2016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour] File 3-13

DIG.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour

SITES OF NOTABLE BUILDINGS, FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1900's TO THE 1930's

1. Present site of Surrey Museum.
2. Millpond for shingle mill.
3. Chinaman's store.
4. Site of Surrey's first school.
5. Charbonneau house, made from top half of hospital built in Cloverdale during railroad construction days.
6. Liberal Hall.
7. Odd Fellow's Hall.
8. Cloverdale United Church.
9. Starr Hotel.
10. Hamre Garage, later called Highway Garage.
11. Cloverdale General Store.
12. Bank of Montreal building.
13. Dann's bicycle shop.
14. Barbershop and pool room.
15. Telephone exchange.
16. Cloverdale Station of the B.C. Electric Railway.
17. A.J. Burrows General Store.
18. Municipal Hall, School Board offices, police headquarters, lock-up and municipal works yard.
19. Opera House.
20. Athletic Hall.
21. Mrs. McDonald's boarding house.

Prepared by Stan McKinnon, March/89

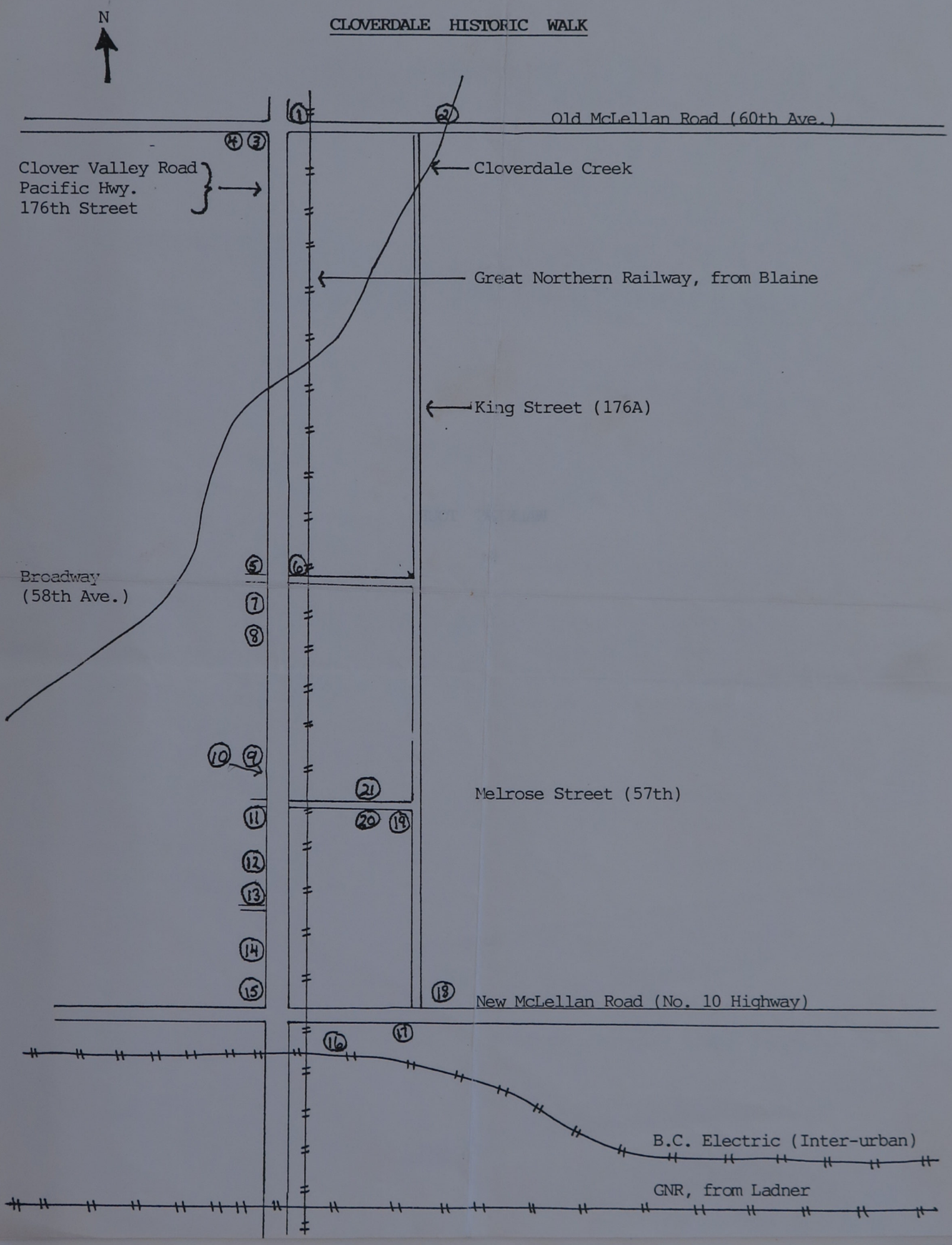
File 2-13

WALKING TOUR

File 2-13
DLC.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour

016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tours]

CLOVERDALE HISTORIC WALK



File 2-13

Children born to them at Surrey Centre were Emma, Bertha, Sx Josiah (Joe), Silas and Thomas.

Thomas was killed in a hunting accident, at 18 years of age.

The Boothroyd family had a large farm operation, with land at Surrey Centre and also on the flats on Boothroyd Road (today's 160th Street.)

In pioneer days farming included a large amount of logging as well as land clearing. Hunting and trapping were sidelines, particularly for teen-age sons.

The early pioneer settlers kept hounds to run deer, and also to guard the farmyard and its domestic animals from attacks by bears, cougars, coyotes and foxes.

