

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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MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMSON, ABOUT 14 FEBRUARY 1938.

Mr. Simson said: "When they were surveying the line from Port Moody, it was raining pretty hard, the rain was getting on the instruments, on the notebooks, and was a big nuisance, so the surveyors bought some of those great big umbrellas on a pole sometimes used to keep the sun off at fairs, picnics, etc, and sent the bills to Winnipeg.

"Just what impression the bills caused at the accountant's or purchasing agent's offices can be judged by the fact that a message was received asking why surveyors had umbrellas to work with; presumably they thought that surveyors were 'tough' enough to work out in the open.

"Explanations were made, and the bills paid, but the little incident throws a light on how the surveyors worked—in the wet forest, downpour of rain, etc., etc."

J.S.M.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH CALVERT SIMSON, FORMER STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL, 26 MAY 1938.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. R.M.S. ABYSSINIA.

Mr. Simson said: "I am positive the *Abyssinia* came in about midnight, because when I heard her siren going, 'Whoooo, whoooo, whoooo,' I thought it was the dogs; we had some dogs on a scow, tied up on a scow, and I got up and looked out of my bedroom window, and I could see her lights ablaze; it was about midnight."

J.W. McFarland tells, *Early Vancouver*, Vol. 2: "While I was in that cottage, one night I heard a moaning sort of howl, and went outdoors to 'murder' the supposed cat, but it was the C.P.R. *Abyssinia* coming in; the first steamer from the Orient. We were not accustomed to such noises in those days."

MEMO OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN CALVERT SIMSON, THIRD STOREKEEPER, HASTINGS SAWMILL; AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, INDIAN, GRANDSON OF CHIEF KHAHTSAHLANO, FROM WHOM KITSILANO TAKES IT NAME; AND MAJOR J.S. MATTHEWS, CITY ARCHIVIST, 16 DECEMBER 1938.

SALMON. DUCKS. FALSE CREEK.

(All three are at the corner of Broadway and Cambie Street, awaiting a street car.)

Major Matthews: See that hole across the street. (Southwest corner.) There used to be lots of salmon go up that creek.

Mr. Simson: "Yes, and the North Vancouver creeks were full of dog salmon."

August: "And down in the creek that ran through the swamp back of Kitsilano beach; the pools were full of them."

Mr. Simson: "There used to be two or three acres of ducks swimming off the Hastings Mill wharf eating the herrings; the water was just black with them."

August: "And at night, on False Creek, they made such a noise you could not sleep" (at Indian village of Snauc.)

CARRALL STREET.

Mr. Simson: "We used to carry a boat over from False Creek to Burrard Inlet at Carrall Street. I have helped to carry over a four-oared boat; four of us carried it; it wasn't far; a little more than a long block. Of course, when the tide was high, that was a pretty wet place.

"I used to know your stepfather, August. 'Jericho Charlie'" (Chinalset) "was a fine man. He used to come through the Narrows in his big canoe, and take a canoe load of barley and supplies down to Angus Fraser's camp at Jericho. One week, when the tide was right, he used to come through the Narrows; next