

Mrs. Charles Oldfield

Interviewed March 9, 1972.

Mrs. Merle Shaner, daughter of Charlie Oldfield

Daughter Mrs. Merle Shaner born 1909, second daughter Charles Oldfield; Old homestead was 100 acres on Finn Road and No. 3 Road, and 60 acres further down, now Crown Zellerbach owns.

- sisters - oldest was Mabel, Mrs. Elliott, Ladner, and Hazel youngest, Mrs. Barker, Ladner.

- born at home on No. 3 Road between Finn Rd. and Steveston Hwy. -

father farming - at age 6 years - kicked by horse "Ben" - unconscious (in hospital) 17 days - scared horse with Japanese box of grass - afraid of horses - rode some work horses - walked to English school - Mother took them rainy days - teachers Miss Mary Hartan, Miss Miller, Mr. King liked sports, baseball - played hockey with Hazel - 2 ways to go to school - No. 3 Road had bush so sat in trees, ate lunch - Bill Alexander hired hand for father - brought bag chocolate bars for girls - was Maid of Honor, Mrs. Harris (Thomas Kidd's daughter) was May Queen at festivities when Merle was 9 or 10 on May 24 - dinner at Brighthouse Race Track, parade danced with Mayor Rudy Grauer - was runner - in relay race for Richmond won gold medal - called "deer" of Richmond - attending Bridgeport school - to grade 8 then helped mother on farm - made rose beads on Saturdays got jar of wild roses - made perfume - sister's family collected roses - hunters came out to father's farm for ducks, pheasants geese - more then because farms there now are homes - her husband hunted pheasants - then went to Caribou - fished at end of river on wharf got bullheads and shiners - fish hooks were bent pin, thread tree branch with worm attached - in later years sport fishing clams, oysters, salmon - no swimming, water too cold.

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Mrs. C. Oldfield
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Married 1932 to James L. Shaner - 2 years moved to Kerrisdale - then lived in Richmond on Bridgenort Rd. - fathers horses for plowing, hauling loads hay -

-as children the 3 sisters "lived in the barn" - groomed horses - played hide and seek with young calves - Swedish and Finnish children also played in large red barn (now painted white) - on her birthday also played games in barn - went to school with Bert Mutch later a member of Vancouver Police who now has a race horse.

-went to Fraser River to fish - picked salmonberries up dyke - lots wild blackberries those days - made preserves, pies from blackberries on their farms - sisters made \$10 picking berries father took to cannery in Vancouver - bought 10-12 lb. fish from Finns.

-in April buy pelicans at Woodward's Landing - fry for longtime crisp - fishermen salt barrels of them down in winter - husband had bakery (Rye Krisp), trucking then Marpole Machine Shop.

-Finnish Henry Jacobson lives on Finn Rd. - remembers how good father was to children - always brought bulk ice cream in glass jar from last store returning from trip to Vancouver - girls sat in hay loft eating bags of candy - went to meet father team and wagon with Merle's and Hazel's new bikes - 3 mile walk to school - gave teacher stolen apples from Sammy Gilmore's place - orchard very old so didn't mind - big plums, pears - churned own butter, curds, buttermilk.

Widow recalls Charles Oldfield helping neighbors - died at 86.

-lots of bog fires other side of Westminster Hwy. on other side of No. 4 Road - furniture factory burned - chickens burned alive.

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NOTE EXTRA: Charles Oldfield's mother, Mrs. Sara Oldfield owned Twigg Island earlier, Charlie's brother Bill later lived on Island.
-Charles Oldfield a director of P.N.E. since 1910(start)...plaque.

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