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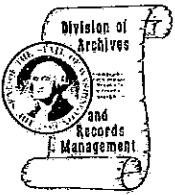
ACCESSION NO. WCT 75-18mr	TAPE NO.
INTERVIEWER'S NAME MRS. OLGA PATTISON	

RELEASE

I, the undersigned, hereby consent to the tape recording of conversations given in connection with the Washington State Oral/Aural History Program on JULY 31, 1975 and to the divulging of said tape recordings and/or transcripts made therefrom.

INTERVIEWER MICHAEL A. RUNESTRAND	DATE 7/31/75
COMMUNITY ADVISOR Don Eklund	DATE
PROGRAM COORDINATOR Timothy A. Riedel	DATE 10/31/75

x Olga E. Pattison
SIGNATURE (INTERVIEWER)



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ACCESSION NO.	TAPE NO.
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RELEASE

I, the undersigned, hereby consent to the ^{photography} ~~tape recording~~ of conversations given in connection with the Washington State Oral/Aural History Program on 8/11/75 Date(s) and to the divulging of said ~~tape recordings~~ ^{photos} and/or transcripts made therefrom.

INTERVIEWER	DATE
COMMUNITY ADVISOR	DATE
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	DATE

Mark Kenziorch 8/11/75
Timothy Fredrick 9/24/75

Olgas E. Pattison
SIGNATURE (INTERVIEWEE)



TAPE ARCHIVE SHEET

INTERVIEWEE'S NAME Mrs. Olga E. Pattison BIRTH DATE 1910

HOME ADDRESS _____

INTERVIEWER Michael A. Runestrand

INTERVIEW TITLE THE HISTORY OF BLUE CANYON TOWNSHIP AND COAL MINE AND THE LONE JACK GOLD MINE

INTERVIEW DATE July 31, 1975 TIME _____

INTERVIEW SUMMARY Blue Canyon Coal Mine circa 1900's; The Lone Jack gold mine, routes,
living conditions; How gold was brought out; Unionization; Ethic makeup
of Whatcom County circa 1900's; Consolidation of Bellingham; Memories

RESTRICTIONS None

PROPER NAMES OR COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSIONS USED Andrew Ecklund; Mr. Selinsky; Peter Larson;
David Cress; Whatcom House; Fairhaven Hotel; J.P.Custer's store; Great
Northern Depot; Oddfellow's Club; Indians; Orientals

INTERVIEW AND RECORDING QUALITY _____

DOCUMENTATION Photographs, area knick knacks, paintings

Mrs. Olga E. Pattison

July 31, 1975

"THE HISTORY OF BLUE CANYON TOWNSHIP AND COAL MINE, AND INFORMATION
ON THE "LONE JACK" GOLD MINE."

Interviewed by: Michael A. Runestrand

Washington State Oral/Aural History Program
Washington State Archives, Olympia, Washington

Accession No. WCT 75-18mr, Tapes No. 122, Tape Sides 1,2,3, No. of Pgs: 42

Mrs. Olga E. Pattison
July 31, 1975

Accession No. WCT 75-18mr, Tape No. 1, Tape Side No. 1.

Mr. Michael Runestrand: We're here today with Mrs. Olga Pattison; and Mrs. Pattison, do you have a middle name? Or, is it just, Olga Pattison?

Mrs. Olga Pattison: Well, my...of course, my maiden name was, Ecklund.

Mr. Runestrand: Yes.

Mrs. Pattison: Ecklund. And...there...I was born in Blue Canyon. I was born five years after the explosion. But, there's still, after the explosion, there were the people living there whose...and I...the older children and those that were small children, they were just a little older than I was, and when I started school there when I was just five years old, the big boys in the back seats and some of the others were the children that were left after the explosion. The people, the widows that were left and the children were left with hardly anything. There weren't too many. Most of the men were unmarried, but there were five or six that were married. In those days there was nothing at all. This Mrs. Selinsky had five children and her children were in school with me, the older ones. And how they lived, I have wondered, since...how did they live? They just...there was just nothing for them...they...to struggle. And I know the widow of David Jones, the superintendent, whose stone is out close to this other big stone at Bayview there, why, she married in a year or so...a man that everybody thought was undesirable but, he was quite a good business man and he made money. He was a very quiet, retiring man. Maybe that's the reason they thought he was nothing, and she married him. And they said, "How could you marry that man after David, you know that he was such a....?" She said, "Because my children had to eat." And she says, "He's very kind to them and he's kind to me and we have enough." And I knew those people because they were there. Some of them built little

houses or shacks for themselves up further, beyond Blue Canyon townsite, or in a....back. As I said, there was lots of little houses along there.

Mr. Runestrand: Up on the hill?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, on the hill.

Mr. Runestrand: I've got a...I've got somethin' if you can do it....let's say, someone's never been around Lake Whatcom. Now, you were born in Blue Canyon, which was a little township. If you were trying to explain to someone that was going to drive out to Lake Whatcom, can you tell them how to find or where to look for Blue Canyon at? How would you give a landmark or how would you get there or what?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, it was a long time before there was any road that you could drive on.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah.

Mrs. Pattison: The first roads that you could drive on to get to Blue Canyon, you went by the way of Van Zandt and up that way, and Acme, and came down that road to Blue Canyon. There was no...that you'd just say, "Go to Van Zandt and take the sign, turn to Wickersham, and when you get to Wickersham you'll see a sign that says, "Park" and take the Park road and drive....keep going. Keep right on going to Blue Canyon." And we used to say that when you come to that long bridge, then you come to the entrance to Blue Canyon. Well, that long bridge is gone now, and the controversial waterfront and the railroad now is what's making so much stir. And now of course, you can say when you come to the edge of the new park outline, the new park the county has bought, just keep going straight, don't make any turns. That's Blue Canyon.

Mr. Runestrand: I see.

Mrs. Pattison: Now, of course, you'd say, "You've got two ways to go. You can go to Alger and take that road until you get to South Bay, turn right and go just right around the end of the lake. And, that's Blue Canyon." And...

or, you can say, "Drive out Lake Whatcom Boulevard, go to the end of the park and just turn...turn North a little ways." It's...that;s all. And you can always know Blue Canyon and why it has it's name because there's quite a crevass in the hills, there's just a cut in the hill, and there's always a blue coloring there, no matter when you look across there you see that blue going down. That's how it got it's name, Blue Canyon. And in the center of that canyon runs Blue Canyon Creek. Water from way up in the hill, back and when it gets into Blue Canyon...oh, some hundreds of feet back on the hill there, it divides into four, and so there are four places where Blue Canyon Creek enters into Lake Whatcom.

Mr. Runestrand: Huh. Well, your father's name was, Andrew Ecklund..

Mrs. Pattison: Andrew Ecklund.

Mr. Runestrand: And that was, E-C-K-L-U-N-D. Now, I was reading in the book you loaned me, portions...I haven't finished it yet, but, he came from Sweden?

Mrs. Pattison: What?

Mr. Runestrand: Came from Sweden?

Mrs. Pattison: He came from Sweden, yes.

Mr. Runestrand: And there was something about the way the laws went at that time; after his father died, one of his brothers got heir to the....

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah, his oldest brother got everything. And he got the right to go to a military...his father was a surgeon in the army, and the brother got a chance to go to the college and everything and become a surgeon in the army. And all the others got nothing...they were just turned out...so that the brothers and sisters all came to the United States.

Mr. Runestrand: Now, your father then, joined what? The Merchant Marine, at that time?

Mrs. Pattison: No. He just went as a...when he first left Sweden, he was for maybe a year or so, just on a sailing vessel, just on a boat. He wasn't

in the Merchant Marine or anything, he was just on a....sailing around on waters.

