

Mr. Ken Fraser, Fisheries Executive

Interviewed May 5, 1972.

8125 Angus Drive, Vancouver

Born 1910 - Vancouver ⊕ early summers in Steveston - father with B.C. Packers Ltd. since 1904 - father Frank V. Fraser, came to B.C. 1882 - early life logging with 2 partners - build cannery 1894 at Princess Royal Island near Kelmtu - later sold it to B.C. Packers - father fishing Supt with Company, at Imperial Cannery - Ken and Mother joined father summers - communication problem with Steveston - recalls old plank road No. 5 Road across Steveston Hwy. to No. 1 Road primitive - recalls 5-6 hotels, Steveston - Vancouver people on week-end watched sailboats leave Steveston Sunday night at 6 o'clock cannon.

-to public school, Lord Byng, West Pt. Grey - 2 years at U.B.C. - same time working Imperial Cannery - all labor arranged by Chinese contractor - first job paid 8 cents an hour - bonus of 2 cents if stayed all season - Indian help came by steam wheeler from Mission, hope to many canneries in area - Japanese, Indian women filled cans with children strapped on backs - law prohibited - company built 2 playpens central area, fed by parents, primitive supervision -

Pioneers in Steveston included - responsible for development, economic growth: families such as : Steves, Branscombe, Grauer, McKims, McKinnneys, McNairs, recalls early friendly between Orangemen and Catholics unlike to-day W. Ireland - Tom Leslie head Orangeman Society - July 12 he mounted white steed, regalia - Fraser in band marched from Orange Hall down No. 1 Road to Moncton St., Thru Steveston - Tom got Vinnie Hartney son of Mr. Hartney, Steveston Hotel owner, devout Catholic, leader K of C, playing in his band - detail -

-recalls Chinese farmers Mah Bing, Hong Wo farms where kids earned money picking string beans, cucumbers, helping in oat fields.

-recalls great fire of Steveston - waterfront from No. 1 Rd. wiped out to old C.P.R. ferry - thousands cases salmon fell through floor into water - major plants built on piles over water - kids earned money sorting usable cases into boxes, paid per case -wild pioneer days of Steveston in youth - attracted Vancouver visitors - worth pioneer recognition.

Fraser family - 70 years period had 3 generations in fishing all in Steveston at one time - father, self, oldest son Brian with Nelson Bros. Fisheries.

Type of fisherman to-day advanced when a youth - fishermen Indians who rented boats and Japanese - few owned own homes - content in company houses - boats under 30 feet cost not over \$12,000 - now: modern boats, electronic equipment cost \$35,000 owned by whites and Japanese who live in \$40,000 homes in Richmond, some 2-car family life -

July 1: Whites and Japanese competed in Kendo and sports - had Japanese school for Japanese language - recalls early friends: Montgomery family remained 50 years - Leslie, Ono, Matsuo, Matsuzaki - tribute to Rudy Grauer - Cliff Cunningham Clumber merchant active in politics - old Mrs. Shepherd I.O.D.E. head, Red Cross - early 1940's group: Pete Rolston -started July 1, salmon festival - 15 years later - money raised plus Richmond Municipality plus special assessment for improvements built Steveston Community Hall - now Museum - outdoor swim pool - idea Steveston children need chance for healthy life rather than playing on banks of Fraser - Volunteer Fire Dept. - all helped - names Milt York, Hugh Montgomery, Allan Cross, bookkeeper at Imperial - Trans-Canada Hwy. now compared to early two plank roadway across bog - Model-T Ford era - old B.C. Electric Tram originating under Granville St. Station - 1 hour trip to Steveston - Tom Leslie resident rep. B.C. Electric

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Geographical location Richmond determines growth - up to now fastest growing municipality in all Canada - Fraser played triangle in band - hit triangle 4 times in 2 ½ mile walk - Vinnie Hartney hit symbols 8 times - great experience for kids - married first wife Jane - 4 children Brian, Cassiar Packing Co. Doug, Daphne, Ken, Europe.

-Returned U.N. feasibility study of Turkey's fisheries - a 2 ½ months study - estimating stocks - methods of catching - processing - food distributing - travelled entire 25,000 miles of Turkey Coast line - from Batumi - through Black Sea, Sea of Mamora, Agean Sea, Mediterranean. Travelled for fisheries through South America, including Amazon - Far East - Korea, Malaysia, Phillipines, Singapore, 10 trips to Japan - 1966 was one of first Canadians to spend 3 weeks in Red China: Canton Shanghai, Peking, Tientsin, Sanchow.

Visited India, Russia: Moscow, Leningrad re whaling - through Europe.

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