

J This is an interview with Robert Sausage  
the material to be used for a biography  
of Arthur Brown Aug. 14-1974 - Doc when  
did you first become part of the unemployed

D 1932 I was unemployed long before that  
but 1932 was the first time I came in  
contact with the organized unemployed

J Tell us something about the slave camps  
the food the conditions the work you were  
expected to do ~~Mae Cauley~~

D Mae Cauley McCracken or who ever it was  
well a lot of the homes were left over  
from the 1st world war the clothes - well  
the coats were stamped 1914-1915 and  
the Macknow jackets were manufactured  
by some of Galt clothiers and slawfish  
the underwear

T How about the work that you were expected to do what kind of work and what kind of money

D Well the work if you were foolish enough to do it was it depended on the foreman if he could get work out of you, some foremen were capable of getting work out of you if you organized at all we were able to sluff on the work - well we didn't work very hard not in British Columbia

T What was the amount of money you were given

D It was 20¢ a day

T Yes I understand you weren't too happy with these camps what was your plan of attack

D Well we couldn't be too happy

D here we are we are all youth - all you  
have an idea of getting ahead and you  
had no alternative no future nothing  
to look forward to just sit back and  
you could eat and pretty soon the food  
got mediocre you started organizing  
against the food against everything  
dissatisfaction with everything

J What avenues did you use in your  
dissatisfaction to try and get changes

D Well we tried to get changes and in  
some cases slight changes such things  
as the ration of two blankets in some of  
these colder locations you would need 3 or 4  
and sometimes we would get them to  
build another bunk house from overcrowding  
and there was all kinds of avenues of

organizing - the cook was always a victim because the food was always mediocre and our ultimate weapon was walk out and this would cause panic in the whole neighbourhood, calling the police calling the authorities calling everybody even bringing people from Ottawa and this always brought things to a climax. sometimes there was a settlement and sometimes the situation was broke up by the police some were arrested - they soft soaped you - you were young they would give you a lecture about how things were the remedy this and that and you would go back to camp in many cases believing them but the same situation prevailed

5  
J How about the black list how did  
that come about how were so many  
men with so many names

D Well I used to have - most of us  
had five names the camps were  
scattered in such a way that  
naturally after organizing a camp  
and walking out, you would be  
bankrupt you would be hungry  
one way of getting feed again was  
getting into a camp as a last  
resort you would go and ask to  
get back into a relief camp you  
couldn't go under your own name  
so you had to go under an assumed  
name communications weren't as advanced  
in those days like they are now

J I gather your organization in those days became stronger in the camps and you began to make plans of some other area of change would you like to tell us little bit about that your strikes and your moving into town

D I think that was in Dec. strikes that was prior to the strike when we all walked out in Dec. Dec. strike we called it I think we found our demands were a little narrow at the time we were demanding the right to vote and numerous other things like better food and stuff like that. I think that about the time they started to organize more on the political side on a mass scale, to bring it out

D to the public

J There were a great number of you not allowed to vote you certainly had to inform the public to get them to vote and change the govt if you didn't have the vote is that right

D Yes but I don't know how many people knew the way times were the vote didn't seem to be a very important issue although it was an important issue the young people like us a vote didn't seem to be that I suppose most citizens were - had lost their franchise anyway they termed us indigent we had no chance to vote so the people who would vote to help us weren't capable of voting you had to be propo

D owners and things of this nature

J And when the unemployed from the camp first come to be involved with organization such as <sup>Trade</sup> unions In thinking of the Workers Unity League and the Relief Camp Workers Union

D We became union conscious or started to organize into unions, was the fact that the communist party sent into all the camps communist party organizers you might as well call them that communist party organizers and <sup>these</sup> people were a form of education to us we learnt everything we heard about organization in relief camps from ex I.W.W. organizers O.B.U organizers communist party organizers and Trade



9  
D union organizers from Britain from  
Germany you name it they came  
from every where some of them were  
really good at their trade as proof  
later on

J Fine you finally got to Van. in great  
numbers can you tell me something  
about your Dec. strike after that the  
one in April.

D Well the Dec strike - conditions had become  
so bad and there was no use organizing  
and bringing one camp out at a time  
the only way to make the authorities -  
draw attention to our plight was to move  
out of the camps in Dec we weren't  
too successful we must have brought  
in 12 or 14 hundred maybe we

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D could have had 2000 in the city coming  
and going and it was quite a wonderful  
organization we kept learning a lot at  
the time - this time the committee which  
was made up I think at that time  
Arthur Evans, Malcolm Bruce and  
three or four more communist par  
leaders at that time - they kind of  
disappointed us by telling us we  
would have to organize better and go  
back to the camps and come out to  
really draw attention to this situation  
and after they explained it to us and  
told us why it was necessary and after  
being in town for about a month maybe  
longer than that we headed back to  
the camps to organize and then a

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✓

D) Lot of us had Knowledge how to  
organize - we went back to organize for  
a larger strike we had no set date  
of this description we just went back  
to build the organization this was the main  
object - what the object was we were not  
sure I myself went to Squamish camp  
and they had enamelled dishes and we  
were trying as organizers a weak  
point to organize with - we found the  
enamel dishes were the ideal situation  
Chipped enamelled dishes - we even had  
one worker who had swallowed some  
so all the dishes went in the ocean  
we had nothing to eat off in Squamish  
we had cups and saucers, <sup>pots & pans</sup> all floating  
in the ocean and this is when they

