

TEACHING

MRS. MARY PAXTON - 810 General Currie Rd., Richmond, B.C.

INTERVIEWED:

March 12, 1975

NO TAPE

Qualifications

- Had to have Senior Matriculation
- One year Normal School (did not receive final marks)
- Taken in Vancouver, near 12th & Cambie
- Graduated in 1925

Substituted 1925 - 1929

- At different times had substituted at all schools in Richmond as an elementary teacher. The subjects were the same at all schools
- Schools at that time were
 - Bridgeport
 - English
 - Lord Byng
 - Trites
 - Mitchell
 - East Richmond
- Lulu School (#2 Rd. & Westminster - approx. location) was not there anymore, and Sea Island School was closed

Sea Island School 1929 - 1940

(Also known as the Japanese School)

- Was hired by the Richmond School Board, but at that time there was also a Japanese School Board
- School was located outside the dyke at the end of Acme Road
 - parents worked mainly at the Acme & Vancouver canneries
- The school had three classes consisting of two buildings built on pillars with planks or wooden decks to support the school
 - one building had 2 classrooms with a divider to separate the room; each of these rooms had only one entrance, and that was from the outside.

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- the other class was a separate building
- a small building was at the back of these for the toilets
- The school was heated by a pot-bellied stove, one at the back of each room
- There was no Office or phone that Mrs. Paxton can recall
- There was electric light, light-bulb hung on a cord - about 2 to a classroom
- A railing was situated on the edge of the deck, over-looking the planks
- The children went home for lunch, but at recess played on the planks or in a field on the other side of the dyke.
- Parents were very co-operative, always came for such events as Christmas concerts
 - another special event was May Day at Minoru Park
- Other teachers at that time -
 - Miss Ebert
 - Mr. Fichette - Principal
- Language problems:
 - children unable to speak English, were taught in early grades by such things as charts
 - many children would not speak English at first, although they knew the language while playing with English-speaking children
- Same lessons as other schools in the district

NOTE: -Mrs. Paxton left teaching as married women were not allowed to teach at that time. Returned to teaching in 1958.

R.C.A.F. - 1958 - 1962

- On Sea Island on the R.C.A.F. itself
- Annex to Sea Island School (part of School District #38)
- There were three classes, Grades 1 - 4
- Fathers all in R.C.A.F.
- School closed some time after Mrs. Paxton left.

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MacDonald School - 1962 - 63

- Northwest end of Sea Island, on MacDonald Road
- First school built that was portable
- Four class rooms with the centre for offices, etc.
- Grades 1 - 6, Mrs. Paxton taught Grade 3
- School closed in June 1974

Sea Island School 1963 - 65

- Taught Grade 3
- Approximately 6 classes

Ferris School 1965 - 1967

- Located off Blundell, near No. 3 Road

Major Change - New Method of Mathematics

EDUCATION

STUDENT

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Bridgeport School

- Went to Bridgeport School throughout school years, from Grade One to Senior Matriculation
- There were five children in the family, all went to the same school, from Thompson Place
 - Thompson Place - No. 1 & River Road
 - Maiden name Thompson, her father had a school named after him

Transportation

- During early years went to school by horse and buggy; there was a stable at the school
- In later years, took the inter-urban at Lulu Station or Riverside Station
- Lulu Station was at No. 2 Rd. & Granville, about 1½ miles from the home
- Riverside Station was located at Riverside Lane, not far from Lulu Station

Classes

- Started at 9:00 A.M. and went to 3:00 P.M. in the winter, and 3:30 P.M. in the summer
- Two recesses, one in the A.M., the other in the afternoon
- Regular academic classes mainly, could be recommended in Grade Eight by teacher - if not, had to write an exam
- Everyone had to write matriculation exam, which was at Bridgeport School itself
- About the middle grade took domestic science, which was half a day per week. Each girl made an apron in the sewing; also had cooking, everything being measured exactly.

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- Sciences in senior grades, Mrs. Paxton took chemistry
- Can recall the garden plots -
 - one year had this at school, shared with another pupil
 - another year had a plot at home and the teacher came around to judge this
- Thirteen students graduated at the same time as Mrs. Paxton.

School Buildings

- The main building -
 - had washrooms on the main floor
 - top east side of building for high school
 - lower grades below
- Two outside buildings -
 - one for domestic science used by girls
 - one for manual training used by boys
- Stable - used to house the children's horses
- There apparently was a telephone during her school years
- Electricity for lighting - light hung on a cord

Play

- Girls played dolls and house in early grades
- All students played baseball
- Games with sides similar to Red Rover, etc.
- Had to ask permission to go to store across the street, west side of school

All female students had to wear dresses, slacks were never permitted.

A. L. DYBALL