

MRS. F. STUCHBERRY

- (St. Joseph's Catholic Church)

MRS. G. PARKER

INTERVIEWED:

April 30, 1975

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Mrs. Stuchberry

Came to live in Steveston in 1921, living at 426 Steveston Highway. She was attending the Catholic Church in Marpole.

Two Sisters came out from Graymoor, New York to start the Mission in Steveston in 1932 - Sister Antonette and Sister Mary Angelus.

They started holding services in a small house on Second Avenue in Steveston, living in the upper floor. They held a nursery for Japanese children from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the cost of 10¢ per day. There were 6 or 7 children in the beginning.

Father Quigley came out from Vancouver and started a church on Second Avenue. There was a church on the second floor and the lower floor for the kindergarten. The quarters for the Sisters were at the back.

On entering from Second Avenue, one went right to go upstairs. The upstairs held pews for about 30 people at first, and as the congregation grew they moved partitions out and added more pews, prior to 1942.

Father Dominic Kenny came after Father Quigley and lived on Pleasant St. in Steveston in a house rented from Mrs. Burdette.

The Rectory at 1181 Second Avenue was built a year after the church, and the Sisters continued to live in the church hall.

§ Move of the Japanese

With the outbreak of hostilities, the Japanese

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population was moved out of Steveston and the Sisters chose to go with them, and there were no Sisters until around 1946, after the war.

In 1949, the Mission was declared a Church, and more groups were meeting. There was a Catholic Women's League, holding dances and bazaars, and other fund-raising events.

There were fewer Japanese attending after the war, but there were some French people coming in.

In 1958 Father Agnellus Pickelle came and a new church was started in 1966 on Williams Road. The decision was made because of the growth of the Parish. The Church Council undertook the planning and it took 2 - 5 years of work.

The Blessing of the new church was on April 30, 1967. Both ladies attended.

There are plans to sell and demolish the old church after they built a rectory at the side of the new church.

Mrs. Parker (Mrs. Stuchberry's daughter)

Her wedding was the first in the life of St. Joseph's - being held in 1934 at the home of the Priest before the church was built. Her family have continued at the church.

She was an active member of the C.W.L., but it was disbanded about 1968 through lack of attendance. There is no kindergarten or day-care now.

MURIEL NOBLE