D sent up the provincial gun boat  
this was before the the DND took it over  
anyway the provincial police came up with  
the gun boat - And when they came up  
they dishes were floating all over we had  
nothing to eat off and a chap named  
"Morverity" the foreman up there, he was  
also a so called socialist and he was  
trying to organize an opposition group  
there - he wasn't too successful - anyway  
the provincial police come up with the  
gun boat

J Did they use their guns or was it  
just a visible sign  
D They had lots of guns but they didn't use  
the machine gun on the boat right  
forward on the gun boat

D We were scared I wouldn't put it past them not using them

J It wouldn't have been the first time a boat had been used against strikers in B.C in my recollection of history

D Well we were a little cautious we went back in the bush and started building rock piles - as a last stand - we went without food for quite a spell I think things were kind of half ~~the~~ settled and they promised a few things and sent us to Van and one thing and another this camp broke up anyway we went to Van and had to get reregistered with different names again and out to other camps this is how it was going all over B.C.

I You were also sending delegates to see Patullo you were trying to make some kind of arrangements for work and wages you also were going to see the Mayor of Uau here to try and get work wages relief for blacklisted men - you finally all got organized and came out in a strike in the early part of 35

D We came out in 1935 en masse and in my estimation it was the best organized I have ever seen in my life organized organization I've ever seen.

I Could you tell me something about the discipline of the men - we will be talking later on about the snake parades the parades through Woodward Hudsons Bay & Estons would you

I tell me how the men reacted - what their discipline was and were they quite aware of their situation.

D Oh they were well aware of their situation they could see the hopelessness our backs were to the wall - there were very few dissenters they joined in the struggle or else this was the whole thing - and as far as the organization went it was the tightest organization I have ever seen everybody knew everybody we were all organized into groups - group captains and so on right up everybody knew so everybody knew their ~~group~~ group. So there wasn't much chance of stool pigeons and RCMP provocateurs prior to the on to Ottawa trek - The

D organization was cleaned of most everything that we knew in the way of riff raff and stool pigeons. We had organized groups group captains division captains from top to bottom and every body knew every body and it was share and share alike it was a matter of keeping clean and keeping organized if a meeting was to be called at 5 o'clock we showed up if you didn't show up your group captain knew about it - you were dealt with whatever way they had to deal with you

J You needed money to survive in this city you had trouble getting relief what were some of the things that you did

D Well as you know in 1935 there wasn't



D) much money floating around if you had 5¢ you could get a cup of coffee and 2 donuts if you had 15¢ you could go down to one of the lower class cafes for 15¢ you could get a stack of hot cakes a cup of coffee and a bowl of porridge We had a meeting and decided to have a tag day ~~materially~~ it was wholly illegal not allowed at all course the tag day started off illegally and we had a real campaign get out with those cans we had a headquarters then at the Orange Hall Yes at the orange hall and the stairs were busy people going up and down there we had tin cans, some night we collected \$1180 — (\$5000) and it took two men to carry it cause



D) it was all in nickels pennies and dimes  
 the police even came to escort it to the  
 bank - it was \$1100 (not next figure 5000). it  
 was an awful lot of money and this  
 helped feed us for 3 or 4 days along  
 with sympathetic citizens

J) You did have the sympathy of the citizens

D) Well the tag day wouldn't have been - we  
 had a real campaign you know  
 Arthur was the campaigner he was  
 shouting out get out get out get those  
 cars moving and we finally ended  
 up with as I say 1100 (5000) and some  
 odd dollars it was an unheard of sum  
 we didn't think there was that much  
 money in Van. and we were pleased  
 with ourselves we had achieved this

D and it feed us for 3 or 4 days

J Were you in Van when our infamous Major read the riot act

D Yes M<sup>r</sup> Heer we were having our meeting at the cenotaph and ~~Arthur~~ George Black had spoken and I think Malcolm M<sup>r</sup> Seed had spoken and they asked if any of us wanted to speak and M<sup>r</sup> Heer came out and read the riot act he had the bible in one hand and some act in the other hand and came out and read the riot act and this kind of electrified the crowd - I guess being young it scared you a bit because after reading the riot act - we didnt realize the seriousness of it until it was explained to us

D) after we were glad we had got together in our groups and marched back to our own headquarters ours was the Ukrainian hall or temple they had kindly let us have it for our meetings - we marched back there in very orderly fashion they never had any opportunity to fight with us or things like that. The police were standing there some of them were bruised as we could see (citizens had been clubbed and hurt around two or three blocks of the cenotaph) their uniforms and hats were broken and torn and they were quite ~~amazed~~ surprised to get into the melee with us but we fooled them we organized and as long as we marched back in our orderly fashion we posed them

I That will be very interesting when we get into our so called Regina Riot in Vancouver were well organized and kept away from them

D The main thing all the time when we were organizing was to try and keep and have the public with us and in many cases we used to have weeks and days when a lot of the mothers took boys home to feed them and this saved a lot of us from going hungry and a lot of these ladies could not any more than afford to feed their own families and they would take home 3 or 4 of us and feed us and this was a big help

