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Executive 1974-75

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	2
Society Notes & Comments	2
B.C. Books of Interest	3
Jottings	4
Book reviews:	
Chronicle of the Can. West, ed. by S.W. Horrall	6
Visitors who Never left, transl.by Chief E. Harris	7
Vancouver's Past, by R.Hull, G.& C. Soules	8
Richard Cadman Etches to Sir Joseph Banks, by T.Bartroli	9
*** B.C.H.A. 1975 Convention Programme ***	19
" " " Registration form	Back cover

The cover series for Volume 8, drawn by Robert Genn, focuses on the early Spanish explorers to the Northwest Coast. This issue features Francisco Antonio Maurelle, a Spanish naval officer who in 1775 accompanied Lieut. Commander Quadra in the Sonora as his lieutenant in an exploring voyage along this coast.

EDITORIAL

We hear a great deal these days about Freedom: Freedom of the press, Freedom of the people, etc., etc., ad nauseam. What are all the great advantages which we are told are inherent in our free society today? All the Freedoms have been so abused that perhaps we might be better off with a little less liberal application of the stuff. Taking stock of the press and speaking of their idea of freedom, it seems to us that many of the writers for the press consider they have been granted a license to destroy any individual whom they may so desire to pick out for individual attention. Why any one would want to be in public service is somewhat of a mystery, for the pay isn't excessive, and none but the strong survive. The fancy footwork to keep out of the vindictiveness of the press would make a ballerina look like a brood-mare.

If this was the end of the exercise we might say they act in the role of watchdogs for all of us, but what happens to the falsely accused? Does that person have the full right to use the power of the press to vindicate himself? Of course not. It's like fighting an elephant with a handful of grass. After being well trampled on it's very hard to rise again. But then we haven't said anything about the open-line radio programmes and what a fortune a fast lip can make these days by having his "researchers" digging for a little dirt.

This is the illustration of what we see and hear daily, but what of the individuals whom we send to Ottawa to look after our freedom? Isn't it the other arc going full circle? How can we be sure we even know what freedom is all about?

The great English comedian, Stanley Holloway, when reciting Marriott Edgar's incomparable ditties about Albert and the Lion, did a similar one entitled The Magna Charter, and finished up by saying:

And it's through that there Magna Charter
As were signed by the Barons of old,
That in England today we can do what we like
So long as we do what we're told.

That about sums up our Freedom.

* * * * *

SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

Cherninus New officers for 1975 are as follows: President: George Pederson; Vice-President: Maurice Marks; Treasurer: Harry Olsen; Secretary: Betty Pedersen. The Board of Directors are: Mrs Gustafson, Mrs Grace Dickie; Mr Jim Webster, and Mr Elmer Albee.

Victoria The annual Christmas party was held on December 9th, with a banquet at the Faculty Club, University of Victoria, at which 150 members and friends participated.

The Victoria Section continues to grow, slowly. This growth, combined with the excellent programmes provided accounts for the increased attendance

at our monthly meetings. Attendance has been between 125 and 175 each meeting. Programmes presented, in January, Dr Willard E. Ireland, "Looking Down the Years - At Random"; February, Prof. Sydney G. Pettit, "The Gold Rush and the Crown Colony"; March, Dr Dorothy Blakey Smith, "Poor Gaggin - Irish Misfit in the Colonial Service".

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BRITISH COLUMBIA BOOKS OF INTEREST, by Frances Woodward

- BAGNALL, Guy P. Making a life worthwhile. New York, Vantage Press, (1971) 381 pp., illus. \$7.50.
- BRINK, J.H. van den. The Haida Indians: cultural change, mainly between 1876-1970. Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1974. 275 pp., illus.
- BURNS, Ronald M. ed. One country or two? Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1971. 287 pp. \$7.50.
- CANADA. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN. William Duncan of Metlakatla, by Jean Usher. Ottawa, 1974. (Publications in History No. 5)
- CLAUSON, Leslie. Maquinna: the forgotten chief. Burnaby, McPherson Park Junior Secondary School, 1974. 8 pp. + 7 p. illus. 25¢
- COX, Bruce, ed. Cultural ecology; readings on the Canadian Indians and Eskimos. Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1973. (Carleton Library # 65) 331 pp., illus. \$4.75.
- DUFF, Wilson. Images stone B.C.; thirty centuries of Northwest Coast Indian sculpture; photographs and drawings by Hilary Stewart; an exhibition originating at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 191 pp., illus. \$7.95.
- ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS. An ecological review of our southwestern shores; prepared for the Greater Vancouver Regional District Planning Department. Vancouver, 1970. 65 pp., illus.
- EDGELL, Michael C.R., ed. Themes on Pacific lands. Victoria, Dept. of Geography, University of Victoria, 1974. 311 pp. illus. \$4.00. (Western Geographical series V.10)
- HACKING, Norman R. and W. Kaye Lamb. The Princess story, a century and a half of west coast shipping. Vancouver, Mitchell Press Ltd. 1974. 360 pp., illus. \$9.75.
- HILL, Douglas Arthur. The opening of the Canadian west. Toronto, Longman, 1972. 291 pp., illus. \$2.25.
- HORN, Michael, comp. The dirty thirties. Toronto, Copp Clark, 1972. xxx, 728 pp., illus. \$5.95 paper \$10.95 hard cover.
- JILEK, Wolfgang George. Salish Indian mental health and cultural change: psychohygenic and therapeutic aspects of the guardian spirit ceremonial. Toronto, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974. 131 pp. illus.
- LEY, David, ed. Community participation and the spatial order of the city. Vancouver, Tantalus Research, 1974. 126 pp. \$2.95. (B.C. Geog. series 19)
- MacMILLAN, David S. ed. Canadian business history: selected studies, 1497-1971. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1972. 346 pp. \$12.50.
- NELSON, Robert, ed. The Prince George and district trail guide. Prince George, Regional Development Commission, 1974. 17 pp., illus. 25¢
- PACK, Mary. Never surrender. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1974. 256 pp. \$3.95.
- RENDER, Lorne E. The mountains and the sky. Calgary, Glenbow-Alberta Institute and McClelland and Stewart, 1974. 223 pp., illus. \$25.00.
- ROBERGE, Earl. Timber country. Caldwell, Idaho, Caxton, 1973. 182 pp., \$25.00.
- SCHLESSER, Norman Dennis. Fort Umpqua, bastion of empire. Oakland, Oregon, Oakland Pr. Co. 1973.

