

## **COLL-004**

### **Bowater Oral History Collection [BOHC]**

Author of Finding Aid: Crystal Rose

Date of Finding Aid: 2019

**Extent:** 2.825m

#### **Scope and Content:**

This collection contains audio recordings, notes and transcriptions of interviews with residents of the Bay of Islands about the history of Corner Brook and the surrounding communities. Between May and August of 1980, four Sir Wilfred Grenfell College students recorded interviews with a total of 135 participants.

**Physical Description:** 127 cassette tapes, 59 CDs, hand-written notes, subject-level transcriptions

#### **Custodial History:**

The collection was donated to the Ferriss Hodgett Library at some point in the 1980s or possibly early 1990s. The exact year is not known. It is assumed that the depositor was Dr. Lewis R. Fischer. 14 of the original recordings are missing from the collection. On the recordings and in their notes, the interviewers indicate that participants signed a release form and there are blank copies of the form in the collection. The signed release forms are not part of the collection and their location is unknown.

#### **Restrictions:**

The release form states that “neither the tape nor the transcription may be used without the written permission of the Director or a person so designate by the Director.” Copyright laws and regulations may apply to all or parts of this collection. All users should be aware that copyright regulations state that any copy of archival material is to be used solely for the purpose of research or private study. Any use of the copy for any other purpose may require authorization of the copyright owner. It is the user’s responsibility to obtain such authorization.

#### **Biography or History:**

Bowater’s Newfoundland Paper Mills Ltd. owned and operated the pulp and paper mill in Corner Brook from 1938 until 1984. In 1980, Bowater financed a historical research project originally entitled the “Corner Brook History Project.” The project’s Director was Dr. Lewis R. “Skip” Fischer (1946-2018), assisted by Sister Georgina Quick, and Dr. James Greenlee, all history instructors at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. Dr. Fischer, was a noted maritime historian

and author, and was with Memorial University for forty years. Four students, Peter Brake, Heather Jodrey, Jean Smith, and Mary Taylor were hired to conduct interviews with local residents who had knowledge of the history of Corner Brook or the surrounding Bay of Islands region.

The participants' dates of birth range from as early as 1885 up to the 1930s, and they mainly resided in Townsite, Corner Brook West, Corner Brook East, Humbermouth, Deer Lake, and the communities that would later become Curling. Many were retired pulp and paper mill workers, or had worked in related industries such as logging or surveying, while others were merchants, business owners, fishermen, healthcare providers, teachers, clergy, railway workers, or were employed in various other professions. Numerous participants had been involved in municipal and provincial politics, including city council members, mayors, and union presidents, who gave candid opinions on the social, economic and political issues of the period. Of the participants, 47 were women, who shared their experiences of domestic life and employment in the first half of the twentieth century.

**Related:** The original cassette tape recordings have been digitized and are available on Memorial University Libraries Digital Archives Initiative <https://dai.mun.ca/digital/bowater>

### **Arrangement:**

#### 1.0 Cassette tapes, May-August 1980

- 1.01 "B" series: Interviewer Peter Brake (44 tapes)
  - 1.01.1 Tapes B-1 to B-25
  - 1.01.2 Tapes B-26 to B-47
- 1.02 "J" series: Interviewer Heather Jodrey (11 tapes)
- 1.03 "T" series: Interviewer Mary Taylor (20 tapes)
- 1.04 "S" series: Interviewer Jean Smith (52 tapes)
  - 1.04.1 Tapes S-1 to S-26
  - 1.04.2 Tapes S-27 to S-50

#### 2.0 Interviewers' Notes, May-August 1980

- 2.01 Binder containing Peter Brake's hand-written notes
  - 2.01.1 Peter Brake's note pad
- 2.02 Binder containing Heather Jodrey's hand-written notes
- 2.03 Binder containing Jean Smith's hand-written notes
  - 2.03.1 Jean Smith's note pad
  - 2.03.2 Jean Smith's exercise book

2.04 Binder containing Mary Taylor's hand-written notes

3.0 Subject Transcriptions, no dates

3.01 Binder containing subject transcripts typed by Mrs. Joanne Greenlee from recordings and interviewer notes (B and J series)

3.02 Binder containing subject transcripts typed by Mrs. Joanne Greenlee from recordings and interviewer notes (S and T series)

4.0 CD copies of cassette tapes