

SUKHDEV SINGH DHALIWAL

INTERVIEWER- can I start with your full name first?

SUKHDEV- Sukhdev Singh Dhaliwal

INTERVIEWER- and what is your date of birth?

SUKHDEV- 1933, March 15

INTERVIEWER- and what year did you come to Canada?

SUKHDEV- 1949, June something

INTERVIEWER- do you remember that day when you came?

SUKHDEV- not the proper date, maybe I get a passport yea

INTERVIEWER- do you have the passport?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- but do you remember that day? Coming to Canada that day

Sukhdev- that's the passport, they have it everything

INTERVIEWER- no I'm saying your own recollections, when you got off that plane, in Vancouver

Sukhdev- it was roughly in June, I don't know the exact date

INTERVIEWER- yea but when you got that plane, what did this country look like to you

Sukhdev- look not very good that time

INTERVIEWER- no?

SUKHDEV- no, just like I don't see I come down at nighttime. We don't know, not look nice.

INTERVIEWER- and who came to pick you up from the airport?

SUKHDEV- my dad, and bigger, take a pickup three cars for me. We gotta have 4 or 5 people when we come.

INTERVIEWER- so there were other people that came with you?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- who came with you?

SUKHDEV- my cousin brother, Ajmer Singh Dhaliwal, and Bhag Singh Dhaliwal

INTERVIEWER- and who was that?

SUKHDEV- he's my cousin brother too. Ajmer's wife, Joginder Kaur Dhaliwal. One guy is Dhalia, Swarn Singh Dhalia

INTERVIEWER- and who was that? Who was Swarn?

SUKHDEV- that's a friend, a couple villages away, that guy, he's come down the same time, the same boat

INTERVIEWER- so you mentioned that your father came to pick you up, so your father was already in Canada?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- what year did he come?

SUKHDEV- he's come in 1925 or 26

INTERVIEWER- and what's your father's name?

SUKHDEV- Amar Singh Dhaliwal, that time he used Toosey

INTERVIEWER- so when he came here he said his village was Toosey

Sukhdev- yes, we used Dhaliwal after.

INTERVIEWER- so when he first arrived, people referred to him as Amar Singh Toosey?

SUKHDEV- yes, District Ludhiana, you want that too

INTERVIEWER- and that's your home village in India?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- so your father, when he came did he come by himself?

SUKHDEV- no, my thaiya brought him here

INTERVIEWER- so your thaiya was already here?

SUKHDEV- he was 1909

INTERVIEWER- and what was his name?

SUKHDEV- Bishan Singh Toosey

INTERVIEWER- and when Bishan Singh came in 1909, do you know did he come straight to the island or was he in Vancouver, do you know where he came?

SUKHDEV- I think he stayed in Vancouver at that time

INTERVIEWER- and what about when your father arrived, did he come to the island, or do you know where he came first?

SUKHDEV- he stayed with his brother, he stayed with Bishan Singh for a while.

INTERVIEWER- so wherever he was

Sukhdev- yes wherever he go and they built a small mill, that kind of work over there

INTERVIEWER- they built a mill?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- do you know what the mill was called?

SUKHDEV- no small mill, 2 people, 3 people work.

INTERVIEWER- and where was this mill?

SUKHDEV- on the Hastings Street and Paul Street, Paul old time, by the

INTERVIEWER- both your thaiya ji and your father continued to work in the mill then?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- do you know, when you arrived to Canada, did they, you arrived in Vancouver yes?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- and where they still living in Vancouver?

SUKHDEV- they were at that time, yes

INTERVIEWER- so what you were, you said you were 16 when you arrived?

S-16

INTERVIEWER- so did you go to school here then?

SUKHDEV- we go to night school.

INTERVIEWER- and what did you go to night school for?

SUKHDEV- for learning English.

INTERVIEWER- when you arrived, were your father and thaiya quite fluent in English?

SUKHDEV- they speak English you mean? Yes they are. My dad is about a grade 10 finish in India. My thaiya, he is Punjabi everything, they speak English for many years.

INTERVIEWER- so when you arrived did you begin to work at your father's mill.

SUKHDEV- no I didn't work, my father didn't have the mill at that time, the mill was burnt at that time.

INTERVIEWER- do you know what year it caught on fire?

SUKHDEV- about before, could be '55 or '54

INTERVIEWER- so it burnt down after you arrived

Sukhdev- no I didn't work in that mill anyways, I got to go, I stayed with the other, my dad live

in the mission, he didn't work that people.

INTERVIEWER- so your father lived in mission?

