

Early Vancouver

Volume Six

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1940-1945.

Supplemental to volumes one, two, three, four and five collected in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939 and 1944.

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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[photo annotation:]

KITSILANO INDIAN RESERVE, looking east, circa 1907. Chin-nal-set's, or "Jericho Charlie," of Jericho & Greer's Beach, house, 100 yards east foot Chestnut street, 50 yards north Ogden st produced. Chin-nal-set married Qwhy-what, or "Sally," widow of Hay-tulk, or "Supplejack," son of Chief Haatsa-lah-nogh, after whom Kitsilano is named. Hay-tulk's son, August Jack Haatsalano, appears in canoe with his wife Swanamia, or "Marrian"; both splendid Indians. Qwhy-what is supposed to have buried gold and silver coins in iron box a few yards west of cottage. In 1937, summer, August spent much time digging, without success. Old beach reclaimed, 1913. JSM.

The boathouse on the beach had broken away from the little island at foot of Howe St. It belonged to the elder brother of E.A. Dickie in 1940 who as a boy of 15 helped to build it. The year is probably earlier than 1907.

CONVERSATION WITH AUGUST JACK KHAHTSAHLANO, WHO CAME TO THE CITY ARCHIVES, 14 OCTOBER 1941, TO TALK ABOUT AN OLD CANOE WHICH IT IS PROPOSED TO PLACE IN STANLEY PARK ON EXHIBITION, AND TO INTEREST CITIZENS AND VISITORS.

"JERICO CHARLIE'S" CANOE. INDIAN CANOES. CHINALSET.

Major Matthews: Tell me about the canoe, August?

August: "I got a canoe, very old one, it's twenty-seven feet long and five feet beam. It was brought down from the west coast; get a map, I show you, here Cape Flattery, Neah Bay, rough water, in United States.

"Ten women brought that canoe to Victoria; they were looking for their husbands. Their husbands go out sealing in a schooner and they did not come back; they were drowned. The women sell the canoe, and my stepfather, 'Jericho Charlie'" (i.e., Chinalset) "he bought it in Victoria for one hundred dollars; cheap because it was second hand. Chinalset was down there for a big potlatch on the Songhees Reserve, across the harbour from Victoria; he was there a month; potlatch all the time; I was with him, all one month potlatch. I was about nine year old then. My mother Qwhy-wat, and Willie Jack" (Khay-tulk, the second) "my brother, and old man Tom—white man call him Tommy, but he's Indian name's Charl-tun—and Charl-tun's wife, and there were others; we all go over in 'Jericho Charlie's' big canoe, the one he used to take the hay and barley from Hastings Mill Store out to Jerry Rogers' camp at Point Grey. No kicker" (gasoline engine), "paddle all the way; take us three days False Creek to Victoria; cook our meals on the beach; dig clams. Finally, when we got there, lots of Indians; Chief Michael was giving a potlatch. We started from Snaug, False Creek; Chief George from Seymour Creek, and others from Capilano Creek."

POTLATCH.

"Then, after the potlatch, we come back, all the same people, but two canoes instead of one. Three peoples get in smaller canoe my stepfather bought, and the rest in my stepfather's bigger canoe we go over there in; maybe six in the bigger canoe. 'Big George,' Chief at Seymour Creek, he was at the potlatch too, but he go in his own canoe. And Policeman Tom—his Indian name was Tah-hay; different Tom from Charl-tun. It took us four days to get back with the two canoes. The ten women not find their husbands; they had been drowned; so the women went back to their own west coast in a big canoe with others when the potlatch was over."

INDIAN GRAVEYARDS. SNAUQ.

"We use the canoe Chinalset bought to take some dead to Squamish to be buried; all graveyards got to be moved from Snaug, long time ago, after Vancouver burn; bury them again Squamish. Then the biggest canoe smashed up at Snaug; big wind, big wave, foot of Cypress Street; exposed place below Chinalset's house; same place, but not same canoe as in your photo." (C.V. P. In. 35, N. In. 17.) "A photo of the actual canoe Chinalset bought from the ten women is in Dunn and Rundle, photo supply store, Granville Street. After Chinalset smash his big canoe he never fix it again; all split up into kindling; no good, but the smaller west coast one, he use it to go Squamish, fish, carry freight to Squamish; twenty-five miles up river, pole it up the river.

"Then Jericho Charlie die, and we put the canoe away, keep it in boat shed up Squamish, keep it dry. Then fifteen years ago I bought motor boat engine; I have canoe, so I put engine in canoe. The canoe is now over at my home in Capilano."

Major Matthews: What are you going to do with it?

August: "I was going to pull it out of the water and keep it, but the Parks Board want it, and I think I might sell it if they want to put it in the park for peoples to look at."

Major Matthews: How old was it when your stepfather bought it from the ten Indian women?

August: "I don't know; it was second hand then. Cedar canoe last long time; maybe two hundred years; it you paint them all the time they keep."

CHINALSET'S FATHER. BEAR.

"Jericho Charlie's father was Chinalset, too; he shoot the biggest grizzly bear up at Squamish; the bear must have been twelve feet long; cut him in half across the middle, and use the hide to cover the frame door to the cedar slab house; long before whitemans come."

CONVERSATION WITH CAPT. B.F. DICKENS, 3582 WEST 14TH AVENUE, OVER THE PHONE.

Note: Mount Dickens, North Arm, Burrard Inlet, is named in his honour; he was one of the principals of Wigwam Inn, Indian River; was secretary-treasurer of *World* newspaper about 1907. He is still very hale and hearty despite his years, and speaks clearly and hears clearly over the telephone.

"100,000 MEN IN 1910." "IN 1910, VANCOUVER THEN, WILL HAVE 100,000 MEN."

Major Matthews, City Archivist: (after preliminary compliments) Mr. Dickens, do you remember the "100,000 Club."

Capt. Dickens: "I should think I do; I organised it. I was secretary-treasurer of the *World* newspaper at the time; L.D. Taylor was editor. I read the clipping in the *World*; clipping from some newspaper in Texas, U.S.A.; there was some city down there which wanted to reach 100,000 by 1910; they had the idea first; we copied it because it suited."

Major Matthews: Do you recall the exact words?

Capt. Dickens: "In 1910, Vancouver then, will have 100,000 men."

Major Matthews: But there was an abbreviation of that we used to paint on the sides of "band wagons" at carnivals, or processions; the long form was too long, so we used "100,000 MEN IN 1910," didn't we? And there was a great big banner all across Hastings or Granville Street, "100,000 MEN IN 1910."

"MOVE HER, MOVE HER. WHO? VANCOUVER."

Capt. Dickens: "Yes, that's right. And then we had another slogan, 'Move her, move her. Who? Vancouver.'"

Major Matthews: Of course, I had forgotten that one. Do you remember how the hot headed young bloods used to hire a wagon and two horses, and decorate it all up with banners, paint on the banners, "100,000 MEN IN 1910" and "MOVE HER, MOVE HER. WHO? VANCOUVER," and go up Granville Street shouting at the top of their voices, those slogans while they rode all packed together in the wagons, and we on the sidewalk laughed and pitied the fools as we thought them. Most of them are in responsible positions now.