

Researcher: David Stevenson

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Interviewed: March 7, 1976

Mr. Charles Deagle, Owner of Fish Shop,
384 Garry Street, Second Avenue,
Richmond, B. C. Steveston, B. C.

- There used to be a huge cold storage plant in Steveston.
- There used to be one train a day come here and return to Vancouver.
- His dad took train loads of halibut out of this cold storage plant.
- Father's name was Billy Deagle, worked for the B. C. Electric as a conductor for 39 years.
- He was on the trains first and brought the first carload of Japanese to Steveston during the fishing strike in which the militia were used.
- The Japanese were brought to break the strike.
- In 1913 there were lots of fish.
- There wasn't another strike until 1936 in the Fraser River during the depression.
- Stage coaches used to run out of Steveston.
- Years ago, they had a boxing match where the present community center is located and fellows came from all over, in horse and buggy, to see the match.
- The town has gone down and down.
- There used to be a big store called Richmond Trading Co., used to supply all of Lulu Island, people came from Westham to shop there for groceries, hardware, everything.
- Ed Calvert's dad drove a horse and wagon for Richmond Trading Co.
- Richmond is going down hill...there are fewer stores.
- There used to be an opera house here.
- The opera house was kitty-corner from the United Church on south west side of Chatham; it was a big hall, with seats, and a well waxed floor, used to hold dances there and years ago the Japanese used to hold their wrestling matches there and judo.
- They also had a big "potlatch" in the opera house and faffled off a Model T-Ford.
- Austin Harris used to be Chief of Police here.
- It was a bad time, Indians came from all over and there were seven saloons and 13 canneries at one time, there was a Chinatown here before there was one in Vancouver.

- There were several fires, that damaged the town and no fire equipment in town; No. One Road from the government dock to the corner one Sunday afternoon.
- He was coming from Sunday school with his sister from Williams Road to No. Two Road.
- He went to Lord Byng; there have been three schools on that site, one was bulled down and one was burnt down.
- You could buy lots for \$50 to \$75 in those days.
- Everybody got along well in the town because they were all busy making a living.
- There must have been lots of drinking in those days; boot legging was a common site on a Sunday.
- Big train station in Steveston at one time with freight shed.
- Norman Marshal worked for an outfit called Moffat & Martin which imported Model T-Ford cars and Ford tractors by the train load.
- Moffat was a smart operator.
- Martin was on the work end.
- One year Moffat sold so many cars that Henry Ford gave him a specially built car as a bonus.
- The Japanese are good neighbours, they are good people.
- When WW II broke out it was terrible for the Japanese people.
- He was given the pool room, a boat house, four new automobiles, shed full of gear and furniture... all of these were entrusted to his care, to look after until the war ended.
- He kept all of these until the custodian made him give them up.
- He had, for instance, 13 chesterfield suites.
- Some people thought the Japanese were a threat during the war but they didn't really know the people.
- He lived with them and did not see them as anything but good people, he worked with them, and went to school with them and found them very friendly.
- The Japanese were controlled in the fishing as to where they could fish.
- Sometimes the sons went north to fish, the father stayed to fish in the Fraser and was joined by his sons in the fall fishing.
- There were some hard feelings about their return after the war because the Japanese had been replaced by "White trash" because they were needed to fish.

- The canneries helped the Japanese to get back into the industry by providing boats and gear.
- When he was in Port Edward there was a big hangar used for boat building, it held 6 to 8 boats.
- It used to be an American army base; he built the boats for Nelson Bros.
- The army had lots of facilities; their own bowling alley, stores, etc.
- Port Edward was originally planned to be a big city instead of Prince Rupert but it didn't go ahead.
- Port Edward was originally an American cannery.
- Charlie ran the boat shop there for five years; there was a reduction plant and cannery operating there.
- He went to Wadhams in 1942 after it had burnt down, he stayed there.
- They had a difficult time getting parts.
- There were lots of fish then; anybody with a net could catch them.
- He built the boat ways there for boat repairs, a boiler house, a power house; most of the canneries had stopped operating by then except for Goose Bay.
- He saw 2,600 boats in Rivers Inlet at one time, mostly gillnetters; if you lifted your net you couldn't get it back in.
- In 1960 he quit Nelson Bros. and became a cash-buyer with five boats and five scows.
- He sold to North American Fish Co. at the foot of Columbia in Vancouver.
- He had packers that collected the fish.
- He branched out until 1970 and because he was older he sold the outfit and retained only his shop in Steveston run by himself and his wife.
- When you get older you don't fight anymore.
- The cash buyer has a lower overhead and pays a higher price for the fish.
- The companies used to put spotters in boats to watch his buyers to prevent company fishermen from buying from his men.
- Everyone sold to him union or non-union.
- He observed the union strikes though.
- The cash-buyers did give competition to the companies and so were indirectly good for the union.

- The Fisherman's Co-op never had a cannery...started out collecting dog salmon but it never worked out.
- He predicts that if there is another strike, the fishermen will leave the union and form co-ops.
- The cannery gets the fish in the end anyway.
- The co-op gives the fishermen more independence and more stability in the prices.
- Fishing today is a big business; in the old days it was different.
- They had more experience and fished the tides, today they go out at any time.
- They could still catch fish in the Fraser but the Americans get so many they have to go out in the Straits of San Juan to get their share of them.
- The salmon run on the Fraser seems to be dying out.
- Discusses the pollution of the Fraser which hasn't affected the fish that much.
- Story of the fingerlings which were caught by a friend, he kept them several days by changing the water; a visitor came by with him lunch and dropped some white bread into the bowl and the fish died.
- He feels that there are too many boats and that the buy-back program was not run properly.
- He's never seen the government doing anything right yet.
- Smaller boats were bought up and big ones took over the tonnage.
- There is only a few of the Steveston old-timer left now.
- The Hardware Store in Steveston is one of the best on the coast... people come from all over to shop there.
- He describes the old Chinatown in Steveston...Hong Wo's store used to sell pickles.
- The 30's weren't that bad in Steveston as there was always something to eat.
- Americans are building up their coho run and this benefits the Canadian fishermen as well...fish raised in a hatchery are like stove-wood all the same size.
- Shell fish have also declined now in the Steveston area.
- Gulf of Georgia is just a big septic tank.
- Crabs caught near Roberts Bank the meat was black with coal dust.

- Shell fish are being fished so heavily that they don't have time to grow.
- He was so competitive to the companies that the cannery manager wouldn't talk to him during the fish season.
- There never was a very permanent Indian community in Steveston.
- B. C. Packers gillnet shed is now on the site of an Indian graveyard.
- Indians were hung from trees up at Wadhams by the west coast people when they died.