

Interviewed: April 7, 1976Tape 67, 2 + 3

CO-FOUNDER: Mr. Frank Sakai, Mr. Martin Kuramoto, Mr. Hirata
366 Pleasant St., 524 Calderwood Cres.,
Richmond, B. C. Richmond, B. C.

- The Steveston Club was organized in 1952.
- The original Dojo was about the size of a living room; it was in a building behind the Steva Theater.
- The club was handling about 30 kids a night.
- The club was organized by several black belts and by a parent group from the Steveston community.
- Almost all the instructors were fishermen.
- Mr. Doi, Mr. Kuramoto, Mr. Kawasaki, Mr. Tamaki also helped to organize the club.
- The club got under way on \$500.00, this money helped to buy the mats.
- The instructors had their Gi's from before the club was organized.
- The new members were given a pattern for the Gi's and had to make their own out of a rougher material.
- Gi's are usually made of "just like a burlap sack on your back"...these home-made Gi's were somewhat rough to wear.
- The original club building had no washroom facilities, no changing rooms and no heating.
- There have been no really serious injuries to any of the members of the Steveston Judo Club.
- In the Steveston Judo Club's dojo, there is an inscription written by Mr. Kano who was the founder of Judo.
- The club acquired it when Mr. Kano was in Vancouver before the Second World War...someone from the Steveston Judo Club asked him to write it... on his way home Mr. Kano died on the boat, so it is the last letter written by him...a possible English translation is : "If you try hard, you'll get what you want".
- Steveston Judo Club is the only club in North America where the instructors are not paid.
- There is a parent group "The Koenkai" that sponsors the Steveston Judo Club.
- "The Koenkai" gives the club moral and financial support.