- SHOOK, Laurence K. Catholic post secondary education in English-speaking Canada; a history. Toronto, U. of Toronto Press, 1971. 457 pp., \$15.00.
- SPRING, Ira L. and H. Manning. Wilderness trails northwest; a hiker's and climber's overview-guide. Beaverton, Ore. Touchstone Press, 1974. 192 pp., illus. \$5.95.
- STEWART, Dave. Okanagan back roads, v.1 South Central Okanagan. Sidney, Saltire Pub., 1975. 143 pp., illus. \$3.95.
- SYKES, Philip. Sellout: the giveaway of Canada's energy resources. Edmonton, Hurtig, 1973. 235 pp., illus. \$2.95 paper; \$8.95 hard cover.
- TAXAY, Don. Money of the American Indians and other primitive currencies of the Americas. New York, Nummus Press, 1970. 158 pp. illus. \$5.95.
- VANCOUVER. Board of Trade. Environmental Advisory Committee. A short guide to pollution control legislation regulatory bodies and jurisdiction applicable to B.C. Vancouver, 1974. unpagged. \$6.80.
- WESTERKAMP, Hildegard. SPEC noise handbook; written . . with assistance from Norbert Ruebsaat, drawings by Leonaid MacPherson. Vancouver, SPEC, 1974. 24 pp. illus.
- WOODCOCK, George. Amor de Cosmos, journalist and reformer. Toronto, Oxford University Press, 1975. 177 pp., illus. \$5.95.

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JOTTINGS

From The Journal of Forest History, Vol. 19 No. 1, January 1975 - "On July 7, 1853 Capt. W.C. Talbot, Cyrus Walker, and several other natives of Maine discovered the vast Puget Sound timberlands and decided on Fort Gamble as the location for the company's first sawmill. The mill was started up in September 1853 and continues to operate today..... Since 1967 Pope and Talbot Inc., has restored or rebuilt more than sixty homes, commercial buildings, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Gamble....." (Port Gamble is on State Hwy No. 104 from Port Angeles, or State Hwy No. 3 straight north of Bremerton. - Ed.)

The Canadian Aural/Oral History Association, founded in October 1974, is launching its first membership drive. The organization was formed to encourage and support the creation and preservation of sound recordings which document the history and culture of Canada. Members, be they individuals or groups, will receive the Association's publications, including the Bulletin which will appear in March 1975 and be a clearinghouse for information about projects and methodology, and a Directory of Aural/Oral History Projects in Canada. They will also be entitled to attend the Association conferences (the 1975 Annual Conference will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, on September 26-28, and focus on the theme, "Aural/Oral History and Folklore") and have the right to participate in the management of the Association.

To obtain membership, please forward payment of dues (\$5.00 per year, payable to the Canadian Aural/Oral History Association) to Dr John Widdowson, c/o Dept. of Folklore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5S7.

Captain James Cook and His Times; an International and Interdisciplinary Symposium will be presented at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. in mid-April 1978, on the occasion of the Bicentenary of Captain James Cook's Landing at Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island March-April 1778, during his Third Voyage of Exploration and Discovery (1776-1780)

This symposium will offer a forum for the presentation in papers, panels and discussions, of reappraisals and new research, both with respect to the impact of Cook's third voyage in British Columbia, North America and the North Pacific, and with respect to his three voyages in Oceania and the European world.

Please direct enquiries, suggestions and comments to:
Chairman (Captain Cook Symposium), Department of History, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6.

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From the Gold River-Tahsis Beacon, here are some excerpts from a West Coast Diary by Nola Miller. This might give you a taste of what to expect, weatherwise, on the west coast. (It was written in December 1974)

"Hi again from the Muchulat Inlet! I don't know about you people nestled tightly in your homes in Gold River townsite, but I thought we'd end up in the sea yesterday. It rained all night long and into the next day and didn't stop until early hours of this morning. Our trailer is positioned on the sloping mountainside, just as it hits the beach. And the runoff from the mountain tops was tremendous, I envisioned waking up this morning to a backyard of 'river' and a front yard of risen sea water right up to our front door. But I was informed by these seasoned 'woods-men' that the sea never rises. Well it looked like it was rising mighty fast yesterday without benefit of tides..... This morning I awoke to no snow on the westerly side of the Inlet, all disappeared from the rainfall and the water lines from the mountain creek leading to our trailer are 'disarranged' somewhere along the way, meaning we have no running water in our trailer. I daren't say a word lest someone throws the comment to me. 'Well this isn't Toronto you know.'

Winter, as I'm coming to see, is a different ball game here on the Muchulat. If the Spaniards came here in the winter, no wonder they turned around and went home. I don't blame them!

How do these men work in this horrible mucky, miserable weather? Before I came here, I could very easily cash my husband's pay cheque and never think a thing about it. I didn't see his labour, so what I didn't see, I didn't know about. And what I knew about logging in Toronto you could fit into the eye of a needle. But here, watching these men in the mud and the rain and the cold and on the steep settings along a mountain slope, a woman changes. I tried to climb a slope once last summer and ended up with cramped leg muscles and a loud cry for 'help' to get me down. But I can do my little bit here to make a man's life at least happy when he comes out of that mud and rain. I did the same thing while living in town but it isn't the same, really. Because town life is so different than being beside the real thing. And even if I listened to the logging news from camp, I didn't understand a thing my man was saying to me. (When I first came here, believe it or not, I thought the logging truck was broken when I saw it split in two and become shorter with the wheels piled on top.) And if I ever get running water again (one learns to not believe in 'if' anymore in a logging camp) I will do my own thing to make this family comfortable."

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BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION 1975

Note Deadline May 7th. Please read Programme at the end of the News and send in your Registration as early as possible.

