

John Alton McKinney, 72

Interview March 17, 1972.

1107 No. 2 Road

-Born January 3, 1900 on original father's homestead farm, 105 acres

-parents came out from Ontario in 1888.

-moved to Vancouver 1908-1914 attended Lord Roberts school, Dad, self,
3 sisters.

-brother, William handled the farm - on return sister Myrtle married -
went to Bridgeport High School til 1916 or 1917 - father took over farm

-dairy herd 40 head, Holstein - 8-10 horses - chickens - few pigs -
grandfather had a smoke house for hams.

-bought another 160 acres across Steveston Hwy. and sold most 1911 boom da
in 5-10 acre lots - farmed it in hay and grain - which was sold to

logging camps - loaded on large wharfs of Fraser (London 's Wharf)

logging camps used horses - took 4 tons acre of hay - 2 tons acre of
oats - grew 3-4 acres potatoes for selves, crew, rest sold Vancouver

-1925-6 ran ranch with brother-in-law, considered fair price if butcher
offered \$25 for cow.

-married Christine Gilmore Nov. 21, 1923, born Westham Island came at
2 years -

Slough from Steveston up to No. 2 and Hwy. and people used small row
~~small row~~ boats - McKinney's Mother ^{here} ~~at~~ early times didn't leave ^{farm} for 7
years - stern wheelers in use - slough disappeared after father took
over and it was graded in - few changes - market better so grew more
potatoes (8-10 acres) - Netted Gems - when son worked farm started
seed business and rose potatoes.

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J.A. McKinney

-at High School (14 years) played lacrosse in Vancouver., played hockey team "The Towers" age 12-14 - winter some cold as 1916 - sometimes team of horses could be driven across at Marpole - froze up to Westminster -

-took tram to Bridgeport school 7 miles - Dad bought car started driving 1916 - second car was a Maxwell.

*Winery story - 1930's.

had 10-15 acres in loganberries - selling price hardly 1 cent a lb. couldn't give away - got recipe for wine-got barrels from Sweeney's Cooperage Co. under Granville.

-named wine Martina (wife Tina, sister Myrtle) - permission from Government.

-built 1st building 30' x 60' - big vats held 2,000, 3,000 barrels.

-built another building same size - bought vats from California Winery (prohibition) knocked down and put up here - held 5000-8000 barrels

-built bottling plant next - sold in quarts and gallons - sold for \$1.50 to \$2.00 a gallon.

-put up another building 30' x 60' with vats made in Vancouver.

-had storage for 100,000 gals.

-sold wine to prairies (Saskatchewan) shipped in hogheads-rest locally.

Sold from 1930, in operation 10-12 years.

Employed self, brother-in-law and man across road using hydraulic presses.

-imported grapes from Okanagan in 1940 - bought out by Growers Wine Ltd., Victoria - other people going out of loganberries.

-old (50 year) barn burned 1947 - lost only 2 calves, new binder.

Children: James, on farm; daughter Lillian, Mrs. J. Johnston, BelAir Road.

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J.A. McKinney

- sold farm 3 years ago in 1969 - now in housing - got \$4,500 an acre except own house and half acre, son house and half acre, daughter - lot.
- he remembers 1900, 1912 main roads No. 1 Road, No. 9 Road to Steveston, No. 3 Road went to Marpole.
- in 1908 all big timbers Marpole all way to Broadway - stage coaches quit in 1900 - a trip a day - remembers Dr. Hepworth, Steveston - Dr. Greer, Steveston - had pleurisy 1916 got Dr. McLaughlin (Vancouver)
- early had only rain water in tank which caught from roof - water piped in 1908 - wife says Gilmore farm No. 4 Road on dyke got electricity 1916, paid by pole.
- growing potatoes later days added 700-800 lbs. fertilizer to acre - good friends, farming - social life - barn dances - old Orange Hall - Opera House, Steveston (cold but popular) 1916 to 1930.
- McKinney volunteer fireman 15 years in Steveston - built firehall (20 of them) - cannery gave them lumber - built an ambulance (first in Richmond) from Vancouver donated Packard - installed siren - saved Steveston at least twice - few house fires - got smoke from bog fires - never could put out - even broken glass lying in bog could start fire on peat in hot sun.

TAPE 10 - SIDE 1.