Mr. Runestrand: That's all....he wasn't workin', he was just sailin' around, huh?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, he was...sure, they went in as very young boys, as roustabouts. Maybe he swabbed decks...I don't know what he did. I know he used to talk about the awful food they had on this vessel. It was a Swedish boat I know, that he was on because he...well, he ran away as they do then, and then he...somehow...I don't know exactly about that..but he got off this baot at a certain port and got on a boat that was sailing for New York Harbor. And he had a sister that had come before him...had left Sweden, because he was one of the younger boys...came to...that lived in Pennsylvania. So, he got off in...in Castlegarden, they called it then, and came through there, was going to...went down to Landers, Pennsylvania. And that's how he got interested in coal mining, because he went to work in a mine in Landers. His brother-in-law was working there and his sister lived there.

Mr. Runestrand: So, he worked on the East coast before he ever got out here. How did he get to Bellingham?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, there was nothing for him. His sister had... there was nothing...future for him and he couldn't do that and others were going West. And someway, he never said very much, he told how hungry he was on the train, and rather worked his way until he got to Seattle. And when he got into Seattle, it was just before the fire. Oh, there's where I am...his one friend that he knew from the old country was in Seattle. This friend was August Brand.

Mr. Runestrand: Brand?

Mrs. Pattison: Brand, August Brand. And he was just a young fellow then and with him when my father first came to Seattle...they went out to Clallam and took up a homestead. Well, they didn't...couldn't be there long...they said their chickens died, their...what would two green boys way out there know

about anything? So then, they came back to Seattle and Mr. Brand went into the saloon business and my father got the job of being a steamboat watcher or watchman at Richmond Beach. And, Bryant, was the name of the man that was the head man for Puget Sound then, and he sure did think a lot of my father. That...he was there I think, one year or something. That's a long time at that time. But one story he told about Richmond Beach that, there used to be barrels of stuff come up from the boats that would be wrecked out there, and one of the boats that...one of the barrels came up, it had the three musketeers in it, and he said, "I wasn't good at the English language, but" he said, "I didn't go to bed for three nights and figured out the book." (Chuckles) He was...oh, he was a reader for everything. He read everything. But he told that. Well, then, I don't know then, someway, this... they were asking for men at Blue Canyon, and, of course they wanted a man for timbering...working in the timber and timbering...tunneling the mine as they called it...working in timbers, and he went up there and got the job. Just how...he always got...seemed to have a job anyway. And, he said, "I had been working there," and he said, "I timbered the front of the new tunnel." And he said, "One fellow didn't like it and they were a little short, so" he says, "I worked good overtime and got that finished." And this David Jones that's out there in the cemetery came up and he looked at the work and he looked at my father and he says, "Andrew, after this, your pay's gonna be three and a half a day." And my father said that was a fortune in those times. And he just loved that David Jones, and all the years after that explosion, every Decoration Day, he'd have put flowers on David Jones grave and on...after the stone was put, also on other graves...that stone came much later. And I have done it since, and I'll do it as long as I'm here. Every Decoration at that...those stones are remembered.

Mr. Runestrand: David Jones was the superintendent at that time of the Blue Canyon Coal Mine?

Mrs. Pattison: He was the superintendent.

Mr. Runestrand: Who was owner of the mine when your father first went there? Would that have been, Peter Larson and J. J. Donovan and Bloedel?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, they were...they were not miners, they couldn't mine. J. J. Donovan couldn't have gone into a mine and supervised any mining work.

Mr. Runestrand: No, but they were the owners? Did they own...?

Mrs. Pattison: No, they were with this Blue Canyon Coal Mining Company. And they were officers of this Montana company.

Mr. Runestrand: Oh, I see.

Mrs. Pattison: Officers of this Montana company. And I have a letter...I'm going to show you a bunch of letters that I have after the explosion. I still have those that came to me, I don't know from where. But anyway, Mr...my father had said something was much needed in a tunnel. That was when he was the assistant superintendent. ...shortly after...something was much needed. But there was no money for it...and do that. And Mr. Donovan said, "Regardless...we must even.." he says, "if it runs us short for a period, we will have to ask the Downes Company in Montana for that money." Not to risk any more lives that that comes down. I have that in a letter. So they...that was...this company owned it, and I don't know if they were just paid men, Donovan and those people were just paid men. And the only interest that Bloedel had in the mine was that he bought the houses. He bought the houses and he collected the rent from those houses.

Mr. Runestrand: Now, your mother was also from Sweden?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: And she...you said she somehow managed to get to Bellingham and was cooking in a restaurant in old town?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, she came...first she came to Minneapolis. She had her job in Minneapolis when she left Sweden, and she was there, I think six months.

Then, she went to Seattle, and she worked there for about a year. And then they were asking for a cook in a hotel here in Bellingham, and she just thought she'd like that better than...and so she came there. And she cooked there for more than five years, until she married. And that was the California Hotel where Parberry's big building is now. And the Whatcom House was just back of it. And the people who had the Whatcom House when she came there, were the Singletons, and they were the...the Singleton girls...one of them was the mother of Al Herb, and those peop...they're here now, you know. And my mother always said, "Oh, the Singleton's were so nice to her when she came as a young...." And they used to exchange food...if they ran out of soup and extras came in, why, they'd borrow it. Just was a big alley in between.... they went across that. And she said here all the whistles started to blow and a big noise, and of course, momma went out in back to find out, and they called her and they said, "Now, Washington is a state."

Mr. Runestrand: Huh. She was there one day before Washington became a state..?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, just one day. She says to me she went out and they said to her, "Now, Washington is a state."

Mr. Runestrand: I'll be darned.

Mrs. Pattison: And she thought the world of those Singletons, and Alice's mother and her sister. And I know that some of the last visitors mother had before she died, and she was seventy seven then, were a couple of these sisters. Alice's mother died...it's Alice Herb, you know who she is..?

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah, well, she was married to Graham for awhile.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, Mrs. Graham. And when he died, then she married Herb. And that's how they were connected. And then my...my father came for some work or something and boarded at the...down there for awhile. I don't know that story...at any rate, it was right after the explosion you see, not long after the explosion. And maybe they were getting things ready to get fixed up at the mine or what, I don't know. And...but at any rate, he was there...

and that's how they came to marry.

Mr. Runestrand: Then she moved with him back up to Blue Canyon?

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah.

Mr. Runestrand: How many people would you say were living in Blue Canyon..
let's see...they got married a year or so before they had you? Is that right?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, they were..they'd been married two years when I...

Mr. Runestrand: Yes, and you were born in 1900 or so?

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah, um hum.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay.

Mrs. Pattison: And they were married in '96, it was in "Seventy Five Years Ago;" Just a couple of years ago. It said, Andrew Ecklund, they put, the foreman, maybe he was just the foreman at that time because he...sometimes they shifted them from one job to the other, and Christina Holmgren had been married. They said in, Fairhaven...well, they were married here by a Lutheran minister; and then they went over to the old Fairhaven Hotel where Donovans and all gave them a dinner. And when I went up to the courthouse looking up some old records, I seen Mr. Donovan was with them when they got their marriage license.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, when you were born about how many people were living in the Blue Canyon township? Just guessin'.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, I would say with the men who lived in the mine...worked in the mine and their families, if you counted the children, there were over two hundred.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. And we were talking about the houses.

Mrs. Pattison: And I know that when...I know then of course, you see, then they were beginning to build the railroad, and they had a section house, and there were always twenty to thirty men in this section house that lived there. And they didn't have families. They didn't...they boarded there...they had

a cook and had...that was an extra cookhouse. So there was usually a lotta people around.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, looking at the town, you had a school, and you had what? A couple of hotels?

Mrs. Pattison: Well yes, they had this big tall one, and then the company hotel. The Company Boarding House, they called that. They had the Company Boarding House and the bunkhouse for the men, and then in this hotel, this three story hotel there, run by people by the name of, Hedges, they were there when I was a little girl, the Hedges. So I remember them. And they took in transients and boarded them too, they could get a room there see. But they were often overflowing so they usually ...I know she said she...I heard later that she'd lots rather just have steady miners than to take in people that came for a night or two.

Mr. Runestrand: How many stores did they have?

Mrs. Pattison: They had just the one store, Custer's Store. J. P. Custer had the store in Blue Canyon.

