

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Pearson

Interviewed Feb. 11, 1972.

Mr. Pearson came to Richmond in the year 1894 at the age of nine from Southport to the Brighthouse Farm. The farm at that time was split into four farms. Simpson and McKay, B.C. Telephone came in 1912 and rented 50 acres and built the big house on River Road. The Brighthouse farm went through to No. 3 Road and Sam Peters had the fourth farm. There was 700 acres from No. 2 Road to No. 3 Road and the Railway, which is Granville Ave. to River Road. There was a man named Muskrat Bill that lived in one of the houses nearer to Cambie Road. His real name was Ian Thomas. The dyke was there when he came. There were 4 Canneries at that time on the North dyke. The Terra Nova, Starr, Dinsmore Island and at Bridgenort, The Colonial. There was a Post Office at Terra Nova and the Mellis Stage came out with the mail every day. There was a sawmill on River Road at the end of No. 2 Road, but it didn't work too much. There was also a shake mill at Bridgenort. The Churches at that time, there were 3, the Methodist at Cambie and River Road, the Sea Island Methodist and third one in the South part of Richmond. There was a one room school on the West side of No. 2 Road at Westminster Highway., 25 pupils. He came to Richmond with his Mother and Sister. His mother was a sister to Sam Brighthouse. Mrs. Pearson came in 1920.

Trees along River Road were planted by Mr. Pearson. The Corporation widened the dyke 12 feet at this point so they had to cut out the trees which the Corporation had contracted to plant. He was a Plumber in Vancouver for nine years. He helped with the building of the third grandstand at Brighthouse in 1924, the first was built in 1908, the second in 1919. It took 3 months to build. They also built one at Lansdowne. There was 60 acres where the racetrack was situated.

The old Municipal Hall was on the Corner of Cambie Road and No. 3 Road. This burnt down and they traded the site of the present Municipal Hall for the old site. During the time the new hall was being built, they moved to the Basement of the Bridgeport School. Sam Brighthouse served on the School Board in Vancouver.

When Mr. Pearson moved to Richmond there was a store at the end of No. 2 Road, a general store, where boats landed. At this time it was unoccupied and later pulled down.

There were fires on the Bog every year. The peat would burn off for fresh fruit the following year. Indians came to pick them. There was an Indian Reserve at Terra Nova at one time. There was a slough ran through the property at the back. The farmers ploughed 12" down water table in summer was 3' and winter 3'.

They had a water tank 20' high and they put down pipes to the track from the tank. In 1908 they brought power in from No. 2 Road.

Mrs. Pearson has a brother on Ackroyd Road, Norman Aspin. *dead now.*

The Railroad gave the name "Brighthouse" to the Station and the Community took on this name.

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