

Mr. Wm. G. Easterbrook

Interviewed March 9, 1972.

Came to Lulu Is. (1906) at age of 16 - born 1890 - first home was next to where mill was built River Rd. at end of Bridgeport then, no high-school in Richmond - Bridgeport School built later - MacDonald School on Sea Island, No. 2 Road near Lulu St., also Steveston School - brother walked to one room school on No. 2 Road - High School - High School went to by Interurban Train was at Oak & 12th Ave. got off at Broadway and walked to 12th through stumps - went to work at mill before finishing high school - went to business school later - father built house next to mill - He built house next to Bridgeport school barn - children parked their horses and buggies in barn during school hours - first job was working at Rifle Range - east of Garden City, North of Westminster Highway - was very boggy -(story about this) - friend of Jim Sexsmith - Lansdowne Racetrack was partly bog - also Minoru track - (story about building up track) - father brought 3 railroad cars of mill machinery from Toronto out to Lulu Island for his flour mill - only flour mill in B.C. at that time - (other subsequent mills discussed)-Easterbrook Flour Mill was also called Eburne Flour Mill due to its local (discussion about the milling of wheat into flour - few Hindus in Richmond - wheat grown on Lulu Island - it was too soft, thus used for chicken seed but not milled - ran night and day during World War I due to war needs

*farmers want to form mill co-op after mill burned down but fire

insurance was prohibitive due to inadequate fire fighting services - machinery cost much more in 1925 than it did in 1906 - (story about fire at mill) - mill and house both burned down in 1925 - no fire fighting services at all - his elevator built in 1924 also burned down and was full of grain - grain lost was \$80,000 - wooden elevator - (describes construction) - 110 feet high - worked at Buckerfield's for 34 yrs. then - (discusses various distributors ~~and~~ in Vancouver and a lighter biscuit flour) - family lost everything in fire - (discusses Richmond Review 1957 and 1947) - Grandfather worked for Corby Distillery as a Miller - (story about this adventure) - local farmer's comment was "young whippersnapper of a boy making \$300. per year" - (story about Grandfather going to South Africa with father to conduct milling business there) - (comment about Vancouver Lumber being prominent in South Africa even then) - built track from C.P.R. Lulu Is. line to Mill - (extensive discussion about this - costs - right-of-way - renting - responsibility of maintenance) - discusses rice and rye flour and problems thereto - father held many positions in Richmond activities - church - He was 7 years on School Board, 3 years on Police Commission - was at that time the change over from local Police to Provincial Police - story about Police at that time and Alfie Johnston) - Drinking at the

7 hotels on weekends - slot machines in Japanese stores then - comments about this - (more stories about Police and slots) - discusses arrangements made with Victoria about costs for Provincial Police -(Rudy Grauer Story) - this was about 1935 - 1936 - founding member and first President of Kiwanis - helped form Lacrosse Clubs in Richmond - a list of positions he held in the Lacrosse Associations given here - talks about position of house and mill related to Railway spur - Local flour trucked into Vancouver, but incoming grain came by rail - farms got feed originally from Vancouver Dealers until Easterbrook mill was set up - bran and shorts made by Mill and also shipped in from Prairies - farmers bought this for feed - (discusses dairy feed and poultry mash) -discusses winter conditions on Lulu Island - (discusses location of mill house, dyke, road, etc.) - blueberries at Rifle Range - not too many cranberries then but more now - small winery (Rathburn) on Blundell Rd. Big Winery was McKinney's on No. 2 Road south of Steveston Highway - all loganberries used - (discusses old lacrosse pictures and Kiwanis dinner picture) - McKinney and Simson started a crematory in Vancouver -bootlegging here means selling beer along with cold soft drinks in

216'

Old #9 Rd

314'

Japanese stores - (Buckingham story, about misuse of Poll tax money)
- a large sockeye salmon then was 8¢ - general discussion of canneries)
Selkirk and Acme Canneries on Sea Island) - talks about Sunday evening
start of fishing with little boats fighting for position in river -
May 13, 1925, Mill burnt - his 8 yr. old brother drowned the same day
7 years earlier - discusses credit arrangements with farmers - \$2.00
ton to mill, sack and deliver grain - (story about his retirement from
Buckerfield's and the dinner given him by farmers) - various anecdotes
about old friends - fire departments developed after water mains put
in - discusses wooden water mains - story about early bog conditions -
heavy smoke from burning off brush from bog if wind changed - Charlie
McCulloch was first Fire Chief in Richmond - his father lost his barn
and all stock - Jim Thompson rented farm (600 acres) at Terra Nova -
Rose farm above Mah Bing's place was sold to Fentimans - chinese bought
fertilizer from Mill for their garden farms - Chinese not as good at
paying bills as Japanese - Japanese raised strawberries and loganberries
- Japanese helped pay for new school (20,000.) - Lord Byng - when old

Steveston school burned down - (stories about Japanese) Whites
 attitudes towards orientals not good in early days - primarily due to
 orientals willingness to work for less money - attitudes improved
 however over time - Japanese working habits discussed - Gilmore, Grauer ^{554'}
 and Easterbrook all involved in Lacrosse - anecdote about Grauer and
 Gilmore) - raised a great deal of money by giving dances - (story about
 Grauer and the girl-next-door) last tram from Vancouver in those days
 was 9:00 P.M. - for those without other kinds of transportation, getting
 back from Vancouver was done by foot - saw wrestling match between Doc.
 Roller and Pat Connelly (the Canadian Champ) wrestle 2 hrs. without a
 fall - (describes old opera house activities) - describes Snorts Arena
 in Brighthouse - most dances held in Orange Lodge on Steveston Hwy. -
 Oddfellows Hall above blacksmith shop near Lulu Is. bridge to Sea Is. -
 later when gym was built, dances held at it - (slow^e gin joke!) - ^{525'}
 Easterbrook and the Miller introduced lacrosse to Lulu Is. - big
 festivals were berry festivals such as Strawberry Festival - Agricultural
 hall was at Cambie and River Roads - Strawberry Festival was big get-
 together - Church groups would get together to put on festival -

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(discusses various church groups) discusses lacrosse picture - Sports
 was main way to keep young people occupied - (anecdote about sports ^{660'}
 equipment in a lacrosse game) - observations about juvenile delinquency
 - some Vancouver people made a great deal of money during Canadian
 Prohibition by smuggling whiskey by boat up from the states - few
 boats from Richmond were involved in smuggling - change in drinking
 habits followed closing of Steveston Hotels - saw 4 mast schooners in
 Vancouver - Swam in Middle Arm behind Mill - early farmer's wagons
 during winter would often sink to hubs in muck that was the road -
 No. 5 Road ended at Cambie or shortly beyond - No. 3 Road was main road
 -discussion about tax land for sale) - bog had to be drained before it
 could be farmed - (story about Mr. Hood on Alexander Rd. getting
 Municipality to dig drainage ditch which subsequently flooded his land
 rather than drained it!) discussion about taxes for drain-ditches -
 (anecdote about Mr. Thomas delivering milk during Xmas season when tide
 was in) - pumps at flood boxes made big difference in lulu Is. drainage
 -before that flood boxes operated by water pressure.

TAPE 8 - SIDE 1A