

Interviewed: January 26, 1976

FISHERMAN: Mr. Oscar Niemi,
Finnish-Canadian Rest Home,
2288 Harrison Drive,
Vancouver, B. C.

325-3115

- Started fishing in 1906 in Gulf of Georgia at Steveston, had no fishing license at the time, started as a boat-puller around 18 years old, then he got his own license in 1911-12.
- He fished the Fraser River mostly.
- He had many different boats: first was a sail boat, gillnetter then,
- He built gas boat: 32 ft. long, a company boat.
- Worked for Imperial Cannery before B. C. Packers took it over as well as Nelson Fish Co.
- On the sailboat, you sail with the tide but with the gas boat you go day and night.
- He had a nine acre farm in Richmond and then a farm in Delta: he raised cows as well as vegetables.
- He always fished by himself in the same boat for nearly 30 years.
- When he was young, he worked longer hours.
- Many different unions in those days. He joined one but gave up on it eventually.
- Union made things better in some ways but in other ways worse.... too many strikes in for one thing but the prices did improve.
- 1906 lived in Richmond for 30 years.
- Fishing was a good living for the last 20 years.
- He worked in a cannery on the Skeena River.
- Working and repairing old boats for a couple of seasons, he also fished at Rivers Inlet and Smith's Inlet.
- Nobody likes the strikes.
- First strike was 1913, no union then, everyone went on strike.
- Big catch in 1913, too many fish, had^{to} throw some overboard.
- He quit fishing in 1965.
- He came to B. C. in 1903, worked in a mine at Rossland for ~~two~~³ years.
- The river has changed much.
- Discusses the boat that he built, the advantages of a square stern.
- Discusses the advantages of nylon nets.