

Interviewed: June 15, 1976

Tape 69, 13

Mrs. Lorraine Croom,
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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- First started coaching the Girls Softball in 1965 and also as the Vice-President of the League.
- The team was 11 year olds from Brighthouse School.
- I coached from 1965 to 1975.
- At that time the league was set up as: Pee Wee, Bantum, Midget and Juvenile.
- In 1965 there were 32 teams; in 1967 there were 64 teams; now there are 86 teams.
- The divisions were broken into 12 and under, 13 & 14, and 15 & 16 yrs.
- All softball teams played out of the school grounds.
- There were a lot of interest in girls softball; I carried 19 girls on my team one year.
- This was before we belonged to B. C. Softball Association.
- When we first started, it was just a Recreational League, strictly a fun league.
- Our season ended in June.
- Then in 1969 we joined the B. C. Softball League and our teams became more competitive.
- I started the Richmond Softball Tournament in 1966.
- We had 3 inning games for the Midgets and 5 inning games for the Bantums and Juveniles.
- This Tournament ran for two days and it is still played the same way.
- We now have a Squirt Division of 8, 9, and 10 year olds.
- Discusses the different divisions and how they are split up.
- In 1965 we used to set our own ground rules, we did go by the rule book.
- We used to have these sheets, we used to put on how many inning you played, what you were allowed to do and what you weren't allowed to do.
- Then at the end of the season, we would play the four top teams for the playoffs.
- Two out of three or whatever we decided at the time, but it was strictly go out there and play softball and the kids had a good time.

Mrs. Lorraine Croom

GIRLS SOFTBALL

- Then we started getting coaches who were more competitive and this is where Competitive Ball comes in.
- In 1965 the registration fee was \$1.00 per girl.
- This paid for their crests, trophies and whatever they got out of softball, also to pay for the equipment.
- There was never enough money to run the league, we always ended up in the hole.
- Then the registration fee went up to \$2.00 per girl.
- Now Midgets and Juveniles are \$7.00; Bantums are \$5.00; and the rest are \$4.00.
- With the price of equipment we just have to charge more.
- All we wanted was just enough to support the girls on the field.
- The girls are under too much pressure today---it's the coaches who put on this pressure.
- Competition as far as I am concerned has lost its fun because of the pressure put on the girls.
- Because of this, "we've got to win an attitude" by the coaches.
- Relates story of the teams that Lorraine Croom coached.
- We had no problems getting coaches in 1965, but today there are problems getting good coaches.
- The girls always played two games a week; the practices were left up to the coaches.
- At one time, both myself, husband and my son were coaching girls softball teams.
- I am now President of the Midget and Juvenile Division.
- Midgets are 15 and 16 year olds and Juveniles are 17 and 18.
- We use the one Juvenile team.
- In the Squirt Division we don't have Competitive Ball---we just teach them how to pitch, how to hold a bat, how to throw a ball, how to run a base---just the basic rules.
- Bantum Division is the hardest division to coach.
- The girls are in that age group where they are very hard to handle.
- We are having a very hard time getting coaches for this division.
- Explains the difference between Recreational Ball and Competitive Ball.
- The Richmond Bantum team won the B. C. Championship in 1972.