, I suppose there were cases of that kind. See...times have changed so radically that it's a little hard for one to realize actually, the conditions that did exist at that time..it's incomparable to what they are now, you know.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Lade: And if you got hurt, why, it was just too bad.

Mr. Runestrand: Was...was there any major nationality or ethnic group that worked in the shingle mills? Would you say there were mor..of course, Scandnavians, or....or was it..?

Mr. Lade: No. No, I don't think that you could say that there was. They were just people that were here, and the people that were coming. There was a curious thing about the settlement of the country..the nationalities seemed to settle in...and the Swedish people settled West of Sumas here and we had a settlement

out there that we called the Swede settlement. And pretty near all Swedish people lived there. And then up in Columbia Valley here in the hills, the people were pretty near all German people..ca...Catholic Germans. And it seemed like where two or three would gather that way that the others would come and live there, and they could have their church and a group of their own people. Now this whole..this whole territory now are Hollanders, pretty much..I'd say ninety percent of the people now in this vally are Hollanders. That is, on the farms anyhow.

Mr. Runestrand: The..well, if you can, Fred, just sort of give me an idea of how you moved up and what stages from a..from just a shingle packer, a punk, til you got up to being able to cut? Til you got to be able to saw shingles?

Mr. Lade: Well, that..that was something you didn't do in a day or in a month. It took a long time to develop yourself so that you could..you worked by piece work, and the amount..you were paid according to the number of shingles you sawed, and of course you worked hard at it, then you had to be very careful about wastin' the timber..the mill owner watched that pretty closely..see whether you was takin' off a very wide splint or just what was necessary to shape the shingle up right. There was a little story years ago about a man who owned a small machine at Clearbrook, and he had a filer there that was boss, the mill foreman. The owner lived in Bellingham. And the filer thought that some of the sawyers..I believe it was a two machine mill..all and runnin' two shifts..was splintin' too heavy..takin' too much off. So he told the boss that he thought that some of the boys were splintin' pretty heavy. He was a Swede..Swedish man..and he said, "I'll come out and see." So he came out one day and he got down underneath the mill where the splints were droppin' into conveyor and goin' out to the firehole and he looked 'em over for quite a long time and finally he went back upstairs and the filer asked him, "Well, did you find any big splints?" "Yeah, yeah, I found some big splints, but I found a hell of a lot of little ones." That kind of settled the thing. Found some big ones but he found a hell of a lot of little ones.

Mr. Fred Lade
October 9, 1975

Accession No. WTC 75-19mr, Tape No. 1, Tape Side No. 2.

Mr. Runestrand: Well we got through talking about some of the ways you..well we were talking about how you got involved in becoming a cutter, and you said it took awhile to do it, and you told that little story about the size of the shingle and what was lopped off. What was the first type of machine you cut on?

Mr. Lade: Well, they were pretty crude..pretty crude machines..first came out. They was constructed..framework of the thing was wood on the first machines that came out..and it wasn't long until they came out with an all steel machine.. Burpee-Lettson Company..and I think they were established in Everett, came out with the first improved type.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Lade: Then the..oh, here I've forgotten..oh, there was a big type of machine came out later on, and they improved on it until it was just about all they could do to a machine. At first..when they first came out they had a type of machine that just set one shingle over at a time..a butt on top, a tip below. Next time a butt below, a tip above. And the ratchet was fixed so that it just went one at a time and it was pretty difficult for a sawyer to keep up with just one butt up there because you had to change the shingles around so they made a ratchet that put two butts..two tip..two tips, two butts you see, so that the block was always kept straight..they were cuttin' it straight with the grain that way. But the sawyer had always two butts together and when he put those on his jointer board he always had two butts that would go next to the butter..the buttin' board here and shape the shingle up that way.

Mr. Runestrand: The..the size of these machines and the amount of work that one would be expected to put out varied, I imagine, as one became more skilled in the.. ..in the means of cutting shingles, what was the most you ever cut in a day? Do you have any idea?

Mr. Lade: Ohh.

Mr. Runestrand: Sixty? Eighty?

Mr. Lade: Oh no, no, no, it was nothing like that for..I would say that forty.. forty thousand would be just about the limit for anyone. Now you're talkin' about a ten, eight, or six hour day. The..the difference...when they had the ten hour day we had the old type machine, and we had a small type saw..I think it was about thirty four..thirty six inches in diameter. And when I quit I was using a saw that I think was fifty two inches in diameter, and it had a carriage that corresponded to that, so that you could take a shingle...if you had a block big enough..you could take a shingle off twenty..twenty two inches wide.

Mr. Runestrand: Why...then it would go in the frame of the thing?

