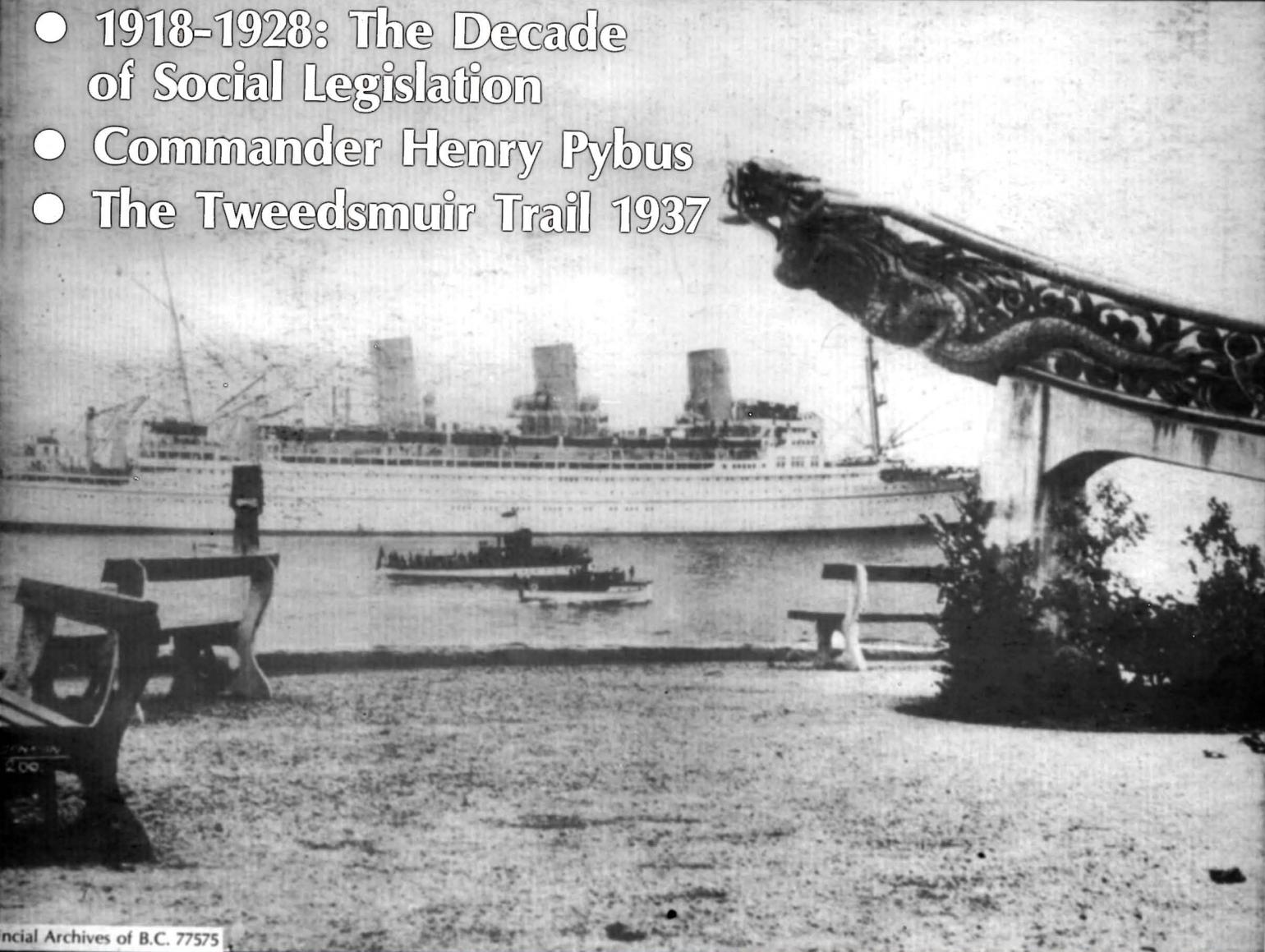


BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

VOLUME 17, No. 1
1983

- 1918-1928: The Decade of Social Legislation
- Commander Henry Pybus
- The Tweedsmuir Trail 1937



The Empress of Japan II steams past the figurehead of Empress of Japan I, at Brockton Point, Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.

