

FATEH CHAND - TRANSCRIPTION ENGLISH

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Date:

Interviewer- So Uncle, what is your Date of birth, and your full name?

FATEH CHAND- My full name is Fateh Chand, and my Date of birth is June 5th, 1931

Interviewer- And where were you born

FATEH CHAND- I was born in Village Thanawat, tehsil Moga district, Punjab, India.

Interviewer- So Uncle, tell us something about your parents

FATEH CHAND- My parent's full name was Hari Singh, he stayed abroad for a while and then he joined INA during Second World War(1939-1945), and came back to India around 1946. He died approximately in 1977-1978

Interviewer- Do you remember his Birth Date?

FATEH CHAND- No, I don't remember his Birth Date

Interviewer- Do you remember where he was born?

FATEH CHAND- my nanka is Thanawat. My father's pind was Ramuwala in the district of moga where Balwant Singh lived.

Oh pind sada pind, mera nanke jehre aah Thanawat nanke se gah mere, thanawat , sada jehra pind se oh ramuwala se, oh apne, tehsil Moga deh wich hi aah, jitho da Balwant Singha haiga.

Interviewer- and where was your mom born.

Teh tuhade Mom?

FATEH CHAND- my mom died in 1986

Mom de jehre haige aah ohde death hogi se 1986 deh wich.

Interviewer- do you remember when and where was she born.

Okay, Ohna dah birth katoch hoya kiteh hoya, kuch yaad aah.

FATEH CHAND- I think she was born in Thanawat itself but I don't remember her birth date.

Oh Birth ohnada mera khayal aah Thanawat he hoya, par hon Birth date main nahi keh sakda kinni se.

Interviewer- when and how did you come to Canada

Tusi Canada kadoh aay, teh kiveh aay?

FATEH CHAND- my uncle(mama) was in Canada and so he called me through sponsorship in 1960

Main Canada, mera ehthey pehla mama se, Tah ohne mainu mangaya se sponsorship karke. Main ehthey 1960 ch.

Interviewer- whit whom did you stay after coming to Canada?

Okay, teh ehthey ahkey phir kehde naal rahe se?

FATEH CHAND- In Canada I stayed with my uncle. I came to Canada on july 18, 1960.

Ehthey main ohna kol reha, apne mame kohle. July 18, 1960 ch aya se main ehthey.

Interviewer- what all work did you do in Canada?

Okay, teh ehthey aah ke ki kuch kitah Uncle?

FATEH CHAND- in those days it wasn't easy to find work so early, so I just stayed at home for one whole year at my uncle's place. Then I got some work here, after working for some time here I went to Port Alberni and I mostly stayed there. It is in B.C on Vancouver Island and I worked her till 1992.

Ehthey ohna dinna ch kam nahi se milda kafi cher, saal par main behdheya reha ghare mame kol. Ohdoh bahad mainu kam mileya ehthey main hor thora cher, phir ehthey mera kam karke, phir main phir, Port Alberni, main zada Port Alberni he reha aah. Ehthey shayad tuhanu pata hoveh, BC deh Vancouver Island deh wich, ohthey main reha, ohthey phir main kaam karda reha. Oh mera khayal aah ki main 1992 tak kita aah.

Interviewer- Ok, wht was the work that you did?

Okay, ki kaam se?

FATEH CHAND- I used to work in a ----- company. I did not work at a mill. I went to India in 1965. My family was there. I made a house in India and returned back to Canada in 1966.

Main log ...3:15 .. company deh wich kaam karda se. Main mill ch nahi kaam kita. Tah ohthey phir main san 1965 ch India nu chale gaya se. Ohdoh mere jehre family se oh India se, tah ohdeh jaka makan makun banaya phir main 1966 ch phir mur aya ehthey.

Interviewer- For horw long did you stay in Indai

Teh kinney cher lai India wapis gay se?

FATEH CHAND- I went to India for a couple of months but ended up staying for almost 6 months. I was thinking of not coming back to Canada but then I was destined to come and so I did. I again started working on coming back to Canada. I met with an accident in 1996, a log fell on me at work

. I was hospitalised for 6 weeks. ----- then in 1967 I went back to work and got some compensation. But I couldn't work at my regular job as the compensation board said I can only work

at a company with some easy work and not on some tough job. The company then hired me after two four months. I was given the job of making chokens. They tie a rope around the logs, they are made of steel. I did this for 25 years.

