

# B.C. historical NEWS

FEBRUARY, 1970



# BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 2

February 1970

Published November, February, April and June each year by the British Columbia Historical Association. Subscription rates: Free to members of all affiliated societies, or \$3.50 per year including postage directly from the Editor, Mr P.A. Yandle, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver 8, B.C.

---

## Executive

President:	Mrs Mabel Jordon
1st Vice-President:	Mr H. R. Brammall
2nd Vice-President:	Mr B. C. Bracewell
Sec. & Editor:	Mr P. A. Yandle
Treasurer:	Mrs H. R. Brammall
Executive	Mr H. B. Nash
Committee:	Mr D. Schon

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 2
Minutes	3
Letter to the editor	5
Society notes and comments	6
Glacier National Park, by John Marsh	7
Rose Skuki, by Michael Robinson	10

## EDITORIAL

Sooner or later it had to happen and now I must make amends. In the last issue of the News the feature article - the Bishop Hills Dean Cridge affair - written by Mr R.J.S. Spooner I stated that Mr Spooner had been a student of the University of Victoria, whereas in fact he was a student of the University of B.C. Dr Margaret Ormsby pointed out the error of my ways through my wife, and I now bow my head in shame and ask forgiveness. The article has created considerable comment, and I must say all very favourable. From Nanaimo comes this comment from Mr Wm Barraclough,

"The Dean Cridge article by R.J.A. Spooner is a well documented story, told with a minimum of minor detail (which is still carried on over tea-cups). We have read many fragmented accounts on the subject, but this report concerning the ambivalence between the two principals involved is a fascinating story. Our Treasurer, Mrs F. McGirr, claims relationship with Dean Cridge, her grandfather's name was Cridge, both men lived at the same place in England."

In a moment of madness and feeling the spirit of expectant Christmas cheer surging through my veins I mailed a copy of the November issue of the News (at my own expense) to a friend of mine in Bristol, England, who signs himself Honorary Archivist to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral. I thought he might be interested in "The Affair" in view of his capacity of Honorary Archivist. His comments were directed to the conduct of our affairs as an Association and I take the liberty of boring those among you who read my editorials with this quote from his letter of acknowledgement.

"My reaction on reading it may surprise you: what a lot of spare time you all seem to have. We here should regard a Council Meeting that lasted from 1.30 to 5.00 p.m. as something akin to a marathon. The Friends of Bristol Cathedral, at least with the present Dean in the chair, conduct their not inconsiderable affairs at three Council meetings in the year beginning at 7.30 and ending within ten minutes of 9.00 (either way). Similarly our Annual General Meeting is allowed one hour for the Festival programme, and everyone is near disgust if it takes more than 50 minutes."

I must have laboured under a delusion all these years in thinking that this was the home of the 'rat-race'. What he doesn't know is that our President travelled approximately 1500 miles to attend that Council meeting, and for that matter all Council meetings.

Please note, take heed, write down on the nearest calendar that our Convention dates are May 21st, 22nd and 23rd at Nanaimo, B.C. The theme for this year's Convention is "Coals to Timber in a Hundred Years" and the Convention centre will be the Shoreline Hotel in Nanaimo. Make your reservations early and be sure you don't miss a pleasant three days in the Hub City.

Minutes of the Third Council Meeting of the British Columbia Historical Association held on February 15th, 1970 at 2386 Estevan, Victoria, at 1.30 p.m. PRESENT: Mrs Mabel Jordon, Pres. (East Kootenay); Mr R. Brammall, Vice-Pres. (Vancouver); Mr B.C. Bracewell, 2nd Vice-Pres. (Victoria); Mrs P. Brammall, Treas. (Vancouver); Mr D. New, Past Pres. (Gulf Islands); Mr P. Yandle, Sec. (Vancouver); Mrs E. Adams (Alberni & Dist.); Mr H.B. Nash (Victoria); Mr D. Schon (Nanaimo).

The President called meeting to order at 2.00 p.m. and asked that the minutes of the last Council Meeting be adopted as circulated. Moved Brammall, seconded New, that the minutes be adopted. -- Carried.

