

Sam Montgomery  
373 Garry St., Richmond

Interviewed: March 27, 1973.

Came to Steveston in May, 1913, age of 13 - lived with his uncle David Gilmore, then another uncle Joe Montgomery - then to Steveston, 4th Avenue near Chatham. Finished school at 13 - went to work - earned \$15.00 a month milking cows - then worked in sand and lime brick factory in Steveston, then in sawmills in Vancouver. B.C. Electric train ran into Vancouver - 25¢ fare, 15¢ to Marpole. Then worked in woods - Lynn Valley - cutting shingle boards - was there 2 years, until year of big flood on lower mainland.

On farm, up at 6 to milk cows, then breakfast, then out in fields. Worked in canneries in Steveston in canning season. Remembers Scotch Canadian,, Burrard, Atlas, Gulf of Georgia, Steveston Lighthouse, Imperial, Phoenix, Richmond, Beaver - in 1914 - 25¢ an hour for unskilled labour. Couldn't live too well on that - kept couple of cows for milk and butter, and rented land to grow potatoes, kept chickens, couple of pigs.

Bought house on Moncton, lived there around 20 years, house still stands.

Fire of 1918 - no fire-fighting equipment in Steveston other than two hydrants and some hose. Brought in fire engine from Point Grey. Five canneries burned down, 2 or 3 hotels, and all stores on South side of Moncton from 3rd Avenue to No. 1 Road - only building left standing was the Hepworth block - owned by Dr. Hepworth, only doctor in Steveston at that time. Canning season was almost over - stored fat dropped into river - canned salmon redeemed by some Vancouver salteries.

Fished himself during runs for couple of weeks - sailboat or skiff - gillnetting. Japanese biggest factor in industry in 1916/17 - worked hard - seemed to need no sleep.

His father hauled wood from New Westminster - sold for fire-wood. Helped father, then got one-ton truck and hauled wood himself. Then did coal hauling - bought in Marpole - made about \$1.25 a ton - then into haulage and trucking - started Richmond Transfer. .

Volunteer Fire Brigade grew out of wartime ARP - got chassis off old car - ARP provided pump and hose. Siren in Brighthouse called volunteers. Pumped from river or dykes - sometimes half a mile of hose to reach good water supply.

In boyhood, not much entertainment locally - occasional dances. Richmond Agricultural Society held their Fall Fair in Brighthouse Park (then a race track). Church was centre of community social life - meetings during week, especially for young people - on Sundays, families came in from farming areas in horse and buggy. Family called Tilton's had first car he remembers.

Houses beyond dyke were built on pilings - up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile out from dyke - had plank walk to houses - all Japanese families.

Alex Moir