

Interviewed: January 15, 1976

Mr. Tommy Oikawa,
2340 Smith Crescent,
Richmond, B. C.

- Points out on map location of float camp near Nelson Bros., lived on stilted houses.
- Houses floated, and in summer time towed camp to Cottonwood.
- In 5 HP boats until 1937-38.
- Fished for the company in the beginning, later on became independent.
- When fishing for companies got cheaper prices for fish because they provided some facilities.
- Didn't like living in float camps; cold in winter.
- Parents came from Japan because of the fishing. Dad came to country in 1896.
- Worked nine years in Steveston then back to Japan and married.
- Worked nine years in Japan to get back to Steveston.
- Started fishing with Dad.
- Says a lot of discrimination against Japanese.
- Mentions that once you lived in cannery homes you were obligated to cannery.
- Talks about fishing with nets and the tides.
- Belonged to Japanese Co-op.
- Brought equipment for boat from Co-op and got better prices.
- Remembers back when Japanese didn't get as good prices as others because of discrimination.
- In 1936 fished for Takahashi and got more prices than others in 1936.
- Has been fishing since a boy; over forty years.
- Boats were built locally. First boat 25' long and 3½ HP.
- During war had to sell boat to the government for \$145.00 (estimated \$2,000.00).
- Talks about boat prices and value at that time.
- Talks about limitations on licences to the Japanese people.
- Only job open to the Japanese were fishing and farming.
- In 30's when men went fishing wives and children went to work on farm

- Evacuated during war, returned in 1949.
- During evacuation he was logging.
- Talks about boat building.
- Started boat building in 1936.
- Japanese weren't allow to fish anywhere they wanted until they got their franchise in 1949.