

DAVID AULAK - TRANSCRIPTION

September 21, 2010 (8:30am)

Transcribed by: Tajinder

DAVID AULAK- So, Dad came from India in 1898, and that time he worked in Saw Mills, and he wasn't married. They were doing medial jobs and everything so, the government of Canada didn't want riots become over, because then population would explode. There were more people here, so they didn't want anybody immigrating in and, of course as you know before 1947 we didn't even get a vote. So aahhh he went back, he had a 3-4 trucks, and a business, and we had 2-3 houses, and he used to live really well. He went back to India, and got married, and then he brought mum over. And my older brother George (Gurmail Singh) was born in India, and he was year and a half when he came to Canada, and that's the first picture.

INTERVIEWER- That they took here?

DAVID AULAK-Him, When he was in Canada, just before I was born, and at that time the jobs like the work was 4-5 cents an hour.

INTERVIEWER - *Oh, Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- And they worked day and night, and they use to get a sewed saw, and everything was trees in Vancouver, and no houses or anything, just one cow and shed's, they would get two men, with the sewed saw, and cut the tree down, and then fell down, they would get a team of horses, and then drag it to the mill. And build the houses and the roads that we drive our cars on today.

So, then this is the picture of Dad, and Mum, when I was 1 year old. I was born in 1935 in the Kitsilano area of Vancouver. And this Picture is of me, when I was a year old, and my older Brother George. This is the picture of Mum and Dad after he got married when he first came to Canada with my mum, of course he came in 1898, and Mum came about 1929 or 30.

INTERVIEWER- Okay, so your dad came in 1898?

DAVID AULAK- (PAUSE) and this picture here, this picture is 1936; you'll pretty much be interested in that picture. This picture is when one of my younger brothers was born, and that one is 1940. This picture was taken in 1940, and that's Mom, that my other brother, and here's first George, that's me Dav, and my Indian name is Gurdev Singh Aulak, but all the way through High School, they just call me Dav, David Singh. And this is my younger brother, so I was that's when I was 1 year old, and this is when I was Five years old. So thinking, you might be interested in this one; this picture was taken in 1943, when I was 8 years old. This is dad, this myself me, there's my sister; there's my brother, and my other brother. And you see in the background, they have the buildings, they weren't even wood, and they were ken building.

INTERVIEWER- *Oh, yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And this is all like (Pause)

INTERVIEWER- *Dirt.*

DAVID AULAK- Dirt. And that was Dad's car. I don't know what model, but he had a model T4, but that was the car he had. We were on 4th Avenue when this picture was taken. There was no Revel street bridge.

INTERVIEWER- *Ohk.*

DAVID AULAK- Like you know it was the old Revel street Bridge, it was nothing new.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And then went over the 4th Avenue, that's where we lived. And the 2nd Avenue is where, the Gurdwara was.

INTERVIEWER- *Ohk.*

DAVID AULAK- Right by Burrard and that was the 1st Gurdwara here in Canada, even before the Abbotsford Gurdwara.

INTERVIEWER- *Ohhk.*

DAVID AULAK- And that Gurdwara was on 2nd, and we were raised in that area, and we use to play in Kitsilano beach, and Dad, and Mum

use to take us when we were small just for the sightseeing, they use to grab us from ear whether we wanted to go or not on Sundays to the Gurdwara. And we go to the Gurdwara it probably had whole bunch of pictures of the Gurdwara, history of Sikhism. It was an old Gurdwara, that Dad and some of the pioneers, just like it is in the Abbotsford here, old Gurdwara here, they got one board at a time and they build that Gurdwara. Yeah, that's a long time on 2nd avenue, the front stares went right up, and there was the prayer room on the top, there was the Langer hall at the bottom. Something like the old (Interrupted by **INTERVIEWER**)

INTERVIEWER- Something like this one.

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, it was something like this one and every Sunday (putting stress on Sunday) dad would take us, whether we liked it or not. We went for the Gurdwara, we were young, and playing around, you know?

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah!*

DAVID AULAK- And I didn't know much English, and Much Punjabi I should say, because I knew English. I played with the Sangat, and there were people sitting there, with Dhari (Beard) and Kesh (Hair), and my foot was maybe hit one of the person with Dhari (Beard) reading newspaper, and he said Phir Karuga? (Will you do it again?) I thought he said are you sorry? And I started said Haan Haan (yes yes) and he smacked me back. (David and **INTERVIEWER** Laughing)

DAVID AULAK- So I remember I was always playing, easy and all. I also remember when Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India came, and it was a big Limo Zane that went in there, and Indra Gandhi was also there by his side, and she came. He was from Oxford University, a slight man, and he had a striped suit on with handkerchief, and a tight, very very elegant looking. He graduated from Cambridge and Oxford, and he went spoke there, and after that. You know our community was well knit, very close, and so close, that's what saved me. You know the jobs were all menial jobs, they wouldn't get any white collar jobs, they wouldn't allow anybody to become a school teacher, other things you know and professional, mostly the labour jobs. The Chinese that came

there was head tax, they charged the head tax when they came. The Chinese would be working on the railway and there I'll give you story on the railway. Dad use to tell us that between Hope and cache creek they were working with CNR railway, and there were flies, sometimes the whole bunch of flies. And side of the mountain came down like and all a small analysis, it was 250 Chinese buried there. And the foreman was English right from London, Lord **Testing (? 7:25)** and he said, he's like Ok just reroute the rail out there, and still 250 Chinese buried out there.

INTERVIEWER- *Oh Wow...*

DAVID AULAK- Let me tell you Hundreds of stories of White people. You know things were hard, they were hard workers, they would work 14-16 hours a day, seven days a week.

INTERVIEWER- Enough Pay to...

DAVID AULAK- Half, (more pressure on word half) they would get half the pay, and worked twice as hard as what the other ones worked. But they scrimped and they saved, and there personal aberrance and they had a faith in that Gurdwara, on Sundays they would go to that Gurdwara, that would be there gathering, and it's on the bigger scale now. They would go there and even they had their ties with India and because, they came, took month and a half on Japanese trader, the cashier, before the Kamagata Maru, and a month and a half struggle, they would wanna go back, but they couldn't. They would not break their ties with India, they kept sending money back buy land, to build house, and there dream was to go back, back to India on the same. Even while they were working hard all day, they were tied, and he was almost killed. He was a farmer, and he couldn't write a letter and he would tell the people that had a degree and that, could you write a letter to India, and they would write a letter (apnay), they would charge 25 cents, and they were getting 40 cents an hour. To write a letter they would charge 25 cents, at that time you couldn't phone, cell phones and simply mores code. So the type of, gives the idea type of life they had. I mean people now they don't appreciate; I mean what they had to go through. And they were his offerings being the first generation as I showed you on that plaque, that was presented to me in, that one was presented to me at Khalsa diwan Society on Ross Street Gurdwara, as being the first

generation and there is not many of us left. I am the oldest survivor of this family here, Aulak Family, Gian Aulak, and now they worked hard, and even if you go to Kamloops, there are all streets named after him, there's Singh street, and Duncan like Paldi, you got Mayo, and in Victoria there's a flag up on Beacon Hill that Mayo put up there very successful you know, my dad grouped together with them, they all put in money, and that how Mayo got started, that's how Kapoor saw mill got started, that's how Sohan Gill got started, that's how.

INTERVIEWER- They all helped together?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, but they, Dad put the money in, but they started it, and they didn't give him back. They kept going, and dad just kept struggling. In that time because what I want to mention was they didn't want the riots to come, we weren't slaves, we worked as hard, but they were menial jobs, as soon as wives came home, they wanted to expand and have families. And now there's gonna be more here, and we don't want them here.

INTERVIEWER- Deals with the ones here!

DAVID AULAKH- Deals with the ones here, so then when the families finally did come, there was as I recall on 2nd avenue like by the armoury on Burrard Bridge, there were families were large families, 12-14 children, ten children, in our family there were nine.

INTERVIEWER- Oh Wow. (Laughing)

DAVID AULAK- You know? Nine children.

INTERVIEWER- Well they had these families.

DAVID AULAK- They had big families, and every kid knew every other kid. You know just like my brothers and sister knew everybody. And you go to the Gurdwara now, and it's like "who are you, who are you?" And that's the start of it, and then you get the idea. That's when I was 1, there when I was eight. This one here when I was 12 years old, this is when I started going to school.

INTERVIEWER- And that's yours sister and brother?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah my younger sister. Oh, First of all I'll say how many brothers and sister we got. Here's Dad, here's mum, George wasn't in this picture, you know this was when he was flying off towards the airport.

