

MR. DAN MCIVOR

MRS. ISOBEL MCIVOR

(Sea Island United Church)

INTERVIEWED:

March 6, 1975

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Came to Burkeville subdivision on Sea Island in 1951.

A Sunday School was being run in Sea Island Community Hall under Rev. Ellis.

Burkeville subdivision built during the war - Cora Brown built for veterans after war. Rest of Island farming and Airport. Boeing Plant built Burkeville for its employees, now privately owned homes. Runways have enlarged on island and land has been expropriated for their extensions.

The McIvors first went to Marpole United but difficult access by bus. Went over to Lulu Island but again, access with no bus service was difficult.

Sunday School

About 175 children. But Fire Marshall considered too many people using the building. This Sunday School was inter-denominational with United Church hymnaries. Reverend Smith was holding evening services for awhile. Then for about three years, student ministers (some named) were taking evening services - very hard-working students.

Beginning of Planning a Building

Discussions went on for a few years, then plans dropped. Then, at a meeting in 1957, Mr. McIvor got the role of Chairman of a Survey Committee. Got about 30 - 40 men to go around Island to find how many people wanted a church. Found around 150 families

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interested. Presbytery in Vancouver met with Committee to discuss plans. Offered a grant of \$25,000.00 plus loan to get started. A fund-raising representative came out from Toronto to advise of way to set about raising money. Pledges and cash gifts were raised.

Property

Surprisingly very little available on Island. Old Cooney home had a large acreage but had no access road. So large house on next lot was purchased, torn down and used as access to land behind.

Building Committee (members named)

A phoning committee also was formed to recruit voluntary labour who previously had offered their various skills and services through a questionnaire - approximately 100 families. One full-time carpenter (Carmen Sloan) with two helpers employed, but volunteers did all the rest of work.

Architects

Hall & Harrison worked closely with the group.

Plan

In form of a cross. Foundation of concrete, covered to keep dry. Wooden floor joists laid across that. Structure was a series of arches. Roof of cedar. Heat from 2 oil furnaces. In kitchen there was a stove. All electricity put in by volunteer professionals as with plumbing.

Ladies

Invaluable help:

- feeding of helpers
- carried water by hand
- hammered nails
- made shakes

Weather was very good - no rain.

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Material

Very generous discounts from merchants. MacMillan & Bloedel very generous - donated logs for shakes, hauled them up to MacDonald Beach, then farmers supplied trailers and tractors to haul them down to church site. As many as 50 people splitting shakes. Mallets were used - 10-pins from a Bowling Alley on Broadway.

Church started May 1958 - opened with Dedication Service September 1958 under Reverend Carmichael from Richmond United Church.

Groups

Women's Association, Cleaning Group, C.G.I.T., Explorers, Mission Band, Baby Band and Summer School.

Furnishings

- Pulpit manufactured commercially - donated by Ryerson United Church.
- Pews made by congregation.
- Chairs bought.
- Baptismal font donated by Mr. & Mrs. Stark.
- Tables made for dinners, also folded up and used as screens.
- Kitchen cupboards made by volunteers after church opened.
- Landscaping mainly done by Mr. & Mrs. Stark. Many fruit trees donated. Tended by volunteers.
- Driveway put in of bedded crushed rock - hoped to blacktop it later. Bridge put in of timbers taken from old Oak Street Bridge. Airport donated sand free and hauled it over.
- Bell in tower, donated by people in Cora Brown subdivision. Story of installation.

Change in congregation

First day had about 450 people. Numbers ran from 100 - 175 people. Good turn-out at Christmas and Easter. Choirs trained by Mrs. LeGoff, held beautiful Christmas services. Numbers started decreasing through Airport expansion. Part of Cora Brown subdivision taken over. Building was bought through Presbytery by Department

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of Transport. Used by Air Force Cadets. At present used as religious instruction for children on Sea Island.

M. NOBLE