



WASHINGTON STATE ORAL/AURAL HISTORY PROGRAM
WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES,

ACCESSION NO. WCT 16-38wr	TAPE NO.
INTERVIEWEE'S NAME WALLACE G. WINTER	

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INTERVIEWER MICHAEL A. RUNESCRAND	DATE 3/7/76
COMMUNITY ADVISOR	DATE
PROGRAM COORDINATOR JIMMIE FREDERICK	DATE 2/22/77

Wallace G. Winter
SIGNATURE (INTERVIEWEE)



TAPE ARCHIVE SHEET

INTERVIEWEE'S NAME Wallace G. Winter BIRTH DATE 1905

HOME ADDRESS _____

INTERVIEWER Michael A. Runestrand

INTERVIEW TITLE MEMORIES OF BLAINE IN THE 1920'S AND THE HISTORY OF BELLINGHAM SASH & DOOR COMPANY

INTERVIEW DATE March 1 & 5, 1976 TIME _____

INTERVIEW SUMMARY Family background; Big snow 1916; Bellingham circa 1900; Education;

Movie Theaters in early Bellingham; Blaine, Wa. circa 1920's; Canadians;

Chinese; Hindus; Blaine School System; Bellingham Sash & Door Company

1927 - 1960; Depression and World War II

RESTRICTIONS _____

PROPER NAMES OR COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSIONS USED Lucille Kane-mother; Mrs. Alla Kane; Maxine Yers;

Mr. Montequ; Mr. C.T.Goff; the Arnolds; Charlie Chaplin; Ole the Swede; Jack

Baylor-movie projectionist; Goon Dip-Chinese contractor; Father Duncan; Mrs.

Keeling, Louie Miller, Arthur Keeling - B'ham Sash & Door; Manley brothers;

Claude Manley-County Commissioner; Galbraith Brothers; Billy Moore, Warnick Lumber;
(cont. over)

INTERVIEW AND RECORDING QUALITY _____

DOCUMENTATION _____

Frank Myers
George Gottleich
Trunkey family
C.B.Scott
Cat Roy
Al Mercy
Willard Brown
George Erz, builder
Kenny Garten

Monteque & McHugh Dry Goods Store
Bellingham Hardware
Travel Lodge
P.F.Fuller Co., Blaine
Danceland
Abstract Office, Commercial St.
Grand Union Tea Company
Fisher & Isaac's Grocery Store
Chuckwagon
Bon Marche
Columbia Hotel
Panama Theater
Mt. Baker Plywood
Bellingham Sash & Door
Billy Hall's Confectionary
Snavies Candy Store
Chatté Mortgage
City of Paris, Blaine store
Getschman's Hardware Store, Blaine
Magnuson's Store, Blaine
Ritz Hotel
Walton W & M Thriftway, Blaine
Bungalow Dance Hall

Smiley Cannery
Ainsworth & Dunn Cannery
Red Cannery
Alaska Packers
Morrison Mill
North Bluff Shingle Mill
Parkers Mill
Beanery
Blaine Mfg. Co.-coop shingle Mill
Hunter & Rounds Mill
Lake Samish Lumber & Shingle
Weyerhauser
Longbell
Warnick Lumber
Columbia Valley Hardware
Columbia Lumber Company
Bloedel-Donovan Mills
Ivarsen Mill, Custer
Washington Plywood
Northwest Hardware
Morse Hardware

World War I
Depression
World War II

Youngstock Nursery, Bellingham
Kramer's Shoe Store
Ennen & Goodman's
Lynden Dept. Store
Kind & Young now Golden Rule
Woolworth's
Sewer Treatment Plant
City Sanitary Service
Hoff & Pinkey
Wash. Coop Egg & Poultry now WA Farmers

Panama Theater
Star Theater
Pantages circuit
Grand Theater
Don Gray Stock Company
Dick Lonsdale Company
Bellingham Theater
Ivanell Theater, Blaine

Univ. of Washington
Bellingham School District
Assumption School
Washington School // Franklin School
Twilight League- Blaine Baseball Team

Sherman Act
Dept. of Labor & Industries
N.R.A.
Northwest Lumber Surveyor
City Glass Mirrorworks
Revere Ware
Gibson Refrigerator
National Gypsum Company

Star Line - three masted schooners
-Star of Holland
-Star of Lapland
-Star of Finland
-Star of Indiana

Chinese
Hindus
Japanese

Pacific American Fisheries
"D" Street Dock, Blaine
Cherry Street Dock, Blaine

New Westminster, Canada
Whatcom Falls Park
Squalicum Beach
Ferndale
Everson
Mt. Vernon
1413 Garden Street, Bellingham
White Rock, B.C.
Vancouver, B.C.
Prospect & Dupont, Bellingham

Mr. Wallace G. Winter
March 1, & March 5, 1976

"MEMORIES OF BLAINE IN THE 1920's AND
HISTORY OF BELLINGHAM SASH & DOOR COMPANY."

Interviewed by: Michael A. Runstrand

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

Accession No. WTC 76-38mr, Tape Nos. 1&2, Tape Side Nos. 1&2, 3&4, No. Of Pages 44

Mr. Wallace G. Winter
March 1, 1976

Accession No. WTC 7638)mr, Tape No. 1, Tape Side No. 1

Mr. Runestrand: We're here today with Mr. Wallace Winter, and, Mr. Winter, what a.....when were you born?

Mr. Winter: August the 2nd, 1905.

Mr. Runestrand: In this town, Bellingham?

Mr. Winter: Yes, at 1413 Garden Street.

Mr. Runestrand: You were born in a house?

Mr. Winter: Yes, in the house.

Mr. Runestrand: What were your folks names?

Mr. Winter: Well, my father was Henry Winter and my mother was Lucille Kane, K-A-N-E.

Mr. Runestrand: I see. Where did they.....were they born in this area or did they..?..

Mr. Winter: No, my father was born in Iowa, and was raised practically in Nebraska, and from there they came out to Bellingham but, why they came to Bellingham, that, I never did find out. And, my mother was of theatrical parents there and was born in Moorhead, Minnesota, in a stand there that they were showing at a local theater; and three days after that then, they left and went on. And, her parents decided they didn't want the two children that were born so they were, they weren't adopted out by a Mrs. Alla Kane, who ran a maternity hospital here in Bellingham after she came here but, they lived in Salem, Oregon where Mrs. Kane's husband was a....he was a person that fooled around the race tracks there, had a race horse and bet everything he had on that and they lost everything and he died shortly after that; and they came to Bellingham because there was relatives here in Bellingham that, they wanted to be closer to them. And, that was in....my father came in 1902 and my mother came in 1903. They were married in 1904 then, I showed on the scene in 1905. (Chuckles)

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles also) How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Mr. Winter: I didn't have any either brothers or sisters, they told me that they had lost child in child-birth but, I have an adopted sister which, I think as much of, as if she were my own sister.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Was she adopted when you were just a child?

Mr. Winter: No, I was 13 years old when they adopted her.

Mr. Runestrand: What....what's her name?

Mr. Winter: Maxine.

Mr. Runestrand: Maxine.

Mr. Winter: Myers, she's married to an old pioneer family from Lyman, Washington.

Mr. Runestrand: I see. Ah,...your father worked in town when he came to town, what was he doing?

Mr. Winter: Yes, when he came, he had worked in grocery stores and all, in fact, he says when he first went in the grocery store, why there was no such thing as a sack and anytime a person came in to get 25 pounds of sugar, they had to take a piece of flat wrapping paper and make a cone sack out of it there to weigh it up, and that was the only way that you could use that. The same thing when somebody bought some nails in the hardware department. He came to Bellingham here, and he worked for the old Monteque and McHugh dry goods store.

Mr. Runestrand: Monteque and....

Mr. Winter: Monteque & McHugh.

Mr. Runestrand: How did you spell the McHugh?

Mr. Winter: M-C-H-U-G-H. And, originally that store was over in Fairhaven. It came over to the Bellingham, or New Whatcom, at that time, and it was down next to where the Bellingham Hardware is now, at the corner of Bay and Holly. Then, they built a new....they was a new building being built where the Travel Lodge is now, and I remember the....when the store, when they were plastering we were down there to see that as a kid, and then after Mr. Monteque died, why

his brother-in-law, McHugh, came to Bellingham here, to operate the store and they built the new building at the time of the depression and, that went under then; but, in 1915, just before Halloween, my father and the man that was the....who had charge.....my father had charge of the upstairs, which was a ready-to-wear, at Monteque's; and the man who was the floor-walker downstairs, Mr. C. T. Goff, moved to....we bought the store out in Blaine, the P. F. Fuller Company, and I know I remember, it was just before Halloween, 1915, and I was still going to school down here and didn't leave to go to Blaine until we moved there on the 3rd of January, 1916. That was the year of the big snow. There was 36 inches here in Bellingham, and the streetcars couldn't run.

Mr. Runestrand: Geez!

Mr. Winter: And, I remember, there was the old Danceland, which was, I think it's the Abstract office now, where the Danceland was, over the Grand Union Tea Company, and Fisher & Isaac's grocery store upstairs there, this was at Danceland, and there was so much snow on there, which they hadn't scraped off, that the roof caved in.

