

Interviewed: January 9, 1976

Mr. Tony Capadouca,
433 Westminster Hwy.,
Richmond, B. C.

- Born 1918. Born in boat on Deas Island; 40 families living there on float houses.
- Less hectic living; travel by water only.
- Government pumped sand, built causeway.
- Island sold, refloated houses to Crescent Island; later to Tilbury Island then moved to Westminster on land.
- Once had option to buy Deas Island for \$3,000 advised not to by old man. Land now worth 2½ million dollars.
- Rowed across river, walked 2½ miles to school.
- Houses fenced for safety of children.
- Father, lived Deas Island for 40 years.
- At Cottonwood Place had floating camp and gas station 3½ years.
- 25-30 Japanese houses on floats at Cottonwood Place.
- He moved camps to Burrs Landing and Woodward Island, owners of land made him move.
- Fished Deas Island slough up to Fort Langley,
- Brother drowned at 17.
- Fishing originally 6 days week, Monday morning to Saturday morning.
- Started fishing at 7^{1/2} licensed, in skiff around Woodward's Landing picking up by hand in ~~Stub~~^{MP} Drift, Cottonwood Drift.
- Old ship loaded hay in 3 or 4 barns at Cottonwood.
- Worked with Canadian Fishing 35 years, still fishing.
- Indians fished around Fort Langley.
- Didn't like forced evacuation of Japanese, thinks Japanese did well after war from old boats to finest, cleanest fleet, hard working Japanese women helped clean boats, mend, etc.
- Story of friend's boat hit by freighter going too fast.
- Feels too many bouys in river, tide has changed, pretty dangerous at Sand Heads at low tide, feels horseshoe jetty could be built around lightship.
- Lights from Steveston deceiving, people make mistakes going over jetty.
- Comments on old standards of cleanliness in handling fish in canneries, store, etc.

- Thinks herring fishing ought to be food fishing, not roe and fertilizer.
- Some people sold oolicans to public at Woodward's Landing, made extra money.
- Til 21, all income went to parents.
- Fishing gear from Japan.
- Best not to owe money to canneries or canneries could control prices.
- Sees urgent need for 200 mi. limit, our equipment outdated by 50 years.
- Dragged rock, grey cod, sole, crabs, etc. expenses much higher but fish prices only risen few cents.
- Ice used to be \$3 or \$4 a ton, now \$11 - \$15 a ton.
- Discusses present fishery regulations and American regulations.
- Frank Fisher once owned Deas Island--later called Paradise Island by locals (Canadians)
- Canadian Fishing Company paid small fee to Fisher for using island.
- English people prejudiced against Japanese, Greeks, Spaniards.
- When island sold, Greek colony moved into Ladner and most sold float houses except Mr. Capadouca who moved into Ladner marshes 5 - 6 years, then to Sunbury Island.
- Cannery on Deas Island sold; nothing there now; mentions different prices island sold for.
- Tried to get all Greeks to buy island.
- Could have bought land around #3 Road and Dyke for \$1 /acre in 1938.
- Used to hunt a lot around Ladner islands.
- Fun culture, clan, fights, roast lambs, water freeze, rolled barrels of beer to Deas Island.
- Superstition "don't cut fingernails on a boat; it's bad luck".
- Told story of fishery officers daughter drowning.
- Japanese used rooster on boat to find drowned bodies; when rooster crowed, body could be located.
- When fished every day, packer came by to unload fish.
- Used to club springs 60-70 lbs. and throw them overboard---70 lbs. springs 5¢ each, humps 1/2¢ each.
- Father caught 200 fish once and cannery wouldn't take them, so had to dump them.