

Mr. Jim LeNoble

Interviewed March 17, 197

1140 River Road. - Orchid Florist

Mother, Miss Horst came to Vancouver from Utrecht, Holland with her father - met Senior Le Noble, a widower, at the Dutch club - married.

-buy 3 acres land, Richmond at \$1,000 an acre - arranged payments through C. Gray, realtor - bought at peak of land boom - still had to pay - land in bog (centre Lulu Is.) sold for same prices to people who never saw it.

-No. 5 Road 1 mile away (then called No. 20) actual bog 1/3 mile was a plank road - ferry at Woodward's Landing took farmers from Vancouver side over to Ladner - recalls early cars rambling over plank roads - No. 5

Road was macadam road of large rock, rolled down with steam roller, tar over top, finer gravel, then rolled again, then finished coat -

-farming early - father in drygoods in Holland so worked winters for Woodward's Store (Hastings St.) at \$10.00 a week - only money coming in for 10 at table - first cow gave no milk, asked farmer McNair why - it was beef only, so sold.

-had cows - delivered milk in quart bottles on backs in white flour sack to Fraser and Marine Drive before went to work - also butter.

-in winter no work so father, older brother Adrian, brother Ted and self trapped muskrats - Jim started at 18 in 1928 - Adrian trapped 8 or 9 years earlier - walked 10-14 miles daily - pelts worth 30¢ to \$4. after W.W.I - pelts used in flyers jackets.

-grew potatoes, strawberries, chickens - strawberries grown on perimeter

-strawberries grown on perimeter of Island - 3/4 acre - disease when more berries - netted \$700 one year - had 1 acre black currants, currant

trouble 14¢ a lb. for berries - strawberries brought 7-8¢ a lb. -no insecticides, etc. of to-day so all work by hand - mother, brother

Henry, younger sister and self started gardening at 5 a.m. till 11 a.m.,

- 2 -

Mr. Jim LeNoble

stay out of sun till 2 p.m. - very hot, hard work - families more contented than to-day - all families had certain chores before play - grandfather at 65, brother Ted then brother Henry, self, all delivered Vancouver Province papers - 15 -20 years held Route III LuLu Is. took route from Albert Hoey (lived No. 5 Road)

-had 67 paper customers travelled 10 miles so eventually got bicycles - used bikes to go to school - Bridgeport 2 1/2 miles - then to Fraser and Marine 1 1/2 miles then deliver.

-he was supposed to start 1915 at Mitchell School but mother decided school too small, training, so permission from Miss McNeely to attend Bridgeport public school at 6 yrs. age. - walked in first winter through 18 - 22" snow - 2 Williams girls came to school in horse and democrat 4 1/2 miles, lived No. 6 Rd. between No. 20 and No. 19 (Westminster Hwy.)

-Violet Williams came down No. 5 Road and River Rd. to pick him up during snow, arranged by teacher.

-skating on Middle Arm Fraser - never cut ice - had cellars in basement

-summers used hole in ground - no time for athletics. - weekends Jim had 10 - 12 pairs shoes shine Saturday mornings - lean up yard in bucket - mother milked - hated raise pigs see them killed.

had 1 acre potatoes -some sold.

-father, brother, and self worked at Westminster Brewery: 1 1/2 hours away for 8 hours work - paid well - \$4.65 for brother, father day, Jim got \$3.00 day - paid fare 27¢ a day, paid \$10.00 week board or 1/2 earnings - family spirit of unity then - no vandalism or strikes.

-since 1911 till 5 years ago never robbed, or broken.

-Jap neighbor Tanizawa mother helped clothing - names early neighbours - Wade (junction Standards Brands) Russel Hawke, Ruth and Muriel school-mates; Mitchell Family No. 5 Rd. and River Rd.

- 3 -

Mr. J. LeMoble

Corner Simpson Rd., then Hoey; McGillivray; Cliff Cross the Fraser Bridge tender; McGivren; Gilbert who was farm boss for John Bath (80 acres); McWaters; then 7 room Mitchell school, then woodwards.

-Fraser Bridge went out in winter 2-3 times - incident when Mr. Tanizawa leaving for town with wagon of produce - bridge dropped out in front of him - shaken - now send up tugs to break up ice.

-one Sunday 5000 skating on ice - sold hot dogs c 1924 or 1926.

-first year moved in to house fall 1911 - next year June all land suddenly under 2 feet water - freshet water over top of dyke - brother Ted fishing off back porch - sidewalks floated away - privy nearly tipped over - gov't. started soon on present dyke - sidewalk on top of dyke then down to trestle (Steveston Railroad bridge) to old Eburne Bridge Shingle Mill, Chinese general store.

-school - girls pigtailed in ink - anecdote Mr. Evans class high school reprimand from sub teacher - 4th reader teacher Miss Lang, sister of M.P. gave strapping.

-May Day sports on 24th May - slow bicycle race event recalled - won by Tom McGivren (now in Vancouver).

-most Japanese lived in Steveston, no classmates - through Bridgeport high school; teachers, Mr. Evans, Mr. Lucy Fisher, Miss I.E. Clemens - in 3rd year were 17 students - spent 10 1/2 years Bridgeport school. At 16-17 years worked Westminster Brewery and studied Music: violin, piano, banjo - from Mrs. Boake, Vancouver 8 1/2 years - then to England Royal Academy of Music, London - no money - met wife Pt. Grey Tennis Club, Edith Greenwood - married May 6, 1938, honeymoon San Francisco saw orchids in conservatory decided to grow orchids. Since 1939 in Orchid business, 33 years. Sons: Stephen, 30 in business; Neil 26, geological engineer.

Mr. J. LeNoble

-father still had property. - 1932 started mushroom growing - so came back to this - gradually got glass houses for orchids.

-now 30,000 feet of glass - 4 1/2 acres. - produce \$150,000 orchids a year - across Canada by air - supply Victoria to Halifax year round basis. Largest Orchid producer in Canada; control time blooming - first orchids found 1935 S. America - improved since - orchid 6 years from seed to bloom - use insecticides.

-recalls early days A.F. Wilby took orders at door and bring groceries on horse and wagon - to go down town walked to Fraser And Marine for tram.

TAPE 11 - Side 1.