Mr. Boothroyd became quite active in community affairs in Surrey and Langley. And his wife was esteemed as "a fine woman," the higest praise the pioneers could give. Boothroyd was one of the original elders of the Methodist Church at Milner. The family attended service there for many years, walking from Surrey Centre every Sunday.

Arthur and Joe Boothroyd remained in Surrey Centre. Joe and his family lived in the original Boothroyd home, on the northeast corner of Coast Meridian and Old McLellan roads. Arthur had his home across the Coast Meridian Road, on the west side.

They built solid houses in those days--both are still occupied as residences today.

DIG.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

File 2-13

DIG.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour
File 2-13

October 22nd, 1986.

S. P. McKinnon,
3416 - 172nd St.,
Surrey, B. C.
Canada V3S 3Z6

Early history of Surrey 4-H clubs

The junior farm clubs started in Surrey with the Surrey Calf Club, in 1928, or 1929. It was established by local dairymen, assisted by the provincial district agriculturist, Captain Sutton. Located in ~~Chilliwack~~ New Westminster, Sutton had all of the Fraser Valley, and probably Sechelt and Pemberton as well, as his territory.

Wm. Wood and Fred Kellaway were the main promoters of the Surrey club, with Mr. Kellaway as sponsor for a number of years. Bill Wood lived on Coast Meridian Road (168th Street) about a mile north of the Kensington & Mud Bay Road (40th Avenue). Fred Kellaway lived on the Mud Bay Road, half a mile or so west of Coast Meridian Road.

At that time the community was known as Kensington Prairie, and the mailing addresses were R.R. 1, Cloverdale, B.C.

Bill Wood provided special prize money for calf club classes held each year at the Surrey Fall Fair.

The Surrey fair was a one-day show, held in late September at Surrey Centre. It took place on what are now the grounds of Surrey Centre Elementary School. There was a long row of sheds for the livestock exhibits, with the judging done on the sloping hillside which formed the central part of the fairgrounds. It was more or less grassed.

The judges gave very detailed reasons for their placings of animals, especially to the calf club members. The purpose was to teach the points to look for when a farmer came to keep or purchase breeding stock.

In the open classes, sometimes an experienced showman would openly disagree with the judge over the latter"s placings. Courtesy required that this was not over the placing of the objector's own animal.

All animals raised and shown by calf club members had to be purebreds. By far the majority in the Surrey Calf Club were Holsteins, but I believe there were some Jerseys as well. I think that any registered purebred of any dairy breed was eligible for Surrey Calf Club at that time.

The Bailey brothers of Kensington Prairie, Percy and Ernie, were supporters of the calf club in its early days. So was Colony Farm, which arranged to provide calves at reduced prices -- though some dairymen had their doubts about the 2.8 to 3.2 butterfat tests of much of the Colony Farm stock.

A course of instruction was laid out for the calf clubs, and district agriculturist (agricultal extension agent was the title, I think) tried to get it followed, but the club usually held one annual meeting, plus perhaps two instruction sessions. Members were supposed to look after their animal, teach it to lead, and also learn how to show a calf. As most were sons of dairy farmers, that help was available. Girls were eligible to be members, but I cannot recall if any did during the first years.

There were booklets to fill out by the member on his or her project. This detailed the feed given, its cost or estimated cost, record of care given, etc. These were given to the club sponsor at the end of the season, and I believe he sent them to Victoria.

Among the mebers of the 1928 club were Adam and Alex Scott, now living at 13560 Colebrook Road; Allan McKinnon, Port Alberni; FatherGordon McKinnon, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Burnaby; Stan McKinnon, 5916 172nd Street.

The club elected its own officers -- I recall my brother Gordon was secretary in 1931 and I believe in 1930 as well.

Interim report.

Gerry Bailey + Beryl Bailey were members. Angie Kellaway + older brother.

DIG.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tours]

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DIG.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services

Archives
Parliament Buildings
Victoria
British Columbia
V8V 1X4

17 November, 1986.

Alderman Stanley P. McKinnon,
5916 172 ND Street,
Surrey, B.C.
V3S 3Z6

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

Mr. D.E. Freed, Director of Rural Organizations and Services in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has passed on to us your letter of 22 October, concerning the origins of the 4-H Club in Surrey, B.C.

I regret to report that we can find no references to the Surrey chapter of the 4-H Club in our records of the Department of Agriculture. In fact, the Archives holds relatively few records of the department and most of these pertain to horticulture and brands registration. R.G. Sutton's reports, which appeared in the annual reports of the department in the 1920s and 1930s, and the Livestock Commissioners' reports on Boys' & Girls' Calf Clubs also failed to yield any information.

You may find some references to the organization of the club and its early members in contemporary newspapers, such as the Ladner/Delta Optimist (1922-), the Langley Advance (1931-), and the Richmond Review (1932-). These papers are available on microfilm at the Provincial Archives and at the Legislative Library, although I imagine that they are also held by the major libraries and archives on the Lower Mainland.

I regret that we cannot be of more assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Dunae.

(Dr.) Patrick A. Dunae,
Archivist,
Manuscripts and Government Records Division.

cc D.E.Freed
Director
Rural Organizations & Services
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

File 2-13

DIG.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour

Additional notes:

Allan--- Sutton"s office was in New Westminster. In the Courthouse, he thought.

Myrtle Cook--She was a member of the early 4-H club, but you did not have to have a calf to belong. We learned about judging standards for cattle, hlrses, sheep, swine and chickens -- and at the fair placed cattle and (I think) pigs.

Myrtle said her sister, Rene Bourassa, was conscripted as a club leader and instructor.