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BOOK REVIEWS

A CHRONICLE OF THE CANADIAN WEST: North-West Mounted Police Report for 1875, edited by S.W. Horrall. Historical Society of Alberta, Box 4035, Station C, Calgary, Alberta, 1975. 36 pp. \$2.00.

Every year since 1874 incumbent Commissioners of the Mounted Police have prepared an official report upon the operation of the force under their command. These reports, except that for 1875, were published annually in the Sessional Papers of Canada, and thus became part of the public record. The reason for the Government's failure to publish the 1875 statement of Commissioner G.A. French is open to speculation. Whatever the reason, French's assessment was filed away, forgotten, and eventually lost. A surviving typescript emerged in the 1930's, and it is upon this source that the present publication of the Historical Society of Alberta relies.

Following the march west in 1874, Commissioner French returned with about one half of the men to Winnipeg and eventually to the new police headquarters at Swan River. Since communication with that portion of the force remaining furthest west at Fort MacLeod and Fort Edmonton was very limited, the Commissioner of necessity focused his report upon the activities of the men directly under his command in the eastern section of the Territories. To this extent French's report is a limited and somewhat disappointing document. But while his account says nothing of the important work of Assistant Commissioner James F. Macleod and his men in curbing the whiskey trade, it nonetheless offers a revealing insight into the initial difficulties of police organization. It is apparent from the Commissioner's remarks for example, that perhaps the greatest difficulty besetting the force was that of keeping mobile. Acquiring a sufficient number of quality horses and keeping these animals up to the rigours of long exhausting patrols remained a troublesome problem for many years. The nature of this difficulty is further detailed, and in fact is the central theme of the veterinary surgeon's accompanying report.

The 1875 report submitted by French also included the submission of John Kittson, the police surgeon. This interesting document also covers the year 1874 since Kittson, like some others, contracted typhoid fever on the return journey and consequently was unable to prepare a report of the first year of his service. Kittson's sensitive account provides the reader with a new focus on the March West. He records that after only a few days on the prairie, that most common enemy of the early prairie traveller - diarrhea, made its appearance in the camp. Typhoid fever, a more serious enemy followed shortly to claim the Force's first fatality, and it is a mark of Kittson's considerable ability that the outbreak was contained and the expedition not stalled. Kittson also writes of the lesser but persistent irritants that plagued the marches. For relief from the irritation of mosquito bites he recommended "the free application of Liquid Ammonia diluted in ten parts of water ..." By the time the Force reached the vicinity of the present day Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary the men were compelled to walk a great deal of the time to save their weary remaining horses. Footwear was soon worn out and the supply of moccasins received from Fort Benton, Montana, proved, in Kittson's words "... a boon beyond the worth of money". While adding a human dimension to the March West that is lacking in many of the other contemporary accounts, Kittson's

detailed discussion of the treatment of the sick makes his account an important documentary source on nineteenth century medical practice.

The concluding part of the 1875 report consists of a confidential memorandum on the N.W.M.P. prepared for the Minister of Justice by E. Selby Smyth, commanding general of the Canadian Militia. Smyth had been sent west by the Government in the summer of 1875 to investigate allegations in the press and in Parliament that the Mounted Police were poorly led and organized. The Major-General, on returning east reported to the contrary. He saw the police to have developed "into a powerful and useful force" and he credited the officers in charge with this worthy achievement.

The publication one hundred years later of this long missing and unpublished report now makes the official public record of the Mounted Police complete. As one of the Alberta Historical Society's police centennial projects, this publication is both appropriate and a welcome addition to the literature on the topic.

David H. Breen.

Dr Breen is a member of the History Department at the University of B.C.

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VISITORS WHO NEVER LEFT; the Origin of the People of Damelahamid. Translated and arranged by Chief Kenneth B. Harris in collaboration with Frances M.P. Robinson. Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press, 1974. 170 pp. illus. hard cover \$10.95; paperback \$4.95.

There are those of us who from time to time ponder about our origins and indeed the origins of all mankind. If your family has been Canadian for several generations there may be kinfolk overseas. Or, if like many of us you are of Indian ancestry you turn to the elders of your family who pass on to you their knowledge of your inherited privileges, your station or rank, not only in your own village but also in any village where you may have kin.

From them you learn the proper behaviour and responses for any given situation. In the days past, before English became the more dominant language for many Native Indians, we sat for many evenings listening and marvelling at the inexhaustible fund of "private knowledge and lore". We never tired of this because it was important to know who you were and how you ranked within your own village as well as others. The importance of position or rank has not faded into the distant past but is, if anything, becoming more important.

This then, is what Chief Kenneth Harris has done with his book "Visitors Who Never Left". In every myth there is a moral and an example of the dire consequences that follow should you not observe the code of behaviour.

Reading the Analogues will help the reader to understand that there can be several versions of a myth, therefore it should be kept in mind that the person either translating or relating a myth believes to be true the version he or she knows.

The book is not to be read quickly. Read each myth as if you were part of Kenneth Harris' family and imagine that he says after each story "tomorrow I will tell you more". In this way you will remember and enjoy the myths as generations of Indians have in the past and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

Della Kew

Mrs Kew is a member of the Musqueam Indian Band.

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VANCOUVER'S PAST, by Raymond Hull, Gordon and Christine Soules. Vancouver, Gordon Soules Economic and Marketing Research, 1974. 96 pp., illus. \$7.95.

This well illustrated book distills the story of Vancouver's development into about fifty pages of written text. Inevitably, there is not much in the way of new documentary evidence, or fresh historical interpretation. The book nevertheless represents a valuable addition to the bookshelf of the general reader. It is also of inestimable value to the classroom teacher.

The real glory of the book is its illustrations. Sixty photographs have been carefully chosen and expertly reproduced, the older ones in a beautiful sepia tone. The reader is shown a team of fourteen oxen pulling logs out of the forest at the present site of the Marine Building. A steam shovel can be seen digging the basement of to-day's Hudson's Bay store. Wartime Japanese internees are shown leaving Vancouver by train, headed for camps in the interior.

The authors have also included a good selection of maps. These help to orientate the reader who might be unfamiliar with the city's geography. School pupils would no doubt find these maps especially valuable.

