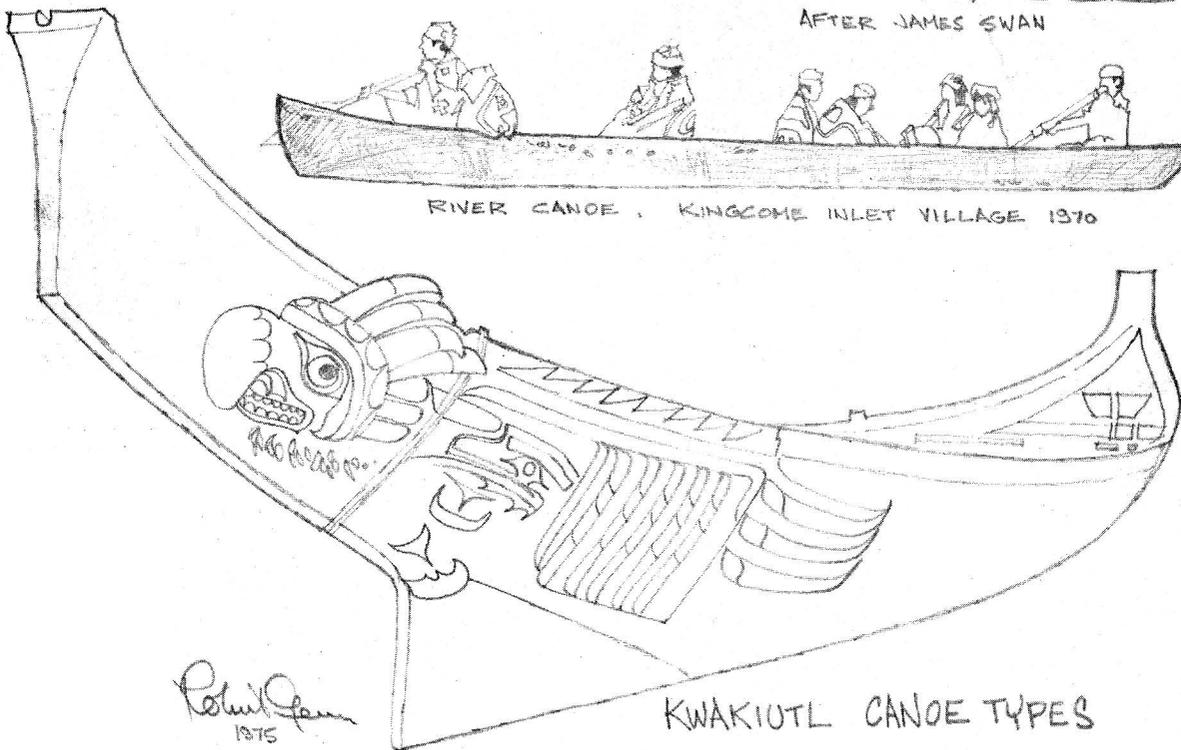
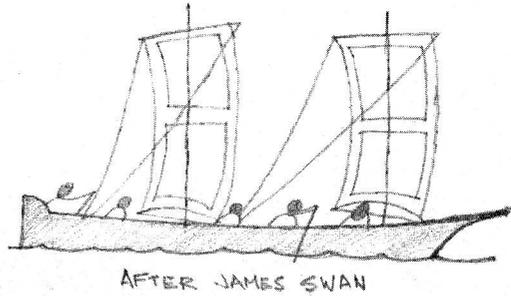


B.C. historical NEWS

November 1975



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The cover series for Volume 9, drawn by Robert Genn, will depict Indian canoes. This issue features canoes of the Kwakiutl.

EDITORIAL

It has been said "a picture is worth a thousand words" and "the camera doesn't lie". For the naive these may be truisms, but another saying "seeing is believing" strikes nearer to the truth. This past summer we had the opportunity to view first hand what we had always seen in glorious technicolour in magazines, books, brochures, etc., extolling its natural beauty - our magnificent west coast inland passage and islands. There is no question about the grandeur of the passing kaleidoscope of mountains, verdure and the ever changing cloud patterns, but look closely, and the appalling filth that abounds in that inland boating paradise is beyond belief.

We travelled the inside passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert and back. Last year we had taken the luxury cruise of the Spirit of London to see this wonderful waterway, where, the brochure states, "the salmon leap, while overhead the bald eagles soar in majestic splendour". We never saw it because we travelled this scenic stretch of water, at a bit better than 20 knots, mainly at night. This time we saw it from the deck of an 80 foot tug, and anchored and explored such places as Pruth Bay.-Calvert Island, Horsefly Cove -Green Inlet, Kisameet Bay -northeast of Kipling Island, just to mention a few. And it was always the same - refuse littered the shoreline, consisting of various plastic containers, bottles, nylon rope and rusting metal of varying descriptions.

We had always thought what a romantic place Oona River, on Porcher Island, must be to bear such a euphonius name. Forget it. We chugged about five miles, in the out-board motor boat we carried on the tug deck, from Chismore Passage to Oona River, and a more squalid disgrace to the human race would be hard to find. From deep water at its mouth at Oona Point and up the navigable channel, both river banks are littered right into the growing timber, with refuse beyond description. Everything from broken toilet bowls, remains of innumerable boats, rotting floats, wire cables, machinery and slowly decomposing household waste, greets the intrepid explorers on landing. Can you believe the remains of old cars and this on an island without ferry service and virtually no roads! This is a community of less than 100 people, and this river is a garbage dump as far as the eye can see.

There is far more to this inland passage than the pictures in Beautiful B.C. or the glossy highly coloured pictures put out by the cruise ship companies. Seeing is believing. Oh Lord, how much longer do we have to endure the thoughtlessness of industry, and the total disregard for their environment of a few inhabitants, before one of the most spectacular networks of protected seaway anywhere in the world becomes as unacceptable as the canals of Venice.

This was the cradle of civilization on this coast, and let us never forget it nor ever allow it to be so desecrated by thoughtlessness.

* * * * *

MINUTES

The November Council meeting of the British Columbia Historical Association was held on Sunday, November 16, 1975 at the home of P.A. Yandle, Vancouver.

Present were: J. Rowland (Vancouver); A. Turner (Prov. Archivist); J. McCook (Victoria); G. Jamieson (Alberni); R. Millway (Burnaby); F. Street (Pres.); K. Leeming (Victoria); A. Slocomb (Victoria); D. New (Gulf Islands); J. Roff (Vice Pres.); R. Tweed (Campbell River); G. Andrews (Vict.); R. Barnett (Campbell River); K. Haworth (Treas.); A. Yandle (Co-Ed.); P. Yandle (Ed.); Mrs. F. Street, P. Roy (Rec. Sec.). President F. Street was in the chair.

Moved, K. Leeming; seconded, J. Roff: that the minutes be adopted as circulated.

P. Yandle read his letter of resignation as corresponding secretary of the Association. Moved, J. Roff; seconded K. Haworth: that Mr Yandle's resignation be accepted with regret and deep appreciation for past services. Carried.

J. Rowland has agreed to act as interim secretary until the new elections are held in the spring.

P. Yandle reported on his work as corresponding secretary:

- 1) That he wrote to the Mayor of Lytton about the vandalization of a cairn and received a reply that the cairn has been repaired.
- 2) That he has been in communication with Professor Auty of Simon Fraser University in respect to the Captain Cook Symposium.
- 3) That Bowen Island and New Westminster have inquired about the formation of historical societies. Mr Yandle reported that he has drawn up a basic constitution which may be used by local branches.
- 4) That Burnaby has invited the Association to hold the convention there in 1977.

Moved, K. Haworth; seconded, J. Rowland: that the Treasurer's report, as circulated, be accepted. Carried.

J. Roff reported that his letter to branch secretaries about submissions to the News was "in the mail".

K. Leeming advised that the Constitution Committee will have amendments ready for the February Council meeting. This will include changes in nominating procedures. Mr New said he now believes that elections should be held at the Council meeting rather than at the general meeting. He argued this would provide for better geographical representation of the electorate. A vigorous debate followed on suggestions for changes in the election procedures.

Moved, R. Barnett; seconded, G. Andrews: that the co-editors of the News be authorized to purchase a new typewriter at a total cost of \$850-\$900. Carried.

F. Street informed the meeting that Bowen Island has 72 members; that Maple Ridge has opened a museum; and that New Westminster is forming a historical society.

P. Yandle reported that the covers for the News this year will illustrate four different types of canoes. He noted that although the subscription list is up, the number of branch commitments is down.

K. Looming spoke on the Convention which will begin on 3rd June, 1976 with registration at Craigdarroch Castle in Victoria. Accommodation will be at the University of Victoria. K. Haworth invited suggestions for excursions.

Moved, D. Now; seconded J. Roff: That the Council confirm the action of the Convention Committee in changing the date of the convention. Carried.

Moved, R. Millway; seconded, K. Haworth: that the Convention Committee investigate the possibility of visiting Government House. Carried.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8th, 1976 at 1.30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Provincial Museum, Victoria.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

* * * * *

SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

(Notes and comments are scant this issue because of the mail strike.)

CAMPBELL RIVER In the spring of 1974 the District Municipality of Campbell River provided our Society with a greatly increased budget, which enabled us to hire a professional curator, Mr John Frishholz, for the Campbell River and District Museum. As well, with the financial support of the Council, the Society has undertaken the responsibility of operating the Tourist Information Centre, from May to September.

