

REVEREND ARTHUR MUNDY - Sea Island United Church

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INTERVIEWED:

February 11, 1975

Reverend Mundy came to Richmond United Church in 1967 as minister of Richmond-Sea Island pastorate. Sea Island Church located Miller Road, Sea Island. Constructed by efforts of local people - frame construction. Women helped nailing floors and shakes for roof. Built about 1958. Mr. Dan McIvor, test-pilot for MacMillan Bloedel, arranged for local lumber supplies. Grant from Home Mission Board - funds from Royal Bank in Richmond.

Congregation

- Tradespeople and from Air Force Base in the subdivisions
- Boeing Plant people in Burkeville
- Cora Brown subdivision had wider economic base

Church

Sanctuary and hall divided by a partition. Sunday School held in hall with pull-out partitions. Kitchen, furnace room, choir room and office, other rooms. Minister lived in parsonage of Richmond United Church.

Ladies Groups

U.C.W. (United Church Women) - very prominent. Fund-raising community very closely knit. Many children - Cub Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Sunday School.

Decline of Church

Last service held March 15, 1970. Sunday School closed, 1970.

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Decline of Church - continued...

- Constituents moving away from area. Newcomers not church-orientated. Burkeville subdivision changed rapidly. Air Force Base closed.

Steps involved in closing of a church

- Congregation realizes it cannot pay its expenses, and reducing attendance; discusses with Minister - next authority is Presbytery. Request is investigated (done through Vancouver South Presbytery).
- Feelings mixed.

Disbursements of sale

- Proceeds in hands of United Church of Canada through Presbytery. Sold to Department of Transport. Good portion of money turned over to Richmond United Church, the rest over B.C. and other churches in Richmond.
- Pews bought by a church in Tsawwassen.
- Pulpit light and other vestments went to Strawberry Hill United in Surrey.
- Congregation mostly went to Richmond United Church, supporting well.

Richmond United Church

- Stayed on as Minister of Richmond United Church.
- Recalls 85th Anniversary service in Minoru Chapel attended by Reverend Finnemore.
- Comments on changes in Richmond - was 3 years on advisory council to Planning Committee.
- Changes in use by community of the church.

M. NOBLE