Arising from the minutes the President stated that she had written to both the Honorary Patron and Honorary President extending an invitation to the banquet at the Convention in May. Both had replied, and the Hon. Patron, Lieut. Gov. J.R. Nicholson expressed his regrets as he would be Guest of Honour at Simon Fraser University's Convocation; the Non. Pres., Dr Margaret Ormsby accepted the invitation and hoped that she would be able to attend.

Convention Mr Schon as Convention Chairman reported that it had been necessary to revise the tentative arrangements presented to Council at its last meeting. The most important change was the date. It was now scheduled for May 21st, 22nd and 23rd - one week earlier than previously arranged. A misunderstanding in the booking (although the booking had been made last summer) conflicted with another convention that had also booked the Shoreline Hotel at Nanaimo as its convention headquarters. He stated that speakers had been arranged for all events and that a complete programme would be ready for the April edition of the News.

Mr Schon asked for information as to what qualifications were necessary to attend the Convention. The President answered that anyone may attend, members and non-members alike, provided the formalities of registration were carried out.

Moved New, Seconded Brammall, That the Association place at the discretion of the Nanaimo Society an advance of \$200.00 for the Convention. The Treasurer was instructed to send the amount if requested. - Carried.

The Treasurer reported that the current funds of the Association after the Secretary's typewriter, \$168.00, and News expenses had been paid, left a balance at January 31st, 1970 of \$355.00. Several societies were in arrears with per capita payments, but a letter had been sent reminding them that they are in arrears and that a payment would be appreciated.

The Secretary reported that he had endorsed in the name of the Association a brief to the Hon. R.G. Williston sponsored by the Princeton & District Fish and Game Association, asking that a portion of Paradise Valley at the headwaters of the Tulameen River, - approximately 5 miles by six miles and comprising around 20,000 acres - be set aside as a recreational reserve for the general public.

Quoting from the brief "This valley is rich in historical lore. The Dewdney Trail runs approximately through the centre of the proposed reserve. It also contains the camp-site in which Podunk Davis found Nurse Wharburton who had been lost in the area for a considerable length of time". Council was shown a map of the area and the proposed boundary lines. On the discussion, Mr Schon felt that such proposals should be checked to ensure that interests already established in the area should not be jeopardized for purely emotional reasons for wanting more parkland. Mr Bracewell stated that if some emotion had been shown in the past, areas that should have been reserved for recreational purposes would not have been lost for ever to the people of this province. Mr Brammall felt that the Secretary should have the power to use his discretion in matters such as these where time was a factor, provided that Council be notified of any such action, and a chance to discuss the matter to approve or disapprove, as they saw fit. Council approved the action of the Secretary and endorsed the principles expressed in the brief.

Nootka The President reported that she had written and extended an invitation to both Mr Willard Ireland and Mr James Nesbitt to attend the meeting of Council. They had both promised to attend but had phoned to say that sickness prevented their attendance. She had done so because it had been made clear by both of them that the Federal Government had plans underway regarding Nootka and that maybe they could explain what those plans were. The Secretary had information also that the Federal Government, through the National Historic Sites Board also had plans but could not give any specific details. It was the opinion of Council that an air of mystery seemed to exist and that it should be the concern of Council to find out what was planned. Mrs Adams said she would get in touch with her Federal member as the area came within his constituency, and report to the Secretary. Council instructed the Secretary to write to the correct Federal agency to ask them for specific information and send carbon copies of the letter to the members comprising the committee for the Provincial Centennial.

New Business The President outlined a suggestion that the Association sponsor an essay competition at the University level on a subject relevant to the 1971 Centenary. Moved Brammall, seconded New, That the Association sponsor such a competition. Carried.

Further discussion regarding the competition resulted in the following motion: Moved Schon, seconded Bracewell, That Mr Brammall and Mr Yandle draw up terms of reference for a 1971 Centenary Essay Competition and a proposal for a prize or prizes to report to the next Council meeting for approval. Carried.