I Well you were examples of Canadas youth you were boys that could have been

of theirs - That was the mothers council I

think I can remember a few of the ladies  
or it unfortunately not all their names  
they had a great part to play for the  
unemployed

D) The mothers council or the women's council  
in many cases they came to our support  
and 2 or 3 times when the provincial police  
were brought in they were confronted with  
they had to go first of all through a  
barricade of these ladies before they  
could think about laughing with the  
unemployed when we were parading  
and this kind of helped us quite a bit  
and then during May the women  
organized a huge demonstration  
in Stanley Park the biggest

D demonstration that was ever in Van  
 one here recently there was 14000 the  
 biggest demonstration ever and May Day  
 in 1935 had the biggest parade ever  
 in the history of Van and the population  
 was only a  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  that it is now  
 and it was reported that there was  
 36000 it stretched from the town  
 right in (Slater Park) and their were  
 8 and 20 deep all the way

I'd like to add a point there I can  
 remember that every child who had  
 a father who was a trade unionist  
 left school and had to have an  
 excuse for being absent and in the  
 May Day parade

I And in the park this women's committee

D formed a huge heart picture of it  
still exist somewhere and after the party  
was over they took hundreds of us home  
to feed us again

J It sounds like you really had the  
support of the citizens of Ucu.

D Yes and we were always being told  
by the leadership to act correctly and  
get the support citizens otherwise your  
cause is lost - you know this is how  
it used to be - there was no  
hooliganism when you figure all  
those men in town there were no  
thieves no thievery all those people  
in town not working and hungry  
and at the same time no increase in  
crime or anything of that description



D The fact is if we weren't organized its hard to know what would have gone on in Vancouver.

J Very true we hear of 10 or 20 who can upset the city in these days - we get now to a point where a decision is made that theres no way of dealing with Victoria no way of dealing with city hall your work and wages question isnt answered what is the next thing on your agenda

D Well organizing and building our organization and using every method at our disposal to get conditions to better our circumstances we didnt come to a dead end but we had to change our whole method of organization and we had a big closed meeting at a theatre on main street its torn down now and we went in

D there and the janitor who was a sympathizer informed us that the place was bugged or what ever you call it

J Shades of Watergate

D Any ways they still had something of that description fixed up to pick up so the meeting was closed no one was allowed in or out until the decision was made. It was rather an electrifying speech and it seemed like an impossible speech almost too gigantic to even contemplate but the vote was enormous any way

J What was the vote to do

D March on Ottawa if they wont listen to you provincially civilly federally

- D We will take our case right to Ottawa  
right to the seat of govt to Bennett himself.
- J How many men are we talking about ~~we~~
- D Well 2½ - 3 thousand at the meeting
- J And transportation for 2½ 3 thousand  
people is going to be what
- D Well this wasn't even discussed we  
never thought about the transportation  
well as to transportation we finally  
realized that we were quite well  
organized that we could take over the  
trains and go on freight trains and this  
is exactly what we did there was  
nobody hurt and as I say everybody  
was organized in groups and group  
captains deveson captains and we were  
so well organized there was no

D accidents if the train engineer wasn't sympathetic to pull away with out as his pin was pulled and he went off with his engine alone

T Could you tell me how do you ride on a box car I've never done it

D In some cases you have to be quite athletic sometimes is tough it depends if the police are around it the police aren't there you just climb on if the police are around you have to go outside the yard and make a running dash for it

T What was your first stop on the track Doc and how were you received there

D Ram loops well things hadn't been too well organized yet we had trouble

D getting enough to eat but I think we  
 sent a delegation up to city council I forged  
 how far we got with it and somewhere along  
 the line we got money food and got feed  
 reorganized our food committee before the  
 next step but it wasn't successful at  
 Ramsloops

F How about Holden I think that was your  
 next step

D Well Holden we really got real good  
 treatment there all the people were  
 out to meet us and farmers bringing  
 butchered cattle also the vegetables  
 and food and bringing things over from  
 the cafe and things of this nature we  
 did quite well The people were very  
 helpful they gave us a chance to eat

- D wash up clean up shave hair cuts  
and we weren't in there too long we  
left on the next train
- T And what was your next stop
- D Well we all climbed back on the freight  
got on top of the box cars and we had  
these long tunnels we had two or  
three long tunnels to go through  
which left us all smoke and ~~ashes~~  
cinders and before we went through  
the tunnels we even had RCMP come  
and check and look around what their  
purpose was they weren't too interested  
in our safety but they looked us  
over before we went through these tunnels  
between the smoke and cinders and  
the heat and the smoke it was quite

D a trip so we made it anyway there was no way of getting <sup>down</sup> out of the smoke we had to put up with it we were quite dirty when we got out the other side.

T And where did you stop next.

D In Calgary we landed outside of Calgary and marched in it was quite a long march into the town up to the main street and we were met by the a few of the citizens there and a delegation was elected to see the authorities request away for food and tickets for meals and some of the local people got together with the committee and after a lot of performing around they were successful in that there I think one meal we didn't have too much trouble there.