Mr. Runestrand: Danceland, was that a...?...

Mr. Winter: Just a dance hall that was called Danceland.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. This was in Blaine?

Mr. Winter: No, this was in Bellingham, down here in the.....

Mr. Runestrand: I've never heard of this place; where was it in town?

Mr. Winter: Well, it's where the Abstract office is, there on Commercial Street and there's a.....in there now to is this restaurant, right next door to the Chuckwagon.

Mr. Runestrand: Oh, okay, the title company.

Mr. Winter: The Title Company is in there yeah, Abstract or Title Company there and, this was upstairs over that; the stairway went right up and on one side was the Grand Union Tea Company, to the right of the stairway and on the left

side, was the Fisher & Isaac's grocery store.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Ah, as a child in Bellingham, you started...was there a kindergarten?

Mr. Winter: No. Well, there was some kind of a kindergarten that was in the basement of the Library, where the parking lot is next to Bon Marche when there was a great big rock there and then course they had a program for kindergarten kids then on saturday mornings in the Library. I started school at the Franklin School.

Mr. Runestrand: Do you remember how large a class you were in? Was it a lot of kids, like 30 or 40, or was it small, like 10 or 15?

Mr. Winter: Oh, there was pretty close to 30, I would say, at the time.

Mr. Runestrand: How far did you go in school, in the Bellingham School district?

Mr. Winter: Well, I went to the 1st and 2nd grade; the 2nd grade ended then in May of 1913, and my father was raised a Catholic; I wasn't raised Catholic, my mother's a protestant and so she consented though to let me go to school at the Assumption School over here and I went there for two and a half years, til we moved to Blaine. But, I never took any of the Catechism or the Bible history they had there, when they were having those classes, I was taking violin lessons over in the Nun's house, right behind.

Mr. Runestrand: So, when you did go up to Blaine then, you were in the 5th grade, is that right?

Mr. Winter: I was in the last half of the 5th grade.

Mr. Runestrand: Ah....what did you do for entertainment as a youngster in Bellingham now? You were up into the 5th grade, you had a lot of friends but, say, on a saturday, what would you do for enjoyment? What did you do for kicks?

Mr. Winter: Oh, some of the things that were,....I was very much.....have been I imagine....I inherited it from my mother's side of the family, that in...

..amusement; and, I remember, there was a theater right next to where the Columbia Hotel used to be, there's a vacant lot in there where this building was, it was called the Panama Theater. And, I remember, on a Friday afternoon, the manager would come on up to the different schools and during recess would have a ticket scramble, whoever would get a ticket then, would be able to go to the matinee then, for the Panama Theater.

Mr. Runestrand: You mean, he would just throw some tickets out on the.?...

Mr. Winter: He would just throw the tickets up in the air like that, and there was a scramble there for the kids, whoever would get the tickets. And, I remember going to that quite often. And, then there was the...we always had picnics out at Whatcom Falls Park or walked down the railroad track to Squaticum Beach, which is where the Mt. Baker Plywood is now.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: And, then there was excursions on the train and different things of that type.

Mr. Runestrand: What type of shows did the Panama Theater show that you can remember, are we talking about things like a...?....

Mr. Winter: Oh, they were movies.

Mr. Runestrand: Silent, or...?....

Mr. Winter: Silent movies.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah.

Mr. Winter: Course, my recollections of...the first things I remember seeing in the movies there, was at the old Star Theater, which was owned by the Arnolds, and, they were friends of my grandparents, because they lived right, a short distance there out in Yew Street, in there, and, it was Charley Chaplin, that was the first thing, I mean, that was....we'd always go to a....Saturday night, my father had to work til 9:00 o'clock, and it was probably 11:00, before he got out of the store, they had to put all their displays down and put the all

the merchandise back; but, we would go there, mother and I to the Star Theater to see Charley Chaplin which would be out before 9:00 o'clock, so, we'd go to wait for my father and come on home with him.

Mr. Runestrand: Do you remember any type of travelling shows that would come into Bellingham? I've talked with people, and I think we mentioned it before, the Pantages circuit, and some of these things like the human fly that climbed the Mt. Baker Hotel?....

Mr. Winter: That would be in later years, that wasn't a....

Mr. Runestrand: This wasn't in the teens?

Mr. Winter: That was after we came back to Bellingham and that was.....one of the shows that used to play the Grand Theater and stayed here every week, was the Don Gray stock company, and they had, friday, saturday and sunday, would put on a program there that each week, a different play. And, previous to that, there was a Dick Lonsdale company, called Ole the Swede, and they would put on little skits showing there. The first part of the week would be all movies, that is, monday to friday, and sometimes they would have to have more people in the cast than what they had, and Jack Baylor, who was the movie projectionist there, and his wife, Mrs. Baylor, sometimes they would get them into the program there, like maybe something like a school scene, like that, and there would be kids in the class and all.

Mr. Runestrand: Uh huh.

Mr. Winter: And, that was very popular.

Mr. Runestrand: Did they have concession stands inside the theaters at this time?

Mr. Winter: Well, they did, down in the old Bellingham Theater, which was down where the Ritz Hotel used to be in old town, across from Sash & Door, and my uncle had the concession there for popcorn, peanuts and things like that there but, it wasn't til later years here that there was any concessions in the theaters.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, that's what I understood, and, I was wondering, you know if people would buy their stuff before they got to the show?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, I remember, usually, I would stop at a place here that some of the old timers remember, we called, Billy Hall's, which was a confection-ary place there where they sold tabacoo and candy; it wasn't like the candy that was sold in the Cave, or the Snavies Candy Store, it was the packaged type and, one thing, I'll never forget, Billy Hall, I always would go in there to get a milkshake, and one fellow in there that would ask you what flavor you wanted, she said, well, I don't care; well, he had a mixture he called, I don't care, and I tell you, the way that tasted there, you never told him you didn't care.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles heartily)

Mr. Winter: That's a....I think every syrup or flavor that he had, was all mixed together there that I know, you never got an, I don't care again.

(Chuckles) You either had vanilla or something.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) Ohh, well, when you.....did your mother work at all?

Mr. Winter: No. No, she never worked anywhere.

Mr. Runestrand: Was your mother upset when you decided to move to Blaine and perhaps, leave friends and stuff?....

Mr. Winter: No. No, she knew that was a different beginning for her, that my father was on his own then, but, I know that we had a very rough time when we first went there.

Mr. Runestrand: Why?

Mr. Winter: Well, we had bought this store; and it was on a conditional sales contract, and it was with the Chattel Mortgage, now the Chattel Mortgage, when you have that on a business, it's very hard to get credit because they control it.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: And, we took out a very small amount; and the cheapest house we could find in Blaine at that time was \$20.00 month, which doesn't sound much now, but, the power and light company up there was owned by the city, but, they bought their electricity from Canada. And, it was very high, you couldn't use it for heating or anything like that. And, my father took \$20.00 a week, for his wages; \$5.00 we set aside for rent, and fifty cents for lights, because it was \$2.00 minimum, for lights, and \$5.00 for groceries. I can remember that we couldn't afford to buy a sack of flour because we didn't have that much money to buy a sack of flour, and I would take twenty-five cents and go down to the local bakery to get twenty-five cents worth of flour, so, we'd be able to have that. And, we did that there, to get rid of this Chattel Mortgage on there, cause my father and his partner didn't have enough money to..... and, it was just lucky that we had plenty of clothes, so, that we didn't have to buy any clothes there for awhile. But, it was an experience, and I don't regret it I....

Mr. Runestrand: Did you eat a lot of salmon during the summer?

Mr. Winter: No.

Mr. Runestrand: I'm surprised. I've talked with fishermen and they said, sometimes they would just about throw them away and I thought..?....

Mr. Winter: Well, you talk about that; I've seen where the canneries, there was so many canneries there in Blaine; and they'd catch so many fish that the canneries couldn't take care of them and they'd just throw 'em overboard.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: And, along the beach there, was just dead fish that was....

Mr. Runestrand: I imagine they would put out an odor.

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, they just couldn't get rid of 'em, they just caught more than what they could dispose of.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, what I....okay, maybe you didn't eat a lot of salmon,

but, did you eat some?

Mr. Winter: Oh, some; oh yes.

Mr. Runestrand: Your mother being....no, your father being Catholic, did you observe the abstinence of meat on friday, by choice or by economic conditions?

Mr. Winter: Oh, not necessarily.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. The business, as your father set up in Blaine, this was another type of dry goods store?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, this was a dry goods, ready-to-wear.

Mr. Runestrand: Now, would you explain to me, exactly what you mean by dry goods? What type of things did you have in the store?

Mr. Winter: Oh, there was what you call notions, which was buttons and thread and hooks and eyes, needles, pins, anything like that; and, all ready-to-wear, coats; there was very few dresses except housedresses, which was usually what a woman wears early in the morning, something of that type of clothing and... course, there was hosiery and piece goods, which would be the rolls of merchandise there, silks, satins, linings and dress goods, which would be wool, all that type of merchandise. We carried no shoes, there was a shoe store there, which had everything in that.....no men's furnishings there, it was all ladies.

