

From the Vancouver Oral History Project Interview Transcript No. 54

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hammond

This excerpt has been edited for clarity

Cheryl Pierson: I don't think I asked you ... what are your first memories of Maillardville and the buildings that were here and that sort of thing when you were a little girl. What do you first remember about it?

Mrs. Hammond: Well, I remember Brunette Street, really, you know, and there my aunt and uncle used to live on Cartier. They lived there and I had two uncle. I had one in ... Marmont Road and [then] they were on Cartier Street. I remember that and [the other one on] old Brunette.

Miss Pierson: What was it like ... what was the street like then?

Mrs. Hammond: They had wooden sidewalks ... I remember that ... and there was one butcher shop that I remember. It was Mr. Thrift's butcher shop. That's all they had here, just that one and there was ... on the other side they had ... the grocery store. Mr. Proulx used to have that grocery store there. But there was nothing else. There was no ... I don't even ... then Louis Boileau ... I remember him because he used to cut the hair as a barber. But that's all there was on Brunette Street. There was nothing except the Municipal Hall, if you wanted to go in the Sunday afternoon. Well, I remember my Dad he'd take us out for a walk ... it was from Millside School to the Municipal Hall and whoever was sitting on their porch, you know, you'd stop and you'd talk to them and it was really friendly ... it was so small, you see? But there wasn't too many ... there was the church and the school, and Laval Square and just those few homes ... like his Dad's home, you know, and I remember because we were all brought up together in the Bedard's home ... was like my grandparents. You know, my grandfather thought they were rich because he had a house on Laval Square, too.

Mr. Hammond: In the back of the school ...

Mrs. Hammond: It was just a little house. I remember that when we used to go there, you know, and then they moved out, they moved in with my uncle and it was another uncle that moved in there. But I was about 13, I guess ... 12-13.

Miss Pierson: Where did the people mostly go to do their shopping in the early days?

Mr. Hammond: Well, they used to shop for food. They used to go down to Fraser Mills and take the train ... they used to have a ... they put a small train to New Westminster ... well they used to go on that train and they used to come back. Then they had the freight cars, you know. Yes, we used to walk from Maillardville right up on top of Braid Street there ... you'd find a lot of them used to walk there.