Stan -- A. J.Christmas was active with the junior farm clubs for a considerable length of time, particularly with the annual showing at Surrey Fair and later at the PNE.

File 2-13

2016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

Site 9, Box 12, R.R.#2
Amdale, Nova Scotia, B3L 4J2
June 9, 1986.

Dear Stanley,

I received a letter from Doug Arai who lives in Missaussanga Ont., the Mike Hoshiko, who is a professor at the Southern University of Illinois was illiciting the aid of Alan Davidson and Don Munro to set up a reunion during expo so I wasn't surpised to hear from you about the affair. These people must have been a few grades below us although the names seems to ring a bell in my mind. At that time, I conveyed my deep regrets for not being able to make the reunion on August the ninth.

Although my father came when he was just a teenager and I was born and lived in Canada all my life, I had never been to Japan nor had shown particular interest to go there and more especially so, since I married into a good old Irish stock in Austin, Manitoba. The last few years, my sisters have been urging me to make the trip to visit my aunts who were anxious to meet me. We are the last of the Entas because dad was the only son of the last surviving Enta although I hear that his sisters son is carrying on the Enta name. I finally consented to go, so my four sisters, two from San Fransisco, one from Winnipeg and one from Toronto and I will be making the trip. Rumours are that my brother and his wife from Calgary will be joining us as well as the husbands of three of my sisters. As the time nears, I'm getting more and more enthused about the whole thing and am now quite taken up with the idea of digging into my roots while I am there. My wife is still slowly recuperating from a major open heart surgery so she will not be

File 2-13

2016.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

going with me.

I will be leaving for Vancouver on September 7th and staying with my daughter in Delta until september 24th. We are leaving San Fransisco on September 27th. for Japan and Hong Kong spending a little over three weeks there. On the way back, I will be in Vancouver from Oct. 26th until Nov 3rd. I hope that sometimes, during those days, we will be able to get together for some reminiscing. By the way, don't worry about my accomodations; if I didn't stay with my daughter and grandchildren they would scalp me. By the way, she and her husband lives at 11739 Lyon Rd., in Sunshine Hills so its not that far from where you are. Her phone number is 591-2431 so because we keep in touch with her, she will be happy to pass on any information that you require.

As you know my son and I are fixing up the place in Halifax and he is looking after the mortgage, any improvements comes under my jurisdiction. At the present time, I am putting a full basement under the main portion of the house, which will give me about 1000 sq.ft. of usable area. I intend to put put in a fair size guest room, a studio for my oil painting, a work room and a game room for the grand children. I do have a pension that lets us live in relative comfort but with all the expenses of fixing, landscaping etc. it does not allow us to squander our money. Besides, with a son in Winnipeg and a daughter in Vancouver, we do travel quite a ~~bit~~ bit. So you can readily understand, with this Japan trip coming up, I can't afford to make another trip to Vancouver for the Reunion. Will you kindly pass on my regrets to the powers to be and to people who might remember me. I guess, most of my teachers are gone although they tell me that Miss Mockridge

File 2-13

is still going strong. As far as I can remember our leaders were, ~~Mr Jok~~ Mr Jones, Mr Stevens, Miss Green, Mr McCharles, Miss Mackrige, Miss Benedict, Miss Graham, Mr Larson, and Mr Chave. What a pity that I will be missing this gathering but I had to set up my priorities.

My regards to your family,

Sincerely,

King J. Enta

2016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour] File 2-13

016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

Site 9, Box 12, R.R. #2,
Armdale N.S. B3L 4J2,
January 8, 1986.

Dear Stanley,

Best wishes to you and your family for 1986 and all the years to follow. Your card and letter was read with great interest.

My wife, a very dedicated Christian and a fundamentalist does not believe in Christmas as such so we had a very quiet year end. Although I do not believe as she does, to keep her from feeling isolated and deprived of contact with her friends, I did attend a couple of gatherings of her church, such as bowling and roller skating. Imagine a man pushing seventy roller skating. Even after 50 years, I guess you never lose what you learned as a boy and a young man.

After reading your letter, I decided to contact the rest of my family to see if they would be willing to contribute towards the history of our family. After all there were ten of us, although only eight have survived. My oldest sister Yaki and her husband Tony have retired quite some time ago, he from Dominion Bridge in Winnipeg and they live in Winnipeg. My sister Jessie, just a couple of years younger, and her husband Sam, live in Heywood California; her husband is a general contractor and she is part owner and helps run a delicatesen. Next, my brother Fred is a superintendant of an organization that sets up displays in

[illegible] happened then

File 2-13

malls and exhibition grounds. His wife and he live in Toronto. My brother Bill also lives in Toronto. He runs an antique shop on Queen's Quay at the waterfront and his wife has computers installed in her home and does programing for industrial firms in and around Toronto. My sister Molly owns and runs a property management firm in Heywood California and is also manager of the Red Carpet Real Estate firm for Union City Fremont and Newark. Her husband Bob is now retired but was with the American air force, one of the many niseis or Japanese Americans that fought in the Pacific area. My brother Tom, specializes in dermatology in Calgary and also lectures at the university. And finally my baby sister ~~Judy~~ Bernice and her husband runs an ~~auto~~ accounting firm in Toronto and commutes between Toronto and Montreal. So you can see that there is a divergence of lifestyle and interest amongst us.

I am hoping that some will agree to work on this project. My sisters Yuki and Jessie can enlighten me on the life of father and mother before they came to Canada through their trips to Japan and talking to their families. From Molly we could get the story of her marriage to Bob and the difficulties she had to become an American citizen during the war. From Bernice, a birds eye view of the effects of evacuation and the upheaval through the eyes of a child.

[Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

File 2-13

1016.0046

Being individuals, each and everyone of us, have their own viewpoint of our lives before the war, during the war and at the present time. Perhaps some will feel the way I do, perhaps none.

I'm hoping that we could have a family reunion during Expo 86. I am asking them to let me know if they are going so that we could try and be in Vancouver together. At any rate I will contact you as soon as we arrive in Vancouver.

My wife is going to Winnipeg to-morrow to visit her mother who is well into her nineties. She fell last fall and broke a few bones. I admire my wife's devotion to her mother but am quite upset by the timing. After all Isabel is not recovering from her own open heart operation as quickly as we would like. The doctors say that we waited too long and had let her body deteriorate too much so the healing process will be very slow. They do keep a very close check on her. Thank heaven, she is cheerful most of ~~the~~ the time. Incidentally her mother and father were pioneers in Austin Manitoba and her father was instrumental in beginning the Manitoba Agricultural Memorial Museum. He donated the property and cajoled the pioneers and the government to set about preserving old machinery and equipment before they disappeared altogether. It has now turned into quite a complex.

0016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]
File 2-13

2016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

Thanks again for your kind words and greeting. I am looking forwards to meeting your wife and your family and also talk about teachers and people we knew in old Surrey High.

Sincerely

King (Tsumo) Enta.

know what happened then

File 2-13

2016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and writing to the Editor]

5-8830 Old Yale Rd.
RR No 2 Hope, B.C.
V0X1L0 Aug 29/82

Dear Stanley,

Sorry to be so long in sending my game memories. Summer is just a busy time with me & try to make jam, can fruit & freeze vegetables - all time consuming but I love it.

Back to game - Do you recall how the back of Surrey Centre schoolyard backed the woods going up to Johnsons place? Right at the edge of these woods was a huge log - It was almost decayed covered over with heavy moss and ferns This old log was the home of many garden snakes. Come early spring the baby snakes emerged from their log home and sunned themselves on this door-step. Now the boys, dragooned used to pick up these sleepy snakes and chase the girls all over the school grounds, when this exercise was stopped the snake race began. A small circle was drawn and then a very large circle around the

snow what happened then

File 2-13

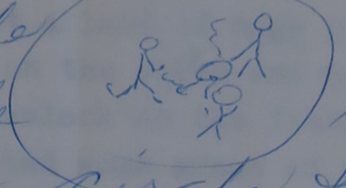
2016.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

the circle was drawn. Each racer placed his snake at the "Go" little circle at the word "Go!" The snake that crossed over the big circle first was the winner. Naturally this game didn't last too long, thank goodness because snakes grow up very quickly and take off on their own adventures. I do believe this game was really Surrey Centre's own fun because of the old log home for snakes and dog tooth violets.

Look forward to getting a picture whenever.

Sincerely

Rita Laidlaw Walsh.



File 2-13

snow what happened then

Surrey Centre

by Stan McKinnon.

When the first whist settlers came to Surrey Centre in the 1870's they found it a land of huge trees over most of the uplands, with mixed woods on the slopes and heavy underbrush intermixed with alder, spruce and hemlock on the flatlands of the Serpentine River valley, The "flats" had some areas of marshy grasslands, where the river overflowed with salt water during periods of high tides.

The size of the trees which faced those pioneer homesteaders is hard to visualize. Cathedral Grove on the Nanaimo Highway between Parksville and Port Alberni gives a fairly good picture of what the virgin timber in Surrey Centre was like. But the stumps of that first growth showed that the Western red cedar which grew here were giants among a race of giants. Those trees measured 6, 9 and up to 12 feet in diameter. Granted, the boles of these cedars were expanded close to the ground, to give anchorage to the weight of branches and needles towering 150 feet and more to the crown.

The Douglas fir ranged from 3 to 4 feet in diameter, with a few specimens considerably larger.

The lowlands were covered with scrub and bush. Willow, wild crab-apple and dense thickets of buckbrush predominated, with some grassy meadows in thewetter places.

Closer to the foot of the hill and on the sidehills themselves were mixed woods of alder, broadleaf maple, hemlock and some spruce.

There were no roads, no trails when Abraham Huck, the first settler of record, came here with his family in 1872. The Serpentine River was the only "highway" to the ~~area~~ area which became known as Surrey Centre.

The boundaries of Surrey Centre have been somewhat elastic over the years, as it is a neighborhood not an organized district. Perhaps the best definition of Surrey Centre is that area which was served by Surrey Centre Post Office and Surrey Centre Elementary School.

The community has always been centred on Old McLellan and Coast Meridian roads. Serpentine River forms a definite boundary to the north; the Serpentine canal the boundary on the west; Murphy Road (172n d Street) on the east. In pioneer years Surrey Centre

know what happened then

2016.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

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extended as far south as Nicomekl River, but the more modern boundary would be Hwy. 10 Highway.
As the name indicates, it is close to the geogrpahical centre of the Municipality of Surrey.

Settlement of Surrey Centre was not an isolated happening. It was part of that great wave of movement of peoples which brought hundreds of thousands of new settlers to open up the western half of the North American continent. The early settlers in this community came from the United States, Britain and Ontario.
Abraham Huck came here with his family in 1872. They came up the Serpentine River by boat, and homesteaded the hillside on what is now Old McLellan Road. His homestead included the land on which Christ Church and Surrey Centre School now stand. He donated the sites for both the first Municipal Hall and for Christ Church.
Abe Huck was an American, a veteran of the Union Army in the American Cibil War, in which he served as a blacksmith. His wife scandalized her pioneer neighbors somewhat by going barefoot all summer and by smoking a clay pipe.
They lived first in a log cabin, then in a house of hand-split cedar planks and cedar shakes. An addition housed the first store and post office in the area.