The brevity of the text of Vancouver's Past has resulted in the book providing a somewhat imbalanced survey of the city's growth from a scattering of Indian villages to Canada's Pacific Metropolis. Several pages are devoted to a discussion of Indian life around Point Grey in pre-contact times. Yet, there is no mention of the shameful period of Indian-White relations between the wars, when to-day's Vanier Park was finally wrested from the hands of its native owners.

The book's lack of balance becomes most noticeable in the authors' treatment of events after 1900. In places the text breaks down into a recitation of facts and figures which in themselves say little about the city's physical or cultural development. In a section devoted to pollution the reader is told that, in 1970, 75% of air pollutants came from motor car exhausts, and that 479,000 tons of carbon monoxide were produced annually. There is, however, no mention of the factors which caused the rapid expansion in automobile transportation, such as the abandonment of the B.C. Electric interurban system in the early post-war years.

These criticisms should not detract from the fact that the book goes a long way towards fulfilling a need which has long existed, for a sound well illustrated general history of Vancouver. It will probably be a

favourite souvenir for visitors to Vancouver, and a valuable aid to teachers of local history.

Charles Maier

Mr Maier, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, now lives in Cranbrook.

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RICHARD CADMAN ETCHES TO SIR JOSEPH BANKS:

A Flea that Failed to Elicit an Answer

Tomas Bartroli

Richard Cadman Etches, an Englishman who died about 1817 or '18 had an extremely interesting career, including a period of activity which has a direct relationship to the history of the Northwest Coast of America and in particular, to Nootka Sound. He was the leading person of a group formed in London in 1785 for the purpose of carrying out trade on the Pacific Ocean, dealing mainly in furs, along lines of procedure which had been suggested by participants in the last of Captain James Cook's famous voyages of exploration.

Sir Joseph Banks, a distinguished Englishman, 1743-1820, had participated in the first of these voyages and had subsequently become a patron of the sciences in England, with contacts with scientists in other countries. He gave his support to that trading project, and throughout its vicissitudes he and Etches maintained some correspondence about them.

Amongst the papers of Sir Joseph now belonging to the Library of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England, are eight letters which Etches wrote him. It is likely that Banks wrote replies to all or some of these letters, but there does not appear to be any record of such replies. Four of the letters were published, with suitable notes, by the outstanding historian of British Columbia, F.W. Howay, in 1942. Recently Mr Charles E. Etches, a descendant of Richard C. Etches, obtained copies of the other four letters and the Librarian at Kew Gardens has kindly granted permission to the B.C. Historical Association to publish these. Following is the text of the letters, together with a few notes of clarification.

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Etches and his associates outfitted on the estuary of the River Thames the vessels King George and Queen Charlotte, placed under the command of Nathaniel Portlock and Charles Dixon, respectively. Their assignment was to obtain peltry along the Northwest Coast of America, to set up one or two establishments or outposts on the coast, and to carry the furs to the port of Canton, China, for sale. It is evident from R.C. Etches' various writings that he definitely expected that two outposts would be set up: one at Nootka Sound (which Cook had called King George's Sound) and one at Prince William Sound. Some personnel and equipment were earmarked for this purpose. During 1786 and 1787 the expedition covered

parts of the Northwest Coast, where it obtained a number of furs. It did not even endeavour to set up any outpost and, as for Nootka, the expedition did not visit that place, though some books state that it did so. The two vessels proceeded to Canton, where the furs were sold, and then returned to England.

Hoping this expedition would succeed in setting up outposts, its sponsors wished the work to be continued by a second, smaller expedition. This one consisted of the ships Prince of Wales and Princess Royal, commanded by James Colnett and Charles Duncan, respectively.

Archibald Menzies, a young Scot with a medical degree and a fondness for botanical research, having served as a doctor in British naval ships and done some botanizing on the side, particularly in Halifax, Canada, returned to England just as the new expedition was preparing for departure. He asked Banks to help him get a position as doctor on one of the ships. Sir Joseph complied and Menzies was accepted to participate in the expedition. John Etches, Richard's brother, participated too, as the person in charge of the transactions in furs.

Between 1787 and 1788 the Colnett and Duncan expedition, in its quest for pelts, covered several parts of the Northwest Coast of America, including Nootka. Late in 1788 the ships arrived at Canton, where the pelts were sold. Then the Prince of Wales returned to England, as did Captain Duncan, but the other vessel, as well as James Colnett and John Etches, remained there.

Earlier that year another fur trading expedition, commanded by John Meares and William Douglas, had made a stay at Nootka, where it had set up a small wooden house surrounded by a breastwork for protection, but in all probability these structures were dismantled prior to Douglas' departure in October of that year.

Early in 1789 John Etches, representing his associates, and the sponsors of the Meares-Douglas expedition agreed to pool their respective resources, and have four ships, including the Argonaut, commanded by Colnett, and the Princess Royal, commanded by Hudson, operate on the Northwest Coast in the fur business, under the direction of Colnett. In the course of 1789 a Spanish naval force, led by Esteban Jose Martinez, was stationed at Nootka. A complex series of incidents resulted in three of those four ships being seized by Martinez and taken to a Mexican port. These incidents sparked a confrontation between Great Britain and Spain. The outcome was a defeat for Spain, which released the Argonaut, paid the Etches and Meares combine a very large sum of money by way of indemnity and compensation for the actual and potential losses they suffered as a result of those incidents. Furthermore, Spain virtually renounced the claim of exclusive rights of sovereignty over the whole of the Northwest Coast of America, which it had been holding for centuries.

LETTER ONE

Sir

Sensible of the high honor done us yesterday by your kind offers of assistance for the matureing our plan - and how highly important your opinion and advise must be to us from our intimate knowledge of the parts to which our attempts will be directed - from this great encouragement

you was pleased to give us respecting the prospect of opening a friendly Commerce with the Japanese - and from the knowledge you was pleas'd to say you cou'd procure from Your friend who has made the tour of those Islands.

This kind communication Sir, we hold in the most valuable and flattering point of view - which not only enlarges our present scale of the undertaking in the most extensive degree but holds out to us a much greater degree of certainty than we could conceive.

