

Early Vancouver

Volume Five

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1936-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three and four collected in 1931, 1932 and 1934.

About the 2011 Edition

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CAPILANO ESTATES, LIMITED. WEST VANCOUVER.

Memo of conversation, over the phone, with former Reeve W.H. Lembke, also former Alderman of Vancouver, now in the real estate business at Vancouver. Mr. Lembke called at my home this afternoon, found me out, so called me on the phone this evening. During the conversation he said: (30 April 1938)

Mr. Lembke said: "I was talking yesterday to Harvey, of Loewen and Harvey; old Mr. Harvey is dead; it was his son I was talking to; his firm is on the list of real estate agents to whom the Capilano Estates send information of the lots sold by the Capilano Estates—to notify them what properties are off the list when a sale has been made—and Harvey told me that on the list he received two weeks ago it showed that, up to that date, about thirteen lots had been sold, and eleven of them were all in a group down below the Golf Links; there is a group of young fellows, or something, who have sort of clubbed together, and bought some of the lots selling around \$1,500 or \$2,000. They other two lots have been sold, one to Ghent Davis, and someone else—I don't know his name.

"Then I was at the Municipal Hall, West Vancouver, and asked the Building Inspector, and he tells me that so far two permits to build have been taken out; that's all he knows of; just two houses, and Ghent Davis' is one.

"And about A.J.T. Taylor. He's gone and built a home out at Kew Beach; cost about \$50,000; hasn't got confidence in his own subdivision; it's four or five miles from the Capilano Estates property.

"I'll tell you. From what I hear it is not the Guinness money that is in the Capilano Estates, but a lot of private money subscribed; subscribed by private people in England. Guinness might have some money in it, but I think, from bits that I pick up, that Guinness' money may be in the bridge, but I don't think it is in the property.

"I am afraid we are going to hear more about the Capilano Estates. I am afraid it's going to be another black eye for Vancouver, and for Canada.

"And, think of the full page advertisements published, and the front page stuff in the *News-Herald*; why the lots sold to date won't pay for the advertising."

J.S. Matthews.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WESTMINSTER AVENUE.

Memo of conversation with F.G. Lewis, formerly of Lewis and Sills, Westminster Avenue, now Main Street, retired, and resident at 1236 West 10th Avenue. Mrs. F.G. Lewis is president, 1936, of the Woman's Canadian Club.

Mr. Lewis: "At the back of our hardware store was an old building, very old and very dirty and dilapidated, with four rooms upstairs, and four rooms downstairs; we rented the rooms at about four dollars per month to a nondescript lot of tenants; we went there in 1901, and purchased the hardware business from Malvina Coudron, we bought the land in 1907.

"I am not sure that our store, which was right up to Westminster Avenue, was the first Baptist church. A platform upstairs led me to assume that the old church at the back of the property, as shown in the fire insurance map of 1889, had been raised by putting an addition under it, and moved from the back of the lot to the level of the street line, but I am not sure. The old church may have been the building at the back; I do not know.

"Each of the eight rooms in the old back building was heated with a little cook stove, and a five inch stove pipe led from each to the chimney; there was a primitive sort of bathroom upstairs, and another down.

"It may be that the old back building which we rented to roomers, and not our store in front of it, was the first Baptist church in Vancouver." (See Mrs. Ruth Morton narrative.)