George Boothroyd was born and raised in England. He and his family arrived in 1873. The Boothroyd brothers, George and William, came to British Columbia and joined the Cariboo gold rush. They established a roadhouse at a spot called Boothroyd, British Columbia. In 1873 George sold his interests in the roadhouse to his brother, loaded his family and their household goods ~~on a~~ into a covered ox wagon and jolted over the Cariboo Road to New Westminster/.
These two families were the only ones of record to establish in Surrey Centre prior to the building of Old McLellan Road in 1875. They came by rowboat down Fraser River, around Point Gray and Point Roberts, across Boundary Bay and Mud Bay, then up Serpentine River. That was the way they brought in provisions, and the Boothroyds floated the lumber for their substantial house downstream on the Fraser from the mills at New Westminster, around to Serpentine and up the river. From there it was brought by ox team to the site at the corner of Old McLellan and Coast Meridian roads.

Show what happened then

[local histories, letters, and walking tour]
File 2-13

The house built in 1873 still stands, in good condition, and is used as a residence.
The next landowner is mentioned only in passing. When Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Richardson came from England to Surrey Centre in 1877 they purchased 80 acres on the east side of Coast Meridian Road, south from Old McLellan Road. Apparently the land had been homesteaded earlier, as they purchased the land from A. Defoe. The coast meridian (the meridian of longtitude closest to the Pacific Ocean at the international boundary) was first surveyed by the Royal Engineers in 1859, from the 49th parallel to Fraser River. It was one of the foundatons for the basic surveys of this wilderness Crown colony of British Columbia. The Coast Meridian survey line was slashed through but it was never developed into a trail. It was re-surveyed in 1873, and portions of that road were opened over the years by settlers to gain access to their homesteads.

Municipal Hall

Surrey was organized as a district municipality in 1879, and the council of 1881 decided to establish a seat of government by building a municipal hall. Surrey Centre was a logical choice, as the name indicates. It was on the main east/west road, and Coast Meridian Road was being opened and gave north/south access. It was adjacent to both rivers, a mode of transport which was to remain important for another lifetime.
The soil was excellent for foundations . . . and probably the clinching argument was that Abe Huck donated 4 acres of land for the hall site. The first Surrey Council meeting was held there on May 2nd, 1881. This Town Hall was built at a cost of $400.
When Christ Church was completed in 1884 Surrey Centre started 25 years as the central community for all Surrey. The municipal hall was not only the centre of local govrnment but also was used for political meetings and gatherings of all types. The vicarage and Surrey Centre School, which was built in 1891, also were important centres of community activity.
So was the Orange Hall, built in 1891, and still actively in use by use by the Orange lodges and by many other organizations. The lodge itself was founded in 1877, with members meeting at the homes. Some of the members living in Murrayville came down the Nicomekl by boat, and then walked to whichever home where the meeting was to be held.

Christ Church had its churchyard and the pioneers were laid to rest there, or in the municipal cemetery established between the church and the school.

Know what happened then

016.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]
File 3-13

Pioneer logging

Logging was well established, with skidroads fanning out from the camp for more than a mile. The huge firs and cedars were dragged out of the woods by oxteams, to the camp near the foot of the hill on Old McLellan Road. There they were floated down a logging ditch to the Serpentine, and then downriver to Mud Bay. In the bay they were boomed up and towed to the mills at Elgin, or up the Fraser to the mills at New Westminster.

Abe Huck had his store on Old McLellan Road, near the logging camp, and Arthur Richardson had opened a store at the corner of Old McLellan and Coast Meridian - and had obtained the post office. Surrey Centre Store and Post Office at the crossroads became the nerve centre of the neighborhood. In 1890 John Churchland arrived from England with his wife and young family. They rented the house and store on Old McLellan Road from the Huck family, and a few months later purchased the store ad adjoining six acres from Arthur Richardson.

The Churchlands operated the store for many years, and then it was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. James Oxenham in 1910.

"Oxenham"s store," as it was usually closed, continued in the family until 1944. It was closed some years later, and the building was torn down in 1960.

Other settlers who established in Surrey Centre prior to the turn of the century were the Churchlands and the Christ Brown family in 1890, and Henry Bose in 1894.

The 1900's

The story of Surrey Centre in the 1900's has been one of the disappearance of the original forest and the expansion of farming. In those pioneer days much of the clearing and also the ditching which is necessary on peat land was done by Chinese labor gans, by hand, working on a contract basis.

Since the 1930's the development has been more in small holdings and lots for residential purposes.

The eclipse of Surrey Centre as the political and commercial focus of central Surrey came with the growth of Cloverdale. The construction of the Great Northern Railway from Seattle to Vancouver via a route alongside Clover Valley Road resulted in the establishment of Cloverdale in 1891. That sme year New McLellan Road was built from Serpentine Road directly east to Langley, through Cloverdale. The new road by-passed Surrey Centre.

know what happened then

016.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour] File 2-13

Construction of the B.C. Electric Railway line in 1910 brought tremendous changes to Surrey Centre and its neighboring communities. The "tram"became the all-important communication link, at a time when roads were very poor and automobiles were just starting to appear locally.

The "milk train" made commercial dairying possible, and the line also made commerical egg production practical. The B.C. Electric provided the means to get the milk to market each day, and also to freight in the feed grains needed for commercial production of both milk and eggs.

The B.C. Electric made Cloverdale the chief centre of Surrey, and a new Municipal Hall was built there in 1912. The old Town Hall was moved in 1938 to the new fairgrounds in Cloverdale, and since then has become the central core of what is now Surrey Museum.

