

MRS. VIOLET FLURY - (East Richmond United Church)

INTERVIEWED: April 2, 1975 T.41.1

Congregation met first in Mitchell School, a one-room school then at the corner of No. 5 Road and Cambie, in 1910 or 1911. The congregation was about a dozen in number and was composed of Methodists, Anglicans, Presbyterians and Baptists.

Ministers

Student ministers from Westminster Hall - the first being Nelson Graham. These were not regular, and a Baptist Minister, Reverend Boice who had been in the congregation, took the services.

Facilities

Used desks (too small for many adults) - Sunday School held at 10:30 a.m., church at 11:00 a.m. A collection was made in area to purchase organ and hymn books.

Background of Congregation

Local people travelling by foot or horse & buggy.

Heating & Lighting

Box stove, but no electricity. People brought own lanterns.

Groups Meeting

Held concerts. One picnic recalled June 3, 1912 for King George's birthday at the Quigley home, No. 6 & River Road.

Use of Mitchell School continued until about 1919-1920. Trustees at the time among them being Mrs. Flury's father,

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Mr. J. H. Bath and Mr. Ezra May, met to discuss purchase of property for a church.

Building

North side of Mitchell School property - about 1/4 acre. There was a structure on land previously used as a dance hall. Wood frame, fair size building. Church groups fixed it up - pews. Took organ from Mitchell School. Minister still Rev. Boice. Called church East Richmond Church - became East Richmond United Church after 1925.

One room structure, at back was ante-room used for kitchen. Ladies Aid group formed - sewing, bazaars and garden parties. Garden parties held at home of Mr. Ezra May. Money went into general expenses of church. Sunday School continued. C.G.I.T. formed, continued for a while.

Ministers

Rev. Payton from Riverview Church in Vancouver (Riverview United Church), came for a while until they joined with Richmond church. Rev. Nixon came for evening service, Sunday School continued mornings. Then Rev. Miller came from Richmond. Still no electricity - until 1927 - continued using lamps --describes lighting of them - describes transport and parking.

Rev. Archibald later took services. Congrégation not growing too much - still a farming area.

During Rev. Archibald's stay, church was closed and congregation started going to Richmond United Church. Sunday School continued as a non-denominational Sunday School.

Moving of Building

Because of original mistake in marking out Mitchell School,

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in the settling of estate of Mr. Alec Mitchell, church was moved over. (See photostat copy of Indenture June 1921 on file) - (tape indicates different date).

Sale of Building

Bought by School Board after closure, used as classroom. Sunday School continued. Mrs. Flury was married in church in 1942.. believes the only wedding - Minister Rev. Finnemore. Money from sale was held in trust in case of setting up again, then given to Richmond United Church. Building pulled down in 1960's. Area very industrial now and people go to other nearby churches.

M. NOBLE