

Mr. William Gilmore, 577 Moncton St.

Interviewed April 6, 1972.

Born 1903 Belfast Ireland - came to Richmond 1911 at age of 8 - family related to Hugh Boyd - describes this naming family relationships - related to Les, Cap, and Sam - first lived at No. 1 and Blundell Roads, -went to Steveston School, didn't go to high school - 3 brothers and 2 sisters - learned to swim in big ditch - no bathing suits then - (story about getting off tram at Blundell Station and walking over plank that crossed ditch) - Blundell between Railway Ave. and No. 1 Rd. was only a muddy track for horses and wagons - father worked for municipality - youngest brother born in Steveston - most children born at home (discussion about this) - father was member of B.C. Electric section gang -Marpole to Steveston - 5-6 men per gang - moved about on track by hand car - talks about stations and loading platforms on Interurban line - talks about costs of tickets - talks about Santa Claus customs -offered a job as a boy at 50¢ per week to work off accumulated grocery bill) worked at various local jobs before going to sea - became certified captain on coastal steamers - (discusses this) - paid \$65.00 month when working on boats - \$75.00 on cement boats - 7 day week then - (story about pranks with ships cook) - talks about adventures as a coastal seaman - (story about Indian Chief eating rice pudding) - talks about pilot license qualifications and restrictions - as a boy during the fishing season in Steveston - recounts memories of Indians, canneries, cannery houses, chinese houses, etc. - talks about Steveston gun before Fraser River channel was changed, the boats would be but 100 yards away from dock ready to fish - talks about soldiers stationed at Brighthouse Racetrack in barns during W.W. I - worked on Lansdowne Racetrack 1924 - described this - talks about Boxing Arena in Brighthouse and one in Steveston - C.P.R.-ran boats to Victoria to bring boxing fans

over - Steveston arena built before Brighthouse Arena also special trains were run - had a bicycle to deliver papers - talks about stores in Steveston - talks about Japanese children going to school - discusses early days with respect to Japanese rights and habits - discusses migrations of Indians - talks about Chinese and contract - labor or coolie labor - 1924-1926 was fireman at Imperial Cannery - discusses chinese contractor methods - married in St. Anne's in Steveston - went to United Church as a boy - 2nd and Chatham - talks about May 24th and May-pole dances at Brighthouse grandstand - earlier days, May 24th celebration held in Steveston featured races - discusses big dance held in Clubhouse of Brighthouse racetrack on May 24th, thus it was an all day event - talks about earlier courtship customs - church as a social centre discussed here - strawberry festival discussed - discusses Agricultural Fair in New Westminster - there was an Agricultural Society in Richmond that was prominent in Municipal affairs - worked casually as a farm laborer - (story about Rumlee-Diesel thresher on Prairies) - talks about Drs. Hepworth and Dr. Graves in Richmond and Dr. Hall in Marpole - first car was Model T Ford - the Main St. and 4th Ave. were planked roads in Steveston then - (talks about rock being brought in by scow and how it was transported on to the roads) - sometimes it would take 1/2 day to load, move, and unload one wagon load of rock for the roads - discusses in detail the grading of race track - horses were very frightened of cars - (anecdote about car and horse kicking it apart) - Gilmore has philosophical views about the memory of childhood and connects this to memories of early weather in Richmond - skated on North Arm from Marpole to New Westminster - river froze then but not now due to less river traffic during winter - story about taking load with team of horses on ice to New Westminster from Westham Is.

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(honeybees story) - hunted on Terra Nova flats - ducks and geese - also birds came inland and were hunted on farm land - mosquitoes were quite heavy on west side of Island - flies also bad due to sanitary conditions - talks a little about water delivered by wagon for drinking - ditch water used for washing - ditch water changed by opening flood gates so the ditch water was never too stagnant - discusses wooden watermains - (extended story about 1918 fire in Steveston) - 3 hotels, 3 canneries, about 20 stores were lost - May 1918 - very primitive fire equipment then - describes early machines - (anecdote about scandal of Pt. Grey fire engine going into ditch due to safe being placed in road) - talks about San Francisco fire pump rig - discusses his work on Dredge working on South Arm - started in 1946 and retired in 1968 - early river dredges go back to 1906 - the old King Edward - River channel used to move about between Steveston and Gulf so it had to be continually re-surveyed and cleared by dredging - (several stories about dredge operation) - 48 men aboard the 322 dredge - more descriptions about types of dredges employed discusses various accidents that took place on the King Edward - talks about fishermen cluttering up wharf side riverbottom - various stories about incidents with tangled nets etc.

TAPE 14 - SIDE 2.