... story starts on page nine



MEMBER SOCIETIES



Member societies and their secretaries are responsible for seeing that the correct addresses for their society and for its member subscribers are up-to-date. Please send changes to both the treasurer and the editor whose addresses are at the bottom of the next page. The Annual Report as at October 31 should show a telephone number for contact.



Member dues for the year 1982-83 (Volume 16) were paid by the following member societies:

- Alberni District Historical Society, Box 284, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M7
- Atlin Historical Society, P.O. Box 111, Atlin, B.C. V0W 1A0
- BCHA — Gulf Islands Branch, c/o P.O. Box 35, Saturna Island, B.C. V0N 2Y0
- BCHA — Victoria Branch, c/o Margaret Bell, 1187 Hampshire, Victoria, B.C. V8S 4T1
- Burnaby Historical Society, c/o 3755 Triumph St., Burnaby, B.C. V5C 1Y5
- Chemainus Valley Historical Association, P.O. Box 172, Chemainus, B.C. V0R 1K0
- Cowichan Historical Society, P.O. Box 1014, Duncan, B.C. V9L 3Y2
- Creston & District Historical & Museum Society, P.O. Box 1123, Creston, B.C. V0B 1G0
- District 69 Historical Society, c/o Mildred Kurtz, P.O. Box 74, Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0
- East Kootenay Historical Association, c/o H. Mayberry, 216 6th Avenue S., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2H6
- Golden & District Historical Society, Box 992, Golden, B.C. V0A 1H0
- Ladysmith New Horizons Historical Society, c/o Mrs. V. Cull, R.R. #2, Ladysmith, B.C. V0R 2E0
- Lantzville Historical Society, c/o Susan Turnbull, Box 76, Lantzville, B.C. V0R 2H0
- Nanaimo Historical Society, P.O. Box 933, Station "A", Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5N2
- Nanooa Historical & Museum Society, R.R. #2, Texaco, Box 5, Nanoose Bay, B.C. V0R 2R0
- Nootka Sound Historical Society, Box 748, Gold River, B.C. V0P 1G0
- North Shore Historical Society, c/o Robert W. Brown, 2327 Kilmarnock Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C. V7J 2Z3
- Princeton & District Pioneer Museum and Archives, Box 21, Princeton, B.C. V0X 1W0
- Sidney & North Saanich Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Ray Joy, 10719 Bayfield Road, R.R. #3, Sidney, B.C. V8L 3P6
- Trail Historical Society, P.O. Box 405, Trail, B.C. V1R 4L7
- Vancouver Historical Society, P.O. Box 3071, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X6
- West Vancouver Historical Society, P.O. Box 91785, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 4S1
- Windermere District Historical Society, Box 784, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0

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Second-class mail registration number 4447.

