

Mrs. James Francis

February 21, 1972.

Born in Ireland - came to Canada in 1912...90 yrs. old...husband in W.W.I...didn't like Toronto...came to B.C. 1918 lived on farm across road from present address...built in middle of field...300 yds. from No. 1 Road...wanted water piped down to property from No. 1 Road... later bought land between property and No. 1 Road...water piped in reg. pipe...Property west of No. 1 Road own by Chinese Mah Bing...all farm land...short time only before water piped in...another W.W.I. vet John H arnet...applied oil to boats and fishermen...no electric poles along No. 1 Road above Steveston...many chinese then in Steveston as farmers...kerosene lamps...had coal stove for cooking...got coal from Steveston...brought in once a month...Olaf Olson, lives in Steveston John Olson still in Steveston...coal delivered by wagon...across field before road was put in if not too muddy...no drainage then...Mr. Francis had 64 cows at time of death...barn was located where school (Hugh Boyd School) is now --- sent milk into town first by wagon later by truck... dairy farm only...no vegetables. Mah Bing farm next door- got cabbages from them...many Japanese at one time before W.W.II...lots of trips to Vancouver by Interurban tram...met old friends there...held elections in old Opera House in Steveston...Man from Ladner had 2 daughters who taught school in Steveston...he said there were 7 bars in Steveston farm worker on Francis farm said he was also bar tender in Steveston ...early phone for farm was #75...phone didn't cost much...used the phone for dairy business quite a bit...to mail letter one went to Steveston...mail delivered to roadside box at edge of farm...baker also left bread there...had children in Vancouver Hospital...big event to ride in car to Hospital...Tom Leslie had store at station...son lives on No. 1 Road...Social work related to church..some visiting between families until herd increased, then less time for this.

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Mrs. Jane Francis

Farm workers lived on farm...mostly Dutch, good farmers...understood habits of cows...conscientious about work...early vet was Government man...Dr. Ackers...tested cattle for T.B....worst area for T.B. here... very particular about this...Francis cows were all T.B. free...Francis was most particular about this...farmers had to have health certificate for cows...another vet...old Army buddy...also here and interested in health of animals...had running water and milking machines...milk went over a cooler before going into can...farm children enjoyed farm life because of animals...raised race horses...had best race horse that ever left Steveston called "Steveston Bill"...raised by Francis... has photo of Francis and Steveston Bill as a colt with its mother...raised in Vancouver...horses trained at the Richmond tracks...easy to build fences because of no rocks...wooden fences...built road between No. 1 Road and Railway...wagon road by interurban track down from Granville to Steveston Hwy. came later...Rudy Grauer was best Reeve in Richmond... a business man...politicians visited farms...high incidence of goiter in Richmond, both children and adults...iodine pills given at schools... got 10 chinamen to dig drainage ditch along Francis Road from No. 1 to old home...by hand and wheelbarrow...originally a mud road.

TAPE 3 - SIDE 4.