India main ehtho gaya tah sega .3:53.... lehke takriban doh ke mahine, par main 6 ke mahine ohthey reh ke phir mur aya. Mera khayal se ke shayad asi na he ayeyah. Eh situation se phir, danna pani sega mur aay phir ehdher. Ah ehthey phir aah ke main kaam kita, mera jehre accident hogaya 1966 deh wich Tah log mere ehthey waji duhji side ch main kuteya gaya. main phir 6 mahine hospital ch reha, nah 6 week. Ohdoh baad compensation teh, tah phir main 1967 deh wich kaam teh back phir gaya. Tah oh jehra mera regular job se, oh nahi kar sakaya, oh compensation board main kehan laga tehnu company wale job dehan gay sokhi place teh, tu rough place teh nahi kaam kar sakda, tu.... place teh kaam kar sakda. Tah main phir.... place deh wich ohna ne mainu, ehdher ohdher pher phur ke, 2-4 mahineya bahad wich hire kita company waleya ne, tah oh ohna ne mainu job .5:04... ch dehti, choken banon de. Oh log nu rassa paunde hunde aah, ohnu kehnde aah choken, lohey dey hundeh aah, tah jah hor ve chota chota kaam. Tah oh phir main karan lag paya 25 saal.

Interviewer- how did your kids and wife come here?

Phir tuhade bache and wife kiveh aay ehthey?

FATEH CHAND- in 1960 I sponsored my children and wife.

Ehthey phir main ohna nu 1960 deh wich jawaka nu, avdhey bacheya teh wife nu mangaya.

Interviewer- 1960?

FATEH CHAND- they came to Canada on February 16, 1969.

Aye oh ehthey, February 16, 1969 nu.

Interviewer- Okay 69.

FATEH CHAND- my children stayed on Port Alberni first and did their schooling there. My elder son after completing his education got a job in the log itself. He worked ----- as a worker and then he became a heavy duty mechanic. He worked as a heavy duty mechanic at theta shop. And he kept on working there and I retired in 1992. I took the retirement. And rest of my children kept studying, my youngest son was born here in Canada.

Yeah. Oh bache pehla ehthey Port Alberni rahey, School jande rahey, School phar ke phir mera barah beta jehra sega oh kam teh lag gaya, Log..... deh wich he. Oh ve ... deh wich kam karda reha as a worker, phir bahad de wich oh heavy duty mechanic bangaya. Heavy duty mechanic kam karda reha, ohthey shop de wich he, 6:19 division he kam karda reha, Tah oh ohthey rahe teh bahd deh wich, main 1992 deh wich retire hogaya. Main retirement lehlai se. Teh duhjuh ladke se jehre oh parde rahe, ek da janam jehra oh ehthey hoya. Chotey da.

Interviewer- What is the name of your wife?

Teh tuhade wife dah naam ki aah?

FATEH CHAND- my wife's name is Suhagwanti.

Mere wife da naam aah Suhagwanti.

Interviewer- Suhagwanti.

FATEH CHAND- Yeah.

Interviewer- How many kids do you have?

Teh tuhade kinne bache aah?

FATEH CHAND- I have 3 sons and 1 daughter.

Mere 3 ladke teh 1 ladke.

Interviewer- and was one of them born her?

Okay. Teh ohna cho ek da birth ehthey hoya.

FATEH CHAND- the youngest one was born here.

Ek dah, chotey da birth ehthey hoya.

Interviewer- can you tell me their names?

Tusi ohna deh naam das sakde ho?

FATEH CHAND- yes for sure. The eldest one's name is Balwinder Chand, the second eldest is my daughter Beena Kumari, the third eldest Gurdev Chand and the youngest one Surinder Chand.

Haan das sakda aah. Wadeh da naam Balwinder Chand, ohtho chotti ladke hegi Beena Kumari, Ohtho chotey da naam Gurdev Chand, Ohtho chotey da naam Surinder Chand

Interviewer- do you remember their date of birth?

Tuhanu ohna de birth date yaad aah?

FATEH CHAND- yes I do; Gurdev Chand: May 16, 1959; Beena: October 2, 1957; and my wife: September 2, 1935.

