

Cliff Cross Bridge Tender

Interviewed May 18, 1972.

7030 Thunder Bay St. Powell River

at home of daughter-in-law Mrs. Gib Cross, 956 Garden City Road.

Born August 25, 1894, Richards St., Vancouver

-went to old Dawson School - moved to Burrard and Broadway then Fairview School around 1900 to home through old logging roads.

-saw sailing boats, schooners loading lumber Hastings Mill - left Vancouver for Lulu Is. at 14 yrs. - at 9 years first stepped on Lulu Is.

-took Jim Mellis' horse stage from corner present Broadway and Granville St. - between 9th Ave. (Broadway) and Hudson St. (approx. 6 miles) only 1 house: Shannon's farm. - school holiday, visited Joe Parson family,

Lulu Is. recalls coming to Sea Island - Grauer's butcher shop right side - grocery store on left built on pilings, run by Bell family - post office there for present Marpole district - second bridge to Lulu Is. down River Rd. to fish cannery which became Easterbrooks Flour Mill - odd farm house to Terra Nova.

Lists everyone lived at Terra Nova then:

Powell, Bill Gray (Half) lived same house, Gray married Half's daughter, Gordon, Sam Walton, Japanese fishermen shacks, Indian shacks, Joe Parsons, Bicknell (Ray and Percy), Cannery house, cannery store, Bill Dernon, Jim Mellis (ran stage, Terra Nova P.O.) Clugston (Fred's father) - some boys sold ducks commercially - Jim Gray collected ducks in light wagon, delivered to Vancouver - oldest daughter married Billy Horn; second daughter married Tate.

Mr. Cliff Cross

Old cannery washed out on Terra Nova - Alliance Cannery (original fish cannery, later Terra Nova 20 ft. away) used hand turned machinery - old Alliance building became shed canned fish.

Cross got first job at Terra Nova Cannery at age of 9 - 10 - at 10¢ an hour - stayed at Parsons - took home \$17.00 - at 10 - 11 years saw Steveston on Sunday - Parsons building salt box B.C. Packers - corner No. 1 Rd. and Moncton mass of rolling drunken fishermen - 4-5 hotels there - recalls Steveston, Commercial - man with Powell River property once ran Steveston Hotel. Cliff Cross at 14 moved to Lulu Is. with father Charles, family (sister Eunice) - father bought 20 acres Cambie near No. 5 Road. - Cambie down to No. 4 Road a cow trail through willow bushes - Mitchell School teacher kept clothing change winters - clothes wet on 1½ mile from inter-urban Cambie Station - then on to school.

-2 years Cross rider for fire dept. - July, August, Sept., rode 10 foot plank roads over bog on bike - carried 1 ½ gallons water bucket over shoulder - carried sharp garden spade - looking for spot fires along side road - twice a day - paid \$2.85 a day - paid by Municipality - third year Council refused - that summer lost 3-4 miles plank in one fire - Cross was 17 - 18 years - jack-pine needles, blueberry, wild, smoke thick around 1911 fire.

Practice: plough ground not deep - set fire - next season produce good crop oats.

- said low spots around Granville result of this - out of school at 14
- worked father's farm - also worked briefly municipality - Chinese, po
over shoulders, 2 baskets full blueberries going up road - used comb w
bag to pick. - Indians only at Steveston, or Lion's Island, or fish
canneries - may have picked on Richmond Rifle Range - evenings whole b
a blue sheen blueberries - great patches cranberries - poor duck hunting
day filled pockets with small cranberries - preserved.

- large Himalaya Giant blackberries, seeded selves - 1915 joined Army
(infantry) returned May 1919 - logged Vancouver Is. sawmill - hurt back
so became No. 6 Fraser Bridge tender around 1926 for 31 years - a swing
bridge - swung by hand - 5 a.m. Chinese pig farmers took load vegetable
on wagons over bridge in group - odd horse and buggy - load of hay on
bridge. - River traffic came with tides - tugs started with log booms o
low tide, tied up, waiting next tide to step up river. Mostly boat
downstream was scow loads gravel from Gillies Quarries, Pitt Lake and
Mary's Hill, Coquitlam - to McCleery and Weston's Cement, Marpole -
Gillnetters, seiners up coast in spring run few days north - return in
fall - had to open bridge. - always 2 men on bridge - Incident; Court
case over who paid costs: Truss lost on bridge between Twigg - Lulu Is.
Second Incident between S. Vancouver and Richmond.

Summer holidays - kids swam in bay between Twigg and Mitchell Is. in sa
bar - hear boat whistle for bridge - half dozen rushed to bridge to he
open it - then returned swim - grown kids reminded him of it later

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Bridge Anecdote told by sister, 1917 to Cliff: Smith, Bus driver with Model T Ford, extended body extra seat running from Marine Drive, Frase Ave. to Woodward's Landing - certain night, heavy mist approached Frase Ave. Bridge from Ladner - no lights on bridge - tender carried lantern 1/2 green one side, 1/2 red globe (direct boat) nothing for road traffic bus crashed into iron gates and river - many drowned. Chinaman said standing on running board - Alex Mitchell saved floating baby - no trace of Chinaman.

Incident re accident Cross: Phone call on day off - couldn't unlock bridge to open swing - automatic switch gave out - had to unlock by hand with old sweep on deck - left sweep in capstan - 2 waiting boats through * swung bridge back - switch activated - sweep hit his head - 24 stitches off work 1 month - Dr. Turner sewed head - had to rip leg cords from bones. - Got cheque for 60 cents from Workmen's Compensation Board - ulcerated stomach - drank 1 gallon goat's milk daily. Married - Nita Grant - Children: Gilbert, Richmond - Doris, Mrs. Pentecost (Ladner)
2nd wife: Elizabeth McWhinnie.

While Bridge Tender saved from drowning - had own rowboat near bridge - 3 in deep water - 1 kid playing with stick on float fell in - jumped out window 10 feet into sand. - picked 2 women out of river (over back of boat) - man slipped of logs, Cross rowed him to shore hanging to end -

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police got credit.

Incident: - Jensen sisters jumped in water in October - both saved
(hopheads?) just goin' swimming -

TAPE 25 - SIDE 1.