

Stan RobertsInterviewed April 20, 1972

231 - 627 Minoru Blvd.

Born Redruth, Cornwall, England, May 27, 1887 - father previously lived 10 yrs. California - Uncle was in Caribou Gold Rush.

Stan came to Cranbrook March 17, 1909 - 4½ months as journeyman, blacksmith - to Victoria where wheeled cement - to Jordan River as blacksmith B.C. Electric - 1909, 1910 in Canadian Garrison Artillery - at Pender Harbour 7½ months as blacksmith 1911 worked Massey Tunnel - 1914 <sup>Cheakamus</sup> ~~Sicamous~~ - on railway near Hope, sharpened steel - lost his money in Dominion Trust Company, broke - enlisted Canadian Army Service Corporation, Mech. section - transferred to Divisional Train - returned 1919 - to Ocean Falls as blacksmith 7½ months - then Williams Lake - visited Old Country 1920 - to Richmond arranges become mail contractor - New Years Day 1923 starts rural route from Eburne Post Office, Sea Island 25 years - last 2 or 3 years at Station L, Marpole - at Post Office 7:30 a.m. left at 9:30 drive up River Road to Terra Nova Cannery (operating) across bridge by Estabrook Mill, back to No. 2 Road, south to Blundell, Garden City Rd., Granville, west to No. 3 Rd., right to Cambie Rd. on No. 3, then No. 7 Rd. south to Westminster Hwy. then Nelson Rd., back to No. 6 Rd. down to River Rd. and Eburne Post Office by 3:30 p.m. for outgoing mail - slower in winter - supplied own Model T. Ford - 1st was Stuart, and Prefontaine repaired - Norman McNaughton - Mr. Grey near door to Keelers on Bennett Rd. and No. 3 Rd. also had garages - salary 1300 yearly and supplied own car - 5 Statutory holidays - 1923 drove on left hand side of road - mail box just outside Municipal Hall - had to carry stamps, newspapers, take and return parcels, cash, money orders - no summer vacation because contractor 1938 took 1 month off - Bog Fires: early days claimed Chinese set fire to bog so next year better blueberry crop - first commercial blueberry grower Johnston on Blundell and No. 4 Road ( now dead)

- 2 -

Stan Roberts

little smoke on route - 1922 bought 4 acres corner No. 4 and Blundell - cleared it - sold house to Mr. and Mrs. James Hart police commissioner Richmond, Councillor, (died) - Mrs. Hart first vice-president Red Cross Society, supplies Convenor.

Stan was Chairman, Transportation Committee Red Cross during W.W. II - 3 years Treasurer, Richmond Red Cross.

-people asked his opinion re land buying - subdivision Garden City Rd., Ferndale and Westminster Hwy. was bog and sold for \$50 an acre - now nice homes, valuable - active St. Albans Dramatic Society five years put on 3 acts plays, actor and president - had compete Marpole prices, put them out of business - actorx made scenery as well - was Peoples and Rector's Warden at St. Albans Church - there 9 years - earlier attended Old Methodist Church, Cambie and River Rd. - 1927 joined Canadian Legion Branch 5, first pres. Capt. H.A. McBurney - G.H. Saunders 2nd vice- pres. - Alfred Gaross 3rd pres. - 1930 Stanley elected President - bought place from Mr. and Mrs. Singer 1 acre land and cottage for \$1500, got janitor for \$35.00 plus waiting - Beckwith, McBurney and Roberts on own spent \$500 turned chicken house into "Chicken Coop" - took supplies from Red Cross - held boxing wrestling matches there once a month - stopped by police as not wide enough - went to Old Minōru Clubhouse for \$1.00 included 3 bottles beer plus show and Irish radio comic yarns - no beer before in Richmond because of good Methodists here - boxers, Vic Foley and 2 brothers, Vancouver Athletic Police Dept. boxers, Vanc. Fire Dept. Athletic Club - Prohibition days around 1920 - fo to doctor for \$1.00 permit to get Jamaica rum \$2.50 - lasted a year - recalls incident: dairies sent milk on wagons to Bellingham - in centre was whiskey - yarn re: prospector, Abbotsford got Scotch whiskey \$28.00 a dozen, loaded donkey

- 3 -

Stan Roberts

met people in hills and re-sold - shot pheasants on bog between No. 4 and No. 5 - peat 6-12 feet deep - lft. peat to make 1 inch soil - no time - 1930-35 - Mr. Morrison raised ducks corner Railway and Granville - in Review so next year every one bred ducks, could buy duck for 50¢ - White Pekin duck -recalls 1st stores in Brighthouse - 2 or 3 got together sold for \$1,000 a lot across from present Post Office - restaurant at site of Bamboo Curtain owned by Mayor Anderson's father, run by Mrs. Hammett first editor Richmond Review with J.H. Marshall - she left for Two Jacks Garage on Granville and No. 3 Road - A.R.P. district Warden W.W. II in 1941 for Brighthouse District - checked lights out - feared sub landed - Pacific Coast Rangers also active, Capt. James in command latter part War, Capt. McBurney C.O. first part.

-got Red Cross medal; past president Canadian Legion.

TAPE 20 - SIDE 1