INTERVIEWER- Is this your immediate family?

DAVID AULAK- This is myself.

INTERVIEWER- So Who's that one?

DAVID AULAK- That my younger brother, Sadu. And after him there's Gallie, my sister Gallie, and after her there's my other sister Shindoh, and after her eldest sister Mindoh, and then there's Jake, Jarnail they call him, and there's one that's not in this picture his name is Jerry.

INTERVIEWER- *Jerry.*

DAVID AULAK- He's the baby of the family. He.... Mum always wanted him to fly in the family and the older one of the other one he started, you know when I went to, and I graduated from John Oliver High School.

That's my older brother when he was in the Air Force, he had his wings and he was very brilliant. I remember I use to polish those buttons, so when he used to come home and we polished those shoes, we just dread polishing, and then we'd say "Is that right?", and he he'd say "no, but don't worry I have another week's worth of polishing.

He was spic and span, you know he looked elegant with his Air Force hat on and everything, and these are four, so I am the only one living one, he passed away. I don't know if you have read it in Mehfil, he was with the all Canadian air force, he went from St. Hubert to new York, flight came down and there was five pilots in it and he was dispatched to pick them up and he was the skipper on the plane, so they went back and pick them up, the way fate was, when they came back on the same field where, he came down to land, and he saw the weather was bad, and he circled around at first, and they told, no he radioed down to the tower, and he said the weather is not good, not safe to land, and what happened was his superior officer was a Gora(White) there and he says "I order you to land", and the wind

shield wipers weren't going good, and he came down and when he came down, there was a Tower at the end of the run way, which George always said "take that tower off, it's in the wrong place". So he quickly thought that he done it, and run clear from the towers, he calculated everything, except the landing gear because that doesn't come up quickly, because it comes up slowly. As the landing gear was slowly coming up, the bottom of the Gear caught the tower and flipped over the highway, and they could hear him screaming, he burnt to death. By the time they came out there, they all perished to death.

They had a 21 gun royal salute for him, and his name is in the senate in Ottawa, flying officer George Gurmail singh, and he actually, he married a Gori (White girl) French Canadian, and she was catholic, so because they converted her, no she converted him to Roman catholic, he gave up Sikhism, instead of cremation he was buried. He was buried in Mt. Loyale which is in Montreal they have a big Catholic Diocese up there, and they only bury officers in there, Protestants on one side, Catholics on the other. We went to put roses at his grave so the first time they asked us, Catholic or Protestants, I said Catholic. They said there are buried on one side of the mountain. And the Protestants on the other side of the mountain. And I was in India when he was killed.

INTERVIEWER- ok, what year did he died?

DVID AULAK- Ahhh.. 1953. Vancouver Sun had a big write up and pictures, and everything.

INTERVIEWER- Yeah we can look at them.

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, I don't know, you know, my sister gallie might have them. I was in India at that time. Anyways onwards with the story what happen was when I went to high school, elected down, First of all I was educated in Henry Headson School at Kitsilano, right near Kitsilano Beach where I did grade 1. We use to have bikes and bike around and swim in the swimming pool, actually at the Gurdwara when we went on Sunday, they use to be praying and everything and we use to be sitting at the beach, you know swimming and stuff like that, at that time they had a high diving board and they've taken all that out. And I recall that at the 2nd avenue Gurdwara, people kept kept talking about, about

getting a boat you know, and all the things that were happening. My dad on Kamagata Maru, Hopkins' I don't want to get into the story, he was married to an Indian, and his wife was an Indian, and he was spy for the British, and there was another guy that he **was interested in gurudwara that** thing about that Shahid Mewa singh and this other Gora guy, dint like anybody in in Canada. So they were trying to starve the 250 Sikhs that came in Stanley Park and kept them there for month and a half. And what was happening, since they were starving, My dad and few other families at night get hold and go there, sent up roti (Food), water and instead of starving they were getting stronger, so how "can hey, these guys be getting stronger"

INTERVIEWER- How are they getting Stronger?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, how are they getting stronger? So they order a police escort, and they went out to the harbour and tell us that in Morse code that they are going to land in Calcutta in month and a half and the machine guns like Jallianwalla Bagh you know. But he told them "hey you are going back to your village, so than from there historically I went from Henry Headson, and I used to remember like they have an armoury there, at that bridge and the army use to march by, we were kids we use to look out of window. You know watch the army march by, marching by this was just before the war and the war of course started in 1939 to 1945 the Japanese war. And there was a Coca-cola factory, right by the 2nd Avenue Gurdwara, It not there anymore, that where all the coca-colas were made. And there you know there were no Brick houses; they were all ken or wooden houses. And then when the war came, they called the hungry 30's, there was a ration, so there was a curfew out there, you can't stay out beyond 8:00 clock, you had to be home, then besides rains and everything going. There was a ration that dad had to go once a week and get 1 pound of butter that would last a whole week. And rational sugar, that's everything. We take a coupon and give it to him. But when we were young we had lots to eat, like we weren't underfed or anything. Dad always being fond of Punjab, he started a garden life, you know garden, and he made his own vegetable, he had his own chicken, and he had his couple of cows you know, but they couldn't speak to actually, when they went to a grocery store they couldn't explain to them, what they wanted. You know they wanted

dozen eggs and gore's use to be looking at Koo ko koru (Hen's sound)..... all eggs are the same you know, you know, and finally they'll get the eggs. That's what they had to (interrupt by INTERVIEWER).

INTERVIEWER- So, none of the people from that area, like your dad's friends, there were like people over there nobody spoke English?

DAVID AULAK- well they spoke broken English.

INTERVIEWER- Ok, like words.

DAVID AULAK- Yeah the words, only the educated ones that, that were highly educated, like the ones who were charging for their letters they spoke English. Yeah, the education, that's why they wanted us family to be educated, get education. Mum wanted a flyer in the family, o the older one died, and then he went into AV. And then he branched out from there, he wanted into auto body, he got cars to play, George loved playing, and he lived for playing and he loved cars, so then when George died, he went into cars. Mum had my younger brother Jerry who's too busy playing.

INTERVIEWER- He the youngest?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, he's the youngest, he's flying up and down the Coast area. He's not married; he's the only one that's not married yet. Doesn't want to get married, he went to India; he's flown in India between Maldiva and Goa for one year back and forth VIP. He didn't like India. And that's he's flown down the states, you know, he fly's Bush pilots up here. He lives in the Kitsilano area right now. So aaah then he owns his own auto body shop at Georgia drive, Jake's Auto body shop right by Queen Elizabeth Park just off of Kingsway, very successful. And he worked hard just like Asa, I remember when Asa Johal started and he's great age you know, and he worked hard around the clock, he would work hard on the mills, and then he got started, and then he was in charge of green chain, and then then he would own a little mill, and he would be there 12:00 clock Sunday morning fixing the conveyor belts or something, and look at him now, you have heard of him, Number five Gurdwara.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAKH- And Doman when dad over to Vancouver island, Doman had also just come from India, and was working in a mill, and said "I am going to start a business", and he did. He brought a couple of tractors, he start going, and they went to hardware , and he start going, look he was the tenth Richest Company in Canada, but now you know, his son, but that's Domen's story. Then kapoor, kapoor sawmill, was down from Simon Fraser University. Kapoor has two daughters and they use to come to 2nd Avenue Gurdwara, and they were small like that. That's the Kapoor sawmills he was another very successful rich type, grown, you know just like, Mayo, kapoor and mayo were the same. And then his daughters went to India, they build a brand new hospital there, whole doctors you know.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- They directed them. (Pause)

INTERVIEWER- Do you like that? (Laughing)

DAVID AULAK- Yeah,Yeah, that's how you get successful, because you never know what you know what's happens, what goes around, comes around that thing. My three sisters by the way are still alive, they all three of them are married, and they are in Richmond. This is actually (interrupted by the **INTERVIEWER**)

INTERVIEWER- Do you know all their dates of birth?

DAVID AULAK- I don't know, I can't really, like I was born 1935, so Sadu was born probably about a year later like 1936, and Gallie looks around in 1939, Shindo was born in 1940, and Mindoh was born in 1941.

INTERVIEWER- *Mindoh?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, and Jake was born 1942, and Jerry he was born quite a bit later, the one that's flying, he was born, he was born in about 50 you know, 1957.

INTERVIEWER- 57?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- And What about George?

DAVID AULAK- George, he was 40... (Changing the sentence), he's Five year older me, so he was born about 1930.

INTERVIEWER- 1930.

DAVID AULAK- Here's a Picture of us, uumm thats we went to Ellis lake on the picnicand there's another picture in 1962, taken in year 1962, when I brought my first Chev Biskin car brand new auto fuel.

