

Early Vancouver

Volume One

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1932)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1931-1932.

*A Collection of Historical Data, Maps, and Plans Made with the Assistance of
Pioneers of Vancouver Between March and December 1931.*

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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board the conveyance, my arm was squeezed, and the slippery salmon squirted out of the paper, tail first. Several persons witnessed the incident; my wife was mortified; we had been caught in the act. We were guilty of the indignity of carrying home so worthless a trifle as a salmon, and what was worse, there could be no doubt, it was our intention to eat it when we got it there. Awful.

It was not considered good taste to serve salmon for meals when guests were present. If it was done, the hostess sometimes apologised, said it was a "potluck" meal, 'twas all she had, and excused it. Salmon was *infra dignitatum* among the elite, 'twas food fit for Siwash. And even to this day, 1931, when it is sometimes thirty-five cents a pound, the old reluctance to place salmon on the table when guests are present still lingers among some of our older citizens.

About this time, 1900, salmon entered several of the creeks on False Creek. They penetrated as far as Third Avenue West and Cedar Street up a creek which entered the bay in the centre of Kitsilano Beach, and also as far as Eighth Avenue West, between Columbia and Yukon streets in Mount Pleasant, by a creek which emptied its water into False Creek near the southern end of the Cambie Street Bridge.

J.S. Matthews

6 JULY 1931 - WILD ANIMALS IN VANCOUVER. POINT GREY.

"We had a rose pergola in our garden. It was entered from the basement as well as from outside. One day, soon after we first went to live at 4406 West Second Avenue, between Trimble and Sasamat, just above the air station at Jericho—it was a wild place then—one day, father opened the basement door leading to the pergola, and there in front of him lay a cougar. It just ran off quietly. That was in September 1912."

Miss Violette Russell, the speaker, whose father Mr. N.H. Russell died recently, was one of the first ten pupils at the Point Grey School, the first, now known as Queen Mary School, supposed to be the most beautifully located school in Canada. The old school is still standing nearby. In childhood days, she and other children were sometimes, but not always, accompanied by some older person on their way, a short distance, through the woods to school, "in case there was a cougar around."

"On another occasion," said Miss Russell, "perhaps two years after we went there, perhaps three, we were having dinner in the dining room, when we heard the chickens in the chicken shed cackling. Father grasped a poker out of the fender and went over the verandah with it in his hand. He must have made a slight noise as he walked over the verandah, and they must have heard him coming, for two cougars jumped over the fence and ran off into the woods."

J.S.M.

15 AUGUST 1931 - WILD ANIMALS IN VANCOUVER. LITTLE MOUNTAIN. CAPITOL HILL.

"Father shot deer on Little Mountain in 1912," stated Mr. Johnston, the taxi driver. "I have myself seen deer on Capitol Hill in 1914. We did not come to Vancouver until 1906; I was one year old then; afterwards, I went to the Bodwell Road School in South Vancouver, so far as I know the only school there at that time. You know how boys roam, and then father took me with him shooting."

J.S.M.

7 JULY 1931 - STREET RAILWAY. INTERURBAN.

There were three houses only between the two cities of New Westminster and Vancouver when the first interurban street railway first operated. Authority: H.P. McCraney.