Mr. Runestrand: Were there any other dry goods stores in Blaine?

Mr. Winter: Yes, there was one just across the street from us called, the City of Paris. And, then there was another one that was up on Martin street which was Getschman's, which was a hardware store, but, they handled a few things there in ladies wear and then, the one across the street there was, Magnuson's store. . .

Mr. Runestrand: You mentioned....just a second, Getchman's?

Mr. Winter: Getchman's.

Mr. Runestrand: How did you spell that name please?

Mr. Winter: G-E-T-S-C-H-M-A-N, they were....it was a German family.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, then it sounds like, if you're dealing with four different stores, you had to be fairly competitive, or your father had to be fairly competitive?

Mr. Winter: Well, at that time, there was....the paved road stopped out here by the county farm.

Mr. Runestrand: Coming out of Bellingham, going north?

Mr. Winter: Yeah, going north out of Bellingham. And then, coming down from Canada, the pavement ended at New Westminister, and that was dirt roads all the way then, on down and we had lots of customers that would come on down from Vancouver; that was a days drive practically to get to Blaine and buy things there that was something they wanted from the states. And then, White Rock, this was during World War I; White Rock was quite a town, a resort, beach resort for people living in Vancouver and they run the commuter train from Blaine to Vancouver every day and the people would go in to Vancouver to work and they'd come on down there for the three months of the summer. Blaine was pretty well populated by these Canadians from White Rock coming over to buy, and I remember, it wasn't anything to get in ten dozen of these house dresses like I said before, and they'd be all gone in the week-end there when the Canadians would come on down and buy those there just to.....

Mr. Runestrand: Was it because the price was so much better in the United States?

Mr. Winter: Well, there wasn't any in White Rock at that particular time, there was no stores of that kind in White Rock.

Mr. Runestrand: I see.

Mr. Winter: And, it was a.....they'd come in to Blaine, and this one theater, the Ivanel Theater that was there in Blaine why, that would be well populated then for a week-end.

Mr. Runestrand: So, the existence of Canadians coming down and visiting the United States is nothing new to you?

Mr. Winter: Oh no; no, no,one thing though, after the war, that was very...

Mr. Runestrand: World War I?

Mr. Winter: Yes, that was a very...hardship on the Canadians there, that their money, the value dropped so that, I remember a 20% discount on Canadian money. And, even with that why, we had lots of Canadian business.

Mr. Runestrand: As you...as you moved into Blaine, and you mentioned the house; where was your house located at?

Mr. Winter: Well, it was on..as I remember, it was 'F' street, just a half a block off of the Washington Boulevard, which is the main street running down through there. And, the Walton W & M Thriftway then was, their parking lot is just right across the street from this house.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: And, at that time there was a big dance hall called the Bungalow Dance Hall, which was operated by the volunteer fire department, and they had lots of dances in there; and, the back end of that was just...that was faced on Washington Boulevard,...and the back end of the building there would come right up practically to our back door.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. How many people, would you say in 1916 lived in the Blaine community? I realize you were only 5th - 6th grade at this time, but, looking back, can you give a guesstimate?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I don't think there was more than 500 people all tolled, around that whole area.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Ah, when I was visiting with you last week, you were rattling off a bunch of different businesses up there, canneries and mills; can you once again, do that for me, but, like, let's start with the canneries and then go to the mills? And, tell me about where they were located in the Blaine location or area?

Mr. Winter: Well, the 'D' street dock, there was the Smiley Cannery; there was the Ainsworth & Dunn cannery. And, then on the Cherry street dock, there was what they called the Red Cannery which, at one time,..well, sometime after that, was sold to an Italian Company, who were making weiners out of salmon, someway so that they eliminated the taste of the salmon so that it tasted like meat; and, but that didn't last too long and then it became a reduction plant, where, they were making fertilizer out of that.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: Well, now, that dock is entirely gone and there is nothing there at all. And, then there was Alaska Packers, which is across on the Semiamooh spit, and that was quite a big operation at that time because they had lots of canneries in Alaska; and, they had the Star line of sailing vessels there, the Star of Holland, the Star of Lapland, the Star of Finland and Indiana.

Mr. Runestrand: These would be the masted schooners?

Mr. Winter: This is the big three masted schooners.

Mr. Runestrand: And, they would pick up empty cans to take up north or..?...

Mr. Winter: Well, they didn't pick up the cans, they picked up the box shucks at Morrison Mill, Morrison Mill was one of the big mills on the 'D' street dock, and they would load those, and at that time, longshoremen weren't as plentiful as they are now, and they used to come up to the school there to get the kids to help load the box shucks.

Mr. Runestrand: Did you ever do that?

Mr. Winter: No, I never did that. My mother wouldn't allow me to do that. She was quite a pacifist there, that she wouldn't even let me belong to the boy scouts because she thought that was a kind of regimentation; and she had her own ideas.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) Well, with all these different...well, let's see, we've got the Red, Ainsworth & Dunn, Alaska Packers and Smiley's cannery.

Then, we've got the Morrison Mill, any other mills around?

Mr. Winter: Yes, there was the North Bluff Shingle Mill, and then there was a Parkers Mill, shingle mill, then there was one they called the Beanery, it was a little small operation shingle mill. Then, over on the 'D' street wharf,.. I mean on the Cherry street wharf, was the Blaine Manufacturing, which was a shingle mill, a cooperative shingle mill. Then, out at Dakota Creek, there was a lumber mill; and then, over in Campbell River, which is just across the line, was the Hunter and Rounds Mill.

Mr. Runestrand: Hunter and Rounds?

Mr. Winter: Yes, there was the...called the Campbell River Mill there which employed Chinese and Hindus.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Were there any Chinese working at any of the canneries in Blaine?

Mr. Winter: No, there were...none there that I know of..that.

Mr. Runestrand: I know P. A. F. had some in Bellingham.

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, that...P. A. F. was a ...they had Goon Dip as the China boss there for that and....but, there was nothing like that in Blaine.

Mr. Runestrand: Then, the population fluctuated a bit, with the changes in the fishing season, I imagine?

Mr. Winter: Job wise, it would, but the people still stayed there, there wasn't the moving around, because the ones that I went to grade school with up there why, they continued on to high school there and then there was lots of them there that after they got out of high school, they never went to....I mean, out of grade school, they never went to high school, they just went in the work force.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. That, I understand, was a pretty common practice.

Mr. Winter: Oh yes.

Mr. Runestrand: You finished school up in Blaine huh?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes.

Mr. Runestrand: What type of school system was it?

Mr. Winter: I think it was very good.

Mr. Runestrand: Are we dealing with a one room school....or a one room school-house with all the classes..?.....

Mr. Winter: No. No, they were separate, the only,.....when I was in what they called the north ward, which was the grade school, in the north part of town; the 5th and 6th grades was in the same room with the same teacher, one teacher but, I didn't....that didn't bother me any as far as that there...

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: It had been different than what I'd been used to, but, then the 7th and 8th grades was in the high school and that was out at the east end of Boblett street; and, that had the two rooms for the 7th and 8th grades, then the high school was in the different subjects, was in different rooms.

Mr. Runestrand: I see.

Mr. Winter: And, that was in the building that was originally for a hospital, but, how they'd ever get anybody out there to the hospital, I don't know, because the roads wasn't so, that you could. But then, they always said that to get the 1925 class out of the school there, they had to burn it down, because it did burn to the ground and they had to build a new school.

Mr. Runestrand: Hum. Did you bring your own lunch to school or would you go home for lunch?

Mr. Winter: Well, it was quite a long ways to go home there, I would take a lunch but, when I was going to school, an orange was the only thing I ever took as a lunch, I never....I usually ate a good breakfast before I went and come on home.

Mr. Runestrand: Let me switch this tape over, please.

Mr. Wallace Winter
March 5, 1976

Accession No. WTC 76-30mr, Tape No. 1, Tape Side No. 2

Mr. Runestrand: Okay, we're back again. Ah, when you went to school....ah, you had a lot of buddies I imagine, what would you do for entertainment? What type...were you involved in sports at all or...?....

Mr. Winter: Well, the last year I was in high school, I was the athletic director, but, I hadn't....

Mr. Runestrand: Uh huh.

Mr. Winter: I a...well, when I was a junior, I sold tickets for thehad that job of selling tickets for all the games, but, that was...I liked football and basketball and course, one thing at that time in Blaine, Blaine was quite a baseball town. They had what they called the ol Twilight league which took the other towns, Lynden, Everson, Ferndale, Bellingham, Mt. Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Burlington; and, they would have these games and, as I said, Blaine was quite a baseball town there that, one particular year there, I remember there, there was seven members of the University of Washington baseball team playing on the Blaine team.

Mr. Runestrand: I'll be darned!

Mr. Winter: And, there was quite a rivalry on that.

Mr. Runestrand: During the wintertime, and you'd gone through the last part of grade school now, and you're in high school, did you have any jobs?

Mr. Winter: Well, I worked in my father's dry goods store.

Mr. Runestrand: Year around?

