

Les GilmoreInterviewed March 24, 1972.

Born - Westham Is. 1894, moved to Lulu Island about 1902 - born at home - midwife rather than doctor - no high school in Richmond so went to King Edward in Vancouver - old farm on Gilmore property on No. 4 Road built by Mother's family from lumber floated down river from Fraser Mills - lumber was traded for hay - main commerce was done on river - swam in ditches, sloughs, but river was very cold - boys went swimming but girls didn't as a rule - hunting off Sturgeon Bank which was called Terra Nova flats - owned land bordering this part - sold it which became later first subdivision - 200 acres south of Blundell Rd. - (story about adopting 2 of the Bridge children) - (examines picture on wall) - no peat in this area - only clay which was also good as a growing medium - first crop was hay which was sold to Victoria, New Westminster, Vancouver, etc. - picked up right at the river's edge - discusses mowing techniques - owned large threshing outfit for own use and did other people's fields as well - worked as a teenager on thresher - Lulu Island wheat not a good milling wheat - oats was big grain crop - local oats considered better than Prairie oats - didn't have own oats milled but sold directly to feed companies - (discusses dyke road along edge of property) - while on Westham Is. saw many four mast schooners - was friendly with sailors from schooners - locals gave dances for them - (Story about Gilmore's harbouring sailor who jumped ship) - first school was English School - teacher taught all grades up to high school. last year of English School was called entrance year - this was before Miss Bothwell's time - talks about ducks flying into fields east of dyke - property north of Gilmore's place was all bog - talks about bog conditions - discusses hunting bear and deer east end of Island - talks about a few fox still around and racoons - clearing land for farming pushed back the population of small ground animals. Talks about birds then and now - farmers had bees for own use -

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no mosquitoes at this end of island - many mosquitoes at west end of Lulu Island - sprayed later - Flats outside dyke supported mosquitoes whereas bog area not having surface water did not - discusses having bees brought on to property to aid cross pollination of cucumbers - most chinese originally in Steveston but with development of roads into Vancouver; chinese went into truck farming extensively - very good farmers for truck gardening - hard, conscientious workers - knew Mah Bing well - Mah Bing delivered truckload of produce into Vancouver every day - (discussion about co-operative Marketing Board and reluctance of Chinese to join) - Mah Bing boarded Vancouver chinese men, single men, during produce season - Chinese who lived in Steveston worked in Canneries and lived in cannery houses - during slow fishing, Chinese worked on local farms including Gilmores - Japanese good fishermen and good people - (discusses Japanese generally) - racial friction in early days, according to Gilmore, was between Chinese and Whites - farmers didn't make much wine and beer because of access to Steveston Hotels - doesn't remember smuggling during Canadian Prohibition - heard about Canadian smuggling during U.S. Prohibition - some of Gilmore's friends considered smuggling whiskey in to the States as a legitimate business - talks about early weather patterns -(discusses 1948 flood) - brother "Cap" in charge of dykes - when he came here dykes all hand made - dykes surrounded each farm - south end of No. 4 Road originally a dyke - (discusses this in some detail) - discusses natural ditches, road ditches, and farmer built ditches - ditches in fields were traversed by horse and wagon by means of small bridge or culvert - talks about ditches as source of water during dry season - discusses flood gates at end of drainage canals - early times, small flood boxes built and maintained by early farmers -

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many community affairs held at old Opera House - Jack O'Neil, a coal and wood dealer was responsible for putting on shows at early days, before coal, driftwood from river used as fuel for heating - talks about early days as boy with others cutting up driftwood - Fraser Mills may have been the first sawmill - logbooms always on river - sometimes when a boom broke up, Gilmore would hide log in the bush to be cut up later - know Jas. Francis and wife - talks about his race-horses as a hobby started 20 years ago - worked on Brighthouse Track with team of horses and scrapers (story about this) - paid \$5.00 day for team, man and scraper - talks about Lansdowne Track - both tracks considered very good at that time - Chas. Oldfield in charge of construction of Lansdowne - the quality of milk in those days was considered very good - Gilmore use to ship cream everyday up Fraser by steamer to New Westminster skim milk given to pigs - went into dairy business just after W.W.I with brother - had largest holstein herd in Canada at that time - top herd in production and showing in Canada - set some Canadian and world records in production - Steves famous also for holstein cattle - supposed to have introduced holstein breed to Julu Island - talks about R.O.P. (record of production) system only a few hours between milking and receiving 10 gal. cans of milk at the Vancouver dairies - farmers delivered milk to Branscomb station where B.C. Electric would have box cars to transport cans into town - watermains and telephones early installed in South Arm Area - before that, rainwater was caught - river water was drank - pumped from river by hand and allowed to settle in barrel - once-a-week -bath where all children used same water - talks about staples bought at Steveston - Walker's store carried everything and would deliver food ordered by telephone - had regular delivery days -

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area in all Canada - suspects feed companies put iodine in cattle feed
to off-set iodine missing from soil.

TAPE 12 - SIDE 1.