

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Minler

Interviewed May 3, 1972

958 Steveston Highway

Roy Minler - born July 13, 1906, Embro, Ont.

-Father Walter S. Minler came to Shell Road, Richmond, in 1919 with family - bought farm of 76 acres - dairy half mile south of Steveston Hwy. and Shell Road - 30 milking cows - grew hay, turnips, 2 acres potatoes - rented part to Chinaman Lae Mon, to grow strawberries - Richmond mostly dairy farming then - trucks picked up milk for Fraser Valley Milk Co-Op - trucks picked up milk for Fraser Valley Milk Co-Op - Roy 12 on arrival - went to English School 1 year - 1 year at Bridgeport School recalls teacher Miss McNeeley - quit school at 14 - helped Dad on farm - 1928 to wireless School, Vancouver - 1929 went on freighters out of Vancouver 13 years - names freighters: City of Vancouver then Kinsley Navigation:

Rochelle, Kingsley, Rosebank quit in 1942 - went mink ranching til 1965 -knew Muskrat Bill - brothers caught muskrats Mink Ranch on Nelsen farm, present home site - had 12,000 in summer - pelted 800 - 1000 pelts in fall - rest breeding stock - young born end of April, first half of May, pelted in November - some raspberries, strawberries first years but too much work with mink - sold mink in lots, 800 pelts graded, averaged \$20.00 a pelt - prices stayed till 1966 when dropped but Minlers not with mink then - Minler Mink 'topped the market' or year - had mostly standard mink, dark ~~x~~ mink - had a few mutation mink in blue, brown - in 1942 some dozen mink ranchers here. Auctions: 2 in Vancouver, also New York, Montreal, Winnipeg, Seattle - watch selling on auction day - distemper only disease, didn't inoculate then - bigger ranches to-day - 1968 job as security guard at Alcan's Aluminium, Richmond - 4 years as summer replacement - at same time went to Deroche, 15 miles outside of Mission to help, in breeding season, ranch 3000 mink to keep.

1959 won award marking 4.7 average for mink production - 4 is a very good average by Ralston Purina Co. Missouri - number of kits each mother had. Mrs. Roy Minler - Born Ruthe Nelson, September 14, 1906 on Uncle's farm near Bottineau, Central N.D. - father farming on Uncle's farm - Mother came over from Norway married on Uncle's farm - Ruth 1½ years when family to Palmer, Sask. to homestead - grain farming - to B.C. January 4, 1919 - lived in Vancouver until 1921 - to Richmond - to Saunders Rd. home 2 years farming - bought present farm Steveston Hwy. (then No. 9 Rd.) ¼ mi. west of No. 4 Rd. - Ruth finished school in Vancouver thru grade 8 - started high school at Bridgeport School - 3 years there - walked to tram at Brighthouse - took tram to Bridgeport - later got bicycles - has 2 sisters and 2 brothers - all in vicinity.

-5 farms then between No. 4 Road and No. 3 Road, houses far between, no lights outside - had electricity when came in 1923 in nearby family home - had phone on wall - had water.

Childhood: belonged to South Arm United Church - played basketball, badminton, picnics, Young People's Club - picked berries & weeded on farm - Nelson farm 20 acres - dairying - strawberries, hay, had 20-40 cows Holstein Jerseys, threshing - used Gilmore outfit - for 3 days - extra baking - had piano, sister Helen, Mrs. Wolk got A.T.C.M. in Vancouver.

-earned money for cash at

Mrs. Saunder's farm - strawberries, loganberries, raspberries, father also loganberries - picked large blackberries on dyke between No. 3 Road and Woodward's Landing, along Railway track - went into bog to pick blueberries - smoke blanketed Vancouver and Richmond - only tried to put out fire when near a house - swam Vancouver beaches - picnic Stanley Park - family of 5 made own fun - games between farms.

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-skated in back fields - on MacDonald Slough along golf course, skated all over Brighthouse - on Mr. Minler's farm - area not drained then - area between Brighthouse and Blundell Rd. and west of No. 3 Road one huge skating rink - to Normal School, Vancouver took train in got up around 5:00 a.m. took 1 hour to walk to Brighthouse tram station, 3/4 hour on tram to Vancouver school corner 12 Ave. and Cambie - high recommendations from High School Teachers and Normal - 1925 started on graduation teaching Lord Byng School til and 1939 (14½ years) later substituted 1950.

Grade 1 - all Japanese group couldn't speak English - had interpreters at first - used pictures unique experience - Japanese then segregated in school - later taught integrated grade 3, platoon system taught only certain subjects - socials: History and Geography, math, physical Ed. - more respect for teaching, teachers then defiance by some Japanese students about Pearl Harbour time - classes between students - Japanese children happy-go-lucky, studious parents had say in what children future career - different standards - enjoyed fun among staff, outings - Ruth had own car when started teaching Steveston, first a McLoughlin - second a McLoughlin Buick - third an Erskine Studebaker town coupe.

Anecdote: When child listened for parents returning from trip to Vancouver -heard car over plank No. 5 Road so few cars then - knew parents - learned ride bikes on Steveston Hwy. when few cars there - sorry for change - went to movie Westminster Hwy. - married January, 1940 - Children: one boy Allan Roy Minler, in Marpole.

Roy Minler recalls hunting pheasant, duck on farms, ducks came in at night on ponds - boys went to River, Woodward's Landing - got hunting license at 15, special permit from Chief Waddell.

-family early days got groceries at Woodward's.