Mr. Winter: No, well, I did; not continually there, it was after school there why, the first thing I had to learn, how to sweep properly.

Mr. Runestrand: Why?

Mr. Winter: Well you had to....you just had wood floors at that time, there wasn't the.....the stores weren't covered with linoleum like a lot of them were

And, used a sweeping compound, and my father was very....he wanted to be sure that I didn't sweep so, that it'd throw this sweeping compound up and get on the cloth there, because the compound had oil in it there, and he didn't want oil spots all over the....so, I had to be able to do that properly; and, it was a store where, if a lady come in there and wanted to buy a dress, you went over to the patterns and showed her a pattern, she picked out a pattern and then you went and took her to buy the cloth and then maybe you'd get some for lining and the buttons and everything else there, you'd follow her all around; it wasn't like certain departments where you'd go from one department to another department and somebody different waits on you in every department, that was common practice there.

Mr. Runestrand: Did it take you long to pick up this ability to sell?

Mr. Winter: Oh no. No, the only thing in there, was that on saturday nights, when I worked from right after supper on, til we closed the store; why that's when all the Hindus, Chinese would come in from Canada there, to buy and dad always saw to it that that was my customers, to wait on them, because that was in the experience you have, waiting on them because, whatever they would buy, wouldn't be from like, the customers from Blaine, the women there would know how many yards of merchandise it would take to make a certain article. These would be the Japanese, Chinese, Hindu men, who would come in to buy the material, the women weren't brought over at all. They'd come in and of course, the Chinese would always want a dollar's worth of black cloth, well, the first time I heard that, I didn't know what black cloth they would want, so, I asked my dad and he says, well, show them that black sateen, that's usually what they want, and that's usually what the women wore in pantaloon type costume.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: Then, course, the dollar's worth wouldn't quite make it, so then they'd be back the next week-end to buy another dollar's worth.

Mr. Runestrand: Was language a problem for you in dealing with the Hindu and orientals?

Mr. Winter: No. No, they were pretty well versed in knowing what they wanted there, because they had....one thing that you,..I don't care what nationality comes over to this country here, they know the value of their money, they know what a dollar is, what a quarter is, what a dime is, they...all that, that's the first thing they know. I know, one person one time, came to work in the Mill up there and they wanted to pay him by check; they handed him this check, nothing doing, he didn't want the check; He wanted money, he knew what the money looked like but, the check didn't mean a thing to him.

Mr. Runestrand: Did someone explain it to him?

Mr. Winter: I don't know, they tried to but, still, that one person always got his money in cash, he didn't get a check; he knew that, where he, very poorly in talking or conversing with you there.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) Did the Blaine community receive the Hindus and Japanese or the orientals very well?

Mr. Winter: Well, this was after they had been run out of Bellingham, and as far as that, I don't think there was any....there was no resentment on that, there hadn't been, that I could ever see.

Mr. Runestrand: The Hindus were run out of Bellingham in 1907, isn't that correct?

Mr. Winter: Something....there.

Mr. Runestrand: You don't remember any stories.?.....

Mr. Winter: I don't remember anything.....about that.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah. The things in the summer that you'd do for enjoyment, you were telling me this story about you guys swimming off the railroad tracks, could you relate that?

Mr. Winter: Oh yeah, we used to....well, that was three boys beside myself that lived in the neighborhood, and we'd always go swimming in the afternoon, that is,

when the tide was in. We'd walk down the railroad track, cross the line, and there was the...what we called the cribbage there....

Mr. Runestrand: The what?

Mr. Winter: The cribbage.

Mr. Runestrand: Cribbage:

Mr. Winter: We called it the cribbage because it was a great big bulkhead made with timbers piled on top of each other there in kind of a stair step like, and we'd go swimming across the line there and, I just got to learning to swim when I got, they said, it's what they called the Washington Itch; something there that was supposed to have been from bacteria or something in the water or something like that there, I remember, I know, that I never put in such a six months of scratching as I did then, my skin just itched something terrible, everyplace I'd itch,...or scratch, it would turn into like a water blister, and it was all over my feet. I'd put on some socks and I wouldn't anymore than get them on, like that there and in a half an hours time, they'd itch like that and I'd try to take them off and they broke, the water blisters broke and my sock would be stuck to my foot and that was for six months on that. And, I never did learn to swim, that just cured me of ever wanting to go in the water. I never put in as I say, such a year. I don't know if anyone else ever had that or not but, I know that that one year, I had an awful time with that.

Mr. Runestrand: Ohh; The other time you were down there swimming, you mentioned something about a work gang, in a rail car or something, what was that?

Mr. Winter: Well, from the depot, south of town, down to where the old highway went, it was all a trestle, the railroads built on there, and they decided that they wanted that all filled in, so, they brought up a steam shovel from someplace I don't where they had it stored but, the name on the outside says the Kalibra; and they always said, it was the.....Kalibra was the one that had dug the Kalibra cut through the Panama Canal. They filled it all in and there was quite a convoy

you might call it, of bunkhouse there on the railroad cars and we always used to loiter along there and the cook would come on out and wanted to know if we wanted to have a pie to take down to eat after we got done swimming, so, we used to always do that but, one day why, he told us he couldn't have us around anymore, and not to stop, that they'd caught some boy going through the car there, stealing, he stole a watch and money, and they caught him, but, it ended up as a brother to one of our pals that we'd gone down with.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, that sort of blew a good deal for you.

Mr. Winter: That ended the...cause, that cook sure knew how to make a good pie.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) Well, how long did your father keep this store in Blaine?

Mr. Winter: Well, we bought it, as I say, in 1915, and we left there in 1923.

Mr. Runestrand: Why did you leave?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I don't know, really why; we thought we would want to leave Blaine to go someplace else to live, so we sold off some of our furniture and the rest of it there, my dad spent a whole month there, of fixing it to ship, we thought well, we'd probably be down in California. So, we left, I graduated on the 22nd of May, and on the 29th of May, we left Bellingham for California. And, we got down to Alameda, where relatives lived; and we got word that my grandfather had passed away, and my father wanted to come right on back. Well, it had taken us eleven days to get to San Francisco from Bellingham.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: Cause, we only drove probably 100 to 150 miles a day; we camped out, but at that rate there, we'd have never got back in time for the funeral so persuaded my father there, to stay and visit out so to speak, or to find something on that. So, we looked at a bunch of stores and different things down there, but anything that my father could afford to buy, he wouldn't want because they didn't have any business; and, anything he'd like to buy, he didn't have

enough money to swing the deal, so, it ended up that we came back to Bellingham, my sister then, was ready to go into school and we had rented a house up on 'G' street; and, we unpacked all the furniture that we had packed up to ship to California, and, in the meantime here, all the bedding had been packed away like that, in this storage place there, I guess it was alive with rats and mice and I guess they had chewed up more stuff, which we thought we had preserved, and all we done was pay storage on it.....all that stuff. And, we had to be sure, my mother was bound that my sister had to go to school. Then, we kept looking, and that was in September, just before September, when we moved in the house there, my father then, bought a gas station out there, at the corner of James and Carolina street, this Youngstock Nursery is there now, but, there was a two story building there with two apartments, upstairs and there was seven garages, in the back. And it was a grocery store and gas station, he bought that, and I worked in there then, and then in 1924 why, a friend of mine from Blaine, this Smiley cannery there was owned by his uncle, this friend of mine, his father operated the cannery at Matlactla, Alaska, called the Annette Island Packing Company.

Mr. Runestrand: The Anlett:

Mr. Winter: Annette. Matlactla is on Annette Island, and it was a cannery that was owned by the natives. A Catholic priest by the name of, Father Duncan got this fixed up there, for the natives and all like that, so that, if this cannery was leased, to any other person, only the key men in the cannery, like the men that run the retorts and the different things there, could be brought in but, all of the help had to be these natives. And, to this day, that is still, and of course there are quite a few natives up there in Alaska that own a lot of the deals there that are leased out on different ones.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, did you travel up there to work then?

Mr. Winter: I never.....no, I didn't go up there, he went up there every summer,

he spent 13 years in Alaska, and then his father was quite elderly there, and he gave it up and it was taken over by another concern, based in Seattle, then, this friend of mine, he went to work for the P. A. F., and he....the first year, he was up at Port Molar, as a bookkeeper, at Port Molar; and, after that, they made him contract boss there, where he would go to...for the oriental help, he would go to Seattle and contract with Goon Dip, who was the Chinese contract agent; and, for all the different canneries then, he would get the oriental help that they used up there.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, you said, in 1924, you were talking with your friend, about a job, this is the job, and you decided not to take it or...what?

Mr. Winter: No, this is...I didn'tI tried to get in, later on, in the P. A. F., but, that was after I left the Sash & Door, but, I never went to Alaska, I had no desire for some reason or other to...

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Well, what did you do? Did you continue to work in your father's gas station or..?....

