

BALDWIN, THOMAS YATES

I was born in 1898 in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England. I came to Canada in April of 1910 with my mother. My brother had already been here for twenty years. We lived on Tennyson Avenue. I went to Tolmie School, the old wooden building right next to St. Mark's Church.

When I was young, I used to go out stooking with my brothers, as far away as Little Saanich Mountain. Hughie Little, one of the first policemen in Saanich, lived in a house at the bottom of Little Saanich Mountain. He had a barn there for his horse and he would leave between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. to go to the Saanich Municipal Hall on the West Saanich Road. The old Royal Oak School was across the street from the Municipal Hall, and the Women's Institute Hall was next door to the Hall. Mr. Little would stop at the Municipal Hall, put his horse in a shed there and go into the Hall to see if there were any messages for him. He was also the Truant Officer! All of us young boys knew that. He would come out of the Hall, get on his horse and start his rounds. He would go down Glanford to Carey Road, in as far as Tolmie, up Tolmie Avenue to Quadra Street and back Quadra to the Municipal Hall. In later years he hired Bob Brown as Assistant Policeman. Brown looked after Cordova Bay, Gordon Head areas and had a bicycle to ride back and forth. At first he had no uniform.

A Hospital was built at Glanford and West Saanich Road for Veterans of the First World War. Just past the hospital was the Pound where they looked after impounded cattle, sheep etc. They did not bother with dogs in those days. Next to the Pound was Jim Pim's place. Mr. Pim was Superintendent of Works for Saanich, and across the street from there was a big apple tree fruit farm owned by Mr. Brydon. At the corner of Vanalman (Von Allmon in early days) and Glanford lived Joe Ferrie. He had three girls and two boys and the older ones went to Tolmie School and the younger ones went to Oak Bay. Then if you travelled from there, it was all wild land to the top of the hill where Mr. Brydon had a house. He owned all the property on that side. Across the street was a two-story white house which had a big orchard which we called "Orchard Place". Then at Judah there was a Chinese garden and at the back of the garden was a big mound of greenhouses right down to Carey Road. From there, on Glanford Avenue after passed where the school is now, there was a man by the name of Allen, and on the other side of Glanford from the

school down to Agnes Street was owned by Mr. Rogers, the Dairyman. Next would be where the V&S train stopped at the station where the red barn was. An apple orchard was there. Then on the next place the Dunn family owned quite a bit of property and they gave it for playing fields and then there was another Chinese greenhouse. Between there and McKenzie was one of the Dunn brothers and on the corner of McKenzie and Glanford was Mycock's house. The next place was McLaughlin, who owned another apple orchard. Across the road was Mr. Barron's place, where the greenhouses are now. Mr. & Mrs. Barron used to grow fruit trees from and one of the boys, Alex Barron, lives in the old house. They owned from Carey Road to Glanford. There were only trails around there then.

On the opposite side of Barrons, Mr. & Mrs. Blake lived (Glanford and Ralph) and they owned property almost halfway down to Colquitz. Then they built a shed to put horses up. The lumber had to come by way of Quadra Street as that was the only way you could get through. On the other side of Ralph was Fred Parkinson and their place backed up to our place on Kent Road. They owned as far as the railway track.

Our house was owned by my brother. It was a two-storey house and it was not finished. We lived there until the other boys came out from the Old Country. In 1913 we bought three lots below the place where we were living for \$100 per lot. Early in 1914 we had a house built by a contractor, two bedrooms up and two bedrooms down. It had a beautiful old fashioned mantelpiece. The fellow who just bought it had some improvements made. Before I went to France in 1915 I painted the house and roof. My next brother went to France in 1914.

There were a couple of houses up on the corner of Kent and Carey. Mr. Fieldhouse and Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton had a single horse transfer to bring things out from twon.

The oldest house on the street was "Broomley" owned by the Webb family. The son's wife still lives there. Across the street from there was just bush right down past the school. Tillicum road was not through. It was swamp in the winter time. During the Second World War the fields at the bottom of Tillicum had a training camp for soldiers. It was

held by Bill Rowland. All the property was owned by Rowland. Then next to where the school is now, was the Chinese garden. Then across the street in a concrete block house, lived an old Chinese fellow and he had a braid down his back. Where the Texaco Station at the corner of Carey and Douglas is now used to be a Chinese duck farm and when we were going home late at night we used to hear women squealing when they were getting their feet bound.

We used to walk from the Cloverdale end of the street car line all the way home. When my wife was young she lived in the only house on Roland Avenue. I can remember when the Saanich Fire Hall on Douglas Street was built and Saanich had their Yard there, where Town and Country shopping centre is now. The men I remember there were: Mr. Little, the Chief; Teddy Parkinson, Mr. Webb and Harry Greenwood. My two little brothers worked for the sidewalks and the other one for the Water Department.