Birth date teh ehnade aah mere kol hai he. Jehra Gurdev heigi aah, Gurdev Chand aah ohdha May 16th 1959, Beena da heiga October 2nd 1957, Teh jehri mere wife da janam din heiga 2nd September 1935.

Interviewer- your wife's?

Tuhadi wife da.

FATEH CHAND- yes

Haanji.

Interviewer- do you have any brother or sister?

Te tuhade koi Paan phara hai?

FATEH CHAND- I have one sister who lies in India.

Ek mere sister haige aah , jehre oh India he aah.

Interviewer- after coming to Canda first, after how any years did you go back to India.

Okay. Jadoh tusi Canada pehla aay ostoh baad India gaye, teh kinne saala bahad.

FATEH CHAND- I came to Canada in 1960 and went went back to India in 1965 and came back to Canada in 1966. I went to India and came back to Canada many times after that.

Ohdoh main 1965 de wich gaya aah, 1960 ch ehthey aaya se, teh 1965 ch gaya, phir ehthey 1966 ch mur aaya se. Phir jande rahe, kahi vari gaye aah, phir mur aaye.

Interviewer- did you face any difficulties when you first came to Canada. Did you feel any kind of discrimination being done when you were looking for work?

Teh koi difficulties face hoi jadoh tusi ehthey aay, koi kam labna shuru kitta, kuch discrimination face hoye?

FATEH CHAND- discrimination is a big word, and we say that very fast. But in those days because there was a union and so one used to get jobs depending on the security. Earlier the white people used to get more than the Indians but the later due to the emergence of unions they started getting equal pay.

Discrimination tah ehjeha, eh lafaz jahra bahut wadda aah, discrimination aapa keh dehne chethie, tah per kyon ki ohtho, ohna dina dey wich union vehgara ho gaye se, tah union de, tuhanu security deh hisaab naal joba juba mildeya rehndiya se. Pehla hunda sega eh system jehra ke aapne aadme kaam karde hunde sega, oh goreya de pay zadey hundi se saade naalo, jaddi union baan gaye phir ostoh bahad phir eh system nahi hoye.

Interviewer- and how has the society changed since 1960 when you came to Canada. What changes have you noticed in Abbotsford? How do you think has the society changed since then.

Okay, teh Society kiveh change hoi, like 1960 ch aay ohdoh toh lehke hun tak. Abbotsford dey wich ki changes aayeya, kiveh tuhanu lagda aah keh society change hoi?

FATEH CHAND- I lived at Port Alberni till 1992 and later on I came to Abbotsford. I bought a farm here on Mccalum road. And after I took retirement and when my wife passed away and my children used

to study so it was me and my youngest son. My son Gurdev Singh studied at Simon Fraser University, after completing his studies he came back to Abbotsford but later on went to Toronto in Woodlink. There he worked in a broker company. That company then opened a branch in Vancouver so he came back to join that branch. After few years he left that job and started his own business of real estate. After some time he left this one to do business in mortgage and broker. He then took a break and after that he got hired at Nova Scotia bank in Richmond. He worked there for 2-3 years and had to leave it as the company was shut down due to recession. Then he took the unemployment course for 4-5 months. After doing that course he got a job there to train people how to find jobs. Earlier he used to go to place around Langley, he also went to Mission but now he works in Abbotsford.

Dekho ji main pehla reha aah ohthey Abbotsford, nah Port Alberni zadda, main ehthey 1992 ch aaya, aapne Abbotsford. Asi ehthey farm leya sega, ehthey McCallum Road teh sadda farm haga, tan ohdoh da main ek early retirement hon karke, wife de death hogi se, teh main ladka chota sega, ehthey parda se, teh assi donoh janney rehnde se. Tah ladka sega mera aah jehra Gurdev chand aah, ehthey University gaya sega Simon Fraser de wich, Eh karke ehthey ahgaya se, phir aah ke pehla Toronto chale gaya, ohthey Woodkin....(10:50) company se ek broker company, ohdhey naal kaam karda se. Ohtho chad ke ehthey aaya, ehthey Vancouver ch ohna de branch se, phir ohne oh chad ke real estate shuru karleya, tah phir oh real estate ve chad gaya. rehya kai saal teh bahad de wich, kuch hor business dey wich peh gaya, bahad deh wich phir ohne apna aah mortgage, broker wangu hor koi den lagpaya. Tah phir ohtho oh, haat ke tah kuch dher lay off rehya, tah bahad de wich ohnu jehri job sege Nova Scotia bank de wich mortgage ohthey Richmond mille. Ohthey 2-3 saal kaam karda reha, phir jadoh aah recession aaya tah, ohna ne company bandh karti, tah phir layoff hogaya. Layoff hoya othoh bahad dey wich, ohne unemployment ley ke, oh unemployment waleya ne course karaya. Tah ohda koi mere khayal 4-5 mahiney course sega, oh karake ohdoh bahd dey wich, ohna ne job dehti. Hon ohho aah jehre, find out karde aah job kiveh mildeya, ohna nu train karda. Pehla oh ehthey janda hunda sega, apne Langley toh gaha chota...(12:30) mission ve janda reha aah. Tah hun oh phir ehthey lagaya hoya aah Abbotsford.

