

MRS. EDNA DICK - (Richmond United Church)

INTERVIEWED

February 4, 1975

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Joined Richmond United Church from Manitoba 1926 when it was located Cambie & River Road. The church had a wood shed at the back not present in structure at Minoru.

Interior

- Lighting: - (2 chandeliers, similar to present day, but nicer and with more lights)
- Heating: - Big pot-bellied stove supplied with wood
- Flooring: - Hardwood; cold in winter; scrubbed by women of the church - caretaking portioned out among families - carpet was bought finally and installed by Eaton's April 1930 (see photo) - bought by the Woman's Associations

Minister of the time was Reverend Wesley Miller. There was room at the back called the Sunday School Room, but it could hold only one class. The body of the church held at times 6 classes of Sunday School, divided by curtains.

Women in the Church

Ladies very active under the WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, later

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the WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

Some Activities

Picnics held at Stanley Park end of June, with Brighthouse United. Travelled by chartered train picked up in Richmond (Steveston train) to Davie Street, transferred to City Railway to gates of park - over 100 people. Dinners consisted of fresh green peas and new potatoes with ham, cold meats and salads - always strawberries and ice-cream. Lasted until 1949, (last year of Mr. Finnermore). Before building of Church Hall 1931, strawberry teas held in stables behind church, scrubbed out by Ladies.

Richmond at the time

Very rural. Congregation consisted at the time of 1926 of farmers, fishermen. No Japanese in congregation - primarily Anglo-Saxon.

Church Hall

Needed and talked about for many years. In the '30's there was a group of 40 young people, with no facilities for social activities. In spite of hard times, the Woman's Group undertook a \$1000. mortgage which took a few years to pay off. Built and opened May 1, 1931 (see program). Served 250 people at the opening ceremony, providing own dishes, cutlery and food.

- Strawberry Festivals held in June
- Plays put on (see photo)
- First Badminton Club in Richmond
- Sunday School transferred out there

Sunday School

Miss Jenny Tapp, Superintendent for many years. Each child received birthday card and party until about 5 years old when expected to enroll in school.

50th Anniversary Celebration

May 1931 - British Columbia Conference of the United Church meeting in Vancouver that year. All delegates including Moderator

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from Toronto invited to attend. Also visited Sea Island Airport, very new at the time. Richmond United and Steveston church Ladies had made two quilts and presented them to Reverend Peter Kelly, skipper of the Crosby IV (missionary ship going to the islands).

Mr. Ketcheson, Mr. Easterbrook and Mrs. Gordon and Mr. Thompson were of original congregation, present at 50th Anniversary.

Youth Groups

Woman's Missionary Society organized groups for the youth.

- Evening Auxiliary for older girls
- C.G.I.T. (Canadian Girls in Training) - 3 groups going
- Explorers for younger girls
- Mission Band for boys and girls

Movement of building

Feeling in 1960 that location poor for access by population. Municipality bought land for moving railway so this settled the decision. All congregation agreeable.

Architects - McCarter, Nairne & Partners

Construction - L. D. Boyd Construction (lowest tender).

Memorials & Gifts Moved

- Pulpit lamp - in memory of HUGH JOHN NELSON
- Pulpit bible - in memory of LILY NELSON
- Portrait of Our Lord in Gethsemane - in memory of ANNE & ELIZABETH KETCHESON (until chapel opened and then returned)
- Silver baptismal tray given by Mr. & Mrs. H.A.McBurney.

Memorials Not Moved

- Chancel window - in memory of DAVID W. JACKSON
- 2 windows - in memory of PHILIP KETCHESON
- Pulpit in memory of MRS. W.T. EASTERBROOK.

Changes to the Church

An extra door was put in after its move to Minoru, a bell was put in the tower and new lighting.