D We had to eat in relays

J Had you joined up any men by the time you reached Calgary

D A few but not too many up to this time we had about 4 divisions about 1200 or so about 2000 when we got there (Regina) they were kind of scattered

J And you left Calgary and what was your next stop

D Moose Jaw was another place where they seemed to be well prepared for us coming and the local citizenry and the authorities also had the meal tickets ready when we got there and the divisions all lined up when we got there one two three four the cafes of course couldn't feed us all



D it took a few hours meal tickets were issued or we were fed and looked after it was all done in an orderly fashion and that was it but - we weren't treated too badly there but the authorities were getting wise to us and had meal tickets ready for us ahead of time to save a lot of nonsense - We came into Regina, it was quite a long walk into town also and it seemed that a lot of the local citizens - a lot of the C.C.F. youth and socialist youth and what have you - youth anyway and working people came and joined in with us and as we came into Regina photographers of course and news paper reporters and what have you

D and we moved into the fair grounds we moved to the exhibition grounds and started making preparation for staying overnight or for staying how many nights it was going to be necessary which meant clean straw and cement floors and so on after it was all over we did get it quite comfortable and did our regular duty of putting out our own guards to see there were no enterlopers, stool pigeons or characters around and then we started organizing our meals in Regine. I forgot to tell you as we marched up the town that one place there was mass support for us the youth and the unemployed people were out in the streets I would say in the thousands

D They were marching and parading and they even made up a song to the tune of the marseilles<sup>(3)</sup>. Welcome the BC marchers and so on they had done all this

L It was the kind of support you had had principally ~~principally~~ in Van.

D Yes the people were very good and of course for the next few days we settled down in the fair grounds and we had our meetings and strike committee meetings strategy committee meetings and what our future was going to be still our demand was on to Ottawa jobs and wages the same things as ever - Any way we got to Regina the authorities promised to send us two emissaries from Bennetts govt. Maxion & Wier and they came and were going

D) to meet the committee Manion & Wier  
and we met them in the - anyway  
Manion & Wier discussed the situation  
and anyway made arrangements to pay  
our delegation to go to Ottawa - Of  
course this took quite a while it didn't  
happen over night there was a lot  
of organizing being done and Arthur  
Evans was a way out in the country  
side speaking to the farmers in small  
towns and in the meantime he  
had to watch himself the police  
tried to 3 or 4 times to you know to  
arrest him - the farmers would hide  
him in the car and all kinds of  
nonsense; they had to use devious  
ways to bring him back into town

That's how bad it was

Well I tell me how did the breakers feel about a delegation only going to Ottawa.

Well I think they all wanted to go to Ottawa that was the whole idea; but this at the time was a victory this was what we were demanding up to now nobody had negotiated with us. Munro & Wier came but they were only emissaries and then when the fact that Arthur brought up to us - we had been fighting all this time for an audience with the federal govt and here we've got it this is a victory take advantage of it and do all we can now never mind he says. They may be taking advantage of us there maybe

D. going to bring troops in or maybe going to do this that and the other thing but we've had a victory - the people in Canada have had a victory and were sending this delegation and were voted on it and were going to send this delegation to Ottawa to see Bennett and put these demands before him - And this was recognized as one of the biggest victories this was the first time we had been recognized by any govt

I And Doc you were one of the delegation the others were

D Pete Nielsen Paddy O'Neil Walsh, Mike Mae Cauley, Martin Arthur (one missing).

I You saw Bennett tell me about it

D Well in the first place we were brought

D in to face Mr Bennett and a chap  
from the god or wherever he came from  
a chap by the name of Sir George Perles  
he was helped into his chair by both arms  
he was about 99 years old and they helped  
him in the chair - Bennett sat there  
looking like a big fat bull frog and we  
didn't get a chance to present our  
demands before he using all kinds  
of abuse of Arthur Evans which  
was quite well answered back for  
instance he accused Evans of being  
a pail bird and stealing from the  
union and numerous other things  
and we never did get a chance to  
actually present our case in the  
fashion it should have been presented

Do you think RB really wanted to hear your case

D He claimed that the houses we were living in were as good as the average Canadian home, the food we were eating was better than the average Canadian home the clothes we were wearing was better than the average Canadian Home and this is all we got from him and course Arthur said - on the occasion of him saying Arthur was a criminal - Arthur said your a liar - and one thing led to another as a matter of fact he said your not fit to run a hotentot village and he called him a liar back to forth and we never did get down to



D presenting a proper interview with Bennett or with the genl - As a matter of fact the press didnt give us very much of an interview regarding the situation - We met some of the members of Parliament the A.C.F. who were mostly ignored Woodsworth - young Woodsworth and Mr Innes and so on they were more or less ignored - they were giving us no support so we didnt see any reason to talk to them at least Arthur didnt so we just followed him and did the same as he did and ignored them. Wouldnt shake hands with them have any part of them.

2 Sounds like a sad tale leading up to

J what could have been an answer to your problems.

D Partly we thought so - but this was actually they were using us as a scapegoat while we were going into Ottawa on the train we passed a train load of RCMP going the other way. W. Leck goes to show how sincere they were; they hadn't even heard us yet and they were shipping extra RCMP to Regina

JG. Do you feel then that it really was a farce

D yes it was a farce - at the time we figured that this was a victory our ultimate object is to get to the federal govt and have a hearing when we won this we couldn't very

D) well ignore it and have the public against us so we had to go through with it - in the meantime we did see RCMP trains going the other way and all the whistle stops along the way the people were out to meet us somehow they knew we were on the train and they were out to meet us - you could never count your supporters they were so numerous. we couldn't count them

Q) well I guess in those years there were very few people who had too much security they realized they could be the next unemployed

D) That's right the next unemployed that's about the size of it - And deferred

D Delegation's would come aboard the Train as we went along to Ottawa to speak to us not many of them were progressive organizations - the progressive ones were kept off - We had a group of ladies come aboard I forgot the name of the town Arthur didn't want to speak to them he knew what they were so he started singing - I'll meet you in the Jungles Louise I'll meet you over there don't tell me that the workers are any where but there.

