Researcher: Darlene Clyne Tape 49; 1

Interviewed: February 14, 1976

Mr. John Kacer, 1#38 River Road, Richmond, B. C. 278-6494

- Lived on Dinsmore Island in 1919.
- The Dinsmore Cannery was closed at this time.
- Believes Dinsmore Cannery closed down because of trend to automation also because if you have to go up the coast to a cannery you have to haul coal, fuel and all your cans up there.
- Steveston better located for this sort of thing.
- Dinsmore had no electricity and no water on the Island, had a telephone and kerosene lamps.
- The cannery was run by steam power "Steam engines very popular in them days".
- The early fishermen had flat bottom skiffs, many of them had a mast.
- There was one man per boat although some had a boat puller to do the rowing for them.
- The nets were pulled in by hand over the stern.
- They didn't bring in too many fish in those days, maybe 150-200.
- They stayed in their own areas with the exception of some of the Celtic Cannery fishermen who would go out in the Gulf.
- Nets were of Irish linen at that time, got four to five years out of the net.
- Japanese nets lasted a year, "they were not as good material as Irish linen nets".
- You got approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ the price and $\frac{1}{4}$ the life time. In other words, instead of putting out \$400-\$500 for a net you put out a \$100 which was a lot easier on the pocket book.
- You threw the Japanese net away at the end of the year because they rotted easily.
- Mentions different engines, the Yale, which was built in New Westminster which Dave Scott designed.
- There was the Easthope which was a stand by on the coast here.
- There was the Palmer, the union, Regal and Ferrow.

..../2

- David Scott also built a engine called the "Scott" built on Mitchell Island.
- Talks on the "workings" of the engines.
- There was an English engine called the "Lockwood Ash", it was a single cylinder.
- Another engine built in Steveston called the "Ben Sid" (?).
- There was also the Fairbanks engine.
- The most popular engine in the North Arm was the Easthope.
- The next popular engine was the Palmer (American built engine).
- Says the two cylinder Union engine was popular in the bigger boats and gave good service.
- In the early 30's got around 50¢ for salmon.
- Most fishermen in "those days" lived on the river in one or two room shacks.
- Most of them had wood burning stoves, castiron, kerosene lamps.
- Good many of them used rain water.
- The fishermen made just an existance.
- There was a shrimp cannery in Bridgeport that only operated a short time, "in the hungry 30's".
- They brought shrimps in from the Queen Charlotte Islands, only a small place and you got paid \$1.10 a day. "I remember it being in operation only one season".
- Recalls stories of the funny things fishermen did.
- Recalls the trouble fishermen had when gas engine first came in.
- The Fairbanks Morris was a very noisy engine; the North Arm fishermen didn't want those engines on the river.
- They were a 2-cycle engine that sounded like a motor-cycle pounding away
- Remembers that if they started up a Fairbanks Morris engine on Dinsmore Island (if the wind was right) you could hear it on #4 Road near the river.
- Mentions many of the old fishermen.