Mr. Lade: It depended altogether on the kind of wood that you were getting as to the amount that you could cut in a day. I was in a co-op mill in Anacortes for two or three years, and for two years that I was there I was the president of the co-op, and I done quite a little of buying for the mill..timber, and at that time the lumber mills was paying a premium..quite a premium for first class lumber logs. So we couldn't afford to cut it into shingles, so we would separate these and put 'em in a raft by themselves and when I got enough of 'em we'd sell.. sell to some mill. Well, the market stayed up for quite awhile...that..for siding..this was used mostly for siding..and the market seemed to drop out of the lumber end of it and they didn't want to pay us the usual price. So the committee met and they said, "Well, we'll cut those logs," ..we had quite a few on hand.. "we'll cut those right in the mill, and we'll give everybody a chance to make some money sawin', and if we don't make anything out of the timber, we'll sure make somethin' sawin'." So that..for six days..it took us six days.. there was six machines in the mill..we run two shifts..was like twelve machines in one shift..and we had enough timber on hand ..that kind of timber to run for.. I think it was five..five or six days. Just..it's a week anyhow. And they averaged..the machines averaged forty squares per machine for the six hour day.

Mr. Runestrand: Hum. Now explain..a square is how many bundles?

Mr. Lade: Four.

Mr. Runestrand: Four bundles and in each bundle how many shingles?

Mr. Lade: Well, there's supposed to be about two hundred and fifty..see, a thousand..what we..we started out when we first started in the business, we cut by the thousand and that was four bunches of shingles at twenty five courses to the bunch.

Mr. Runestrand: Course is?

Mr. Lade: A course is a layer clear across the bunch of your shingles.

Mr. Runestrand: Oh, I see.

Mr. Lade: And they call it a thousand, and they continued that way until the asbestos shingles come out. What we called the patent roofing, and they had it figured out that fours bunches of their's would just cover ten square feet, where a thousand of our shingles would go way over ten feet. So we had to drop the number of courses on these bunches to correspond to the patent roofing, see.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah.

Mr. Lade: But that was extra now. They don't..they didn't do that as a regular thing, you had to have extra good timber to do that.

Mr. Runestrand: Were you ever involved with the I. W. W.?

Mr. Lade: No. No.

Mr. Runestrand: Were any of the other...?

Mr. Lade: Oh, what do you mean, involved..you mean belong to it?

Mr. Runestrand: Well,....yeah, did you belong?

Mr. Lade: I never belonged to I. W. W. I....see..I couldn't get along with them..that or any other organization that said I had to do what that organization said I had to do. I wanted to be a free man to use my own judgement about things, and I knew they had a lot of good points, and they brought about a lot of good changes for the workin' people that they'd never have without help of the I. W. W. But..and of course I'm not silly enough to attribute all of the stories that you

read about the I. W. W., to the I. W. W. They were out to help the workin' man and their....their saying that an injury to one was an injury to all, still, I think, is correct. Now, we have our labor movement...

Mr. Runestrand: Humm?

Mr. Lade: ...Divided now into all kinds of little groups..fightin' for this and fightin' for that and fightin' for something else, when actually the laborin' man's aims should be the same whether he was a plumber or a shingle weaver or whatever. And the...

Mr. Runestrand: How many I. W. W.. or how many camps had I. W. W. men in 'em that you worked in?

Mr. Lade: Oh, I..I think that pretty near all of them had some, you know, you wouldn't know unless he was willin' to expose himself. I know my brother-in-law had a loggin' camp one time and he was very bitter against the I. W. W. I heard him make a remark one time if one of the sons-of-so-and-so would come around here, he'd shoot 'em or something to that..where he had..not one, but perhaps two or three in the camp at the time, but he didn't know it.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah. Did they cause..did the I. W. W. in any of the camps that you worked at cause any slowdowns? Or anything like that?

Mr. Lade: No, no, no...I never was in anything like that. I worked for the Jamison Mill Company in Everett when they were havin' their trouble with the I. W. W. in Everett, and I was away from home and oh, Saturday..we worked of course, six days a week then and ten hours a day. We went out on strike for a ten hour day while I was there. But while I was working there,..it was too far to come home..and my wife stayed up here in Sumas and I worked down there.. so Sundays, I would carry the clock around the place. Do I have to explain to you what carrying the clock is?

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah, I don't know what that is.

Mr. Lade: Well, it was an inspection that went on all the time around the place, and this clock was a little hand instrument that you punched. You went to

certain place at twenty minutes past one and you punched the clock.

Mr. Runestrand: Oh, I see, like a guard?

Mr. Lade: Yes, like a guard.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay, yeah. I see.