Mr. Runestrand: Was it....did he carry most everything you needed?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, he did. And he was a very fine storeman. In 1906 he moved his store to Park; and Zobest, that's....had the store there all the time, is his nephew. Because they...his sister inherited all that Custer had... ..his mother.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, before...before the railroad came in then.....

Mrs. Pattison: J. P, Custer had his store. I think he started a store there about the same time as the mine opened. Not long after it...Custer...

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Well, all his stuff would have to come in by boat then? All his goods..?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, um hum. Everything came by boat...everything came by boat.

Mr. Runestrand: What were some of the names of some of the boats out there?

I know there's the "ELLA" and the "MARGUERITE"...

Mrs. Pattison: Well, the boats I remember was the "ADELAIDE". Pittman had that....."Old ADELAIDE"

Mr. Runestrand: Was that a transport boat or a passenger or goods or..?

Mrs. Pattison: No, it was a boat that looked just like, and it made two trips up the lake a day. They had a little boat called the "EMMA D." Made a lot of noise, but it made a trip or two everyday. Yes, my mother used to say we had four boats a day. We'd have this "RIGEE" that I showed you that belonged to Johnson and Yorkston. And Johnson and Yorkston sold out to Branion. But the...and let's see...and then we got a very nice new boat on the lake about 1902, the "ELSNORE."

Mr. Runestrand: Els.., how would you spell that?

Mrs. Pattison: E-L-S-N-O-R-E, the Elsnore. Well, that was the only way we had to go. If we'd call...if we...sometimes we wanted to visit the people across the lake...they called at our dock and we got on the boat and went across the lake.

Mr. Runestrand: What was the...what was the cost to travel on the boat? Do you remember?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, I think it was twenty five cents one way, and forty five cents....forty cents round trip or something. In the summers they used to have excursions, and berry pickers would come up and the boats would be so full of people they hung all over. They'd have excursions, you know, for the prices. No, the boats were everything. And this boat here was the only company boat, and the logging company boat, then, afterwards...

Mr. Runestrand: That was the, "ELLA"?

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah. And that...and then...they had...and I remember that boat...they had an old sternwheeler that they used to use for excursions. A sternwheeler. And I'll tell you who you could get the names of the boats and the....and that's from Al Buzzard.

Mr. Runestrand: Buzzard Ironworks?

Mrs. Pattison: Al is not with the ironworks. Don is the one that has the ironworks. But Al is out at the lake, the old home out at the lade. Al and Dorothy Buzzard. We were talking one day and he said to me, he said, "I'd give anything if you'd write a book about that because," he said, "we'd supplement one another." But he was interested in the boats on the lake more than we were because, well, the boats were still used for all the products.. most everything from Bellingham for many years, even after the train came. Because it was cheaper, you know.

Mr. Runestrand: Well when...when you first...when the coal mine was first operating ...this was of course, before you were born, but your dad would tell you this stuff...

Mrs. Pattison: Oh yes, it had been operating many years. I think from what I get out of that, and maybe there is the story someplace exactly, it must have opened about in 1888 or '89.

Mr. Runestrand: But they'd load the coal in barges and the "ELLA" or the...

Mrs. Pattison: And they built this great big bunker, this bunker was a huge affair. Because the bunker burned in '21.

Mr. Runestrand: But they'd...they'd barge this stuff down the lake. How would they get it to town after the boat took it? To the other end of the lake.

Mrs. Pattison: Oh, down at Silver Beach?

Mr. Runestrand: They'd unload it..?

Mrs..Pattison: No, they didn't go to Silver Beach. That's what people said... well, they landed at Sil...no, they didn't. They landed at the boat landing. The piles are still there where they had the boat landing and where there was stalls for the different boats that stayed in there. And they...you can see the posts there...all the posts there right as you come to Bloedel-Donovan Park, near there. Down that bay, and on the other side the Jerms had a mill.

The Jerns Shingle Mill there. The same people that have it...Jerns could tell you all..get that exact location. But you drove right down the lake, and it was about from the boat landing down to the Silver Beach was quite a distance... about a mile.

Mr. Runestrand: But, I mean...once they got the coal there, how did it get into town? Streetcar?'

Mrs. Pattison: Oh, the coal...the coal, well, they didn't do it. They had.. the coal was hauled into Bellingham by the train, I told you.

Mr..Runestrand: No, before they had the tain there. Didn't they bring it by barge?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, but the train from Blue Canyon, you see, was much later than the train that came from the port down here...from South Bellingham to Silver Beach. Right there about Bloedel-Donovan Park is where that railroad came to an end.

Mr. Runestrand: I see. So, they loaded it on the railroad cars.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. This picture that I showed you is just about there. And after the train came in, it was hauled in just plain coalcars like you just see go by now. Same kind of cars were used at that time.

Mr. Runestrand: And this was used for primarily Navy use, is that right?

Mrs. Pattison: And what?

Mr. Runestrand: They'd use this for....the Navy would use this coal for the..

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, they hauled it out there, and it was put into bins there, and you saw the picture. The boat was...the dock went way, way out so the Navy boats could come in and get it. And then they would have barges would take the coal, which were taken down then for other boats, to Bremerton and all over. They hauled that coal. But the Navy for a long time used Bellingham coal, used Blue Canyon coal. But never..they may have used some after the railroad came through, but then it was routed differently. I'd like to know more myself about the railroad and where it ran. I know it ran through Happy

Valley and came down that way, and I know a woman down close, that when Mrs. Stenvig stayed with us quite a little while about twenty years ago, and she used to try to show me. And she said Mrs. So-and-so lived here and she ran the boarding house, and everytime she heard the whistle blow for the train coming in she knew that she had to hurry to get the food on for the railroad men that came in. Now maybe that would be an interesting thing to know where that railroad came in.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah. Well, when you were talking...when we were talking about Blue Canyon Coal Mine, what type of people worked there? Were there... I mean talking about maybe their nationality or their ethnic background.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, when my folks married in that year in those five houses you see there, five families were married that same August, and they were all Scandinavians. Now, one was Finnish and one was Danish and the Andersons were Norwegians and my folks were Swedes. But they were all Scandinavians in there. A...they were not...many of those left when the mine closed in 1903. They were not there after that.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Did you have a lot of Scots or Irish?

Mrs. Pattison: Then they had quite a few families that came from the midwest, that came in, and some of them stayed a year or two, and some stayed longer, and time just moved on. But they were all...seemed to be very nice, nice people. And we had a group that came from Kenmore, Canada, someplace. Now I don't know where that...I just knew, Kenmore. That...I'd hear the old ladies talking...with those families came a grandma and grandpa too. And the Lawton family, and the Richmond family, and they had a grandma and grandpa with them and quite a family of children. And they lived...lived right in this same row of houses with us, and we were all good friends. And these that came they, I know there was three or four of them...these families that were devout Catholics, and...but, that didn't make any difference because

there was no services of any kind there anyway. But, I know that sometimes they would try to argue and...a little bit or something, but I never knew anything to blow into anything that amounted to anything. It was just fat. And then we used to have these evangelists come out.....

Mrs. Olga E. Pattison
July 31, 1975

Accession No. WTC 75-13mr, Tape No. 1, Tape Side No. 2

Mr. Runestrand: Okay. When the tape snapped off, you were talking about the evangelists coming out...

Mrs. Pattison: What?

Mr. Runestrand: The evangelists coming out, they...

Mrs. Pattison: They'd come out and have...in the schoolhouse. And I know that Dave Schurtzer that came in, he was the bookkeeper for the mine, the accountant, and they came into Bellingham and he was superintendent of mails here in the city for many, many years til he retired. Dave Schurtzer, they lived on Sylvan street or North Commercial now. They had two daughters. They were quite prominent here in town, but of course, that's a long time ago now, too. But he was there when they built the new Federal building and superintendent of mails for them. And they were just ordinary...maybe second or third generation, because that's what most people were at that time if they didn't come from the far East. But the people...most of the people that were here ...well, my mother was born in Ireland...my mother was born in Germany ...there was quite a few. There was a number of German families that took little...bought tract across the lake. And the men came and wanted to work in the mine and they were hired at what they could do. And they...they... pleasures we could have together or get together, they did. That lake can be mighty old stormy. Their children had to come to school in Blue Canyon. And I know this Mrs. Rogers that was out there...how she just...she had two ...two boys that had to row across that lake, and on that stormy mornings, oh, you just sat....it wasn't an easy time. And...no road at all, all they had was their rowboat.

