

AGRICULTURE

Interview:

Sam Gilmore
1064 Steveston Highway,

July 20, 1973
Dellis Cleland

Secretary: Columbia Potato Growers

Born: May 7, 1892 on Westham Island..lived there until age of 15...family moved to Richmond...family farm was just off No. 4 Road on the Fraser River...firewood was cedar logs, driftwood... went to English School...went to work early.

Before 1916: mostly hay and oats on the farm...all work was done with horses...market for Timothy hay (for horses)... clover hay grown for cows...grew Timothy hay which was hauled into the barn...in winter baler crew baled it...tugboats came right to the barn to pick it up...this was c.1900...Gilmore farm was by the River...slough came in...boats came in at high tide...tied up by the granary on the dyke...grain put below decks, hay on top...boats took 150 ton from farmer right to logging camps up coast and on Vancouver Island.

Big job then baling hay compared to today...talks about then as compared to today

Early days took 9 men to bale hay...1919 Sam ran steam engine for Dad...baled 30 ton on a good day...balers spent two weeks at Dad's farm...then baled straw which also went to logging camps...no dairying done on father's farm till after WW I.

c.1921 Leslie and brother "Cap" rented ^{farm} from Dad...started with cows...all milking by hand.

Sam married and settled on father-in-law's farm 1920...
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away at Shell Road and Steveston Highway..farm was 100 acres.

1948 R.H. Maddocks bought the farm, Sam kept 1 acre and house... a good deal for maddocks...bought farm for \$400.00 an acre and sold it 3 years ago for \$4,000.00 an acre.

Married Gertie Kidd 1919 who died in 1959...married her sister Margaret Kidd.

Sam's farm was mixed farm...north end low and stayed wet and sour early years...later years drainage improved.

Grew hay, oats, few potatoes, good purebred Holsteins, herd of 40 of which 25 were milking cows when quit farming...start came from son Boyd, a member of calf club getting 2 or 3 purebred heifers from Leslie.

RICH. REVIEW.
JUNE 27, 1963

Good Sam Selected 1963 'Good Citizen'

A Richmond resident since 1906, S.H. "Sam" Gilmore, 71, has been named "Good Citizen" by the Kiwanis Club.

The 17th annual citation was made last week after the membership scanned scores of nominations for the coveted title.

The award was made on the basis of community service in the field of junior sports. Mr. Gilmore is credited with founding lacrosse in Richmond and for "keeping juvenile delinquency to a minimum over the years".

In addition to devoting much of his time to helping youngsters, the 1963 Good Citizen has, for many years, been an active member of the South Arm United Church board.

With the exception of his service in World War I with the 29th Vancouver Battalion, Mr. Gilmore farmed in Richmond all his life and continues to take a keen interest in the agricultural development of the community, displaying a particular interest in youth farm clubs.

"When they told me the news, I thought they'd made a mistake and got me mixed up with someone else," he said modestly.

Mrs. Gilmore, however, agrees with the choice and explained that her husband is a good neighbour "always helping someone out".

H.W. "Wil" Reeder, secretary of the Kiwanis Club, said there were a number of nominations for the 1963 award which will be kept on file and considered again in future years.

Mr. Gilmore is a brother of Christine McKinney, last year's "Good Citizen". The 1963 winner will be presented with an engraved silver tray by Kiwanis Club President Edward Kita at the Salmon Queen celebration July 1.



SAM GILMORE
Years for youth

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Son lost in airforce, WW II over France in 1944...daughter Audrey, Mrs. Tom Wylie lives nearby in larger farmhouse.

Columbia Potato Growers

Begun 40 years ago...Charlie Bradbury organized Columbia Potato Growers in Richmond, similar group in Ladner and Colebrook...*(Clearbrook)* others faded, only Richmond survived...he foresaw a future in growing seed to sell to U.S....everyone grew Netted Gem...good for seed...aphis arrived...carried disease which couldn't be controlled...potatoes wouldn't pass strict inspection for seed growing...if turned down as seed farmer s must sell potatoes as 'commercials'...much cheaper.

Now other varieties potatoes grown, mature earlier which aphids can't get chance to contaminate : Pontiacs, Norgolds...problems of potato size...yield...blight a problem

Chemical spraying business started by Sam, 1950...continued 18 years..sprayed plants: 1. to prevent blight on leaves... 2. to prevent insect damage

Chemical originally dry form so was a big job to mix...now chemical comes in fluid form to dilute...tank holds 300 gallons... use 1 quart an acre...costly to spray.

Some farmers paid him \$5000.00 for season's spraying...spray is combined for insect and blight control...spray crop 6 or 7 times a season depending on wetness (then spray oftener)... June to October...also weed spray strawberries November, December, January while strawberries dormant...muddy conditions.

Used 2 tractors, 3 sprayers at peak...spraying needed at busiest time of farmer's year, so prefer to hire experienced spray man...Sam did 90% of Richmond spraying...

Costs of equipment today: \$2,500.00 for sprayer, \$5,000.00 for tractor.

Describes system of inspection, judging potato fields prior to annual Field Day held last Saturday of July by the Columbian Potato Growers Association.

Dairy barns: Manure
Today no one forks manure out of barn...either endless chain takes it out of bug gutter, or in winter, pole with flexible chain spreads manure in pile, haul in spring.

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Dairies: Milking

Today milk goes from cow through stainless steel pipe into stainless steel tank which can hold milk for 2 days...costly, \$2,000.00 per tank, gutter cleaners.

Richmond today has only 7 big dairy herds...some farmers in beef cattle...easier life.

Potato growing:

Also modernized...years ago done by hand...then single row potato planter, digger, then 2 row planters and diggers...now elevators to pick up bagged potatoes.

To get money back, farmer must grow 70 acres potatoes...some have tractors used only short time.. "do it big"...labor problem... still lack a mechanical strawberry picker...experimenting at Ladner with raspberry picker.

Farmers did well 1973 with strawberries...got 10¢ a pound more at cannery than previous year...also pick for roadside stand, then one in fields to public for "pick your own"...one farmer got \$2000.00 in one day from public picking.

Peas, potatoes also "pick your own" at Ray Krystzan farm. Anecdote of older lady picking at Twin Hollies and had raspberries taken by another picker.

Chinamen grew strawberries early days.

Recently farmers grow 50 acres strawberries...~~xxx~~ lot of work in weeding, hoeing...done by Chinese labor from Vancouver under contract.

Farms mostly frozen now, can't be sold.

Not Taped:

400 acres of farm in South Arm area have been sold in recent years to American owners and re-leased to previous Richmond farmers to grow crops.