Q Who were these ladies

D Ladies and from somewhere - apparently they were up to no good ~~and~~ Arthur <sup>wouldn't have</sup> sang them out in a loud cheerful voice so the ladies never got their

## D Interview

Q My father sounds a little bit like a bad boy. Delegation nowhere

D Back to Regina we had to come back and make a report what we have seen what we had heard everything and the papers of course had banner headlines out some places they called us Reds you know - We made the reports to the workers and then the thing was the next plan of action if we were going on to Ottawa from there or what. - We were warned not to from various people but we were quite anxious as a group to go on Ottawa but that wasn't to be. A day or so later we were given

D free tickets to the baseball game in the evening and we were just walking around town as any other ordinary citizens and going to the Market square to a meeting in which Arthur Evans was speaking <sup>appealing for</sup> for friends to keep the strike on to survive - meals were being cut off them - a bunch of us went to the meeting - we noticed all along the side of the road the biggest moving vans I've ever seen they didn't belong there - they must have been brought up from the states or somewhere I've never seen moving vans that big and these apparently were loaded with RCMP whether there were horses in there I don't know

D) There were RCMP in there and right across  
 from Market square a fire hail and while  
 the meeting is going on Arthur Cross has  
 just spoken and Summers was just  
 getting up to ~~speech~~ <sup>appeal</sup> for funds from  
 the citizens and the doors opened and  
 all we saw was hundreds ~~of~~ <sup>of police</sup>  
 Regina city police; extras - extra police  
 rail way police and all the extra  
 police with white truncheons dashing  
 towards us and RCMP firing Tear  
 Gas and from there on we tried  
 to re group and get back to the  
 exhibition grounds where we were  
 staying but they would have no  
 part of that the police were  
 sprinkled throughout the city

D beating up on the strikers - Webers I should say beating them up and shooting and things of this description - The thing was pre arranged as we noticed later - Stores that had anything in of any value were all cleaned out (by owners) and there was 80 to 100 horses there and all the extra railroad police were brought in and extra hoodlums from somewhere there was a lot of them - But we were able to what few of <sup>us</sup> there was to organize and hold out the police back hold them off - There wasn't too many of us hurt had we scattered a lot of us would have been hurt but we held the police off until quite late in the evening and of course



D) the next day the aftermath was men shot  
2 or three killed (2) to

7 There was a detective sergeant killed  
Miles

D) Well as they say if you look for the guilty  
party look to ~~the~~ RCMP. and then they are  
that's the guilty parties. they were the only  
ones with the truncheons and the man had  
a silver plate in his head in the  
first place this is how it is. The  
policeman who was killed he did  
resemble Arthur Evans quite well  
He had a brown suit on also - the  
very same as a matter of fact

J I'd like my father

D) Yep quite

J Would you like to me what Det accomplishes

D. Well the trek accomplished the defeat of the Bennett govt brought in a liberal govt with a few reforms mild reforms ~~for instance~~ such as putting the camp workers

J. This is an interview of Sam Anderson done  
DOC SAVAGE AND PERRY HINTON.

by Jean Sheils Aug 15 / 1974 Mr Anderson

would you like to tell me when you first became involved with the unemployed

S. About 1933 in the Blairmore strike we jumped off a freight train the freight didn't stop and we were going there so we jumped off at the platform and the first thing was the mounties And they say were are you going and we said we just stopped here to get something to eat and he says do you know there's a strike on here

S and we said no we don't know anything about it - so he let us through and then we met the picket line after that so we told them we come up from Toronto so they took us into the Kitchen and we were in there for about 2 weeks Harvey Murphy was organizing at that time and the Klu Klux Klan and all that other stuff they were supposed to be shooting from the hills so we stayed in there about two weeks and we got on the picket the strike was still on and headed for Dan and then after that it was relief camps I think I hit Aldergrove Doc (Savage) was in there and we had two or three strikes in Aldergrove at that time



5 We came into town and then we hit  
 out to 2 or 3 more camps and it  
 was strikes all the time from then on  
 in - in and out all the time I think  
 it was \$5 a month then

Q Were you one of those who went on to  
 Ottawa -

A Yes I was one I went on to Ottawa

We went from the old theatre that used  
 to be on Hastings street and we all  
 took off from the freight that night

We went into Calgary and this is where  
 we sent for Arthur then and we had

a big parade in Calgary and to Regina

I was there when the riot started that  
 night on the square I got wounded

at the square



S. The crowds they were running all over the place

J. Do you remember how it started

S. The only thing I remember in the square there was the police there it was all confusion and everybody running around the army was there with machine guns on roofs - The confusion was nobody knew what was going on - I was shot in the head that night and when I went into the hospital there was about a dozen other ones in there all wounded at the same time Big Red Clarkson he was in - Bob Prange (real name). Scotty Lyons there was a whole bunch in there and they had machine guns

