

Arthur Parker

Interviewed March 16, 1972.

Born at home, Steveston 1903 - original home on 4th Ave., Steveston - early teacher Miss Crawford at Steveston School - Miss McNeilly was at Bridgenort School - Maypole went at Brighthouse grandstand, boys didn't care to do this, practised at home school first before going to Brighthouse on May 24 - Norman Marshall a good long distance runner - children used to have races around block in Steveston - few Japanese children in early days - a lot of Indians then but few sent children to school - stayed along dyke - heard their potlatches as a boy would wander over to watch - describes potlatches - seems that Indians were there even between fishing seasons - a Chief lives on No. 2 Road named Williams - parents didn't want children to hang around potlatches - worked 25 yrs. on Marine Barge - noticed during fishing seasons much friction between whites and Japanese fishermen - Japs fished all the time but whites didn't - Japanese and Chinese woven best strawberry pickers - Chinese didn't fish but worked in canneries or ran small farms - (600 P.M. Sun Story) - watched from Garry Point - Officers on wharf watched with glasses - most fishing then right in the river or near - salmon 50 lb. - Parker believes Canners may have favored Japanese over whites - this due in part to consistent work habits of Japanese - oilery on Kirkland Is. - did a lot of hunting over there - smelled terrible - father was Post Master in Steveston - in MacDonald's place, west side of 2nd Ave. and North of Moncton - later in the Brick Block - was Postmaster for 45 years - before that father was bookkeeper in Imperial Cannery - (Story about Cannery and messhouse during high tides) - custom was to tie rope around child when he was in a boat - no life jackets then - went swimming from dyke just below Steves place - no bathing suits - a lot of duck hunting beyond dyke at 7th Ave. - hunters came out with guns on Tram from Vancouver - hunted with father in a punt and decoys - Parker

Parker was away from Steveston about the age of 16 - worked in Northern Crown Bank at \$250. per year - taken over later by Royal Bank - worked at Branch Office in Steveston, later in Ashcroft for 4 years - \$37.00 per month paid of which \$60.00 was for room and board - Baxter was Bank Manager then - (Story about schooling and getting jobs) - discussion about early Bank safes - Japanese deposited so much then sent it all to Japan - Indians rarely banked their money - Indians worked at Great West Cannery end of Trites Road and took taxis at lunch time in to Steveston and return - (story about his first drink of patent medicine) - Hotels had firm policy about juvenile drinking - as a newsboy would sell all papers in a Hotel to one drinking customer! - no women in drinking rooms - many fights - Austin Harris was Chief of Police then - Miss Bothwell excellent teacher although tied down to her invalid mother. (childhood discussions) - father died about 20 yrs. ago - wife's father had farm on No. 4 Road and gave Parker and wife an acre upon which they built house - had corner store on No. 2 and Steveston for 18 yrs. - this was after he left Barge due to health (discussion about various houses) - from Ashcroft went to Abbotsford then quit bank there and returned to Steveston - Japanese knew his father well - postmaster - and wanted Parker to run oil barge - (story about Japanese exerting influence story about Japanese during W.W.II repaying \$2,000 barge accounts - (general discussion about Japanese evacuation, sly ways of the Custodian etc.) - First oil Barge which was an off-spring of dock-side gas station - first one was wooden - (discusses daily procedure) - use to work 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. - 7 days a week - rowed out each day - (discusses credit - cash arrangements) - Cannery gave gas coupons - worked 25 yrs. without accident - George Pentiman also worked there - had fire extinguisher - started in 1920 - later on wooden barge was replaced by steel barge -

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-Courtney Foster replaced him - Sid Watts and Ben Rose had machine shop end of No. 1 Rd. - Easthope also had marine machine shop in Vancouver near Stanley Park - (Story about drum-gear to pull in nets) - Sid Watts still in Steveston - was in submarines during W.W.I - Barge owned by Union Oil - early pay was \$100.00 up to \$110.00 during 1930's - His house on No. 4 Road just south of Steveston Highway about 1/2 mile - first car was chevy - during winter Barge had to be towed to Port Moody because of ice conditions in River - (Story about starting car to drive to Port Moody) - discusses winter layover for Barge - in bigger barge there was living quarters.

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