

Mr. Gus Grauer

Interviewed April 24, 1972.

Born Vancouver 1888 - moved to Sea Island 1892 - almost drowned in ditch as a child - use to get up at 4 a.m. to deliver meat to Steveston before going to school - 9 years old then - Sea Island School - Barton was teacher then - Grauer Rd. went through Grauer property discusses the early names of roads on Sea Is. - most Sea Is. land was crown-grant land then 50¢ an acre then - (drowning geese story) - Grauer's father paid about \$100. per acre - (story about buying land) - worked for father all his life. Jake Grauer formed a family Company so that the various children could work for themselves - Jake Grauer was one of first butchers in Vancouver - (story about J. Grauer and partner in Vancouver) - comments about "neighboring" in the old days - talks about early stages between Vancouver and Steveston before C.P.R. put in track - 16 in school class then, about 50 in school - No. 3 Road was only gravel road then - use to drive meat wagon by No. 1 Road to Steveston because it was shorter but in winter months had to go by No. 3 Road - butcher shop in Steveston near Richmond Hotel - Names various early hotels in Steveston - could talk Chinook a bit as a child - there were many Indians in Steveston then - discusses alcohol tolerance of Indians - talks about 4 mast and 3 mast schooners then - main Fraser River was South Arm - reservation on Sea Island had Indians - Indians came to Grauer's store - (story about foot race with an Indian during a Strawberry Festival) names several Indians - (another foot-race story) - May 24th big celebration in Steveston then - Japanese contributed to this - not many Japanese until after 1900 - Japanese didn't patronize Grauer's store too much in early days - discusses origin of Grauer's Store - Harry Eburne started Post Office - farmers got mail at night from Post Office and did there shopping at store which stayed open for them. -

Father built brick block (store site) around 1906 - discusses early prices of building material - 9 children in family - big home had butcher shop in it - discusses Rudy Grauer whom he calls R.M. - (story about not going to high school) - left school at age 13 to work for father - comment about R.M. as Reeve not providing enough schools in early days - talks about Lulu School on No. 2 Road - talks about Barton as a teacher and disciplinarian - discusses corporal punishment in those days - (general comments about supporting your local government) talks about policeman driving in fog and falling into No. 3 Road ditch which killed him - early days No. 3 Road ditch was dangerous and No. 2 Road and No. 1 Road ditches not dry - early fogs very heavy and were sometimes confused with the smoke from bog fires - was a slough on Grauers place where some went swimming - a well on property provided washing water and caught rain used for cooking and drinking - discusses wigglers in rainwater - father piped water from McLeary's place on Mainland to Sea Is. in 2" pipe laid under Fraser North Arm but later dredge broke pipe which wasn't replaced - fishing boats so thick on North Arm 300-400 fish per net - discusses North and Middle Arm Canneries - Japanese came in because white fishermen got drunk and wouldn't go out to fish - canneries ultimately issued tickets rather than money with which one could buy food but not booze - almost shot by shotgun so didn't develop taste for duck hunting - talks about growing corn for cattle feed - grew peas for cannery - (story about Ross Canning Co. going broke and Grauer's lost a crop of peas) - farmers grew vegetables for feed or for canning companies - most farms had vegetable gardens for self besides crops which was their potential cash income - discusses ways people paid their grocery bills - often took beef stock for payment - many farmers made own butter and sold surplus - discusses this - many

chickens at one time in Richmond - talks about several old friends -  
 took first drink at age 26 - was active churchgoer - first church on  
 Sea Island where legion is now - baptized there at age 8 - Rev. Buchanan  
 Minister then - compelling orator - talks about Jake Grauer some more -  
 Richmond Presbyterian Church was the one on Sea Is. - talks about early  
 Bridgport churches - (anecdote about hiring people) - more on Jake Grauer  
 -talks about house parties and names several old families that gave them  
 -Santa Claus custom at home in early days - children's gifts were con-  
 sidered something you could wear, except for Xmas toys - thus gift giving  
 to children was often in terms of clothes - toys weren't expensive then  
 -\$2.00 then had some buying value as \$10. now - (story about his children  
 going to P.N.E.) - went to New Westminster for Exposition on farm wagon  
 or hay wagon - walked to Sapperton with flock of sheep (story about this)  
 -had farm in Ladner as well.

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