

SCHOOL BOARD

DR. R. TALMEY - Medical Building, 604 Gilbert Road, Richmond

INTERVIEWED:

January 23, 1975

T.36.2

Term - Early 50's

- 3 years Trustee
- 1 year Chairman

Reasons for Serving

- Felt should contribute to the operation of the municipality
- Five (of his own) children requiring education
- Some pressure from the Medical Association to contribute more to their communities

Major Change

- Study by Mr. R. A. McMath and Clive Justice on combined use of school grounds and park sites - explains... and is still in use today.

Schools

- Constructed:
 - Steveston Junior Secondary School & Thompson School
 - Additions to Grauer, Blundell & General Currie
 - Annex to Mitchell School
 - Several satellite type of schools built --explains

Experiment

- School Board maintenance crew allowed to bid on renovations to Cambie School (new wing and gym.) against other construction people, and the crew won the contract. The final cost was much higher than the original bid - the School Board then abandoned this type of procedure.

School Referendums (approx. 2)

- Advertised in local press

School Referendums --continued

- Pamphlets sent home with children to advise parents of
 - situation regarding double shifting
 - loss of teaching facilities
 - loss of time
- Each referendum passed.

Members of School Board - during Dr. Talmey's 4-year term

- Mr. Robert McMath - Chairman during the first year.
- Mr. Norman Aspin
- Mr. Fred Errington
- Mr. P. Van Baggen
- Mrs. Maude Steves
- Dr. Roy Scott
- Mr. Patterson
- Colonel Burnett was the Superintendent of Schools.

School Board Offices

- Was in the Richmond High School
 - one small room
 - the board room was there as well
- In the last year of Dr. Talmey's term, new offices were constructed adjacent to the Municipal Hall, where he served his last year and are still presently located.

Night School Classes

- Organized in the early fifties under the direction of Colonel Burnett and his staff. They were adequately attended and much in demand.

Population

- Population exploding rapidly.
- Planning portion of the Board trying to take care of expected students in our schools.

Naming of Schools

- At this time it was decided to name schools in honor of our senior citizens or pioneers of our Municipality.
- Each new school would be given a name as a result of this.

Planning of School Locations

- Each developed in conjunction with the School Board and the Municipality obliged to reserve some of the area for school and park site - explains.
- Felt small schools should be built in several areas rather than bus children to schools. Bussing was a big item of the budget then.
- Era of real planning began in Richmond to benefit the tax payers - explains.
- Portable schools placed around areas where double shifting had arisen in spite of school population predictions,
 - particularly used for elementary class rooms such as at Mitchell School.