INTERVIEWER- That was your car?

DAVID AULAK - Yeah, 1962.

INTERVIEWER- Did you buy a Brand new 1962?

DAVID AULAK - Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- How much did you get it for? Do you remember?

DAVID AULAK- I got it for within \$ 3500 some like that. I drove that thing for 10 years and it ran just like... and the day I sold it was still at the top, nice car. There's, to give you an idea of the inside of the house from now, what they use to look like is kind of the family gathering.

INTERVIEWER- *Boring*

DAVID AULAK-It got bored and but Dad always you know believed in feeding us well and he had chickens like I say, and would you believe right on 4th avenue, right by the Gurdwara he had fish and chicken. Like you who would allow chicken now served.

INTERVIEWER- By the Gurudwara(Sikh Temple).

DAVID AULAK- Yeah. (**INTERVIEWER-** *Laughing.*)

DAVID AULAK- There are houses there now, they wouldn't allow chicken now. So we had you know, Fifty chickens and...

INTERVIEWER- For the families here?

DAVID AULAK- Just Family, and family like we use to when we use go to school. We use to, my sister and, I my job was to sprinkle the chicken feed for the chicken when they got warm. My sister use to gather the eggs. And my other brother use to or my sister use to Rirak the dhodh (Punjabi) you know from, and I use to milk the cow, you know that's everything.

INTERVIEWER- So you all had chores

DAVID AULAK- Yeah we all had chores to do, and if we dint do it, and he was very strict. You know he come home from work very very tired, and my younger brother he was the black sheep of the family, he always wouldn't listen, I was the favourite in the family. So anyways he, he asked once to cut the wood, and those days Kiran we didn't have the switches we have now. You had to cut kindle wood, start the fire, heat it up, make you dinner, roti, dal and whatever you had to, make the chicken whatever.

INTERVIEWER- All on the fire?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, all on the fire. Rich ones use to have a sawdust heater, and use to come down, the furnace used to go, they use to drop down automatically, you would have heat all the way through the house, centrally heating system.

INTERVIEWER- You had to start the fire?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, we had the fire and we dint have, there was no television. There was one phone on the wall in kitchen like the old one,

and when it rang everybody ran for it. We pick it up, and shouted HELLO you know that kind of.

INTERVIEWER- *yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- You could see them (such phones) in the library now, the old ones.

INTERVIEWER- Yeah, the old ones. So what did you guys do for fun?

DAVID AULAK- We went down to Kitsilano. Another thing we use to go up to Kitsilano high school, Top Avenue. My brother he went there, and Kitsilano High School when we went there, we get chest nuts trees and we find chest nuts on the sidewalks. We would bring home, drill a hole through them, and put a string on them, and have a chest nut party.

(**INTERVIEWER** - *Laughing.*)

DAVID AULAK - (Laughing) We would devise things to have fun. You know we had to survive, and we had fun. And we weren't slaves, like America there were slaves like the black people. Sikhs here, Punjabi's they weren't slaves they were hard conscious workers.

INTERVIEWER- They was just discriminated again.

DAVID AULAK - That Right, but myself, I can be honest with you may be I was treated younger or whatever, I dint even think of discrimination. But time that discrimination popped up was when I was in grade 11th.

INTERVIEWER- Like towards you?

DAVID AULAK- Towards me. I dint even think of, I thought I was just one of the others, I will play soccer, I'll play you know Baseball, Badminton, you know all that stuff.

INTERVIEWER- Was there lot of other Indian kids with you?

DAVID AULAK - Well it weren't that many Indians, there were lot of Goray's (White kids), so we were mixing with them.

INTERVIEWER- But you got along with them.

DAVID AULAK- I got along. So we from there, ok from 2nd Avenue from there we moved to St. George Street.

INTERVIEWER- When did you move there?

DAVID AULAK- It was about 1945-1946, and there were families on St. George Street that everybody knew everybody else, and there was garden across, Chiney's garden across where would be all our vegetables. Fraser and Marine, where the Ross Street gurdwara, where the Blueboy hotel is, that was all Chinese garden. We would go up there on our bike, and Chinese would be cultivating their gardens and we would get all our fresh vegetables and everything, just like you get in Abbotsford here now.

INTERVIEWER- They were pretty like cheap compared to like the grocery stores?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah. None of our people had a store, the only, there was like one grocery store right by the Gurudwara on the 2nd Avenue, One grocery store, and that person brought in Sabji's (Vegetables) mostly he brought in the tea, sugar, and butter and Staff like that. And all our people use to go there. There was only about fifteen families here. That's all it was fifteen families.

INTERVIEWER- That was in 1945

DAVID AULAK- Nineteen early 40's. Yeah, when I was born.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And when I was young, up until I was about 6 years old, There were only about fifteen families and we all you know.

INTERVIEWER- Everybody got along then?

DAVID AULAK- We got along.

INTERVIEWER- One big family.

DAVID AULAK- Well that's our people, that what they would do, they would help each other, there's a commitment there. And sure they wanted

to go back, and I could go on and on there is one his name was Sewa Singh, and that guy he dint get married and everybody asked him to get married, he would be like it costs money to get married.

INTERVIEWER- He calculated money.

DAVID AULAK - Yeah, so he stayed single and he kept working and he kept saving. And he had a little shed, in that Shed was so dark that he had a canola oil lamp, and dad use to go there and tell him to turn the lamp off or something, but if somebody turned it up without asking, he would turn the thing down, say that's costing me money, so that's how cheap he was. And he never got married, and kept saving (saving saving), and eventually he started buying houses, and he got apartments, he was wealthy and he never went back to India, so then he accumulated all his money, and of course when he use to eat he use to take some bread and water, and that was it, and he died, so then there were Four Lawyers that went around the world looking for his kin all on his expense, of course they dint find any. When they came back to the court, no there isn't any next of kin, spent thousands of dollars and then what ever was left other then estates, the city of Vancouver moved in, and they made an addition on the Burrard Street bridge, and right underneath the burrard bridge by the armoury donated by Sewa Singh, hundreds of cars go over there and nobody knows that. All we know is when we were kids we use to play and go underneath the bridge.

So then when we moved to St. George, and the Muslims, the Hindus, the Sikhs they all just went to one Gurdwara , they dint had Mosque's like you know Mandir (Hindu temple), and Gurdwara's you know just one.

INTERVIEWER- What was the setup like in that one Gurdwara?

DAVID AULAK- We go in and same as ours, you'd always go upstairs, mind you they had tables at the bottom, they always had tables, we sat on tables, wooden tables and they eat you know lunch (Langar) on table, but upstairs they would pray and the men would sit on one side, and the ladies on the other but the ladies had blankets, they would all have blankets to cover their legs.

INTERVIEWER- Because they wore dresses right?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, they all had blankets, and most was working throughout the week, most of the get together community was at the Gurudwara on Sundays.

INTERVIEWER- Did they had Guru Granth Sahib (Holy book of sikh's) there?

DAVID AULAK- Oh yeah, of course. When they prayed, they had a prayer that's what kept them together. And myself, I was raised here, I dint really understand, but then what happened later on, my wife is from India, and she had a Guru Granth Sahib at home. And she asked when I was at the ..34;40.. Prince George in the 50's and people use to come to our house, and Guru Granth Sahib was home, and we use to do the path (Prayer), and then we decided the community of Prince George, by this time I am talking years later, when people were all over B.C. 35:00 and in Prince George they decided there was enough community there, that I was one of the main guys in opening the gurudwara there.

INTERVIEWER- And what year was that?

DAVID AULAK- 1970.

INTERVIEWER- How many families were there that time?

DAVID AULAK- Prince George there were, by that time lot of people came in the 1970's, may be 100-150 families, 200 families. And they opened the Gurdwara, and the funny thing about, I haven't 10 years later, when we go down to Richmond, I went up there and prayer in the same Gurdwara(Matha take) and Priest there, he said that there is a distinguish guest among us today , Gurdev singh Aulak, the founder of this Gurdwara is here. So everyone started clapping, it sounds pretty good eh? Somebody has to take initiative, otherwise nobody won't. But you're Abbotsford Gurdwara there was the guy named Holdar and he use to walk from 2nd Avenue to Abbotsford Gurdwara.

INTERVIEWER- How long did that take him?

DAVID AULAK- Whole day. He would work whole week, and on Saturday's he would get up in the morning, take a stick, a cane and walk along the railway tracks, take him whatever whole day, then he would come, he would Mathatake(Pray), sit down listen to the Simran(Prayer), and then start to walk all way back. He had a stick, and if any dogs would chase him, he use to block them off. So you know, then that was the.