Mr. Runestrand: Was language a problem for people around Blue Canyon township?

Mrs. Pattison: Do you know, I never knew much of the language problem. Those people that came and if they did come they insisted on they all spoke...some spoke brokenly, I know Mrs....the Selinsky's were from Poland. They were born in Poland. But, my...she spoke very broken English, but they had no trouble understanding her. And of course my folks coming from Sweden...but my father said I learned to speak English reading the newspaper. He was quick at learning things and my mother too.

Mr. Runestrand: I imagine they still had their accent?

Mrs. Pattison: Oh, they had some accent.

Mr. Runestrand: The "Yams and Yellies" and...

Mrs. Pattison: But how their...sometimes their accent disappears because remember that there are some people, just like in our people here from...in our own country, you get the Southern accent and you don't ever lose it, or you get the old Boston accent, and you hear "He speaks with that brogue." Well, it's the same thing from the old country, different provinces spoke with a brogue too. Now the people that came from Dahlan and Dahlslund down in the southern part of Sweden, you'd know they were from Sweden no matter what language they spoke. (Chuckles) But, for some reason my folks came from more the middle part of Sweden and they did speak quite good English. Another one that came from there that...and he spoke just about the same as my folks did...came from the same part of Sweden...was....oh dear....Hogberg. He was, Yon Hogberg, here. His son, now, is the building inspector here. Gagan and Hogberg, the paint....big paint store here.

Mr. Runestrand: I don't know them.

Mrs. Pattison: You wouldn't remember them. My...I tell you I've lived a long time and I've known them all.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) Well,....-

Mrs. Pattison: He worked for paints...they had a Hagen and Hogberg and they

were here. And Hogberg...well, Hogberg became quite a prominent citizen here and made quite a lot of money. His son lives over in the...the bay drive over on..and made quite a..did very well. Fine people all through. And the lady he married was one that cme to the Y. W. C. A. because she had a job in Bellingham. Come...come from Sweden and landed at the Y. W. C. A. down here at the library.

Mr. Runestrand: Getting back to the mine...the mine started to slow down in 19...what? 1901...1902? The ...the mine...Blue Canyon Coal Mine.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: Did your dad then left and went up to work at the Post-Lambert or the Lone Jack Mine?

Mrs. Pattison: yes, this is it. He had...they had a man killed that was therelived next door to them....in the mine, a night shift.

Mr. Runestrand: Which one? The Post-Lambert?

Mrs. Pattison: No, Blue Canyon.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay.

Mrs. Pattison: This was after the big explosion, and my father was then what they called the assistant superintendent because Mr. John was really the over-seeing superintendent although he was no miner at all. And this man was killed and my father just kind of lost his nerve. And he said, "I've got to have a cahnge," he says, "I just can't keep on this way." Well, here was Post-Lambert coming. And the same company was doing, working that. Plus another company, Hon-Wadham's, in Portland had joined with this Montana company to....

Mr. Runestrand: What was that? Wadham's?

Mrs. Pattison: Wadham's company in Portland. Hon and Fee were the names of the two men. And they asked my father to take over that.

Mr. Runestrand: Now where was the Post-Lambert Mine? Wasn't it all...it was given the nickname, the "Lone Jack Mine"?

Mrs. Pattison: Lone Jack, Lone Jack was the Post-Lambert diggings up there. The train only went to Sumas, you know, when my father first went there. They had to pack everything up too by back to Glacier and then up to Shuksan and clear up to Twin Lakes and over to the mine. They had to go all that way walking. It wasn't too long until the train came to Maple Falls. But when very big deluges came of the river getting so terribly high...they had to go by way of Chilliwack to get up there. They could take a train or something from Sumas on farther so it wasn't quite the distance to walk, but they had to walk forty...fifty miles anyway. Through the worst kind of country you ever knew, winter and summer.

Mr. Runestrand: How did they get some of the larger equipment up there?
Pack horses?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, yes.

Mr. Runestrand: Wagons?

Mrs. Pattison: Here, it shows in that book. I have big pictures of that, and there's big pictures of the other. They had mules, whole string of mules, at that time the train went only to Maple Falls. And as we went to Maple Falls...we were in Maple Falls the day when they took up the cable for the mill. We went on a train that day, and I can see my father running fervently in and out and all these coils on every one of these mules, a coil on either side, you see, and starting for the mountain. And they were starting up there for the Lone Jack tunnel and Lone Jack Mine.

Mr. Runestrand: Now this was a goldmine rather than a coalmine?

Mrs. Pattison: This was a goldmine. Goldmine diggings, and they built a mill, they did everything, and they took out, well, my father carried it all out. My mother made a sack that went around his middle here, and it had...was sewn like this with this, and this gold was put into bricks and put in his side around here. And he wore that. And this John Cress, this brother of Dave Cress, it was the older brother, used to be the one that came out with him. And they

took out an awful lot of gold.

Mr. Runestrand: Did they ever almost get robbed when they were bringing the gold down off the mountain? Did your dad ever tell you stories about almost gettin' robbed?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, my father told stories, I'll tell you how many times.. stories of Mt. Baker that...he said there was a couple of men that came there and had been sitting around, and he said, "I kind of suspicioned 'em." But, my father...the mill was a mile from the mine...and my father went down to the mill to pick up John Cress to go with him or somebody, and the word went around that my father had left... once a month he came out with the gold... my father had left. But my father had...and they started off right then to go down the mountain. Instead of starting that night, my father waited until morning to start out...or later in the morning. And these fellas were headed in the whole...(Chuckles) And he said he went...and my father had gotten so he was just like an Indian in the woods. He'd just go through. And he...one time he said, he was sitting on the...what was going by, and as he come, he said, he saw the end of a gun sticking out, and he said, the fellow was sitting there sound asleep. He'd gone to sleep on the job. And then there was one time that they just...I don't know how it was...it was somebody up...that knew my father, too, and do that, and the interesting thing was after this fellow was injured up near Chilliwack someplace, and he sent for my father, and he confessed to him that he had been out to get him, you know. He said, "I wasn't after you," he said, "I had a lot of respect for you." but, he says, "I wanted that gold. That's all I was after." And he says, "But, don't you think I'm the only one. I'm not a squealer." He says, "There was plenty that was payin' me for doin' the job." Well, say, after this man was gone, do you know there were a number of fellas that came up and told my father what this fellow had done to...you know, to catch him, and my father always said, "Well, how did you know?" (Laughter) Oh, he told lots of stories, I'll tell you.

Mr. Runestrand: What years was the Lone Jack in production?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, I would say it was from...cause' we lived at the lake so I was involved iwth the mining there too, as well, you know. The incidents there...I would say that it...well, it ran from about, 1900...they took out coal...gold from...little bit. Well, the locket I had, was given to me in 1902, and that was the first that gold had been made then, and they had brought out some. Not an awful lot. I can tell one incident. My father came out once a month. There was a big article in the paper every time they came, you know, because that was a big thing. "Gold in them thar hills!" And even where we lived at this house on the corner...why those big fellows in Bellingham with their ...nice fellows...down the head of it...do that....they'd all lie on the floor with maps looking where they could take up gold too. And I remember all those things very well because I saw that and I was old enough to remember it. Then at one time...well, that was after we came into Bellingham, so this must have been spring, 1905. And they telephoned that my father was on the train coming down with the gold, down to the old B. B. and B. C. depot. He was coming down there. Well, of course, you know, those days you walked everyplace, do that, we did anyway. Momma got ready in a hurry and how we did hurry down there. And when we got down there by Railroad Avenue and all those... I don't know where all the people came...well, I wouldn't know where all the people came from. The word had come around some way, and it was just black with people clear from Chestnut street and all that. Well, and the train was in. When we got there it was puffing way down, but we couldn't get down because...so then, here came a cab, and a policeman on the cab, and Mr. Donovan was with the cab too, and the police at that time wore blue long coats that came down with buttons on it and a kind of a derby... Sunday derby hat..I can see the policeman...and this cab. Now this policeman had to make way for the cab to go down to the car, and all I can hazily remember

