

Rudy Grauer

Interviewed Feb. 3, 1972.

Born in Vancouver, 1890 ... moved to Richmond at the age of two... lived on Sea Island and went to school there ... 1 room school-house ... H.B. Barton was teacher of all grades, assisted later for lower grades in built on classroom ... stayed in school about 14 years, located at MacDonald Rd. ... walked from store each day ...  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles barefooted in summer ... Bob Macdonald went to school with him ... several doctors in Steveston serving ( apparently all of Richmond) ... nurses (just common ladies looked after the children General Hospital in Vancouver, also St. Vincent-de Paul ... Father was in general merchandizing business and had pack house // worked for fater ... 9 in family 7 boys, 2 girls ... drove horse driven wagon to Steveston before going to school ... all knew butchering business ... Brother Gus and sisters alive ... peddle cut meat around Richmond ... ice taken from Frozen Fraser and stored in sawdust in icehouse ... 24th May big holiday celebration ... 7 hotels in Steveston ... 40 canneries (he has a list of these someplace) a lot of work available ... children worked in canneries if known by Manager ... made their own cans in cannery ... 10¢ hour wage ... beer 5¢ glass ... all fish shipped by sailing vessels and Steveston was a "wild old town" ... many Japanese and Indians around at that time ... 3 policemen-overlooked prostitution ... horse races on May 24th and 1st July in Steveston ... fathers wouldn't let children play with ammunition, although there was much duck and pheasant hunting ... married ... watch inscription says "from Lulu to Rudy" (on the 50th anniversary) Feb. 20, 1913, 1953 working in the store then ... Lulu Champion (nee) ... from P.E.I. ... 2 boys, 2 girls,

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wife stayed at home ... bought cows and pigs for goods ... supplies from New Westminster ... Trapp?? ... E.J. Prior "used to finance us a bit" ... tramp steamers hay barley Vancouver ... Wharf and barn next to store ... Marpole bridge 1st, then Fraser St. bridge 10 - 20 years later ... Queensboro bridge later that brought trams from New Westminster ... Trams introduced when he was a boy ... son-in-law, Ted North, ran Steveston-Marpole tram ... children born at home which was the general practice then ... kerosene lamps before electricity were often of cut-glass in fancy design ... first intro of electricity was expensive, thus not everyone had it ... charged by pole ... Roy Stewart had garage near Odd Fellows hall, brought in a 7-passenger Spy (?) Tom MacDonald bought a Buick ... saw as many as 50 wagons lined up to go over Marpole bridge to Vancouver containing potatoes, hay, oats etc., ... Vancouver covered by Spruce and Alder ... cured meat with alder (ham and bacon) ... Cousins ran Steveston meat market... had several other meat markets in Vancouver ... got ewes and lambs from Winatchi (?) ... ran cattle on 640 acres in Ladner (Delta meat market) also sheep ... Transfer and Sinoma (ships) ?? shipped from Chilliwack to No. 5 Road behind the Big tower ... men drank a lot, some made their own whiskey. Could buy a qt. of whiskey for \$1.00, or 1.25 ... nail brigade was the forerunner of fire Department. Grauer says he started the fire department in Steveston, Brighthouse (Chas. McCulloch) Bridgeport, other end of Island... built firewagons out of trucks ... water wagons not much in evidence... when B.C. Electric came in, milk was shipped by cans to Vancouver and cans filled with water and sent back out to Richmond.

People rode buckboards over to a spring near Old Grand Central Hotel (Marpole) to get water ... Father (original Grauer) found a spring down on the Sird??? place and piped the water across the Fraser place and across the river and put up a big tank (on the Richmond side) ... people used to come and borrow water ... 2" pipe under the Fraser - piped water up close to the store .. used to wash slaughtered meat .. No Truant Officer in those days ... Halloween mischief then ... police were Johnston, Waddell ... used to have to collect the taxes ... (poll tax) "taxes would run astray wouldn't turn it all in!" Gaol in Steveston and in Brighthouse ... one policeman got killed and was found in a field behind the post office at the end of the B.C. Electric, Moncton St., ... chinaman killed him ... big fires ... Vancouver Fire Department came out to Steveston 3 - 4 times ... 3 horse-drawn wagons ... jumped on his caboose to show Fire Department shortest way to Steveston from the bridge ... Whites didn't care much for Chinese and Japanese ... many came from Gold fields ... big blueberries introduced next to some local blueberries ... also cranberries ... used to be a large winery, Simpson and McKinney, No. 2 Road... Wild cranberries around No. 7 Road, farming in bog, horses had "toolie shoes" to keep them from going down ... Ketcheson did a lot of "Breaking", 3-4" deep ... burnt it off in the summer time and planted crop (oats) and burn it off after harvest ... on peat land ... heavy smoke ... half of Sea Island was peat, half trees ... farmed only certain areas ... 4" max. otherwise burn off would get into peat ... fire following World War II Grauer claims he solved by backfiring ... several large fires earlier in canneries ... fishermen were restricted to

amount brought in but could return for more ... no restricted days  
 ... lumber was brought from Ladner or Vancouver ... 40 yrs. as Reeve  
~~XXXXXX~~ on school Board first ... Austin Harris asked him who  
 could be a trustee & Grauer said in fun that he would and sub-  
 sequently defeated Harris for this position ... Billy Bridge asked  
 him to run for Reeve and he won ... instrumental for upgrading the  
 police and making 13 different drainage systems all into one system.

TAPE 2, SIDE 1