

MR. DON HARWOOD

MR. FRED KADE

- (Richmond United Church)

INTERVIEWED:

March 4, 1975

T.39.1

Mr. Harwood joined Richmond United Church as full member 1951 as his family had joined in 1931 at age of three.

Mr. Kade started attending 1957, at age 37.

Church located at Cambie & River Road in the time of Rev. Finnemore when Mr. Harwood joined, and Rev. Carmichael when Mr. Kade joined.

Condition Structurally of Building

In 1960, Mr. Kade was approached by a committee under Mr. Stan Boothroyd to examine the building, February 15, 1960 - report presented on its condition. Church was then 72 years old, nevertheless basically in good condition, very little sign of deterioration. Exterior and roof needed repairing - no central heating system. Feasibility examined of enlarging seating facilities. Some proposals brought up of adding on, but this would have spoiled architectural appearance.

This committee, of Mr. Boothroyd, Mr. Windrim and Mr. Kade, recommended against adding on to the structure. Also, it did not comply to existing municipal by-laws - exits, heating and electrical work. The foundation of series of concrete pads had been replaced continuously and not satisfactory. Roofing and tower needed work. General overall good structure encouraged idea of preserving it historically. Change of accessibility by the congregation, originally arriving mainly by boat, now on the fringe of the Richmond area, was another factor involved in these discussions.

Congregation accepted proposal.

February 26, 1960 - report of sub-committee on estimate of new church.

*March 18, 1960 - report of first meeting of Richmond United Church Building Program Committee held in home of Mr. & Mrs. Roger May, No. 6 Road.

*This is on tape as February 18, however the minutes are dated March 18, 1960.

Role of minister in these discussions is mentioned.

An offer had been made by Mr. Mike Silobodec to purchase property for his trucking business for \$25,000.00. Released from his offer in February, 1961, as not able to get municipal re-zoning.

November 22, 1960 - tenders opened by writing letters to various construction firms - "invited tenders".

Range of Tenders

\$99,490 to \$122,080 (details in minutes).

Architects

McCarter, Nairne & Partners of Vancouver. Mr. Kade was working for them at the time but he resigned later from the Building Committee because of this conflict of interest. Congregation developed the original concept by the architect according to the needs of different groups. A committee of 12 members from all these groups worked on this.

Tender Accepted

L.D. Boyd	-	\$ 98,354.00
(copy of letter from L.D. Boyd showing actual sum not including Prime Cost sums, finally of	-	\$107,510.00
Certain changes & alterations made to bring it back to	-	\$ 98,354.00

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Financing

Loan from United Church Extension Fund - \$25,000.00
Loan from Royal Bank - \$24,000.00
Sale of old property and pledges made up balance to
pay off mortgage.

Lot

Purchased from Mrs. Sexsmith. Needed 2 acres on advice
of Church Extension.

Term of Financing

Demand loan from bank paid off about 1972 - realization
from sale of Sea Island Church helped pay this off.

Sod-turning Ceremony

Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Cooney and Nels Nielson, October 23, 1960
at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Hall chosen as oldest and Nels Nielson as
youngest members of the congregation.

Construction started early months of 1961.

Old building was leased by municipality after purchase,
to the Presbyterian Church for services. Church hall leased
to Richmond Rod & Gun Club. Manse is rented out by municipality.

Moving of Old Church

Steeple dismantled before moving - going to Work Yard while
rest of structure was being moved. Council, under mayoralty of
Mayor Anderson, informed congregation that the old building would
be preserved. Had been purchased for around \$23,000 - \$24,000.

Changes

- Another fire exit added opposite corner of existing
doors.
- Interior refinished with new Gyproc.
- Roofing replaced.

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Changes --continued

- Stained glass windows covered with unbreakable plastic.
- Placed on new foundation.
- New circulating furnace and light fixtures. These were chosen carefully to resemble original gas lanterns before electricity.
- Original church had had a central rail running down aisle to separate family members as was the custom in early days, but had been removed - this was not replaced.
- Slight change to choir room by adding a folding partition for the signing of the register for weddings.
- Wall to wall carpets added.
- Picture donated by the Ketcheson family, baptismal font donated by Carlo Nielson, stained glass windows, Mr. & Mrs. Dicks donated their old organ from 1890's (original reed organ in Museum at Richmond Arts Centre.
- Electric organ added recently.

Church now stands on the east side of Minoru Boulevard, and serves as an Inter-denominational Chapel. There have been so far over 700 weddings, providing a Christian wedding ceremony for couples with no other church affiliation. The alterations, apart from the addition of the Pierrefon's Gardens July 3, 1968, cost approximately \$27,000.00.

It was also used when Brighthouse United moved its sanctuary in 1974 when they were moving their church from Granville to General Currie Road.

Discussions had occurred on using it as a Youth Drop-In Centre, but this has not materialized.

Although it is now in excellent condition and could last for many years, it was still not big enough to have continued as the church for its growing congregation.

M. NOBLE