and of course I was little and they were above me too, that momma said there, that they're backing it up now, they're backing the cab up to the train. And somebody got in the cab. Well, we knew...momma knew it was my father...there's poppa now, in the cab, you know. And here came the cab slowly down to Chestnut, and as it came down, we were about on what would be Chestnut...I don't know, I guess it was Chestnut then too, but...and my mother said, "Yell, yell now as loud as you can and maybe poppa will hear us. (Chuckles) And, of course we yelled but what good did it do. It turned down Chesnut street and went down to the Great Northern depot, backed up train...the car there. My father was let into the coach and everything. And then he went on that train to Portland, and he was met in Portland by armoured cars. At that time they had a mint in Portland and the money...the gold went there. Now that's the...the others I know that he came down...well, I know that he made at least thirty...forty trips down with gold, and that's just estimating because it was every month that he was supposed to come. And they had a lot to bring down. And they brought in quite a lot of the gold. It amounted to well up to a million dollars that they carried out in gold, and that was a lot of money in those days.

Mr. Runestrand: It's a lot of money even today.

Mrs. Pattison: You know, there's so many other stories, and I have met hundreds of people that said they were up there and they remembered and they had... it's just imagination, like sometimes I am afraid "Now did I see that, or was I told it so many times," (Chuckles) And how it came, and I know that they said that he...I know he was on the train without any guard or anything with that money around him going to Portland one time because he said he just looked around at the people, and as he says, "I just thought, I'm the seediest looking man on the train, none of 'em will know what I got." He came in his hiking clothes and his boots and his old things just the same.

Mr. Runestrand: How...when your dad was working up there, did he tell you of how they mined gold? Was it pick and shovel or..?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. That is, they dug with a pick and shovel. Of course, I didn't...and they broke it into rock. I had a lot of samples of the rocks that are down at the museum, beautiful ones with gold in them, lots of gold in them. And they built this mine and this and that, and it cost forty thousand dollars. And the mill only operated for little more than a year, and a firebug set fire to it. That's why they didn't go back cause my father wouldn't go back then. Well, imagine the life he lived.

Mr. Runestrand: That was pretty out... Didn't the stamp mill, didn't that get wrecked quite a few times by snow...avalanche and stuff like that? And the cook house up there?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes, they had a number of times when they were snowed in.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah, it seems to me I heard about or saw a picture of...

Mrs. Pattison: Oh yes, they had some terrible experiences. But they all survived. They didn't have any bad accidents at all. And I...there's a man by the name of Hon that came to see me, maybe...it was after my father was gone, twenty...twenty five years ago when my father was gone, and he said he did want to see me. He said if it had been a time where we had industry as we have it now, your father could have been one of the greatest executives that ever lived. He said the way he managed it up there at Mt. Baker and built as how other people couldn't build, and everything went like that. And he was Hon from this Fee and Hon of the Wadham Company in Portland. And he told incidents and he told....

Mr. Runestrand: Well, how did your....how did the miners stay up there during the winter?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, they stayed right there in the...

Mr. Runestrand: Did they have a bunkhouse for them built up there?

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah, um hum. They had a big bunkhouse and they slept there. Had lots of trouble with rats, had lots of trouble with the rodents. Had.. one time papa got in two or three crew of fellas that he told them..he said they were going too heavy on the sugar. He said, "You can have all the sugar you want, but I'm not going to have sugar an inch deep in your cups, or coffee left in the cup." They had to all pack it up on their back. And one fellow was insolent and that, and he said, "We're gonna have all the sugar we want or we'll won't work," or something like that. Papa said, "If that's the way you feel about it, get your packs ready now and I'll take you all down. I'll get a new crew to come up here." He said, "I'll have to have a crew and it's easy to get a crew." And in the middle of winter too. And some of them came down with him. He took them down. The next day they were...my father was coming to get a new crew, you know, you could get men anytime. And of course many of them were known...that you knew you could get. But he...but these same fellas wanted to go back, and very humble. (Chuckles) But you couldn't do it now. The unions are too strong and everything like that. There's lots of gold in them thar hills still. Nobody yet wants to do it. My father, after the television...he lived for television, he'd just lived for radio, he said, "Oh, wouldn't the radio have been... Think if we could have had a radio up there."

Mr. Runestrand: I'll bet it would have made those long nights a lot shorter.

Mrs. Pattison: Sure. Gone for months...when they were building and doing that.

Mr. Runestrand: How long did it take him....let's say you were getting to be a younger ...or an older girl when he was working up at Post-Lambert. How long would it take him to get down the mountain and take the gold to Portland and get back up there? About a week?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, he'd...they'd walk down about...those miles...they walked. They could cover forty miles in, easily, eight or nine hours.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. And the train to town would take another, well, finish that day off. So it'd take him about probably four days to get back up to the mountain?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, no, they...I know we went to Glacier with him on the train a couple of times, and we went up...we left here on the train and went to Glacier and stayed all night in the hotel with him. He started up the next morning and he says, "Well, by late tonight, I'll be at the mine." So they didn't seem to walk fast, but how they covered the ground. But you see people...that's the way of life, of doing things then. People had to do it that way. The same thing was out at Blue Canyon. That incline that those men had to walk up to go to work you'd think you'd never get there. It was some miles to the...to the top of the...to the tunnel seven that had the explosion.

Mrs. Runestrand: Tunnel seven was at the top?

Mrs. Pattison: It was what they called the old mine.

Mr. Runestrand: How far down...getting back to Blue Canyon coal mine. How deep ...how far down did the tunnels go?

Mrs. Pattison: Oh, they went in a couple of thousand feet sometimes, and then some that they...they..it would run out before they had mined it too long, and then they started another tunnel. But, there's lots of coal there yet. They would have kept on mining the coal there...it was the same thing at Blue Canyon...the Seattle Lighting Company tried everything to get him to open a new tunnel.

Mr. Runestrand: That was your father?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes...to get him to open it. And he said, "No," he wasn't going to, that he'd been there this time and that was that. Well, they couldn't get anybody else. And he said...the Bellingham Coal Mine then was just starting up, full bang, and my father helped them get started a little bit. He

was out there for about a...both places about a year. But then of course he had a good crew that he knew out there and foremans to look to. But anyway, "Why," he says, "Now let's give them a chance." And he said, and do that, "The coal is about the same quality as Blue Canyon coal. And, give them a chance." And then after the Bellingham...after Blue Canyon mine was closed my father went to the mines around. Oh, he traveled...to get another for Seattle Lighting Company.

Mr. Runestrand: Now when did Seattle Lighting Company buy the rights to Blue Canyon? Was that about 1906 or so? 1910?

Mrs. Pattison: They bought it in 1906. Because that's a record in the courthouse. You can find all that. They got everyting in 1906. They did not buy the mine. They did not buy the boarding house property. They bought Bloedel's property and the place that we owned and...my folks owned their house there. They bought it, because there were private houses...you could build it. But most of the houses that were built there belonged to Bloedel. They called 'em Bloedel houses.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. So City Light...Seattle City Light had to...had to pay royalty to get the coal out?

Mrs. Pattison: They paid royalty to the coal....

Mr. Runestrand: To the Montana company?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. Which was what they call the Blue Canyon Coalmining Company.

Mr. Runestrand: And then that...the coal...after 1906 and the mine lasted... Blue Canyon Coal Company or coal mine was mined until what? Did you say...1921?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. Yes, Whatcom County Coal Company dissolved in 1920...'21. They dissolved...they wiped out.

Mr. Runestrand: But it was going...the coal was going down to Seattle to make coal gas for their....

