

Mrs. Charles Stevenson

Interviewed April 19, 1972.

(Was Florence Mellis) 715 W. 62nd Ave., Vanc.

Grandfather James Mellis came from Newfoundland with family of 2 boys and one girl: (her father) William Knight Mellis, Jim Mellis, Mrs. Cecil Bennett, in Vancouver before big fire 1886 then to Victoria, returned went to Richmond - father (Billy Mellis) then 10, family lived at Terra Nova - grandfather started brick plant made own bricks at back of property also drove early stage, first on Lulu Is. into Vancouver, later Dad drove stage.

-family had biggest orchard on Island.

-father's brother Jim thrown from stage at Granville St. from bridge, 1 drowned.

-father to school at end No. 2 Road - had team of horses on Fraser River when froze, later. - father had stage before married, so about 17-18 with brother.

-Dad took a team of horses up the Klondike when Gold Rush opened and returned. - father drove milk truck over Lulu and Sea Island, took to 5 or 6th Ave. in Vancouver.

-family moved to Sea Island across from Grauer's store then to Marpole, when Florence was 12. - Florence, born 1907, went to school at 7 years - started school at Bridgeport - walked to Lulu Station where other grand Forbes house was - got tram to Bridgeport - or father drove her in - rec 2-3 weeks snow, then gone - recalls big storm which knocked down Japanese houses Terra Nova, flooded floors.

-remembers higher grade teacher: Miss Estabrook - incident re birth certificate. - story Japanese girls her age: Terra and Yushi Susuki swam between Lulu and Sea Island in slough then bathing in wooden tubs with fire under, Japanese style - to wash clean - when tide out, to heat water go onto sandbar at mouth of River, big kids saved them - learned to swim

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in Fraser River - picked fruit in own yard - 3 or 4 kinds cherries - 3 or 4 kinds pears - between trees were gooseberries, currants, raspberries, wild blackberries on banks - later Dad cleared on University grounds, family lived in house in ravine, near Marine Drive 2 years - friends came to stay overnight when family at Terra Nova - for hunting season - left punts at their home - lots of ducks geese pheasants - easy to get fish. -kept 1 cow - horses - could run over stubble and never feel it as a kid - next door grain grown, liked food, people around threshing times - miss doing things together - usual measles in family, 2 weeks at time - people came to her mother if needed doctor (Mother practical nurse) - Japanese especially sought Mother's help who called doctor - Dr. Hall later Dr. Lory - when lived on Sea Island heard whistle go, ran to bridge, got on bridge when opened.

-married Charles Stevenson 45 years ago, lived Vancouver.

-Mother drove a Stanley Steamer - family went to beach on Boundary Bay early days - shed for trucks Dad operated, pigeons on top -

-before W.W. I saw early airplanes taking off field Westminster Highway and No. 1 Road and near Terra Nova.

-recalls going to Westminster for May Day - and Agricultural Fair there - had Fair at Richmond (picture) - looked forward to visiting Vancouver - Sunday School picnics at Stanley Park.

-School concerts were wonderful, towards W.W.I - no Santa Claus role at school or Sunday School concerts.

-recalls bog fire smoke all over Island, no flames. Children: 2 daughters in Richmond: Mrs. Robert Hall (Velma) Mrs. M. Matheson (Doreen).

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