

## ALLANSON

The Allanson family first arrived on the Peninsula area (Elgin) in 1917. William and Agnes bought property from Mr. Feedham to begin a farm. The old home is still on the southeast corner of Nichol (present day 140th St.) and Brown Roads (now 32nd Ave.). They raised three sons, Ray, Doug and Rod. Rod still recalls seeing steamboats delivering supplies along the Nicomekl River.

In 1946, Ray and wife Sally (Bertha) moved to Giblin Road in Ocean Park with their three sons, Mike, Pete and Rob. They built a bungalow across the road from George (Gibby) Giblin. At that time there was no water supply and a well had to be dug. Well-digging was done by pick, shovel and crowbar, and was no fun. It fits in the same category as locating and digging an outhouse! Ray and Sally's three sons learned those trades early in life! Coal oil lamps were the order of the day at our house.

Giblin Road was a partially wooded trail then, as were a number of roads in Ocean Park. The local woods were beautiful with many Dogwood and large Maples. A few monster Douglas Fir trees still remained. Doors were unlocked and sometimes even left open while away shopping at Parrott's store where the Safeway store now stands. Johnny McKean also had a store at the foot of the hill on North Bluff Road, which was gravel (as was Marine Drive).

Local kids played baseball at the United Church Camp (Kwomais) ball diamond on the point overlooking the bay. When dusk came, flying squirrels could often be seen gliding through the trees. At the Ocean Park Community Hall the kids played basketball and did tumbling exercises. The Hall was a centrepin of activity.

Ray Allanson was the original commuter to Vancouver, usually driving an old 1937-1941 Dodge. Ray was a fifty-year member of Begg Motor Company and most people in Ocean Park were his passengers to 'town' at one time or another in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. They would get dropped off at the Great Northern station in the early morning. At 5:15 p.m., he would stop again at the station. Anyone waiting for him would get a ride back to White Rock or Ocean Park. Rob remembers thirteen people in the car, including two in the trunk on one return trip, (possibly Jack Uren and Herb Fader). Herb Fader worked for the Vancouver Sun and made many memorable trips with Ray.

Sally Allanson was a writer, artist and poet with items in the New Yorker magazine and Chatelaine. She maintained an exquisite flower garden. Sally was recognized as the first woman glider pilot in Canada, as published in the book 'No Way to Treat a Lady'.

The beach was host to many big bonfires and wiener roasts. The adults and neighborhood kids would pick crabs and boil up enough for everyone over the coals. After a big singsong a tired group would hike back up the beach trail in the moonlit evening.

There are too many other stories to tell here since space limits telling, stories such as 'The Hobo', 'The Police Chief' and 'The Skating Rink'. Suffice to say Ocean Park was, and is, a marvelous place to live and holds many terrific memories for many people.

— Rob and Lois Allanson, Pete and Marilyn Allanson

## LARONDE

The Laronde family, Louis, Maud and their three boys Louis, Frank and Harry settled on Matheson Road (later named Stokes Road and now 20th Avenue) in early 1921. Their youngest son, Ralph, was born in the family home later that year. At the time, Matheson Road was a dirt road that ended at their driveway.

The family kept two cows, two pigs, ducks and a bulldog named Pup that had cost the family \$35, a small fortune in those days. The house had no electricity so all the cooking and heating was done by wood stove.

The four boys attended Crescent Elementary School on Ocean Park Road. They later took the bus to Surrey High School in Cloverdale to further their education.

Louis Sr. graduated with a Masters Degree from the University of Manitoba in 1908. He began his work as an Anglican Minister and a school teacher. He later served as an Officer in First World War. In Ocean Park, he worked as a Customs Officer at the border, riding his bike to work and later driving a Model T Ford. He also served as the Superintendent of Sunday Schools and was the organist at the Crescent Park United Church and Church of Ascension, Crescent Beach. He drowned at Crescent Beach in July of 1935.

Maud was a former school teacher who was very active in the church, especially the Sunday School and the ACW when it was formed. Frank and his father made the Bishop's chair, which was later donated to the boys' school in Vancouver. Ralph made the hymn board. The brothers earned money in the summer picking and selling berries to the tourists and summer cottage owners at Crescent Beach. Later, they worked as landscape gardeners in their spare time, developing a profitable business.

Louis married Hazel Howard and had two girls. During the Second World War, he served in the airforce in India. Returning to Ocean Park, he became a customs officer at the Douglas and Tsawwassen Border Crossings. His hobbies included an award-winning garden and fishing.

Frank married Jessie Weston of White Rock, and had five boys. He also served in the Air Force in the Second World War. After the war he attended the University of British Columbia, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering.

Harry graduated from U.B.C. with an honours degree in history before joining the Air Force. He was killed in the Azores in March 1945.

Ralph earned his teaching certificate, graduating from Normal School in Vancouver. He taught briefly in the Cariboo before joining the Air Force as a navigator. He completed officer's training and made the Air Force his career. He married and had four children. Upon his retirement, he returned to Ocean Park where he still resides on the family property.

The Laronde Elementary School is located on the lower part of the family's original 20-acre parcel.

The family home still stands and has been home to some of the next generation of Larondes.

— Ruby and Ralph Laronde

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