

GIRLS' SOFTBALL

Interviewed: June 17, 1976

Tape 69, 2

Mrs. Blanche Stephens,
674 Gibbons Drive,
Richmond, B. C. (277-8476)

Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- 1958 was the first year Girls' Softball got started.
- I remember being at a Lions Ladies Meeting and they were asking for volunteers to take these girls, so they picked several of us who had softball experience in our younger years.
- We had notices put out for the girls to come and register at the different schools.
- We took the teams one from here, Steveston and Sea Island.
- There were four or five groups of girls who got started that first year.
- The ages were 13 to 16 years.
- From there on we turned it over to different mothers and people with experience.
- It was just the one year that the Lions Ladies worked on it.
- At that time these girls didn't go out of Richmond; they just played against each other.
- That first year we got our husbands to volunteer as umpires.
- There is always trouble getting coaches and managers because it takes a lot of time.
- Remembers Lee Hesch working with the Girls' Softball team the first year.
- The Lions Club put up the money for the bats and balls but each girls had to provide their own gloves.
- At the end of the season, the Lions Club donated money for the girls' hamburgers and pops.
- I believe after the first year, the Girls' Softball was turned over to the Recreation Department.
- The Lions Ladies Club sponsored all teams but we didn't have to put out that much money for them as we were a small club at that time.
- We didn't have uniforms for them and didn't pay the umpires.
- I coached one team at that time; one practise and two games a week.
- It was a short season, just May and June.
- Once it got started, you really had more girls than what you could play.