INTERVIEWER- *Dedication.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah. Abbotsford Gurdwara was a heritage site, we were small we use to come there mathatak (Pray), and we use to drive there, held services there. Our people, like in Abbotsford You know I am talking about now, I mean they are in every field, everything they have got a lot of agriculture here and what's her name that girl, not Johnny. She lived in Chilliwack, and I think donated some property for the Abbotsford Gurdwara, she had a big farm, but she died now. My wife knows more about that, I more from the Canadian side, and she from Indian. And then I went to Warmeurry School in St. George and right the Fraser Marine where the Hotel is Blueboy, there use to be Annexis's, wood Annexis's. And we use to go to Warmeurry school there, and they tore all that down, the hotel went up, and now they have Warmeurry school up the hill from, Ross street Gurdwara, and I did about grade 2 to grade 4 there, and the Dad he always wanted, I mean at one point we could have brought that whole property at prince George way, it was offered to him in \$100.

INTERVIEWER- *That's it?*

DAVID AULAK- That's it.

INTERVIEWER- How big was that property?

DAVID AULAK- I'd say about 50 Acres.

INTERVIEWER- 50 acres and he turned it down?

DAVID AULAK- Returned it down, I mean we dint have a lot of money, we only got paid 10 cents an hour, and it wasn't lot of money. One

guy that went for it at the Gurdwara, That property I don't know if you are familiar where that funeral home is in delta, five rivers.

INTERVIEWER- Five Rivers Oh Yeah, I have heard of it.

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, The guy that bought that property there in those days, you know he mortgaged and everything, he took a job and he bought that property. He was multimillionaire, I mean that cement factory bought from him, five rivers are on that property, and he owns all the property there, and dad would go to him and he would tell him to go back to India, take a trip next year (next year next year) never happened, he died. He died, his wife was apni (Indian), and she was heavy drinker and found her dead in the ditch a year later. Had only one son, married to Gori (White). The son died, now the Gori runs the whole thing. Those people in those days, that took the chance, good, I mean Dad had it made, we had a 2-3 houses, in those days what we use to do is the main issues was the wood trucks, in the saw mills, the conveyor belts went into the burner, the hoppers went into the truck, and they delivered it to the houses, the Gora houses you know who took a lot of work. The hungry 30's, recession came you couldn't feed a house with \$150, they were worst global you know, they grabbed the Japanese; they were our neighbours, our friends. They grab them when war was on and took everything they had, put them on trains, shift them up to cache creek camp, and they were in the prison there, and they started with nothing, and David Suzuki was one of them. And then they ship them back to Japan and of course... after pearl harbour, after they dropped the bomb there. The Chinese got their head tax back again, but the Japanese I don't think they ever got their head tax back again. I remember dad use to say it was \$150, which was a lot of money, , but from there, dad like I said he wanted always to feed the family really well, and we had a big family, wanted to educated us well. So what he did was bought 2 acres right next to Ross Street Gurdwara, on Argyle Avenue,

INTERVIEWER- Do you know how much that would have cost?

DAVID AULAK- Very very cheap at that time. So then we went Victoria drive, like there use to be a Mcmillan Bloedel on marine drive. I don't

know if you have heard or not, but they have a big mill on green drive, he build planetarium off that little mountain, and he was a lots of multi billionaire just like Patterson is now. And the trucks use to come from there, they closed the Mill down now I think, but lots of our people worked there too. Trucks used to come along Marine Drive and they turned right at Victoria drive and they go up the steep hill, and then at the top of the hill was St. James Douglas school, we use to come home for Lunch, and as we see the truck come as soon as turn down we would grab a hold of it, and it would tug us up the hill. 42:41. And right down the corner of marine drive and Victoria drive there was a gas station, nothing like these modern gas stations, and that time the old pumps, the old jute boxes. You know the restaurants that have the old jute boxes, in which you put money in and play record. We went to the plaza, the Orpheum Stanley. These were the theatres that were on Granville street. There are all torn down now, the only there is the Orpheum theatre, that big concrete cement there. And we use to, there were street carts, there was a tram we use to call, we use to go from New Westminster to Mar pole to Vancouver. And that tram, was on the rails, so where we lived, if we wanted entertainment we use to listen to the radio, or else go across the Revel street bridge to these theatres and to watch one show was a big deal. We save up, and save up to watch one show.

INTERVIEWER- So how was like the show called?

DAVID AULAK- Same as like now. You know comparable, but we saved up for, we wanted fun, so we went there you know, and watch the show. But then again at that time there was the curfew, so one day. Him and I when we were young, jumped on the tram, went across the old Granville Bridge, and we were going to see the show, we forgot about the time, and when we were coming back, the trams were closed because of the curfew, so we walked back home.

INTERVIEWER- After the curfew?

DAVID AULAK- Yes, after the curfew, so we walked back home and it was dark and the house was dark and George say's to me I okay I'll lean down, and you can sit on my back, pull the window and you jump

in, reach down and get me in, which I did, since I was, so I pulled him up, since he came up, I closed the window and the light comes in, mum and dad was standing there with a rod.

INTERVIEWER- Because they dint knew who it was?

DAVID AULAK- No, they knew we were gone, because we dint listen to the curfew. So we got the heck made out of our self, you know we running underneath the bed, table, save us, save us, we would be sore for weeks, we'll never do it again. And this story about him, when he worked all day, and then he would come home, and he would say okay cut the wood, and of course kids would start playing and forget all about it, and dad would come back, look at his watch exactly then 25 minutes he would say what did I tell you. He said cut the wood, did you cut the wood? We said No, right by the ear near the wood shed; we would get the walting of a life time, so he would whip us in the room, and lock the door from the outside, come back close the door. Well I haven't made my dinner, I am hungry, and he said that's why I asked you to cut the wood. So if you cut the wood, you'll heat the fire, so your mum could make the dinner. You dint cut the wood, so you are not having any dinner, so he slept hungry. So from there, from general, from there, now the hill in Victoria drive, they have, they have revamped it, that was all bush in there, now it's a gentle slope going up, and at St James Douglas school, I did grade 4th or 5, 6, and second one when I was in grade 7, I was a school boy patrol captain, you know that was a big deal you know whole captain.

INTERVIEWER- Hall monitors kind of thing?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, kind of like that, I was the favourite, even up the principal Robson, he's dead now.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- Robson was the principal at St. James Douglas school, and you know in those days that's what happened, then I graduated from there, went to John Oliver High School, I don't know if you have heard

of John Oliver High School, that's biggest school in British Columbia, that's 15,00 students.

INTERVIEWER- *Oh.*

DAVID AULAK- It's on Fraser and 41st, you know where the queen Victoria Museum is, just across the street.

INTERVIEWER- Okay.

DAVID AULAK- And our Physics teacher use to look after us, teacher physics, and he use to ask the question and dead silence in the class. And he slowly walk half the way, walk over the window, he would look over at the cemetery and say he did get better answer from dead people than us. (**INTERVIEWER-** Laughing)

DAVID AULAK- So I graduated, down over in 1951

INTERVIEWER- Okay in 1951.

DAVID AULAK- High School, and then I went to UBC. And when I went to UBC, I went into engineering applied science; you had to get over 90% in Physics, Math, and Chemistry. So I was in there, and things were happening, and what happened is he was supposed to go to India, and helps build a house. and he in the mean time was in Montreal, got married to the Roman Catholic Girl, and me being next on the line was chosen to go.

INTERVIEWER- *Go to India?*

DAVID AULAK- Go to India. There was, when I was aaahhhh, I don't know, like ahhh

INTERVIEWER- Your mum always wore a modern suit?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- Did she make you outfits herself?

DAVID AULAK- No she hated, she went to ahhh tailor, like a special tailor to do that. She use to be very intricate about the style of the dress, she always made sure we were dressed up, you know.

INTERVIEWER- Did your mum ever worked?

DAVID AULAK- She never worked, worked enough to raise the family of nine kids, that's a lot of work.

INTERVIEWER- *That it.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, Dad was the one that did all the work. I mean he just worked worked worked, From John Oliver high school, I went to university, and then it was they decided I was the next one on the line, by this time. So they went to India, there was a Desi town, we are talking 50 years ago.

INTERVIEWER- How far were you in your studies then?

DAVID AULAK - Engineering, I got into engineering, like I finished my Grade 13th, got accepted into the faculty of applied science, finished my 1st year, and I was going into my 2nd year of engineering.

INTERVIEWER- And then you moved to India?

