

MRS. MAY GREENHALGH - (Christian Science)

INTERVIEWED:

May 5, 1975

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Mrs. Greenhalgh became interested in Christian Science in 1930. They moved into Richmond in 1937 settling at 1041 Lassam Road. They met Mr. & Mrs. Beale and others who were interested in Christian Science. She was attending St. Anne's Anglican Church at the time. The 11 interested ladies wanted to do sewing for the troops during the Second World War and met at the home of Mrs. Beale on Cambie Road. Then they started holding meetings at the home and over 60 people visited. After 2 such meetings in 1940 they found that the Oddfellows (Orange) Hall could be rented. They met there until 1942, then finding the cleaning up after Saturday night's too heavy. Also, they wanted to have a charter.

The meetings were being taken by Mr. & Mrs. Beale and Mrs. Greenhalgh was soloist. There was a Sunday School at 9:30 before the services.

In 1942 they moved to a store on No. 3 & Bennett Road owned by Mrs. Keiller and turned it into a church.

After 3 years they were offered a house owned by Mrs. W. C. Tibbetts - Mrs. Tibbetts was on the Board of the Society and displayed literature for sale in the store she owned.

Mr. & Mrs. Beale had moved and the leader became Mr. & Mrs. Butler. Mrs. Butler became a Reader and taught Sunday School. They were followed by the Bouchards. There were 5 members on their Board.

The role of the Practitioner is explained, though there was no Registered Practitioner in Richmond, only in Vancouver.

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The Mother Church is in Boston, and Mrs. Greenhalgh is a member of this church.

They then moved in 1949 and bought a house with the assistance of the fund set up by the Founder, Mary Baker Eddy. They purchased an old mansion at 740 - No. 3 Rd., renovated the interior and made room for 100 people to meet. This was purchased for \$10,000.00.

The group was growing and the Sunday School was growing too. The members were all from Richmond but of no distinct ethnic background.

They disbanded in 1967 after the numbers were falling off over a period of 4 years. The Sunday School was diminishing too. Mr. & Mrs. Butler had passed away in 1950. There were many Readers after that. Mrs. Greenhalgh had continued as Soloist until 1956.

The Christian Scientists coming in to Richmond were continuing to go to the First Church of Christian Science in Vancouver.

The decision to disband was made by the Board in 1967. The property was sold and the proceeds were turned over to the Mother Church.

MURIEL NOBLE.