After reorganizing the whole interior of the Museum last spring, we were able to open in June, mornings from 10 to 12 and afternoons from 1 to 4. During this time Mrs Alice Evans carried on as manager of the Museum, until September, when Mr Frishholz came.

The Museum has been open to the public continuously since September, with the help of a very dedicated and interested group of volunteer women, who give their time five days a week.

The Society has held monthly meetings, and among the speakers we have heard, have been John Kyte, Museum Advisor to the Provincial Museum, Dr Philip Akrigg from U.B.C. who spoke on the early history of the Hudson's Bay Co across Canada and in B.C.; Mrs Joy Inglis, formerly with the Centennial Museum in Vancouver, spoke to us on "How to judge Indian Art". Meetings were also exchanged with the Courtenay and District Historical Society, and with the Port Alberni Museum, and the Alberni Historical Society.

Early this year we sponsored an application for a L.I.P. grant under the name of Genesis, and co-ordinated by Jon Ackroyd. This has been a highly successful search into the past history of this area, by a most competent group of workers. A massive collection of this material has been added to the Historical Society Archives.

Last but not least we invited the B.C. Historical Association to hold their Annual Convention here in Campbell River, and due to the excellent workers on our Committees we hope that this has been enjoyable and successful.
(Ed.: It certainly was a great success.)

EAST KOOTENAY In August a field trip, arranged by Mrs Marjean Noble, was held at the practically ghost town of Bull River, early lumber mill centre. Mrs Doris Battersby of Fernie and Mr Johnson gave interesting talks of the days when the place was in its heydey, some 50 years ago.

The Field Committee, under R. Jeffrey, have had a busy summer, servicing and putting in order old cemeteries at Wild Horse, Fort Steele, Moyie, etc. They received assistance too from the boys at the Fort Steele Historic Park.

However, their main project this year has been establishing and clearing a Walking Trail along side what is left of that most historic old Baillie-Grohman Canal at Canal Flats, some 50 miles north of Cranbrook. Besides clearing the trail, the hardworking committee made and set up an entrance arch with turnstile near the road into the old lock etc.

September 7th, the official opening of that Walking Trail took place. Dave Kay, Secretary, told something of the intriguing story of the old canal built back in 1887-88, and at the new entrance arch officially declared the trail open, after which he invited those present to walk the lovely mile-long trail to the Kootenay River. The possibility, announced by B.C. Hydro recently, of diverting water from the Kootenay River at Canal Flats into the Upper Columbia for extra power purposes, is ironically what Baillie-Grohman originally planned almost 100 years ago for the canal, but was thwarted at that time mainly by the C.P.R. who were building their main-line tracks close to the Columbia north of Golden.

On September 21st, another field trip was held at what is left of the old lumber town of Wycliffe, nine miles north of Cranbrook on the St. Mary's River. Mrs Palm Drysdale, granddaughter of Otis Staples who founded the mill and town there in 1904, told those gathered the story of Wycliffe's rise and fall.

NANAIMO Two Nanaimo members celebrated their 90th birthdays this year. They are Mrs F. McGirr, President 1961-62; born on Wentworth Street, Nanaimo, Oct. 19, 1885; taught school first at North Oyster, 1903; and Mr Robin J. Walley, President 1963-64; born at Nantwich, Cheshire, England, July 23, 1885; served as Chief Chemist for the manufacture of explosives at Victoria & Nanaimo.

VICTORIA At their June meeting Dr R.H. Roy spoke on the topic "Major General G.R. Pearkes and the Conscription crisis in B.C. - 1944".

* * * * *

JOTTINGS

From the Journal of Forest History, July 1975: "About a year ago a group of forestry students from the University of British Columbia discovered a 30,000 pound steam engine while hiking in the Pitt Lake area of their school's research forest. The huge engine originally belonged to a firm called Abernathy Logging and was simply left in the woods when it outlived its usefulness. This year's graduating forestry class decided that the engine would be a fitting memento for them to leave UBC. Class member Chris Boniface reports that \$5,000 has been raised to pay for the transport and restoration of the old engine. Twenty-five students took the machine apart in preparation for a helicopter lift of four miles to the forest gates, where it will be scraped, reassembled, and painted. The steam engine will be the first display of a small forestry museum."

And from the same issue Pat Philips, B.C. Forest Museum manager, in a talk to the Rotarians related "how his grandfather, Gerry Wellburn, had the foresight to collect many items of early logging equipment before they could be destroyed and converted to scrap metal. Wellburn established a private museum on his property at Deerholme. It soon outgrew the site and Rotarians and other citizens of Cowichan Valley came to his aid and formed the Forest Museum Society. In 1972 it turned over all assets to the provincial government, which assumed liabilities and operating expenses. Today the museum comprises forty acres of land, one and a half miles of narrow gauge railway, and an outstanding collection of artifacts."

From Life Member Wm Barraclough of Nanaimo "Thought the enclosed article by Mrs D. Tonkin featuring J.W. Hardcastle would be of interest to you. Dr R.E. Forester's son of Vancouver took a picture similar to the Cadboro to have it framed; the shopowner would not retain it there until the frame was ready, saying it was too valuable.... Mr Hardcastle's pictures are accurate drawings rather than regular paintings... I forgot to mention I made the frame from local yellow cedar on the Cadboro". At the Convention at Campbell River in May the Secretary was presented with a painting of the Cadboro by J.W. Hardcastle from the Nanaimo Historical Society in appreciation of his services to the B.C.H.A. Mr Barraclough made the presentation. (The article referred to above appeared in the Islander, September 28th, 1975 'Artist Jack Hardcastle, modest Yorkshireman'.

From the Vancouver Sun, Nov. 13th, 1975: "Coos Bay, Oregon: The largest Douglas fir in the United States was toppled in the storm that tore through southwest Oregon Monday. Finnegan's Fir, recently listed with the American Forestry Association's social register of big trees, was blown over in winds that measured up to 145 miles an hour. The tree was named for Lance Finnegan, the bureau of land management employee who discovered it. It stood 302 feet high, was 41 feet in circumference and more than 800 years old. It was located in the Burnt Mountain resource area of Coos County. The nation's largest Douglas fir now becomes the previous champion, Queets Fir in Washington's Olympic National Park. "

From the Vancouver Sun, July 26th, 1975: "Thieves take 2 headstones. RCMP are searching for two headstones stolen from the historic Stanley Cemetery at Barkerville Provincial Park. John Premischook, supervisor of the park, said Friday that the headstones, one reporting the death of Josiah Beedy (died 1880) and John Peebles (died 1899) were taken earlier this month. Three other headstones stolen from the gravesites in June have been recovered by the RCMP in Prince George after they were dumped on a side road."

From the Vancouver Sun, July 26th, 1975: "B.C. government getting a bargain in 19-acre Haig-Brown property. The brief government press release announcing that Victoria has bought Roderick Haig-Brown's 19-acre property here is only a fraction of the story. The land and the man who sold it are a special part of B.C. The 19 acres slope gently to the swift-running Campbell River and include an old farmhouse that is now a memory-filled family home, an arboretum started nearly 40 years ago, a barn built by a master carpenter, a library crammed with books and a lily pond that the government doesn't even know about yet. The man who sold it, 67-year-old Haig-Brown, is probably Canada's most famous conservationist. His 24 books, his 33 years as a provincial court magistrate and judge here, and his many honors and appointments have made him a household word in B.C. And now the

home he and his wife, Ann, have shared, protected, improved and loved since 1936, has become government property. But the Haig-Browns will stay there for the rest of their lives.

In the June 1975 issue of the News in the Book Review section, Mr Kent Haworth offered a prize for a question that was asked by him arising from his review of Great Gold Fields of Cariboo, by Wm Hazlitt.. On page 22 he invited members to submit to him the name of the first prizewinner of Governor Douglas' essay contest. Herewith is the letter from the winner, Mr John Gibbard, "I think probably you are referring to British Columbia - an Essay, by Rev. R.C. Lundin Brown, published in New Westminster by the Royal Engineers Press in 1863. I know it was written for a competition by the then rector or vicar of, I think, Lillooet. Some forty-odd years ago I read a copy of it which a pupil of mine said his family had found in the basement of an old house in Victoria which they had occupied for a time. He offered to give it to me along with a copy of the Select Committee Report on the Hudson's Bay Company, London, H.M.S.O. 1857, acquired the same way. I refused because I was sure neither he nor his family had any idea of their value, either historical or monetary, but I did say I would buy them when either they or I could be sure of a reasonable price was being offered and accepted. Alas, the family disappeared from Vancouver shortly after that and I failed to trace him any further. His name was Alex. Young."

* * * * *

B.C. BOOKS OF INTEREST, by Frances Woodward.