SUKHDEV- yes, at that time. Do you know Giani Ranjot Singh? They have the mill. Grewal. They work up there.

INTERVIEWER- so you, you said when you arrived, you were living with someone else

Sukhdev- no I live, stay in Mission

INTERVIEWER- so you came straight to Mission to?

SUKHDEV- yes, they live with 5-6 people over there. Small bunkhouse.

INTERVIEWER- and was the bunkhouse owned by the mill they worked at?

SUKHDEV- mill people

INTERVIEWER- do you know how much, obviously they were renting that bunkhouse right?

SUKHDEV- I think the company, the owner that way. They just pay the food

INTERVIEWER- so in this bunkhouse when you arrived, who else was living there?

SUKHDEV- 5-6 people over there, you want to know how many people, I got names on the people

INTERVIEWER- do you have the names?

SUKHDEV- one Karam Singh, I don't know last name, one Changan Singh Khale, Ram Singh, Mukhtiar Singh, that's so far I know, maybe more.

INTERVIEWER- when you arrived at this bunkhouse at this mill, did you begin to work at that mill also then?

SUKHDEV- no I didn't work over there, I'm too young

INTERVIEWER- so what were you doing during this time?

SUKHDEV- we just walk around, run around

INTERVIEWER- were there other boys your age at that time?

SUKHDEV- no, nobody. I got to go to the, I only, I don't have the Punjabi that time either, I just have the Urdu

INTERVIEWER- oh you only knew Urdu

Sukhdev- yes, I gotta take the paper, take one side Urdu, other side English. I got a grade 7 over there in India, in English. Then I come over, a little bit writing, little bit of pop, coca-cola, 7up, like that. Then I got to go buy at the store, walk around dad give me money. You know, then everyday a few words learn.

INTERVIEWER- so when did you start to work then?

SUKHDEV- I work start on September, maybe October, in Yubo

INTERVIEWER- and how old were you by this point?

SUKHDEV- 16.5

INTERVIEWER- so you started that same year

Sukhdev- same year, little over 16, March 15 is my birthday, I started in October work at Yubo

INTERVIEWER- did you know someone that lived in Yubo?

SUKHDEV- no my dad called, I don't have a job, I'm too young, the guys don't want to give a young guy a job. So my dad called the Yubo guys, he's a friend over there. His name is Jaswant Singh Brar. They call, they know each other friend before.

INTERVIEWER- so was Jaswant Singh Brar, was he working at the mill?

SUKHDEV- he work in the same mill

INTERVIEWER- in Yubo?

SUKHDEV- Yubo.

INTERVIEWER- so is that who you came to stay with when you arrived?

SUKHDEV- no I stay in the bunkhouse.

INTERVIEWER- and what mill were you working at?

SUKHDEV- Western Forest Industry

INTERVIEWER- and when you arrived here and you started working at the Western Forest Industry and you were living in the bunkhouse

Sukhdev- my dad with me

INTERVIEWER- your dad also came with you?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- did anyone else come with you?

SUKHDEV- no

INTERVIEWER- just you and your father?

SUKHDEV- yes, we started work about 3-4 days after, started on the job right away

INTERVIEWER- so, when you came to the island then, were there ferries running then?

SUKHDEV- the boat, CPR boat

INTERVIEWER- so that must have been kind of strange

Sukhdev- yes CPR boat, we come on that time

Manj- that was the only travel

Sukhdev- the only travel that time. That's a good point you put it

INTERVIEWER- and did they charge you anything?

SUKHDEV- oh yeah, I don't know how much, maybe a couple of dollars.

INTERVIEWER- but they did charge, it wasn't fare then

Sukhdev- oh yeah, it was in 1949 that one. Put the name down anyways.

INTERVIEWER- is when you came over to the island right? Do you remember how much you were making when you started at the Western Forest?

SUKHDEV- yes \$1.08 an hour, but the union wages.

INTERVIEWER- those were union wages?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- and at the age of 16 then, you were allowed to work

Sukhdev- you were allowed, 16 after

INTERVIEWER- and you worked 40 hours a week?

SUKHDEV- yes

INTERVIEWER- and how long did you stay at the Western Forest Industry for?

SUKHDEV- oh 2.5 years, so they have the 75 people living in the bunkhouse. Two storey. They had two cooks up there.

INTERVIEWER- so how did that work? Were they always the same two cooks?

SUKHDEV- always same cook, they cook it, put it all up, then people pick it up themselves

INTERVIEWER- and how did their wages work?