S and everything else - When we got out about 2 weeks later they were all in town here (Van) They paid our way right into Van

J Do you remember if any were arrested that night

S I ~~figure~~ figure there was about 150 in the can

J What were the charges

S There were all different charges robbing and they tried to get 2 or 3 for the murder of the policeman and they deported a bunch - they deported 2 or 3 Englishmen I was up for deportation too I was one of the lucky ones I know they deported a lot out of the Regina

S at that time

J what else -

S When I got in this hospital this undertaker he was talking to some fellow in there and he said there's mine on the slab - they were supposed to be dead - he said there was 9 dead on the night of the riot - I don't know any more just what he said

J Would it have been possible for ~~them~~ to have been killed and no one know

S Yes.

J you said you thought the police were confused

S I think the Regina police didn't want anything to do with it at all

Sam I was the RCMP that did it the  
 city police that I saw didn't know  
 what it was about it was out of  
 their control as far as I'm concerned

I think it was the RCMP and the army.

Q You talked about machine guns on the  
 roof -

Sam There were machine guns on the hospital  
 roof and the coliseum I know there  
 was machine guns all around there

Perry How many were in jail we should  
 tell you - they were charged with  
 rioting

Sam We were just charged with rioting I  
 didn't know what it was all about

Doc - Sub section 98 - section 98 covered  
 a lot of territory - Wedin - they



Doc - The ambulances they were going  
picking up the RCMP and they struck  
Wedin on the running board he was a  
first aid man and another chap and  
made them come and pick our fellows  
up

I you said something that send on tape  
yet Doc about taking Sam and others to  
the hospital would you tell me the  
reaction you got from the nurses and the  
doctors.

Doc. Well I saw Sam get shot I didn't  
know how bad it was there was  
blood on his head running in  
his eyes he was still on his feet  
and two of us grabbed him and  
rushed him to this Doctors office

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Doc - the doc was hostile and he wouldn't let us in and I kicked the door in and there was three or four more laying in the door way and they weren't even attending to them hardly they were very hostile - anyway we did get Sam to the hospital later on

J I have read in the transcripts that they were shooting with blanks.

Sam There were no blanks there.

Doc If they were shooting with blanks I'd like to know how you would chip of cement off the building?

Perry - There were some of the strikers said oh you don't have to worry

Perry - about them there blanks and one of the guys said well the one that hit me isn't.

Doc They were real bullets on Scarf street the buildings are marked ~~with~~ right down with a number of machine gun bullets

Sam - We had some phonics in the outfit.

Doc - That's why we had groups to watch them

J Were there any RC or P that you knew off.

Doc - Well they joined in Regina

Sam - We were aware of quite a few of them

Perry I remember your Dad saying one

time - well there caps so what; as

long as there with you and you know

who they are why put them out and

Perry - have some more come in - you can

Keep track of them if you know who they are

Sam - There's some of them your trying to interview you wont get any thing out of them - no interview

Sean - None I have interviewed fall into that category Sam.

Perry - It happend with the strike committee we wanted to make some deal for the men while the delegation went to Ottawa Hardener and the Attorney General Davis he told ~~no~~ <sup>Arthur</sup> ~~no~~ he said we cant make any arrangements its strictly with Ottawa and it was stated right then before the riot - if you dont give us food and you allow this to

Perry - happen Sask is going to be held  
responsible for what ever the police  
create. because they are not shipped  
the mountains up on this police for  
up just to look at us and Gordon  
still said he couldn't do nothing  
about it till it happened - and ~~the~~  
your dad is the one who told him  
we they will make a blood bath on  
the streets can't you do anything  
about it - Perhaps we will have  
to do something about it but until  
it does happen we can't do anything  
about it - it belongs to Ottawa

Jean - There must have been tension felt  
at any time the RCMP were going to  
cause an incident -

Perry - We were always trying to avoid getting into any clash with the police or with the citizens all our idea was to get to Ottawa - and then they came with this phoney idea These two members of parliament when they landed there both these members of parliament were rolling drunk. they didn't know what they were talking about they didn't care. We had all our people pretty near starvation and we had to get food we couldn't keep men day to day without it so we decided we would give the government the chance to settle it if possible - but Art Evans and the strategy committee knew it wasn't going to be settled that way, we knew they were getting

Perry - the police in to stop us - but we had  
 to take the chance and seeing what we  
 get from Ottawa - what were we there for  
 to stop section 98 also to get work  
 and wages 50¢ an hour to sound  
 now like a lousy wage to us now  
 but it would have been a good thing  
 at that time to get 50¢ wages

Jean <sup>Perry</sup> what was your position on the trek

Perry - I was on the food committee - Archie  
 said take Niltone's word if he says  
 there's 2500 take his word

Jean - break down discipline

Dae - There were provocateurs in there you

know; this was a good way to control

them - if you knew there was some one

in your group that was just up to

Doc - scratch - - - there was 12 to a group  
there was 300 to a division

Perry - We had 5 divisions right from the  
start of the trek - in Van we had  
5 hails and 5 divisions

Jean - The group captain job was what?