- AKRIGG, G.P.V., and Helen B. British Columbia chronicle, 1778-1846; adventures by sea and land. Vancouver, Discovery Press, 1975. 429 pp., illus. \$14.95. (Ed.: Review of this book has been held up by mail strike.)
- THE ARCHITECTURE OF ARTHUR ERICKSON, with text by the architect. Montreal, Tundra Books, 1975. 228pp., illus. \$35.00.
- BASSETT, Isabel. The parlour rebellion; profiles in the struggle for women's rights. Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1975. 223 pp., illus. \$10.00. (Includes Ma Murray, Helen McGill, Nellie McClung, Martha Black.)
- BOOTH, Marion, ed., Bouchie Lake Women's Institute. Pioneers of Bouchie Lake... historical compilation... Bouchie Lake, 1975. 58 pp., illus. \$3.25.
- BRADLEY FAMILY. Historical outline of Seymour Arm 1860-1970. Revised edition. Sicamous, The Bradleys, 1974. 24 pp., illus.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA. Dept. of the Provincial Secretary. The handbook for crafts-people in B.C., expanded by ... Arts Information Service.... published by Information Services, Dept. of Economic Development. Victoria, 1975. 101 pp.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA. Provincial Archives. Aural History Institute. Aural History Institute of British Columbia; manual, by W.J. Langlois. Victoria, 1974. 52 pp.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA. Dept. of Travel Industry. The "Royal Hudson" North Vancouver to Squamish excursion; an impact study. December 1974. Victoria, 1975. 32 pp.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA CHURCH DIRECTORY. (religious and related bodies) Burnaby, Grenadier Pub. Co. Ltd. 1975. 127 pp. illus.
- BRYAN, Jack & Liz. Backroads of British Columbia. Vancouver, Sunflower Books, 1975. 160 pp., illus. \$14.95.
- CANADA. NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA. The Athapaskans: strangers of the North. (Catalogue of ,an international travelling exhibition from the collection of the National Museum of Man...) Ottawa, 1974. 208 pp., illus. \$5.00.

- CANADA. National Museums of Canada. Bella Coola ceremony and art, by Margaret A. Stott. (Canadian ethnology service paper no. 21) Ottawa, 1975. 153 pp., illus. \$2.25.
- CANADA. Public Archives of Canada. Into the silent land: survey photography in the Canadian west, 1858-1900; a P.A.C. travelling exhibition by A.J. Birrell. Ottawa, 1975. 50 pp., illus.
- CAREY, Neil G. A guide book to the Queen Charlotte Islands. Anchorage, Alaska Northwest Pub.Co., 1975. 71 pp., illus. \$2.95.
- COX, Thomas R. Mills and markets: a history of the Pacific Coast lumber industry to 1900. Seattle, Univ. of Wash. Press, 1974. 332 pp., illus. \$17.50.
- CURTIS, Edward S. Portraits from North American Indian life, with introduction by A.D. Coleman and T.C. McLuhan. New York, A & W Visual Library, 1974. 176 pp., illus. \$8.95.
- FARROW, Moira. Nobody here but us. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1975. 300 pp., illus. \$10.95.
- FERGUSON, Ted. A white man's country; an exercise in Canadian prejudice. Toronto, Doubleday, 1975. 200 pp., \$8.95. (Komagatu Maru incident.)
- FORESTER, Joseph & Anne D. Fishing; British Columbia's commercial fishing industry. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 224 pp., illus. \$14.95.
- GOULD, Edwin. Logging; British Columbia's logging history. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 224 pp., illus. \$14.95.
- HARMON, Daniel Williams. A journal of voyages and travels in the interior of North America between the 47th and 58th degree of North latitude... (New York, Allerton Book Co., 1922) New York, AMS Press, 1973. 382 pp.
- HARKER, Peter. Gold rush in the Cariboo. Toronto, Ginn & Co. 1974. 24 pp. illus.
- HARRIS, Christie. Sky man on the totem pole. Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1975. 167 pp., illus. \$7.95.
- HARRIS, Lorraine. Halfway to the goldfields; a history of Lillooet. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1975. 176 pp., illus. \$10.95
- HEATH, Charles. The Heath report on a survey of zoos in the province of B.C. Vancouver, B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. 1972. 26 pp.
- HELMCKEN, John Sebastian. The reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken; edited by Dorothy Blakey Smith. Vancouver, U.B.C. Press, 1975. 396 pp., illus. \$18.95
- HIRNSCHALL, Helmut. Eyes on the wilderness. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 175 pp., illus. \$7.95.
- HUNT, William R. North of 53°: the wild days of the Alaska-Yukon mining frontier, 1870-1914. New York, Macmillan, 1974. 328 pp., illus. \$12.95.
- JUPP, Ursula. From cordwood to campus in Gordon Head, 1852-1959. Victoria, 1975. 186 pp., illus. \$8.95.
- LIOY, Michele. Social trends in Greater Vancouver: a study of a North American metropolis. Vancouver, Gordon Soules Economic Research, 1975. 175 pp., illus. \$8.95.
- LOWER, J. Arthur. Canada on the Pacific rim. Toronto, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1975. 225 pp., illus. \$4.95 paper; \$8.95.
- MACFIE, Matthew. Vancouver Island and British Columbia; their history, resources and prospects. (London, 1865) New York, Arno Press, 1973. 574 pp., illus. \$28.00.
- McGEACHIE, Pixie. Adventures in Canada; a book in English and French for children. Vancouver, Cedar House, 1975. 52 pp., illus.
- MacNEIL, Grant, comp. The I.W.A. in British Columbia. Vancouver, I.W.A., 1971. 63 pp., illus.
- MATHEWS, William H. Garibaldi geology; a popular guide to the geology of the Garibaldi Lake area. Vancouver, Geological Assoc. of Canada, 1975. 48 pp., illus. \$3.00.

- MORTON, Harry. The wind commands; sailors and sailing ships on the Pacific. Vancouver, U.B.C. Press, 1975. 498 pp., illus. \$29.00.
- NICOL, Eric. There's a lot of it going around. Toronto, Doubleday, 1975. 179 pp., illus. \$7.95.
- OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN PARKS SOCIETY. Is everything all right up there? Summerland, 1975. 29 pp., illus. \$2.00.
- O'NEAIL, Hazel. Donkhor daze. 4th ed. Sidney, Gray, 1974. 143 pp., illus. \$1.95.
- OUTDOOR CLUB OF VICTORIA TRAILS INFORMATION SOCIETY. Hiking trails 3: central and northern Island, including hiking routes of Strathcona Park. Victoria, 1975. 72 pp., illus. \$1.75.
- PETHICK, Derek. First approaches to the Northwest coast. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1975. 268 pp., illus. \$12.50.
- Men of British Columbia. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 223 pp., illus. \$14.95.
- PLETCHER, David M. The diplomacy of annexation: Texas, Oregon and the Mexican war. Columbia, Univ. of Missouri Press, 1973. 656 pp., \$20.00.
- POPOFF, Eli. Tanya. Grand Forks, B.C. Mir Pub. Soc. 1975. 276 pp., illus. \$8.95.
- PRESTON, Richard A. ed. For friends at home; a Scottish emigrant's letters from Canada, California, and the Cariboo, 1844-1864. Montreal, McGill-Queen's Univ. Press, 1974. 338 pp., illus. \$12.00.
- RANKIN, Harry. Rankin's law; recollections of a radical. Vancouver, November House, 1975. 250 pp. \$7.95.
- RICHMOND, Guy. Prison doctor; one man's story that must be told in Canada today. Surrey, Nunaga Pub.Co., 1975. 186 pp.
- SHACKLETON, Doris French. Tommy Douglas; (a biography). Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1975. 333 pp. \$12.95.
- SHEWCHUCK, Murphy. Fur, gold and opals; a guide to the Thompson River Valleys. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 128 pp., illus. \$3.95.
- SOULES, Gordon. Readership study of forestry industry journals in British Columbia. Vancouver, Gordon Soules Economic Research, 1969. 12 pp. \$4.00.
- SPEARING, David N. Living on mountain slopes. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1973. 48 pp., illus. \$3.95.
- STEWART, Dave. Okanagan backroads. Sidney, Saltaire Pub. 1975. 2 v. illus. \$3.95. each. V.1 South central Okanagan. V.2. North Okanagan-Shuswap.
- SPIEGEL, Ted. Western shores; Canada's Pacific coast. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1975. 128 pp., illus. \$22.50.
- THRIFT, Henry T. Reminiscences. Surrey Museum Press, 1975. \$2.00.
- TOUCHIE, Rodger. Vancouver Island; portrait of a past. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1975. 128 pp., illus. \$7.95 paper; \$12.95.
- TRADE UNION RESEARCH BUREAU, VANCOUVER. The Mackenzie story: a study in the history and development of a forest industry and town at Mackenzie, B.C. Mackenzie, Citizens Committee of Mackenzie, 1974. 62 pp.
- URHAHN, Helmut J. Interim report on the physical and natural resources of the U.B.C. Endowment lands; Vancouver, 1974. various pp. illus.
- WATT, Robert D. and Alison J. To the county and beyond; a memoir of Alexander Greer and his descendants. Vancouver, Authors, 1975. 143 pp. illus. \$10.00.
- WEBBER, Bert. Retaliation; Japanese attack and allied counter measures on the Pacific coast in World War II. Medford, Oregon State University Press, 1975. 184 pp., illus. \$14.50.
- WOOD, Daniel. Kids! Kids! Kids! and Vancouver. Vancouver, Forbez Enterprises, 1975. 316 pp., illus. \$3.95.
- WOODALL, Ronald. Magnificent derelicts; a celebration of older buildings. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1975. 143 pp., illus. \$29.95.
- WRIGHT, Richard & Rochele. Yellowhead mileposts; points of interest along a famous road. Vol. 1. Route of the Overlanders: Winnipeg.. to Kamloops.. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1974. 251 pp., illus. \$7.95.

