

MR. & MRS. MONASCH - (St. Edward's Anglican Church)

INTERVIEWED:

May 14, 1975

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Mr. & Mrs. Monasch came to Richmond in 1946 to McLeod Ave. There were two Anglican churches, St. Anne's and St. Alban's. They attended St. Anne's for a while.

There became a need for a Sunday School in the North end of the Island. They held a meeting in the home of Mrs. Underwood in 1946 at the corner of Bridgeport and McLeod. There were about 12-15 meeting there, and Reverend Pat Ellis from St. Anne's came to the meetings.

They continued meeting for a few months, and then moved to the army huts at River Road and No. 4. They moved those huts to Shell and Bridgeport in 1947 and formed church services. They were only semi-organized. Services were held by both United Church and Anglican services under Reverend Charles Finnemore and Reverend Ellis.

The building was of H-shaped with two wings, one as a hall and the other for church services.

#### Groups Meeting

Sunday School, Cubs & Scouts, Brownies & Guides. There was a Boxing Club. These facilities were used also by the Legion and there was a Legion Women's Group. Mrs. Monasch started a Library.

They organized as Brighthouse Community Church. They had some hymn books provided from a group in Toronto. There were very few communion services so they had no communion silver.

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Music was provided on a piano and Mrs. Monasch occasionally played. On one occasion, Reverend Carr had to play (Richmond United). The fifth Sunday in the month was taken by the United Church Minister -- Mr. Monasch relates a story of what happened when Reverend Carr did not know it was his turn.

Late in 1951, they decided to build their own church. They were a Union church and they approached both the Anglican Synod and United Church Presbytery. The Synod made a loan of \$5,000.00 and the church group raised \$2,500.00 on their own.

The group involved in this undertaking was the Church Advisory Group for Cubs & Scouts. The members were: Mr. Monasch, Mr. D. Harris, Mr. G. Foster, Mr. L. Durant & Mr. D. Straw.

A student minister, Mr. B. Barrett, had been appointed student-in-charge. He lived in a small room at the back of the church hall of St. Anne's.

Property was bought at the end of Patterson Road on farm land. An acre was purchased and a panabode type (pre-fabricated) building of 30 x 80 feet was erected. The later addition of 30 x 30 was added.

Architects & Contractors - the same men on the committee.

#### Interior

A study, washroom and kitchen were across the one end and the chancel at the other end could be curtained off. Pews were free-standing for moving over as use for a hall. Seating capacity was about 200. There was no vicarage at the time.

At the dedication service they were organized as St. Edward's Anglican Church chosen by Bishop Gower who took the service.

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The first sod was turned March 1, 1952 and the dedication service was October 19, 1952. Canan Barrett assisted at the service - father of the student, Bernie Barrett.

### Groups

Cubs & Scouts continued. The Women's Auxiliary had already been formed (they provided the coffee and sandwiches during the construction). After moving, a Junior Auxiliary was formed.

### Furnishings

A new organ was acquired through the Scouts replacing an old pedal organ. The new organ was a treadle type, but it was later electrified.

Communion silver was obtained through Archbishop Thomson. The vases were provided through the sale by a young Scout of daffodils. Bernie Barrett arranged for the cross and candlesticks to be purchased by a Half-Way house of rehabilitated inmates. The surplices were made by the Women's Auxiliary.

### Addition

A pan-abode type was added to provide Sunday School area. It was designed with a folding door unit off the chancel to provide two 15x15 or one 30 x 15 area. Financing was arranged through Synod. This was added in 1955. The minister at the time was Reverend Nowell Holmes, coming out to St. Anne's and St. Edward's parishes. He was living in St. Anne's Parish and served both churches.

### Move of the Church

When access was going in to the Oak Street Bridge, the church had to be moved. The Department of Highways offered \$9,000.00 for the move and compensation. The Department would have moved the

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the church, but the church moved it themselves and saved the balance toward building a vicorage. Land was traded with the government, of 4 lots on the corner of St. Edwards Drive and Bird Road.

### Vicorage

Ideas were copied from the vicorage of St. Anne's. The Architect was Mr. Monasch and the rest of the group - they were also the Builders. It was a split-level building with a study for the Minister on the ground level with its own front door.

### 1957-62

Reverend Wilkin lived in a house in the clover-leaf area of the bridge access until the vicorage was built in 1958.

The move split the parish as the larger area is on the other side of the freeway. Access is difficult because of the freeway.

### Changes

A sewer hook-up was made and a changeover made to gas heating. from oil.

The foundation is concrete. There are two furnaces for each section.

### Background of Congregation

Primarily, Richmond residents of a multi-racial nature of the community at large.

1962-65 - Reverend Peter Price was the assistant in charge under Reverend Smith of St. Augustine's Parish in Marpole.

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### Government of Church

The senior laymen are the Wardens of the church, looking after temporal affairs with the church committee. They have women on this committee. They are responsible to the Deanery of New Westminster. The Ecclesiastical Province of B. C. is responsible to the Headquarters of the Synod in Toronto and the Primate of All-Canada is the leading Anglican. He visited Vancouver in the week prior to the interview. As the then Rev. Ted Scott, he had conducted a mission service at St. Edward's when he was a clergyman in Winnipeg, in February, 1957.

1965-68 - Reverend John Reuss was Minister and during his ministry his son was ordained into the ministry at St. Edward's on September 1, 1968, by the Bishop of Yukon, the Right Reverend John Timothy Frame.

When Bernie Barrett was student minister, he brought out regularly with him other students from the Seminary at Vancouver School of Theology to help in the services and for experience. One of these was Gavin Rumsey. He later became clergyman in the Kootenays - performed the wedding of Nancy Green Raines (Olympic Gold Medallist for Canada).

### Talks of Union

They have experienced being under both United and Anglican ministries in their early days. Mr. Monasch has attended Conferences on these discussions but nothing has been fully discussed. There are quite a few non-Anglicans in the congregation.

### Upkeep

Free-will offerings with the use of envelopes. At the moment they are not receiving any funds from Synod though they are still a mission church.

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### Use of the Church

There is at present a pre-school group meeting in the mornings, as an outgrowth from the W.A. The Legion use it as a meeting hall - Reverend Johnson is their Padre. The Richmond Ratepayers use it too for meetings.

1969-74 Rev. Wolferstan was the Minister. He was also the Minister at Pearson Hospital in Vancouver. Reverend Wolferstan retired.

1974 Reverend E. Owen Johnston came as part-time Minister. He is in charge of a Dormitory at the school of Theology at U.B.C. This keeps him very busy and cannot do the visitations he would like.

### Vicorage

As Rev. Johnston is not using it, the vicorage is rented out. The Altar Guild looks after the upkeep of the church. Mr. Monasch is a Senior Warden. The church has turned out two full-time Ministers, Denny Harris and Barry Jenks.

The size of the congregation has averaged 25, but has fluctuated over the years. The midnight Christmas Eve services were always well attended.

### Plans for the Future

Growth in the future is the main hope.