The municipal graveyard which was established in pioneer days has been enlarged. First the property between the one-room school and Christ Church was taken in. Later the Bobi Wills property was purchased. More land was bought, and today Surrey Centre graveyard comprises 16 acres.

Surrey Centre School

The original one-room school continued to serve the community until the late 1930's. Then the school was established across the road, as a 2-room school in what had been the Surrey Women"s Institute building on the fairgrounds. In 1949 the present school was established, with four rooms at that time. Contract price was $42,000.

The "Great War" from 1914 to 1918 saw men from here serving their country in Canada and Overseas. The women did knitting and sewing for the Red Cross and other war charities.

War, however, also brought high prices for agricultural products and the established farmers prospered.

Inflation hit hard immediately after the close of World War I, and prices jumped to what were considered outrageous heights. The inflation was more sudden, and probably more intense, than the present bouts of inflation.

The 1920's brought continued but slow growth to Surrey Centre. Much of that growth was on small holdings or "stump ranches," and egg production became commercially important here.

know what happened then

016.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

File 2-13

ome of these new residents were British ex-Servicemen, taking up small farms under the Soldier Settement Act.
The Depression years of 1930 to 1937 clanged down. Not only were jobs almost impossible to find but prices for milk, eggs, beef, pork, potatoes and other vegetables were at rock bottom. It took a ton of potatoes to buy a pair of shoes for a little girl.
A number of Surrey Centre young men joined the "Poor Man's Gold Rush" to theCariboo. They had no jobs, and no hope of getting jobs in the Lower Mainland. In the Cariboo they could live off the land to a limited extent; found a little gold by panning on the creeks which had been worked over so many years previously; and got some work for short spells with the large mining companies which were prospecting and establishing quartz gold mines.
Population of Surrey Centre increased during those hard years, however, with the arrival of a number of families from the drought stricken areas of Saskatchewan. They loaded the kids and what household goods they could on the old truck or car and headed for the Coast, to tough it out where the winters were not so cold.
World War II saw a large number of young men and women from here serving on battlefronts all over the world. Those who remained worked on the production of food, and in the war industries along Fraser River and in Vancouver, producing the ships and the machinery of war.
The pent up demands for goods and services after World War II ushered in two decades of growth and prosperity, in the 1950"s and 1960"s. The growth has continued on into the present, but inflation has been eating away at the prosperity. Subdivision became a fact of life in Surrey and this community was not immune. Perhaps fortunately, however, the lack of sanitary sewers has restricted urban residential subdivision and Surrey Centre has not been overwhelmed by new growth. It continues now as a mixed community of farming, small holdings and residential property, where community adds an extra dimension to every day living.

-- 30 --

What else happened then

D16.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]
File 2-13

Section B

1. What are your earliest memories of this area?
2. What was special about this area?
3. What are some of the notable changes you have seen around Surrey Centre?
4. What changes do you think have benefitted the Community?
5. What changes, if any, do you think may not be beneficial?
6. What was your first job?
7. How did you make a living?
8. How did you decide what line of work you would do?
9. Were people in this area involved in politics or community affairs?
10. What world events affected people at Surrey Centre?
11. Do you have any stories about this area, or the people, or the school that you would share with me?
12. How do you spend your time now?
13. Looking ahead, what would you like to do in the next few years?
14. Do you have any advice for young people?
15. Is there anything you would like to add?
16. Are there any questions you would like to ask me now?

know what happened then

16.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]
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16.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

on B

My earliest memories of Surrey Centre are of the woods on most of the upland areas, with the flats already cleared and used for farming.

2. It had been the municipal centre for Surrey in pioneer years, from 1880 until 1912. The buildings and grounds of the former municipal centre were used for the annual Surrey Farm Fair. All schools in Surrey participated in the school fair, and it was always a civic holiday.

3. The woods have been cut down, by and large, and Surrey Centre is now a bedroom community rather than mostly farming, with dairy cows and laying chickens very important.

4. Good roads and municipal water have been extended to most areas.

5. Surrey Centre as a separate, identifiable community has been lost. Forty and fifty years ago there was an active local program, with activities by church groups, the school, Orange Lodge, Surrey Centre Community Association, the badminton club. There were whist drives, dances, concerts and local groups meeting. There was good public transit on the interurban (or "tram" as we called the electric railway lines), and Surrey Centre had two stations --New McLellan Road and Coast Meridian.

6. My first job was as "office boy" in the insurance and real estate office of Fabian Hugh, Cloverdale. This was a summer job when I was in high school.

7. I was a printer and weekly newspaper reporter; then editor and publisher at a later date.

8. I was always a great reader, full of curiosity about everything. Also I was a good student in composition, grammar and Engish literature -- which were taught as three separate subjects in that day.

   The opening as "printer's devil" was more attractive to me at the time than the only other job available in Cloverdale area during that Depression year when I graduated from business school.

9. They were involved in the Surrey Farm Fair, United Surrey School Concert, and the annual Surrey school picnic to Stanley Park. Also there were outings , by school bus charter, to Vancouver -- for shopping and especially for the Vancouver Exhibition.

10. All world events affected the local people -- the Depression, World War II, the period of reconstruction, and the real estate booms since then.

11. During the mid-1920's Surrey boys and girls took part in "school gardens." The School Board distributed the required number of hoes and rakes, and seeds. The man next door to the school came with his one horse and plough, and ploughed up the very sandy soil in one corner of the school grounds. Then the teacher --- often a city girl -- was supposed to'

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each the pupils how to grow vegetables and flowers.