HAND-BOOKS AND GUIDES FOR LOCAL SOCIETIES

An enquiry from the Campbell River Historical Society prompted us to publish the following list of pamphlets, which might interest other affiliates.

- DEMPSEY, Hugh A. How to prepare a local history. Calgary, Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 1968. Glenbow Archives Series No. 2. (Glenbow-Alberta Institute, 9th Ave & 1st St. S.E., Calgary, Alberta. T2G OP3)
- PARKER, Donald Dean. Local history; how to gather it, write it, and publish it. New York, Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. (1944)
- So you want to write your community's history! Published by the Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee of B.C. in co-operation with the B.C. Provincial Archives. Victoria, 1965.

The American Association for State and Local History published many leaflets and books. A list may be obtained by writing to them at 1400 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. The B.C.H.A. is a member of this association. Here are a few of their titles:

- SILVESTRO, Clement M. Organizing a local historical society. (1968)
- PLANNING TOURS. (Technical leaflet No. 25)
- RECRUITING MEMBERS (Technical leaflet No. 37)
- PLANNING A LOCAL MUSEUM (Tech. leaflet No. 78)

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REPORTS SFROM PROVINCIAL ARCHIVESArchives News and Notes

The Provincial Archives of British Columbia has embarked upon a major reorganization of its manuscript and public record collections. Private manuscripts received since the beginning of this year are being catalogued immediately under a new Additional Manuscript designation and collections dispersed in the old catalogue will eventually be brought together again and catalogued under the new Add.MSS. system. Public records are being received regularly from government departments and catalogued as they are accessioned.

Recent acquisitions of note include the John H. McIlree Papers. McIlree was the sixth man to join the Royal Northwest Mounted Police upon its creation in 1873. The unit consists of three reels of microfilm (A-530 - A-532) containing 29 volumes of diaries and notebooks spanning the years 1874-1910.

With the cooperation of the B.C. Council of Women's Institutes the Archives has accepted Minute Books, Cash Books, Membership lists and local histories from several of the Institute's Branches, covering the years 1911 to 1973.

Those interested in social history will be pleased to know that the Archives has just received the minutes, secretary 's reports, and selected correspondence of the Children's Aid Society, Friendly Help Association, and Family and Children's Service, incorporating the years 1902 to 1972.

The PABC has also received from a Victoria donor the James R. Chamberlain collection (Add. MSS. 266). The papers document the history of the Chamberlain family, of Nova Scotia origins, and include material dating back to 1783. Although the collection contains little of interest to students of B.C. history, it is a valuable source for genealogists. Its acquisition reflects the Archives' concern to preserve material for researchers in family histories.

Through the diffusion programme of the Public Archives of Canada, the PABC has received two private collections of significance to all Canadians interested in their history: the Laurier Papers and Macdonald Papers. Both collections are on microfilm and finding aids have been supplied with them. The Laurier Papers are on reels A-11 to A-228 and the Macdonald Papers are on reels A281 to A-529. The unpublished Sessional Papers of the Federal Parliament have also been received on microfilm from the Public Archives and are on reels B-7 to B-57.

The staff of the Provincial Archives have conducted several workshops around the province during the year. Miss Frances Gundry, the head of the Manuscript and Public Records Division, attended the B.C. Library Association Convention in Prince George last May and spoke at a seminar on local history collections in community libraries. In March, Mr Kent Haworth spoke to groups in Creston, Cranbrook and Windermere on the relationship of the Provincial Archives to local archives. J. Robert Davison and Leonard C. DeLozier of the Provincial Archives presented two workshops as part of the programme of the B.C. Museum Association's 19th Annual Seminar held at Prince George, September 17-20. The workshops, titled "Archives and the Community Museum", focused on some of the problems confronted by local museums in the care and collection of photographs, manuscripts, and other historical records. Forty curators and museum workers attended from throughout the province.

Mr Kent Haworth and Mr Terry Eastwood of the Manuscript and Public Records Division attended a five week course on Archives Principles and Administration sponsored by the Public Archives of Canada at Ottawa. This brings to four the number of PABC staff who have attended and successfully completed this diploma course.

Aural History News

A new style of historical writing has appeared in B.C. Steveston Recollected: A Japanese-Canadian History (edited by Daphne Marlatt) is the first B.C. book to utilize aural history as its basic methodology. It is a study of the role of the Japanese-Canadians in the development of B.C. through the words and thoughts of the Japanese-Canadians themselves. Aural history gives the writer/historian access to the thoughts, feelings, and life stories of the individuals whose lives are the very substance of history. In this way, the hidden heritage of workers, women, cultural minorities, and the unpowerful can be recorded. Aural history is extending the limits of historical documentation.

Steveston Recollected (published by the Aural History Programme PABC) was compiled by the well-known B.C. writer, Daphne Marlatt who has shown the close relationship between aural history and literature. The modern photographs of Rex Weyler and Robert Minden and the historic photographs of F. Dundas Todd and Philip Timms provide dozens of fine illustrations. This unusual history book provides an intimate view of Steveston and the Japanese-Canadians through their real voices.

The Second Canadian Oral History Conference was held on October 4 & 5 in St. John's, Newfoundland. Dr Janet Caruthers and Derek Reimer, from the

Aural History Programme (PABC) and Sue Baptie, Historian and Archivist of British Columbia Forest Products, presented papers.

Allen Specht, from the Aural History Programme (PABC) was one of three delegates at the Tenth National Colloquium on Oral History held in Ashville, North Carolina, October 24-26, 1975. One highlight was the evidence of world wide expansion in the use of oral history. Next year's meeting will be held in Montebello, P.Q., in conjunction with the Canadian meeting.

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NEVER TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER; the fight for Haslam Hall
by Pamela Mar, Nanaimo Hist. Soc.

Since our first attempt in 1974 to save Haslam Hall we have realised how blindly we entered the fray, not knowing the best avenues to follow. In the hope that our experiences may help others who also find themselves with property in need of preservation, we felt it would be a good idea to share them. Perhaps other groups will also have stories to share which will help us, as we are not yet at the end of the road.

The Haslam House has stood in Nanaimo since the early 1890's when Andrew Haslam, millowner and later Mayor of the city built it as a family home. Its fortunes, like those of the Haslam family, fluctuated, but in its early years it was the scene of many social gatherings. When Haslam was representing the City first in the Provincial and later in the Federal legislature, it must have seen a number of interesting and well known figures. Mrs Haslam was a lady of talent and her paintings, though hidden at present, decorate some of the ceilings in the house.

After the Haslam fortunes were at a low ebb and the family moved from Nanaimo, the house changed hands more than once. In the 1940's it had fallen into a sorry state and the then owners applied for Government aid to refurbish it and turn it into an apartment house.

In this fashion it has stayed and until 1974 all was comparatively quiet. Early that year, at a business meeting of the Nanaimo Historical Society, a member sought firm news of the house, reputed to be changing hands for the second time in a few months for speculation and for replacement with a large apartment building. A month later we were no further forward in our knowledge - but could something be done to rouse public interest and try to preserve the house?

Two articles on the house and family were written and published in the local paper and application was made to City Council to see if the house could be preserved. The BCHA Conference was asked urgently for their support and came up trumps with letters sent to several important bodies. City Council was most sympathetic and took steps to name the house and two other buildings in Nanaimo as heritage sites. Could it really be this easy? Had so little work gained us the first heritage buildings in Nanaimo? We were dubious - and rightly so.

The new owners, property developers, had been abroad and came back to the news of the heritage designation. Immediately they made contact with the City and the Historical Society and our representatives met with them. It was a friendly but firm meeting. Their site was valuable to them as development land, not as an historical monument, though they were well aware of its intrinsic value to a City like Nanaimo. We agreed. Would we or the City

like the house as a gift - provided we moved it and they would help with the cost? We declined. Haslam House had much to recommend it in situ - move it (even if it were possible) and much would be lost. We countered with suggestions for incorporating the house into their planned structure or having them turn it into a centre of some kind for Nanaimo's benefit while they developed the land alongside which they also owned. We parted disagreed but not disagreeable.

Since an obvious problem from our standpoint would be finance if the house had to be purchased to save it, application had been made to the Federal and Provincial Governments for a heritage designation. If given, they might provide the funds we lacked. For moral support Heritage Canada might take up the cause. In this latter we were to be disappointed initially. "The Nanaimo Historical Society was not a member." However, after some pressure was brought to bear, their position was reversed and they gave us their support.

Heritage Canada were not the only ones to reverse a decision. In July the developers appeared before City Council asking that in fairness to themselves the heritage designation should be removed. Alternatively, Council should buy the property. The Historical Society had been joined by this time by other interested bodies and individuals in the City. A counter case was put on the group's behalf but the City felt it could not afford to buy the house for a figure being bandied around of \$250,000. They agreed to ask Victoria to hold up final signing of the heritage designation ruling.

We had tested and continued to test public opinion on whether the house should be preserved. There was no trouble in getting signatures, but much surprise that the house was still endangered. Surely the papers had said it was saved? This early news story was perhaps our hardest stumbling block and a reason for the apparent complacency or apathy in the City.

