

Don Banister (researcher)
Unosuke Sakamoto (fisherman)

Tape 46; Side 2

1188 Railway Avenue,
Richmond, B. C.

277-8147

Interviewed: January 15, 1976

- Started fishing in 1919.
- Eldest boy also fishes.
- Never been injured whilst fishing.
- Boats have gotten bigger.
- He changed his boats six times since 1919.
- Nets have changed; they used to be linen.
- Nets came from England.
- Nets cost about \$200.00.
- Used different size nets.
- His boat in 1919 had a gas motor.
- More fish caught in earlier years.
- Fished for sockeye, coho, and spring salmon and pinks.
- Fished mostly around Steveston.
- Used to get 50¢ a piece for sockeyes in 1919; other fish were sold by the pound.
- Sometimes worked 24 hours a day, depending on the tides.
- Started fishing in February to November, 5 or 6 days a week.
- Lived in Steveston in a company house in 1919. One family per house.
- The houses were "not-so-good".
- The houses had electricity and running water.
- Has no bad-bad luck superstitions.
- In 1919 it didn't matter whether he had a license or not.
- The White fishermen and the Japanese-Canadian fishermen have gotten along well together since 1919.
- Electronic equipments used in 1950.
- The electronic equipment didn't make much difference because he had lots of experiences although it might have been easier.
- Lost his boat during the war.
- He worked with the fishing boat Disposal Committee.
- The boats were sold to the White people and the Indian people.
- He got \$1,300.00 for his boat which was only a few years old.

- He was not angry when they took his boat from him during the war.
- There was a Fisherman's Union for Japanese fishermen only.
- All the Japanese fishermen on the coast belonged to this association.
- Mr. Sakamoto was the president of the Association.
- The Fishermen's Hospital was situated at #1 Rd and Moncton.
- There was also a Japanese school which took children from the ages of 7 to 12.
- The teachers came from Japan.
- Japanese writing was one of the subjects.
- The Japanese Fishermens Association ran the school and the hospital.
- Dues to the Association were \$40.00 a year which in turn funded the hospital and the school.
- The fishing fleet had about 440 boats along the Fraser River in 1919.
- Had a hard time getting started after the war because he had nothing.
- The first thing he did in getting started again after the war was to buy small boat. The company then supplied the nets.
- He says he is getting too old to fish now.
- Steveston was the #1 district for the Japanese fishermen's association.
- Mr. Sakamoto was president for 3 years--- 1938-41.
- The Fishermen's Association negotiated prices with the cannery.
- The Japanese Fishermen's Association never went on strike.
- The Japanese Fishermen's Association did not include cannery.
- Worker's its membership was fishermen only.