

Ron M. Murray
431 No. 3 Road, Richmond

Interviewed - March 15, 1973.

Came to Richmond in August 1934. Most residents at that time were small holders - 5, 10, 20 acres - plus a few large dairy farms. Grauer one of leading dairy farmers on West Coast - had 400 purebred cattle. Only farms here then. Roads were single lane. Ditches down both sides No. 3 Road. No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 roads existed then, and Westminster Highway known as Twigg Road. Post Office was on mainland, at Eburne in Marpole. Mail delivery made within one mile radius, otherwise collected.

All homesteaders at that time - chickens, cows, potatoes. Vegetable and Egg Marketing Boards chased people out of Richmond - large quota necessary - if unable to reach quota, could not sell. No one allowed to keep a cow, because of pasteurization law. This was before World War 2, in the 30's. Worked in wholesale fish business downtown - dealing with hotels, logging camps, mining camps. B.C. Packers and Dairy Fishing Co. were largest canners. All Richmond production shipped to the Orient - then rate of exchange problem and very little herring shipped to Japan for about 30 years. Herring has been overfished.

Could rent houses easily in 1934 - \$25 a month for 2-bedroom house, with 1½, 3, 5 acres for \$25 to \$35 a month. Some land cost very little - offered 5 acres off Westminster Highway for \$50 in 1929/30 refused - too much timber on it.

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Depression brought him to Richmond. Work hard to find - so decided to grow own food. Was in fishing business then - left 5:30 a.m. - back at 5 p.m. - milked cows and fed chickens before leaving, same on returning. Milkman got up at 2:30 a.m. Milk delivered by 7 a.m. Breadwagon came every day. Laundry van came regularly.

Used to be a Chinese Garden out back of his home. Bus service good then - Inter-Urban - taken off by end of World War 2. Could carry 200 people at a time - 20 minutes downtown to Richmond. Two policemen here in 1934 - one named Bell - population estimated at 7,000 - no need to lock doors - knew everybody. Lots of social events, strong churches. Everyone shopped in town, Richmond had corner stores only - nearest on Blundell, next in Steveston. No butcher in Richmond. Lived in same house 30 years.

Alex Moir