Time was moving on. First the Provincial and then the Federal agencies came to look. On the whole they were sympathetic but not very hopeful, a state of affairs borne out in their final reports. We had tried to show them that we had little else of a comparable nature in Nanaimo, even though the rest of Canada might possess houses of equal or greater architectural merit. One of the Haslam granddaughters had seen a brief television report on the house and was able to produce an original photo. Although the 1940's had made several interior changes the outside was easily recognisable as a not-too-altered 1890's house, and this gave us heart for its preservation.

By fall all parties were getting impatient. We had prodded City Council several times concerning the house and in November met with them in informal session to make a last attempt to get a favourable decision before the new enlarged City Council took office in 1975. We had been lucky to enlist architectural help and advice and the Christ Church Cathedral situation in Vancouver was giving us cause to think deeper on the preservation issue. For the last time, sympathetic as ever, they turned us down.

The new Council were, if anything, even less in favour. We appeared with regularity asking for a stay of execution to their abandoning the Heritage By-law completely. Our arguments were based on information from Carolyn Smiley of the Hallmark Society, who was very helpful to us, on an overall plan for the area around the house and on the democratic stand that the people of Nanaimo should be given a chance to vote on the future retention of the house.

At last the developer, the City and ourselves again stood in triangle discussion and argument. We had held the walls for almost a year but they were to be breached. The City ultimately, and probably thankfully, tossed out the Heritage By-law, and freed the developer to go ahead with his plans

for an apartment building on the site.

This was not the time to cry. It was the time for work to start again. A new avenue had to be found. We decided that we must look for an "angel".

This became even more pressing when a "For Sale" sign appeared on Haslam Hall! A brief was prepared so that it could be presented to a large concern who might be persuaded to finance the purchase of the house, alone or in consortium. Our arguments emphasised the prestige and possible financial advantages of their doing so, which were more relevant in this context.

As it happened that brief was not delivered. Just before we sent it a call came from the developer asking to meet us. His first words were "I have given serious consideration to your arguments... and I think we may have a solution you will find more acceptable". The gist was that the house would be allowed to stand - possibly moved a few feet on its own property. The adjacent lots to be developed, with City permission, on a greater density basis, and the house ultimately restored at the developer's expense. Its use would be agreed on with ourselves, but hopefully it should be self-supporting. Our co-operation was needed, not our opposition, as CMHC funds and other financing were involved. We agreed to co-operate on the basis of a verbal outline and a pencilled sketch of the development. The first formal plans we saw were less to our liking than the verbal outline had been, but other, more detailed plans are being worked out to conform with changing City restrictions. We have yet to see these. Both sides have spoken in concert before City Council to smooth the way, but to ensure that we are not regarded as being completely acquiescent in all that goes on, we have brought up the desirability of having a land use contract to protect the site for the future. This may come about in time.

We have gained more than just valuable experience from our first essay into preservation. We have learned whom to approach and where to turn for aid. We have had much wise counselling and have been instrumental in having the City set up its own Heritage Advisory Committee - something all areas should do. This is now beginning to act as a watchdog over other property in the City. It is important that it should be divorced in the Council's mind just from the Haslam Hall question with which it was initially concerned. We were lucky to have the support of our local Press, but were disappointed that our citizens were not more vociferous in their support for the project.

In looking at a piece of property from a heritage and future use point of view, it has to be borne in mind that the most obvious use may not in fact be feasible because of zoning and fire regulations, etc., which cannot always be altered to suit one's desires. So sometimes a less viable alternative must be accepted. If a building is to show a good financial return there is sense in having a real estate company look at its potential.

There were several avenues we left untried, particularly the raising of funds through local service clubs. The sum involved was very high and if we did not achieve it money would have had to be returned, a difficult process if there are anonymous donations. Government funds might or might not have been forthcoming if we had had money in hand, certainly municipal funds were unlikely.

We are still touching wood on what the future holds but we must accept the developer's intention in good faith. We are more than anxious that the House should pay its way. It can then be a model for others who can be persuaded into saving other precious pieces of property. We were lucky that the developer ultimately changed his mind, but had we not persisted the house would have gone months ago. Perhaps the best piece of advice of all that we were given was that it is never too early to look into saving a piece of property: it is too late when you have to lie down in front of a bulldozer.

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BOOK REVIEWS

AND SO THEY CAME TO COWICHAN, by Margaret W. Bishop. Victoria, Robinson Press, 1975. 33 pp., illus.

HORSEFLY . . . ITS EARLY HISTORY 1859-1915, Horsefly, B.C., Horsefly Historical Society, 1975. 28 pp., illus.

These two publications fall into the genre of what the reader may think of as "pamphlet histories". Both reproduce the same sort of long hoarded, treasured, time-faded photos. They print to yet paler contrast the family gatherings, the triumphs at work or sport, with grandparents, workmates, dogs and children alike recalled as family members. The written material shows, in both, a laudable regard for such literally factual truths as can be dredged up from old records and from aging recollections: dates of arrivals, of births, of beginnings of farms and mine workings, names from the family and district hierarchies.

The starting points are different indeed.

Margaret Bishop's And So they came to Cowichan is a family chronicle. A Scottish immigrant family and Welsh brothers reached Vancouver Island in the 1860's and 70's respectively. Fusing to produce fresh generations, they astounded us by their energy. Before the advent of crosscut saws, a right-handed, paired with a left-handed axeman, working on springboards, chopped and felled four giant firs or cedars a day. James Evans, single-handed, split 7,000 shakes for the church roof. Mother milked nine cows, made butter and cheese, produced a flock of children whilst also responsible for a flock of poultry and the kitchen garden. She made suits for boys, as well as dresses for girls, and found leisure to produce tatted or crocheted edgings for successive babies' garments, not to mention "hair work" pictures from the family's shorn locks. The mind boggles at such vitality. Songs cheered the day's work. An agricultural society was founded, roads gazetted and straightened, prize wheat grown. When a man was killed by a bull, one needs must row from Cowichan to Brentwood Bay, then walk the length of the Saanich peninsula to Victoria, to advise his family of their loss.

There was fun as well as sorrow to chronicle . . . the dusky evening the family pig was shot in mistake for a deer; the school socials, brothers who drove girls to distant dances.

The 33 pages of fine print leave a record of solidly held values, adhered to with warmth and conviction, as opposed to sterile rigidity.

In Horsefly the local Historical Society thanks all who shared "their colourful memories" of the district, and does not credit any editorial centrifugal force. Twelve charter members in 1970 increased to 42 by 1971, opened a museum in August 1973 and produced this history in May 1975. In addition to reproduced old photos, written material is enlivened by sketches, maps and drawings of original townsite house, mine and mill locations - not to mention a photo of the formal invitation to the 1898 bachelors' ball at the 150-mile House.

The first page establishes that the first gold found in the Cariboo was taken in the Horsefly River in 1859. From there we are led through a chronicle of mining and some of the folk tales of the time: "a boiling

kettle on the stove would have its handle coated in frost" "there was a continual poker game going in Horsefly in the 90's" ... "drowned in the river" ... "killed in the mineshaft"..... "Sometimes Harry carried the bullion by packhorse on the 108 road, while the stage that supposedly carried the gold had an armed guard and went at a different time".... "The store bought miners' gold, trappers' furs and shipped goods to the mines".

(We are not here in the lush Cowichan Valley!) but yet in 1896 a locket of the local gold was presented "to Minnie Hazel Walters, First white child born in Horsefly, B.C." There was Alex, who "fixed himself a wooden leg or peg leg and on this he courted Matilda". "Mr Wawn homesteaded in several places, taking his cabin with him each time . . first dismantling and then reconstructing it on the same site".

So these delightful nuggets of particular recollections are imbedded in the bedrock of martialled facts. It is the little local histories which get us closest to the humanity of the pioneer fact. Whether an individual reproducing family background, or a group mining the memories of a district, we are indebted to these chroniclers.

Clare McAllister

Mrs McAllister is a member of the Gulf Islands Branch.

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FROM CORDWOOD TO CAMPUS IN GORDON HEAD: 1852-1959, by Ursula Jupp. Victoria, Printed by Morriss Printing Company for the author. 1975. 186 pp., illus. \$8.95.

Ursula Jupp, a resident of Gordon Head since 1912, has written a book that will be of particular interest to people of Victoria and to many others concerned with the early history of Vancouver Island. In a leisurely style somewhat reminiscent of Gray's Elegy written in a Country Churchyard, Mrs Jupp evokes former times and people who had populated the area through the century. To do this, she treats one region at a time from the arrival of its first settlers to the district it has become today with its university campus and its network of streets and roads.

The early stories take up by far the greater portion of the book and they are the best. The first school began in 1861 with Mrs Henry King contributing two hours a day to teach the neighbourhood boys (not the girls). From her one book, the Bible, they learned to spell small words and to sing holy songs. After two years of this slender fare, a salaried teacher was hired for £30 per annum. There is the record of that lovely, lonely bachelor who was invited to join the Ladies' Aid Society, which he did.

The day was long in the home and in the fields. Wives made their own soap, their own vinegar, and candied prunes and oranges. Teenagers' lives were taken up going to distant schools so the dances and concerts of the weekend which interrupted this pattern were greatly relished. In the school house Mr Fitz would play his fiddle and call the square dances from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. When it was all over he would walk back to Victoria the way he had come - all for \$4 a night. It was in these earlies' days too that Indian visitors in their forty-foot canoes were a frequent sight.

