

Mr. Walter Tufnail

Interviewed Feb. 24, 1972

Born August 3, 1886 in England, came to Canada in 1908, 18 months on the Prairies and arrived in Steveston, May 23, 1910, next day races on 2nd Ave., big event celebrating holiday -- Norman Marshall won a big Clock in a race-horse race also - a big jamboree! - town full of chinamen - they worked in canneries making cans - 1000 head of Holstei cattle kent West of No. 1 Road and North of Steveston Highway in a large field - cattle owned by Steeves brothers, Gilmores, Holmes, Les Gilmore had 100 head -- much manure put out on land then - (<sup>Common</sup> ~~conser~~ about sewage today in River) -- Old Joe Steeves, Harold's father sold to Watts of Coronation Stock Farms in Seattle, 40 head of cattle -- shipped south by box car (anecdote about J. Steeves going to N.Y. to buy cattle in a boxcar) - chief of police murdered on dyke - Charlie Main - 1 or 2 yrs. before Tufnail arrived - (story about this) - town swept up by the "old chain gang" - made up of old drunks who had been arrested - on Saturday night a police court session was held and young men would hang about watching proceedings -- all roads were planked around Steveston -- Tufnail first came the big ditch by No. 1 Road was being dug and Tufnail and Harold Steves swam in it - arguments then about where the ditch should run - farmer's bitter about J. Steeve's land benefiting by drainage -- a line of crab apple trees along dyke -- years ago Indians tied corpses up in trees and left them there, made coffins out of cedar shakes - when crabapple trees removed and potatoe grown there, 30 tons per acre obtained - big trade in mangel seeds - mangel used to feed cattle - some cows ate 50-60 pounds of mangel per day . Gave picture of St. Anne's Church, Steveston, where he was married. The Japanese Hospital was situated where the Army and Navy Club is situated to-day.

Richmond has most fertile land and produced 5 or 6 tons to the acre. They grew lots of peas for pea threshing. Cattle supplied milk for Vancouver. Steves brought in the best bulls. Mr. Tufnail came here at the age of 19 and worked at a paper mill and then on Farm. He pointed out where hops were still growing in the hedges, planted by Manoah Steves. Steveston was a wide open town. Trams ran every hour and whistle of the tram would tell you where they were. Working on the farm in those days you would earn \$40.00 per month. He grows all his own seeds. Dr. Henworth was the only Doctor. Later there was a drugstore operated by Doctor Graves. There was an Oilery on Kirkland Island and the smell would drift into Steveston when the wind blew from the South East. The oil was used for soap. There used to be a salmon sweep where tickets sold for \$1.00, his sister from Minner won \$12,500. There were many chicken farms in Steveston, mainly leghorns.

TAFS 5 - .