SUKHDEV- same time they

INTERVIEWER- because they were cooking right they weren't working in the mills

Sukhdev- no, no. they the other people pay them, we eat, we pay, the people living in the bunkhouse, they eat over there, they pay the people

INTERVIEWER- and how much do you pay them?

SUKHDEV- well that time, we had to have roughly \$18-20 a month, cost of groceries and cook pay.

INTERVIEWER- so you used to pay

Sukhdev- \$20 or \$25 average

INTERVIEWER- to the cooks?

SUKHDEV- cook and grocery, eating and everything, the whole thing, \$20 or \$25 roughly.

Manj- two days, two and half days work

Sukhdev- yes

INTERVIEWER- but I guess that worked out then, because someone was feeding you

Sukhdev- yes

INTERVIEWER- so after 2.5 years, where did you go?

SUKHDEV- my dad built a mill over there, in Vancouver, Richmond

Interviewer- so you went back to the mainland?

SUKHDEV- yes we gotta go, he build a, he bought a mill. Somebody else

Interviewer- do you remember what the mills name was?

SUKHDEV- that's a good question, anyways, I know the guy who's mill, Giani Ranjot Singh

Interviewer- is that who previously owned it?

SUKHDEV- yes previously, Grewal.

INTERVIEWER- it was Giani Ranjot. And I'm noticing that your calling him Giani, was he a priest?

SUKHDEV- no, he was a Giani in India at that time

Interviewer- oh was he a priest in India?

SUKHDEV- no he's Giani, when he come on over, he did a Giani course, we call him Giani. He make it like, political sense, we call that way, just like that, that's the way we call him Giani, finish the course

Interviewer- so that brings me to another point, when you arrived here did you have a turban?

SUKHDEV- no we took off at Calcutta

Interviewer- and did someone tell your to?

SUKHDEV- my cousin brother Ajmer Singh, we got all the people live there, take it off, it cost too much over there. He said too much cost in Canada, we, if you take it off here, it's cheaper. He said nobody cut over there, too long that much hair.

INTERVIEWER- so after, you guys are now in richmond, and your father bought a mill

Sukhdev- just put a share

Interviewer- so he bought a share, was it a share with Ranjot Grewal?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- so was it just the two of them that had the share?

SUKHDEV- no they got 4 or 5 people other too, Kehar Singh Ghela, lot of people, Paul Singh Dhaliwal

Interviewer- oh that was your cousin brother

Sukhdev- yes we got 4 or 5 people come into the share. They started that way the mill

Interviewer- so then when you, when your father bought this mill, were you working at this mill also?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- did you have a share in it, or was it just your father?

SUKHDEV- no I don't have a share, my father

Interviewer- and how much was your father paying you to work at this mill?

SUKHDEV- same regular wages

Interviewer- so you were making a little over a \$1?

SUKHDEV- well \$2 at that time, you know we get two and a half years \$1.5 something like that. Same as union wages.

INTERVIEWER- so how long did you, were you in Richmond for?

SUKHDEV- little over a year

Interviewer- and where,

Sukhdev- that mill was burned down after

Interviewer- did it actually catch on fire

Sukhdev- yes

Interviewer- so about a year when you father had bought it, it caught on fire?

SUKHDEV- caught on fire

Interviewer- so did the one he had before

Sukhdev- which one before?

INTERVIEWER- before you came?

SUKHDEV- no, no, same mill when I go to work over there, one year, then that mill burn out that time too. When I work.

INTERVIEWER- it did, did something just?

SUKHDEV- I don't know what happened, night time, when we get up, see the fire over there

Interviewer- so you just woke up and it was on fire

Sukhdev- yeah, somebody called, fire, noisy, that's all we hear, we didn't stay far, we just stay it the bunkhouse

Interviewer- so back then, was there any insurance on the mill?

SUKHDEV- they have it yea

Interviewer- they did

Sukhdev- yes

Interviewer- so your father didn't lose all his money then?

SUKHDEV- my father lose money, we lose so much business too. For some. I don't know, the guys with the bigger share, they took the money all. You know, somebody so much we can, we get the money anyways.

INTERVIEWER- so what did your father do after?

SUKHDEV- my father he come down the Honeymoon Bay

Interviewer- he moved down to Honeymoon Bay?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and did you come with him?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and then were you working in another mill?

SUKHDEV- yes Honeymoon Bay

Interviewer- so by this point, how much were you making?

SUKHDEV- \$2, \$2.5 something like that. You know, they don't pile up the money that time, lucky they get \$2 or \$2.5

INTERVIEWER- and then so how long were you at Honeymoon Bay for? Is that the name of the mill?

