

Mr. Gordon Trites

Interviewed Feb. 22, 19

Born in Steveston - 1911 - Lord Byng School...left at age of 14 for the Prairies...cold Storage Cannery and Sockeye Hotel still standing then...telephone office still standing...father died when Gordon was 6 mos. Interurban ran every hour into Vancouver... only way then to go to town...went with Mother on Armistice day to Lansdowne Track...met friends...people in Steveston isolated from other Island groups those days...old home foot of Trites Road...named after father who owned land on both sides of Trites Road...father didn't put in road...McKinney owned land where Railway Ave. runs between Moncton and Steveston Highway ...Bob Ransford and Jas. Shaw, old time people...road parallel to Railroad from Moncton nearly up to Granville...old railway train ran once a day to New Westminster on C.N. Track...1 passenger car and 1 boxcar...C.N. and C.P. tracks connected at one time...Uncle grew potatoes along C.N. Right-of-way...brother died of flu in 1918... bicycles and wagons then...Uncle had a Franklin...then a LaSalle... Aunt has pictures...straight eight oldsmobile...as a boy went swimming o by the Scotch Canadian Cannery...never swam in Fraser near home...at that time fish offal dumped into Gulf...used to cut out cheek and throat of fish heads for the meat and bring home from the scows loading offal at canneries...offal dumped in Gulf...Spring salmon then cost 25¢... round steak 12¢ - 15¢ a lb....Bridgenort School and Lord Byng only 2 schools then...another school, Trites School near the Queensboro line...Westminster Highway...not named after his father...another Trites family - Russell Trites, no relation...father was Mike Trites...parents came from U.S....Stan Leslie on No. 1 Road...Gordon went to school with Stan...Stan's wife was a Deagle and her father was an Interurban Conductor...mother moved into Steveston and he walked to school (several blocks)...worked for Steeves one summer stamping peas in a silo...

Steeves specialized in Holstein cattle...Walter Tufnail also stomped peas...made \$35.00...bought a bicycle with part of the money...planked sidewalks but no planked roads in Steveston...gravel roads...planked roads only over bog areas...left school 1926-27...went to Alberta...returned later and went to work for Mrs. Wark...dairy farm on site of old home...delivered milk into Vancouver daily...started 7 p.m. and returned 7 a.m...300 plus customers...\$30.00 a month and board and room...milk 8¢ qt., 5¢ pt...delivered raw milk and cream only...Guernsey cows...pasteurization of milk came later...Grauer pasteurized his milk...milked by hand...milk cooled by running water system...refrigeration came later...Grauer, Roberts, also dairy farmers...Warks had 50 cows...gave up delivering milk to work at Britania Mines...person could make a fortune in land speculating in Richmond...Cooney wanted to sell him 5 acres for \$21,500...Old house and barn...on No. 3 Road across from shopping centre...old houses still on Garden City Road...went duck hunting in Ladner marshes...went over by Ladner ferry, built shack to store gear...Mother used to row across river to visit friends...father was cannery foreman...schooners then...1897...father didn't do too much farming, but bought land as investment...rented some of the land...rented to Hong Wo for farming...chinese long bamboo pipes...water cooled...dredge was old ship No. 303...worked up and down river...Sunday evening Steveston gun...started fishing fleet...end of line of corks was lighted so at night it looked like a floating city...James Shaw's father was fisherman...James spoke Japanese as did Gordon Trites as a boy...most of his childhood friends were Japanese...picked up language just by playing with Japanese children...all went to Lord Byng School

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Trites road area known then as heart of Japanese Community.

TAPLE 5 - 017. 1.