

Mrs. Otto Engbaum
(Helen Gertrude Lutes)

Interviewed May 9, 1972.

14496 Saturna Drive, White Rock

Born February 6, 1901 at Lutes Mountain, New Brunswick - is 7th generation of family - family arrived N.B. over 200 years ago - German ancestors came first to Pennsylvania - grandfather Isaac Trites, grandmother, brother Delbert Lutes left N.B. came to Steveston around 1906 - grandfather had blacksmith shop - Helen came to Richmond (at 10 yrs.) April 1911 to Steveston with family - father Zack Lutes a carpenter - parents returned 1913 to N.B. - Helen lived with Aunt Mrs. W.S. Trites up the dyke, end of Trites Road - 1914 Aunt's big house built corner Railway Ave. and Moncton St. - her son Gordon Trites also there - her 2 brothers Ralph, Otto Engbaum came to run dairy farm - Ralph died 1918 - house sold 1919: Mrs. Trites, Gordon, Helen moved to Steveston - Helen went in training nurse 1920 St. Paul's Hospital, graduated 1923 - friend Helen Ross (Riverside) near Brighthouse entered same time - Helen Ross, Winnie Hampsen came to join Helen Lutes Sunday afternoons for Union Sunday School (Methodist) Church - when first in Richmond recalls crossing by Marpole Bridge - out by tram one continuous journey - contrast from winter (N.B.) to spring - milder climate - shortwalk to school (Steveston School) - due to moving lost 1 year school - winter N.B. so severe couldn't attend all time - put into grade 3 - water biggest problem - houses had water tanks outside, used rain water -

1912 City water piped in - had electricity early - recalls wall phone

1912 - early years picked blueberries around Garden City (had picked wild berries in N.B.) - didn't earn money picking - just for Aunt - no way youngsters earn - everyone in farming - attended Bridgeport School: Teachers - Miss Easterbrook, Miss McNeeley, a Principal.

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-never played hookey- recalls May 24, Sports day at old Brighthouse Race Track - won running - had house parties - dances at Orange Hall, 12 July Celebration - Sunday School picnic - rented street car to Vancouver, Stanley Park - races - contests - highlight: Aunt Alice's Cherry Pie - Steeves had cherry tree on place - sister Aunt Ida was S.S. teacher - gave parties - Helen's Aunt got car - E.M.F. (every morning fix-em) - 2nd one a Franklin - learned to drive at 19 - needed no license - did outside work W.W. 1 on dairy farm - mowed lawn, helping garden collected eggs, helped cows - around 20 milking cows, mixed herd - milk picked up by Bob Blair's trucking - horses for field work - dairy farm operated 1912 -1919 by Aunt, 2 brothers.

-went to movies by car, Vancouver, Orpheum - used tram for shopping, Vancouver - took tram to Bridgeport School - got on at the "Y".

-did private duty nursing St. Pauls - married April 3, 1924 to Otto Engbaum - went to farm Rosebud, Alberta (25 mi. S. of Drumheller for 8 years - on return to Steveston farmed on Les Gilmore's place No. 1 Rd.

-when Aunt's new house built big strawberry patch in - ate berries, whipped cream 3 times daily. Church women had "annual upheaval" strawberry social, Orange Hall - well attended - needed 1 wagon and team of horses to haul equipment - Aunt worker Red Cross W.W.I also at Orange Hall - saw big fire Steveston burned spring 1918 - watched burning - 5 hotels went (all but 1), all canneries there - recalls one fire engine came in - can't recall any other fires - didn't see bog smoke on their farm - rest of life farming in Fraser Valley, then Vancouver and White Rock.

Family: One daughter: Jean Oro, now Mrs. Walter McElroy, Vancouver.

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