Mr. Winter: Oh yes. I ran father's gas station, and then, he sold that out and we continued looking around for stores and all, and he worked for the Kramer's shoe store here, for awhile, but, he was always wanting to get back in the dry goods, and then when the Fair store burnt; Ennen and Goodmans, wanted to know if he'd come on down and run their fire sale that they had of that..and he went.....They kept him on, and they wanted him to stay on after that, but, he was still looking for something else, and he had an opportunity to go to the Lynden Department Store and he had charge of the dry goods part of that up there, not the ready-to-wear, but, the dry goods part and he worked in the shoes as well.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Well, when did you get your own job?

Mr. Winter: Well, when my father was working at the...it was called, Kind and Young, then, which finally became the Golden Rule, he was working there, my

mother decided that she wanted to get into something; so, we bought a little grocery store at the corner of 'G' and North and run that for awhile, then she thought she should spend more time with my sister, she was still in the Washington School. So, we sold that and I decided that I was going to go in the window decorating, so, I went to Seattle and I lined up a bunch of wholesale concerns there, to put in a window in the different grocery stores there where they used crepe paper, made displays of that kind and I'd lined up quite a few; and I came back. I got a phone call from a Mrs. Keeling, her husband was the secretary of the Bellingham Sash & Door and, he was also the manager; and, she had liked the way that I had waited on her in the store and little things, errands that I had done for her that, there was an opening she said, down there in their place, that she just knew that I was the one for that position. She called up at 7:00 o'clock in the morning and my mother had answered the phone, and I had just got back from Seattle, lining this other up here and I didn't get back til about 12:00 o'clock that night and I was still sleeping in. The telephone rang again at 8:00 o'clock and she wanted to know if I knew how to get to where the Sash & Door was, then.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles)

Mr. Winter: And, I says, oh yeah, he's going down there; so, she called up again at 9:00 o'clock and wanted to know if I was going down there. Well, my mother got me right up then and I went right on down. And, that was on a thursday, the 7th of July, 1927. And, I talked to them, both Louie Miller and Arthur Keeling, and they said, if I wasn't superstitious, come to work the next day, which was a friday, wanted to know if I was superstitious about starting to work on a friday and I says, no, it didn't bother me in the least; so, I went there in 1927 and worked there until, I was married in '31, and I was laid off then for awhile there during the depression; I went back to work there and left there then, in December of 1960.

Mr. Runestrand: How long were you laid off, in the depression?

Mr. Winter: Well, it was from December 1st, 1931 until about 1932; it was about a year.

Mr. Runestrand: Had you saved enough money to get by okay during that period of time?

Mr. Winter: Oh no. No, I went....my folks let us live with them, and then... the wife had a chance of getting her....she had been working at Woolworth's and she always had every summer, had charge of the soda fountain they had in there; so, she had a chance to get her job back and that was the only thing that, I kept the money that she made there with what used to buy.....keep up our insurance up there, so I didn't lose anything on my insurance.

Mr. Runestrand: When you started at Sash & Door in '27, correct?

Mr. Winter: Uh huh.

Mr. Runestrand: What was your job?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I was doing office work and waiting on customers.....I had never, I always liked arithmetic and all like that, algebra and all but, I never did too much with board footage. (Chuckles) And, that was kind of a new experience on that.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: And, then I got to buying the hardware and the paint and the different statistics there that they were keeping at that time. And, when it ended up, I was Secretary-Treasurer and did all the reports and all like that. Anything to do with the tax statement because you've got to keep up with those changes day to day as they come in on that there, and we had a regular tax person to do that part.

Mr. Runestrand: The Sash & Door Company and the hardware business itself, how was it during the late '20's and '30's?

Mr. Winter: Well, at that time, a little bit previous to 1927, they were strictly lumber; they didn't go into too much hardware and a salesman from Northwest hardware talked the lumber companies into putting in hardware, well, that was the only place you could buy a door lock, was in the lumber yard. A very few of them were carried in the...the Northwest hardware carried some and Morse carried some but, they weren't as prevalent then, and most of the hardwares had gone to there and when they come into there we did tremendous in the hardware business. At that time, everybody was building chicken houses, when the Washington Co-op came in, they took over the bulk of the feed business which previous to that, the Lynden Department Store had been one of the biggest dealers in feed. And, when they came, they practically took that over. And, at one time, I don't know how many carloads of eggs were shipped out of Whatcom county just to New York alone. Oh, about 15 - 16 years ago, I asked one of the men that worked at the Washington Co-op Egg Poultry, how many carloads of eggs went out of Whatcom county, and he says, there isn't a single carload today goes out of Whatcom county. The only eggs that are raised in Whatcom county, is what Whatcom county uses themselves.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum.

Mr. Winter: But, previous to that, everybody was putting in what they called litter carriers, and they would scrape the dropping boards and we would put in these carriers and use regular flat track, garage, flat track, and it was nothing to buy thousands of feet of that, at a time.

Mr. Runestrand: For fertilizer purposes?

Mr. Winter: Well, thousands of feet of this track see, to run these carriers on there. If a chickenhouse was a hundred feet long, why they'd use 150 feet of track to take it out to the pile, the manure pile.

Mr. Runestrand: I see.

Mr. Winter: And, now, I don't think that you could go in to a single lumber

yard in the state of Washington, and find one piece of that track. And, it was nothing then, to buy....oh, 100 pairs of 10 inch strap hinges, 100 pair of 10 inch 'T' hinges, because every garage door had three pair of hinges on it, and today, I don't know where you'd...probably a special order to get a pair of those hinges because...in fact, we'd buy....well, there was a three inch, four inch, five inch, six inch, eight inch and, ten inch, hinges; and, it was nothing to buy, two and three hundred pair of three inch and four inch hinges. And, now if a person turns around and buys a box of those hinges, which would be about five pair, that would be a pretty big stock to have in a lumber yard today. Times have changed; now, it's overhead doors.

Mr. Runestrand: Right.

Mr. Winter: Where then, it was either swinging doors or doors that go in around a corner or something like that. That's how things have changed, you see.

Mr. Runestrand: Yeah, my folks have an old style garage, where the door slides around on a rail of sorts.....

Mr. Winter: Yeah. Mine, is accordian, it has the one door goes one way and two doors go the other way there, to operate.....that dates my garage. (Chuckles)

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) In the changes in just the type of wood you would have from say, in 1930 to 1960, could you see a change in the quality of the wood itself, in dealing with wood sales? Like say, straight grain cedar in 1930 versus the cedar you might buy in 1960?

Mr. Winter: Well, when I first went to work at the Sash & Door, we had a pile of verticle grain, what we called grainboard stock, which was a full inch thick, 24 inches wide, and up to 24 feet long. If you wanted a piece of that today, the only way you'd be able to get it would be to glue it up, because, you would never get it from Weyerhauser, Longbell, or any of those companies there because it's absolutely not to be had. And, we would have a great big high pile of that just for drainboards, because at that time, there wasn't all these kitchen cup-

boards; there was a sink that hung on the wall with a drainboard about two feet long, off to one side where, as I say, that is gone; you will never, never see that again. A lot of people say, well, it's because the trees are not that big, well, that might be more than the reason, but nowadays, the mills cut for what they can get the most out of. I remember years ago, you'd turn around here and buy a load of shiplap and you'd find verticle grain clear boards all through there, nowadays, they sort this all out for that.

Mr. Runestrand: The last bunch of shiplap I went through, you were lucky to get it nailed up without having it break on you, or having too many knotholes fall out.

Mr. Winter: There was a man that came down one time, to the place, and he bought some number four, shiplap, well, number four, shiplap is something that is... well, you could just call it, shiplap; the dry rot gunk, the knots gone, and he bought some of this and we told him, well, it isn't worth using for what you want to use it for, and he came on down and he says, "you know what you sold me?" He says, "you sold me some automatic firewood." I said, "what do you mean, automatic firewood?" He says, "you drop it, it breaks up in 16 inch lengths." (Chuckles)

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles)

Mr. Winter: I know, when I go to a lumber yard now, and ask for something here, the salesman looks at me, because, he never heard of it there; but, that was common.....common things, when I was in the business.

Mr. Runestrand: Well, I want to thank you Mr. Winter, for giving me this information right now, I do appreciate it.

Mr. Wallace Winter
March 5, 1976

Accession No. WTC 30mr, Tape No. 2, Tape Side No. 1

Mr. Runestrand: We're here today with Mr. Wallace Winter; and once again

Mr. Winter, when were you born?

Mr. Winter: 1905, August 2nd.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay, and you became involved with Bellingham Sash & Door in 19what? '28?

Mr. Winter: No, it was on a...I went to work in July 8th, 1927; it was a friday.

Mr. Runestrand: Where was Bellingham Sash & Door located?

Mr. Winter: Well, they called it, at the foot of 'B' street; it was a....their office was down a long ridge like, up close to Whatcom creek falls there right where it empties into the bay there at Prospect street. Prospect and Dupont.

Mr. Runestrand: So you were on the post office side?

Mr. Winter: Yes, just below the post office.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay, and across maybe from say,..the sewer treatment plant then?

Mr. Winter: Right.

Mr. Runestrand: There's no...there is no road into that area now?

Mr. Winter: Well, it's partly there, but there was a great big long bridge which they finally, the city sanitary service dumped garbage in there and filled in, all that area in there where the lumberyard is this present day.