SUKHDEV- yeah, Honeymoon Bay, it's the same mill you call Western Sawmill, Honeymoon Bay, that's all.

INTERVIEWER- Western Forest, it was the same one?

SUKHDEV- yes, the mill had a different name on it, just call it Honeymoon Bay, Yubo Manj- the area

Sukhdev- yea area, you call this one, Western Sawmill Honeymoon Bay too. The other one you call Yubo, when you call Western Sawmill, you have a saw on it.

INTERVIEWER- so how long were you at this, Honeymoon Bay for?

SUKHDEV- then, I worked one year after.

INTERVIEWER- and your father was also still with you?

SUKHDEV- yea that time, then I got to go back to the old country.

INTERVIEWER- so you went back to India?

SUKHDEV- then I got the citizenship here, 5 year

Interviewer- so what process did you have to go through to obtain citizenship here?

SUKHDEV- go back to the old country

Interviewer- you had to go back to the India

Sukhdev- yes, my grandfather is older, so my dad said 'you better go up there' maybe you never know. They I go over there, and I get engagement then I come over here

Interviewer- so what year did you go back to India?

SUKHDEV- in 1954.

INTERVIEWER- and that's when you say old country, you mean India right?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- so in 1954 you went back because your father wanted you to meet your grandfather.

SUKHDEV- my sister wanted to get married, you know, she's older 2.5 years that time

Interviewer- so what's your grandfather's name?

SUKHDEV- Lachman Singh

Interviewer- and so your sister was also going to get married that time. Was your sister in India originally?

SUKHDEV- no she's here

Interviewer- no but then?

SUKHDEV- then yea oh yea.

INTERVIEWER- so did your father do back with you as well?

SUKHDEV- no father still worked

Interviewer- and you went back and you got engaged?

SUKHDEV- well we have a engagement before

Interviewer- oh so you were engaged before?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and did your grandfather set that up?

SUKHDEV- yes, old time you know.

INTERVIEWER- so did you also get married when you went back to India?

SUKHDEV- I'm married over there

Interviewer- what was your wife's name?

SUKHDEV- Amarjit

Interviewer- and her last name?

SUKHDEV- that we should be called my name

Interviewer- maiden name

Sukhdev- Sekhon

Interviewer- and what year were you married, or what date were you married?

SUKHDEV- I think October something, 15 I think, 1954. A month later my sister got married.

INTERVIEWER- your sister got married a month later?

SUKHDEV- They married

INTERVIEWER- so when you went back to India, you were saying about getting your citizenship

Sukhdev- we should get citizenship before we go back to India

Interviewer- before you went back to India, you had your citizenship?

SUKHDEV- yea, 5 years after

Interviewer- so you had to be in the country for 5 years to obtain your citizenship?

SUKHDEV- yea

Interviewer- and you had that before you went in 1954? So how long did you stay in India for that time?

SUKHDEV- one year

Interviewer- one full year? And then you arrived back. And by the time you came back, where was your father then?

SUKHDEV- father still work over there

Interviewer- in Honeymoon Bay?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and so did you join Honeymoon Bay again?

SUKHDEV- well when we come back, you go to Honeymoon Bay and work again. My boss gave me a letter, that when I come back he has a job for me

Interviewer- so you were guaranteed a job once you got back?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- do you remember that boss' name?

SUKHDEV- Anderson, he write me a letter, that when I come on over, he give me a job anytime.

INTERVIEWER- did you also need that letter to obtain your citizenship or anything like that?

SUKHDEV- no, citizen they give by just writing down the name, automatically they don't question

Manj- this is during the Trudeau?

SUKHDEV- yes, they don't question any question at that time

Interviewer- so when you went to go, when you went did you go into an office to apply for your citizenship

Sukhdev- no, like a notary public

Interviewer- so you went to a notary public

Sukhdev- yes, it was just paperwork pretty much, writing on your passport the date, sending money for the fees, they come the citizenship to home.

INTERVIEWER- oh so they just mailed you your citizenship, did you have to go, so it's not like it is now

Sukhdev- no not like now.

INTERVIEWER- the whole process, how long did the process take then?

SUKHDEV- maybe two weeks

Interviewer- two weeks and you were a Canadian citizen? Plus 5 years

Sukhdev- yes after 5 years

Interviewer- so then after you arrived from India, you were back in honeymoon Bay and so you were working again at Honeymoon Bay?

SUKHDEV- I work back

Interviewer- and how long did you work at Honeymoon Bay?

SUKHDEV- that time I work a long time over there, let me figure that out, 1980, 10th December

Interviewer- you worked until 1980?

