



Susan “Susie” Lewis

(1926 -)

Susan Lewis, a former Band Manager and Councillor of the Lakahahmen First Nations Band, was born in Deroche.

Married at age 16, Susie worked during the summer at Delgorda Fruit Farms where she became field boss and during the winter, cooked in logging and road construction camps, feeding up to 300 men.

She also fished and developed a unique method for getting the fish out of the net that became known as the "Susie snap".

While working and raising her family of 4 children, Susie joined the Deroche Community Hall Association where she is still active today. When the hall was first being constructed she "bartered fish for a sling of lumber" for the floor and later secured funding to clear the land for a baseball diamond.

In 1961 she gave birth to her 5th child and in 1971 became Band Manager - a position she held for 23 years. She remarried in 1974, the same year she was elected to an all-woman Council where she was instrumental in the establishment of the first of three mobile home parks that eventually generated enough revenue for the Band to become self-sufficient.

Following her retirement in 1994, Susie travelled a lot with her family and pursued her hobbies.

Today, she serves on a Culture Committee that is raising funds to reconstruct a longhouse for the band and dreams of building accommodation for retired people on her property.

Copyright © 2003 by Mission District Historical Society

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by copyright may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the prior written permission from the Mission District Historical Society.

