

CHARLES "CHARLIE" COATES

655 No. 4 Road, Interviewed August 14, 1973

Born Feb. 14, 1904 Stockingford, near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, England....lived across the road from George Elliott, author.

August 1910 came to Canada...to Departure Bay, Nanaimo..age 5½

Father Leonard Coates came out 2 years earlier...member of a survey party in Manitoba...homesteaded in Alberta...then went as teacher to private school, Vancouver Island.

Charlie had already started school in England at North Wellington.

1912 moved to Masset, Queen Charlotte...father taught at South Westminster...Charlie lived at Kilgarde, near Abbotsford school in a renovated brickyard.

...started firing on boats...

c. 1929 enrolled at Vancouver Technical School in electrical course before depression...did lathe work winters

c. 1925 got stationary engineer ticket while at Kildonan

worked 12 seasons J.H. Todd Co at Rivers Inlet. WW II welders needed so Charlie went welding.

1942 joined Phoenix Cannery, Steveston, as plant engineer... stayed 25 or 26 years retiring when plant closed...old steamer came down from Prince Rupert and landed mail from Steveston at Phoenix Cannery in early days.

1925...father retired bought present house and 2 acres... had 3 or 4 pens built for raising foxes to sell fur... depression came and rate of exchange dropped re market in Britain so he stopped...grew berries, fruit, eggs plus money from property in Britain.

Early phone at McKinney family home at #4 Rd and Granville. to order grain for hens (3sacks)...brought down from corner delivery in wheel barrow...had regular egg customers..combined laying mash using #6 wheat...got wheat from Brackman and Kerr at corner of #3 Road and Granville beside interurban tracks, Deer's old store.

...Roads...#4 Road was uneven...earth heaped up from digging ditches...Cambie then a trail to Westminster...

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...lumber skidded into ditch and floated down from corner to finish Capt. Price's home next door...lumber came down from Eburne Saw Mills...

Charlie lived away...came once a year on visit...lived at Kildonan...Charlie on committee of younger organizers...went on Company packer to picnics, beaches, May 24th Victoria Day...had dances...arranged music...a Norwegian playing his accordion did so well his keys flew out...Young Clifford Clark good pianist.

Japanese in Steveston...early days interested only in fishing...after WW 2 when Japanese moved back they built modern houses, very fond of flowers...

At Kildonana....Charlie recalls tennis court built on piles with fishnet around it...also football played there.

Worked overtime at Kildonan without overtime pay...went at 7 pm to make ice...21 ton...every 3rd night...sold ice to American fishermen halibut fishing...came for frozen bait (herring) and ice...in refrigeration work summers...incident of shooting...serviced 4 or 5 boats at a time.....

Charlie gardens, plays piano in retirement...one hen lived on after father died and survived 14 years.

...Married in Rivers Inlet...daughter, Florence (Mrs. Roy Palis) lives in Coquitlam.