

BROOKMAN, ARTHUR - 2803 Admirals Road

My father, Arthur Brookman, Senior, came to Victoria in October of 1928 from Guelph, Ontario. My father was born in Baff, England and my mother was born in Guelph, Ontario. I was also born in Guelph. My mother's maiden name was Bellamy. Her sister Barbara, now Mrs. Pringle, came out with mom and dad in 1928. They drove out.

They came right to Victoria and started to operate the store on the corner of Admirals Road and the Gorge. It remained virtually the same until 1949 when Mr. Brookman Senior built the service station and the apartment block. When the trees were cut down behind the store to build the apartment block, they were cut without charge to the Brookman on the condition that the "faller" could have the trees for lumber and cordwood.

We have been in Saanich for over fifty years. For a few months my mother and father looked after a fox ranch on Esson Road, owned by Mr. Myra who worked at the Colonist. This was just before the move down to the new store.

Sometimes we passed this corner when we came from town after we first moved here and my father would say "That is the place we are going to build our store". There was nothing but trees around here at that time. "Youngs" was the nearest house and it was a block and a half up Rockwell. The "Miles" and "Minky" houses were quite a way up Admirals. It was quite wild. There were pheasants, mink, quail and coons right at the back door when the bush was there.

We kept bantams in the early days and sometimes the bantams would run in the store and get food right out of the sacks and they had to be "shooed" out again.

I went to Craigflower School and Mount View School and then worked in the store until I went into the Navy in 1941. Before that, in 1938 I took a year off school and went out in the "William J. Stewart". It was a hydrographic ship. After I came home from the Navy, I worked with the Pacific Meat Company for awhile and then went back to the store. I kept the store right up until 1971 and in October of that

Brookman, Arthur (cont'd)

year I rented it to Mr. and Mrs. Wong. They are wonderful people and intend to leave the store as it is. Since 1971 I have been working at the plywood factory.

Athletically, I was in track and field. I ran for the "Y" and for the Navy. I held the broad jump record for 23 years; it was just broken a few years ago. I also did harpooning as a hobby - see newspaper clipping.

I have four children and three grandchildren. My children are: Beverly, Edward (Ted), Judy and Valerie.