Mrs. Pattison: And then...they tried to find coal and that was the time of the big strikes. It was the time of everything. And they went to gas. They

went to oil. The Seattle Lighting Company went to oil. And of course then the Seattle Gas....it was really...shouldn't have said Seattle Lighting Company because it was the gas company only. And I knew that the men of that... there was A. M. Lane. When the World's Fair was down in Seattle in 1909, why there were very few cars then, but when we took the Great Northern because my father then, couldn't leave the mine for all it...but my mother and my brother ...my little brother went down to the fair and we were met at the train by Mr. Lane's car and his chauffeur and taken to the hotel that Brand had bought afterwards, the old Colmar, that went down with the James street...they had pictures in the paper and everything when the old Colmar was taken. It had been running since 1900 and... And we went to this old Colmar Hotel and then they...when my father came down on the weekend, why, they came then and they took us to the fair and took us all over Seattle in their car. And of course that was a big treat then.

Mr. Runestrand: It's funny you mentioned something. You were talking about early 1900's, and your father having the weekends off, you were telling me the other day that miners only worked eight hours a day.

Mrs. Pattison: Um hum.

Mr. Runestrand: And what was it? Seven to three? Something like that?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, you see, they had two shifts, see, five...even here now they have two shifts. The shift changed at three o'clock. And then the night shift went up.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah, but I mean, they...they didn't ...was Blue Canyon unionized?

Mrs. Pattison: No, they never were, they tried to unionize them. I told you when we had all that trouble, they tried to unionize them. But they didn't unionize them.

Mr. Runestrand: And why didn't they? What was the problem?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, those were early days, and some of those...I don't know. They were very...the unionizers were very wild men. They hypnotized people into ...so there was nobody thinking, and they just simply said that anybody that was the boss was a criminal and all that. And as I told you the other day, I was in school and just turned five...a little bitty girl, and I was knocked down because my father was a boss. He was up at Mt. Baker then, but he was a boss. And they, not even the teacher dared do anything. This fellow went... Well, it all just ironed out. It just seemed to die out at that time. There was no...I don't think ...did we ever have...yes, the miners.. it was unionized but it didn't...when...out here.

Mr. Runestrand: At Bellingham Coal Mine, they had a strike.

Mrs. Pattison: They had a union. But they didn't have right at first I don't think. That was the time when my father was looking for a mine for the other, and I know that they struck on Carabinado.

Mr. Runestrand: On Carabinado?

Mrs. Pattison: Carabinado Coal Company.

Mr. Runestrand: Was that in town? Where was that?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, it's above...north of Buckley, and up in the hills there. Quite a little town. But they were having an awful time. They had a real strike, a real terrible time. And my father was there...they asked my father if he'd go down and try and settle the strike because of the men, then, from Blue Canyon had gone down there...working down in there. So he went there and they had hired men, you know, to come in and work...what they call scabs and everything like that, and then they had established a union hall, and I don't know. When my father came down they gave him a gun, and he says, "Not on your life," he says, "I didn't even carry a gun when I was in the mountains. I'm not against any man and I'm not carrying a gun now." He was a pretty good shot but he wasn't carrying any...I can't because I just don't remember. But

the...the woodsmen weren't...then of course, when he went with E. K. Wood Lumber Company then, right away, and he became their...what they called their timberbuying. And you see, E. K. Wood Timber Company farmed out a lot of places and he would go and see that these men were staying in line and doing what they should and he helped build tramlines.....

Mrs. Olga E. Pattison
July 31, 1975

Accession No. WTC 75-13mr, Tape No. 2, Tape Side No. 1

Mr. Runestrand: So, after he went with the...

Mrs. Pattison: You see, when you live at the outside of things like that some-
times...there was nothing in...nothing in Mt. Baker, of course, for a union,
and there never was a union in...oh, say, one thing that I wanted to say about
Blue Canyon and it's social life. In 1893, Mr. Willocks from Bellingham came
out there and organized the Masons. One four four lodge out of the
Masons at Blue Canyon.

Mr. Runestrand: I'll be darned.

Mrs. Pattison: And this boat once a month took all that joined...my father
was among them...and I believe J. O. Anderson too...all those fellows joined
this lodge down here...44...and they had a very nice time. Well, of course,
when my father was up at Mt. Baker, he couldn't keep up going and attendance
and everything like that, and they...but, most of the fellows that were able
to do it joined this, and they had a nice social time out of it as well as
meeting a lot of nice people, and they were all young fellows, and they got
a free ride on the boat into town, and a nice time for that. Well, it made
an extra...something outside for them to go to. Well then, just about the
time we were going into Bellingham...or we came into Whatcom too, why the
Oddfellows came out there, and were they trying hard among the loggers and
over at Park, and all that. But, oh, they did want those that were in Blue
Canyon to come join with them too if they'd have it. Well, of course that
made the differences of opinion. I know my father, being a Mason, said,
"Well, why couldn't they let us alone as the Masons when we're so few here
anyway and not divide it so that it makes for, you know, skin....." And
it made that. And of course Oddfellows. Well, one day between the hosue
where we lived and the schoolhouse there was a kind of a big clearing, and

a little...another little girlfriend and I went down...was walking toward the schoolhouse. We were just little tots but of course we walked freely on the roads out there. And here we came to a place where horses were eating out of the end of a lumber wagon, and I've seen it many times since where they had the bags over their head and were eating out of the end of it, but that was the time we'd seen it, the first time we'd seen it. Well, what in the world...horses at the end of the wagon, and what was this anyway? The other little girl said, "Maybe they're Oddfellows," and how we did run. (Laughter)

Mr. Runestrand: You were telling before when I came over to see you about....

Mrs. Pattison: Hum?

Mr. Runestrand: You were telling me before when newcomers would come into Blue Canyon.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: And there wouldn't really be much inside the cabins that they could rent...

Mrs. Pattison: The houses...three-room houses that there...there would be very little. Sometimes there was a bedstead or something like that, and Mr. Custer had a lot of used furniture. You see, when one family would leave, then, they would sell their furniture to him. And his store kept a lot of odds and ends that way. Well, if they had a job...they came to work...sometimes they had to wait for work because they...but they knew they were going to have it anyway. And then he would let them have the furniture and they would pay for it afterwards. And it was not that it was...it was enough to get by.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, what were you saying about using tin cans to make...?

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah, you make a spout on it and a handle out of a tin can, the handle, and you have a kind of a scissors to cut, you know, metal.... scissors, and turn down the edges...you didn't have candle to dull the edges

you know, and then a spoonholder, because by that time you had a spoon and a spoonholder. A spoonholder and a cream pitcher and a sugar bowl out of, see...

Mr. Runestrand: Out of the tin, huh. Have you ever....?

Mrs. Pattison: They were clever. Because the tin was very good tin.

Mr. Runestrand: What was the other thing you were talking about? The muslin?

Mrs. Pattison: Oh, they...they...sugar sacks...flour sacks. You see, you didn't buy flour by the pound or small cans. Everybody bought flour in sacks, and most of the time...big families...in barrels, because remember that bread was a big part of their food. They used an awful lot of bread and made a lot of cakes, and made a lot of the foods of that kind because even if they raised their own little potato patch, you didn't get many potatoes. And you couldn't buy potatoes very often. So bread was a big part of their food. Well, they got a lot of these flour sacks and they were quite...they were heavy, good muslin, and that's what made children's underwear. You couldn't buy.... (Chuckles)

Mr. Runestrand: But the thing I thought was really neat...what you said was the brand names...?

Mrs. Pattison: Oh....oh yeah. One was Pillsbury's Best, I know that; and Everett Best, were two flours.

Mr. Runestrand: Everett?

Mrs. Pattison: Everett Best and Pillsbury's Best...and I can't remember which one, but I know my mother said she liked one brand of flour better because the smockings came off easier.

Mr. Runestrand: The smockings came off the bag?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles)

Mrs. Pattison: But even when...their early history in a paper of 1905. Galen Biery's got to give me back that paper. I loaned it to him and sometimes he forgets to return things too, you know. But, I want that because it's mine.