Mr New brought to the attention of Council the passing of Mr Freeman of the Gulf Islands Society. Mrs Freeman was a former President of the Gulf Islands Society and was instrumental in founding it. Council expressed its feelings of sympathy at the bereavement and asked the Secretary to write to Mrs Freeman and express the condolence of the Association.

Moved Mrs Adams, seconded New, That the meeting adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 4.20 p.m.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr Yandle: I notice in the last number of the News that you suggested at the last annual meeting in Penticton that persons having something to say about historical matters should write to the editor giving their ideas. I am taking advantage of this opening to write this letter.

I protest emphatically against comparative neglect of the early period of what is now the province of British Columbia, which apparently is regarded as of little interest compared with the period succeeding the establishment of a Crown Colony in 1849. The inevitable result is that not only do I find that the ordinary person, even those who have passed through British Columbia schools, have no knowledge of this early period of B.C.'s history, and otherwise well informed persons somehow or other have acquired erroneous views of B.C.'s background. As an illustration of this I might cite a recent article on the sea otter, in which it was assumed that the depletion of the sea-otters began with the last voyage of James Cook, and that the inevitable almost extermination of the sea-otter was due to the English and American traders. Not only had they already pretty well been exhausted by Russia in the Aleutians and the Alaskan peninsula, but their methods of securing the pelts made far greater inroads on the sea otter than the English and Americans who relied on trade while the Russians employed bands of Aleuts (who were especially successful hunters) whom they employed to sweep the seas. Another instance is a recent article on the Liard River. Campbell is given the credit of first ascending that river in 1838 whereas he was anticipated by McLeod who ascended the Liard and its tributaries as far as Dease Lake and established the first post, Fort Halkett, on the Liard. This was in 1834. In explaining the reasons for the Hudson Bay's abandonment of this route it failed to mention the lease of the panhandle by the Bay, for which a lease was signed in 1839.

As a result of this, sufficient is given to the man who made it possible to establish a foothold on the Pacific coast, whose contribution should be known to everyone - Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser, Thompson and others who were outstanding personalities who have not had sufficient recognition. Americans, at least many of them, still regard Lewis and Clark as the first to cross the continent to the coast.

There is no reflection on Professor Ormsby's excellent work on B.C. I don't know where the blame lies, but I think it is very important that the deeds of these men should not pass into oblivion. I would think that while the universities can do something to correct this, an effort to do so might very well be concentrated lower down in the public and high schools.

I admit I am a professional historian, but I am greatly interested in B.C. history and I think we ought to change our perspective. Perhaps the Historical News can do something.

I regret if I have been too verbose but I do think that as Canadians we need to cultivate more self respect and not allow that the achievements of these early pioneers should be forgotten.  
Yours truly, Stuart R. Tompkins, 211 Lagoon Rd., Victoria. Dec.3/69.

#### SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

ALBERNI At the January meeting of the Alberni Society it was decided to make every effort to publish a number of articles written by the late George Bird. Mr Bird came to Alberni in 1892 to be the first engineer at the first paper mill on the Somass River. These articles cover every phase of life in the pioneer community and the adjacent area.

During the month of January there was, at the Port Alberni Library, an exhibit of wood carvings by the late Jack McKenzie, who was one of the first white children born in the permanent settlement of Alberni. These carvings are called "cheeahs", mythical beings and animals.

NANAIMO In November the B.C. Historical Association President, Mrs M.E. Jordon, gave an address entitled "Highlights of Captain George Vancouver's voyage to the Pacific coast."

On November 27th, 'Princess Royal Day' was celebrated. The memorial service commenced at the ringing of the Bastion Bell at 11 a.m. on the hour at which the passengers landed there in 1854. Mr J.G. Parker, the President, delivered the address, and Mrs F. McGirr called the roll of the Princess Royal passengers, descendants present answering. Canon H. Greenhalgh offered a prayer of remembrance. The service lasted about half an hour, after which those attending repaired to the Shoreline Hotel for coffee.

