

Henry Jacobson,

Interviewed March 22, 1972.

931 Finn Road

Oldest Finn - Tom fisherman

-born May 8, 1893 in scowhouse/home.

-father Mike Jacobson, came to Richmond about 1890 with Mother from Finland, first went to Westham Island - Henry (oldest son) born - went to first grade few months - all moved to Finn Road with scowhouse where brother Tom now lives - age of 6 - Henry resumed school at English School Shell Rd. with oldtimers Charlie Oldfield, Herb Marrington, Vera McMyn, Hustons No. 6 Rd. - 27 children in school - some walked 5 miles - Henry only walked 3 miles - were hundreds of scow houses, fishermen lived in - no dam here then, father brought scowhouse up slough at end of road, 7 gates - Clement owned all the property - Father bought 10 acre block - lucky road later came along by house - some homes behind had no frontage when road in - Dixon also owned land - all timber, brush, spruce, cedar cottonwood 52 acre across road (Frenchman) bought it - had Finn wife, all loggers from Westminster - paid \$40 an acre, not cleaned - Blairs paid \$25 an acre before Henry's time - went to school with Archie Blair, son on Council -

-Henry remembers being paid 50¢ an hour for work (early)

-went to school with Einar Heckman, Westham Is. schoolhouse there yet.

-moved to Finn Road 1898-not much schooling - at 11 years was pulling boats for father, fisherman - couldn't make money farming - sack of snuds 60¢ couldn't sell - had pigs, got \$2.00 a piece for 6 wk. old pigs to market by rowboat or sternwheeler at Westminster - only went to school wintertime - planted 2-3 acres carrots - Henry weeded carrots summers - got 35¢ a 100 lb. sack at market, Westminster - loaded boat at nearby Green Slough, down river, sail up if west wind on high tides, sometimes had to pull boat - once took 2 ton spuds, story of rotting

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Henry Jacobson

dumped into river.

- all scared then [^]spuds - Chinamen used to put stove pipe in sack, big spuds around, sewed up sack - ruined spud business - taxes on 10 acre block were \$35.00 a year for many years was \$4.00 a year 60 years ago.
 - married Ene Luikkaanen June 9, 1916 in Vancouver - had house 3 years before - re other school friends - Kidd girl had to walk from No. 5 Rd George Walker from No. 9 Rd. later shot by accident, Joe and Fred Sales, Charlie Oldfield lived in little house on corner, then bigger house.
 - at school, rushed through lunch, played football, recess in afternoon.
 - after school, summers milled boats for father (no machines) fished cottonwood, then Woodward Slough - one day early we had 90 sockeye salmon (with poor net) - some got 300 fish - sold 10¢ a piece - later got 800 out of one pool but couldn't sell - so tried to sail to Pt. Roberts, (U.S.) boat turned back and cannery offered have been fish all night, got 12¢ a piece - called into boiler room paid everyone with gold coins from sack (\$20, \$10, \$5) and change in silver.
 - sailing boats came 3 in Steveston (4 nasted) 1 in Westham Is. came to load fish end of season in wooden boxes, right to sunwales - mostly went to England.
 - is life member of Fisherman's Union - on death, wife gets \$1,000 and \$150 for burial - brother Tom hi-liner re fishing, good hunter and fisherman.
 - Henry went 35 years up Rivers Inlet 300 miles away - big seas there - fish price small first years.
- Children: 2 sons born in house, daughter Ladner Hospital, Henry Walter, born April 13, 1918 now with Crown Zellerbach Paper Co., Eva, Mrs. Wagner, Eve's Dress Store, Richmond, Andy Edward, fisherman, Gilbert Rd. and 3 grandchildren.

When 1st came here, all hand dykes. As youngster climbed through fields to Steveston, flood time.

-brother Alec drowned at age of 6 in Green Slough, Halstrom neighbor came in morning after father dragged slough all night - Alec played there always - too young when started school so kent out "fired from school" Other family of Henry: brothers, Richard, Steveston; Jack and Tom nearby; sister Mary (Mrs. Feaby) widow.

-misses freedom of old days - recalls only 1 policeman (Englishman) later 2 policemen including Harris.

-in summer brought Chinamen and Indians in scows across Gulf to work canneries (25 on river then) Cannery Pass, Cottonwood, Westminster and Westham Is. - 6 hotels in Steveston - drunk - so 6-7 policemen in summer - jail in Steveston full to roof in morning - judge drunk all time - Indian Agent helped out Indians who were drunk - same judge made out Henry's parcels bought acre from father.

-trapped Vancouver Island always with partner, Tom or Frank, Bna - rum runners from U.S. came up with high speed boats, bought couple mink - gone in daylight on Pre-war Is.?

-plane loaded from Dixon's field, nearby, for U.S. - Dixon was municipal bookkeeper - hall paid 10¢ a piece for muskrat tails, 20¢ for skins - took 300 muskrat tails one time.

-Herb Marrington's Uncle once owned land No. 5 Road Westminster Hwy., lots water there.

-Bog fires burnt all summer - got bucket full in no time for selves - Chinamen came with baskets to pick, started fires - bog was 16 ft. down some places - from Woodward's up 2 miles to dump is deepest place in bog.

Drainage: New ditch, narrower drains lies fields - municipality cleans ditch.

Fishing record was in July.

-every 4 years big ones came - couldn't sell sockeye so dumped 500 in Green Slough.

1913 C.N.R. built railroad to Hell's Gate - fish died - couldn't get up river so built fish ladder - big runs still come every 4 years but late from Gulf - now fishing for Spring salmon.

re Fires - recalls Les Gilmore's potato pit burning - pumped water from Green Slough, buckets, no fire Department then - hole burned in roof by wires.

-Big dyke broke through same time - phoned Gilley's got rock.

-worked on flood box for municipality - built new one for \$40,000 further down on quicksand - warning ignored - very high tide, net rack at Anderson's Slough - box leaking, sand coming through - ran on dyke to McNair's place - Engineers arrived - another flood box built on piles cost \$70,000 but piles held.

-Archie Blair, friend came by for advice - re pumps at Pitt Meadows - now 3 pumps and floodbox in use.

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