DAVID AULAK - Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- How long did you go to India for?

DAVID AULAK- 3 years.

INTERVIEWER- *3 years?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, so when I was in India, I was 19 years old.

INTERVIEWER- Did you go by yourself?

DAVID AULAK - By myself. Mum told me you know do this when you get off at Delhi, Blah Blah Blah.....

INTERVIEWER- Did you have family there? Like in India.

DAVID AULAK- My Uncle.

INTERVIEWER- Your Uncle. Taya (Uncle)?

DAVID AULAK- But they dint come to, Taya and two Chacha's and One Bhua(Aunt). And anyways they dint tell me, they dint come to Delhi, I had to go land in Delhi, and then I had to make my way back.

INTERVIEWER- *Go by yourself?*

DAVID AULAK- we went just recently with my grandson, we had a wedding in Birmingham my wife, and I her name is Kashmir....

INTERVIEWER- *Kashmir?*

DAVID AULAK- Kashmir, yeah. Kirpal actually, KIRPAI.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- And we went by the wedding in .Birmingham, and my grandson, aaah never been to India, and he was aaahh, he's ten now. He was aaaah nine years old. We are at the wedding, he's never been India, so half way there when,so we flew now into Amritsar. I mean right from Heathrow to Amritsar right in Raja Sansi airport.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- So when we flew there, family came to pick us up, actually a total of 10 days in India, and we went to Chandigarh, Jalandhar,

INTERVIEWER- *You were sightseeing, right?*

DAVID AULAK - Yeah, Ludhiana, and buildings around there.

INTERVIEWER- *What's your Village in India?*

DAVID AULAK- Aulak, same as this, Village Aulak, and my name is Aulak. Both is Aulak, like

INTERVIEWER- Okay. Is that ancient?

DAVID AULAK-

INTERVIEWER- Okay and what's the district?

DAVID AULAK- District is Jalandhar, and postal is Nakodhar.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- Have you been to India?

INTERVIEWER- *I went three years ago, no four years ago.*

DAVID AULAK- Four years ago.

INTERVIEWER- I went to do shopping. (Laughing)

DAVID AULAK-..... so you know all about it?

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- Good for you. So how long did you stay?

INTERVIEWER- *Half week.*

DAVID AULAK-First time?

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah. My first time was when I was four, I don't remember that.*

DAVID AULAK- You don't remember?

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- How old were you when you went to India?

INTERVIEWER- *I was 21.*

DAVID AULAK- 21, so I was 19 when I went.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah, it was about, you know?*

DAVID AULAK- About the same, ...54:10.. but I guess you went with somebody?

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah, I went with one of my sister.*

DAVID AULAK- I was along.

INTERVIEWER-.....54:19.....

DAVID AULAK- I was along.

INTERVIEWER- *I didn't work or anything?*

DAVID AULAK- I went exactly along, and 54:26 I stayed in a ... hotel in Delhi when I landed there, and then I figured out how to get ticket on a Shatabdi Express, which goes from Delhi to Jalandhar. And then I got off in Jalandhar, and I caught other train that took me to Nakodhar, and then from Nakodhar to the village. So you know I did alright, and then when I was actually building a house there.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK - Somebody from here got a hold of the Vancouver sun, andhe cried. Mum and Dad told me nothing about it. They said munda kalla gaya aaah, ohther jana aah, like 55:10.....foreign country, along by himself, trying to build the house. So this guy, aaaah six months later brought the Vancouver sun's headlines with Gurmail's picture on the FrontPage, saying officer killed in you know.

INTERVIEWER- At55:30...

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, I was actually with my Massi (Aunt), and we were going from my village to her village, and my cousin, is my cousin sister she comes running after us, and

INTERVIEWER- *Now was that six months after the death or?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, six months after the death, I dint knew anything. So anyway, she comes running after me by this Nair (river), and she quickly, I said something, but she quickly said that mum you know, hold her mum aside, and pulled her, mum come after me, she said we are not going, we have to go back to the village. That way, we are going that way, but she kept asking me, tere veer da ki haal hogaya, I said he's fine, he's in Vancouver. She brought me to the village, sat me down, and my uncles all you know sat there, and that guy walks in with the newspaper, he put it in front of me.

INTERVIEWER- *So everybody in India also found out six months later as well.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, then when I picked the paper I saw, you know read the paper, and his picturebut those were the things that 56:40.....

INTERVIEWER- *Was that the first time you went to India?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, first time. And I stayed in India for 2 years building the house; you know all those different type of weather, ... 57:20... worst and hard and stuff like that. And other thing, that's one of the sad things, and then of course the second sad thing is when mum she had a hit and run, an accident. This is before George was killed, before was killed, she had a ht and run accident 57:50..... use to have a mill, and we were coming back on a .57:52..... by that time everybody went home, and she said okay you guys go home, I'll just go give these presents to and she goes with the presents, and we all got home, its Christmas, we are decorating the tree. We were all Merry Christmas, and happy nourishing.

INTERVIEWER- *Before you went to India, right?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah and she says you know she, decorating the tree, merry Christmas, and getting prepared for Christmas, the tree was up and

all, the music everything. And we were wondering, mum dint come home, so the phone rang, dad picked the phone up, and your wife's in Vancouver in hospital, she has 10% chance to live. Her rib was broken, he collar bone was broken, she has fractured skull, and she was on crunches. Dad was58:49. , so he went. 59:06. Some personal truck went over her when she was walking to her car, and drive her 50 feet down the Kingsway. ... 59:19... And ...59:28.... eyes open, and she started coming back. Miracle.

INTERVIEWER- 59:30

DAVID AULAK- And she lived after that. And dad of course he was so busy here, never went back to India, so...

INTERVIEWER- *What year did he come?*

DAVID AULAK - Dad?

INTERVIEWER- *1898 you were saying, right?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- *So, he never went back to India?*

DAVID AULAK- Well he never went back, so when he went back was about 15 years ago, to see his brothers, had a heart attack, and died there in India.

INTERVIEWER- *He died there?... 1hr 17 min.....when was that? Do you remember the day.*

DAVID AULAK- 1995- 1994. And mum she never went back to India, we kept telling her go back to India mum, go back to India, she said next year, next year, next year.

INTERVIEWER- *What year did she come?*

DAVID AULAK- 1931.

INTERVIEWER- *1931.*

DAVID AULAK- And she dint go back. And so then my sister and I said, your one brother and sister are back there go and meet them. She never went back to India, and one day my sister said Dav, we'll take her. So we brought her Ticket, we got her on plane, and she went. Well when we get down the plane, of course we were in Delhi the next day. And mum was saying hotel in delhi.....1hr 1min 14 sec.....Jalandhar, and mum was saying Putt (Son) how far are we, you know, we just started, actually we were in India. You can't be, she said it takes month and a half and the water. We can't be, we just left yesterday. I said mum you see the rickshaws (carts), you see, we are in India, you know.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- This is India, and she couldn't believe it eh. So, anyway we ahhh.

INTERVIEWER- What year did you guys go?

DAVID AULAK- Oh god, all years mixed up, but anyways I think she may be about 15- 20 years, somewhere that. She passed away 15-20 years ago, but when she went back, she she, we got to the village, and when we get to the village, her and her sister, 1hr 2 min 10 sec..... what I am talking about is 15 years ago,Raising children, and their children, and she met them and everything, and was happy, you know stayed there for a about month and so, and came back, year later she died.

INTERVIEWER- ???

DAVID AULAK- I tell my sister, you know I said1hr 2 min 23 sec...

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- So, those things and then what else can I say, I mean life, I don't know on your history.....2:35..... jack, you must have heard about2:43...yeah, he does a lot of. He was born in India, but he was small when he was on Nanaimo Street, like his mum and dad. and jack also lived they lived about 3-4 hours drive from us.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay?*

DAVID AULAK- And jack, he started the Sawmill, coal wood industry....3:12., and he ... his kids are grown out age. And there's another guy Rangy Mathew, I don't know if you have ever heard of him.

INTERVIEWER- *No, I haven't.*

DAVID AULAK- He played rugby at UBC.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- And he also had a mill on in ...3:30.. island, but he was a tall big guy, rugby player. And when production was down, he picked the stick up, and the people that were falling off the green chain, he actually would be whipping, whipping hard, so they can put more. Brutal man.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah. (Laughing)*

DAVID AULAK- (Laughing) Brutal man and he died too. So all those you know (pause). Money isn't everything.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- A lot of people aah, I remember when I was going to High school, and Dad said okay you work on the weekends and you make money, so that you can pay for your fees.

