

Mr. George Mackie

Interviewed April 18, 1972

In 1903 - apprenticed at Ben Rose's Machine shop as a young man - (discusses Ben Rose and Sid Watts) talks about the early drum-drive invented by Rose and Watta - speaks about Fraser freezing in earlier days - born in Steveston proper, father was Dave Mackie who built and owned but did not operate the Richmond Hotel - hotels catered to duck hunters in Autumn and Winter - men of means came out to Steveston for hunting - discusses duck and geese on Terra Nova flats and in the adjacent fields inside the dyke - heavy rain in 1922 or 1923 ruined most crops - talks about this - fogs came in Fall of the year - fogs at night - sometimes a fog would last as long as a week - (story about driving to town in Model T during a heavy fog) - went first to Steveston School and later to Bridgeport school - Harvey Walker was a school chum and that family later took over Hunts Store making it Walker's Emporium - about 12 Japanese Children went to Steveston School - at that time there was about 50 children in the 2 room school - mother went to school with first 2 Japanese children - their father was a boat builder talks about Maypole celebrations in Brighthouse - May 24th in Steveston there were horse and foot races on 2nd Ave. - more on May 24th in Brighthouse - (story about finding and drinking some whiskey at age of 3) - Children were chased away from front of Steveston Hotels - talks about crawling under wooden sidewalks to find loose silver coins - Austin Harris, the Chief of Police, was firm about boys staying away from Hotels - went swimming in drainage canal by the dyke near Steveston Highway - went swimming later in "the gap" - an opening in the jetty - later went swimming in South Arm off the docks - early swimming done in "birthday suits" - Dr. Hepworth lived on 3rd Ave. and a block up from Chatham - he was step-son of Dr. Hepworth-lived next to Opera House that was built and owned by Mackie's father - operated by

a man called Nicholson - in early days, Opera House housed a club which was only place one could get a drink - boxing arena was located opposite where B.C. Packers now have an office - ferry would land at Steveston Cannery wharf bringing people from Victoria to see boxing matches - sold peanuts at the Arena - held at least 500 people - "bowl" design in this Arena and later at the Brighthouse Arena - (Interurban trams stories) - Rifle Range used by people wishing target practice - talks about Tram schedules - talks about Hemfields, possibly owners of big house on No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway - discusses chores as a boy - talks about slabs of wood used by canneries for their boilers being left over after fishing season and sold to local people - also coal - stumps brought over from Vancouver Island in scows to be sold for firewood - talks about "shingle bolts" taken from stumps of cedar - discusses stumpage - describes McCleery Stove - talks about out-houses and the cleaning thereof - talks about the S.O.S. (Soldiers of the Soil) during W.W.I - worked on farm after school at \$4.00 a day and board 1914 - worked on farms until he left school - worked in canneries as tallyman - describes this - discusses fish prices - went seining in 1926 and talks about fish prices - discusses 1913 as last big salmon run and gives prices and boat limits - excess fish thrown back into South Arm so that there were "masses of them" floating about - talks about farmers using dead fish as fertilizer - talks about Hong Wo store buying fish from Cold Storage when it was pulled down and using the old frozen fish as fertilizer for his fields - talks about oilery - discusses tug that took offal - scows to oilery Is. - discusses Woodward's Landing ferry to Ladner - discusses the erection of high tension wires from Woodward's Landing to Ladner - talks about Lam who was proprietor of Hong Wo and the store itself - talks about Mah Bings farm - talks about geese migrations - Brandt's are described - talks about

lacrosse team as a medium of social contact with various parts of Lulu Is. - churches also provide intra-island social contacts - talks about basketball sponsored by churches - strawberry festivals provided good eats - talks about social function of strawberry festivals that made a little money for the church - talks about dances at Brighthouse Clubhouse and Orange Hall - first movies shown at old Opera House - twice-a-week - basketball team went as far away as Chilliwack -(talks about this) - discusses fishing on North and Middle Arms of the Fraser - talks about canneries there - in early Steveston days, river water was for washing and drinking water brought in by tank-wagons from Marpole and sold - maybe 25¢ a bucket (?) - talks about "washout" at New Westminster that affected piped water in Richmond - there was no water for awhile and the tank-wagon system reintroduced - also, people got river water to put in their hot water tanks so that these would not explode - talks about wooden watermains vs. steel pipes and the arguments for steel pipes by a man called Rock - some canneries generated their own electricity others used gas - light - telephones came later - in 1918 a big fire burned out Lighthouse, Star and Steveston - Star, Richmond, and Landon Hotels - Brick Block was gutted but not destroyed - talks about "reels" from Marpole - referring to reels of hose on a wagon - (school story about fire) - canneries smoldered for days and cans would pop for some time - started in Chinese house of Star Cannery - strong wind helped - Hotels weren't rebuilt because business had fallen off seriously - Sockeye Hotel (Steveston) only one doing business - 1915 - 1922 was time of Canadian Prohibition - (Stories about this) - talks about Riefels big boat loading Whiskey for U.S. - (Dillinger story) - Chief of Police murder story, Charlie Main - C.N. railroad story - (4 mastered schooner story) - early airplanes from Brighthouse in field - talks about air-field north of

handedown track

Tape 20 Side 1