The crops died off during the summer when there was no one to provide water for that sandy soil.

12. I am retired now. I work with Surrey Historical Society, and I am still secretary-treasurer of three small dyking district.

13. Continue to be in reasonably good health.

14. Concentrate on setting goals for yourself, and on being a "self-starter."

S.P. McKinnon,
February 11th, 1991.

--- , war wore out and you know what happened then.

R16.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

File 2-13

116.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

Site 9, Box 12, R.R. #2,
Armdale N.S. B3L 4J2,
February 5, 1987

Dear Stanley.

My sincere apologies for not writing to you sooner; I must confess there is no excuse for it because I could have written if I had put my mind to it. Most of us came down with a mysterious sickness near the end of the trip, starting about the time we went to Hong Kong. By the time we got to Aunt's in Kyushu, none of us were that chipper. After I got back to San Fransisco to my sister's, I spent most of the week in bed, then another week in bed at my daughter's in Vancouver. I'm not quite right as yet, although I am working in the basement on the family room.

We tend to blame Hong Kong but it could have been the length of the trip. Hong Kong was a very interesting city, huge and quite modern, although I felt it was quite dirty compared to Japan. The city was a contrast of slums and high rises, of the very rich and the very poor. We were warned not to drink the water nor to roam the streets alone at night. We drank distilled water and made excursions in buses.

The trip through Japan on the other hand was like a fairy tale for me; the whole trip from the tip of Hokaido to Kyushu. Our tour guide, who resides in Tokyo was a scholar, a historian, an accomplished speaker, who spoke Spanish fluently, English passably, had a beautiful voice both for speaking and singing and knew every nook & cranny of Japan, and little tid-bits that you wouldn't learn from books

- war broke out and you know what happened then

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116.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

There isn't too much flat areas in Japan. Nothing but mountains, most of which were volcanic, lakes, rivers, seashores, with thousands of little islands dotting the landscape. You sometimes wonder how more than a hundred million people could live in such a small place Hokaido was somewhat like Canada. We visited the Olympic Olympic ski jumps and a Bavarian type Beer Garden as well as the "Ainu" village, the historic natives of the area. Although we stayed at all the most modern hotels, some as tall as 40 stories, we did manage to stay at a few "ryokans" where you slept on the floor on a tatami and ate Japanese food on the floor. The Hot springs were the high light for me; I spent more time in the baths, turning lobster red, than the rest of the family combined. We visited such famous spas such as Beppu, Unoyama and others. They tell me the facility at Beppu is the largest in the world, including a Las Vegas type floor shows.

We visited many of the major cities in Japan including, Sapporo, Hakodate, Aomori, Sendai, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and Fukuoka and hundreds of smaller communities and of course, the fruit belt of Japan where, would you believe it, they grew apples as big as softballs. We visited the Atomic bomb memorial in Hiroshima and stood at ground zero looking at a skeleton of a building that was left standing like a ghost. Tokyo is certainly a big, big city with approximately 9,000,000 in the city and including the areas around it contains 22,000,000 people. Imagine the total population of Canada living in the proximity of one city. The underground area, at rush hour is so crowded you couldn't fall, if you fainted. A nice place to visit. but not to live in. I prefer living in my Canada.

know what happened then

File 3-13

I believe Japan has been quite successful in combatting pollution. Every large lake that we ferried on, the water was a pure and clear as the skies and thousands of fish came to greet us as we neared the dock. On the streets of most cities such as Sapporo, you couldn't find a gum wrapper on the sidewalks. Every town has their green belts in the middle of the city; blocks and blocks of gardens, playgrounds and bandstands where people can enjoy themselves, private citizens taking on the care of the gardens.

The Bullet Trains are something else. They travel at a 125 miles an hour although you aren't too conscious of the movement and the time table is so precise, the farmers along the way set their watches to them. Except for the mayors cities, the trains stop one minute at the stations, thirty seconds to unload and thirty seconds to load. The whole system is double tracked.

I didn't know what to expect when we arrived at Fukuoka, my ancestral home, from Hong Kong. Our two cousins were waiting at the airport with four taxis to greet our family. Mother's sister is a gem; down to earth, outspoken and generous. She must be quite well to do for she owns a seventh floor condominium in the heart of the city. She kept the old custom. At meals, I was always served first and nobody could start until I had taken my first bite for I was the oldest son of the Enta clan. They had a Japanese type bath and like the meal, it was my privilege to use that first as well.

My cousin was a former "Miss Kyushu" and what a talented and beautiful lady. She is a public

[illegible], war broke out and you know what happened then.

16.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

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relations person for a big chain of hotels with branches overseas as well. No wonder she could afford to take us all over on taxis and treat us to dinner in the best restaurants. My aunt wrote me a letter so at the present time I'm studying Japanese so I can at least send back a half decent reply.

I didn't mention the qualities of the Japanese as a race. Some say that they are arrogant, unfeeling etc. Perhaps I was fortunate to run into so many kind and wonderful people.

at one of the hot springs, I met an elderly gentleman in the baths and struck up a conversation with him explaining to him that I was from Canada so would he please excuse my lack of knowledge of the language. Notwithstanding we had quite a chat. The next morning as our tour bus was leaving, the gentleman came into our bus with a couple of shopping bags full of exotic fruit to give me as a parting gift. It must have cost him over fifty dollars. He handed me a calling card which said that he was a retired navy admiral, and chairman and Board member of three large Japanese corporations

While I was staying at the Prina Hotel at lake Towada I was trying early one morning to take a picture of the area but couldn't get my camera to work. A lady was watching me and she insisted that she take a few pictures for me. Then she asked me to write down my address so that if the pictures turned out, she would mail them to me. Next morning we met her and her husband at breakfast so I introduced my family to them. After breakfast we took some more pictures. Then we carried on with our tour. It took me about a month after that to read he

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Mo. 0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

but when I got there, A parcel was waiting for me. You can well imagine my surprise and delight to receive pictures and a letter from them with enough copies to send to the rest of the family. Incidetally, I learned that he was the head of the Rotary in Japan, the Chairman of Sanyo Industries and also the President of a large steel corporation.