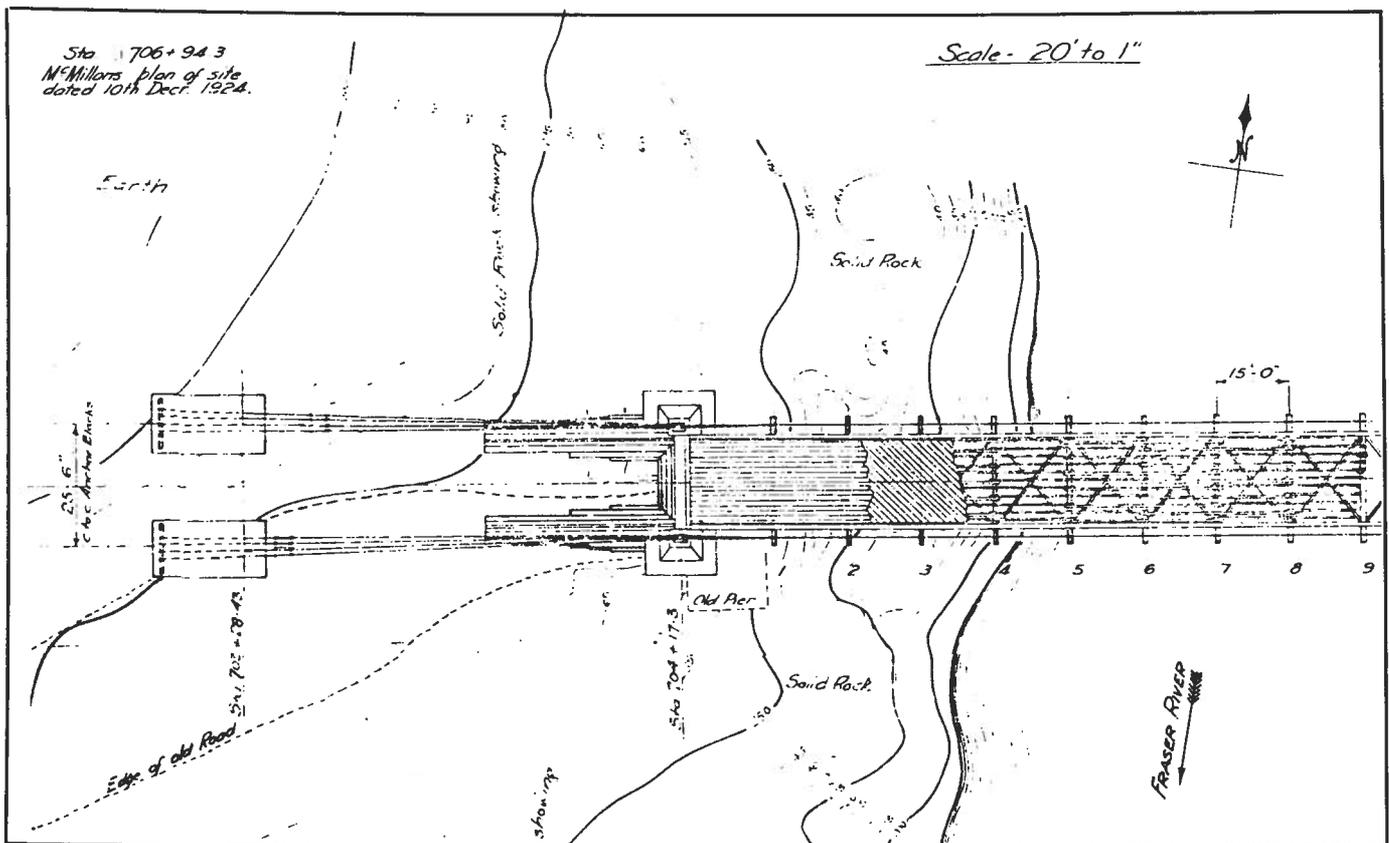
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The B.C. Historical Federation gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the British Columbia Heritage Trust.

To the Editor



Dept. of Public Works Map 572

The Editor:

Re-use of old (1863) piers in new (1926) Alexandra bridge near Spuzzum/Chapmans Bar.

I append some further notes on Alexandra Bridges I and II, which may be of interest to your reader, Mel Atkey, (Vol. 16, No. 4, p. 4).

Examination of the bridge drawings shows that the sole feature common to both bridges is the location of the east tower. The new bridge has a longer, wider span at a different orientation: it could not have fitted the old piers. Comparing the Royal Engineers drawings (1863), with the Department of Public Works drawings (1925), we find:

FEATURE	ALEXANDRA I 1863 R.E.	ALEXANDRA II 1925 D.P.W.
Span, centres of main towers	262'-0 (on Cpl. White's dwg. but not reproduced on B.C. Historical News copy)	277'-0

Centres of main cables and hangers	14'-0	23'-6
Width of deck inside curbs	12'-10	16'-0
Elevation of road at ends of bridge [say 12"6 difference]	c272'-6	285'-0 (from contours on 1925 dwg.)
Angle between centre lines of old and new spans	—	1°26'
"Assumed height of 1894 flood"	—	272'-0

— R.C. Harris

From the Editor

My friend Penny said to me the other day, "I'm so proud to display the *B.C. Historical News* magazine on my coffee table. It's the first thing my visitors reach for." Penny speaks for most of our readers, for during two years as editor, Maureen Cassidy has set very high standards of editorship and format. I have been handed a special legacy, which I hope will continue to be a credit to Maureen's pioneering efforts.

