

## MUST USE A PSUEDONYM IN ALL PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC PRESENTIONS

Lowell Quesnel is a retired barber and a real estate agent who worked in New Westminster. The major topics discussed include the Interurban Railway, the Salmonbellies lacrosse team, Columbia Street commercial and entertainment districts, and Pacific Coast Terminals.

Interviewers: Ken Bauder and Andrea Wallisser

Interview Date: 28 March 2013

Date Range: 1946 – 2013

Recording Length: 00:03:05 and 01:01:31

Lowell Quesnel was a barber who later became a real estate agent in New Westminster. He moved to New Westminster with his family from Williams Lake in 1946, when he was 13 years old. Quesnel attended St. Peter's School (grade 6-9) and Duke of Connaught High School (located where New West city hall is now located). He dropped out in grade 12 and took a job at Pacific Veneer on the waterfront. He also worked as an "ice man" at the Queen's Park arena, before buying his father's barbershop at Joyce Road (now Joyce Street) at Kingsway in Vancouver for \$800. He sold the barbershop approximately a year later (in 1955) for \$1600. He then went to work for his father in Elks Barbershop on Carnavon St in New Westminster.<sup>1</sup> One summer, when he was 15 or 16 years old, Quesnel and his brother worked at Pacific Coast Terminals (PCT) labelling salmon and stencilling boxes. Quesnel continued working as a barber until the emergence of The Beatles phenomenon of the 1960s, which led to the popularity of long hair for men. Business at the barbershop was so slow that Quesnel decided to work in real estate.

### Section 0:00 – 15:01

- In this section of the interview Quesnel discusses how he became a barber, why decided to work at his father's barber shop in 1955, and why he stopped barbering due to the long hair trend during The Beatles craze in the 1960s. He lists the major industrial businesses and shipping terminals in New Westminster, and the changes that the city has gone through over the decades. He briefly mentions the Elks Club (Quesnel was the Exalted Ruler from 1959-1960), Lions, Masons, Optimist Club, Army-Navy Club, (Canadian) Legion (located near the Russell Hotel on Begbie), Rod and Gun Club (where men gambled) and the Hyack Club.

### Section 15:02 – 28:56

- In this section of the interview Quesnel talks about in one summer, when he was 15 or 16 years old, he and his brother worked at Pacific Coast Terminals (PCT), a job his father arranged because he cut the hair of one of the PCT managers. He describes the job that he did, which was working in a group labelling salmon and stencilling boxes with the destinations they would be shipped to. He also discusses why he believes New Westminster's downtown core, along Columbia Street, has gone "downhill," the establishments that existed there before, and the Interurban transportation system.

### Section 28:57 – 36:51

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<sup>1</sup> The Elks Barbershop is now (2014) on 6<sup>th</sup> St in Uptown New Westminster and is owned by Quesnel's nephew, Guy Quesnel.

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- In this portion of the interview Quesnel describes New Westminster's local sports teams: the Royals soccer team, the Royals hockey team, and the Salmonbellies lacrosse team. Queen's Park was the home arena for all these teams. He recalls the sold out crowds whenever the Salmonbellies played the Coquitlam Adanac, and that the events would get so crowded that he would have to sit on the steps of stadium. The Salmonbellies and Adanac had a fierce rivalry at the time. According to Quesnel, this rivalry continues such that there are still people from Coquitlam and New Westminster who do not speak to one another. In this section Quesnel also lists influential people in New Westminster, and the gambling establishments that once existed.

### Section 36:52 – 1:01:31

- In this portion of the interview Quesnel shares his perspective on why the downtown area of New Westminster declined, which he largely attributes to condominium development in the area. He and the interviewer, Ken Bauder, discuss their relationship as neighbours, and list some of the big families and companies that were in New Westminster.