Mr. Lade: Yeah, and you punched it. And the next time you had to be away and hell and gone over to the other side of the plant and punch at another time. It was pretty hard to beat it anyway. You had to be there at those places. Well I..I carried the clock several times when I was down there. Finally they.. the boss asked me one day..says, "That fellow that came down here with you to work," a man from Sumas came down, "is he an I. W. W.?" "No," I said, "he's not." He says, "Ar you and I. W. W.?" "No." I says, "I'm not." And this other fellow that went down with me, he wasn't either, but he was just a little suspicious, and they..they was guardin' the thing from that end of the..like we was. But, if they had been very suspicious they'd never have allowed me to carry the clock.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah. Well, let's see..let's look at 1914..the beginning of the war..World War I, and also prohibition came in then. You were around Sumas at that time living right next to the border? What was it like in a border town where one side's dry and the other sides' wet? What changes in town did you see, Fred?

Mr. Lade: I can't say that I had too much communication with the element that would, you know, want to carry booze across. I knew it was goin' on all the time, and there were lots of stories about 'em and I did see one or two things that happened while prohibition was on. They used to..if they could get through Sumas and they had a car that would run fast enough they'd keep ahead of the cops and get through somewhere. Well, there was one day..it was in the winter-time and the snow had drifted on the highway, and I lived out in the country then for a short time...had a farm out in the country..a short distance from

where we lived, the snow had piled up quite high and the road crew hadn't gotten around to opening it up. And we heard a car coming down the highway..this was before the highway was paved..and gosh..there was a car right after 'em, and he thought that he would run that snowbank and he run into it and got about halfway through, I guess..maybe that..but, they got him and the car and the load of booze. That's the only time that I ever had any close up ...with anything and...

Mr. Runestrand: Were there bars right across..right across the line from Sumas?

Mr. Lade: Was there what?

Mr. Runestrand: Bars?

Mr. Lade: Oh, they had what they called two percent joints over there.

Mr. Runestrand: Two percent? What do you mean? Is that the low..low beer?

Mr. Lade: Well, low-grade beer, yes. But there was no saloons over there at that time. In fact there was very little of anything across the line.

Mr. Runestrand: What about the smuggling of Chinese in? Did you ever hear of any stories about that? Of being around this area?

Mr. Lade: Oh well, yes. That was something that was going on and had been going on for quite a long time.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah.

Mr. Lade: And that little story that you read there in that book about it was just an example. That was the one that..case where I was mixed up in the thing.

Mr. Runestrand: Go ahead and tell it, Fred, will you? You were an eyewitness to that one.

Mr. Lade: Oh yes. This happened on a Sunday and one of the neighbor boys..he was some older than my brother and my brother was five years older than I was, but I tagged along..I went everywhere they went. There wasn't much to do in those days, so they..well, we'll go for a walk somewhere. We took off in the direction of the railroad from where we lived and we got to the railroad and standin' around there when we heard a noise over on the side of the hill....a

strange sounding noise..and of course we wanted to know what the heck was that? We didn't know what it was. So we hid in the brush by the side of the tracks to see what happened..what it was. And soon three Chinamen came out of the brush on the opposite side of the railroad track. And they stood there and looked up the track and down the track and jabbered to themselves. Evidently they had just been turned loose. Someone had paid to get them over and turned 'em loose and they were on their own. Poor devils they..they didn't know what to do then. Just gettin' across the line didn't solve their problem. They had to get somewhere where there were more of their kind where they could mingle with..and get something to do. They..they couldn't get work with White crews, you know. They had to go in town and work in dishwashin' or on camps maybe as a dishwasher or something like that. Well anyhow..my brother and this other fella, they thought it would be a good idea if they rounded those chaps up. Which they did and they got 'em herded on to a railroad trestle that was close by there, and told me to hightail it to Sumas and get..the only man there was in the town at that time that seemed to represent the government in anyway. I don't know whether he was a forester or just what the heck his..but, he went out with me and got these two..three and brought 'em into Sumas. And that was my only mixup with Chinamen.

Mr. Runestrand: The..the border town of Sumas..did it run into much competition trying to draw in businesses from the surrounding area at all? In your experience being in this town? Sumas has never been a big town since I can remember, but I haven't been around as long as you have, Fred, and I was just wondering if.. if it had to compete very hard with other areas?

Mr. Lade: Well yes, for what little business that they had..they had to compete with other areas. Lynden, of course was always the town that they had to compete with the most. And it seemed like that the industries went to Lynden or went to Bellingham or someplace else. We were too close to the border, that was the whole thing. And there were a few small businesses started that didn't last.

I remember the time the town council had a special meeting..quite some years ago now..and there was a company that was lookin' for a location to build campers. And they thought that Sumas might be the right place if they could get a building up to build campers. And the town council held their meeting and decided that there was no future in campers. It wouldn't be worthwhile building a plant because there was no future in campers. (Chuckles) Oh boy!

Mr. Runestrand: That was a big mistake.