SUKHDEV- December

Interviewer- so then assuming sometime between 1954 and 1980 your wife made it to Canada?

SUKHDEV- yes she did

Interviewer- what year did she arrive?

SUKHDEV- she about a year later

Interviewer- so she came in 1955

Sukhdev- no, we gotta stay and come back in '55 myself

Interviewer- 1956 then

Sukhdev- then she maybe end of '56 then

Interviewer- and when she arrived did she come by herself?

SUKHDEV- yes she had one son

Interviewer- what's your son's name?

SUKHDEV- Sukhraj

Interviewer- and he was born in India then?

SUKHDEV- yes he is born in India

Interviewer- and what's his date of birth?

SUKHDEV- I don't know for sure

Interviewer- was he born in '56?

SUKHDEV- '56

Interviewer- so you weren't there for the birth of your first son?

SUKHDEV- no I was here

Interviewer- so when your wife arrived, where were you, you were living in Honeymoon Bay at that time?

SUKHDEV- well we still living in Honeymoon Bay but dad buy a house for me.

INTERVIEWER- so he bought a house for you in Lake Cowichan?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- do you, how big was the house, two bedrooms, three bedrooms?

SUKHDEV- work out 2 bedrooms upstairs, like a basement down below, all empty. We spent only \$5000

Interviewer- so \$5000 this house cost you. So at the time, \$5000 for a two storey house, that was a very reasonable price?

SUKHDEV- 5 or 5.5 if you want a little high end and there were some that you buy for \$3000 too. Depends on what you want. Wood was very cheap.

INTERVIEWER- so when she arrived you already had a house? Did you have a vehicle?

SUKHDEV- yes my dad bought me one

Interviewer- the same year?

SUKHDEV- oh yea before she come

Interviewer- so he bought you a house and he bought you a car? Do you remember what kind of car it was?

SUKHDEV- we got a Ford Cougar, it was a pretty good Ford car.

INTERVIEWER- and was it brand new?

SUKHDEV- no old.

INTERVIEWER- do you know how much he purchased that vehicle for?

SUKHDEV- over \$1000

Interviewer- so when your wife arrived in Lake Cowichan, did she work at all?

SUKHDEV- no she never worked her whole life, she never worked

Interviewer- she was a housewife then?

SUKHDEV- housewife, she never work anything

Interviewer- so I'm assuming that you starting a family in Lake Cowichan, added to your family.

So how many more children did you and your wife have?

SUKHDEV- over there, we got 4 kids over there, one in India and three over there

Interviewer- three were born in Lake Cowichan?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and what are their names?

SUKHDEV- one is Sukhraj, I tell you that already, Balwinder, Sukhjinder, the other Arjinder, we got another one, Paul he's come down born here, in 1971 we buy this house

Interviewer- Paul is the youngest?

SUKHDEV- Sukhpaul, we call Paul now.

INTERVIEWER- and you said he was born in 1970?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and what year was Arjinder born?

SUKHDEV- I don't remember the dates, just names

Interviewer- Were they all born at the Duncan hospital then?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- was it still called King's Daughter?

SUKHDEV- yes, the old one

INTERVIEWER- so during this whole time, even when you moved into this property, you were still working at Honeymoon Bay, because you worked there until 1980?

SUKHDEV- yes 1980

Interviewer- so did you retire from Honeymoon Bay?

SUKHDEV- no I didn't retire, I quit my job, you know why? I bought a store after, I bought it my son

Interviewer- with your son?

SUKHDEV- yes, in '77. Garage, car selling, grocery, everything gas you know

Interviewer- what was this store called?

SUKHDEV- Tansar Service. So then three years, we don't make any money, we lose money.

My son he's not a good luck, I bought em my son, he's married in the old country. So his wife come on and I bought it for him. So he don't look after. Everyday he buy a new car over there, no gas, tell the money out of the till and he spend the money. Night time the car broken. Then I find out, I'm sick and tired I get put the other people, no make the store. Then 1980, my wife said you're better lose both or lose one. I said 'what you mean?' she say 'you got to look like that you lose other way money or this way money. You better come home and look after the store.' Pretty rough time, you got a payment on everything, you know we got four kids all educated, go to school. Then I figured I make chances, lucky we got 3 houses that time.

INTERVIEWER- so you had bought 3 houses at that time? Was one of the houses the one your father had bought for you originally?

SUKHDEV- no, no we got that two months.

INTERVIEWER- you got property here?

SUKHDEV- got property here. I bought this one, '65.