Mr. Runestrand: I see. How large an operation was Bellingham Sash & Door in 1927?

Mr. Winter: Well, they made sash and doors and they had their lumber and sawmill down at lake Samish which was run by the name of the Lake Samish Lumber and Shingle Company. They were a real large operation at one time. They sold sash they had a brokerage office like, in Vancouver.

Mr. Runestrand: Vancouver, B. C.....or?

Mr. Winter: Vancouver, B. C., and they shipped their sash of course up there

and there was quite a few big office buildings up there at that time that were made with Bellingham Sash & Door, sash and doors.

Mr. Runestrand: Now, when we say, when you're talking about sash, this is just the window framing, is that correct:

Mr. Winter: Well, a sash, a window is made up of two pieces, a top sash and a bottom sash; and then there is a stationary sash and what they call casement sash that would swing out. But, sash is just actually what most people would class as a window.

Mr. Runestrand: Okay. Did you put the glass in the sash?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes. Yes, they bought glass in carload lots.

Mr. Runestrand: How many men worked in Bellingham Sash & Door in 1927?

Mr. Winter: There was about 40 that worked there.

Mr. Runestrand: 40 men huh? Boy, that is a big operation.

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, it is, course not only in that; there was the glazier that did all the glazing of it there. They had a man that made up, what we called the sash; we'd just put them together. And then there was machine operators here that, some that, all they did all day long, was just rip up the boards there to make the sash and the doors. Course, the first thing that from the sawmill was what they made what they called doorstock, that was what would be the siderails of all the styles of a door which wouldn't make good styles, they used to make inside doorframes cause that was machined a little bit different. And then, what wouldn't make it there, would be cut up for sashstock and then there was run there for what they called the bars, your crossbars in there to make up your cutup, like your top sash sometimes you made up three glasses wide and two glasses high.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Sort of, well, divided windows is what you're talking about.

Mr. Winter: Well yes, it's a smaller glass there that like, if the top sash was cut up and the bottom sash was cut up, they were called Cape Cod windows because that was the type of architecture that was in a Cape Cod house.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Question, Mr. Winter, Bellingham Sash & Door you said, had a mill out at Lake Samish, was this owned by Bellingham Sash & Door?

Mr. Winter: Bellingham Sash & Door owned it but the operation was leased out to the Manley brothers.

Mr. Runestrand: What was the name?

Mr. Winter: Manley brothers. It was Claude Manley and Roy Manley. Claude Manley, after they gave up the mill operation, became county commissioner here.

Mr. Runestrand: Where on Lake Samish was the mill?

Mr. Winter: Well, it was on the highway side, pretty close to the middle, I would say, of the lake there.

Mr. Runestrand: I've noticed as you're going down the highway towards the south end, there's some pilings and I was wondering if that was where the mill was located?

Mr. Winter: Well about halfway down there, there was a place out there where they boomed the logs up, they didn't boom them up there but that's where they were tied up for the mill and they had a place there where they would bring the trucks down and dump them on the side there. The highway department kind of cut that out there, so we had to put in our own place to dump the logs then, right down close to the mill and that's where they were later on.

Mr. Runestrand: How long did the Lake Samish Mill operate for Bellingham Sash and Door? Up until about what year?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I would say 1956 - 1957, along in there.

Mr. Runestrand: The logs that were being used, that were being milled into lumber at Lake Samish; these were primarily what type of trees? Douglas fir or Cedar?

Mr. Winter: Well, when we first were operating there it was all old growth because there was lots of old growth timber around there. The Galbraith brothers there from Wickersham, Acme, out at that area there, they did a lot of logging and then they bought logs from different ones around there, but they had a chance to buy 360 acres of 2nd growth timber which was across the lake; but at that time, nobody wanted to buy 2nd growth lumber because of shrinkage and you couldn't get a good finish out of it because it was too hard and everybody wanted this soft old growth for say, finished lumber; and that was when we used to pick out all the slash grain, because that had the pretty grain to it there and that's what they all wanted for their inside casings because they were real pretty, and in later years there why, everything was in verticle grain for painting because it painted better than the old...you didn't use all your stains then for that; like, course you're coming back to it now with your pre-finished paneling and all like that but then, so, they had this 2nd growth and I remember they bought this 360 acres for around a dollar an acre, that had this timber on it. They utilized a little bit of it there, then a family came from Montana and they wanted to buy this land so, they sold the 360 acres after some had been logged off, for \$700.00 and they thought that was just wonderful, they had doubled their money on this deal. Well, I know, in later years, after the war started, when lumber was hard to get, why I know on logging, two fellows took off over \$16,000.00 worth of timber off of that same place that we thought we'd made a killing on for \$700.00.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles) Hindsight is always 20/20 isn't it?

Mr. Winter: That's right, but nobody wanted to buy 2nd growth timber. Now, there is no such thing as 2nd growth timber; it's called douglas fir. In another deal there, we traded a house on James street, meantime now the house had been torn down, but this house, we'd taken it in on a lumber bill some way or other there through a contractor that had got behind on his payment; we took in this

house, remodeled it and traded it for 120 acres up back of sunnyside there on Lake Whatcom. They had about \$3300.00 invested in this house and they got this 120 acres, I think it was 160 acres, but 120 was in timber there, one 40 acres had been logged off and hadn't been re-seeded there. We found out that it was too hard to get that timber down to Lake Samish. So, one of the loggers wanted to buy this, said he had a customer for it there so, we sold it for \$14,000.00 which only having invested \$3300.00 and selling it for \$14,000.00 was quite a killing so to speak. But, in later years, that had never been logged because they had to be logged and taken down through Wickersham rather than to come on down through Smith Creek. And the last time that land was sold, it was standing timber, there was stamps put on in the courthouse there; it was sold for \$95,000.00. But, I remember one time we went to a war production board meeting down in Stanwood and at that time, we had to pool all our gas and Billy Moore for Warnick Lumber went down with Frank Myers and George Gottleich and myself from Sash & Door, to this meeting. And Billy Moore says that "2nd growth, after it's 10 years old, accumulated at the rate of 150 dollars per acre in new growth every year.

Mr. Runestrand: An increase every year of \$150.00 per acre? And that was during World War II? That was quite a bit of money.

Mr. Winter: Oh yes. That was given out by Weyerhaeuser to their surveys and all things of that nature.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Before we get going into the World War II period which we've started a bit, let's move into 1929 - 1930, into business, first to start off this time period coming into the depression, what type materials local individuals in Whatcom county were buying? What your competition was? and the impact of the depression on a lumber and hardware business? First, let's...what were some of the things you handled that say...in 10 years you didn't handle anymore? This first growth?.....

Mr. Winter: Well, there wasn't...during that time, there wasn't too much change; that was when the Washington Co-op Egg & Poultry were here and there was lots of chicken houses being built.

Mr. Runestrand: What? Washington Egg?....

Mr. Winter: Washington Co-op Egg & Poultry Association, which now is the Washington Farmers. That was the original one that was started and as I say, there was lots of chicken houses built and that's where lot of your, what you call barn sash, chicken house sash and certain sizes made, that were standard and oh, we would run those there just loads of them and they were made out of real good material. There was lot of times that certain ones of them were also used on the summer homes that they were building at Lake Samish then and around in the hills. I don't think nowadays here, that you could go into a lumberyard and, they wouldn't know what you were talking about when you'd ask for that type of sash.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. You mentioned something the other day when we were talking, about some type of rails?

Mr. Winter: Well that was garage track; called flat track for garages there when they had sliding doors. They used a lot of that for their litter carriers when they cleaned off their dropping boards there for the chickens.

Mr. Runestrand: These would be like miniature railroad tracks then, is this what it was?

Mr. Winter: No, it was for overhead door, I mean, not overhead doors but I mean doors that were sliding back and forth there on an iron rail with a pair of hangers on there. When we made those up well, we made them up into a litter carrier that would...for a garage door, 8 foot garage door, there would be 16 feet of this track; so that the door would open out. The whole door would open out and as I told you then, I don't think that you could go into any lumberyard in the whole state of Washington today that would have any of that;

because they don't use it anymore. It's overhead doors.

Mr. Runestrand: What type of competition did Bellingham Sash & Door have in Whatcom county?

Mr. Winter: Well at that time, it was Columbia Valley, who had yards all over the county and there was another company there called the Columbia Lumber, that was originally a branch of the Bloedel-Donovan mills, but, they were more over the whole northwest here. There was one in Lynden, one in Ferndale, one in Everson and they were competition. Then, there was the Ivarsen mill there at Custer that cut nothing but 2nd growth; and for barn work and chickenhouses why, 2nd growth was fine material for that. And, they tried to kind of control that. They had the concern that all lumberyards met there, and tried to have better business relations and all. Not to the idea of the Sherman act, anything of that type. Then there was the Hoff & Pinkey, here in town and of course Warnick then had the lumberyard up at Warnick, up near Mt. Baker. It wasn't a lumber yard it was a mill and they sold direct.

Mr. Runestrand: Direct to the public?

