

Interviewed: June 21, 1976Tape 69, 2

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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- 1952 Little League started in Richmond.
- 1954 when the kids graduated from Little League they had nowhere to go except to a league in Marpole.
- Remembers taking a bunch of kids over to Marpole to try out for their league.
- Well, there were lot of kids who didn't make it so when I got back to Richmond, I decided right then I was going to start a league for these kids.
- I went around and tried to get some sponsors but I didn't have any success, so I started this league up myself.
- We had four teams: Rangers, Dodgers, Cardinals, and (fourth name he can not recollect at the time of this interview).
- They only had one location at that time in Brighthouse.
- This went on for couple of years.
- I bought all the sweaters, bats, balls and all the baseball equipment.
- This league started to catch on pretty good so I thought it would be better to get some sponsors.
- I approached the Lions Club and they sponsored the League....they were already involved in Little League at the time.
- Our first four sponsors were: Lions Club, Firemen, Brighthouse Hardware, and Richmond Plumbing & Heating.
- We played the league like this for one year, then in 1956 or 1957 we decided to join Babe Ruth for kids from 13 to 15 years of age.
- By this time we had Connie Mac League going, so when the kids finished Babe Ruth they went into Connie Mac.
- Little League at that time was from 10 to 12 years.
- One of my sons, Jimmy, was playing ball at that time; he was a pretty good ball player, he played baseball all the way through the leagues.
- Jimmy plays Softball now.
- I also coached; my last year I coached with Ernie Reeves, whom I had a lot of help.

Eric Anderson

BASEBALL

- Later on we expanded into fifth team called the Steveston Cannery which Ernie Reeves managed.
- A couple of years later, we got a sixth team.
- We operated that league right up until the time I left.
- After I left, they broke away from Babe Ruth and went into something else.
- We used to pick an All Star Team and had playoffs in the Vancouver district; on a couple of occasions we won this.
- We were in the B. C. Championships two or three times, but we never won those although we did win Our Bone which was a pretty big thing around here.
- I left baseball in 1965.
- I played football in 1929 and 1930.
- The reason we got it going was because they promised us a trip to Victoria if we won our League.
- Well, we won the League but we didn't get our trip to Victoria so that was the end of that team.
- I also played Lacross.
- We had a real tough league out here then. Talks about the lacross.
- We had very poor crowds out to our baseball games; had a hard time getting coaches and umpires.
- My wife was a big help; she was a score-keeper and kept records of every game that was played.
- I used to take out my own lawn mower and mowed the baseball fields and then line them.
- I used to rake the infield and the pitcher's mound and also wet it down in the summer so it wouldn't be all dusty.
- There was a game every night.
- We had pretty good playing parks in Richmond at that time.