Interviewer- do you go to the old Sikh Gurudwara?

Teh tusi jehra purana Gurdwara aah ohthey jande ho?

FATEH CHAND- yes i used to.

Aha jehra, haan jande se ohthey.

Interviewer- how is your family connected to the Gurdwara, did you do any sewa or something of that sort. Would you like to tell us about that.

Teh like tuhadi family, jaah tusi kiveh connected ho Gurdwara naal, koi sevah kite, kuch dasna chaunde ho?

FATEH CHAND- the old Gurdwara is still under my control and so we can do a program or something but not the new one. But the Sikh Heritage Gurdwara anybody can go there.

Gurdwara dekho ji pehla eeh jehra aapna oh purana Gurdwara haiga oh apne, hun ve waise tah under he aah, koi program kar sakde aah, par oh jiveh aage sega....(13:00)... vegarah kar sakde se, oh nahi hun ohthey kar sakde. Ohthey oh gurudwara aapna Guru Granth sahib rekheya oh kar sakde aah program ohthey thora bahut. Par oh aaham public. (13:15).. heritage jiveh baneya hoye aah, hun koi ve jaah sakda aah. Tah oh ohnj de situation nahi aah, jiveh pehla se.

Interviewer- how much had you studied from India?

Okay, teh tusi India ki pardh kea ay se

FATEH CHAND- I last went to school in 1947 when I was in grade 8. After that Pakistan was made and due to the fights many schools were closed so I also didn't go to school after that. After some years I joined the army at engineer group Roorki. I served there for 9 years. After that I came to reserve and served there for almost 2 years and finally after that I came to Canada in the year 1966.

Ohthey main grade 8 tak gaya sega 1947 ch. 1947 dey wich bahad ch Pakistan ban gaya, ohtho kafi ladahi chagara hoye teh school bandh hogay, tah main ve hatt gaya. Ohthoh bahad de wich main phir school nahi gaya, pind saal kah kaam kita, tah phir main fauj ch parti hogaya engineer group roorki.(13:50)... tah ohthey main phir mera khayal aah 9 kah saal service kitti military ch. Otho bahad phir main aah gaya reserve, tah reserve ch doh ka saal pind reha main. Ohthoh bahad dey wich phir main Canada aagaya 1960 dey wich.

Interviewer- is there anything else you would like to share with us. Like anything you found was different or wired. Or anything different that had happened then.

Teh koi hor gal tusi share karna chaho gay sade naal, jiveh jadoh tusi aay, tuhanu kuch ajeeb laga, jah koi hor gal hoi wakhari jahi.

FATEH CHAND- no nothing special.

Nahi koi khass nahi.

Interviewer- something about your community. How did they help you to settle here in Canada?

Okay, hor kisse bareh, jiveh aapne community kiveh di se, ohna ney tuhanu help kita ehthey settle hon ch.

FATEH CHAND- very courageous people can help others and I always got 6tyat help from my uncles (mamay). I stayed at work and used to live them as well and did not face any major difficulty.

Community deh wich jehre hun hamti bande hunde aah, ohi help karde hunde aah. Tah mere mammy mummeh segay, ohna ney help kitti. Main kaam teh reha, jinah cher main kam teh reha, ohna dey kol he reha. Koi mainu khass taklif nahi hoi.

Interviewer- Okay, Thank you Uncle.

