

J. M. BuchananInterviewed May 3, 1972.

Born 1897 - One brother one sister - had a cow and few chickens, father worked on section gang of C.P.R. - used river water for washing - lived in Steveston - brought empty barrel to special C.P.R. Railroad car to exchange for full barrel of water and 40¢ - rain water often got rancid - many early families had typhoid due to no sanitation - saw many Indians during the early days - during summertime - as many as 15 policemen on duty - rest of year there was but 2 or 3 - hotels going most of the time - sold newspapers as a boy in bar rooms - 5 hotels within 3 block area - saw schooner called the "Red Rock" - saw parrots and monkeys on these ships - went swimming sometimes in the big ditches - (lost eye 1910) - in 1918-1919 was hired to fire Steveston Gun at 6:00 P.M. Sunday evenings - was really a rocket - fired it from Scottish Canadian Cannery - (describes this) - finished University 1917 - first job was whitewashing a cannery - talks about this - talks about Scottish Canadian Cannery where he worked - special trains came out from Vancouver to observe beginning of fishing - (story about if one drops nets before 6:00 gun, others do the same) - went to Steveston School with a few Japanese children then, more later - discusses Japanese school and Japanese Hospital - went to Bridgeport School 1910 - describes the entrance class held in back of regular classroom - 4 pupils then at this level - talks about school experiences related to various government examinations - went to McGill College in Vancouver 1913 - 1915 - U.B.C. then started so switched to U.B.C. - graduated 1917 - U.B.C. then located at 10th and Laurel near King Edward High School went there by 7:00 tram from Steveston - got pig's bladder from meat market in Steveston - talks about this - talks about Steveston Church as being both religious center and focus of much social activity - Christmas party was a major event for children - Methodists and Indians

and Presbyterians(?) in the evening all shared church - talks about La Forest and Ireland as early blacksmiths - Dances held at Opera house - dancing not encouraged by church in early days - strawberry festivals held in churches and at Orange Hall on No. 9 Road - Whist drives at Churches raised money by round-robin play - made money by selling papers and got about 10¢ per week - found much loose change under wooden sidewalks - discusses typhoid hazard - went to bog to pick blueberries - picked and hulled strawberries at 1¢ a lb. - made \$1.00 a day - picked for a Dr. Finley who lived at Blundell and Railway Ave. - talks about Mah Bings ranch and Hong Wo store (story about boys playing joke on telephone to Hong Wo store) - discusses Eaton's catalogue as only photographic material available - early cigareettes were hand rolled - discusses this - children got money by gathering any kind of liquor or drug bottle - didn't have electricity in home until after 1911 approximately - studied by coal oil lamp - talks about hazards of coal oil - discusses 1918 fire and the salvaging of the canned salmon that fell into the river - 1904 - 1905 fire was in the old chinatown fire in Steveston - talks about free port plan on Sturgeon Bank - 1911 - 1912, Dominion Trust Company Real Estate promotion - lots sold which were under water (Story about this) - talks about blackbirds in marsh near Tucks Station - robins and pheasant were plentiful - many meadowlarks - talks about ducks being plentiful.

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