At the January meeting Mrs McGirr gave an address on "Community Projects by the young women of Nanaimo from 1912 to 1922". She told of the great efforts made to raise money and make items for war services during 1914 to 1918, and it was amazing the amount of money they collected, there being no bingo games in those days. Mrs McGirr displayed costumes worn by the various ethnic groups, and there were excellent pictures displayed of the groups and events.

#### WEST KOOTENAY

In mid June the West Kootenay Association visited Colville, Wash., where a granddaughter of an early pioneer family, the Hofstetters, told about the Colville and Fort of those days. Another member spoke about the Indians, and apart from his artifacts he had a wonderful collection of concretions, the odd shaped small formations found in sedimentary clay banks along what is now Lake Roosevelt.

At the first Fall meeting in October, Mr J.D. McDonald of Rossland spoke on the electrification of the Rossland-Trail area by the West Kootenay Power and Light Co., and particularly his memories of his father's association with the Comp any.

In November Mr A. K. McLeod described his visit to Budapest where, as Canadian delegate, he attended the 23rd Conference of the International Federation of Jeunesse Musicales.

At the first meeting of the new year the society was addressed by Mr W.M. Merilees, Professor of Biology at Selkirk College, describing his experiences on "Macquarie Island - Antarctic outpost". This small island of 40 square miles<sup>is</sup> about 1000 miles southeast of Tasmania, by which it is administered. After a tragic history of wholesale slaughter of animals and birds for their skins, oil and for food, it was declared a sanctuary in 1933 and the Australian government maintains a biological station there to study and record the slow return of animal and bird life, as well as keep meteorological records.

VANCOUVER In November Mr E.K. (Ned) DeBeck, Clerk of the Provincial Legislature in Victoria, paid the Society a visit. The usual attendance almost doubled for the occasion, as many friends came to share with Mr DeBeck his memories of a happy childhood in Vancouver in the 1890's.

In January, the Society moved out of the Maritime Museum, its home since the Museum's opening, and celebrated the first meeting in the new Centennial Museum with an account by Professor Tomas Bartoli of the first European visitors to our coast, and of the Spanish fort at Nootka. He urged the large and enthusiastic audience to press for the restoration of this important fort, the birthplace of British Columbia, once a household word in Europe, and almost a cause of an Anglo-Spanish war.

- - - - -

The following chronology was submitted by Mr John Marsh, Dept. of Geography, University of Calgary.

#### GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1880 TO PRESENT

The opening of the Trans-Canada Highway through the Selkirk Mountains in 1962 has encouraged thousands of people to visit Glacier National Park, an area of 521 square miles of rugged mountains, glaciers and deep valleys, centering on Rogers Pass. The remains of railway bridges, snowsheds, building foundations and the monument at the summit of the pass are evidence of the park's rich history. Much has been forgotten, however, in the period of neglect and isolation from 1925 to 1962, and it is the hope of the author that this brief chronological history of the area may help to remedy this fact.

Until the 1880's explorers and fur traders generally circumvented the inhospitable Selkirks by way of the Columbia River and Boat Encampment. In 1881, Major Rogers, upon the suggestion of an earlier explorer, Moberly, penetrated the upper Illecillewaet from the west and discovered the pass now named in his honour. The



route through the mountains via this pass was considered suitable for the trans-continental railway and by 1885 the line had been completed. Sandford Fleming, while inspecting the route in 1883, suggested that part of the area around the pass be declared a park. Accordingly in 1886 and 1887 some 30 square miles including the pass, Mount Sir Donald and the Great Glacier were set aside as a reserve. The Canadian Pacific, realising the tourist potential of the region, built a dining lodge with 6 rooms for accommodation some two miles west of the pass, and a mile from the Great Glacier. In 1888, over 1000 people stayed at the Glacier House, as it was called, and others had to be accommodated in a sleeping car at the station. At this time the main settlement in the park was just east of the pass. A town had grown up when over 7000 men were employed building the railway. Most of the stores and hotels were built alongside the tracks, the buildings being set between the stumps of huge trees that had been cut down to make way for the development. Elsewhere in the park and surrounding area people were intermittently prospecting, assessing lumber prospects, hunting and trapping. In 1890 the Glacier House was expanded to 36 rooms and was often full during the few summer months it was open. People came from all over the world to hike and climb or view the Great Glacier, which was studied from 1886 onwards, especially by the Vaux family.

