

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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MCCARTNEY OF THE DRUG STORE.

"Allan McCartney, brother of Allan McCartney of the drug store, left a son, 'Bus' McCartney; he lives out in Burnaby; he would tell you all about the Hastings Mill flume for water from Trout Lake."

CHINAMEN AT PORT MOODY. ACCIDENTS, C.P.R. CONSTRUCTION.

"I recall that Chinaman" (mentioned in *Port Moody Gazette* as injured and attended by Dr. Langis in 1884 or 1886.) "He had his right leg broken, and, next day, when I called he was gone; the Chinamen where I had operated on him told me the injured man had 'gone to China'; but I believed they killed him. You see, they were paid only thirty cents a day, and felt they could not afford to pay for medical attention for those who got injured. Anyway, where he went to with his leg off—cut off by me the day before—I don't know."

"What I do know is that, up near Salmon Arm, at Canoe Creek, east of Tappen, there was an accident in which about a dozen Chinamen got badly injured, and when I went through the camp the next day, not one of the them was there; where the injured men had gone to I never knew, but I always believed their fellow Chinamen did away with them—because they were injured, no use, and a drag on the others—and buried them."

Read and approved by Dr. Langis, 17 April 1936. J.S.M.

Dr. Langis died in Vancouver in the fall of 1937.

LAWSON, FIRST CITY ENGINEER.

"Old Man" Lawson was first city engineer in Vancouver; he lived on Alexander Street; he died. He was unable to go through the woods; he would get that ivy poisoning. He adopted a daughter who married a man named Brown who was afterwards manager of the Gas Works in New Westminster for Jim Cunningham. Afterwards Brown went with the Galbraith Lumber Co., Westminster, and died while with that firm about 1930-1-2.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH DR. H.E. LANGIS, 1708 WEST 40TH AVENUE, A PIONEER DOCTOR OF PORT MOODY AND VANCOUVER, ALSO OF PARKSVILLE, APRIL 1936.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. HOLY ROSARY CHURCH. FATHER PATRICK FAY. FIRST MASS IN VANCOUVER.

Dr. Langis said: "The first Roman Catholic mass celebrated in Vancouver was celebrated in Blair's Hall, down the alley way" (behind Blair's Terminus Saloon in Granville), "by the Rev. Father Patrick Fay, 1885. I was not there myself, but Calvin Patterson told me."

"Father Fay did not die on the road as Mrs. McGovern tells you, but died on a fisherman's boat, near Anacortes, Washington."

City Archivist: They call him "The Merry Priest"?

Dr. Langis: "He was drunk all the time. I liked him because he was a good man. I bought him one of those big pictures, 'Jesus before Pilate,' and took it up to him. He was well liked. Pat Carey ran the Brunswick Hotel on Hastings Street between Carrall and Abbott, told me Father Fay came up to him and said:

"Father Fay: 'Can you let me have twenty dollars? Tomorrow is Sunday, and I am going to make a collection; I'll let you have it back again on Monday.'

"Pat Carey: 'No, you won't; you'll get drunk, and there won't be any service.' And that was what happened."

City Archivist: Who held the service?

Dr. Langis: "There was no service; he was the only priest in Vancouver."

City Archivist: Well, what did they do?

Dr. Langis: "Nothing. There was no service that Sunday, that was all.

"Father Pat came to me one day, I saw him coming; it was in the 'Arcade,' corner of Hastings and Cambie, and I said to myself when I saw him coming, 'This is going to cost me one dollar.' He said to me, 'Your brother wrote to me in 1888 and I never answered.' I had a brother who was a priest, and he wanted to know how I (Dr. Langis) was behaving myself in B.C. But the reason he (Father Fay) did not answer was because he was too busy with the bottle, so I wrote to my brother myself, and told him how I was getting along.

"Father Fay was a very likeable man."

Dr. Langis died in 1937.

MEMO OF CONVERSATION WITH DR. H.E. LANGIS, 23 MARCH 1937.

Pioneer medical practitioner of Fort William, Yale, Port Moody, New Westminster, Granville and Vancouver, charming old French-Canadian, who, always kindly, called at the City Archives to ask that some of his "yarns" be sent to the B.C. Medical Association for printing in their monthly *Bulletin* as he was unable to do it himself.

DR. H.E. LANGIS.

Dr. Langis said: "It will be fifty years ago in a few days, on March 31st 1887, since I got a license to practice in British Columbia; got a provincial license, paid ten dollars for it."

EARLY CEMETERIES. BROCKTON POINT.

"Yes, I know, I know exactly where the old Brockton Point graveyard was; I could put my foot on the exact spot. They were mostly people from Moodyville who were buried there—and a few from Hastings Sawmill. The graves were to the right of the road as you go to the point; outside the road, east of the road; between the road and water; the old 'Park Road' was narrow, not a wide driveway as it is now; left more land between road and top of bank. The graves were about the Nine O'Clock Gun; north and south of it, close to it, some just beyond, some this side, just a few yards from the gun, or where the gun is now.

"And some were along between the gun and Brockton Point, but outside of the park road.

"Some were over on Deadman's Island; that's where I got my skeleton they talked about in the Great Fire of 1886; a Swede who had committed suicide at Moodyville. The little graves on Deadman's Island had little fences around them; painted white pickets."

J.S. Matthews

GOLDEN JUBILEE, 1936.

Jack Booth, *Province* cartoonist, "Would jubileevit."

LAWN TENNIS.

Memo of conversation with A.P. Horne, Esq. (over phone), 21 August 1939.

Mr. Horne: "The wooden tennis courts shown in" (C.P.R. Park) "front of old Hotel Vancouver, were built in 1889 and 1890. The first one was built in 1889, and the second in 1890, E.B. Dean was secretary at the time, and looked after the financing. But, previous to 1895, the tennis was played at Brockton Point."

Note: after 1898, but before 1901, I have leaned on the fence on Granville Street and watched tennis being played on the old court. V.C. Brimacombe, of the Bank of Montréal, played there.

J.S. Matthews.