

Mrs. G. Cheverton

Interviewed May 6, 1972.

Born 1909 in Steveston over Post Office on 2nd Ave., family lived at London's Landing - Father originally from Sweden - talks about early family - Father was cannery net man - children born at home - only hospital in Steveston was Japanese Hospital but whites didn't use it - (talks about early doctors in Steveston) - Dr. Hepworth was an early Steveston doctor. Talks about early patented medicines - (measles story) - talks about Rev. and Mrs. Donaldson - moved 1913 into Atlas Cannery messhouse - talks about small flood - comments about early dykes - canneries had their own dykes and didn't want municipal dykes interfering with them - father was caretaker at Cannery for 5 yrs. - went to Steveston School - 3 room building - names early teachers - talks about classroom and classroom procedures - during recess, no play equipment so Mrs. Cheverton discusses various activities children would do - describes children's games - 1921 was introduction of organized sports - school classes went from 1st grade up to entrance class - talks about animosity between Steveston and Bridgeport schools - "ice cream, soda-water, ginger ale, pop; Bridgeport, Bridgeport - always on the top" - names early school - several classes in each room - talks about class system - at Steveston school, a little school was built on and the name was changed to Lord Byng - not many Japanese children then - talks about school subjects - as many as 3 classes going on simultaneously in one room - at age 9 moved to present family home on Chatham St. - at cannery house had coal-oil lamps - describes suspended globe at front of room counter-weighted by a moon-shaped weight - talks about the strap as corporal punishment - no statutory holidays then, thus May 24 was a school day - Agricultural Society started the May Queen and Maypole dances in Brighouse May 24th celebration in Steveston was before this time and apparently discontinued before W.W.I - May 24th was also anniversary of arrival of

Steves family to Lulu Is. - talks about early days at Sunday School and describes the various churches - Anglican and Methodist Churches were prominent then - 2 P.M. was Sunday School and 3 P.M. was regular Sunday service - all Stores closed on Sunday except little Japanese candy stores -(collection money spent on candy story) - loose silver found under board sidewalks and at Boxing arena by enterprising children - Sunday School picnics at Kitsilano beach described - children rented bathing suits at beach if they didn't own one - later, Sunday School excursion went to Stanley Park - describes early zoo in some detail - polar bears came much later - (nature walk with Minister story) - talks about early experiences on the Interurban Tram - riding on back platform was thrilling experience - saw masses of snow geese on Sturgeon Banks on occasion.

TAPS - ...

What children did during summer - used to wander around waterfront out to lighthouse at Garry Point - went with old fisherman and wife over to Portland Island - stayed overnight in a Construction Camp and came back through Active Pass -she could remember seeing the lighthouse. Got on top of lighthouse and there was a little platform there to stand on and see all the fishboats with sails was a beautiful sight, they all had lamps on. People came from Vancouver to see the sights. Father was a caretaker at the Atlas - one of his jobs was to set off one of these cannons to start fishing. Five or six other guns would go off - Ladner and Westham Island - there was a jetty there- a large gap * which served as a swimming hole for Japanese. Scottish Canadian Cannery store, Managers house and 2 - 2 storey Chinese houses and row of shacks lived in by Indians. Row of houses faced slough, the boat tied up in front

*Cannery
- houses
Ind. + Chinese*

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of house and they would climb ladder to the house. There was a long ramp went out to Scottish Canadian Cannery all on piles, also Atagi's boathouse was there. There were salmonberries, wild gooseberries, also wild flowers in there - false solomon seals, spring beauties, cut-tails Indian people gathered reeds and made mats out of them. Indians made baskets and didn't want money but old clothes, baskets full of *b. berries* they had picked in the bog.

Lay out of Canneries - Early days Managers came from Victoria or Vancouver would board or have their own home. The could always stay at the Mess House. The China boss would look after chinese in china-house - Mess House, Fishermen's families - Japanese set up their own school and Mrs. Austin Harris taught English in Japanese School. The main buildings were just East of No. 1 Road where the Army and Navy Parking lot is. A Boxing Arena was held in the school building. Japanese paid a certain amount per month per child for privilege of sending them to our schools. Japanese went to Public School and then to Japanese school after and Saturday.

The Japanese brought films in to this country and were showing them to the young people. The Japanese, regardless of what ever other country he goes to and obtains citizenship in, he is still regarded as a Japanese Citizen. The Budnist Church in Steveston became the Steva Theatre. The Church was left full of cremated ashes and kids broke in and destroyed everything.

She walked out from the Burrard Cannery to the lighthouse walked on drifted logs out to boathouse. Walter Gordon was one of friends. There was always lots of catterpillars on the Willow trees also on poplar trees and trees were planted in front of the church - Story

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of catterpillars on ladies hats in church. trees cut down 1954.
Poplar trees taken down. wooden embankment along dyke now replaced
with rock. The municipal dyke was not completed till 1908 and prior to
that any dyke there was was hand built - men from cannery, when not
workin g, worked on dyke. White people, as well as chinese. Ice cream
vendor came around with cart, held 2 gal. containers, little posts each
corner - cover on and a big wheel on each side. There was 2 handles,
- story about losin g nickel going for an ice cream cone. Story about
gambling for gold coin. Fishermen could not sell fish to anyone else
but cannery collector checked off at end of year. There were slot
machines in the cafe on No. 1 Road, taken out after declared illegal.
Then Puncu boards came in - Japanese stores carried a lot of Japanese
food. Japanese pear, not tasty, but juicy, imported food from Japan.

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