Surveying of the region began in 1886 and in 1888 the Rev. Green included the first map of the area in his book about the Selkirks. This was followed by the triangulation of the railway belt by Drewry in 1891 and 1892.

By 1898, over 12,000 people had stayed at the Glacier House and many of the easier peaks in the vicinity had been climbed. Peter Sarbach was the first Swiss guide to climb in the area having been brought out by members of the Alpine Club in 1897. In 1899, the C.P.R. provided two Swiss guides, Feuz and Haesler, for the summer season at the hotel. With their help Mt. Sir Donald was climbed for the first time that year along with many other peaks.

1899 was also a memorable year at the town of Rogers Pass which was largely destroyed by an avalanche that swept down from the slopes of Mount Tupper. At least eight people were killed and consequently the town and station were moved one mile west.

From 1901 to 1902 Arthur Wheeler undertook the topographical survey of the region. Apart from a map, he produced a magnificent book called The Selkirk Range, which was published in 1905 and remains the classic and most comprehensive work on the area.

In 1903, the area of the park was increased to 576 square miles and thus included the valleys of the Beaver, Mountain Creek, Incomappleux, and many more high peaks, such as Dawson and Macoun. Although there had been fires in this country, as well as trappers and prospectors, it was generally inaccessible and unspoiled. It was in the Cougar Valley, newly included in the park, that the Nakimu Caves were discovered. These limestone caverns had been bypassed

by two prospectors, Woolsey and Scott, also by Feuz and Wheeler, but in 1904 Charles Deutschmann, a hunter and trapper, found them and staked them as a mineral claim. The following year they were explored and while Deutschmann relinquished his claim he got the job of making the caves accessible to the public, then serving as guide and caretaker.

Glacier House was now at the peak of its popularity and a further 54 rooms were added in 1906. Mrs Young was the hostess at the hotel which now boasted a bowling alley, darkroom, elevator, observation tower, fountain, lawns and gardens.

The town at Rogers Pass declined still further and in 1910 it was struck again by an avalanche. A rescue team was also enveloped in a second avalanche and over 60 people were killed altogether. There were further big slides in 1911 and 1912 often causing disruption of rail service or danger to life. In 1913, therefore, the C.P.R. decided to eliminate this section of track by tunnelling under the pass. The five mile, straight, Connaught Tunnel was opened in 1916 and was a costly and impressive engineering feat at the time. Many men were employed for years and a small town sprang up at the western end of the tunnel, in the Illecillewaet Valley. Glacier House was now a mile from the railway but was linked to the new Glacier station by a road along which passengers were taken in a Tally-Ho. The hotel continued to flourish until 1925 when its doors closed for the last time. A number of reasons may be cited as to why the hotel was closed. The structure was old and required repairs, furthermore, similar hotels at Banff and Lake Louise had recently been gutted by fire. Tourists were now coming to the parks by car and there was no road access to Glacier Park, hence the hotel had possibly become uneconomic, a fact not aided by the short summer season of the Selkirks. The C.P.R. doubtlessly wanted to cut their costs and centralise their operations in the most promising and popular resorts, like Banff. In 1929 the hotel was dismantled and the rubbish burnt and the site cleared, so that all that can be found today are the stone foundations and a couple of old boilers not far from the old railroad bed.

In 1930, the boundaries of the park were again changed, so as to conform with the topography, and the park assumed its final shape and size of 521 square miles. The National Parks Branch began to manage the area more effectively from this date, in particular, hunting and trapping were brought to an end, fire protection was improved and the warden system developed.