Perry - The strategy was for those - instead  
of waiting for the police to - it was  
built up in the old countries and  
the knowledge of what had happened  
here in Canada <sup>before</sup> by the police when  
people were battered down at  
Terme and those places like Nanaimo  
where police and the navy came in  
and battered down people clubbed them  
down - that we weren't going to have  
those things happen here in Vancouver



Perry - it was going to be organized so that groups could go out in different areas so the police could ~~take to~~ center down here in one local spot; because its very easy for the police or army or anyone else to knock down on army if you havent got arms you havent weapons and they come in with arms and horses and things like that - You dont stand there and get clubbed down youve got to have some strategy - that were the strategy committee came in we had to have that committee made up and give all the decisions the idea of scattering into small groups and coming back again into the center whenever it was required and our flying squad

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Perry they were supposed to get to all these groups and tell them where we were supposed to center it might be at Spencers it might be at Woodwards

Jean - did you support other strikers

Perry - some went out on picket lines no it was handled I don't know

Jean - How many of you have continued friends since the Trek 40 years ago.

Perry I don't think theres one who could ever speak against me and there certainly isn't one I could speak against them and its lasted here for years

Doc - On this strike business Jean when we were in town we went out to the Boundary rd shingle weavers

Doc - we had 50 men over there - you were there Sam (Anderson) the police were there on horses - so we had lots of training for future things to come - discipline that is

Jean - you also picketed homes to stop people being evicted did any of you take part in this

Perry - That's the first time I ever met Arthur Evans to talk to and have any idea - the camps there was very little organization at that time I'm talking about 1930 (?). I met him while picketing an unemployed's home, I got a pretty good base of what art was like. I liked him

100%

Sam - We all liked him

Doe- Well another method we had as far as picketing went when people were being deposeded you were there. Sammy on this occasion we went out to Arthur Evans house at the time he was in jail he had been put in jail & I think it was 18 months he was sentenced to - the person he owed the mortgage he promised to hold it until such time as he came out of jail and we were picketing there for weeks in and week out and at one time there was 300 police - the mortgage wasn't that much but there was 300 police it came to a final - 300 police some on horses some in cars motorcycles you name it - 6 of us were arrested

Dad - this day and taken no one would believe it these days and taken in on a street car. and this is how they brought us into the jail

Perry - another time with your Dad all of us here remembers that when we were having the big tog day and every time we brought the cars up here's Arthur Coons standing up on the hall come bring your moscow gold in and who was standing guarding the funds the city police and said don't bother about them just bring in your moscow gold

Sam - I was with him in the first strike in Oskalla we were in there with him this was when the peckel line

Sam was on - O'Connor me & Flynn was  
 in for something, we were getting  
 mush twice a day in that place  
 after the strike we got things kumpin'  
 in Oakalla - we had every body with us  
 in them days - sure enough we got  
 the food after that strike he was in  
 about 3 months after that till he  
 got out - but he was a man who  
 had a powerful drawing card I'm  
 telling you when he put his mind  
 to any thing it went through. There  
 was no stopping him.

Doc - He was a campaigner

Jeon - My mother used to call him bullheaded

Sam would that description fit him

why he had everyone in that place

Sam - he had them solid right behind him  
the same in Regina

Doc - working with enthusiasm

Sam - Working with enthusiasm - I don't  
know what kind of a magnet  
he had - but we had grievance  
and he was a man to get them and  
he got them too - there was no  
doubt about that - He fought for  
the workers there's no doubt about  
that.

Perry - wasn't at the time at the old city  
hall that Wrench was up in front  
of the door and trying to direct  
us and Evans said to get the  
blokes out of there, he (Wrench) was  
going to create a riot

Sana - He (Wench) put the whole works  
 in confusion Wench at that time -  
 Well thats when he just dropped  
 and went right into politics - away  
 he went and he never went no where  
 after that for the working class

Perry - He tried to bring in the CCF  
 women at that time to form in  
 front of our ranks, - we were quite  
 capable of - Div I II III IV V were  
 quite capable of looking after the  
 situation - but we didnt want  
 women in front of us if McGeer  
 was going to raid down with his  
 police - the mounted police what did  
 they call that - Scanlon wasnt it  
 who used to come down clubbing the



Perry - women and kids and the babies  
and the whole works

Sam - Yes. That's right

Jean Yes I understand that during the  
war Scanlon was some kind of private  
police in Burrard shipyards

Doc - That's right.

Jean Yes some one was delighted to tell  
me that when one of the ship stewards  
saw him and went up to the bosses  
and said it that man stays any  
longer we don't work.

Doc - Yes strike

Jean and I understand he was removed

Doc - They put him on

Perry And any time that Scanlon and  
his outfit they were all so loaded

Perry - up either with haps or booze, be  
 cause he could never set on the horse  
 and ride into the people the way he did  
 without being hopped up

Jan - He sounds like a real sadist

Perry - I never ran into - not even in  
 Spain a worst sadist as that  
 guy was.