I share with Maureen a deep interest in our province's history, and the desire to publish and preserve it for future generations. In 1982, as a "late bloomer", I completed graduate studies in British Columbia history at the University of Victoria. In addition to researching and writing, I enjoy my association with the small museum on Mayne Island in the Gulf Islands, and with the enthusiastic and dedicated council members of the Victoria branch of the British Columbia Historical Federation.

Our issue this time is cosmopolitan. We look at Mary Ellen Smith's political accomplishments, sail with Captain Henry Pybus on the *Empress of Japan I*, and tramp the Tweedsmuir Trail with R.C. Harris. I am hoping that our writing contest will encourage many more fascinating accounts of people, places, and events.

And whether you have a coffee table or not, I think Penny's idea of sharing the *News* with visitors is an excellent one. Do encourage your inquisitive friends to subscribe—better yet, to become members of our Federation.

— Marie Elliott

Editor's Note: We omitted biographical information for Kathryn Bridge, who wrote "Two Colonial Artists" for Vol. 16, No. 4. Kathryn is an archivist and exhibits co-ordinator for the Visual Records Division of the Provincial Archives, Victoria. She is writing her masters thesis on Eleanor Fellows and Sarah Crease.

A Message from the President

I have attended to all tasks assigned to me during the year. I was able to attend the meeting of six societies. I assisted at the formation of a new society in Lantzville, and attended in your name celebrations by Port Alberni, Parksville and Nanoose societies. I have been asked to open a new society in Qualicum in June. I assisted in the interviewing for a new editor for the magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my executive and committees for their co-operation. Special thanks to Cathy Henderson for a job well done. We will miss her. To Fran Gundry for her devoted service. To Maureen Cassidy for her tremendous effort in bringing our magazine up to a very high standard. We will look forward to more contributions from this talented lady in our magazine in the future. Thank you.



Barbara Stannard

From the Treasurer

The British Columbia Historical Federation was first registered under the *Societies Act* in 1927. In the early years a number of Provincial Archivists in Victoria were actively involved in the Association and the members were drawn from throughout the Province. As years passed, historical societies were established in many centres in British Columbia, and the function of the Association developed from being the central authority for many individuals to being the co-ordinating body of a number of fully independent historical societies. This change in function was recognized at the Annual General Meeting in 1983 when the name was changed to The British Columbia Historical Federation.

The re-written Constitution states that: "The purposes of the Federation are: (1) to stimulate public interest, and to encourage historical research in British Columbia history; (2) to promote the preservation and marking of historical sites, relics, natural features, and other objects and places of historical interest; and (3) to publish historical sketches, studies, and documents."

Membership in the Federation is dependent upon prior membership in a local historical society. Bylaw 2 states that local historical societies are entitled to become Member Societies of The British Columbia Historical Federation; that they may use such local designation as they choose; and that all members of the local society shall *ipso facto* be members of the Federation and shall pay dues to the Federation as provided for in Bylaw 43. One of the Regulations under Bylaw 38 makes the requirements that: (1) all members of the Federation must be members of a Member Society; and (2) persons resident within or without British Columbia may belong to any Member Society of their choice.

Organizations that are not historical societies, but that have "specialized interests or objects of a historical nature" may join as an Affiliated Group. As such, they may participate in the activities of the Federation, and may send observers to its meetings, but without voting privileges. Alternatively, such an organization would be very welcome to join as a Member Society.

Bylaw 43 requires that the annual Federation Dues for all members shall be set at the Annual General Meeting for the succeeding financial year. Regulation 8 requires that the publication of a quarterly magazine shall be a continuing effort of the Federation. For the year 1983-84 the dues were set at \$1.00 per member of each Member Society. The subscription rates to THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS were set at: (1) another \$4.00 if a member wished to receive the magazine; (2) \$8.00 for a non-member subscriber; (3) \$16.00 for Institutions; and (4) \$16.00 for an Affiliated Group.

In 1982-83 Member Societies were located in: Alberni, Atlin, Burnaby, Chemainus, Cowichan, Creston, District 69, East Kootenay, Gulf Islands, Golden, Ladysmith, Lantzville, Nanaimo, Nanoose Bay, Nootka Sound, North Vancouver, Princeton, Sidney & North Saanich, Trail, Vancouver, Victoria, West Vancouver, and Windermere.

