

Mrs. J. Savage

Interviewed March 29, 1972.

Farmers had to repair own dykes by hand - particularly in Ladner - Nor dyke could be traversed all the way to New Westminster (?) Queensboro John Savage had to patrol dyke everyday during 1948 Flood - discusses this and general comments about dykes then and now - muskrats get into dyke and dig holes thus weakening the dyke - Born 1891 - lived original in Ladner - sent to boarding school at Yale 1899 - all girls school for about 50 girls - discusses early farm of father who was early settler - as a child went swimming off Westham Is. - river was dirty then - dead fish in River - children played in boat - story about her father tying rope around brother and throwing boy in River - met John Savage on Westham Is. and moved over to Richmond 1916 - farmers were exempt from war service - rented property from Trim who lived back East - discusses various farm families in the area of No. 7 Road and Cambie - farmers often got started by renting land and buying it later - married in the garden at home on Westham Is. - 100 guests - Anglican Minister came - had orchestra - and reception in net-drying room of cannery - children went to Mitchell School - named several teachers - talks about Patterson Rd. School which is probably the Bridgeport School - talks about house parties at various neighbors - children had own shetland ponies - had 16 horses - had to clear bushes and logs from land - section of property yielded many Indian Artifacts - discusses various farm lands acquired later - total land about 400 acres - Westminster and No. 5 both planked roads - also part of Cambie - had running water but no electricity for about 20 yrs. - went to School with Sam Gilmore on Westham Is. - all children had little jobs - talks about this - in early days had cow for milk - had girl to help out in the house because there were several men on farm to be fed -

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- also had to feed large threshing crew - 19 men - owned own thresher
hauled slab wood from mill for house and thresher - took 2 weeks
hauling wood - grew grain mostly then although sons have developed
dairy business since - use to ride over to Richards Blacksmith Shop -
other blacksmiths named - husband also had forge and could shoe horses
if necessary - Savage was one of first farmers to employ a caterpillar
tractor - started 5:00 a.m. - breakfast - then meal in field - then la
supper - shopped at Grauer's store - he delivered twice a week -
Mother moved to Vancouver - visited her via Interurban - had a girl
who worked with her and lived in, \$25 per month - Chinamen lived with
them for first 2 years - made bread - (story about the stage going into
the River) - skated on North Arm on Frozen Fraser - winters are milder
now than the 20's - people would pay once a year their bills - depended
upon crop. Depression was hard even for farmers - (Story about Grauer
generosity) - had a resident Santa Claus - general comments about
childhood pleasures - (Story about Broadway show in Vancouver) - talked
about various parties and dances - Ferry from Ladner to Steveston
landed near Interurban Train line - talks about sternwheelers going up
River - Westminster Fair and Exhibition big event - husband showed
6 Clydesdale horses - circa 1910 - talks about United Church -
Anglican Church at St. Albans St. - grew oats and hay and potatoes -
sold to 4X Bread and Fraser Valley Dairy - talks about Westham Is.
produce being shipped up river and over to Vancouver Island - half-
breeds worked on threshing crews & talks about chinese gardeners on
Gambie Road in early days - early days on Westham Is. during fishing
season (stories about this) - story about sailors jumping ship -
schooners - and hiding out on Westham Is.