This Sir are our Views from your generous patronage are rais'd to a degree of magnitude we had not before conceiv'd - and sensible of the injury it must be to the Country if our attempt should succeed and open a large and extensive source of Commerce - should that Commerce be limited - by our present subscription - I cou'd not but immediately adopt your opinion, "That our nominal subscriptions aught to be very large which might be fill'd up afterwards" in consequence of which, I have collected the sentiments of as many of our Friends as the time wou'd admit and having discretionary powers to act for several Gentlemen in the Country -- we have come to the Resolution that in addition to our former proposals of a subscription of 20,000£ for the fitting out two Ships - that our nominal Capital shall be the sum of Two hundred thousand pounds to be divided in shares of One hundred each - which their cannot be a doubt, shoul'd our first attempt prove advantageous - but that all our present subscribers wou'd eagerly become much larger subscribers, and that the whole Capital might be fill'd up by admitting other purchasers of shares -

This Capital I presume will do away evry possible degree of the trade being limited -- should our attempts even open a source of Commerce much more extensive than we can possibly view it at present -

You was pleas'd to say that you wou'd write your Friend who had made the tour of Japan - his sentiments and opinion must be of the highest importance - and will be esteem'd the highest honor, confer'd upon us.

I remain with every sentiment of respect
Sir

Your much oblig'd
and obed^t Ser't

Rd Cadman Etches

Watling Street
Monday morn^g 14 March 1785

The middle part of this letter deals with early arrangements for raising funds for the new trading group headed by R.C. Etches. The sentence which begins with the words "and sensible of the injury" (line 10 p.11) is garbled and confusing. I am sure the gist of it is, 'it would be harmful to Great Britain if the group's plans were moderately successful in opening up the fur trade on the Pacific Ocean' but they failed to attain their full potential because of insufficient financial means. For this reason Etches accepted Banks' suggestion towards increasing the funds of the group.

The first and last paragraphs refer to R.C. Etches' wishes that the ships of his group might take peltry to Japan for sale, thus initiating trade between the British and the Japanese.

For a long time Japan had been refusing to trade with European nations, except for Holland, which was allowed a very limited access to one Japanese

port. The reasoning of R.C. Etches was that, just as furs were highly valued in China, so they would be in Japan if proffered for sale there. (It is fitting to ask: was this a realistic assessment? I put the question to Professor John Howes of the Asian Studies Department of U.B.C., and, with his well-known competence and courtesy, he supplied an answer to the effect that the notion was not realistic for three reasons: (a) the climate of Japan was moderate enough so that the inhabitants did not need to wear warm clothing; (b) the skin of the Japanese people was such that they do not like clothing which is hairy or rough in texture; and (c) the Buddhist religion, then predominant in Japan, forbade the killing of animals for pecuniary purposes.

It was undoubtedly in order to provide Etches with some reliable information concerning possibilities of trade with Japan that Sir Joseph offered to write to a friend of his who had visited that country. Who could that friend be? On hints from Professor Howes I did some research. It seems that the friend could not have been a British citizen, as there is ample evidence that no such person had entered Japan for a very long time prior to the date of this letter. That friend could have been the Dutchman, Isaac Titsing, F.R.S., 1740-1812, who, as head of delegations from his country, paid three visits to Japan (amounting altogether to a total of about three years and a half) between 1779 and 1784. He, too, had some correspondence with Banks. It is also possible that the friend was the outstanding Swedish botanist and traveller, Carl Peter Thunberg, 1743-1828. He made a stay in Japan lasting between August 1775 and late 1776, during which time he had some dramatic experiences and was able to form a large collection of specimens of local plants. He was back in Sweden by 1779, and, between this year and 1796, he exchanged letters with Sir Joseph. One such letter from Thunberg, dated 1785, mentions that he is sending a copy of one of his two books on Japanese flora to Sir Joseph.

LETTER TWO

Sir,

I was duly honor'd with your kind favor to Mr Menzies, to which I feel myself bound to pay every possible attention. I believe you were fully acquainted with the restrictions laid down in the former ships, in a young undertaking and of such a nature as the present I presume such restrictions are absolutely necessary, but in the present instance it is my full intention to dispense with them in the case of Mr Menzies, so far as can have any tendency to be beneficial to Science in general, I highly approve of his conduct and manners, and as my young brother, who is part proprietor, is going the voyage, I have gave him orders to pay every attention to Mr M, and to give him ample latitude in his persutes, and I have no doubt on his return, he will confess haveing experienced that liberality which your recommendation Sir most certainly demands from me.

A Gentleman hath made made handsome offer to give him a passage in the Prince of Wales and to land him and a servant from one of the Ships at the island of Otaheite, were he purposes to reside for two or three years, till an opportunity may offer for his return. As we cou'd accomodate another or two in a very handsome manner, If you know of any Gentleman who wou'd like such an excursion, I shall be happy to meet with them, and I wou'd engage to fetch them back in the year 1788 or 9 whichever you'd be most agreeable, the present Gentleman wou'd wish to return in that time, and wou'd be a part to make it an object to my engaging on such terms.

The Ships are now wind bound in the Downs shou'd any Gentleman wish to embrace the offer every accomodation and necessary are already on board - this offer was made to me only last night or I should most certainly have acquainted you earlier. I am with every sentiment of respect.

Sir,
Your most obed't
and most oblig'd Serv't
R^d Cadman Etches

Watling Street
Friday morn^g 29 Sep. '86

The first part makes reference to Archibald Menzies having been accepted to participate in the Colnett and Duncan expedition and given facilities for botanical research, which implied some space on board ship for stocking specimens of plants. The expression about "the former ships" (line 3) refers to the King George and the Queen Charlotte and to the "restrictions" which had to be laid down to limit the number of personol on the expedition and to curtail its aims.

The second paragraph means or implies that it had been agreed that the Colnett and Duncan expedition would take two persons to the isle of Tahiti, then often referred to as Otahiti, and that Etches was willing to accept one or two other persons, and that he wondered if Banks knew of somebody who might be interested. Etches knew, of course, that the island had been visited in 1770 by an expedition led by Captain Cook, in which Banks had participated, mostly for the purpose of gathering scientific data. Presumably the expected new visitors would have a similar purpose.