Mr. Winter: Direct to the people there as far as that went, right from the mill there and of course that was competition and it was a fight, I remember that. Course, originally there, the Bloedel-Donovan had a lumberyard across from where the Western wood was there and it was operated by Trunkeys. I remember Mr. Keeling, who was the manager of the Sash & Door when I first went to work there and Louie Miller, telling many a time here that when they had started up selling that the whole Bay City Sash & Door, which was the original name of the Bellingham Sash & Door. They would figure out what they wanted and that there, then they thought well that isn't...we didn't make enough on that there we better add some more onto the bill; cause then they would get what they call estimates there, they would agree to furnish everything on this list, at those prices and grades. And he said, many a time there, even after we'd added on

extra and like that there we'd be way below the Bloedel-Donovan prices there because they were for the big ones then. At that particular time, there was no such thing as sorting the lumber out to see which was clear, which was without knots or knotty material. Then, if they wanted a lot of shiplap, they'd just bring up the logs and if the shiplap all came out clear why, that didn't make any difference; and if they wanted to cut some clear, why they'd just go get another one there, but, they didn't sort out the logs to get the clear lumber like today; there's your wood logs, your dimension type logs and then there's your clear, and then there's now, they have grades that they call peeler logs.

Mr. Runestrand: Peter?

Mr. Winter: Peeler. Especially, number I, number II, number III, peeler logs there which was for plywood; and they were a type of log that is primarily used for plywood. I remember one time, we were logging up near Mud Lake and Fragrance Lake by C. B. Scott, he was logging with horses. He had 5 horses and 1 bull that they used to bring down these cradles of logs and they came down to where Lutherland is now down there. Cat Roy had the Lake Samish, Cat Roy had the place there and they were logging up there and we were getting what they call 'mill run' logs, that meant, just the way the logs came out of the woods. They weren't figured for cull logs or good logs or the other name for it, number I, number II, logs or the peelers and there was lots of peeler logs and we were paying \$16.00 a thousand, mill run. That was the logging and the logs themselves and the stumpage. Well, they were paying \$19.00 for peeler logs at the Everett mill, plywood mill down there; I think it was called, Washington Plywood. Miller wanted to take those logs out of the lake and send them down there because they would make \$3.00 a thousand on that without even handling it; I mean, sawing them up. I remember Scott says, "Well, I think the way you operate your mill here that you would make more out of it by cutting

it up into lumber than you would taking it down there." But, you can imagine, he would have had to pay the cost of taking them out of the lake, load them on a truck, truck them in to Everett, for \$3.00. So, there wouldn't have been too much profit back on them.

Mr. Runestrand: Doesn't sound like there'd be a heck of a lot.

Mr. Winter: No. So, we didn't do it; but, during the depression though, the logs now that you're paying, the lumber that you're paying as much as \$150.00 a thousand for, we were getting \$12.00 a thousand for because they were only paying 50¢ stumpage.

Mr. Runestrand: When you say a thousand, you're talking about board feet?

Mr. Winter: A thousand board feet, yes.

Mr. Runestrand: Ah.....?

Mr. Winter: Of course there's always a little overrun in your logs because the logs are scaled from the small end of the log and if it's a what they call swell butt log, well then there's a little bit more to that. Course, the fir isn't as susceptible to that as cedar is, cedar usually is what they call swell butts there where they are a whole lot larger at the bottom. A lot of times, those that are real large at the bottom are hollow on that end as well. I know that they were having trouble with the log scalers that would come from back east, they had never seen these swell butts here, cedar logs. I know one time there that they found out that the hole in the bottom of the log was bigger than at the top of the log and this scaler says, "Well, there's absolutely no lumber in that log at all." (Chuckles.) Because if we were to subtract the hole from the bottom to the top, we couldn't do it so, there was quite a fuss there with the fellow that brought the log in cause, he knew better.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles).. What was your position down at Bellingham Sash & Door in the '30's?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I did the buying of the hardware and the paint; a little bit of everything there, waiting on customers and figuring invoices and checking through and at that time there we kind of tried to keep track of.....well, the government has a deal that just come out every 10 years, whereby they would check up to see how much lumber you used in making sash and how much you used in making door and how much other items there that you made, cabinet work and how much electricity you used and they wanted it broken down in such a way there that you could tell how much electricity you used for making a sash and how much electricity you used for making a door. And we tried to get things out of that that way. I remember one time we figured out something there and they sent a man down to check, I remember it was Al Mercy, who just passed away here a few days ago, he came down to check that through on this deal and said, "It's wrong, what you got here is wrong." Well, I said, "This was all a guess." Well, he said, "You gotta do a little bit better than that." Then, I says, "Well, then you figure it out." He said, "Oh no, you'll be more apt to do it than I would." And, I says, "Well, I just proved to you that I didn't; furthermore, we don't care about keeping things that way there, we don't care how much electricity it took to make that door or that sash, all we want to know, is when we got through making it there is whether we made any money on it; that's the most thing that we're interested in, not just how much it takes." But, in later years there, they changed that to a certain degree but they still keep that to the Department of Labor & Industries they call it, federal government. I don't know why they do it but congress approved of that years ago and they keep doing it there because; to me it didn't make sense of anything they had on that but I guess, tradition, that was what they did years ago and they have to keep doing it here now. They did used to keep quite a thing I had to watch for every month; I had to notify the shingle bureau how much shingles we made every year or every quarter because the quota for Canadian shingles came into

this country based on the amount of shingles that was produced in all the little mills and like that, but that was only through the shingle bureau. Those that didn't belong to the shingle bureau didn't have to keep any records at all.

Mr. Runestrand: What type of credit was extended from Bellingham Sash & Door? Did you have quite an extensive charge program?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, there was a large credit on that.

Mr. Runestrand: The coming of the depression, you said you were laid off for awhile?

Mr. Winter: Yes, I was laid off for awhile.

Mr. Runestrand: Did the mill really almost fold down then? You said, you had 40 guys working, how much was the manpower cut back?

Mr. Winter: Oh, they cut way down there because there wasn't the sales for all this stuff here so there was no need to produce anything there, course they couldn't because when your sales go down and the money is not coming in you haven't the money to turn around and pay extra help for doing that.

Mr. Runestrand: You were laid off in '31, is that correct?

Mr. Winter: No, it was the 1st of December, 1931.

Mr. Runestrand: And, you were laid off about a year?

Mr. Winter: Well, I....they would call me up every once in awhile to come down there if they'd got in a carload of lumber and they wanted some help to unload the car or bring it over to the yard, why I would go down and help unload cars. I unloaded many a carload of lumber and I even did that after that there because they needed some extra help and I done that many a time. I even helped load scows when they used to scow lumber over to Orcas Island over there why many a time why, I'd help them load up.

Mr. Runestrand: What year did you go back to work full-time? At Bellingham Sash & Door?

Mr. Winter: Well, I think they moved up into that new building in '33. I took 2 months off one time during when the N-R-A was in operation; the man that was making out their price list, did that for a whole lot of the lumber yards and then kept track of the sales and all that there just to show what the sales were for each lumber yard. Called the Northwest Lumber Surveyor, but, it was actually making out price pages, there for price sheets you know? And, I went to work for him because he was the....had got the authority there to check through this N-R-A which was a national recovery act and my job with them was to go around and check through lumber yards in Skagit and Snohomish counties, to see that they were pooling up the price of what they were getting on that. This man, his name was Willard Brown, also had what they called the hard material dealers there; that was the ones that sold cement and brick and all. My job primarily, was not so much of watching, looking for lumber and all like that, it was for the brick and all and I would go to Monroe, I would go to Whidbey Island, Everett, to check through to see how much brick was sold and check that.....

Mr. Wallace Winter
March 5, 1976

Accession No. WTC 30mr, Tape No. 2, Tape Side No. 2

Mr. Winter: There was quite a lot of resentment though in that.

Mr. Runestrand: Because people would...?

Mr. Winter: Well, they figured that we were dictators like; I remember one time, I was down at a lumberyard in Stanwood and it was a mother and two sons that were running the place. The mother did all the bookkeeping and she was way up in years and I looked through there and I saw where they had sold 30 barrels of cement, that would be 120 sacks and there was no price given for this thing here and I thought I was doing her a favor by showing her that she hadn't charged these people for the 30 barrels of cement which was quite a few dollars and cents there; and she took the attitude, I was trying to make out that she was giving that to them there to get the job and that I was gonna probably put her in jail for doing that there but, I had no idea of that at all, I thought I was helping her out by showing her that she had forgotten to charge this and it would be money out of their pocket.

Mr. Runestrand: This insight you gained working on this survey for this N-R-A, did that give you a better insight into the working of Bellingham Sash & Door when you went back?

Mr. Winter: No, no, that went out of business there, the N-R-A there they just cleared that off and that was 2 months there, I might've been there longer if I'd have been on there but then the idea was that when that ended, why I'd go back to Sash & Door. They were moving up from down where the falls were up in to this new building that they had acquired up there on Holly street and they wanted to put in more of a stock up there and so they got me back to see that they got the bigger stock there. They started making display tables and all to move in to there.

Mr. Runestrand: The coming of World War II, Mr. Winter, well, before we do that, what type of things were unavailable during the depression?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I don't think there was anything that was unavailable.