Sam - ~~He~~ was a bad one

Jan - He was around a good bit during  
 the unemployed struggles

Perry - All the time in fact Chief Foster  
 stopped him from creating the riot  
 when Jerry read the riot act - Chief  
 Foster walked up to where he was on  
 the horse and told him to keep back  
 he didn't want no riot and that was

Pratt - night at the power house building - he got

Scouten questioned down - but he was able

ready to hike into Thom - and the

discussion next well we will go back

on our own notes and Foster said

what's okay early on

Jan - were there any children here that day

to your knowledge

erry - they could have been but I didn't see any

Doc - I didn't see any - The one incident

I don't recall - that wasn't the same

day but their was a confrontation outside

of the red city hall the one day and

this one fellow was killed right there

and you remember Sam he was killed

right there and this nurse a friend

was nurse and she was working at

of - Shaurangnessy and she said them - they  
denied it and I didn't get in the paper  
because there were a lot of people with the  
names in those days that didn't mean  
anything in those days just vanished off  
the sheets in a hurry - because she said  
she attended to him, she wanted the  
only witness there were numerous, and  
they had as many the same as Regina  
as many killed but they say thousands  
any bullets even, you can still find  
some if you go there - but we do know  
on that day there was a person killed - This  
murder was a murder in the first world  
war she had no reason to lie about it  
cause she attended to him, and they  
put him in an ambulance some that

of a man and took him out of there  
straight up from the old Hadden building at  
city hall  
my - Jerry was good as nervous as that  
was the one on the horse scandal - the  
only thing he could order like other group  
to do it - he would have gladly jumped  
in to shut the kids down and the women  
down - you see in those days were seen  
it happens - and one room in the building  
one room it in different part of the world  
The police never seem to come into the  
main body of the man, they always wear  
like clothing on the women the kids and  
The babies and they don't mind how  
much they smack them up because  
they believe then the men will disappear

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Perry - our group wasn't built that way

J. How does the policeman get that mental  
he's obviously working for a living - did  
you never find any with sympathy

Perry - I don't know perhaps the others could  
tell you that in Galton I think there  
was mounties that took their uniforms  
off - I can't swear to that I was busy  
on the food committee

Doc - It was in Regina there was a  
member threw off their uniforms and  
their names were put up on the wall as  
being whatever they call them

Perry - weren't they discharged

Doc - I don't know what happened

Perry - I think they were the same as a criminal  
they'd been thrown off

Sam - The Regina police force was the  
 ones it wasn't the mounties it was the  
 Regina police force that refused

Perry - The police force (Regina) nearly  
 solid wouldn't take action

Doe - You must remember you had near  
 a hundred and fifty railroad police  
 brought in from all over Canada

Sam - That's right

Doe - The black and tans - they  
 nearly all were those days -

Doe - Those that refused they had their  
 names on the wall I forget what  
 they called them rather nasty epitaphs  
 stuck up on the walls

Perry - And another instance in Calgary  
 when we got into Calgary they were

Perry - going to refuse us any eats at all  
we had 2000 men or better rode these  
freights were pretty hungry - The only  
way we could get food, we tried talking  
about going out tin caning and no that  
wouldn't do - and there was a woman  
who said well boys if you guys can't  
eat theres a big bird in there; in that  
office the major - put a peckit line  
around him stay with it and see that  
he goes hungry as long as you do - thats  
what we did and we got the meal ticket  
Doe - that was the best of the group system  
you could just say no 1 group go and do  
so and so with out calling out names  
we had responsible group captains and he  
could take them - Now Tony Costello  
(Bobby



Doc - at the museum we said Tom look  
after the doors - you didn't have to go and  
see if he had done it - he was over  
jealous and he did it

Perry - And he seen to it there was going  
to be no damage to property or any thing  
like that it was worth some where about  
a million the caretaker in that building  
when we came out he said theres only  
one thing missing and somebody perhaps  
took it out to read a big book for reference  
but that book was brought back about  
a week later and as he told them there  
has been nothing stolen or damaged  
certainly the strikers were looking for  
no trouble they never did, they tried  
to avoid trouble in every way because

Perry - then you gain all the backing of the people - they proved that in Regina in Regina before the due - it was absolutely an out and out conservative town - The mounties well they were absolutely God every body thought the mounties couldnt be any thing better than God Himself - but after the mounties raided and busted up the citizens meeting with Evans and the gump who had come from Ottawa - The mounties the conservative party just went completely out of the door - The public showed them by the vote in the next election

~~Dear~~ - Theres one area we havent covered when a man got black listed couldnt get relief what charges did they lay against you

Sam - Down as a red thats what - if you  
got into so many camps and were known  
as an agitator you were on what you call  
the black list you are still on it now  
no matter what comes on they have it  
they can look back and get you on it.  
you couldn't go no where you had to  
take a different name to be able to live  
in them days blacklisted out of all  
the camps you just took anothe name  
Jan - Were the jails filled with unemployed  
Boys all the time and at that time  
there was a whole bunch of miners  
came out to do the harvesting in the  
prairies I think it was in 33 or 34  
and they was all deported back  
600 went back to liverpool the same

Perry - time as R B Bennett went back to tell them how much wheat we had in Canada and Liverpool said you're getting no city Key here travel in through because he sent back 600 deportees back to Britain. Any thing that he couldn't handle deportation - He had the Hungarians the Poles the people from Europe so scared of deportation that they darent take action unless the Canadian British Irish English or Scots amongst them spoke for them; even then a lot of them was awful nervous they were going to be deported and that went on all through R B Bennetts time.

Jean - What reasons did they use for deportation?

Perry - Being red under Section 28 - we

Perry - didn't get rid of Section 98 until  
after Regina - when R B Bennett went on

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material