INTERVIEWER- *For school?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, and the graduation4:28.....,so I was underneath a fathers thing, pulling fathers.....4:40.....that night making money, so that I could pay fees, and everybody also....4:45.... graduation, so I dint even get to attend my graduation.

INTERVIEWER- *I know.*

DAVID AULAK....4:48..... a week later I went back, picked up my certificate. And when I was going to, it was a tough life for me,5:02.....I mean dad was you know very well off, and we were... respect in the community, we knew all the other families and everything, but still when I a year, I was going into the university,5:20..... I had to work in a mill,5:27.... I mean there was a chinah(Chinese) there and he was limping around, and that guy which start the plain at the back, and I was on the graveyard shift, Just sweating all night, and my moles and everything would be hurting. And in the morning I'll be getting up, and heading to UBC to do engineering, heavy loaded..... engineering you know.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- Engineering, which was.....5:50..... everything. And that was the toughest year of my life, trying to do engineering, and working at night, ,.... I had a menial job, but the guy...

INTERVIEWER- *You worked full time? 6:05*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, full time. The guy asked me to work, you know, and if it was an ordinary job, I would have handled it, and study a little bit while I was working, but this guy he had an6:20..... I was sweating sweating sweating, and finally you know, I fall asleep i couldn't do much, so and.

INTERVIEWER- *How much was you pay around that time?*

DAVID AULAK- At that time, it was around a \$1.25.

INTERVIEWER- *???? 6:38...*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, he went back to get married, that's the only time.

INTERVIEWER- *What year did he get married?*

DAVID AULAK- 1929, so mum came in 1930.

INTERVIEWER- *7:00????*

DAVID AULAK- No no....

INTERVIEWER- *(Laughing) No?*

DAVID AULAK- No, I don't know... Well, figure it out, he was about 75 when he died, and she was about 75 year old. Both were 75 when they passed away, and I am 75 in March. (**INTERVIEWER-** *Laughing*)

DAVID AULAK- So I wanna live. (Laughing)

INTERVIEWER- *So you Dad passed away 15 years ago?*

DAVID AULAK- Dad no, he passed away more than that. He passed away about 25 years ago, aaahhh 20 years ago.

INTERVIEWER- *20 years ago?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah and mum passed away 15 years ago.

INTERVIEWER- *Is it Approximate?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, approximate. I am actually..... my sisters, if you doing research, idea my sisters 7:59.....she's only 4 years younger than me.

INTERVIEWER- ?

DAVID AULAK- yeah.

INTERVIEWER- And its Gallie, right?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, Gallie.8:02..... I told to her, you know I said that I am invited to the University of the Fraser Valley for an interview, and do you have any pictures? And she said, you know, my sister well I spent \$3800 framing those pictures, so I am not going to give it to you. I told her I am not gonna keep those, not gonna eat those, I am just gonna look at them.

INTERVIEWER- 8:35-----40...

DAVID AULAK- But she a she a probably I mean..... 8:47.

INTERVIEWER- what's your exact Date of birth? 1935?

DAVID AULAK- March 9th.

INTERVIEWER- *March 9th.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, 1935.

INTERVIEWER- 8:59. *And then you're Wife?*

DAVID AULAK- January 13th 1936.

INTERVIEWER- *1936. All you brother sister, Except George, were born here right? I mean in the hospital.*

DAVID AULAK- We were born, I was born at home.

INTERVIEWER- *Oh really?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- *And the others.*

DAVID AULAK- Some were born in home, some were born hospital.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay. Was it a common thing than, like the children born in home?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER-????????????? 9:25.....

DAVID AULAK-..... so we all did well.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And the Vancouver general hospital, of course was a small hospital than it is now, now they have expanded it now, I mean the maternity wards, you know.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- My children were all born in that general hospital.

INTERVIEWER- *How many children you have?*

DAVID AULAK- Three, three boys.

INTERVIEWER- *Three boys?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- *And how old are they?*

DAVID AULAK- Well the oldest one was born in 1956, but he had a heart attack, and he died.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay and when was that?*

DAVID AULAK- It must be about ten - twelve years ago.

INTERVIEWER- *Twelve years ago.*

DAVID AULAK- And another thing in my life I had to deal with you know, I am standing at the crematoria and 10:25..I don't want to depress you, but I am standing there and and the first thing my mum passed away is she ahhhh , the guy was going like this, with the piece of a paper and a match on 10:39..... First thing you are the oldest David to light the fire, suppose to 10:54.

INTERVIEWER- *Your mum's funeral?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, my mum's funeral. I actually 10:55.... Then when my son passed away, same thing I am standing there, saying to my

son, you know11:05..... it's my turn and you are going, when you are holding for me, it's tough you know.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And I had to push the button. You know push that and my other two sons they are screaming, you know. 11:20.....11:31....men do that; those are pretty hard notes to take. Life goes on.

INTERVIEWER- 11:40?

DAVID AULAK- Now I have two sons, Lalli and Mike both married.

INTERVIEWER- *They are both married, and their date of birth? 11:47*

DAVID AULAK- (Breathing hard) I knew you will ask that. (**INTERVIEWER-** *Laughing*)

DAVID AULAK- I know, I know,I should know.. 11:55.. Okay the oldest one Grembille, the one that passed away he was born in 1956.

INTERVIEWER- *What was his name?*

DAVID AULAK- aah 56 figure out.

INTERVIEWER- *No, what was his name?*

DAVID AULAK- Grembille yeah, and Robby was born in 1960. And Mike is born in 1972.

INTERVIEWER- *And they are both married, right?*

DAVID AULAK- Both married.

INTERVIEWER- *Was Grembille married?*

DAVID AULAK- No, no.

INTERVIEWER- *Did Mike and Robby had kids?*

DAVID AULAK- Ahh Mike does.

INTERVIEWER- Your grandson, right?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, his name is Shamsheer. He's ten now.

INTERVIEWER- *He's ten?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- *Does he12:47..... with you?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah. They live actually with me. At one time they were on thedrop school.....

INTERVIEWER-

DAVID AULAK- Both.

INTERVIEWER- family plan 13:00

DAVID AULAK- Well no, I mean.....

INTERVIEWER- 13:05

DAVID AULAK- So, she her parents are in California.

INTERVIEWER- *Robbie guys?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah. And they are in California, and she's kinda13:18..... back and forth. Stuff like that.

INTERVIEWER- *What do your sons do now?*

DAVID AULAK-Actually Mike is a .(survivor)..... and he's also Nurse, he took13:38...and Rob he's a manager of, of some place downtown, I can't remember the name, she does research type thing.

INTERVIEWER- *Is it like a 13:55.*

DAVID AULAK- Aaahhh no, it's a like a hotel. Yeah like that, and my daughter in law, she is a real estate agent no. 1.

INTERVIEWER- 14:11

DAVID AULAK- 14:15No, agenta and she also does Research, like in..... ,...14:20..... research.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay and what's her name?*

DAVID AULAK- Rupinder.

INTERVIEWER- *Rupinder.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- *And then Mike's wife?*

DAVID AULAK- Ahh, her name is Harpreet.

INTERVIEWER- *And what does she do?*

DAVID AULAK- She's.....14:39..... actually a bookkeeping, like what you call MBA or whatever. She's an MBA in accounting, that's what

INTERVIEWER- 14:53.

DAVID AULAK- Well it was, what happened was, I had good marks, and MR Dewes my English teacher, and he was straight from London. And after class, he said to me when bell was rang, the class was gone out, and he said Dav I want to talk to you. I said Okay. Here I am biting my nail; oh my God what did I do wrong, what did I do wrong? Close the door. You find, that you have been bullied around, and treated different by other people, and I said why? And he said because of color of your Skin. He said your skin color is different, it's not white. And I said well I am proud to be brown, because I have built in natural tan, I said I don't wanna be like Negro's cross the line that are black, that are slaves, and I don't wanna be like the white people, spend thousands of dollars on getting tanned, buying sun tan lotion, I have a built in tan I said.

INTERVIEWER- *Natural!*

DAVID AULAK- A Natural tan, so he said no. He said you know, you're different, you have people have been telling you go back home, go home paki, or Hindu and all this. And I said no. And I don't know what he's talking about in grade 11, he planted a seed in my head you know, and at that time I was very conscious of it, very sensitive towards. So that's when I first opened my eyes, and I walked along, and it's up there. I mean somebody, some punk kids go by saying "Hey paki go home", don't know anything about it or "Hey go home, but before they said they are crazy, you know don't understand. I mean people are you go on the states, and people on the states 9/11 they had turbans and beards, and there were 3-4 that were killed, the Sikhs. Because these stupid people doesn't know, they thought they were Iran or Pakistan, or stuff like that, here they were Sikh.

