

Mr. and Mrs. David Dick

1035 Cambie Road

Interviewed March 6, 1972.

"Happy Bus"- 30 years

Both grew up, married in Moline, Manitoba, parents came 1879-80 from Ontario - couple came 1926 to Richmond following married sister, father and mother - brought some stock - worked farms, roads, along tram track from Alexander to Granville Ave. - Garden City Road was just a ditch then - 1929 started driving school bus - opened up #4 Road (which was bog - Ferndale Rd. From Garden City to No. 4 Road on Ferndale) - Winter of 1924 no Patterson Road - half mile of No. 5 Road opened - had been previously opened and "gone to seed again" - no Westminster Highway from No. 5 Road through to half way between No. 6 and No. 7 ending at Mitchell farm - Westminster Highway was from No. 3 up to the dyke - east was plank road - put in clay, gravel bush - 1929 Trites School closed corner No. 7 and Westminster Highway - 20-23 children from there came to Bridgeport School advertised for driver- with brother-in-law D.W. Jackson, Dick built own bus - bought chassis in Vancouver, Ford Company at Robson - bus ran 1929-1939 - remembers happy times with children from East end - switched after number of years from Bridgenort to Mitchell School - no anti-freeze in radiators so drained at night heat water for 7 a.m. - 3 trucks only early on Westminster Hwy., 2 school, 1 milk truck - some children his passengers all their school life - some second generation school bus passengers - new bus after 1939 was 50 passenger - Bridgeport run took in tram track - teachers walked little kids over to tram at 2:30 p.m. - kids went to Garden City and as far as Blundell - persuaded School Board bus could transport children better than trams - teachers delighted - later 3 runs in for school bus - by 1959 taking 150 children to school and home a day - all good kiddies - also had picnics, charter work - all bus drivers owned own bus under 1 year contracts then changed to

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3 year contracts - 4 buses running from beginning - each had different districts - 1 bus each Sea Island, Terra Nova, Steveston, East end - switched runs sometimes - Stuchberry ran bus out of Steveston (high School) once refused to drive girls - no damage to bus - fights in bus - answer was half mile from home you walked - effective if parents saw you walking or other boys tormented - during first week new passenger always got 1 walk - anecdote - lots of foggy weather, not the population to air then - charter trips Japs boys to baseball, basketball, ju jitsu - disgrace was when cleared Japanese (World War 2) got school buses to pick up for trains - from Ladner district - anecdote re good neighbors - Jap boys gentlemen - no Indian children - children played jokes on Dick - oolicans in spring - family and neighbors element - bus free to school - paid 10¢ a piece or 25¢ a mile when bus charter to Vancouver - 3 bus loads to Stanley Park on picnics - roller skating to English Bay - annual high school banquets at Sylvia Court, Dutchman's Cafe, Pygmalion - return about midnight - teachers with them Mr. McNeil from high school - principals backed up drivers if trouble on bus - gather up 50 children in 20 minutes - kids threw mittens in bus corner - usually knew whose it was - shy child from prairies didn't want to put <sup>N</sup>luch kit down - beginners cry before home if mother was out - eager first few days for school - one boy kissed all girls - incident re boy misbehaving (disturbance) - singing Girl Guides to Hastings Park stopped bus by "swing song" - Japanese wrestling to Mission - annual athletic meets Mission, U.B.C. - Church Sunday School picnics - Catholics, Buddhists, United - girls sewing class to Lynn Valley - one boy went to 3 picnics.

When first came had team of horses, 3 cows, chickens - bought house built by Truswell - re floods - frost, ground frozen, 18 inches snow, rain, water all around house, rubber boots above knees, warm out, only time had water in their basement.

Big flood when Fraser River flooded 1948 and sand bagged the Island - bus men gathered dyke workers. -- not many cars then - on Sunday morning took 20 people in own bus between house and River Road for Church -

regular lake often behind Dick house between Cambie and Airport Inn.

Dick children: one son, Herbert in Bellingham. One daughter, Rhoda died at 7 years, got meningitis while at Mitchell School - 3 cases there - just flooded basement possible germ came from ground - grand people - no miserable characters - exuberant little fellow greeted Miss McNeilly, teacher at Bridgeport school - carried little girl from bus when water in low spots - children picked up at gates - good kids, good service.

Mrs. Dick, president Vancouver Presbyterial, Women's Missionary Society; president B.C. Conference Branch for 3 years ; executive Dominion board, Toronto, so had yearly trips, United Church.

Grew 1 acre strawberries first few years - lots grown along Cambie then - Russell Hawkes truck picked them up - anecdote picked up milk first trip into town then strawberries - dirty after rain - returned by cannery to growers to wash (7 tons berries) - 10 or 12 people grew berries near them - 1st year had \$300 worth in Canadian Cannery near C.N.R. yard and it went broke (1928) - last dealt with Empress Cannery - berries were 12 cents, paid 4 cents for picking, paid to have them hauled in, liked climate - nice community, church work other comments: painted own school

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bus every 3 years, green.

After 30 years driving school bus - out of work 5 days - then began driving Crippled Children (Easter Seal) bus for 5 years, in Vancouver.

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