However, in the end no such persons were taken. This may have been due, at least in part, to the fact that it was decided to transport a party of 15 men with much equipment on board the Prince of Wales for landing at Staten Island, a rocky uninhabited island off Tierra del Fuego, where these men were expected to set up a sea-lion fishery station. By the time this letter was written that ship had departed from the Thames estuary for the coast of the Isle of Wight, where the aforementioned party and equipment were taken on board, and where the Princess Royal arrived later. Thence both vessels set out on their assignments.

LETTER THREE

Mr Etches presents his respects to Sir Jos^h Banks and he will be very much oblig'd to him if he will be so kind as to favor him with any particulars he can (or to acquaint him where he can learn) respecting the commotions in Japan. I mean relative to the Commercial part - what part he deems the most probable to open an intercourse with them for furs, I am now writing to my brother (by the pacquet) at Canton who purposes shou'd h^bbetoo late in the season on his return from the N.West to run down the coast of Japan to purchase a vessel and take part of his furs to that coast in the high of summer. Sir Joseph going out on Sunday Mr E. will thank him to favor him with a line before he goes.

No. 38 Fenchurch Street
Friday morning 8 Aug^t 1788

This letter is very poorly worded and unclear, particularly its second half, which undoubtedly has to do with John Etches who at the time was with the Colnett-Duncan expedition. As the letter was written from England the expression "return from the N.West" (line 7) might appear to mean return to that country, but there is more than sufficient evidence that what Etches meant was the first arrival of the Colnett-Duncan expedition (or at least one of its vessels, with John Etches on board and carrying the peltry acquired so far) to the port of Canton.

The available data on the expedition does not have sufficient detail on the pertinent facts and circumstances as to warrant firm conclusions about the meaning of the main points of this letter. Therefore one can only guess; I think the meaning may be as follows:

(a) it had been expected that the arrival in Canton would happen in 1788; (b) if early enough in the year, John with one or two of the ships should voyage to Japan to sell some or all of the peltry; (c) if it were too late in the year, then he should purchase another vessel and in midsummer of 1789 take it to Japan with pelts for sale (the implication being that the expedition vessels would not be available for this); (d) should this latter possibility be the case R.C. Etches was anxious to provide his brother with as much information as possible about the current situation in Japan and for this purpose he wished Banks to provide any information he might obtain about "the commotions in Japan" insofar as it might affect the commercial climate there. It seems that Etches had heard some news about such a commotion, probably from the British press. It may have been some political or economic development arising from the succession of terrible famines which afflicted that country for some years from 1783 and which resulted in more than one million deaths.

The reference to "the packet" (line 6) undoubtedly means that it was expected that the letter would be taken to Canton by a packetboat due to sail there from London. It is probable that the letter reached John Etches at that Chinese port before he departed for England in 1789. He certainly did not go to Japan but it may well be that it was in agreement with him, and in keeping with his brother's wishes, that Meares acquired a small vessel for the purpose of voyaging to Japan, but at sometime early in that year he gave up the project.

LETTER FOUR

Sir

I am favor'd by my Brother with an Account of the arrival of Captain Meares from Canton, who brings official accounts of the seizure of all our Ships, Craft and the whole of the establishments on the N.W. Coast by a Spanish Admiral, what pretensions they can have to such an act I am yet a stranger - except it is that monstrous, and absurd claim which they set up the last century "An exclusive right to the Navigation Territories and Commerce of that quarter of the Globe".²

Till of late we had innumerable obstacles to encounter, the chief of which we had surmounted and our Establishments wore the prospect of reward^g us with ample fortunes, a union form'd by my Brother when at China, with Captain Meares and his party had done away all competitors, had muh^h enlarg'd our Capital, by subscribing a large sum for the furnishing an

an extensive Equipment of every kind of stores, and a reinforcement of people which was sent out under the unfortunate Captain Colnett, in the ship Argonaut with the Princess Royal Capt Hudson from China. It was a joint concern of the two⁴ Parties Myself and Bro^r one half Captain Meares and his party the other.

You Sir was an eye witness of the spirit and liberality with which the Enterprize was taken up and of the Expen^ce and liberal equipment of the King George & Queen Charlotte.⁵ You I presume will call to memory that they was furnished with every article, ⁴⁰ extra people and an officer to form an Establishment in K.G. Sound, and another to the Northward⁶, on the very principles found by the Spaniards.⁷

And I will be bold to say had the Commanders obey'd their orders, done their duty, or ever had the interest of their owners in view, the world wou'd have been convinced of the importance of the first Enterprise, and instead of our sustaining a loss of Seven thousand pounds and upward, they wou'd have render'd abortive the attempt of all Competitors, and made my fortune.⁸

I am sensible I need not make mention either of the many, or of the Importance of the discoveries⁹ we had made, you cannot be a stranger to either - nor of the great probability their was of our reducing the prospect of a passage to a certainty, a Season or two, must have evidently ascertained, small craft were building, for that purpose, and it was the determination of the concern'd to persevere in the attempt till reduc'd to a certainty, I have ever been sanguine in the Idea, and I am now more so - that shou'd their not be an absolute passage from Sea to Sea¹⁰, a communicating by the Rivers, and large lakes, may be accomplished by such a discovery, would next assuredly be of infinite importance to the Nation - - but I presume you are sensible there can be little probability of accomplishing it, by an equipment from this Country, as in all former cases, and Establishment in the Sound¹¹ or any more convenient part, founded on Commercial principles - with the equipment of small Craft for the joint purpose of traffic and Discovery, can alone reduce it to an absolute certainty - perseverance and enterprise being continually encourag'd by the prospects of Commercial Gain.

When the Spanish Admiral arriv'd¹² we had founded the principles of a permanent and regular system of Commerce; on a wide and extensive scale, there was every prospect of our accomplishing of the long wish'd for object, the opening an intercourse with the Japanese Islands¹³ for the sale of our furs and American produce - the certainty of establishing a very valuable fishery was evident and equally so of it proving a Mine of Commercial Wealth to the English Nation.