INTERVIEWER- So they didn't know the difference?

DAVID AULAK- Is you parents, is you Mum and dad, aahhhh

INTERVIEWER- No, my dad came here around in 1960's. They got married in 1979 in Abbotsford Gurdwara. My grandpa came in I think early 1970's

DAVID AULAK- So what does your Dad do or grandpa?

INTERVIEWER- My grandpa got retired, he's Born 1932.

DAVID AULAK- Ohhhhh.

INTERVIEWER- *So he's Little.....*17:50..(Laughing)

DAVID AULAK- No I

INTERVIEWER- Yeah, He's born 1932, and my grandma was born in 1931. So both are retired, and my dad has moving company.

DAVID AULAK- He moves....

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah, he moves people. So...* I have a younger brother, and a younger sister.

DAVID AULAK- Okay

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- So you are all born here?

INTERVIEWER- Yeah, all born here.

DAVID AULAK- So your Dad knows, I guess your grandpa, when did he come?

INTERVIEWER- *1970*

DAVID AULAK- 1970, so that's

INTERVIEWER- 18:32.....

DAVID AULAK-

INTERVIEWER- My Dad goes like who told you that? (Laughing)

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, Yeah. And the people 18:44.....farming and stuff like that, you know. I mean lot of them are

INTERVIEWER- My grandpa worked in a mill, so my Dad never had a farm or anything.

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER- We are a big family like my brothers married, he's got two boys.

DAVID AULAK- Okay.19:05.....

INTERVIEWER- *So,*

DAVID AULAK- Okay, Okay.

INTERVIEWER- Well, I am married, I have changed my
19:10.....

DAVID AULAK- What what19:15.

INTERVIEWER- Mehil, mehil.

DAVID AULAK- Oh Isn't there any mehil's in surrey at all.

INTERVIEWER- 19:20

DAVID AULAK- Thats weird.

INTERVIEWER- Do you know? Is he mehil.

DAVID AULAK- No no, she. 20:00

INTERVIEWER-

DAVID AULAK- I remember one time, this is when I graduated, and I was just to go on to the university. And it was Universal Block, was the name of the saw mills.

INTERVIEWER- *Universal Block!* 20:08.....

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, that crown....20:11.....heather Street in Vancouver. And I am you know starting off on a chain and then I became the Grader, then I worked myself up, and 20:30....I mean I wanna study, So what I did was, I went into steam engineering, like you know, when I went to school, I want to learn about steam engineering. And I became 20:38 . Engineer forth class. So then they hired me in the boarder room, at that time which is a higher up job, upgraded the job, you are running the boarders that And it was coffee time, so I am standing up there in the mill, and I am looking down and Dad was on the sidewalk, on the pavement there, and he had big blocks of wood, and he had this axe, in that time he was late 60's I guess. And he was chopping wood, no cutting wood, and I was thinking,

he should get retired, so he was sweating, cutting wood. And it was a hot sunny day, when I saw sweat going down while cutting wood.

INTERVIEWER- In the mill, right?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah in the mill, and it hit me right here. And I said Oh my god, so I running down the stairs, I said papa sit down, and let me chop the woods, and you know have some water. You know what he put his hand on my shoulder, and he say's you don't know what. And I said what are you saying why, I said because you are working hard, and he goes you don't know what hard work is? I said what you mean? He said you know, we worked seventeen hours a day, seven days a week, no break, and didn't even had a (22:11) boat, we weren't even allowed to buy houses, where the boaters or voters were.

INTERVIEWER- So they were kept separate?

DAVID AULAK- Separate, they had actually b....22:20... houses.

INTERVIEWER- That was at the mill, right?

DAVID AULAK- Yeah at the mill. So Anyways when they had the ... houses, lived there he says, this is before I was born, he says you don't know what hard work is, he says Now he says , look ,.....22:35..... you work for 2 hours, you get a break for fifteen minutes, and then you work for another hour, forty five minutes, you get half hour break to eat. He said we already had our break so I finally rested, he says another hour and a half whistle blow, and I'll go home at 4:00 clock, and I had no worries, until I come back 8:00 clock in the morning. 23:05. He said go back up to your boiler room and just finish your shift. I'll see you at home.

INTERVIEWER- Why would he just doing it? 23:15

DAVID AULAK- No, he was just, like the guy the foreman who was suppose to be in charge, like because Dad wouldn't retire, he was pulling lumber off the chain, I don't know why dad.. Did your dad pull lumber off the chain? Probably.

INTERVIEWER- Yeah I think so.

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, yeah. So that was the hard, so anyways they were asking him to retire, so he didn't retire, because he was saying I got a family to support and he said to support my family I need to keep on working, and for his punishment they said it was easy job on the chain, but it was a hard job with a the Knots in there because they would break and break, that he was strong. He never wore turban or beard on his face, was clean shaved. We were all clean shaved.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- But I don't know how religious your family is? ...
24:09....You mum must be quite religious,

INTERVIEWER- *My grandpa ..*

DAVID AULAK- Does he have beard?

INTERVIEWER- He does, but it's a short though.

DAVID AULAK- Short beard.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah,*

DAVID AULAK- Because my son, Mike, when Mike24:25..... he worked as a surveyor, over Edmonton, and he went down to the states, right across the states, California, over New York, and when he was a in place called south.. 24:45...., he was looking for his roots, andhe wore Kara (Silver Bracelet) 24:50..... and he grow beard, and wore turban.

INTERVIEWER- Okay. Did you still have it now?

DAVID AULAK- At that time I was 25:05.... and then 9/11 came, and there was 25:20---25:40 (talking abt pictures)...

That's my son Grembille, when he was born, and this picture here was 1963, that's my older son Grembille, that passed away, this is Jerry, the

one that's my younger brother, that's my wife, and this is 1961, and that was Grembille,26:15...

Here's my sister Gallie, and that's my wife, that's my wife's brother. That's the one that's 26:41.....This is Sadu, this is his girlfriend, but he actually got married to an Indian.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah.

INTERVIEWER- *The lady wore mostly skirts then, right?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, well this is wife, and Grembille. This is my wife here, and wife's brother and that's Grembille again. That's Robby, my second son. That's Gallie's daughter. Mostly Grembille, that's Gallie my sister. That's when we first, we came from India, when I married her in India, and we came back here, and that's when Grembille was I don't know 4 year old or so. She came in 1956, so she's been here over Fifty years, well we are goona have our 54th wedding anniversary, 54 years well that's on June 4th, I can't remember, I can't forget that day.

INTERVIEWER- *One date that you remember? (Laughing)*

DAVID AULAK- June of 4th, 54 years.

INTERVIEWER- *June of 4th, you were 29 right?29:00*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, and there is Grembille again, this is in Vancouver you see. Here's Grembille with the turban (29:08), this is in Vancouver area, you know down at the valentine period there, that's where they are. He's very bright (brilliant) in schoolAnd there he is again in our house in Richmond. He was very 29:20.....when he was a baby. Here's Grembille and Robby, and my younger sister and my wife, and her sister. And that's me and Gaille again, this my wife's brother, helping brothers mom with Grembille .That's when I shortly came back from India and I think this one was taken in India...Looks like when I was in India and his when we were.....There is picture of my wife..(30 30)....and that's her uncle he is in California, he was a research scientist with (30

35)...first he worked with Boeing and he...research scientist, very well off, he is kind of sick right now not feeling too well but, he came from India just before I married his niece.

INTERVIEWER- *ok*

DAVID AULAK- And he studied at the University of Washington went into engineering got his Bachelors degree got his masters Degree and then he went over to California. Very successful man and he drive aa.....

INTERVIEWER- *With all that education (laughs)*

DAVID AULAK- 31: 18.....But he retired now, everything, that's behind now. But he was a Scientist, has a big mansion, huge mansion there, Oh my God, way up on the top of the hill, and it's a she drives a brand new Mercedes of course, it's brand you know, and he has a Jaguar.

INTERVIEWER- ... 31:50.? *Is his wife a Gori(White)?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah and they have two children like, one is doctor in New York, and the other one is in San Diego like a Daughter.
..... 32:06.....

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- He's very successful.

INTERVIEWER-..... 32:14.....