And there, it tells all about the first fair. It was the first big annual paper for this region...1905. And there it tells all about the...this fair, and how everything was made out of flour and sugar sacks.

Mr. Runestrand: Hum. The...

Mrs. Pattison: And of course, then, it was just a few years later that there was plenty of muslins and plenty things available, but many people still made use of what they had.

Mr. Runestrand: Did you have...being out at that end of the lake, and the Nooksack area not being too far away, did you have any contact with Indians at Blue Canyon? Do you remember any stories of...any notice of say, of the Nooksack tribe coming into the North end or the Southeast....

Mrs. Pattison: We never saw an Indian in Blue Canyon. There was one time, it was one...maybe a quarterbreed, that came out there to sell clams. And he was talked about because they said that this was the first time that anybody out in this area has ever seen an Indian, and I have never seen one there since. I've never seen an Indian around the lake. And of course, there's the suspicion of Reveille Island.

Mr. Runestrand: What's that?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, maybe I better not just tell that because you can get that...the story of Reveille Island, you can get that from the paper even.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, you go ahead and tell me.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, they...there was a tribe living on the island, or part of the island, and they were attacked by another group of people of the is..., some that came to attack them, and one of the tribes...now which one, I don't know...were completely wiped out and drowned. And not one of their bodies was ever found.

Mr. Runestrand: Hum. And that's supposed to be Reveille Island out in the middle of Whatcom?

Mrs. Pattison: And they just simply said that that island...it was before the white men always came there...they never went near it again because they said that lake underneath is streams, running streams that just washes things out. Well, it's true, you don't find...there are bodies there that never have been found. That certainly is...that's a mighty fresh body of water.

Mr. Runestrand: I hadn't heard that story.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, I maybe have it. It's quite a...when they elaborate on it, it's quite a colorful story. It's been in the papers several times. But there never has been any Indian...

Mr. Runestrand: Huh. The...

Mrs. Pattison: They had...oh, when they built the railroad...and the railroad was finished...that's the one at Blue Canyon...that was hard on a lot of people out there. Why, they had about twenty or thirty white men, and I can see all those white men sitting around on the porch of the section house, and they had Tom Valentine and a fellow by the name of Richmond, had been to Japan and brought out a whole crew of young Japanese boys. Those boys, I know now, must have been all under twenty. And they were nice boys. They were harmless. They were made to live in boxcars with hardly any air or anything you know, for just that...they had to cook outside in tubs...which was mostly rice and what they could cook. And of course the white people resented it terribly. That was ostracism almost, in a way. And any...they used to come up to my mother to buy...get milk because we had a cow then, and they would come in and they'd show her pictures of their families in Japan. They lived...they were so homesick they were just nearly dead. They were just human beings like everybody else. And, oh,...so finally it...they jsut got stolen and everything so much that they built just beyond where is...our place is now on that point there... They built a cabin for themselves, quite a big house, it was very roughly built of rough lumber, but it was good shelter. And it had aand of course what happened, a group of white men...and I know who did it...went down and set

fire to their house and burned them clear out.

Mr. Runestrand: Just because they were prejudiced?

Mrs. Pattison: Who brought 'em over here? They went over there and invited... put out every fanciful stories of what they would have if they came over here.

Mr. Runestrand: And which company was this? This was the Bellingham Bay and British Columbia Railroad?

Mrs. Pattison: Bellingham Bay and British Columbia Railroad. Bellingham Bay and Brit....oh my.....

Mr. Runestrand: What finally happened to these Japanese fellows? Did they... when they finished the railroad...?

Mrs. Pattison: I don't know. They just seemed to disappear then.

Mr. Runestrand: I was wondering if they might have gone down to work at P. A. F. or Seattle or...?

Mrs. Pattison: I would have no idea. Because, well, I know one of the railroad men said, "Well, they didn't have any real contract. We can't pay them anything after not working." Or something like that. But it was hard days. Lots of hard things. But I will say this, that the group of people that I don't think have ever had it very hard and had more than the white man if they knew how to use it, and that's been the Indians here. In all my life I've never known when we weren't working for them and where they had government money and where they had it. But they just don't know how to use it.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, you've lived in this town an awful long time. What... you moved to...you moved into what was now...what was then, Whatcom, in what? 1903?

Mrs. Pattison: Four. 1904.

Mr. Runestrand: 1904.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. Whatcom was then... Oh, then we did have one thing at Blue Canyon. Some person got the wild idea that when consolidation came, you

see to Fairhaven and little old Bellingham and Whatcom joined together. Bellingham was what...about Sehome, you know, in there, and they got the wild idea they would take in all the territory around the lake and have it all be.... because then Bellingham's water was beginning to come from the lake, you know, and..(Chuckles) and they were going to take in the lake too. So here...a whole bunch came into Bellingham here...Whatcom it was then.-.from the lake, and it was a big gathering up by the Baker Hotel. You don't remember that?

Mr. Runestrand: No.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, it's on Forest street, where that is...the big Baker Hotel. And I spoke a piece, a little bit, and I remember I was on a stool and somebody held my back, and I had never seen that piece anyplace. I've never seen it printed. I have it. I gave it several times at the...our centennial here, and I have wondered where...I said, "Who wrote it? Where did my folks get it?" They taught it to me. I learned quickly, even when I was very small, to speak pieces at the old schoolhouse. That...but...

Bellingham's the name
 Energy makes for fame
 Labor lives in style
 Lumber by the mile
 Investments safely sure
 Neighbors true and pure
 Got the county seat
 Harbor can't be beat
 Almost never cold
 Mines of iron and gold.

Now, I'm the only one that ever had that that I know of. Now it may be around some other place, but I've tried to find out.

Mr. Runestrand: And you gave this during consolidation?

Mrs. Pattison: That speech...and they asked me to speak it again. And here was this gathering around the hotel wondering if people all around Lake Whatcom couldn't be consolidated with Bellingham at the same time. (Laughter) One of those wild ideas. But they did bring the lodge out there. They did do that...and it was a good thing. But...and at that time, I think ...you see, then it was the water department, you see, the water from Lake Whatcom was never requested. They just went out and put in their...I think they just went out and put in a pipe. But anyway that came out of Blue Canyon.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, after the...after the closing down of Blue Canyon in '21, of course the lake had started to develop more and more...more and more people were living around the lake.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, it was quite a long time...people were buying. My father sold a lot of those lots. See, that land all became his then, that was the Whatcom County Coal Company's. And whether he...whether it was bought, whether ...I don't know all about it. But he sold a lot of those lots right on the water for twenty-five dollars apiece then. He sold our place...where that house is...where it's built, there was a barn and everything like that and thirteen acres of land plus water rights, for four-hundred and twenty-five dollars. But he said, "What's it to us, these people want a place to live." But it didn't ...there wasn't very much done there until after.....after the depression.

Mr. Runestrand: You were saying that they had a post office at Blue Canyon?

Mrs. Pattison: Sure, the store had a post office at Blue Canyon.

Mr. Runestrand: How was the mail picked up? Was it took...brought in....and into Whatcom?

Mrs. Pattison: It came to Blue Canyon on the boats. We...the boats brought it out from Bellingham. It came to Blue Canyon from Bellingham. And then, oh, about '07, or '08, along in there, then they had a mail boat from Bellingham that went around the lake. See, Custer had taken his store to Park, and they

had a post office in Park. But the mail for the Park Post office came on the mailboat from...and all of us around the lake had mailboxes. And they'd just stop and give us the mail, and we got a paper everyday.

Mr. Runestrand: Huh. The other little...I'll call them villages or townships like Wickersham...now that was just a hop, skip and a jump down the road a piece...part...the mailboat, did each of these have post offices also?

Mrs. Pattison: I don't know where Wickersham got their mail. We now are Sedro Woolley, you know. We get our mail through Sedro Woolley at that end of the lake. And I don't know because we didn't...we were not living there to get our mail at that time, and so I wouldn't remember.

Mr. Runestrand: I didn't know if you knew or not, but I...I thought that was very interesting to have a...but you were very...a very isolated community.

