

Mr. H.W. McKimInterviewed April 17, 1972.

1120 No. 3 Road

Thomas Nelson McKim, father came from Napanee, Ont. 1883, 1 year then California til 1886 returned. - started blacksmith shop Bridgeport by old Lulu Is. Bridge to Eburne, Sea Is. - 1902 moved to farm bought 10 acres at 844 Steveston Hwy. - dairying and vegetables - 1916 started strawberries - biggest Island growers - sold on road, as fresh fruit - 1920's sold to Empress Cannery, Vancouver - had 2 acres strawberries - 2-3 acres raspberry - had 13 acres raspberries til 1944 - spray all fruit essential still have 50 acres strawberries - older brother, 2 sisters older, all died 1 younger brother - Ernest George McKim, 1 younger sister, Mrs. Alice Viola McKay - H. W. McKim born 1904 at family home, Richmond - walked 2 miles to English school, corner Shell Road and Steveston Hwy. - teachers: Miss McNeely, Miss Estabrook, Miss Linus (dead) - did chores night and morning - loved milking cows - 10 cows cross-breeds - team of horses for ploughing - always raised a pig for salt pork in winter - curing done on Shannon St., South Granville, bacon.

-bought meat at Steveston, Pat Burns shop - later years Joe Stein peddled meat door - to - door in 1930's

-to New Westminster to Agricultural Fair - lasted 2 - 3 weeks - drove horse and buggy, democrat, to Westminster - hay, oats, grain shipped by barge, boat from London or Woodward's Wharf - 30 days threshing on Island - McCulloch on nearby land - 4 big steam outfits: Ketcheson, Jack Cook's, Gilmore, McMyr John Savage. - McKim worked on most of these - including sackers, buffers, sewers - went to Bridgeport school 1 year - ride on neighbors buggies.

-drove school bus with brother (E.G. ) Total 8 years - drove with Dave Dick, Alfred Jewell (still alive) - McKim drove route: No. 3 Rd., Finn Rd. up No. 4 Rd. down Steveston Highway - school bus fixed over from Ford

- 2 -

H. W. McKim

truck -later rules for closed bus so quit - no flood trouble - 1906 - big flood and again 1948 - 1927 brothers formed Berrydale Farms Ltd., A.N. McKim, E.G. and H.W. - had purebred holsteins 102 on big farm corner Gilbert and Steveston Hwy. (now sold) - all by machines.

-Operate under same name with berries - still 60 acres left, 30 acres sold and leased back for 2 years from Rideau Investments Ltd.

-3 brothers had farm at Salmon Arm - purebred Hereford - cattle ranch - bought it 1954, sold 1960 - used to have heavy rains, fields flooded before got pumps - 1920's shot lots of ducks, geese, pheasant behind house - 10 years ago game scarcer, restrictions -lots of pheasants on own property but not allowed to hunt - used to hunt Salmon Arm, big game in Caribou - married 1936 to Miss Errington, died - 1 son Robert H. farms at Ladner married second time 1966 to Sarah Malough who was a Gillespie.

Social life early: dances Orange Hall, Marpole Theatre via driving to Brighthouse, left buggy, took tram - odd barn dance.

when 3 brothers started: bought 40 acres No. 4 and Steveston Hwy., owned 30 acres No. 3 Road and Francis, had 110 acres between McKenzie and Gilbert, have 60 acres here (including old homestead) - recalls police chiefs: Austin Harris, Andy Waddell, Alfie Johnston, rum running done by boat - from Twigg Is. to International waters change over to American ships - Twigg Is. was dairying; once owned by Charlie Oldfield's mother and brother - Twigg Island Dairy started, bought by Crawford Bros.

-liquor also crossed line by cars. - saw 1st plane take-off Minoru Park -problems with mastitis, and abortion before inoculations, cows - vet came early days from Vancouver when phoned - early doctors were Dr. Hepworth, Dr. Graves - Nurse - Mrs. Lee (dead now) lived Shell Rd.

-when electricity came, fathers farm, put in own poles, co-strung the line, came in lane off Steveston Hwy. - recalls wall crank phone.

- 3 -

H. W. McKim

-caught rain water from eaves of house - 800 gal. wooden stoves, 1920 wooden main came in - river water to wash, boil - drinking water came in milk cans from Marpole - own separate cans - Steves on stage from Steveston picked up milk in cans - got wood from River, washed in by tide - for wood and coal stove - no pollution then.

-wild pigs on west side Lulu Is. before 1908 - brother shot a deer in E. Richmond - also crabapple ridge on west side - McKim's grew 5 acres logan-berries - sold to Vancouver Growers Winery in 1930's - late 1930's Rathbun on Blundell grew berries, had winery (son Charlie alive)

Whalen owned or managed Sockeye Hotel - daughter living at Boundary Bay - 1948 flood, worked on dykes as foreman - slept in trucks and cars - no water east of No. 5 Road - fog fires - air thick with smoke - peat 7-8" deep smolders - 1920's could sell wild game - shot game one year with brother - season opened 7 a.m. by 11 a.m. had quota.

TAPE 18 - SIDE 1 and 2.