DAVID AULAK- Oh my another, my sister one here, this one right here, this one right there, she has one son, and two daughters.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- And her older daughter is a32:35..... research, she won Scholarships all the way through the university, and to here32:43..... bachelors degree, and she went to....., got her

master's degree from32:48(name), she went to Australia, got her PhD Degree in Research, and she's right now in **Glasgow** (32:58). But she's from Australia, lived in Australia, and got her PhD degree, and she now married, and she said Okay "I applied for this job in Glasgow, Scotland", and got as a Director. (33:10)

INTERVIEWER- *Oh, Wow.*

DAVID AULAK-She's the director of the research in Glasgow, Scotland.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay, How many? 33:23*

DAVID AULAK-

INTERVIEWER- *No like basically?*

DAVID AULAK- brothers and sisters...

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah like brothers and sisters.*

DAVID AULAK- Ahh three sisters.

INTERVIEWER- *Gallie, Mindoh and Shindoh right?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, and just me and Jerry.

INTERVIEWER- *You and jerry.*

DAVID AULAK- I am the oldest, jerry is the youngest.33:45..... You know when you get over 70, I am gonna be 75, I think about, children how many children you have got?..... Hey I have got two, I had only three boys, I said one would be a doctor, one would be a lawyer, and one would be a Dentist. And then.....

INTERVIEWER- *No (Laughing).....? 34:08*

DAVID AULAK- (Laughing)

INTERVIEWER- *Do you have any stories that you would like to share,*
34:19.....?

DAVID AULAK- Ahhhh, like I told you I have whole bunch of stories, but

INTERVIEWER-

DAVID AULAK- No I can't think of, the only thing I wanted to literate most was the life, you know the Life34:45, I think before 1950, is which you know, is very hard to reach it, anything before 1950, because the flood gates opened in 1970. And whoever was in power than, you know one's you got vote in 1947, things were started to look better, people were started to get jobs, white collar jobs, and as you read in the Mehfil, I was aah, I don't have to repeat that, I was the First East Indian, who wanted to apply for the Vancouver Police Force.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah, and you made it, but they?*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, I made it, but they didn't take me. I mean I was tall, you know I was Strong, they give a test where, 35:22...and they were like "okay whoever's got License now, How many people were I picked up my uniform go to work, and they said "No, get out of here, we don't want35:35....., we don't want an East Indian in the force". You know, so that one and other, what other stories I wanted to tell you. Discrimination wise 35:52..... level.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And all I can say is what, everybody else say's our people are doing really well now, and they should remember that Heritage, I can't overstress, there are not many of us left now, you know.

INTERVIEWER- *what heritage.....36:18....*

DAVID AULAK- That's right, that's right. Yeah. The other thing, what else can I, You can ask question? If you, I am open to question, questions you know.

INTERVIEWER- *I think we kind of covered everything.*

DAVID AULAK- Well yeah, yeah. We were well fed, not that we were underfed. You know Dad always had chickens and

INTERVIEWER- *It's a farmer in them right?* 36:45

DAVID AULAK- Yes the farm, it was always in 36:50.....

INTERVIEWER- *The survival for the family.*

DAVID AULAK- He always wanted to go back to India, and he didn't aahh, he made it so, he went back to India that's when he had a Heart Attack, and passed away.

INTERVIEWER- *Yeah.*

DAVID AULAK- And mum went back after fifty years.

INTERVIEWER- *When you guys pushed her.*

DAVID AULAK- Yeah, pushed her back and then she was happy, you know. She was happy to go back, and she met her sister after Fifty years. It's just a Miracle meeting your sister after Fifty years and all the things you have to talk about. And lot of the stuff on 2nd Avenue Gurdwara you know, I remember just like we are sitting here, and talking about in 2010, was in 1936. It mean it's close to 100 years, you know, just gonna be 100 years, Now I am 75, and add 25 years will be 100. And half of the37:37..... society which first open in 1906, you know in 2006, Khalsa Diwan Society celebrated their 100th Anniversary. And hey 1906 to 1935, that's just few years, so since they opened that and you have heard the stories on the Abbotsford Gurdwara, How they built that, the Gora (white) that had the mill, and Blah Blah. We weren't allowed to buy houses where the Gora's were.

INTERVIEWER- 38:18

DAVID AULAK- Separate, most of them lived in Bulk houses, where they all cooked together.

INTERVIEWER- By the time your mum came, where did she stay with you guys?

DAVID AULAK- Well mum, by the time mum came, Dad went back, he got married, and he came back, and bought a House.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay, House*

DAVID AULAK- ..38:38...And he just kept working, and of course the children they stood on their own feet, and everyone is doing their thing.

INTERVIEWER- *So when your dad came, like how did he come like?*

DAVID AULAK- Japanese trader

INTERVIEWER- *Japanese trader*

DAVID AULAK- Month and a half.

INTERVIEWER- Month and a half?

DAVID AULAK- Just like a Kamagata Maru, that's what they use to do, when they use to month and a half before, month and a half.

INTERVIEWER- How did he come like, you don't have to39:09..

DAVID AULAK-No, what he did was, he was in Punjab, and what happened was, my (two Uncle's) two Chacha's (Uncles), One Taya (Uncle) said there's an opportunity to go to a foreign land. So they came from the village in Punjab, and they got on the Train, and went right to Calcutta.

INTERVIEWER- *The four of them?*

DAVID AULAK- The four of them, they went to Calcutta, and then when they seen the ship, The Japanese Trader, and then they were ready to go on. My two Chacha's and Taya (Uncles), **did** (39:35) start running back, they said well asi tah maar jana aah(We'll die), there's water, water goes this and that, and they are gonna die. You know they didn't know the Earth was round, and ...

INTERVIEWER- *Ohh Yes.*

DAVID AULAK- The water goes like this, and they are gonna die.
.....And save us save us, so they ran back to the Village.

INTERVIEWER- *But your Dad got on?*

DAVID AULAK- Dad got on, he was brave. So he got on, and he got on that trader, and month and a half, he got here to aaahh..

INTERVIEWER- To ...40:06.....?

DAVID AULAK- He actually came to California, and from California, the **worked** north. So when Dad got to Vancouver, he said "This is the Jewel of the earth", nice weather, wide sea, Mountains, everything you could ask for, is right here in Vancouver. He said this is where I want to settle, so that's where he kept working and like I said he had a couple of houses, good business going, trucks and everything, and there was a close knit community, and what he use to do is on Saturdays, and Saturdays, weekends, once they got to vote, 1947 they were allowed to vote. The whole group went back to Ottawa and they were fighting back and forth you know, Hey the argument was we work we pay taxes, why aren't we getting our vote? You know, give us our vote, and then when they fought and got their vote, that was Dr. Pandia, there was Dr. Gurdev gill I am not sure if you have heard of him, Dr Pandia, he was the one that brought most of the people over, like filled out the Immigration stuff like that, there's another guy his name is Kinchi, like Scissor and all.

INTERVIEWER- *Okay.*

DAVID AULAK- He was the one that did all that immigration stuff, like that. They use to get money even from our people to fill out the application, to bring them over eh?. But once they got that thing rolling, and then that's life, he use to for fun, and Germany use to get on the train, and go down to main in Hastings. The all wooden stores were there but now they are rebuilding and everything, but main Hastings right on the corner is a Library. And that's where you know all the crowd used to meet. They used to get there, sit down, chat about what

happened during the week, then there was a store on tender street, Chiney store, 42:05. They use to go to there, and tell her, they use to have chicken there, okay dress and everything, and while do are doing it, take a bottle out you know, a bottle of whisky from you, and they will sit there, have a couple of drinks and talk about times. By that time the chicken was ready and all. They even come home, and make chicken and all you know that type of thing. Dad use to even when he was on marine drive, use to walk right from the Ross Street Gurdwara, from there to work. He used to walk down the railway track, go to work there, and walk back home.

INTERVIEWER-

DAVID AULAK- You are Healthier, you are healthier, not like that just sit in a car, and you know, just sit and turn on the TV, and argue who's going to, you know what channels.....42:59.....Everybody had cell phones, he didn't had those things. The first time, when television came out was when I was (43:06).....High School, and those stores across the street, and we use to bell would ring, we go out to chemistry class, and chemistry class

INTERVIEWER-

DAVID AULAK- . and down Fraser Street, across the street to get to the other an Axes, and there were hardware stores there, and we would look through the window at the hardware store. One day we were coming out, and there was this big television in the store, when it first came out.

INTERVIEWER- It was a big box or?

DAVID AULAK- Big box, and when it first, I don't remember the year, but when we looked we said what's that? Oh my God you know what movies are thousand.....43:45..... downtown at gravel Street. They brought the movies here, And we all standing around, and looking at this thing, so look picture coming out of it. And look, it was all Black and White, you know, no color nothing. Now you look, got 3-4 televisions.....44:12..