

Mr. R. William Spires

Interviewed March 11, 1972.

1131 Cambie Road.

- Father Robert Harry Spires came to Richmond 1922 from farming at Red Deer Alberta - had 10 acre strip back on Cambie - Bill was 9 years old when arrived with sister Ettie, Mrs. Setter (now lives on 58th St., Vancouver) - went to 2 room Mitchell school, grade 3 - teachers Miss Hoy now Mrs. Middleton - then to Bridgeport school 1 year - then Cambie School, built (5 room) - played basketball at St. Thomas Anglican Church now East Richmond Community Hall (built 1925 or 1926) also gym there.
- family grew strawberries by hand - everyone had few acres then - now 20-30 acres grown other side No. 5 Road by Mays, Savages - pumps in now - better drainage - lots of water on land earlier - father worked on roads (early) for Municipality 10-12 years - on Council 1935 - 45 - most cows ever had was 16 mostly Jerseys - now raises calves for beef - rented some pasture land - water piped in when came - in 1922 no electricity past 1/4 mile east of Cambie Station - paid by poles.
- Father out from England in 1901 to Richmond for 2 years for C.P.R. then homesteaded.
- phone lines down the road
- shipped milk to Fraser Valley - farming.
- Married Margaret Pride of Stettler in 1914; 2 sons, Bob, married, lives at Francis and No. 3 Road; Bill teaching at Prince George.
- prices in 30's beef brought 2-3¢ a lb. compare to-day 17¢ live weight a lb.
- never a sidewalk along Cambie
- in 1922 No. 5 Road was a plank road starting half mile south of Cambie thru to Steveston Highway.

- 2 -

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-went in on tram to movies in Kerrisdale, or Fraser.

-played badminton after school days in 1930 at old gym at Richmond High School, now Cambie High, under Richmond Athletic Club.

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