There are 80 or more societies in British Columbia with the word "Historical" or "History" in the title. To the many historical societies that are not members of the Federation a special invitation to join is issued. Such support would be welcome for it would help to give a much more persuasive and stronger voice to those interested in our history when matters of historical concern and interest arise.

If you wish to subscribe to THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS, or to join a local Society, or become a Member Society, or an Affiliated Group, you are welcome to write to the following address for full information.

— J. Rhys Richardson, Treasurer,
P.O. Box 35326, Station E,
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G5



Writing Competition

The British Columbia Historical Federation invites submissions for their first annual competition for writers of British Columbia history. Entries are welcomed from any person or group who has published a book on local or provincial history within the 1983 calendar year.

Any book, whether written as a thesis, or a community project, or just for the pleasure of recording old timers' memories, is eligible if it is based on some facet of history within British Columbia, and bears the copyright date of 1983.

Please send a copy of your book with your name, address, and telephone number to:

British Columbia Historical Federation,
c/o N. Miller,
Box 105,

Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0

Deadline is January 31, 1984.

There will also be a prize for the writer submitting the best historical article published in the *British Columbia Historical News* quarterly magazine. Articles are to be submitted directly to:

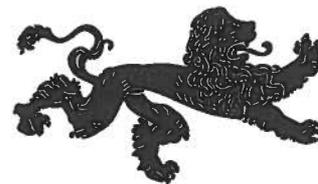
The Editor,
British Columbia Historical News,
1745 Taylor Street,
Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8

Deadlines for the quarterly issues are September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1. Winners will be invited to the British Columbia Historical Federation convention in Vernon, in May 1984.

Certificate of Merit Nominations Requested by C.H.A.

The Regional History Committee of the Canadian Historical Associations invites nominations for its "Certificate of Merit" awards. These annual awards are given for meritorious publications or for exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to regional or local history. Nominations for British Columbia and the North should be sent to Patricia E. Roy, Department of History, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. V8W2Y2. Nominations should be received by mid-November 1983 to ensure entry in the 1984 competition.

The two winners from British Columbia in the 1983 competition were Dr. Margaret Ormsby, "in recognition of [her] scholarship and teaching as well as her promotion of the appreciation of British Columbia history among the people of the province," and Hugh Brody, for *Maps and Dreams: Indians and the British Columbia Frontier* (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1981).



NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the **NEWS** is December 1, 1983. Please type double spaced if possible. Mail to the Editor, *B.C. Historical News*, 1745 Taylor, Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8.



Provincial Archives of B.C. 1999

Commander Henry Pybus, R.N.R.

Elizabeth O'Kiely

Commander Henry Pybus, R.N.R.

Henry Pybus was born in the Cape Colony, South Africa, on December 19, 1850, the son of Captain Joseph Pybus and Jeanetta Elizabeth Smith. Joseph Pybus had retired from the sea in 1843 at the age of thirty, after making a fortune in the maritime trade between India and China. The story of Joseph Pybus and his brother is well chronicled in Basil Lubbock's *The Opium Clippers*, a book which is still in print.

When Henry was thirteen he won a scholarship to attend South Africa College (now the University of Capetown). After three years at college he went to sea. His family was distraught because he had not completed his education, and he was only sixteen years old.

Four years later, Henry received his certificate as a ship's officer in 1872. Following further service with the Union Steamship Company, he qualified as a Master, Extra-Master, and for Steam and Compass Deviation, in 1881. For the next five years he served in the Chinese coastal trade as a river pilot on the Yangtse Kiang, employed by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company. This firm was owned by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., a company which had been one of the Hong merchants at Canton in the 1830s at the same time that the Pybus brothers (Henry Pybus's father and uncle) were Hong merchants there. On the board of directors at that time in Hong Kong was John Bell-Irving. Later, Henry Pybus's only children, his two daughters, both married members of this same Bell-Irving family.

Henry had learned by now that in order to be really successful in a career at sea it was necessary to have Royal Navy training. A new policy, very much frowned on in many quarters, had been instigated by the Admiralty in order to give the merchant service naval experience.