Mrs. Pattison: I tell you, you could easy find that out by going right to the post office there. So you could find that out, you could get that when it was transferred. But I know that it ceased to be Blue Canyon post office when he moved to Park. Then you sent your mail to Park. But only for a short time because then it came out of...you wrote Bellingham Route #4, or something ...and it went around the lake in a mailboat.

Mr. Runestrand: What...this guy's name was Burgess?

Mrs. Pattison: Burgess.

Mr. Runestrand: And he was a logger?

Mrs. Pattison: They have children that are living here still. They're all... well, or grandchildren. Anyway, she was quite a large woman. They lived in just a two-room log cabin up on a hill by Park. And he was killed in the log.. while he was logging. And that Mrs. Burgess put on overalls and went out and helped her children with the logging, and how they ever did, I don't know. Of course, she was terribly talked about...a woman to do like that...that's.. put on overalls and go out and work like that in the timber. Why, she was as rough as any man, it's a wonder she didn't smoke a pipe, and you know just..

... But when she used to come down to our place and we had apple trees and we had a lot. And my father used to say, "You can have all you want here, and can it and fix it." So, how they lived, I don't... You just wonder sometimes....because those children weren't so old, you know. But they made it... and one of the girls married a sugar planter in the Hawaiian Islands about the time that Charles Countryman went there for the sugar. If you remember Charles Countryman here?

Mr. Runestrand: Is that the store? The store owner?

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. And a.....yes.

Mr. Runestrand: My gramma used to work in the Countryman's store.

Mrs. Pattison: Countryman's store. Well, they were very, very good friends of ours. They used to come out to Blue Canyon and pick blackberries. Charles's parents, when I was very little....stay at our place. So anyway, about the time that Charles went there to the Hawaiian Islands, why this girl married a man who went...who was a sugar planter in the Hawaiian Islands. And they sure made good. So did the Countrymans. They did very well with sugar in the Hawaiian Islands. Well then she sent mother lots of things, so mother had it very easy for her. And she put on all the pink and blue bows and fancy things...that she never had but overalls in her young life, you know. And then she got talked about too.

Mr. Runestrand: Well,...that's (Chuckles) That's good, that's good. Say, talking about accidents in the woods like this Burgess fellow...We talked about the mining explosion in 1895 that killed what? Twenty-three men?

Mrs. Pattison: Um hum. Killed.

Mr. Runestrand: And then this other fellow that died just before your dad went up to the Lone Jack Mine.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes. Ned Oman, was his name.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, did this...did the Blue Canyon Coal Company, out of the Montana firm, did they have any compensation at all for the widows? Nothing?

Mrs. Pattison: Nothing at all.

Mr. Runestrand: Would other miners chip in and try to help out the people? Could people afford to do that?

Mrs. Pattison: I...I...tell you, I just don't know. I wish I knew. I knew... I know that with the Selensky's the company, the mining company gave....I guess they must have owned that awful house...they gave her the house that she could live in it. I don't know.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, I was wondering...

Mrs. Pattison: Mr. ...the last son..of Mrs. Selensky was buried here about three years ago. And of course I was invited to the funeral. Marian Dauly was his sister-in-law. If you happen to know her. She's well-known. They lived at Birch Bay a long time.

Mr. Runestrand: No, that...did your dad...did your father have many accidents up in the Lone Jack Mine? Up at Post-Lambert?

Mrs. Pattison: Well, he had his own fingers taken off like this, you know.

Mr. Runestrand: Is that right. What? The index up to about the middle finger?

Mrs. Pattison: Yeah, right here. He had men sleeping in the night shift, and he asked to sew...he had a machine that was squeaking, he was afraid it would bother them. So to do it...and he got caught by the wire in a big roller and he had to pull his own fingers off to...do that. And he was up in that mountains then. John Cress saw...he begged John Cress to chop it..to chop his fingers, and he couldn't. He said I...but, I helped him pull his fingers off that was in the roller. Well, it happened about five o'clock at night and John and a couple of other people were going down with him, you know, and they got a horse someplace, I don't know where, a mule anyway. But he couldn't stand that. He could walk easier than he could ride. Well, when they got down to Excelsior, why, that was the...you know, Konovan had lots of interests there too, and they got...when they got to Excelsior, why, the manager from Excelsior took the time off and what comfort he could give, and they helped

him down...to get down to Glacier.

Mr. Runestrand: How did they get down? Did they take a speeder down or somethin'?

Mrs. Pattison: I don't know what it was. But anyway they got word from Excelsior down to Glacier what had happened and help would come. So when they got down there the train was waiting, which was a... And they had orders to drive the train just as fast as they could...not to make hardly any stops or anything. And the fellow that was a brand new, young conductor on that time was Haxton, that was our commissioner, later on.

Mr. Runestrand: Named after Haxton...the Haxton road?

Mrs. Pattison: Um hum. He was the conductor on that train and people....He said one of his first trips pretty nearly. He never forgot it. And they came down. And of course all my father could think of, he said, all the way down was about his family and how he'd get word to them. And when they came through the alley, which is Holly street, you know, that alley that's still there and the trains...he someway jumped the train and wanted to get up to Dr.. he was going to Dr. Axtel, that was here then.

Mr. Runestrand: Dr. what..?

Mrs. Pattison: Axtel, Dr. Axtel. And he jumped the train and went up to Dr. Axtel's office when somebody wasn't looking. See, he thought he could get out and see my mother and the children before he had to go to the hospital. And of course he got to the Dr.'s office, why, he fainted. And of course, then Donovan was there to meet him with a hack. See, when they got to the train of course, my father wasn't there. He was at the doctor's office. And they was there with a hack for him and everything. And then this man, this superintendent from Excelsior went out on the boat to tell my mother. And he told her, and she went in to town. I remember when I came in and they told me my father was hurt and mother was crying and everybody said, "Well, you'll never be able to go up and do all that work again." and my father says, "I'm going to do it." And my father wrote a beautiful hand. He put a pen in here and a

pen in here and just...he had more....he had strength enough in that little finger to lift a hundred pounds. He was quite a powerful man and had developed his power.

Mr. Runestrand: Well,...they called him what? Big Andy?

Mrs. Pattison: Big Andy. Yeah. He was called Big Andy before that happened. My mother said that they called him Big Andy when he...when she married him.
(Laughter)

Mr. Runestrand: Well, Mrs. Pattison, I'd like to thank you for talkin' to me right now.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, I'm glad to review it, and I can tell you this...that every word I've said is true. Every word I've said...and when they....it was kind of a relief to me when I...they said something about Jeffcott there... that some of his wasn't all factual. Well, everything that he got from the mountains was a lot as I've told you. He did put in some things that were a little extra because he wanted to bring Donovan more into some of the activities than he should have. Because Donovan was not a miner, he was in town. He was the fellow that raised the money in a way to...the paychecks were written out from...in town here, and brought out to the lake and given to them.

Mr. Runestrand: I just want to say, "Thank you." to you.

Mrs. Pattison: Well, you're very welcome. I hope you can make something out of it. I wish you could make the feeling that it was a very closely knit community, that we...that people were neighborly, that everybody, if there was sickness, if there was trouble, everybody turned to help. You never thought anything about it. I know children died and there was sickness and all. But, well, you wasn't even afraid of contagion, it didn't seem like. When I was little, we all went to school and we all had whooping cough together. You know....they couldn't....I know that.

Mr. Runestrand: Those type of communities are hard to find.

Mrs. Pattison: But...and the people do...and I say...look at our lot....and there's Charley Parker and his wife, Mary.....all they wanted, was to be buried with Ecklund.

Mr. Runestrand: Thanks a lot.

Mrs. Pattison: My mother never worked out after she was married to...or anything, but she sure worked. She had all these people in the house, often. And they just expected...from the mine...from the mine up there and from this. When the men came down from Mt. Baker at Christmas time...where did they come for their dinner? Out to our house. Those that could come. ... because some had homes and relatives, to go to, naturally. But there was always some that didn't have anybody. Everything was new then.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah. Well, that's a...that's a nice reflection upon your folks.

Mrs. Pattison: Yes.