

S. M. Mitchell

Interviewed May 1, 1972.

House built on Westminster Highway east of No. 6 Road - talks about friendliness of people - born 1909 lived all his life on property on Westminster Highway - talks about Uncle coming in early days (1876) and get Mitchell Is. he was a bridge builder - early house of Uncle's still standing near Musqueam reservation - father came in 1882 rented rented Brighthouse Estates before present home which he got in 1907 - talk about his father and those adventures with the Indians - went to Trites School age of 5 to fill a quorum - school located No. 7 Rd. and Westmins Highway - moved twice since then - talks about gravel and clay and plank roads - heard machine guns at Rifle Range - (farmer story about bullets hitting barn) - talks about Mathew McNair - started early dairy-(horses and democrat story) - during W.W.I, Mitchell family sold cream only, used milk for feeding cattle - discusses quality of cream - lots of milk in those days - two neighbors both called Wrights but unrelated - (discusses them) - story about mules used by the Wrights -(Mule stuck in ditch story) - wood came from Eburne Saw Mills - built home in 1907 and got lumber from New Westminster - heavy snow so wood was carted by sled talks about converting wagons to sleighs - Vancouver horses, of which there were many, were fed by Lulu Is. hay and grain - talks about Livingstone hauling to New Westminster via Queensboro and describes route and early bridge - talks about early C.N. track laid to anticipate Steveston boom that never came - talks about early farm experiences as a boy - talks about milking cows - always had pigs that were used for lard -(cow that didn't like women or children story) - general comments about farm animals then and now - had turkeys - (story about horsehip and turkeys) - chores for all children then - talks about heavy timber around No. 6 Road that was lost due to a fire about 1884 - spruce mainly found even to-day as stumps - cedar used as sills for barn -

talks about early canning by Swensons (relatives of Mrs. Savage) on Westham Is. - talks about early construction of canneries being accomplished by Cannery people rather than architects - Trites school had about 6 grades - left school about age 13 or 14 - many boys in those days went to school only during winter being required to work on farm during the rest of the year - (discusses this) - talks about transition of chores into regular work on farm - boys wanted to prove themselves among men - talks about threshing procedures - in old days people made their own entertainment - house parties discussed - (Barn raising and dance stories) - early dance music on farms was chiefly violins - Santa Clause at School and at home in early days - schools raised own money by whist drives, box lunches etc. for picnic or little organ - (describes box lunch procedures) - talks about farmers trusting each other and helping each other - much trading then for staples - eggs were used as money - egg money was considered house money - talks about Grauer's store being paid once a year by farm stock - staples bought in bulk also from Woodward's in Vancouver - Cordova was main street then - discusses early livery stable - practices in Vancouver - most outside help was Chinese - had Chinese cook - all ditches and canals dug by hand by Chinese - 90¢ per day - one Contractor who handled all labor arrangements - many Chinese farms on Lulu Is. - on Cambie Rd. several Chinese farmers - names them - Chinese kept hogs for the manure for gardens - discusses this - (hog stories) - Chinese placed roasted whole hogs on new groves - talks about Indians placing dead in trees - Indians sometimes wandered out toward No. 6 Road to pick blueberries - often found arrowheads on farm land - (story about Uncle collecting arrowheads, shells, and clubs) - various stories about Uncle Gerald Mitchell - early Indian and White men stories

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Chinese fed selves and lived in bunkhouse of Contractor - Chinese mostly did ditching and land clearing - discusses draining of fields - talks about hard hadk and jackpine - talks about bog fires set on purpose by Chinese to improve blueberries - bog fires fought by farmers living near bogs - talks about this - plank road burnt out under feet one year - drinking water was rainwater - father sank well for washing water although it had high content of iron - animals drank it however - talks about wooden mains carrying water from Coquitlam via Queensboro - bog fires lasted for months and sometimes burned wooden pipes - (more bog fire stories) - talks about early flooding by rainwater - early airplane races from Minoru Park to New Westminster bothered horses on the farms - talks about early flying service from field next to Lansdowne to Victoria and Seattle - first racing at Minoru Park was sulky racing - later came mounted racing - went to Orange Hall for School dance - Canada geese flew in to big cranberry swamp at end of No. 7 Road - feed on farms at night - white geese or snow geese were on Sturgeon Banks - talks about this - talks about various plank roads in early days - early days - most farms had wharfs and buildings right on water - discusses this.

TAPE 21 - SIDE B END A.