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Sawmill Transcription Interview Date: February 10, 2015

Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies

University of the Fraser Valley

Indo-Canadian Sawmill Pioneer Family Oral History Collection Project

MP: *Oh yeah. They'd give you a job like that. If they needed a man or sometimes they could make a job too if they wanted to because there was always somebody they were hiring new and older ones were retiring or they move around. Gorey used to move around very quick, if they found a little better job they would change right away.*

SB: Then were there union mills?

MP: *There were union mills.*

SB: All 12 mills [in Victoria at the time]?

MP: *Most of them were in the union.*

SB: Do you remember how much pay you would get in the beginning?

MP: *The first job I worked was 85 cents an hour. That was union pay.*

SB: Wow.

MP: *Yeah, in 1947.*

SB: Was that the hourly wage?

MP: *Hourly wage. Hourly wage. They were all hourly paid jobs.*

SB: Do you remember the last mill you worked at? The last one?

MP: *That was the biggest one here in Victoria. BC Forest Products.*

SB: Oh, about what year did you leave the mill work?

MP: *When I retired. The mill closed down and I retired early. I was 59 years old.*

SB: What year, do you remember?

MP: *1989*

SB: Then you began at 85 cents, do you remember what you were making in your last job?

MP: *I had started at 85 cents in 1947 in, in June '87...I retired on July 1st, 1989 and I was making \$20 an hour that time. Even \$20 an hour now is good wage too. I was so happy and so kind of proud of myself because that was about \$4-5 extra than the other jobs in the saw mill. They were labour and other jobs. So I was getting about \$4 an hour more than them. So I was quite happy about it.*