

Interviewed: May 7, 1976

Tape 68, 1+2

EX-TREASURER: Mr. Jona Friesen,
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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- First played hockey in Saskatchewan as a young boy.
- At the age of 12, moved to Abbotsford and travelled to New Westminster to play hockey.
- Later moved to Vancouver and played Junior and Commercial Hockey for several years.
- Coached in Kerisdale for Minor Hockey.
- Then moved to Richmond, decided to help with the organization of the Minor Hockey League.
- 1965, the year that the ice arena had just been completed.
- August 1965, the first meeting to establish: a Minor Hockey Association.
- There was an item in the Richmond Review stating anyone who was interested in starting to organize Richmond Minor Hockey to contact Tom Shaw or Stu McGraw.
- The original meeting was held in Tom Shaw's home in August 1965.
- With the Arena just being completed, everyone was just itching to get a hockey organization going.
- In the first meeting there were four of us in attendance...
Jona Friesen, Tom Shaw, Stu McGraw and Chuck Turner.
- What we did was lay the ground work for the first general meeting that was held in September, to invite the general public and start the "ball rolling".
- At the first meeting in Minoru, there were numerous people that were only too anxious to help in organizing it and the various divisions.
- At that time, we organized the various leaders of the divisions from "Pee Wee" on through to "Midget" the highest divisions.
- When we first started out there were Pee Wee, Bantum and Midget.
- "Pee Wee" Division was broken down into three groups.... Tykes, Peanuts and Pups...(younsters under 12 years of age).
- First year was an enrollment of 400 boys.
- There was average of 16 players per team.
- The majority of boys who enrolled were in the 12 and under age bracket.

Jona Friesen

MINOR HOCKEY

- The reason for this was that the hockey being new in Richmond and a lot of the people recently moving to Richmond being young families.
- There was never shortage of coaches at the start of the season but sometimes at the end of the season you don't finish off with as many.
- There was a registration fee for the boys when they started, it was around \$12.00 or \$16.00 (?)
- This money was deposited and helped buy equipment and pay for the ice time.
- The rates for ice time then was \$10.00; now it is \$45.00 per hour.
- Initially the club provided with pucks for various divisions.
- Goal tenders' equipment was approximately \$100.00 per boy.
- Explains why the clubs supplied goal tenders' equipment.
- The various teams as for uniforms were concerned, the club supplied T-shirts with most of the colors stemmed from blue and gold which are the Richmond colors.
- These teams had various names they first started out being named after the six existing N.H.L. teams but after the Divisions got bigger you ran out of N.H.L.names so you wind up with Millards, Bombers or any name that would fancy the coaches and management.
- The House League team was governed by at that time the number of youngsters on the team where there was three minute rule that they be changed every three minutes, every youngster got equal ice time, but if the parents decided that their youngster was good enough they could try out for a rep team.
- The rep team during practise sessions, everyone is on the ice pretty well all the time, but during the course of the game this may vary depending on how the game is going and how the individual coach operates, he may decide he is playing to win and a kid who is marginal on a rep team may not see any ice time or very little, so this gets very competitive.
- If you want strictly recreational hockey, the place to play it is the "house league".
- If you have "stars in your eyes" and think one day you are going to make a living at it, then the "rep team" route is the way to go.
- They play in the Pacific Coast League Division against other communities' rep teams.

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MINOR HOCKEY

- The furthest team away they play is Chilliwack and then only two or three times a season.
- Most other games are in the Greater Lower Mainland.
- Most Minor League Hockey games are three 20 minute games with two 20 minutes intermissions.
- Referees are mostly volunteers but in "rep" hockey, they do get paid.
- To train our referees, what we would do is to get a knowledgeable referee and he would set it up with the B. C. Amateur Group and they conduct a clinic in our Arena and some Saturday mornings.
- There would be films as well as a few discussions, talks by various officials who had done it for a living, and people who were still involved in refereeing minor hockey, they would give their view-points plus the demonstration on ice.
- Usually a referee starts as a linesman.
- During these clinics we had an hour of ice time and one hour of "shop talk" time and films.
- When we started, we had about 20 to 25 hours per week, this didn't include early morning ice time.
- Ice time prior to 8 a.m. was free...you didn't have to pay for it but you didn't get any extra scraping.
- On the week-end ice time prior to 6 a.m. was free (I think); I know we started using the ice at 6 a.m. on weekends.
- In the house leagues, we tried to get the boy one practice a week and then there was one game a week usually on Saturday or Sunday.
- Basically, there were four groups trying to get ice time....
Minor Hockey, Junior Hockey, Figure Skating, and Commercial hockey.
- At that time, a boy up to "Pee Wee" level cost you \$50.00 to out-fit and above that depending on how fancy you wanted to get, you could spend \$80.00 - \$100.00 to a boy.
- The first year, we didn't turn any boys away but the club decided from the beginning that they would give preference to youngster who had played the previous year, for reasons being such as they had invested a lot of money in sports equipment.
- In the second year, there was a waiting list and you filled the boys in as space became available.
- The Hockey Organization offers an insurance policy.

- We were insured with an outfit called "Spears" in Vancouver, and it covered the organization for such things as accidents in events of youngsters travelling any liabilities that would have occurred.
- They had a Mutual Hockey Association Insurance Policy that was included in the registration.
- It was the Minor Hockey insurance policy that was run by B. C. Amateur at that time, and every hockey organization on the Lower Mainland was covered by it.
- All Minor Hockey is affiliated with Canadian Amateur Hockey.
- Canadian Amateur Hockey is throughout the Dominion and then it is subdivided into provinces and then of course, B. C. Amateur Hockey.
- From there on the various leagues like our particular Divisions here, is the Pacific Coast League.
- Canadian Amateur Hockey Association lays down all the basic rules.
- The first group of 1965-66 Directors were:

Stu McGraw	Bob Moog
Jona Friesen	John Nasadyk
Harold Brunn	Tom Shaw

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR 1966-67 DIRECTORATE

Ed Burke	Joe Brenie
Keith Croom	Kon Dunsford
Bob Mannam	Jim Mitchell
Bill Mortensen	Bill McFadden
Wilf McAlister	Jack Smith
Wally Westen	Mike Anderson

- Of this group eight were elected but don't remember who they were.
- But for the second term of office, the President was Chuck Turner.
- Two very good coaches we have are Grant Davis and Eddy Burke.
- Mentions Greg Neil who was playing with the W. H. L. before his accident. He was one of the youngsters who played with Richmond.
- In house leagues they keep the trophies strictly to a team championships but in "rep" teams they have individual trophies.

DIVISIONS

<u>PEE WEE</u> : Tykes	Ages 6 & 7
Peanuts	" 8 & 9
Pups	" 10 & 11

(Pee Wee Divisions was split up into above
3 groups with youngsters ages 12 and under)

<u>BANTUMS</u>	Ages 12 & 13
<u>MIDGETS</u>	" 14 & 15
<u>JUVENILES</u>	" 16 & 17
<u>JUNIOR HOCKEY</u>	" 18 - 20