

Interviewed: March 30, 1976Tape 67, 3

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Don Banister - Researcher

- He took up Kendo in the pre-war days.
- The practices were held around Chatham & No. 1 Road in Steveston.
- The Club was bigger in the pre-war days.
- There are different ranks that one can achieve in Kendo.
- As a beginner, there are many skills to learn before one can get to wear a uniform.
- Some of the pre-war Kendo teachers are still teaching today.
- There were more kids involved in Kendo at that time than there are today.
- Talks about the instructors.
- Before the war, there were several Black Belts in the Kendo Club.
- Today's present instructor and assistant-instructor had their Black Belts then, plus several retired instructors---he names one such retired instructor, Mr. Akune.
- The Club is supported by non-participating members.
- The instructors are not paid.
- A uniform is called "Hakama Uragi"----is shipped from Japan.
- If you really want good equipment, some parts can run into money.
- The Club has been holding Annual Tournaments for 14 years.
- These Tournaments are sometimes hosted by the Steveston Kendo Club with participants coming from such places as Hawaii, Los Angeles, etc.
- The Steveston Kendo Club is affiliated with the B. C. Kendo Federation and the Canadian Kendo Federation.
- The facilities for the Kendo Club have greatly improved from the pre-war days.
- Talks about present day facilities.
- Talks about children, ages 10 - 17, being side-tracked from Kendo by other interests then return of the interest when they get little older.
- Talks about the difficulty of hiring an instructor from Japan.
- The Steveston Kendo Club has 27th-Degree Black Belts.