Going out Douglas Street, just after the corner where the gas station is now, there were two concrete pillars and a bridge across where the V&S used to go across and a wooden bridge and water pipe from Elk Lake and that was the only way to get through the woods because Douglas Street was not through. In winter time the swamp from Swan Lake used to flood quite a bit of property (right across where the Municipal complex is now and right up to where the old Firehall used to be). There was only one house near Cloverdale where Andersons lived.

Going back to the Saanich Municipal Yard, before that was put in, there was a trestle where the V&S used to come up Seymour. The Dairy Farm, Northwestern Creamery was at the extreme end of Town and Country (away from Town) and where the 66 Gas Station is at the corner of Saanich Road there were four family houses. One was a real old timer called Anderson and on the other side of Saanich, which is now Douglas Street, was a group of greenhouses owned by the Chinese. Then across the street from Saanich Road to Douglas Street there was a building where there was a butcher on one side and a Chinese grocery store on the other side of the building. There were three apartments there. Mrs. Baldwin and I went there the night we got married in 1921. Dick Sewell was the Municipal Clerk and he lived on Obed Avenue.

Then on the corner of Cloverdale and Douglas Street there was a grocery store (on the left hand side going into town). Across the street there was Wescott's drapery store and there was a white house next to it and years later the Baptist Church, which used to be on Tennyson, whose Church Hall was getting too small, built on the corner of Rodney and a Druggist built a drug store between the grocery store and the Church.

On the corner of Tolmie and Douglas there was a little house where Tom Mould lived. He was a butcher who killed animals at the various farms and one year when the V&S was running, the McKenzies who had a farm on North Douglas, had their cattle all about and the train killed four of them at the corner of Ralph Street. Tom Mould was phoned and he cut them up and hung them in the trees for two days and then took them away. Across the street from where Tom lived was the Maywood Grocery Store and Post Office and we had to go there to get our mail.

They built a grocery store on the corner of Tillicum and Carey Road during the First World War and they made that into the Seven Oaks Post Office. In a big house at the top of the rocks on property bought from Mr. Rowland, was Mr. Roacher and he was the man who built the grocery store at the corner. He was a remittance man from the Old Country and as the years went by he went broke and lost the house up on the hill. Mr. Rowland bought it back and built a little house on Whiteside. They came along and rented. Pendergast got the grocery store and he went to work and bought the corner lot on Carey and Glanford and put in a new store and called it the Seven Oaks Post Office.

From Vernon along Saanich Road, French's Menagerie was there. Mr. French was a brother of Lord French in England and he was disgraced from his family because he married an Indian woman. They used to get all the dead animals from around and his wife used to skin them and cut them up for the lion's feed. Just past Darwin is where they lived. They kept lions, tigers and all wild animals and they used to take them to different shows. They used to drive two ponies with a little carriage. After they got the law after them and they sold the animals and moved to Sooke.

At the time the Menagerie was operating, there was a curfew. No-one was

allowed to play outside after dark because of the wild animals. It was all bush through there. Most of the animals were just chained to a tree. Mrs. Baldwin's father made a wrong turn one night going home from work and landed in the midst of the wild animals and he was extremely scared, almost incoherent when they got him out of there.

On November 7, 1921, we were married at the little church on Carey Road, which was torn down a while ago. It was a United Church. It was a little wooden building. We were the second ones married in the church. We have two boys and a girl, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. We received congratulations from the Queen on our Anniversary.

I am the youngest of thirteen children. We were all born in England. I had a brother who was old enough to be my grandfather. My mother was married three times but there were no children with the third marriage. I had three sisters that I never knew at all. I was born in 1898 and they were born very much earlier.

When we moved out here on Kamloops Avenue there were only four houses and woods all around. That was in 1929.

Mrs. Baldwin was born in Lancashire, England, in 1901 and came to Canada in 1910. She lived on Rowland Avenue and the house is still there but it has been changed a lot. She went to Tolmie School but because of the poor wages in those days, left school early and went out to do housework, and also looked after children. Every penny was counted when you had young brothers and sisters. Later on after the War she worked at the Old English Sweet Shoppe dipping chocolates. She met her husband after the war. She had a message to deliver to his house and after he saw her she had a shadow from then on.

Mr. Baldwin worked for Sidney Roofing for 26 years until they moved to the Mainland and then he worked for the Federal Government at the Post Office. He was a steam engineer by trade. He retired from the Post Office when he was 66.