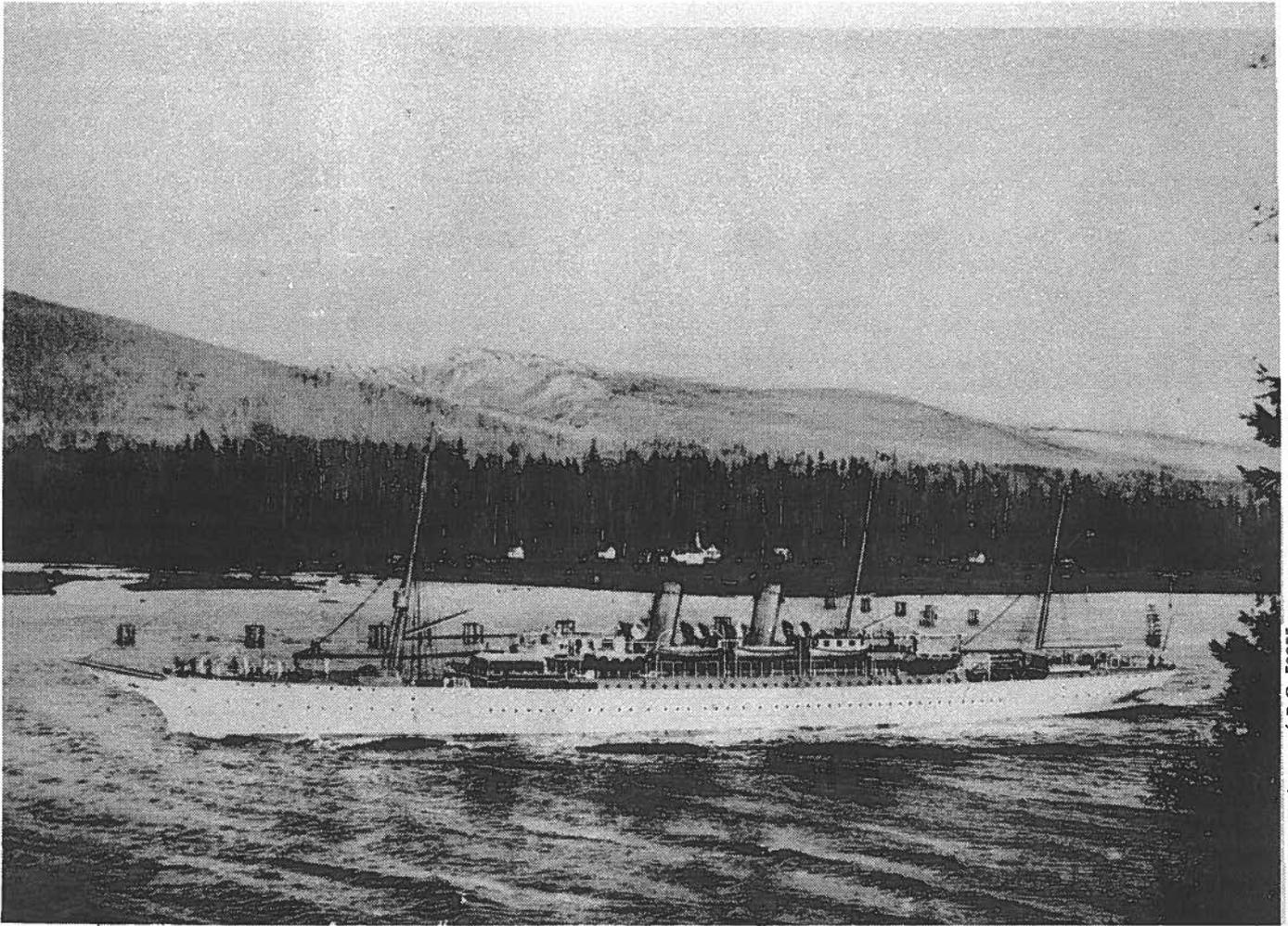
Pybus applied and was the first merchantman candidate to be accepted for training. He was appointed Sub-Lieutenant, Royal Navy Reserve, on March 9, 1885, in England. In 1887 Pybus married Miss Florence Falconer, the daughter of Captain William Falconer, a wealthy ship-owner and merchant. The couple lived as newly-weds in London, but soon Pybus went to sea again.

