

AGRICULTURE

Tape 29, S.2

Lloyd Cooney
1022 Bridgeport Road, Richmond.

Interviewed: March 23, 1973.

Born July 22, 1910 - home Main and 10th, Vancouver.

January 1, 1896 - father and grandfather arrived from Orangeville.

1897 - They bought Sea Island 150 acres from Mr. Errington . . .
the farm was 666 Miller Road . . . Errington lived in Halse's old
house, located where Hyatt House Hotel has just gone up.

1896 - Rest of the family came over. Dad died Nov. 12, 1962.

The old manse used to be where Army and Navy Club, Sea Island,
is now.

Built house on their farm around 1922, Lloyd entered school
Grade 5, with Rachael Laing as teacher in Bridgeport School . . .
previously Chinese rented the farm under arrangement to clear
acreage for Cooneys . . . many hemlocks on the farm in the moist
soil.

Chinese grew potatoes . . . when farm cleared during World
War One Chinaman and father became partners and planted farm with
potatoes . . . behind McCleery and Weston in Marpole was dehydrating
plant which bought the potatoes, dehydrated, shipped overseas . . .
contract with Chinese was word of mouth . . . paid by four \$1,000
bills.

Hand dyke around Sea Island . . . father called home from
Vancouver Island to fix it . . . father grew peas, rented farm to
Beecham and father drove truck for Buckerfields and later worked
for Marpole Grain . . . couldn't make a living farming.

As a boy Lloyd milked a few cows on farm, chores, got wood . . . with Bob Doherty, father bought carload of wood, left on siding to unload, cost \$40.00 . . . recalled young man Vic Marchard skated across Fraser River beside present bridge from Lulu Island to the airport . . . B.C. Electric bridge (the railway bridge) went out by ice pressure.

To get to Vancouver as youngster, walked over Marpole Bridge from Sea Island then took interurban or Oak St. tram . . . came by bike, later family car to Brighthouse . . . delivered Sunday papers.

Bridge from Sea Island to Dinsmore Island , . . recalled excellent farming . . . Chinese grew vegetables there . . . season two weeks earlier than Sea Island due to warm wind up from the Gulf . . . Bob Doherty bought the 80 acre island, channel now filled in . . . used to hunt there, pheasants, ducks . . . when birds migrating could fire a gun and always hit birds: mixture mallards, pintail, wigeon, teal . . . caught limit of 8 ducks in 1½ hours in evening at end of Sea Island.

Lloyd drove truck for Buckerfields for 39 years delivering feed.

Lloyd caught muskrats, sold to "Tapp" for \$1.00 apiece . . . he skinned them . . . later caught muskrats alive in traps \$3.00 - \$4.00 each . . . muskrats only eat vegetables, flowers, dwarf mums . . . stored as food by muskrat.

Not on tape - C1922 Japanese school - located on S.W. corner of Sea Island . . . Lloyd Cooney played baseball with Japanese kids . . . Minnie Ebert taught there.

Lloyd's mother has copy of first printed newspaper of this area.