

Mr. Bill LaskoInterviewed March 28, 1972

1174 - 6th Ave. (Steveston)

Police - Fisherman

-born in Ethelbert, Manitoba - first to Lulu Island 1925 where Mother bought 2 acres land, Maple Road - family had come to Vancouver 1922 from prairies - five brothers, one sister - John died Dec. 1971) William, Nick, Mike, Hector and Ginny. Grew strawberries, loganberries - sold to canning company River Road, west of old Marpole Bridge - got 1¢ to 1½¢ a pound - \$200 for strawberry crop considered good - \$500 for both crop real good because expenses off for crates, cartage.

Bill mines, logging camps, Nick followed logging - older brother John main family support - Spring 1929 to Saskatoon, joined police 24 years 1948 returned to Steveston - schooling at Beaver Plains, Sask. then at Aaron, Sask.

-bog fires at 1925 Lulu Is. brother Nick and Bill had fire fighting experience - peat fire around No. 4 Rd. or No. 5 Rd. extensive - Chief Waddell ordered them to fire fight - Bill suggested fight fire with fire

-built (small) control fires, put out, when big fire came to it, just died - success - all left except brother and self for 2 weeks - peat rekindles - so saturated area water from pumps - perhaps peat burned slowly all winter.

-No. 2 Road was the main road.

-brick factory, Steveston, Foot of No. 2 Road, burned down 1928 now fish cannery at site - trucks with solid rubber tires hauled bricks to Vancouver - canned fish also trucked in -

-telephone central at Steveston then later building became private home

-Steveston a Japanese Village before WW 2 evacuated Japanese 1941 returned 1949 to commercial fishing - many didn't return, stayed beet farming Alberta or farming Ontario - little more than 1/2 returned to Steveston.

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Bill Lasko

-Lasko major role in surveillance of alien during W.W.2 in Saskatoon - as City Police - worked with R.C.M.P. re-leftish groups through 7 languages: Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Slovak, English - worked with Commissioner George B. McClelland, and deputy Joe LeMieux.

-returned to Steveston commercial fishing with 3 brothers, Hector, Nick Mike - Hector hand pulled nets in River 20 years earlier - no drum or spool early days, later mechanized net pulling.

-bought own first boat from late Henry Shannon 32 foot gillnetter

"Reveille" turned out well - 2 years later 1952 bought new boat - 35 fo

"Sea Wolf" partner Jack Coons - went to West Coast for chum salmon (fal fish) at Nootka Inlet, Esperana, Espanoza, Kayoukuot - arranged with

Andy Tullock to rendezvous with Packers every morning - paid \$1. a fish

-warned no gillnetting this area - huge waves on open Pacific - rounded Estevan lighthouse into Hesquith Harbor - learned to stay deeper water, waves smooth.

-sold boat bought 66 ft. seine boat "Mary Chase" long liner and fish packer - packing salmon and converted to long liner for halibut -

retired from sea 5 years ago -

met wife Anne Podgursky (born Aaron, Sask.) - Lasko's father bought

Podgursky farm 1916 - as baby Lasko then moved to Saskatchewan -

Podgursky family moved 1924 to Vancouver, then California, then Saskat

-married there September 15, 1931.

3 children: William Joseph, Surrey

Ronald Dale, Surrey

Carole Anne, Surrey

and 5 grandchildren.

W. Lasko

Re: Ukrainian Churches:

None in Vancouver 1922

First gathering was in private home, Lulu Is.

First Ukrainian Catholic priest here, became
a judge, Judge N. James Bartman

Ukrainian Catholic Church started here 15 years
ago.

wrong ?

(check Bldg. permit)

TAPE '8 - SIDE 2.