Henry supervised the construction of the *Cass*, one of two vessels being built for the Viceroy of Formosa, and then took command of the ship during delivery to her owner. Her sister ship was the *Smith*, and each ship had fifty Chinese as crew. The *Cass* was 1,394 tons and 250 feet long. She was later renamed the *Hating* and eventually became one of the Canadian Pacific Railway's coastal passenger ships, the *Princess May*.

Pybus then applied for an appointment to the CPR's new steamship line, received it, and was sent to Barrow to supervise the construction of the R.M.S. *Empress of China*. The *Empress of China* was launched on March 25, 1891, and Henry Pybus was in command until her sea trials were complete and the CPR crew took over ownership. He was then appointed First Officer.

The *Empress of China* carried only twenty passengers as she set forth on her maiden voyage to Vancouver via Hong Kong, where she picked up a Chinese crew. She rounded Brockton Point at eleven o'clock, September 23, 1891, with her siren sounding. Most of the twenty original intrepid passengers were still on board, and about as many more had been picked up in the Orient.

Pybus remained with the *Empress of China* on the trans-Pacific run until 1898, when he was appointed Commander of the *Tartar*, which was



Provincial Archives of B.C. 59955

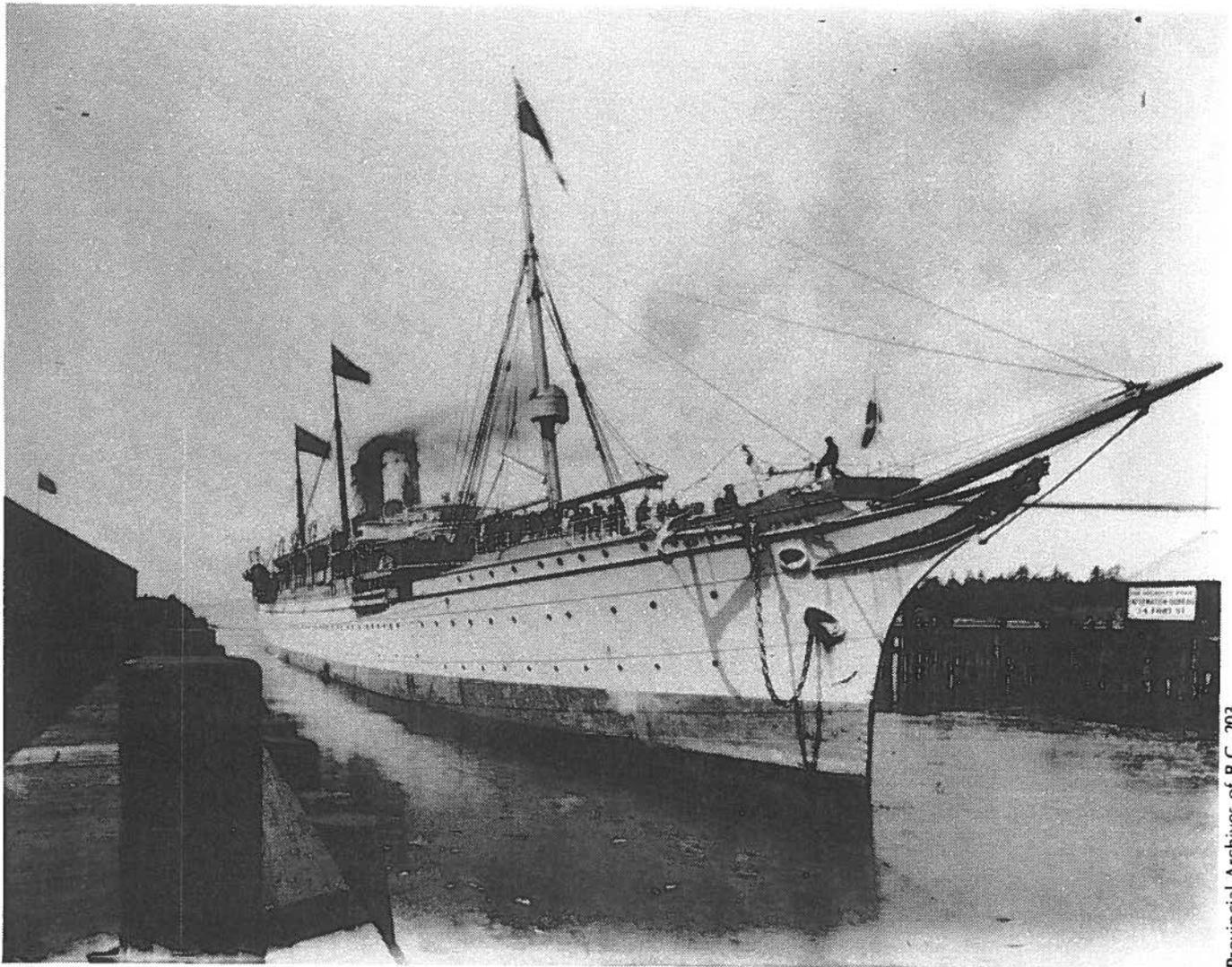
The *Empress of China* was constructed under Henry Pybus's supervision. He served as First Officer on the ship's maiden voyage to Vancouver, via Hong Kong.