I cannot doubt but England will claim her just rights, and that the limits and boundaries of the two nations will be properly adjusted - and that the valuable discoveries of Admiral Drake &c will not be pass'd over.¹⁴

Nor do I read of our having ample Restitution made, not only for the immediate property seiz'd, but for the great and certain prospects we had in view - a large collection of furs was made - and with half the Season over¹⁵ - which would have made our Collection great and valuable without One Shilling more expence - each succeeding Year would have reduc'd our Expences and increased our profits - the minds of the Indians

will be estrang'd from us by being oblig'd to submit to any Superior force and it will take several years and an enormous expence to put ourselves in the same respectable situation which we then were.

You Sir was a warm and strenuous patronizer of the first Enterprise, and I can have no dread, of your contributing your friendly endeavours, in our obtaining ample restitution - the Enterprise hath been my Study many years, I have expended a large fortune in it, I am yet equally speculative and sanguine, in persevering in it, and cannot but presume you will allow the justness of our claim & that we shall have your support, in our obtaining a preference in any future Enterprise.¹⁶

P.S. Should you wish any information a line sent to my house 38 Fenchurch Street. My brother, if in Town will wait upon you.

I have the honor to be
Sir Your most obed^t & very oblig'd
Serv^t

Calais May 6 '90

R.C. Etches

News of the seizure of ships of the Etches and Meares combine first reached R.C. Etches via Spain in January or February of 1790. More detailed news reached Meares in Canton-Macao, whence he proceeded to England, arriving in April of that year. There he conveyed his information to John Etches who in turn passed it on to his brother R.C. Etches, then residing in Calais, France. The British Government had already begun to make demands on Spain for restitution of the vessels and indemnities for actual and potential losses. Prompted by self-interest, Etches, Meares and associates grossly exaggerated their achievements on the Northwest Coast and the extent of the harm they suffered from that seizure and related incidents and circumstances. This letter would convey the notion that they had set up more than one establishment on the Northwest Coast; in fact, the only achievement in this respect was the small wooden house and bulwark surrounding it, set up by the Meares and Douglas expedition at Nootka in 1788 and, as indicated above, there is every reason to conclude that Douglas had the structure demolished before he left Nootka. (Perhaps this had to do with the fact that a rival fur trading expedition was there at the time and meant to remain.)

Notes on Letter 4

1. The man concerned was not a Spanish admiral but the very low-ranking naval officer, Esteban Jose Martinez.
2. Spain had traditionally claimed exclusive sovereignty over virtually the whole of the Northwest Coast of America. Etches implies that the claim was first made in the 17th century, whereas it had originated shortly after Spain's discovery of the continent.
3. This implies that these two ships, under Colnett and Duncan were dispatched to reinforce existing establishments. There is ample evidence that there was none at the time.

4. This reference to the persons involved in that "joint concern" is somewhat at variance with the documents of the case and contains an element of mystery, but the explanation would require more space than can be allotted here.
5. Sir Joseph knew of the outfitting of these ships, which he visited shortly before they set out from the Thames Estuary, and he must have learned about the arrangements made for their voyage.
6. This paragraph refers to the personnel and equipment provided to the Portlock-Dixon expedition for the purpose of setting up outposts on the Northwest Coast.
7. This seems to imply that the establishments which Portlock and Dixon were expected to set up should be on the model or principles followed by the Spanish in the founding of settlements in the Americas. Since the Roman Catholic Church always played a prominent role in such settlements, there are reasons to doubt that Etches wanted the procedure to be followed.
8. No establishments were set up by Portlock and Dixon; Etches, here and in other writings, implies that the two captains woefully failed to carry out the orders given them in these and other respects. In turn, both captains expressed harsh recriminations against Etches, on several counts. In response to Etches' contention that their expedition had suffered a loss of between £ 7,000 and £ 8,000, Portlock declared that, though short of expectations, its yield was still a substantial financial gain for the sponsors.
9. This refers to geographical discoveries on the Northwest Coast made by the Portlock-Dixon and the Colnett-Duncan expeditions; perhaps Etches meant also the discoveries effected by the Meares and Douglas expedition in 1788.
10. This refers to the old dream of finding a navigable connection between the North Atlantic and the North Pacific. Etches implies that if the expedition led by Colnett had not been harassed by the Spaniards, they would have continued exploration of the Northwest Coast, and this effort might well have resulted in finding such a waterway, either all on sea water or partly through rivers. Actually, by the time Etches wrote this, the results of explorations already carried out were already casting serious doubts on such a possibility, but it took another few years of explorations, including those carried out by Captain Vancouver, to virtually dispel hopes of finding such a waterway.
11. The word 'Sound' here undoubtedly refers to Nootka; Richard Cadman Etches contends that the British search for the interoceanic waterway would be facilitated if there were a British outpost at Nootka, where vessels of that nationality could call in for repairs, supplies, relaxation for the crew, etc.
12. This again refers to the arrival of Martinez in command of a Spanish expedition at Nootka in May 1790. This statement and others in this letter would convey a highly exaggerated notion of the possibilities and the performance of the expeditions dispatched by the Etches group and of the Meares and Douglas expedition.

13. By the time this letter was written, nothing had been done yet about trading with Japan, although some days later Colnett, in voyaging from Canton to the Northwest Coast on the Argonaut, sighted parts of the Japanese archipelago. After this ship was released by the Spaniards, Colnett, carrying some peltry, took it back to Macao, arriving in May 1791. Finding it impossible to sell the furs there at that time, he proceeded to Japan, but there again he failed to sell the peltry, which was eventually sent to England.

14. This refers to Francis Drake's famous stopover on the California coast, just north of San Francisco Bay, with his ship the Golden Hind, in 1579, when he designated that territory as Nova Albion. On the basis of this one appearance, a vast stretch of the Northwest coast extending considerably to the north of the one spot visited by Drake, was marked on maps as New or Nova Albion, and expansionist Britons throughout the 18th century made a point of declaring that that part of the world belonged to their country. Etches specifically refers to the expectation that Spain and Great Britain would reach agreement on what parts of the coast each should be considered to hold by virtue of discovery or occupation.

