

Jessie LamInterviewed March 28, 1972.

Father was Ling Lam - built Hong Wo Store 1895 - lived in Vancouver - mother originally from China and lived in store before moving to Vancouver in 1909 - 1910 - Had farm adjacent to store approximately 100 ^{acres} years - area at end of Triton Rd. called chinatown then - many chinese stores - (discusses contract labor) - original store burnt in fire circa; 1905 - as child picked berries on farm - since 1940, did books - 1954 took over the store with brother - store closed 1971 - father died 1939 - at the busiest, store had 7 - 9 clerks - store carried everything hence called General Store - trade was mainly with fishermen - (discusses this) - had a wharf, material and goods came by boat from New Westminster - ramps provided for river traffic - discusses accounts and credit system with various native groups (e.g. Japanese - Chinese - Indians - Whites) talks about Marpole Bridge - talks about fogs - discusses hog fires in Vancouver, lived on Broadway East - father was president of Lam Society - discusses internal arrangement of the Lam "clan" - father was arbitrator of all internal disputes - also President of Chinese Farmers Associations - spoke chinese as child - her brother and sister had imported tutor - went to chinese school after regular Canadian school - most B.C. Chinese from the South or Canton area of China - talks a bit about friction between Japanese and chinese - 1927 - 1928 chinese had to register with Immigration - couldn't vote until about 1946 - story about some chinese refused to be drafted until they get franchise - talks about inability of Chinese to get good canadian jobs until after W.W. II - Brother and sister both University trained but couldn't get jobs - early chinese either worked for self or other chinese - Father was one of the first customers with the Merchants Bank in Steveston - later became the Royal Bank - father early rode bicycle to New Westminster to do buying for his store - store

- 2 -

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had an early delivery system at store - fishing during season was just behind store in river - discusses offal being taken out to Gulf to be dumped - children playing on river and in rowboats went out to Steveston Sandbar - remembers 1 or 2 drownings per year - mostly children - (discusses this) - after fishing season - father made and delivered pickles back east - grew cucumbers - did all the dill pickles for Walleys - train track (C.N. near) store where boxcars loaded - also beans for canning talks about various produce canning companies - (story about father's honesty with respect to honoring contracts) - contracted for various crops - many Japanese at one time or another worked for her father - father imported many chinese for work - Mah Ding not such a big outfit as Lams - talks about various markets.

TAPE 13 - 11/22/11