This period of land clearing and hardship, gave way in the 1890's to the strawberry and flower gardening that made Gordon Head famous across Canada for the next few decades. Then in the 1920's a new kind of settler

moved into the area - individuals not dependent on the land for their livelihood - retired businessmen, pensioners like Nellie McClung, or affluent Victorians who built summer homes down Arbutus Road.

World War II brought the army camp. A final change was the purchase of the first land for Victoria College in 1959, which was gradually increased to the 380 acres of the university's campus today.

The book is filled with names of the past that are now familiar streets, with accounts of schools and local associations. Mrs Jupp has combed newspapers and early accounts, has talked with many old-timers to amass the detail that brings this local history to life. The print is excellent; the book is well illustrated and of clear design. Particularly useful are the end sheets comprising a lot plan of 1859 at the front, then at the end of the book this same plan overlaid with a 1975 road map of the region. Though it is to be regretted that there is no bibliography, the footnotes are plentiful and there is an excellent proper-name index. It was an added pleasure, in this day of careless editing, to find not a single typographical error in the whole book.

Helen Gray

Mrs Gray, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is a librarian at Simon Fraser University.

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THE DUKES: THE STORY OF THE MEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN PEACE AND WAR WITH THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (D.C.O.) 1883-1973, by Douglas E. Harker. Vancouver, B.C. Regiment, 1974. 438 pp., illus. \$10.50.

Military histories are very often dull, rather confusing chronologies of battles and changes of command. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why there are so few histories of Canadian regiments. Of these, only about a half dozen are of British Columbia regiments.

The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), popularly known as "The Dukes", can trace its history back indirectly to Colonel Moody's Royal Engineers, who came in 1858 with the birth of the crown colony of British Columbia, and disbanded in 1863, leaving many men as settlers and founders of the pioneer militia groups including the Seymour Artillery in New Westminster in 1866, from which The Dukes are descended. Major Harker, who served many years with the Regiment, including active service during World War II, tells its story from the founding of the Colony to 1973 and intersperses it with vignettes of some 38 officers, including names of national prominence. As the Regiment is Vancouver's pioneer corps, its story is also the story of Vancouver.

This is a very readable book, with interesting photographs placed appropriately with the text. Unfortunately, there is no list of illustrations, and the source of individual pictures is not given. In fact, there are no footnotes, and the sources given in the acknowledgements and bibliography are incomplete and misleading; for example, newspaper clippings, periodical articles, such as R.H. Roy's "Early militia and defence in British Columbia 1871-1885" from the B.C. Historical Quarterly in 1954, books and theses, such as Silverman's M.A. thesis written at the University of B.C. in 1956. The illustrations do not include maps, which would have been helpful in following the Regiment's movements in major military campaigns, such as Ypres. No military history should be without maps, which are so vital to

successful military operations. There are a few troublesome typographical errors and changes in tense, such as in the third paragraph on page 265.

Major Harker has had the use of many personal diaries and letters (which one hopes will be preserved somewhere for future historians) among other sources to assist him. Excerpts from old diaries are generally well-used, and help bring the people and events to life. It is unfortunate that more accurate information could not have been used for the first chapters. In the first paragraph he has reduced the four groups of Moody's detachment of Royal Engineers to two, and has confused them with the Engineers of the North American Boundary Commission who arrived July 12, 1858 (not July 18). The first of Moody's men arrived October 29, 1858, and the last nearly a year later, on June 27, 1859. Chapter 2 begins with the story of Lt.Col. Wolfenden, who joined the Royal Engineers in 1855, and was one of the first volunteers for Moody's detachment in 1858. The newspaper, The Emigrant Soldier's Gazette and Cape Horn Chronicle (one title, not two) was edited by two officers en route in the Thames City, 1858-1859, and was printed by Wolfenden as King's Printer in 1907.

Much of the story is of the non-military activities of the Regiment, which are too often forgotten by the public, who view anything connected with the military, including the Legion, as war-mongering. Many "human interest" stories have come out of wars. In December 1916 the Regiment took time out to help the citizens of Bruay fight a flood. In 1948 they fought a major flood at home in the Fraser Valley. In World War I the Commanding Officer of the Regiment as part of the 7th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, produced a newspaper, the famous Listening Post.

Like people, few books are perfect, and I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the history and people of British Columbia.

Frances Woodward

Miss Woodward, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is a librarian at the University of B.C.

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EAST KOOTENAY SAGA, by David Scott and Edna H. Hanic. New Westminster, Nunaga Publishing, 1974. 128 pp., illus. \$4.95.

No comprehensive history of British Columbia's Kootenay district yet exists, although Clara Graham's trilogy (Fur and Gold in the Kootenays, 1945; This was the Kootenay, 1963; and Kootenay Mosaic, 1971) have publicized much of the region's interesting historical past. No other published accounts of the Kootenay area as a whole are in print, although local histories of individual towns in the region have appeared during recent years. One of these, Nelson: Queen City of the Kootenays, by David Scott and Edna Hanic, appeared in 1972. Dealing as it did with one of the area's most important centres, and one whose history had never before been published, the Nelson book filled an important gap in B.C. history.

Another book by Scott and Hanic has recently appeared, this one entitled East Kootenay Saga. At first glance one might expect the volume to cover the history of half the Kootenay region, but unfortunately such expectations are destined to meet with disappointment. Like Clara Graham's books, East Kootenay Saga highlights some of the most colourful events in the region's past - and very little else. Each chapter deals with a different period, place, and cast, with little continuity or thematic cohesion for the book as a whole. Even more unfortunately, much of the book's content will be

familiar to those who already know Clara Graham's works. (It is not surprising; the best known stories about the best known figures are usually recounted most frequently; witness Gassy Jack or Bill Miner!)

The Kootenay District (or even just the East Kootenay) like British Columbia as a whole, sprawls across a considerable distance, its communities scattered about at distant points. The Cranbrook merchant may have closer ties with Nelson or Penticton than with Fernie or Natal, even though the latter two, like his own town, are within the East Kootenays. And so it has always been. Throughout their history, vast regions like the Kootenays and Cariboo (each of which is roughly half the size of England!) have had very loose regional ties. Yet similarities there are - similar environments, resources, histories, even a sharing of the same famous pioneers - which give such regions an individuality, a personality, a something not quite definable that both residents and visitors are aware of, but cannot quite put into so many words.

Such a feeling for the East Kootenays is, sadly, lacking from East Kootenay Saga. Each of the events described could equally well have happened in a different part of B.C. or a different province of Canada. The reader gets no sense of what the East Kootenays are, or were, as a whole - just a catalogue of place names, a little information about some, a lot about others.

Historically, the emphasis in East Kootenay Saga is on the early days, the pre-1890 years, with accounts from the gold rushes, the Mounted Police, the Indians, and the settlers. The years after 1890, when the Kootenays entered their heyday, with mines and railroads opening in rapid succession for a couple of dizzy decades, get relatively brief treatment. There is practically no mention of the changes and developments of the 20th century, except for brief descriptions of some of the communities today. But this is a common failing, for local historians usually concentrate on the earliest people and events, ignoring those of later periods. Yet - if we are to learn lessons from the past, are they not more likely to be observed from our grandparents, after towns had been established, than from the days of the raw frontier?

Despite its shortcomings, East Kootenay Saga makes several significant contributions to the literature of the region. Its sixteen pages of photographs, many never before published, are of considerable interest. Its nine maps are all of value. (Frequently omitted in local histories, maps are essential in giving readers from outside a region any kind of understanding of an area.) Another asset is the book's well detailed index, surely a contribution of co-author, Edna Hanic, librarian trained and obviously aware of the needs of students and researchers. The book also features a comprehensive bibliography - a real boon to anyone seriously interested in Kootenay history. The book has obviously been carefully researched and the authors must have encountered far more material than they could use in this relatively short book. If only they had waited, to produce a more detailed, more complete history of the region, making use of much more of the information they had!

All in all, East Kootenay Saga is an excitingly written and readable book. It proves that history (even in book form) does not have to be dull. Had it been the first book published on the Kootenay region, it would have been a significant achievement. As it is, it provides an alternate introduction to the area's history. One day, perhaps, we shall see a comprehensive account of development in this, and other B.C. regions, from the earliest times to the present, told in an equally readable, equally well-illustrated, and equally researched manner.

Ron Meyer

Mr Meyer, member of Vancouver Hist.Soc. is Geography Instructor, Vancouver Community College.

CARIBOO: THE NEWLY DISCOVERED GOLD FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA . . . by a returned digger . . . Fairfield, Washington, Ye Galleon Press, 1975. 76 pp. \$6.00.

FOR FRIENDS AT HOME: A SCOTTISH EMIGRANT'S LETTERS FROM CANADA, CALIFORNIA AND THE CARIBOO 1844-1864, ed. by R.A. Preston. Montreal and London, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1974. 338 pp., illus. \$12.00.

Cariboo: the newly discovered gold fields of British Columbia is a reprint of one of the many guides to the colony which were published in London in 1862. The news of the Cariboo gold discoveries created a ready market for such publications and some writers apparently succumbed to the temptation of producing guides without bothering to visit the colony first - drawing their information instead from sources already available in London, such as Donald Fraser's letters to the London Times.

