

Mr. George Holt - 64 Farmer

Interviewed May 4, 1972.

Suite 301 - 341 Springdale Dr., Richmond

Interviewed at the home of his son David, 643 Gibbons Drive (Thompson Subdivision)

Born Bolton, Lancashire, England, 1908 - Father emigrated to Cloverdale (Surrey) 1910, farmed 3 years - moved to Edmonton 1913 - 1920 came to Richmond - bought original 10 acres start farm 563 Westminster Hwy. - family of 7 children - dairying 8 cows - some grain - rented land by 1937 had 130 acres.

1925 started delivering milk in Kerrisdale and Marpole - mixed herd of cows - Jersey popular for cream - own truck - sold out dairy 1944 - had hay, grain, silage crops - 1935 won silver cup for Ensilage corn (for cows) at Richmond Horticultural Society - it was disbanded next year - was held on old Brighthouse Race Track - cup presented by Thoroughbred Association of Lower Mainland - had 4 horses for ploughing (2 teams) Clydesdales - Fordson tractor - chickens - pigs - George II arriving Richmond - went to Bridgeport School - teachers: Miss Rachael Lang, Miss Estabrook, Miss Pearl MacKay - at beginning had 40 pigs for 3 years and cows then 2,000 chickens: leghorns, Wyandottes - got groceries Grauer's store. - Dad salted own pork and bacon, sold some, had Model T. Ford (1924) - School - walked to Lulu Station for tram $\frac{3}{4}$ mile took it to Bridgeport School - School Board gave kids tickets for travel (B.C. Electric) - George various farm jobs and delivered milk 16 years - went into Steveston movie and Marpole movie - old movie house Westminster Hwy. and No. 3 Rd. built by Alec Mudry - started Westminster Hwy. shopping centre 5 acres - old house built early days he called Island Hotel (built by English Lord as hunting lodge wife refused to live there so left) - house torn down 8 years ago.

-for relaxation 1920 went to hockey games watched Canucks in 2 story stadium, Vancouver - went on picnics, Stanley Park, North Shore, Capilano - member St. Albans Anglican Young Peoples - went to No. 2 Road where mail-boxes were - wheeled 300-400 lbs milk down to that corner on 2 plank wooden sidewalk very early road not safe for truck pickup in Winter - 5 years Van Dusen Milk truck Rex Transfer - Cold Winters: Middle and North Arm Fraser froze solid - others skated at Marpole where River branched - fog awful December worst when George delivered milk into Vancouver - no white lines - once 1934 got 3 foot snow after severe weather stranded Vancouver.

Fires: Lost house fall 1920 everything, no fire dept. - father had 300 sacks grain basement - family escaped middle night in night clothes - McBurney Insurance on house - stayed with neighbors, relatives til house re-built same place - house still standing.

Bog fires - smoke every summer for 2 months when blueberry picking on - til fall rains - Extra money - picked berries for Buckle, farm Garrison Rd. and Lynas Lane had 10 acres raspberries, strawberries. Father retired 1950 - George and brother James partners 21 years, George sold his half and 10 acres to James 1964, still in dairy business - 4 years ago Holt farm got championship record ~~XXXXXX~~ high butter fat for Canada - 640 River Road - has Holsteins - George Married October 1945, Lily Daisy Allen born Wimbledon, London, lived Toron to.

Children - 2 boys: David George Holt, interview at his home
John Charles Holt, operates veg. stand

1964 George opened The Canadian Vegetable Market stand on Westminster Hwy. now operated by son John - people came from all over Vancouver to it -potatoes popular. Industry increasing, Agriculture decreasing.

George sold his 25 acres $1\frac{1}{2}$ years ago - brother trying sell his land - all into development - same other side No. 1 Road - no farms soon, West end of Richmond - from No. 3 Road on Steveston Hwy. and east of No. 6 Road all reserved for farm. Holt farm was clay loam soil - In Bovine B.B. tests lost 1 or 2 cows - weather only agricultural problem - never lost a crop 1920 arrival - half grain lost in fields, rain August.

Flood: major 1938 effort - Holt's never had flooding better ditches, more pumps helped in rains - father put in own drainage: 45,000 tile into farm drain low places - flood gates help now - on arrival 1920: no electricity, no phone - 1928 - power in paid 5 poles to bring light, then phone came - always had water - wooden mains early - transportation - father had 1920 Dodge touring car - grocery, hardware stores had gas pumps outside - went fishing for trout, bullheads, on Middle Arm of Fraser with cedar branch, live worms - hunted ducks pheasants own farm, also brothers - thick 1920 - hunted behind Brighthouse (now Cook Rd.) ducks eating grain on fields - hunted Sturgeon banks also - George and wife moving to apartment, Imperial by the Sea, area of original G.M. Steves farm.

-early farmers helped in threshing - Ketcheson, Tait, Jack Cook, had threshers - needed 6 - 7 teams to haul - Cook had retired most farmers had 60 acres to thresh.

1937 - Holt farm of 100 bought all in grain - 25,000 sacks grain first year - big meals time - took Holt farm 4 days - father a go-getter- everything done by hand - Blacksmith Wm. White, near Grauer's store shod horses, etc. - Bob Dick (Scotch) took over other blacksmith Les Richards, at Marpole.

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-early days: mailman Jack MacGinnis mail, store Post Office, Eburne - route 1/2 west end of Lulu Is. - Stan Roberts next mailman - then Bob Stark - 1908 Land Boom - plan to build docks Sturgeon Banks, railways yards Lulu Is., tunnel from Burrard Inlet from Vancouver - Royal Trust idea - promoters drowned on Titanic - deal fell through Vancouver got all. Some property Richmond then around Holt farm sold \$35,000 an acre - 1942 land cheapest Lulu Island - buy 100 acre farm then (Thompson Subdivision) sold to Veterans \$18,000 - where Quilchena Golf Course 160 acres farm sold for 21,000 - old McCallan farm approximately 120 acres.

Incident: Hunting for Money - Old Wm. Gray lived early Terra Nova before dykes - hunted ducks sold to Hotel Vancouver - rowed boat to New Westminster got powder ammunition at Hardware store (no bridge) went on incoming tide, returned outgoing tide, made own shells - father told him story - Gray shot ducks for hotel banquet on few hours notice.

Gray walked down from Terra Nova across log at McCallan's Slough, across temporary dyke, to row to Marpole -

1920 Westminster Hwy: 1/4 mile open - went down River Rd. to No. 20 Rd. - cut over to No. 7 Road - along dyke to New Westminster.

For 20 years to get to Brighthouse from Holt farm - by River Rd. or Blundell (then No. 18) land between had surface water.

1920 Garden City : Man had water, planks, said had to put floats out for ducks.

TAPE 22 - SIDE 1.