

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 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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STREET CAR TICKETS. “MALKIN’S BEST” AND “TAYLOR’S SLACKS.”

“Malkin’s Best” and “Taylor’s Slacks” were euphemisms. The former was the trademark of W.H. Malkin Co. Ltd., wholesale grocers, and used by them on their teas, coffees, etc., and was applied sneeringly to those street car tickets issued after a prolonged argument between the city and the B.C. Electric Railway Co. in 1929 following his Worship W.H. Malkin’s election as the first mayor of Greater Vancouver, the amalgamated city of Vancouver and the municipalities of Point Grey and South Vancouver, 1 January 1929. They were eighteen for one dollar, and proved unpopular; the suggestion was that they were the “best that Malkin could do.” The appellation was unjust.

“Taylor’s Slacks” was a sequel, epitomizing “a fare for travel during slack period of traffic during day,” as was first used in August 1932. A pink ticket, nine rides for fifty cents, and proved very popular at once. In both cases they were acceptable during the non-rush hours of 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, and all day on Sundays and holidays; yet eighteen for one dollar proved unpopular, and were rarely used, while nine for fifty cents proved popular and were immediately bought freely.

The adoption of the weekly pass on all city lines for \$1.25 took place in the fall of 1932 (September). Most people considered it a new idea; actually monthly passes for \$1.50 per month were issued in 1898 or 1899.

GASTOWN. KINGSWAY—WESTMINSTER ROAD.

In the panoramic photograph of Vancouver “before the fire,” there can be seen the faint outline of Kingsway or Westminster Avenue (Main Street) as, in the distance, it descends Mount Pleasant through the woods. It can be seen a faint irregular white line; the wagon trail, the “New Road” from New Westminster.

Other points of interest are the Ferguson Block—a long roofed two-storey building, corner Carrall and Powell streets, then Carrall Street with the dark maple tree, and then the gable end of the Sunnyside Hotel. In front of the Ferguson Block can be seen a white horse headed west. To the east of the Ferguson Block can be traced Hastings Road running along the shore between what is now Powell and Alexander streets, and the stores facing on them. The small church is St. James’s about the foot of Columbia Avenue. Under a microscope the course of the old road can be traced along the shore. (See Theo. Bryant.)

The two canoes are of a type which would indicate that they were owned by northern Indians who worked at the Hastings Mill; they are not of Squamish design. The historic steamer *Beaver* is tied up to the Hastings Mill wharf, near the freight shed and store.

Mr. Geo. L. Schetky describes this photo.

“The long building here in the centre is the Ferguson Block on the southeast corner of Carrall and Powell streets. Hartney was on the corner, Grant and Arkell was on Powell Street next door, and my store was next. Tom Dunn” (Thos. Dunn Hardware Co.) “was around the corner on Carrall Street. The two-storey building with gable end facing you, and diamond shaped black mark in gable, is the Sunnyside Hotel. You see this white spot, oblong shaped, about an inch to the west, well, I think that is the old jail on Water Street. You can see the maple tree, a dark bushy tree just to the left of the Sunnyside.

“In the other direction, towards the east, just east of the Ferguson Block on the waterfront was the store of ‘Wings’ Wilkinson. He was a cobbler then, now manager of the New York Life in Vancouver, and there is a point in West Vancouver called Wilkinson’s Point. The tall building to the left—between two trees about an inch apart—is ‘Tinware and Stoves, F.A. Hart—Furniture.’”