

Miss J.B. Bothwell - Teacher

Interviewed Feb. 3, 1972.

Born in the year 1894 and went to teach at the Steveston School, an all-Japanese class, the pupils were segregated at that time. In 1925 she went to English School, corner Steveston Highway and Shell Road and taught there by herself. Grades 1 to 3, 30 pupils, went from there to Bridgeport School. The Medical Doctor at that time was Dr. Graves, he came once a year to the schools as well as Nurses. Mrs. Van Vorst lived next door and was the Janitor. She came over and made the cocoa. They had a big pot belly stove for heat. Students came from Normal School to help with the teaching, so she helped train many new teachers, one who later became her Supervisor. Mrs. Violet (Bath) Flury also taught at this time. Miss Bothwell's father and Mother had a farm on River Road and it was between No. 1 and No. 2 Roads. She lived there as a small girl. When she first started to work she was paid \$34.00 per month. The P.T.A. was formed at English School. Used the strap for discipline but did not have to use it much. Finnish people lived near the end of Finn Road not too far from English School. This was the only school in that area, South Arm District, other schools were Bridgeport, Steveston, Mitchell and East Richmond. The Richmond Fair held annually at the Richmond United Church Hall, Cambie Road and River Road held by the Agricultural Society attracted people from all over Richmond. When she was a child the stage ran from Vancouver along River Road and down No. 1 Road to Steveston, it went to Steveston in the morning and back at night. Grocers and the Stores in Steveston were the only stores in Richmond. There was no electricity. At times the fog was so bad she had to stay overnight near the school. At first there

were Indians in Steveston, working in Canneries and fishing and then the Japanese came.

Fishermen came for a pail of milk and gave a fish to pay for it. Her Mother made butter, 40 lbs. at a time, and her father brought it to Vancouver and traded it for groceries. Her father took milk on a wagon into Vancouver every night.

Each person was responsible for their own part of the dyke, and in 1899 water broke through the dyke and flooded the house and barn and they had to go by boat back and forth to the barn.

She ended her teaching career at Bridgenort School.

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