INTERVIEWER- and from, then in 1965 is that when you and your family moved to Duncan from Lake Cowichan?

SUKHDEV- my father goes back to India same time when my wife come on over.

INTERVIEWER- so in 1956

Sukhdev- '57 they go back to the old country

Interviewer- your father did

Sukhdev- so after work, he stayed there, I come on over here. He come on over afterwards from time to time.

INTERVIEWER- just to visit

Sukhdev- they work, sometimes they not, they come on over. So then I got 1965 come over this house. Then I bought in 1977.

INTERVIEWER- so then you said that for the first three years you didn't make any money off of it

Sukhdev- we lose, give it the payment when I work in the sawmill. Doesn't make any three year

Interviewer- so after three years did it turn around?

SUKHDEV- well, when I come on over. Turn out 6 months.

INTERVIEWER- so it took 6 months to turn it around?

SUKHDEV- turn around when I come on over myself. They turn around. Turn around I took over the payment, let him get the groceries, look after things, car gas. We got two more places, we got the rent coming. Then the other house the rent come in, then the other. That's why living pretty good that way.

INTERVIEWER- so your house, the three houses that you had, so you had three rental properties plus the house that you lived in?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- so how much rent were you getting from the rental properties, I guess in 1965?

SUKHDEV- well depend on what you are, \$300 or \$200 over there. Something like that

Interviewer- so about \$200 or \$300 per property

Sukhdev- one new house I got. They got more, \$4-500. On the Cowell Hill over there, that side. I build that one house.

INTERVIEWER- you built the house there too?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- So how long did you have the store for?

SUKHDEV- we run, bought in '77, 1988.

INTERVIEWER- so you had it for over 10 years

Sukhdev- 13 years

Interviewer- so I get another lease, I leased to another friend of mine. So lease about, he want, he worked as a contractor, building the houses, he didn't make a pretty good on the contractor. One day he come on over, 'what do you think?'. I got a young son, he come down Grade 12 finish. I said I'm gonna send him university. He helped me that time.

INTERVIEWER- your friend?

SUKHDEV- no my son, youngest one, Paul. I said 'you go back to the university'. He said 'no dad I got to help you'. I said 'I don't want that kind of help, I will lease the store'. He said why

and I said 'we live pretty good now, we got a rent coming, we make more money if I rent, if I lease. He said he'll figure that out, we make \$5000 a month.

INTERVIEWER- on the lease? And this is in 1988?

SUKHDEV- then I figured that out and I told him and he said 'that's pretty good'. So I said 'go to university' then he go to university. We figure out the rent there, we got no payment at the store. Then he go to university, and I leased to the other guy. He's got a \$1100 there, then \$500 on the side of car rental. \$6-700 rental with top house. So the other houses I got too. I make over \$5000 a month.

INTERVIEWER- so by 1988, who was living in this house then?

SUKHDEV- who looks after the store?

INTERVIEWER- like who, how many people were living in this house then? By 1988, was it your whole family that still lived at this house?

SUKHDEV- 1988 we got build a house up the store. That time, we moved over there, 1980. That time renting here. We rented down below and upstairs. So I build the store up there.

INTERVIEWER- so when you leased out the store, were you still living at the store?

SUKHDEV- no I leased or rented out to that guy too. Then I come back here

Interviewer- and when you came back here, it was you, your wife

Sukhdev- and all the kids

Interviewer- all the kids were still here?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and so you were saying that your children were all educated here, even your eldest son went to school here. In Lake Cowichan or Duncan or both?

SUKHDEV- mostly Lake Cowichan, no Duncan

Interviewer- and you said, I know that your son Paul went to University, did all your other children end up going to university as well

Sukhdev- all university, except one

Interviewer- your oldest, he didn't go university?

SUKHDEV- my oldest one didn't go to university

Interviewer- so then, Balwinder was the first one that went to university right?

SUKHDEV- Balwinder yes they go to university, to BCIT. They take Accident Technician

Interviewer- and what year did Balwinder go to BCIT?

SUKHDEV- that is a hard question that you ask, I don't remember the date, but I know he, really hard to think about, I know he went to university, they come on over, they one year as Accident Technician, hard job. They come over, half class second time, come out. Then he know, I sent my daughter, to Victoria, they take the teaching course. I said you go over there, find out what is the matter. She go up there, a little accident. They, she come back home. She said I'm not going back to school. I said 'why?' . 'Nope that's too hard dad'. 'Okay you got to work in the store', she come on over, work for a while, one day she wake up selling like 'dad go back'. I said 'okay you go back, I pay you'. She go back, she got done Accident Technician and she got one, she has a girl, still working, then she had other boy, she stop working again, quit job over there. So she have no job, hospital you know. So she said no job then he started late, got married. Then I come on over, what do we do, she start an income tax thing. Other thing. Now she's, then after she done the CGA course. Then she got the job, starting up accounting. I'll be okay after. Now she work on the mainland, Port Coquitlam. Other daughter have a teaching now.