I could write for hours and not exhaust my impressions of Japan but as I mentioned before I could have been one of the lucky ones.

I received a copy of the S.H.S salute from Mike Hoshiko. It brought back many wonderful memories. I never realized that I was the first Japanese Canadian to graduate from Surrey High. Many of the names in the Salute brought back flashes of young, smiling faces but I guess everyone has changed somewhat.

By the way, how was your trip down under. I hope your wife and you, had a wonderful time. There are so many exotic animals, birds and plants that only exist there. Please write and tell me about them for I am very interested.

The history of my family is a more difficult task than I had anticipated. I have written to my family from coast to coast for information and now that a pipe-line has been established into Japan, I am trying to get information from there. People, including myself, have difficulty putting dates on events, and the problem is compounded when you have to cross two cultures where the language forms a barrier.

know what happened then

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16.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

We are well as could be expected, although my wife isn't improving as much as I would have liked. However she is doing remarkably well for a woman, whom the doctors gave five years to live about twenty five years ago.

Please give my best to your wife and family and take care of yourselves.

Sincerely.

King Tsuneo Enta.

File 3-13

86.0046 [Local histories, letters, and walking tour]

Site 9, Box 12, R.R. #2,
Armdale N.S. V3L 4J2,
Sept. 14, 1985.

Dear Stanley,

I was delighted to hear from you and somehow it felt like a breath of air from my long lost past. And yet to me, it feels as if it was only yesterday, Mr. Stevens lined the two of us against the wall in the corridor to see who was the tallest of the two. I still haven't grown very much attaining the dizzying height of 5'-4".

I guess you are wondering what I am doing in Nova Scotia. Well, when my time for retiring approached, my son who has been in the navy for twenty years wanted me near his family so we bought a couple of acres on the lakeshore and built a house together. Its quite a beautiful spot, well treed and I just built a dock to dive from and tie our canoe to.

After I left Lord Tweedmuir High, I farmed for a while although I went to New Westminster Business College during the evening. At that time, there wasn't too much future in the business world for a Japanese Canadian, as soon as a job opened in a logging camp at Cowichan Lake, I went there as a rigging slinger for three years and then on to Woodfibre to the pulp mill for three years. While I was there, war broke out and you know what happened then.

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Our property and all our goods were seized; dad was interned because he refused to move and I took mother and the rest of the family to the sugar beet farm just north of Winnipeg, a place called Middlechurch. Because my back couldn't accept the crawling around in the sugar beet field, the B.C. Security Commission placed me at Nelpawa General Hospital as a gardener, orderly, mechanic etc. etc. Perhaps, fate had a hand in that move, for eventually after leaving there, I married a registered nurse working there, Isabel Carruthers.

Things began to normalize so I went back into Winnipeg and did a multitude of things including working in a coal yard, picking snow for the C.P.R., metal working shop, cabinet shop, construction and finally starting my own construction firm. Again, fate stepped in, for I was asked by the Hudson's Bay Co. if I would work part time for them estimating contract jobs for them and supervising the work when the contract was accepted. When the manager had a stroke, I was asked to be manager of Contract Sales as a permanent employee and eventually when the Contract Sales Dept was phased out, I was moved to Head Office as a part of the Retail Development portion of the company. About fourteen years ago, they decided to move most of the operation from Winnipeg to Toronto and I was one of about fifty families moved at that time. Before my

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retirement, I moved into senior management position and was the Manager, Purchasing and Manager, Installation for the company. I do have a small pension with the company so I don't think I will be too hard pressed.

Please don't think that I'm complaining about my lot. I have a lot to be thankful for. I have two sons, one in Halifax, one in Winnipeg and a daughter living in Delta B.C. and five grand children, all wonderful kids. Although my wife had a damaged heart because of rheumatic fever as a girl, she has had two open heart operations, the last one a year ago and they replaced the badly damaged valves. She is gradually gaining strength and if she is careful, she should have many more useful years left.

I feel that the evacuation has brought us many blessings, although we lost our property and dad died of a broken heart, the rest of the family have, each in his and her own way have accomplished things that they may never have done otherwise. Two of my sisters are in San Francisco doing well, my brother is a dermatologist in Calgary, I have a sister in Winnipeg, and two brothers and a sister in Toronto, all living a comfortable life.

It's too bad, one of us isn't a writer. So much has happened to us, even to myself, that a saga of the Entas would make a

[local histories, letters, and walking tour]
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very interesting book.

With my retirement, I am doing some things that I always wanted to. I go fishing once in a while, spend most of my time landscaping the property, and am taking oil painting as a hobby.

When your letter arrived, I took out our class picture for grade nine and for grade twelve and began wondering what became of all the people we knew. Of course a great majority of the pupils came from all over Surrey so once the school years were over, contact was lost.

Incidentally, we are planning to visit Expo in Vancouver next year, we should make it a point to get together at that time. And don't forget, if ever you are in Halifax, give us a call, We'll pick you up at the airport and show you around the area. We do not have a palace, but whatever we have is yours to use.

Sincerely

King T. Enta.

MG.0046 [local histories, letters, and walking tour]

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