

Toshitsugu (Toshi) Koyanagi

Interviewed May 16, 1972.

805 Rosewell Cr.

Born August 29, 1911 - Sea Island - Dad came to start fishing 1892.

-To school at 10 yrs. beside Vancouver Cannery earlier went to Japanese

School at 6 - 7 - Family: Oldest brother Toru, Vancouver

Sister Kikuie, Duncan

walked to school - always wanted to work on boat - first job 1929 at

Skeena River, tallyman, B.C. Packers (John A. Clark in charge) on

packer boat 3-4 months - then 2 - 3 months for Japanese (end season)

24 May celebration every year - came across River from Sea Is. on gill-

net fishing boat - walk narrow cow path to Brighthouse Park or Bridgeport

School - recalls little kids in Maypole Dance, around ribbon, no

Buddist Church here before W.W. 2 - only Vancouver then.

Toshi got first 1/2 ton truck at age 20 - helped by brother, Dad -

truck took spring salmon from fishermen sold in Vancouver.

1931-32 Prices: Sockeye salmon 50¢ a piece
 Spring salmon sold by the pound
 Pink salmon by the piece
 Chum salmon by the piece
 Coho salmon by the pound

So only Spring, Coho sold by the pound.

Father a fisherman - own boat - Mother had garden for family - women worked farms 8 - 10 cents an hour, vegetables.

Toshi fishing seasons B.C. Packers from end May to 15 September.

1942 Evacuated to New Denver B.C. (65 miles North of Nelson) - Dept. of Labour then Dept. Health and Welfare, Maintenance, 1944 married

Shizuko, died last year. Children: 1 son, Leonard, home. Returned

1950 - got own boats - Iona 38 feet, Kinji Three 46 feet - small packers worked for Nelson Bros.

Runs one boat during fishing season - then works ashore - company hires second boat. Can talk to Japanese people - not read - People in Steveston strongly Japanese - living Sea Is. lost language - Gov't enforcing rules for cleanliness re boats - prevent bacteria, fish. Reason for selling boats - cuts down tonnage buy back older boats - cuts competition - fewer to make living - helps good boats remaining & owners become good fishermen - son (27) worked on Company boat while at U.B.C. graduate B. Commerce - still working for Company; - fishing life separates father from family.

Sport fishing at Shuswap Lake with Brian Fraser 5 years summers - Rainbow, Brook Trout - swam as child beside Cannery, Sea Is. Strawberry farmers near: Jim Erskine (now Ladner) partner with Matsumoto at Erskine farm.

#17 Oak St. Street car from Marpole for Vancouver - walked, bicycled 4 miles from Sea Is. and friend's fishing boat - tram left Marpole - branched one over bridge to Steveston - one to Westminster.

Sport: Koshi played baseball, lacrosse - Richmond Farmers success -Community feeling less when son growing.

After W.W. 2, everything changed for Japanese - could go anywhere - easy job opportunity.

TAPE 25 - SIDE 2 - 12.