

## TEXADA'S SOUTH END - PART TWO

In 1941 Dougan and Sons Logging of Cobble Hill partnered with "logging tycoon" Ollie Buck to log K-14 - a timber block located at Texada's remote south end. They established a camp at Anderson Bay with about a dozen accommodations built on skid logs decked with planks. (photo)

Life in the little "town" is described in Jimmy Dougan's and sister Nancy Dougan Bennett's remembrances recently shared with the Texada Heritage Society.

Over the years the Dougan family, joined by their relatives, Cox Brothers Logging, established a small community that "became like one great big family." [Jimmy]

The settlement boasted a 2900-foot airstrip, an electric lighting plant, TV reception by 1952, flush toilets, gasoline-powered washers and kerosene fridges.

"Our houses ...were not fancy," writes Nancy, "but most of them were kept clean and comfortable."

Contact with the outside world involved regular trips to Pender Harbour for groceries and mail on the *Texada Queen* - their 36-foot barge with wheelhouse. Orders arriving from the Simpsons-Sears catalogue were eagerly anticipated.

In 1952 the company built a schoolhouse with a gable roof, big windows, linoleum floor, a cloakroom, an oil heater and an outdoor toilet. The large playground featured a swing and teeter-totter. A piano, later brought up by barge, helped to enliven community musical evenings.

Teachers were well-supplied with life's necessities by the community - firewood, propane, grocery deliveries and transportation. Uncle Garth would fly the school nurses in from Powell River for checkups and vaccinations.



Camp children grew up in an "absolute paradise." Boom sticks cordoned off a swimming and diving area. Paths led to a clam beach and blackberry picking. Fishing and hunting were popular pastimes. The camp roads offered ideal terrain for Jimmy's home-built hot rod while, in winter, the steep roads provided great opportunities for sleigh riding.

With logging over by 1959 the lively camp fell silent. The schoolhouse was floated away to Jervis Inlet. The airstrip was overtaken by the forest.

However, the wonderful memories of Jimmy and Nancy remain. We thank them for sharing their stories with us.