During the next two decades, on average, only 1000 people visited the park each year. They came by train and either camped or occasionally stayed at the general store in the village of Glacier, at the west end of the tunnel. Minimal facilities, such as trails and bridges were maintained to assist the visitors, most of whom were climbers or scientists. In 1947, the Alpine Club of Canada built the Wheeler Hut, near the old Glacier House site, to aid climbers visiting the area. This fine log structure still stands today, overlooking the Illecillewaet campground.

In the 1950's the Rogers Pass route was examined to determine its suitability as a location for the Trans-Canada Highway. The avalanche hazard was critical so in 1956 an observation post was established on Mount Abbot and for a number of years snow conditions in the area were intensively studied. The outcome, after much debate on possible routes, was the construction of the road via the pass, beginning in 1959. This impressive modern highway was opened in 1962, on two occasions in fact, and traffic has increased markedly nearly every year. The Northlander Motor Hotel located just east of the pass was opened in 1964 and is the modern equivalent of the old Glacier House. To accommodate more hardy visitors campgrounds have been developed at Loop Creek, Illecillewaet and Mountain Creek. Although facilities are available many people still drive straight through the area en route to Banff or Vancouver. As more people discover Glacier, and the seemingly inevitable imp print of man increases, the quality of the park's environment may change for the worse. Perhaps you should spend some time there soon, while the historic evidence is still obvious and the landscape of the backcountry not unlike that at which Rogers and the first Victorian tourists marvelled.

-----

The following essay was awarded a prize in the Secondary School Regional Section, Vancouver region, of the British Columbia Historical Association Centennial Scholarship Competition in 1968. It was written by Michael Robinson, St. George's School, Vancouver.

#### ROSE SKUKI

Rose Skuki was born in Lytton around 1870 - she cannot remember the date, only that she was born where the two rivers meet. Her father was a typical elder of the Lytton Band - short, stocky and dark. Rose's mother was originally of the Musqueam Band, but was carried off in a spring raid. The Lyttons had to raid the Musqueams almost yearly to keep the tribe 'in women' as the Haidas were always taking Lytton Band slaves. All of the lower coast and interior bands fell prey to the Haidas' slaving parties at one time or another before 1850.\*

And so Rose made her rude entrance into the harsh world. She was a strong child and survived the perils of Indian birth and childhood. Many squaws lost their young every winter to pneumonia and fever. As a Lytton woman, Rose was expected to work for the Band from an early age. She spent four arduous years getting 'child flesh' on her bones, and sometime during the fifth winter of her life she began to help gather firewood with her eleven brothers and sisters. It was their winter task to keep the fires burning in the sooty cedar shacks. During the cold months the elders would smoke horsetail-grass tobacco around the lodge fires and tell stories of their youthful prowess. The women would sit together and gossip while they wove baskets from cedar and spruce roots or chewed and

\* The anti-slaving tactics of Governor Douglas put a stop to the fighting.

worked buckskin for jackets and footwear. Rose still remembers the fine buckskin jackets her mother used to fashion and decorate with traders' beads.

At this point it is necessary to mention the invasion of the white man with their river steamers. They were heading for the gold fields of the Upper Fraser and Lightning Creek up at Barkerville and Camerontown. They had come in a motely assortment of craft from Victoria, where ships brought prospectors from all around the world. English, American, Chinese, Dutch and Germans - all drawn by the tales of Carmack, Tagish Charlie, Cameron and Barker. None of the elders could understand why men wanted the glittering metal that was so frequent on the Fraser's banks and tributaries. The gold was useless to Rose or anyone else in the Band. And Rose still talks of the killing the mineral caused - many bodies were cast upon the bars at the place where the Thompson and Fraser met and the blue water became muddy. All too many white men found fortune in the form of hardship and death in their frenzied haste to find gold. In 1890 a "Brother of the Faith" came to Lytton and with the help of the Band established the Christian religion and built a church. The Lyttons peacefully accepted the teachings and many old customs were forgotten. Although Rose and her mother became Christians one Sunday, it made little difference to their lives. Rose still swore in pidgeon English and still made wicker baskets - she was now ready to marry.

