

Victoria Gay

Interviewed April 11, 1972.

Born 1895 - born No. 5 Road - between Woodward's Landing and Steveston Highway - born at home as well as younger brother - went to English School - named after family who owned land the school is upon - (joke about Terra Nova) first teacher was Lottie Marsden - liked her - (story about this) - older brother lost in war - English school went to 4th Reader - talks about English School - went to Bridgeport School by buggy and bicycle - there was a barn for children's horses at Bridgeport School although Gay left her rig about half way - walked up track - (gag about the name Garden City Rd.) - remembers steam locomotive - C.P.R. - in those days - No. 5 Road open all the way then - every 1/4 mile was a turn-out for passing on the road - remembers May 24th in Steveston - sack races and 3 leg races - father re-married widow with two small girls - received little gifts on birthdays and Xmas - Mother made all dresses - (story about little gifts) Gay family had first cultivated strawberries in Richmond - (childhood memories follows) had one cow - Gurnsey - which provided milk and cream (story about this) - had chickens, made bread - jitney-bus came later, originally this service was just a car which people crammed into - talks about Fraser Bridge accident - jitney from Woodward's ended at Fraser and Marine and one transferred on to Fraser car - Marpole Bridge earlier than Fraser Bridge - talks about early clothes - no electricity at home then - (\$1,000 bill story) - had telephone first, then water - electricity later - 1st house burned down - re-built on same foundations - moved later across road - John Harrison house was originally the Gay house - Woodward's Landing named after Gay's Mother's cousin who bought property and wharf that was called Woodward's Landing - (story about opening of Woodward's School) - talks about the old transfer that went to New Westminster - went to Agricultural Fair each year (story about this) - Ferry to Ladner that

carried cars came later - (story about cars driving to New Westminster rather than wait for ferry) - dances at Opera House and Orange Hall - discusses oldcoal-oil lamps - stoves were main heat source - went up to Stanley Park and English Bay as a special outing - Fraser River was too dangerous to swim in due to undertow - (story about death of Joe Kidd) - Mother and father went fishing in South Arm - all sail then - had Chinese working for them picking strawberries at 10¢ per hour - chinese cooked their own lunch on the job - (story about serious burn incident of V. Gay as a child by the Chinese portable coal-oil stove) - land was clay and family cultivated strawberries which sold at \$2.40 for 24 lb. crate of strawberries - father drove democrat into Vancouver to sell strawberries -went to bog to get blueberries - lots of small ants in the bog to be avoided - few mosquitoes - many pheasants and ducks - geese flew over in the Spring - (story about young pheasant following her in the bog) - some pheasants were raised then - many muskrats in the ditches - (story about a bear) - story also about a farm^{CA} - deer swam over to Lulu Is., not indigenous - spent most of life on south end of No. 5 Road - didn't go to Steveston very much yet South Arm Community was spread out - few farms so that it could hardly be called a community - belonged to Anglican Church - Shell and Steveston - (Unclear about this) - (Donaldson and wife story) - first auto was a Ford - saw first car in 1907 - labor on farm was Hindu - chinese had a little shack on corner of No. 5 and No. 9 Roads - (Halloween story) - Hindus lived as laborers on farm - story about cow falling into ditch - only 2 Japanese at Bridgeport school then - no orientals at English School - strawberry Festival held at local churches -strawberries and sandwiches served - in old days going into Vancouver and return took all day - number of livery stables to accommodate horse and buggies - early stores were Hudson Bay and Woodward's - first stage

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Miss Victoria Gay

show seen was at age of 11 - bought goods in Steveston before Brighthouse was developed - remembers Hunts store - (story about parrot whistling for dog) - no phones at night 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. only - Interurban accident (related here) may have been reason for having 24 hr. phone service - 15¢ toll charge from Lulu Is. to Vancouver for 3 min. - (story about this) - has a brother in Haney - in first home only grew fruit - named when moved later, grew grain (story about McMyn thresher)

TAPE 15 - SIDE 1.