

MARJNE

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Tape 31, S.1

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Interviewed: April 19, 1973.

Talks of interurban service - stops at Argyle, Kerr, Dominion Mills and Rollings (foot of Nanaimo - named after a logger).

Mays, McDermotts, Concanons and Fentons farmed around No. 6 and 7 Roads on North Shore of Lulu Island, and rowed across river to take interurban train. Gives names of Finns who lived there.

Pheasant and duck hunting popular in that area. Only a narrow strip was farmed - beyond were peat bogs which smouldered into winter and flared up in summer. In depression years, the Concanon farm of 20 acres was up for sale at \$4,000.

Near where Nelson shipyard now is, there was a Japanese/Scandinavian community. Near C.N.R. bridge, fishermen had net sheds built on poles out in river. Talks about Henry Jacobson and family - fishermen and boat builders. Float houses on logs were situated foot of Nanaimo and across river by McDermott's on Lulu Island - gives names of families who lived there.

In depression years, anyone with a little money bought a boat and net and went fishing - but not much money in it - sockeye 45¢ a head.

Big run of Humps in 1931 - canneries couldn't cope - when they did buy, price was 1¢ a fish. Story about poor lady refusing free fish. Story of Norwegian (Erickson) who drank methyl hydrate.

North Arm is shallow. Between No. 6 and 7 Road, could walk halfway across river (1920's). In 1920's Twigg & Mitchell Islands were separate. Big dredging operation in 1929 to increase river usage for log booms. In 1936, dolphins (pilings) for log booms were put in along Lulu Island, effectively putting an end to economic

fishing of the North Arm. 1936 was also year of the biggest salmon run he could recall.

Shorter net required for fishing North Arm - 125 fathoms of 38-mesh net as against 150 fathoms of 50-mesh net used in main river. Sockeye sometimes runs low in water - some fishermen sank their nets with weights.

Middle Arm also effectively closed to fishing as result of logging. Mostly Japanese who fished Middle Arm - most industrious fishermen. Icelanders who came during war also hard workers, when Ewen's Cannery torn down after 60/70 years, timbers 80 to 90 long were in perfect shape.

Started fishing in 1930 with gillnetter rowboat. That part of river was known as Rollings drift.

From 1934 to around 1936, boats had a vertical "gypsy" or "nigger-head" for taking in net. In 1936 or 38, the drum became popular. Nets had to be adjusted to suit the drum method - more "slack" put into them. After W.W.2, nylon nets came in - fish don't see nets, also it's tough, bites into fish. Nylon lighter, easier to handle.

Alex Moir