If the "returned digger" was in British Columbia from the spring until the fall of 1861, as he claims, he gives no sign of it in his text. The first two chapters, which purport to be a description of his experiences as a miner and of conditions in the colony, consist of warnings against the dangers of drink and gambling, and of a general, and often misleading account of the colony - the interior of which is said to possess "no excesses of temperature, no excessive rains, no droughts, and a good and easily reached seaboard". The remainder of the book is made up of descriptions of routes of travel, lists of equipment needed, and shipping, mining and land regulations. The information is interesting, but much of it can be found in W.C. Hazlitt's The great gold fields of British Columbia, also published in 1862, which has already been reprinted.

The style is amusing, and curiously American in tone for a writer who claims to have been born in England. The "returned digger" says that he "worked and lived temperately and . . . got a decent small fortune", and remarks that "nothing so pulls a man back at gold digging as spirits", and "starvation makes a man look about him". However, the humour soon palls in the absence of one sentence of authentic detail. The book is most interesting as an example of the sort of misleading accounts circulated in London which were cursed by miners who found that they could not, as the "successful digger" writing in the same year, suggested, "dig gold along the banks of the river" as they proceeded towards Cariboo, "thus compensating for idle time".

For friends at home describes the experiences of someone who actually did go to Cariboo in 1862, and who found, in place of the "returned digger's" "rich teeming earth . . . and gold as plentiful as hard words in an English workhouse", "mosquitos and bad water . . . bad roads and poor society". James Thomson emigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1844 and practised his trade as a baker in Montreal for a year before settling in Edwardsburgh, on the St. Lawrence River near Cardinal. He left Edwardsburgh twice, first from 1849-1852, to work in Chicago and travel overland to the California gold fields, and again in 1862, to try his luck in Cariboo. The book consists of letters Thomson wrote to his family in Scotland from 1844 to 1856, and of letters to his wife and a diary describing his journey to Cariboo in 1862 via the Isthmus of Panama. The material is deposited at Queen's University and has not before been published.

Thomson left Chicago in the belief that "the best thing a young man with two or three hundred dollars can do is to go to California. No doubt hundreds who go there will be disappointed, still there is a better chance of success in going there than by embarking in any sort of business with the same amount

of capital". His reasons for going to the Cariboo were much the same, though less vigorously expressed. As he wrote to his wife, "we were poor . . . and you had to deny yourself many of the comforts of life that a little money would have secured". With his partners, "the Port Elgin boys", he took up two claims on Williams Creek on July 7th and abandoned them on July 11th after striking bedrock at four feet. He worked in the colony as a sawyer at Woodward's ranch near Williams Lake, and for Thomas Spence, the road contractor, until November, when he returned home probably poorer than when he left.

This is a pleasantly written account of the author's daily activities, most interesting for its sections on Ontario and California. The description of the journey to Cariboo occupies only the last seventy pages of the book. It does provide yet another example of failure to make a fortune at the diggings, but for the most part it consists of bare statements of fact - places visited, jobs obtained, money made. Many more detailed and descriptive journals are already available. The editor's contribution consists of an introduction in which he expands on the historical background of the events in which Thomson participated. It is useful, but no more than adequate, and the section on "The Cariboo" contains many careless mistakes and misspellings.

Frances Gundry

Miss Gundry, a member of the Victoria Branch, is an archivist in the Provincial Archives of B.C.

THE PRINCESS STORY; A CENTURY AND A HALF OF WEST COAST SHIPPING, By Norman R. Hacking and W. Kaye Lamb. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1975. 360 pp., illus. \$9.75.

The combination of newsman Norman B. Hacking's history from 1827 to 1901 and the historian-archivist W. Kaye Lamb's account from 1901 to 1974 under one cover is an excellent idea and will appeal to seafarers and historians of the Pacific Northwest on both sides of the international boundary. Had they been preceded by a summary narration of the early maritime fur trade on the Northwest Coast in the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth, the trilogy would have been complete, but perhaps that earlier period may be added later in another edition.

Of particular interest to the reader unfamiliar with the Canadian maritime history is Hacking's tracing of the relationships of the venerable Hudson's Bay Company, the Pacific Navigation Company, and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Also, portions of his narrative, especially at the beginning, are examples of lucid historical writing at its best. In other sections, however, this reviewer became somewhat confused by the wealth of detail submitted without establishing for the reader a connection with a basic cohesive theme. Perhaps more of this material could have been omitted from the text and noted in the Appendix.

With the introduction of personalities such as Captains William Irving, John Irving, and William Moore, an easily followed and most interesting pattern of intense competition is developed and is good reading indeed. The section on the Fraser River traffic and the Klondike Gold Rush were excellently done, and his comment on the loyalty of Victoria to the ailing Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. in the concluding pages of Part I make for an easy transition to Lamb's Part II, which covers the period 1901-1974.

Lamb's Part II is excellent historical writing, comprehensive and fast-paced in spite of his meticulous attention to details of ship dimensions and speeds. Competition on the Vancouver, Seattle and Victoria run are described with zest, and Lamb's comments on the influence of the automobile on Canadian coastal shipping are most interesting and seem to make good sense. Excellent, too, is his narration of the role of the Princess ships in World War II.

For this reviewer, as for many other residents of Alaska and Puget Sound, the Princess ships will be remembered for a particular reason, one which Lamb describes on p. 272. Regrettably, back in the 1930's at least, the Princess ships were superior to the American ships on the Southeastern Alaska run. They were faster, and by reputation, superior in passenger comfort and service.

But especially frustrating to passengers on the American ships such as the old Admiral Watson and Admiral Evans was the way the Princess ships were navigated in the dense fogs in the sounds, straits and narrows of the Inside Passage. As the old Watson or Evans, for example, cautiously ran at slow speed or stopped entirely and their frustrated passengers muttered and cursed at the delay, the Princess ships passed by, invisible, whistles blowing, full speed ahead and right on course.

There is good history well told in The Princess Story, and nostalgia too, for Canadians and Americans alike.

Robert A. Stearns.

Dr Stearns is a Californian educator, interested in the history of B.C.

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CHAMPNESS, To Cariboo and Back in 1862.

There are still copies available to our members, of this book published in memory of Gordon Bowes in 1974. Copies may be obtained for \$10, postage paid, from the Editor, Mr P.A. Yandle, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver, V6S 1E4.

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NOTE: The new Secretary of the Association is Miss Jill Rowland, 4800 Arbutus Street, Vancouver, B.C. Please send all secretarial correspondence to her.

Information for the News, of course, should still be submitted to the Editor, Mr P.A. Yandle, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver V6S 1E4. Deadlines for submissions: the 10th of February, April, June and November.

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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONOUR FIRST FIFTY YEARS

(Being the Text of the President's Address, given by Robin Brammall,
May 26th, 1972 at the Annual Convention in Port Alberni)

This past ten to fifteen years we have had a surfeit of historical anniversaries, centennials and the like. All of us are without a doubt a little weary of them all. However, one anniversary we should not fail to recognize is our own fiftieth golden anniversary as an organization.

I have long been intrigued by the reason for the organization of our Association on October 31st, 1922. The first minute book of our Association in the Provincial Archives describes the founding meeting in the Provincial Library. John Forsyth, the Provincial Librarian and the first Secretary of the Association, describes the reasons for founding our Association in the First Annual Report and Proceedings for the year ended October 11th, 1923:

It was found that many local societies were taking some interest in historical matters relating to the Province but with the various activities of these bodies they could not be expected to fill the place of an historical society. Moreover, there would always be to some extent duplication of effort. To obviate this it was considered advisable to form a Provincial Association, with which all societies interested in historical work could affiliate and thus co-ordinate the work. Accordingly a public meeting was held in the Archives Department on Tuesday, October 31st, 1922, when it was decided to form a British Columbia Historical Association, which would act as an auxiliary to the Provincial Archives Department.

First Annual Report and Proceedings for the
year ended Oct. 11th, 1923, page 14.

The original objects of our Association as set forth in 1922 were retained with minor changes when we incorporated under the "Societies Act" on March 2nd, 1927 and the objects continue to this day without further change. I feel it is important to remember our succinct objects which are as follows:

To encourage historical research and stimulate public interest in British Columbia history; to promote the preservation and marking of historical sites, relics, natural features and other objects and places of historical interest and to publish historical sketches, studies and documents.

We may well ask how have we fulfilled these objects over the years? Or, indeed what have we accomplished? What are we now doing? Where are we going in our next fifty years?

Our history over the past fifty years breaks down into three distinct periods - the period up to 1936 and the birth of the B.C. Historical Quarterly, the period of the Quarterly from 1937 to the late 1950's and early 1960's which witnessed the lamentable death throes of the Quarterly and almost our Association, and finally the last ten year period of regeneration.

During the first period to 1936, the membership of the Association was largely centred in Victoria and its activities were closely linked with the Archives and the Provincial Library. Although the activities of the Association were thus closely centred in Victoria, and the officers of the Association were particularly connected with the Archives and the Provincial Library, a surprisingly one-third of the eighty-two membership in 1923 lived outside the Victoria area (twenty-eight out of eighty-two) and slightly less than one-third of the fifty-four membership in 1929 lived outside the Victoria area (fifteen out of fifty-four).

