

TEACHING

MRS. ALICE NIELSON - 1753 - 168 St., Surrey, B.C.

INTERVIEWED:

March 17, 1975

T.40.2

Qualifications

- U.B.C. Arts Degree, 1933 - received certificate (academic)
 - major in English & History; 5th year education
- Summer School - writing & art course.

School Board

- Located in small room over entrance of the now Cambie High School
- School Board Secretary was a part-time employee
- Chairman 1933 - Mr. Murchinson
1934 - Mr. Arthur Laing

Sea Island School Sept. 1934 - Dec. 1935

- Segregated school for Japanese children
- Three room school located at Vancouver Cannery, N.W. Corner of Sea Island (Cannery had ceased to operate).
- School children from homes originally built for Vancouver & Acme Canneries.
- Japanese School Board - responsible for school maintenance
- School yard - planks around school area
- Language difficulties in isolated colony - Japanese not allowed to be spoken in the school yard
- Mr. Bruce was then the school inspector
- December, 1935 - population was decreasing, and school now had 2 classrooms
 - teachers then, Mary Thompson (now Mrs. Paxton) & Norton Fitchett

Lord Byng School 1935

- School population 3/4 Japanese
- Employed only one Japanese teacher (for Grade 1)
- V. Z. Manning was the school inspector

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- Retired from teaching, married in summer of 1935 -
married women were excluded from the teaching profession.

Cambie Junior High School 1955 - 1965

- Taught Grade 7 and 8 English & Social Studies - tells of
Grade 7 text regarding a hoax
- Later taught foods after a summer school course
- Home Economics - talks of the course

Summary

"The more things change, the more they are the same".

A.L. DYBALL

STUDENT

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Bridgeport School

- Started Grade 3 in 1921, had a choice of attending Mitchell School or Bridgeport School
 - lived on North Arm at foot of Shell Road
 - family moved to Richmond from central Alberta
- Staff consisted of seven elementary teachers and three high school teachers
 - names teachers & grades taught
- School amenities:
 - Electric Light & telephone
 - Indoor toilets - describes same, also wall mirrors
 - Hand bell used - describes line up.
- Classes:
 - Started with the Lord's Prayer
 - Hands behind back until after roll call
 - Emphasis on the 3 R's - describes in detail
 - Supplies limited - books scarce and expensive
 - Physical Education - drills outside, weather permitting
- Library:
 - In glass case at top of stair landing; names some of the books
- Important Event - Christmas concert
 - Held in classroom in upper east corner - this class had a stage
- Manual training started about 1923-24 after P.T.A. urging
 - Part of basement play space used for this

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- Sewing in Grade 7, half a day once a week
 - About 1925 a dressmaker, Mrs. J.D. Davis, was hired by the School Board to instruct Grades 7 - 10.
- Transportation
 - Mrs. Nielson walked to school - describes walk on River Road
 - A few highschool students still drove a horse & buggy
 - Special tram for high school students followed a regular tram

Richmond High School (now Cambie)

- Site declared to be geographical centre of Island
- Mrs. Nielson in the first class to graduate from the new school
 - No graduating ceremonies
 - Banquet at Brighthouse Club House at Christmas - dancing not allowed at the event
- All students wrote Junior Matriculation exams sent out from Victoria.

Teachers

- One source was the Maritime Provinces
 - Females were highly educated, very idealistic and conservative
 - Recalls Miss Helena Esterbrook
- Male graduates from U.B.C.
 - Recalls Arnold Webster, Gerald Evans and Lacey Fisher

Gerald Evans -- established chemistry lab. in basement of Bridgeport School

Lacey Fisher &

Gerald Evans - Introduced one-act plays, staged at opera house in Steveston

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Other Points of Interest

- Curriculum - talks of limited courses
- Improvements in Richmond High School (1927)
 - Science lab., although as yet no domestic science room
 - Buzzer system - manually operated.

A.L.DYBALL