INTERVIEWER- Shinder?

SUKHDEV- Shinder

Interviewer- so you said that your daughter used to work at the store, so did all your children at one point work at the store?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and did your wife also work at the store with you?

SUKHDEV- no, she work, but the odd time no. she no, we don't want, when she work she offer coffee, tea, you know, we don't want to put to work on the gas station. She take a, we say ladies friends' job, sometimes they work inside a store, put them all out, we had Indian stuff too.

INTERVIEWER- so your store was a grocery store and a gas station?

SUKHDEV- oh yes

Interviewer- and you sold East Indian foods as well?

SUKHDEV- oh yea, East Indian especially

Interviewer- so then by that time, was your store one of the few that was selling East Indian foods, or was there many, a few stores that were selling

Sukhdev- one over there, East Indian people but when we started, they quit. They closed down. My prices are better, because we get a big truck, we go to Vancouver, one ton truck you know. Bring the flour and everything, the cheaper way to go, and also we have a speak to everybody, friendly people know. We made a special recipe, we made it, East Indian stuff, how to cook the chicken, we gave the piece of paper to white people. They love the one curry.

INTERVIEWER- so you actually made the food and sold it as well?

SUKHDEV- no, no, we make it a give the recipe. How to make it. How you start it. Explain it, half spoon there. They love all the way curry.

INTERVIEWER- so then, the only reason I ask is because before that to get East Indian food people in Duncan had to go to the mainland, to go get it right?

SUKHDEV- yes mainland, Victoria, they have it.

INTERVIEWER- yes but yours was the first kind of like local

Sukhdev- well one have it over there, but that guy too high price that guy use. But our prices were fair, reasonable.

INTERVIEWER- so when you used to go, you said you used to bring a truck full of flour

Sukhdev- we bring the flour Victoria, Mill street

Interviewer- so you used to bring it from Victoria?

SUKHDEV- yes Mill Street, they good flour

Interviewer- what about all the other things, like *haldi* and all the stuff

Sukhdev- Vancouver. Richmond you know?

INTERVIEWER- so did you buy from another store?

SUKHDEV- we got it no wholesale. We got to go to the wholesale

Interviewer- okay.

SUKHDEV- we don't just want to buy the sack. Then we get a figure out a machine, go put in pouch.

INTERVIEWER- so how long did you have your store for?

SUKHDEV- we started around the '80s, we start in '77 then we got all the '88, they still selling the same thing.

INTERVIEWER- so it still exists?

SUKHDEV- they are still selling the same thing

Interviewer- so did you sell the business?

SUKHDEV- no we sold it after

Interviewer- after?

SUKHDEV- 1990.

INTERVIEWER- so from 1988 to 1990 for two years you just leased it out?

SUKHDEV- yes, maybe '91 we sold it.

INTERVIEWER- so in 1991, is that when you officially retired?

SUKHDEV- no semi retired

Interviewer- so you were still working after that?

SUKHDEV- no I didn't work anybody else, I do myself. Then I got to have \$50 000, \$100 000 I just put the down payment. You know, I put the \$50 000 deposit, term deposit, then \$50 000 my kid wanted to buy a house. I give each boy \$25 000 each.

INTERVIEWER- so you split it amongst the boys?

SUKHDEV- one house we bought it here. Duncan, near the university. Going, other one Vancouver. He's a surveyor. Now he planer. He bought another house over there. I give each \$25 000, for the down payment.

INTERVIEWER- so you gave \$25 000 to invest?

SUKHDEV- invest, then I got a \$50 000, then I say 'what I do now?'. Nothing. Then I got a \$50 000 then I bought 5 cabins then.

INTERVIEWER- you bought 5 cabins?

SUKHDEV- yes.

INTERVIEWER- where did you buy the cabins?

SUKHDEV- Duncan

Interviewer- so these cabins, were they kind of like vacation cabins?

SUKHDEV- no we just rent them. Two bedroom each, 5 side by side.

INTERVIEWER- and how much did one cabin cost you at that time?

SUKHDEV- they pay about \$250, a month

Interviewer- how much did the cabin cost you?

