

VICE-PRESIDENT-PLANNING:

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- Grandfather came from England in 1894.
- Worked at Gulf of Georgia until he retired in 1928.
- Father also worked in canneries.
- Steveston in 1890 was larger than Vancouver with seventeen hotels.
- In those days it was common for the local sheriff to clear the streets late at night by firing off a gun.
- Steveston developed very rapidly because of the huge salmon runs.
- At one time in this stretch of the River as far up as New Westminster there was as many as 29 canneries.
- Recalls some of the names of the early canneries: Star, Light House, Gulf of Georgia, Hume, Columbia, Imperial, Canadian Pacific, Atlas, Pacific Coast, Ewens.
- Interesting part of Steveston in those days was when the Japanese came to take part in the fishing.
- Tells a very interesting story of the Japanese working in Steveston and sending their money back home.
- Describes the methods of the early fishing in the 1900's.
- All the fishing was done from sail boats.
- And these sail boats were towed out in the evening by a steam tug.
- There would be as many as 100 to 150 being towed in a line.
- In the morning, the steam tug would return and put up the laden boats that had fished most of the night.
- There is not nearly as much river fishing today as there was in the old days.
- Some of the catches of the fish were phenomenol, it was a day before conservation and protection of the fish.
- The policy of the Fisheries Department didn't pay much attention to such things as over fishing.
- It was not at all uncommon to see four or five large sailing ships lined up along the Steveston water front loading cases of salmon for the United Kingdom.

- They would sail up the river unballasted, ballast usually being sand or sometimes salt which had been brought all the way from the United Kingdom.
- Many of the canneries in those days were privately owned and seasonally operated.
- After the salmon catch was completed in September, they closed their doors and spent the winter selling their pack.
- Large cannery on the river today can produce as much as four or five hundred thousand cases.
- Those days most canneries produced between ten to fifteen or sometimes as high as twenty-five thousand cases.
- The job of selling it was usually placed in the hands of a broker.
- Each cannery selected his own area of sales and his own representation.
- In those days, the canneries gave little thought to maintenance of the runs, it was one of exploitation by the canneries.
- Today, that has greatly changed.
- Many canneries made a good profit those days.
- But it did fluctuate wildly from year to year depending on the size of the catch and also depending on the ability to sell the produce in the market place.
- In the early 1900's a case of 48 halves sold for around four dollars.
- Today, same case sells for sixty dollars.
- It was mostly marketed for the United Kingdom, although was a market for Austrilia, New Zealand and South Africa.
- Speaks on the early canneries' operations.
- Mentions the effects the unions had on the canneries.
- Mentions the early canneries sanitation conditions.