

Henry Anderson (Mayor)Interviewed April 25, 1972.

Born 1911 in Richmond - many children born at home even then - Bennett Rd. was location of old home - father came to Richmond in early 1900's - father was a brick contractor - talks about brick plants in Steveston and Terra Nova - business was oriented more toward refractory construction e.g. ovens, retorts etc. than toward house and chimney construction - went to Bridgeport School - High School also there then - Cambie High built later - went to school via tram - had to walk to either Brighthouse or Garden City Stations from home - (general comments about transportation system then and now related to population density and industry) - school gave tram tickets to students but sometimes the children would walk to school and sell the unused tram ticket to High School children who didn't get tram tickets - Garden City Rd. open between Granville and Blundell only - describes an early road system to New Westminster - No. 4 was also a plank road - father got about on a bicycle - had a cow chickens and some pigs - talks about Strawberry Festival at old Methodist Church now United Church - Church excursion to Stanley Park once a year - hired Tram for this - talks about Maypole celebration at Minoru Park - children marched there from Bridgeport school - talks about Bowen Is. picnics - social activities for young people then included dances in old clubhouse at Minoru Park - trail rangers was earlier form of Boy Scouts and sponsored by Church - describes No. 3 Road as rough road - discusses early car ride along Richmond roads - used rain barrell to collect drinking water before piped water introduced - (story about wigglers) story about father bringing ice home to melt - got ice in Marpole - early fogs were extremely heavy and lasted several days - sometimes couldn't see front end of car - discusses yearly bog fires - started by blueberry pickers and put out by winter rains - trapped muskrats in the area of Brighthouse and would sell them to Muskrat Bill - (describes him) - several dyking schemes then -

General comments about tidal waters and land use then and now - talks about municipal drainage systems - ditch water in centre of island stagnant and not used for washing - swam in No. 3 Canal - skated on North Arm to New Westminster - hockey played near Fraser St. bridge - many pheasants and partridges then - went hunting a great deal and learned how from father - (discusses this) - many ducks and geese on Sturgeon Banks - widgeons abounded - geese came into farmers fields in evening to feed - many rabbits in bog and a few deer - quite a few trees willows etc. through the Brighthouse area - only a few professional hunters that he recalls - e.g. the Grey boys at Terra Nova - remembers 1913 Steveston fire (relates incident of stores contents placed in street) - ditches in Steveston were boarded over and carried not only water but some sewage - on hot days these would smell - (talks about early sewage problem) - remembers little sailboats during fishing season having to throw away ~~express~~ salmon catch dead fish floated upon shore, on the dykes, etc. - remembers old Boxing ⁵²⁸ Arena that was located where Municipal Hall is now - boys would crawl under the bleachers to look for loose silver - not sure whether entire arena was enclosed - sometimes a cock-fight held there, he thinks - never saw one though - barns for Minoru Park lined No. 3 Road from about the present location of the Post Office all the way up to the present location of Credit Union building - all on the west side of No. 3 Rd. - (talks about large house on No. 3 and Westminster built by Englishman for his wife) picked blackberries at 1¢ per lb. on property of this old place - discusses early stores on No. 3 Road went to Grauer's store for most shopping - later telephone orders were delivered - (story about wife wheeling baby up to Lulu Station) - discusses early airplane crashes in fields just beyond Brighthouse Track - many died in these crashes - later, a narrow strip

Henry Anderson (Mayor)

alongside the north of Lansdowne Track between No. 3 and Garden City was used as an airfield - (Lindberghaircraft story) - family doctor was Dr. Hall in Marpole - Fisherman's Hospital was in Steveston then - discusses names of several early Richmond doctors - went to Vancouver for dentist as a child - doesn't recall any dentist in Richmond in early days - around 1944 - 1945, doctors and dentists started setting up practices in Richmond - (discusses early doctors) - early police were Waddell, Johnston, Sid Young - remembers ornate black wagons as hearses - talks about early Chinese - father put in the Chinese "kettles" in all the cannery bunkhouses - at home, looking in all directions could see only 3-4 houses - father was local Santa Clause for Church - describes this event - discusses father's early business being operated from family home - talks about bad debts in early days - extended discussion about business practices, credit - talks about early banks in Brighouse - the first in Brighouse was open once-a-week, then twice-a-week, etc. - working for self, the 8 hr. day wasn't often observed - did contract work all over B.C. - had coal oil lamps - discusses these - did homework in this light - recalls subsequent joy having convenience of electric light - thinks he had electricity before telephone - ward system of politics in Richmond abolished over 20 years ago - (talks about early political meetings in Brighouse) - everyone knew everyone else - 3000 population then compared to 70,000 now - served on fire department and got that organized - shed behind Municipal Hall - 1st truck was Ford truck outfitted with buckets - (discusses development of the fire vehicles by local citizens).

TASK 4 -