Mr. Lade: Yes, it was, really a big mistake. Probably making just as big a mistake now about some things as they did then, as far as that goes.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, you didn't have to become involved in World War I, did you, Fred?

Mr. Lade: No, no, I was too old. Oh, I was up before the board, but they..they didn't want anyone over thirty years old at that time. And I was...I was thirty years old in July and they called up in April, I think it was. So I didn't... fact was, I was workin' for an old doctor anyhow, and he was on the board... medical board..in Bellingham, and I could have gotten off I think, if I'd been twenty one and in perfect physical health.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) What did you do during the depression? Did you still work in the mills, Fred?

Mr. Lade: Yeah. I worked all kind of stunts during the depression. I rented a mill from a fella for one season and cut shingle bolts and hauled 'em in and sawed 'em and we had the N.R.A. at that time that set prices on things and you couldn't sell above that price, and we just couldn't make it the way things were going to I sold quite a few shingles to different ones on the roof.

Mr. Runestrand: You'd put 'em on, too?

Mr. Lade: Yeah, I'd sell the shingles on the roof, do you understand? That's not by the squares, but..and put them on the roof.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah, you'd be the roofer. You'd bring the material and slap it right on.

Mr. Lade: Yes. Yeah, slap it right on. There was no set price. I remember the price was four dollars a square..they wouldn't let us sell above that. Well, I could have had enough for puttin' 'em on the roof to make the sale worth while.

Mr. Runestrand: I see.

Mr. Lade: And then it also added more work for us. And I got by quite well. I never had to take a nickel of Uncle Sam's money for anything.

Mr. Runestrand: You had a family at that time, is that correct?

Mr. Lade: Oh yes. Two boys.

Mr. Runestrand: Did...did they have to work or were they too little, or?

Mr. Lade: Well, my oldest boy, he was trying to go to the University in Washington. He was a musician. And he and a friend, Jack Lambert, they played for dances quite a lot. Oh, sometimes in beer parlors and just sometimes out around the country in little..and we..we'd been payin' for lessons..violin lessons for our oldest boy, Elmer, his name was, and it got so that the lessons were comin' pretty high for that day. The reason I asked his teacher one day what he thought of the situation, and he says, "Well, I don't think Elmer's been practicin' what I give him to do." He says, "I think Elmer is startin' to fiddle rather than play the violin." Playin' old-time music you know, and fiddlin' He'd make a few dollars out of that. So we clamped down on his..but he did make quite a few dollars that way. And they lived in..Jack's got his father's house over there, just across the bridge, and I tell you, there was times..they lived together there..and there was times if we hadn't been here to feed them they'd have been pretty doggone hungry boys.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles)

Mr. Lade: It was pretty tough on young fellows then. Pretty tough.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah. That's what I understand...from what I've talked to people. The..the coming of World War II, to the border town and to yourself.. what type of security? What type of problems were maybe shown by being right

on the border? Did you see, oh, like I've heard stories of the lights being blacked out and things like that. Did you see much ammunition and things like that cross the border between Canada and the U. S.?

Mr. Lade: No, no, no, we didn't. No, there was nothing that excited us at all...about things like that.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Lade: I was...I was workin' in that mill in Anacortes when the war came on, and my youngest son had learned to pack shingles and he was packin' shingles there for me in that mill. Of course he had to..when his number was called up, he had to go. He put in four years..a little over four years in the Army. But he didn't have to do any combat work. When he went to Fort Lewis the first time..down there, they put them through a test you know..of one kind and another and they found that Owen's I. Q. run up between a hundred and forty and a hundred and fifty. He was a good typist.

Mr. Runestrand: So, he got sort of a desk job then for the war, is that right?

Mr. Lade: He did, he couldn't get out of it anyway that he wanted to.

Mr. Runestrand: What did you do during World War II? Did you..were you involved in the war effort at all?

Mr. Lade: No, not a bit. No, I was against the war. I'm against all wars. And I worked in that mill over there until one day I had a very severe accident and when I got over that I didn't think..or they didn't think that I was going to amount to very much..which I really didn't. But then I..I came back home.. and of course when I got out of the hospital..I came back up here, and it wasn't very long after that, that I don't think, that I bought that piece of land up there.

Mr. Runestrand: And you went into farming? Farming and...?

Mr. Lade:and clearing land and went in the berry business. And we had a lof of fun. We made a few dollars. Made more in sellin' the land than I made clearin' it and farmin' it.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, I want to thank you, Fred, for givin' me this information.

Mr. Lade: I don't think...I don't think that I've helped you very much.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, I've learned a lot about this area. I've learned more than I knew before, and I want to thank you for givin' it to me. I appreciate it.

Mr. Lade: I think on another day, perhaps, ... is that off?

Mr. Runestrand: It's off right now.