Historical papers were presented by members and outsiders, annual field trips were organized, and commencing about 1927 an annual Blanshard Day Dinner was held to celebrate the arrival of Governor Blanshard on March 11th, 1850. The Blanshard Day Dinner was inspired originally by Mr Justice Martin in 1926 in a very lengthy submission in the form of a resolution to the Association respecting the "Birthday of British Columbia" which avidly supported the date of the arrival of Blanshard as being the true and unequivocal birthday of the Province of British Columbia. Judge Howay, the President of the Association, equally strenuously supported the November 19th, 1858 date. Despite the great difference of opinion between Martin and Judge Howay, who resigned because of the dispute as first President of our Association after a three year term, the Blanshard Day Dinners were extremely successful and carried on regularly from 1926 or 1927 to the early 1940's. A number of the dinners were held at Government House and in 1940 there was a particularly memorable evening with a historical sketch being presented with the help of the Victoria Little Theatre. Unfortunately, the Blanshard celebrations seemingly tapered off about the time of the death of Mr Justice Martin in 1941, and Howay was finally vindicated with the official acceptance of the November 19th, 1958 date by our present Government.

Judge Howay was of course the local representative on the Federal Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and during the 1920's he influenced the marking of many sites, among them being Nootka Sound, Fort Langley, Yale, Fort George, Prospect Point, and Gonzales Hill. The Society itself erected at least one marker at Leechtown.

In its early years, the Association had a very active standing committee system and initially had a marine history committee, an Indian history committee, a local history committee, an educational committee, a genealogy committee, and an historic sites committee. These committees carried right through to 1935 and there is an interesting minute book in the Archives covering the reports of committees from 1923 to 1933.

The Association published four Reports and Proceedings dated 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1929, all of which contain interesting papers and chronicle the activities of the Association. However, the Depression being what it was, the reports were not continued and the historic papers prepared and given by members are certainly not readily available, if at all, to either ourselves or the public at large. Despite the failure to publish annual reports and proceedings, the standing committees were still in full force in 1935 and comprised - reception, necrology, bibliography, programme, marine, ethnology, historic landmarks, mining and auditor.

At the 1935 Annual General Meeting Dr Lamb proposed a thorough reorganization of the Association and shortly thereafter the Association was

broken down into a federation of sections, initially the Victoria and Vancouver sections, which were quickly joined by the New Westminster and Fraser Valley section in 1936, the Lillooet section in 1939, with much later in 1947 the Okanagan Historical Society and in 1954 the West Kootenay Historical Society, the Nanaimo Historical Society, the Fort St. James Historical Society and the Central B.C. and the Boundary Society with Burnaby, East Kootenay, Fort St. James, and the Gulf Islands joining subsequently.

There is little doubt that the many foregoing societies joined for one reason only, and that was the B.C. Historical Quarterly, edited by Dr Lamb from 1936 to the end of 1946, and subsequently by Mr Ireland. By 1953 the Quarterly was in arrears and the 1958 Quarterlies which were the last ever to appear, did not appear till about 1963, as a single volume.

If the Quarterly were merely a first class historical publication, its loss though acute would not have been as traumatic to our Association as it was. It really was the life blood of the Association and there is some doubt as to whether our Association had any real vitality or raison d'être without the Quarterly. Indeed, Judge Howay shortly before his death in 1942 wrote to a friend as follows:

The Quarterly is the THING, the Society is a mere bit of shadow-boxing. To get the Quarterly on its feet some means had to be taken to supply a part of the funds; and the Society was that means. And we must confess that owing to the winning way of my old friend and partner, Mr R.L. Reid, the Society was established with a good substantial membership, which really meant a good substantial list of subscribers to the Quarterly.

Howay Papers. U.B.C. Special Collections.

Although Judge Howay may have been a little cynical in the foregoing, its truth is really the only explanation of the unseemly squabbings which rent our Association in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

With the Quarterly clearly defunct, our Association had to stand on its own and exist on its own or perish. Now that our Association is standing on its own, and beholden to none, it is perhaps hard for us to understand the frustrations of our members over the slow and agonizing death of the Quarterly, all of which was the root cause of the bitternesses which arose and nearly wrecked our Association.

It is regrettable that many of those who were at the meetings in question have been unable to understand the real frustration for what it was, and have been unable or unwilling to continue their participation in our organization and thereby our interest in history which is indeed our first love. Judge Howay, despite his bitter fight with Judge Martin in 1926 as a result of which he resigned the Presidency of our Association which he did so much to foster, did not let that prevent him from continuing to support our Association and participate in its activities right up until the time of his death in 1942.

But least said is soonest mended and we should pass on to the third and present period of our history. Since the Burnaby Convention of 1964 and the inception of our Revised Constitution, we have clearly operated as a federation of like-minded historical societies, united by our common interest and dependent on no outside support. Over the past ten years our

annual conventions have become one of our more important activities. Up to 1941 the annual meetings were all in Victoria, from 1942 to 1957 they alternated between Vancouver and Victoria, but since 1957 they have gone farther and farther afield throughout the province as really befits an association truly provincial in scope. The idea of the convention of a day or two, rather than a few hour annual meeting, was launched with the successful Penticton Conference in 1960, and it has maintained its popularity ever since.

Perhaps our greatest strength is our very successful B.C. Historical News. Our Association has long recognized its dependence upon a house publication. The Report and Proceedings of its early years, and later the Quarterly, fulfilled that role. With the end of the Quarterly, various attempts were made to launch a newsletter. In 1956 Mrs J.H. Hamilton apparently prepared a few issues of a newsletter, which were followed from time to time with various attempts, culminating in Mr New's letter of 1965, mine of 1966, and Miss Choate's in 1966. But for one reason or another none of the efforts continued until Mr Yandle issued his first News in February of 1968, since which time he has not only continued as Secretary of our Association, but has also faithfully and regularly produced with the help of his ever willing wife our excellent News. To Mr and Mrs Yandle we are indeed indebted.

The new societies which have joined our ranks in recent years, and our increasing membership are due in large measure to the News alone.

Dr Lamb edited the Quarterly for ten years, Mr Ireland edited the Quarterly for ten years, and Mr Yandle has now done it for almost five years as a labour of love and without the support afforded by a paid position in the historical field. It takes a very special and peculiar talent not only to ferret out good articles, but also write the good "copy" which gives the News its interest and individuality.

I trust that there is nothing prophetic in the words of Judge Howay in yesteryears. Once again quoting from his same letter which I quoted earlier:

The Society will run along smoothly, anyhow, and the Quarterly will maintain its standard so long as Dr Lamb sticks to the editorial chair. I don't know what we'll do if and when he says he's tired of the 'Thank you' and thankless job of editing it.

After almost five years of editorship we trust that Mr Yandle will at least equal if not surpass the ten year editorship of Dr Lamb and the twelve year editorship of Mr Ireland.

However, we should not become complacent and overly dependent upon the News, important as it unquestionably is. While we should continue our role as a universal meeting place and clearing house for our member societies through our annual conferences and our News, we need to go on from there, perhaps returning to the standing committees of the 1920's and early 1930's, which would help us involve more people, perhaps embarking on a publication or two, or even the marking of historic sites.

But, as a federation, our strength has to come from the member societies. Ideas and initiative have to come from the member societies through their delegates to Council. It is impossible for a handful of officers to do any more work, and if our Association is to do more, a way has to be found for more people to be able to participate.

While we sometimes regret the lack of direct monetary support by the Provincial Government, such as most provincial historical associations enjoy, at the same time our experience over the years with our dependence upon the Archives may have really sapped much of the strength we had.

In earlier years the Association had a decidedly more academic, or semi-professional orientation, and the progression has been from hard to soft-core history over the years. It is to be hoped that our membership will start to produce papers once again which can find their way into the News.

However, it is easier to be critical than constructive and in conclusion I would like to count our blessings.

We are independent, solvent, and blessed with supporting member societies throughout the Province. For ten years we have enjoyed harmony, good fellowship and peace among ourselves, all of which has enabled us better to pursue our objects, and I wish for little else during our next half century.

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List of Societies Affiliated with the B.C. Historical Association

Alberni & District Mrs H. Ford, Stirling Arm Drive, R.R.3, Port Alberni,
B.C. V9Y 7L7

Atlin Mrs T.O. Connolly, Box 111, Atlin, B.C.

Burnaby Mrs Ethel Derrick, 8027 - 17th Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V3N 1M5.

Campbell River Mrs Ruth Barnett, P.O. Box 101, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 4Z9.

Chamainus Valley Mrs Betty Pederson, P.O. Box 172, Chemainus, B.C.

Cowichan Ian MacInnes, 1020 Lee Street, Duncan, B.C.

Creston & District Mrs Margaret Gidluck, Box 1123, Creston, B.C. V0B 1G0.

Golden Mrs Jean L. Dakin, Box 992, Golden, B.C.

Gulf Islands Mrs G.B. Jennens, South Pender Island, B.C.

East Kootenay Mr Dave Kay, 921 S.4th St., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 1H6.

West Kootenay Mrs Ralph Cook, 1362 Birch Ave., Trail, B.C.

Nanaimo Mrs J. Mar, 242 Cilaire Drive, Nanaimo, B.C.

Vancouver Mr R. Watt, Box 3071, Vancouver V6B 3X6.

Victoria Mrs E.F. Stewart, 408 Dallas Road, Victoria, B.C.

Windermere Mrs E. Stevens, Box 784, Invermere, B.C.

Please report any mistakes or corrections to the Editor.