

Mrs. Freda McKenzie

Interviewed March 8, 1972.

1206 Sixth Ave. Steveston

Born Southern Sweden - came to Brooklyn, U.S. in 1894 at age of 16 or 17 - met husband there - his brother was her brother-in-law -- husband's father owned an island outside Stockholm and had been wealthy but lost money - Danes, Norwegians and Swedes left their countries at end of 18 Century - husband took name of McKenzie to become a citizen.

No pennies when Mrs. McKenzie came to Richmond - smallest money was five cents - married off train in Vancouver, 1908 - husband a net man for different canneries - first lived in cannery house nearby - just took in fish, no canning - part of cannery fell in river - 4-5 houses on street at time - lot of Indian shacks across the street - store at end - block along 6th belonged to B.C. Packers so Queen Charlotte Cannery had to buy waterfront - Packers called area 'The Camp' -- Went up north -- English couple wanted them to buy house at 1206 Sixth so bought ^w 1914 - house is 100 years old, was moved to site not built there - present kitchen was a shed and kitchen stove was in living room - there was one room with two bedrooms - no water, had big tanks fishermen used to soak nets - pantry and bathroom added in 1933 when husband died - poor times in 1931 carpenters out of work - spent 1 year north - needed 11 children for the school and oldest daughter was 11 years old - located near Prince Rupert, at cannery - returned to house 1918 sidewalk was big planks right up to house - 6th Ave. was earthen lane with bushes - Japanese houses were across street - previously lived in a cannery house which had been a mess house and had electricity - no electricity in Steveston - coal oil lamps - rainwater til got water in - corner of street belonged to Japanese - houses too close together - plot beside store (corner) only half size should be - Mrs. Bennett was living near.

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Mrs. F. McKenzie

- Oldest daughter Greta (Mrs. Cheverton) and second is Verna (Mrs. Petrie)
 - husband owned fishing boat - salmon 10¢ a fish - early schooling - old
 school house taken away, replaced -

Greta helped in arithmetic by father - mother learned English coming
 to States - later took business course but afraid to use it - daughters
 four years apart in age - Pete cleans chimneys, windows - up at six
 a.m. when Greta attended old U.B.C. at Heather St. through High School
 (Steveston) at 16 only 3 graduates - 3 Steeves going to school -
 caught 7 a.m. tram in for 4 years - got school in Steveston -
 Japanese students hard to manage - cranky school inspector - took
 business course, worked until married.

- Verna at 15 entered St. Paul's Hospital and took nursing 4 years -
 got \$10.00 monthly - married - two children - lives at Ladner, raises
 cattle, has water on land.

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