

Mr. R.I. McDonald

August 19, 1965.

Born 1894 - went to School on Sea Island - Sea Island School, Mother and Father came from Ireland, settled on Sea Island - 3 girls and 4 boys. Took the ferry up and down to New Westminster - North Arm froze up every year used to skate up and down the river. He walked across the ice at Marpole. His farm is where the main Terminal of the Airport is. They had oxen, hay oats and milking cows. Oats would go by boat. He moved to Lulu Island from Sea Island in 1930.

1920 was a very wet year - farmers lost most of their crops. The dykes were such as you could just walk on the top and you had to be careful or you could step off the side. There were dances in Marpole, Orange Hall and they played cards and would ride their horses up to get the tram into Vancouver. Sam Gilmore was paid \$6.00 per day to help build the Racetrack with his team of horses.

Sea Island was Ward I - The rock would come in for Roads. This would come in on a scow and the farmers would loan horses and they had to back the team of horses on to the scow the gravel was then shovelled by hand on to the scow. Every farmer had a team and they worked 10 hrs. a day. Taxes then were \$5.00 an acre. Rain would run off school into tank and the students used this for drinking water. Dr. Lawry and Dr. Hall were the two doctors in Marpole and they looked after Richmond as well. At that time the children swam in the ditches. The Thresher would come and then all the neighbours came to work and help. They would bale the straw and then back to threshing then back to baling and this went on for 2 months steady. There were 1700 or 1800 sacks of oats in a day and they were piled far enough away that the teams wouldn't get in the way. All about work on thresher.

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