

Bob McClelland and Mrs. McClelland

Interviewed April 14, 1972

555 Dover Road

Robert Henry McClelland, born 1900 England, then in Ireland 1908 came with parents, brother Eric (Richmond) to Richmond - father farmed on Brighthouse Estate - rented 100 acres mixed farming - around 60 cows, Holstein - horses to farm - wheat as feed crop, oats, hay, potatoes, turnips entered in Agricultural Fair, Westminster - has silver cup won 1912 - Best Brood Mare - exhibited 3 mangles weighing total 130 lbs at Westminster Exhibition.

-old Harold Steves a genius - milk was shipped by truck in various dairies until Fraser Valley Milk Producers began - started school

Vancouver then at Lulu School: teachers - Mr. McGarigle  
Miss Lucas  
Mrs. Wilson  
Henry Bailey

recalls school singing lessons - boys objected - incident one rebel boy dropped through planks in canal across No. 2 Road - one Halloween stuffed up school chimney with sacks - 1912 to Bridgeport school - quit before end grade 12 - to school by law till 16 or pass entrance exam - played hookey to go to Westminster Exhibition - someone else wrote note for parents walked 2 miles to school.

1909 - 1910 Middle Arm Fraser River froze - hauled cord wood across main arm - incident: man crossed River for 9 days taking food to Japanese families on Dinsmore Island - didn't carry a pipehole in case of going thru ice, hauled sleigh (end No. 2 Road)

-1930's skated with brother from Duck Island down middle of Fraser to Westminster.

Dinsmore Island since grown then (sand) Cannery built 1901-1902 by Sam Brighthouse - sister of Sam, Mrs. Pearson, explains terms of Sam Brighthouse

will - became for McClelland's mother's pancakes - Bob worked on farm with Dad till 1920 - then got electrical contractor job, Vancouver for 3 - 4 years. 1924 brother started service station, corner Douglas and River Road - first service station in Richmond, entirely dependant on motoring public - previously curb pump operated from hardware, etc. - Bob operated this with brother until outbreak W.W. II.

-after Pearl Harbor Bob was air Engineer, on Sea Island, as civilian wore uniform - then job at Boeing, school moved to Ladner - defence of Sea Is. against Japanese was one rusty Lewis machine gun -

-dense fog bank 30 miles off west coast of Vancouver Island - 3 months after Pearl Harbor squadron P 40's came here - opened own machine shop Seymour St., Vancouver then moved to Marpole until 1950 got T.B. - 5 years sanitarium, recovered - got clearance from doctor for Building Inspector's job - stayed til retired.

Wife, Sally Montgomery came to Richmond 1913 - from North of Ireland - lived at Terra Nova -her great Uncle was Hugh Boyd first Reeve - first Council meeting in his kitchen - went back to Ireland.

-Steveston sidewalks built over ditches, could fall through - old Sockeye Hotel still there as Steveston Hotel - around 1900 Hotel ran by woman - before first fire, 2 fires later -went to old Opera House dances.

-Bob and Sally McClelland married June 1929 - Orange Hall famous for local showers, dances - went to few movies.

-on Toonerville Trolley had to leave Vancouver at 11:00 p.m. to be home at 12 midnight.

-Bob Bridge had old Ford, filled full of kids - early car owned by Uncle James Gilmore - Billy Mellish hauled mail in truck 1912 or 1913,

could hear it - picked up Terra Nova Kids for Lulu school - he drove first Stanley Steamer (very quiet) - went to Greczmiel's movie house - he put in a crying room for mothers.

1910-1912 saw first plane take off old Minoru Park and land in Dan McKay's back field (Don McKay's father).

McClellands had 150 chickens on their farm disappeared 3 hours.

-following year plane landed across No. 2 Road - pilot broke leg -

-1915-1916 during W.W.I pilots school in Minoru Park - best known pilot Colishaw - not enough room so moved outside No. 1 Rd. to dyke - only fly certain winds.

-knew Muskrat Bill - only man who bred muskrats in captivity - in Bridgeport - bred 2 generations - experts came to enquire.

-threshing gang at Mrs. Shaw's on Brighthouse Estate 25 in crew - Jim Pearson played piano so well stopped crew eating - Pearson was blind.

-busy 2 months at Steveston, 300 women came out every week-end - everyone went to wharf Sunday night to see fishing fleets go out - gun went off at 6 p.m. - every place -see puff of smoke could see then fired - interurban trams full of people (few cars) to see - also out on trams for the races.

-had a boxing area where present Municipal Hall is to-day - Jim McClan

-Mrs. McClelland went ringside next day collected money under seats - first man to old racetrack grandstand needed buckets to carry money out.

-2nd outbreak of Anthrax in Canada took McClelland out of farming - Johnny Zellweger ran their farm later and had outbreak - lost 2 - 3 cows yearly - now give huge shots of penicillin to cure anthrax.

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Bob McClelland

Around 1925 bovine T.B. very bad in Richmond - Bob drove vet on 2nd survey of cows this side of Hope - every case T.B. in same stall as 4 years earlier report - accounted for every last cow - picked up 18 - 20 cows - 4 years later survey found one - every animal incoming quarantined (from B.C.)

Children: - 2 daughters - Sheila, Mrs. Trouton, Richmond  
Flora Jean, Mrs. Holben, Sicamous

TAPE 17 - SIDE 1.