

MR. CARLO & MRS. ALICE NEILSON - (Richmond United Church)

INTERVIEWED:

February 18, 1975

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Mrs. Neilson came to Richmond 1921 from Prairies at age 10. Mr. Neilson joined church 1936 (Danish) - Mrs. Neilson joined Richmond Methodist Church at its location, Cambie & River Road - comments on impressions after coming from Prairies.

Interior of church - description of Sunday School areas.

Exterior - church stalls outside for stabling horses used in carriages.

Reverend J. J. Nixon was Minister.

Gives names of Sunday School teachers and other children.

Events

Sunday School picnics described -

- meals
- travel (Model T. car)
- Mr. Dick's school bus.

Gives description of Richmond at the time - stores, farms, schools. Church Hall built on site of stables.

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Heating of church

Kitchenmaster stove fed by wood or coal. Mr. Neilson caretaker when he came.

Union 1925

Union between Methodists & Presbyterians voted on by each congregation. Many Presbyterians chose not to join. Description of feelings of people about union.

Rev. J. Wesley Miller minister at union 1924 - 1928, very enthusiastic - 'happiest day of my life when put up the sign of Richmond United Church'.

Church Hall put in time of Rev. Archibald. Great asset during Depression Era for meeting place for young people. Mr. Neilson, gymnast from Denmark, took gymnastic classes, started 2nd Richmond Scout Group.

60th Anniversary, 1948 - film donated taken by Mr. Neilson. Speaker Dr. Tefler - from Presbytery or Conference.

Rev. Archibald

During his tenure, Brighthouse congregation established. Very active groups at Richmond - plays, badminton club. Richmond growing quite fast. Minister of Richmond became minister of Two-Point charge of Richmond - Brighthouse. Talks starting then of moving Richmond church - church on river bank, less accessible. Move to move it across road from brand new Cambie High School. Offer to trade site on River Road for new site - defeated by one vote. Discussion continued many years. Once inter-urban came in, walk too far from station. Final choice of site limited by available lots. Lot approx. \$15,000. for 2 acres, property of Mrs. Sexsmith.

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Move of church

Older building had been condemned because of stove being fire hazard. Possibility of repairing, but other factors of location determined final decision. Mike Silobodec offered \$25,000. for lot but municipal regulations re zoning prevented this. Final sale \$23,000. to municipality. Church hall now used as Rod & Gun Club. Municipality moved church for completion of corner of Brighthouse subdivision. Reeve Anderson, Mayor at time, wanted it kept as historic site.

Chairman of Building Committee -
- Don Harwood.

Tenders received, - L.D. Boyd's accepted.

Congregation had ~~rise~~ of church until new building completed. Sod-turning ceremony described. Opening ceremony - June 1961. Cornerstone laid by Mr. A.E. Baker (father of Mrs. Neilson).

Mr. Neilson describes Architect and change in original design of Cross above Communion table - suggestion by Mr. Neilson re wood Cross.

Many of congregation moved, some did not.

Great contribution of Mr. Bene, a Hungarian woodworker, mentioned - communion table and baptismal font.

M. NOBLE