Life became a harsher reality for Rose Skuki when she started to live with Eric August in 1889. This is the only date Rose finds necessary to remember - "I sure was to like that boy", she says with devout earnestness. Judging from the ages of Rose's children, she was married very late in life for an Indian - sometime in her late twenties. However, she had many skills to offer in the marriage in return for Eric's friendship. Soon the relative niceties of youth were forgotten and Rose became a mother. Besides having children, Rose spent her time cooking, weaving, fishing and farming. Eric, like the rest of his male generation, spent most of his days hunting, fishing, and drinking, not always in that order. After ten years of marriage, Eric's lust died quickly and together the elder Skukis concentrated on raising twelve little Skukis. The Band now lived on the "Lytton Reserve" and the Skuki family dwelt in a four-room frame house - always in sad want of repair.

In 1914 Eric August died of smallpox and the First World War broke out. Rose and nine of the twelve lived through the epidemic. About this time some of the Band's women began leaving the old customs in favour of the easier ways of the white man. Rose kept her mother's values and concentrated on passing them down, intact, to her children. They were reluctant to take up weaving when they could steal a shirt from the Reserve store. The winters came and went and life monotonously rolled by in Lytton. The war ended and Rose's five daughters married Lytton youths. Her four sons, Emmanuel, Charlie Frank, Kaiser, and George V Stick were all now in their late teens. In 1924 Stick and Kaiser drowned while net-scooping spawning salmon from the turbulent Fraser. This was accepted as part of life and Rose went on weaving, carving and generally creating. By 1940 all her daughters had borne children

and she was eighteen times a grandmother. The church opened an exchange and thrift store across from the Skuki residence and Rose was hired to run it. She still kept all the old ways and her needlework was the best on the Reserve. The village priest, Reverend Cameron, often bought her work, and in 1952 a man came to see her from the National Art Gallery. "I sell him some baskets and jackets for \$200.00", Rose states with a toothless grin, "I make good deals". In Ottawa, R. Skuki's crafts drew critical acclaim, and in Lytton her work drew the occasional tourist dollar.

For the past five years, Rose has refined her once primitive tastes to unbelievable heights. She is now a Montreal Canadiens' fan (ever since she bought her colour television set) and Rose states that Toe Blake is the best coach in the world and that Jean Beliveau is the greatest player alive. Rose also watches the newscasts and has an opinion on every world crisis. Her weaving and leather working tools still find active use, and in the corner of her kitchen seven new baskets are ready for sale. A standing order with a souvenir outlet in Banff keeps Rose almost endlessly busy creating. Once or twice a tourist will call on Rose's ramshackle house to bargain for (and finally buy) a buckskin purse or porcupine quill basket. The Reverend Cameron has talked Rose into forming a weaving guild with the four remaining weavers on the Reserve. The young children do not want to learn about the old ways - they want money for candy and gaudy clothes. This does not worry Rose, she adores her five great-grandchildren. Next week she is starting on a wicker crib, just as soon as she can save the taxi fare for the ride to the root gathering area up on Lytton Plateau, on Jackass Mountain. The crib will be sent to the National Geographical Society in New York.

I first met Rose in August of last year (1966). I went to see her in the Thrift Store and later went over to her home and chose a pair of moccasins with a floral bead design. The walls of her front room were covered with newspaper clippings of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. There was also a full page picture of Lester Pearson, right over Roger Maris' 'mug'. I understand that Rose is now Carl Yastrezemski's most devout admirer. Yes, Rose has new heroes and getting on in her late nineties she is facing each day with unparalleled joy. Rose has had a full life - she has seen two wars, three generations, and the birth of modern technology. Rose Skuki may live to see the first landing on the moon - "I hope we beat the Russians".

-----

Before making a decision to print this essay I checked to see where Rose Skuki is now. According to Canon Dickson of Lytton she is still living in Lytton and in reasonably good health. Michael Robinson was a little over 14 years old when he first interviewed Rose Skuki and completed his essay the following year for the competition of the B.C. Historical Association. Rose has had her wish - they did beat the Russians! - Ed.