SUKHDEV- \$120 000 for five of them. I don't have money, we store in bank the \$50 000. Term deposit, we just take it over that.

INTERVIEWER- and so \$250 was the rent that you got each month for each cabin?

SUKHDEV- yes \$1000 over. So we got the payment that much.

INTERVIEWER- so you mentioned that your wife had passed away

Sukhdev- 2000 January 1st.

INTERVIEWER- and by 2000 then, was it just you and your wife that were living in this home?

SUKHDEV- no my son, youngest one, he's married, he's living there

Interviewer- he's living here also?

SUKHDEV- he also delivery on the courier service. Bought a truck, he does deliveries that way. His wife is here too. He married in Vancouver

Interviewer- they got married in Vancouver?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and do they still live here?

SUKHDEV- who

Interviewer- your son?

SUKHDEV- no he's in Vancouver now

Interviewer- oh they moved to Vancouver then? so and you also mentioned that after you had

gotten remarried?

SUKHDEV- nobody lived there, they had all moved out at that time. Before they move out too. Before they married, they nobody lived here after. Then I come back the same year, go on there, in March and in April get married. I go three weeks, 3-4 weeks only.

INTERVIEWER- and what is your wife's name now?

SUKHDEV- now? Joginder Kaur Dhaliwal

Interviewer- so today then, it's you, your wife Joginder Kaur, and grandson

Sukhdev- Amritpaul

Interviewer- and Amritpaul came 9 months ago from India, so what exact date did he come?

Amritpaul- 14th September.

SUKHDEV- one thing better than me boy. I'm too old for that

Interviewer- so when Amritpaul arrived, you didn't know any English right?

Amritpaul- no

Interviewer- but in 9 months, you picked up the language?

Amritpaul- yes

Interviewer- and so, Amritpaul you were telling me what do you want to do when you grow up?

Amritpaul- I want to do business management

Interviewer- when you arrived, 9 months ago, what did you think of this country?

Amritpaul- I thought it was beautiful

Interviewer- were you excited?

A- yes

Manj- but you miss your friends?

A- yes and family too

Interviewer- have you made friends here too?

A- yes I have East Indian friends and white people too

Interviewer- were you surprised to see white people here or had you seen them before.

A- no I haven't seen them before I was a little excited I didn't know how they look

Interviewer- and what about when you saw snow for the first time, what did you think?

A- I was excited, it was fun. I had a lot of fun playing in the snow with my friends.

SUKHDEV- he did the snow shovelling this year too, last year

Interviewer- it's nice to see the two perceptions of Canada when you came to Canada and so many years later

a- so now we got like a snow blower before there was too much snow so now we got a snow blower.

INTERVIEWER- now you have a snow blower so you don't have to shovel. He's already smart

Sukhdev- no he's not smart, I'm smart. Too old for that. He didn't buy it

Interviewer- so as of today, your children are all established or what not

Sukhdev- they are all established, they carry their own weight so I don't look after them

INTERVIEWER- so how many grandchildren do you have now?

SUKHDEV- oh boy, count it that, Paul you count it?

A- sure

Sukhdev- I got a, start on the big daughter, they have a two boys, in Edmonton, Shinder

Interviewer- Shinder has two boys?

SUKHDEV- yes. Balwinder has one boy and one girl. Rajinder have it two girls. Rajinder Dhaliwal.

INTERVIEWER- so Rajinder has two girls?

SUKHDEV- yes

Interviewer- and Paul

Sukhdev- Paul have no kids. Other big boy, they married twice. One have a girl, Sukraj Kaur. They have it one girl, one lady first, other the lady they married, they have a one boy. So other boy have it, what do you call it now, girl have one boy, granddaughter I got they call it.

INTERVIEWER- so great granddaughter, one great granddaughter?

SUKHDEV- yes one they have one granddaughter, one boy and one girl

Interviewer- so you have two greatchildren?

SUKHDEV- no no, same girl have that, the one in Edmonton, she have the one boy before.

Sukhraj wife the daughter have one boy and one girl now.

INTERVIEWER- so three great grandchildren then. And then we have Amritpaul

Sukhdev- Amritpaul, no other Sukhraj have it other boy here. He's going to college now, I support that guy.

INTERVIEWER- so you got 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

SUKHDEV- one boy have it, which one is the youngest one, he's going to college now. His mother I give a house. A brand new house, give that.

INTERVIEWER- This is Sukhraj's second wife?

SUKHDEV- yes but she, she not a bright girl. Then I figure she's not smart enough to stand up to other people, nervous then I gave her a house so they could live okay. Now they living over there. Free house.