

Interviewed: June 8, 1976

Tape 69, 1

Pete & Ann Rolston,
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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- Came to Richmond in 1927 and formed the Richmond Athletic Club with the Canadian Football team.
- From there on I collected \$190.50 to help the Club along.
- After that we were self-supporting.
- It was a mixed Athletic Club with men and women.
- We had a football team that fall, and eventually worked into basketball, tennis, badminton, and softball.
- We had both men and women softball and basketball.
- In 1932 women won the Lower Mainland Championship in Basketball.
- Archie Blair was the last President of the Richmond Athletic Club.
- When the Club folded they still had several hundred dollars that they turned over to Brighthouse organization.
- Around 1938 the Club folded.
- The Athletic Club had the first Ladies Softball Team in Richmond.
- The team played in the Vancouver District League.
- It was about six or seven team league and the men's softball was about the same.
- Two years we made the play-offs but we never won them.
- Pete Rolston coached the Richmond Athletic Club Football team and also umpired and coached softball teams in the late 1930's.
- Also did a little basketball coaching.
- Brother, Bill Rolston, coached Women's Basketball.
- We used to have a lot of dances at Richmond Athletic Club and there were times when I was in charge of these dances and I made sure that every one danced.
- The organizations bought most of the sweaters for the various team sports but otherwise, they supplied their own equipment.
- Purple and gold were the colour of the football team.
- Describes the emblem of the Richmond Athletic Club.
- We had no money problems getting money for various team sports because we would put on dances and do other such things to raise money.

Pete & Ann Rolston

RICHMOND ATHLETIC CLUB

- As the original members got older and dropped out, the sports became more organized and the teams were supported by sponsors and the young people would rather go into some place where they didn't have to work at making money.
- I think these sponsored teams are the ruination of sports.
- Our Richmond Athletic Club's Lacross team won the trophy two or three times.
- Pete Rolston relates a story of how "almost" a Richmond Athletic Club Baseball team got started.
- We had a couple of fellows on the Rugby team who were well into their forties.
- We played most of our games at Brighthouse Park and some at Steveston.
- The first year we played Rugby we used the parking lot at the race track.
- We had to mow the ground down and take all the pegs out, then mark it.
- We had all our meetings at the Brighthouse Clubhouse.
- In Softball and Baseball games the league supplied the umpires and they got \$2.00 per game.
- There was Basketball in Richmond before the Richmond Athletic Club.
- Remembers playing basketball in the old opera house in Steveston in 1923 or 1924.
- Recalls when Harry Gilmore played basketball.
- We had well over 100 members at Richmond Athletic Club.
- Richmond has one of the two first Girls' Lacross teams in Canada.
- Vancouver Pirates and Richmond formed at the same time.
- The first year we just played against each other.
- The second year a couple more teams came in and we ended up with seven team league; this started in 1928 until about 1935.
- I put on the Sports Day in 1944 and 1945 in Steveston and we made a little money each year.
- But we wanted to fix the park up so I asked my wife how can we make \$1,000.00 this Sports Day.
- She said: "How about a Queen Contest" and so that's how the Salmon Queen Festival got going.
- I turned the event over to Ken Fraser and he really made a go of it, they made \$6,000.00 that year.