15. For all practical purposes trading season for ships on the N.W. Coast in those days ran from about May to October. The expression "half the season over" refers to the fact that the ships of the Etches and Meares combine were seized midway through the season and thus the amount of peltry obtained was less than expected. The gist of the paragraph is that Spain should restore any property of the Etches and Meares combine which might have been appropriated by the Spaniards. It was not from ill will, but because of unforeseen circumstances that in fact only one of the seized ships was recovered by their owners. However, the money these people received by way of indemnity and compensation was certainly fair enough, and what is now known about the circumstances of the trade at the time justifies the assumption that if their enterprise had not been hampered by the Spaniards their net profit would have been considerably less than the profit they made by receiving that Spanish money.

16. This refers to the monopoly privileges which the East India Company and the South Sea Company had with regard to British trade within the area of the Pacific Ocean. Etches hoped that these companies and the British Government, out of sympathy for the troubles he and his associates were going through, would give them preferential treatment for renewal of fur trade. Subsequently he and Meares made requests in this respect, but nothing came of them, partly because the whole pattern of the fur trade was drastically changing by then. This was the end of an era, and a whole new pattern of trade loomed ahead in the Pacific for the nineteenth century.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (Because of the nature of this work, only the bare minimum is listed)

The Banks Letters; a calendar of the manuscript correspondence of Sir Joseph Banks..... London, British Museum, 1958. (contains details and summaries of the eight letters mentioned here.) ed. by Warren R. Dawson.

Four Letters from Richard Cadman Etches to Sir Joseph Banks, 1788-92 with an introduction and notes by F.W. Howay. B.C. Historical Quarterly, Vol. VI, April 1942, p. 125-139.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

May 22, 23 and 24, 1975.

Bicentenary of the Spanish Presence on the west Coast of Canada

Host: Campbell River and District Historical Society
 President and Convention Co-ordinator: Ms Ruth Barnett.
 Registrar: Ms Mary L. Ashley, 2820 S. Island Hwy, Campbell River.
 Convention Secretary: Ms G. Eldred, 789 Ash St. Campbell River. 923-6415.

Registration Desk at Campbell River Museum on Tyee Plaza. Phone 287-3103.

Hours open: May 22 (Thur)	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
May 23 (Fri)	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
May 24 (Sat)	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

PROGRAMMEThursday May 22

12.45 p.m. Board bus for trip to Kelsey Bay, tour by MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. Yarding and tree falling. Arrive back at Tyee Plaza 6.15 p.m.

8.00 p.m. Wine and cheese party in Legion Hall, within walking distance of Tyee Plaza. (See map in convention folder) Three slide and tape shows running concurrently and continuously will not interfere with friendly conversation.

Indian Art by Joy Inglis

Pogoglyphs by E.F. Meade

The Forbidden Plateau by Len Rossiter

Ms Inglis, Messrs Meade and Rossiter will be present to answer questions.

Friday May 23

9.00 a.m. Old Council meets in Discovery Inn Room 237.

10.15 a.m. Board buses for trip to Gold River and quick lunch.

Bring waterproof headgear, coat and footwear in case of rain.

1.00 p.m. Board boats for Friendly Cove and/or Resolution Cove, and cairn for Captain Cook. Docents to be arranged for from the Tahsis Company, the Moachat Band, etc.

8.30 p.m. Dinner in Gold River.

11.00 p.m. Arrive back in Campbell River.

Saturday May 24

9.45 a.m. Board buses for annual meeting Masonic Hall
 Buses leave Masonic Hall at close of meeting for Tyee Plaza.

Afternoon free time choice: Tyee Plaza - Campbell River Museum
 Tyee Plaza - Bukwum Days - dances and ceremonies presented by the native people
 Community Hall - Arts Showcase.

Saturday May 24 contd.

2.00 p.m. New Council meets Discovery Inn Room 237.

4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Tea; Hosts - Dr and Mrs R.L. Haig-Brown, 2250 Campbell River Road (see map) Parking across the street.
 First bus leaves Tye Plaza at 3.45 p.m.
 return trip 5.00 p.m.
 Second bus leaves Tye Plaza at 4.45 p.m.
 return trip 6.00 p.m.

Annual Banquet Masonic Hall

7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. No-host bar.

8.00 p.m. - 10.15 p.m. Banquet at Masonic Hall (see map)

Speaker: Professor Tomas Bartoli. His talk will commemorate the Spanish explorers who came to our coast 200 years ago, in 1775.

Bus leaves Tye Plaza for Masonic Hall at 7.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m..

Bus leaves Masonic Hall at 10.30 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. approx.

Please note All buses will leave the Tye Plaza at the Discovery Inn or close to it.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

Transportation to and from Vancouver by P.W.A. - 2 flights each way weekdays, one each way Sunday.

Bus transportation to and from Nanaimo 5 times a day.

Recommended accommodation: (within walking distance Tye Plaza)

Discovery Inn, where a block of rooms has been reserved. Phone 287-7155.

975 Tye Plaza.

Single \$16.00 Double (twin) \$22.00

de luxe \$18.00 Double (twin) \$26.00

Town Centre Motel Phone 287-8866. 1500 Elm Street.

Single \$16 - 19.00 Double \$18 - 22.00. Twin \$19 - 23.00.

Other Motels:

Above Tide Motel 361 Island Highway. Phone 287-6231.

Kitchenette \$18.00 Double \$16.00

Austrian Chalet 462 Island Highway. Phone 923-4231.

Single \$14.00 Double \$18.00-\$26.00

AN EXTRA EVENT

Sunday May 25 the Mitlenatch Field Naturalist Society is making a field trip to Cortes Island, leaving by the 7.30 a.m. Quadra Island ferry. Visitors are invited to join the trip but must bring own food and arrange own transportation. However, doubling up in cars will be arranged at the ferry terminal for departure to Quadra or to Cortes Island. It is advisable to do so because of limited ferry space. Enquiries: Howard Telosky, Phone 923-4477. Bring binoculars. Return by ferry leaving Cortes Island about 3.30 p.m. or later. The trip to Cortes Island takes 1½ hours to make. We take two ferries going and coming.