Mr. Runestrand: You mentioned the problem with glass and the one time that a....

Mr. Winter: Oh, that was where we'd bought a carload, a case of the plate glass to be worked and when it came there it was all broken and it was around \$300.00 or some dollars like that and because we had payed for the glass 2 days before the boat got to Bellingham; we called up the shipping agent here in town to find out about the damage, that being damaged in the shipping, because we had payed for it 2 days ahead of time, before the boat could reach Bellingham and on the shipping bill it said, it was shipped at owner's risk, they classified us as the owner when that reached Bellingham so we were out the \$300.00 and some odd dollars there for the....and I remember that it was so badly, the glass was so badly damaged there that the only thing we were able to get out of that there was to cut them up into pieces 3 inches by 12 inches which at that time, we took them up to City Glass Mirrorworks here in town who did beveling; and they beveled the edges there and drilled some holes in it there and we used them for pushplates on these kitchen doors that were on a double action hinge there that, just with the plate, that you'd put your hand on there you didn't.....more or less it would keep the fingermarks off of the doors, these glass push plates.

Mr. Runestrand: Uh huh. With the coming of World War II, did a business like Bellingham Sash & Door suffer because of the lack of materials available?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, it was hard to get lumber of any kind and then when you did get it you had to have what they called 'priorities' for the war production board here, if you were building a chickenhouse, it was available to sell to them. I remember one instance there, it was a man building a chickenhouse up in Sumas, well, he got the...we sold him all the material to build the chickenhouse, after he got it built, he wanted to get lights to put in it there, he

couldn't get in....get the lights in there because he didn't have a priority to build the chickenhouse. Well, he didn't need a priority to build the chickenhouse, but, he needed the priority to get the lights though; so he had to make application over to Pullman, to the college over there because they somehow or another were the ones who were given the authority to put out these war production board approvals for electricity, so he had to fill out a bunch of papers that he wouldn't use any lumber in the roof to nail the shingles through here; they had to use plasterboard. Well, the building was all built, he said he would do that, he got the lights okay. If you ever stop to think about nailing shingles to plasterboard, one good wind would have blown them all off. But, that was the approval that you were supposed to have for that.

Mr. Runestrand: What was the situation on....did you use much hemlock? in making things at Sash & Door?

Mr. Winter: Well, the only thing that we ever used hemlock to any great extent was in 1 x 12 hemlock boards for shelving. A lot of it was used for grocery store shelving and other places for shelving because there's no pitch in hemlock and if you used fir, why, no matter how much it was kiln dried, to this day, you can go into houses that used a lot of fir for casing work, doors and all like that you could, if there's any of them still around now where they haven't been exchanged for these what they call slab doors, you could feel little beads all over the door there and that was pitch oozing out there. Well, if you have pitch to use on the shelving of the grocery stores why, the cans would have pitch all over them and so a lot of hemlock was used for that.

Mr. Runestrand: Was it difficult to get hemlock during World War II because of airplane use or?.....

Mr. Winter: Oh, there was some. But, hemlock presently there, a lot of it was used for pulp of there being no pitch in it. But, there's lot of hemlock used today but, one thing about hemlock, if you've got hemlock flooring, and you

could put it in a place there and seal it up, that is not use that particular room for a year why, that hemlock was just as hard as could be. You take piling, you take hemlock piling and have it someplace where it is submerged under water all the time, not a...where it is not affected by tide where the tide goes out and the piling is there exposed then, why it acts just like a concrete piling where it's in there because there's something about it that it just keeps getting harder and harder. But, it's the idea of dry drying and then the damp and dry and damp, why that causes a lot of.....

Mr. Runestrand: What changes happened within the hardware and lumber business in the '40's? Were you doing much large scale building or supplying many businesses in town with a lot of lumber? I heard that the '40's, a lot of things were built.

Mr. Winter: Well, when I first went to work down there, the...we had a tremendous business there. It was nothing to buy as much as 5 cases of doorlocks every 3 weeks. Now, there would be 30 locks to the case, that would be 150 doorlocks every 3 weeks.

Mr. Runestrand: That's a lot of doors.

Mr. Winter: And, well, there was a lot of houses though. There was a lot of building going on; I remember on Alabama street, there was 3 houses right side by side that was built by a man named George Erz that did a lot of building here.

Mr. Runestrand: Errs? What was that last...?

Mr. Winter: E-R-Z. Erz, and he was quite a builder, he had a carpenter friend there and I remember the man said, "Here bill out these 3 houses, everything on this list here; 3 different ones." Well, the houses were all 3 alike but they were different front porches on them and they were reversed so that they looked different there because just like you turned the house over and built the opposite way there, I remember that one time here that the 3 houses all right

at once there that I and...now a lot of these there, what they call pack houses there where they pick out patterns and come on up maybe from St. Regis there or one of these other places there. There was nothing like that then, there was nothing in the 'pre-fab' deal.

Mr. Runestrand: How long did you work at Bellingham Sash & Door? Til what year?

Mr. Winter: Well, I started in July of 1927 and left there in December, 1960.

Mr. Runestrand: That's quite a length of time.

Mr. Winter: 33 years.

Mr. Runestrand: Were the changes that you saw, happening so fast that you recognized them as really important changes or was it just such a slow process that you didn't really know.

Mr. Winter: Oh, I think it was gradual; gradual change.

Mr. Runestrand: You were mentioning the hardware aspect of the store changed over the years, gathering more and more variety in types of household appliances, not appliances but different materials to be used rather than just lumber and sash and door.

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, they...after we moved up there on Holly street and changed over there why, we put in more different things there. For awhile we had Revere-Ware and a few electrical appliances and then we took on the Gibson Refrigerator and stoves line; but, there was so many changes in that which we got disgusted about; we had calls and calls for cheaper price stoves and all. But, it was the so-called O-P-A prices on those that they couldn't be raised in any way. Well, instead of the manufacturers making those, they began making types of double oven stove and things there which hadn't been made before and it would go over the O-P-A prices on those, they could charge whatever they wanted to for those. So, those were the ones that they were making and forcing the people to buy rather than what the people wanted. Now, anytime they made something that was different than what they made before, they were free to charge what

ever prices they wanted. I know one time plasterboard was hard to get, a car load came in to Bellingham that didn't come in to Columbia Valley or Bellingham Sash & Door or Western Wood. It came in and there would be 100 sheets for each one of those places or something like that. It was allocated so to speak. I remember one time, a man came in....well, I'm getting ahead of myself here. There was an ad in a magazine, the National Gypsum Company out at Buffalo, New York were advertising all this about plasterboard and all and I got a letter from a man named Baker, who was the chairman of the board, he wanted to know what we thought of all their advertising. Well, I said, the advertising is wonderful but, where's the product? It doesn't do any good to have advertising if you can't get the product. Well, he wrote back and he said that he knew that there was a problem but they'd contracted for this advertising and they had to go through with it. They couldn't stop it but, he would see that the salesmen would know what I had written. Well, his salesman came in and he said I'll sell you all the plasterboards you want but for every carload of plaster board you want you're gonna have to buy 2 carloads of insulation. Well, I says, nothing makes me madder than to have somebody say, I can buy this here but, I'll have to buy 3 - 4 other things along with it that I don't need. So, he never did get an order from us for plasterboard and I don't know, I think they are probably still making national gypsum but, I know, we never had any.

Mr. Runestrand: (Chuckles.) Oh, did you enjoy working at that type of occupation?

Mr. Winter: Well, I was brought up in a dry goods store and I never did like that. That was my father's whole life and I didn't care for that, I don't know why, but that didn't appeal to me. And when I was able to get this job here, I enjoyed it; but, I probably shouldn't have stayed as long at the one place as I did but.....

Mr. Runestrand: But, I mean the type of work, the whole type of materials and...?

Mr. Winter: Oh yes, yes, I enjoyed that.

Mr. Runestrand: Were you able to wheel and deal pretty much with a free hand during the '40's in making out deals? Say, a poor fellow would come in but really needed some materials, could you give him a good deal at that point in time?

Mr. Winter: Oh, I think so. We had friendship with Kenny Garten who had a little tye mill out at Marietta and another fellow who had another tye mill out there to more on the reservation and when you cut tyes, you have also, 1 inch boards that would come off of there to that won't make a tye and we used to take all their output on that and we had our own place down there where we could, there might be some 2' x 4's come out of there where he didn't do any planing and we had a deal ready to plane it and we could make 2 x 4's and make our own shiplap and all that which was.....nowadays here I don't think, very very few lumberyards even have shiplap because, instead of using shiplap for sheeting; now they use plywood because one sheet of plywood will cover a whole lot more space than it takes to turn around and nail up one piece of shiplap there, I mean, labor wise it's a whole lot cheaper then that. Course, years ago then if you got \$100.00 worth of lumber why you figure it's gonna take a \$100.00 worth of labor then there to, utilize that where, nowadays I think labor would be more than the lumber material.

Mr. Runestrand: Um hum. Well, I want to thank you, Mr. Winter, for once again giving us some more information especially on a more specific business and interest in this community. I just want to say, "Thanks."