to carry passengers and freight bound for the Yukon gold rush. This venture was not an economical success for the CPR and was soon abandoned.

In 1901, after several stints as relief skipper, Henry Pybus was appointed to the permanent command of the *Empress of Japan*. He loved this ship. As her skipper he gained a reputation for being "a martinet" (Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, thus once described him), but most of all, an extraordinarily talented navigator. As Kaye Lamb puts it, "When he was on the bridge things were liable to happen." While he was Captain he broke all speed records, events which in their time evoked world-wide interest.

Henry Pybus's wife Florence and their baby daughter Anne arrived in Vancouver soon after he did. He bought a house on Hornby Street, across from where Robson Square is now located. Later, as the city grew the family moved to Jervis Street, near English Bay. A second daughter Mary was born in 1894. She was my mother, and in 1975 she wrote the following about her early life:

It was a red letter day when father came home and we went to meet him, climbing down a flight of steep wooden stairs at the foot of Howe Street to the wharf below. I can still remember the thrill of seeing father on the bridge calling orders through a megaphone. Then, when we finally went on board there was a smell of tar,



Provincial Archives of B.C. 203

The Empress of Japan I at Victoria, B.C.

and teak, and camphor wood. There were interesting-looking passengers, and Chinese "boys" in long blue Mandarin coats and pillbox hats. Then up the stairs to the top deck, near the bridge, where father had his sitting room with a big desk. Then the presents. Somehow, they were always a bit of a disappointment. The toys were very Oriental, often mechanical. The dolls were Japanese, and the party dresses made in Hong Kong were not like the ones worn by other girls at school.

Henry Pybus did not plan to settle permanently in Canada. He always thought of himself as a "Cape man", and intended to retire to South Africa. However, World War I and, later, a variety of Canadian grandchildren made these plans change. When he retired in 1911 he

became very active in the Art, Historical, and Scientific Association of Vancouver, occupying the position of President from 1921 to 1927. He died in January 1938, and at his request his ashes were committed to the sea from the new *Empress of Japan*. The eldest grandson of Henry Pybus, Henry Pybus Bell-Irving, has recently served as Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Elizabeth O'Kiely, West Vancouver, prepared this article from her grandfather's memoirs, which he wrote at age seventy-five, in Vancouver.



Provincial Archives of B.C. 39802

Mary Ellen Smith, M.L.A.

E.B. Norcross

1918-1928: The Decade of Social Legislation

That title might just as well read "The Decade of Mary Ellen Smith" for it was she who spearheaded the long-overdue social reforms in British Columbia. It was no accident that ten years of social legislation followed the granting of the vote to women, and no accident that Mrs. Smith was elected to the provincial House by an overwhelming majority in the first election that gave her an opportunity to run. (It was a by-election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband nearly a year earlier, in March 1917.) As she said with truth in her maiden speech—"Not only did the women of my fair city stand behind me ... but the men were there, too."

Mary Ellen's campaign slogan had been "Women and children first", and in her speech she asked the House for legislation in the interests of women and children.

For twenty years and more prior to gaining that legislative seat Mary Ellen Smith had been active in innumerable organizations that worked for community betterment, and in particular for women and children. Her public speeches, however, dwelt on the issue of political equality for women. Clear-sighted and practical, for her the suffrage was a means to an end, the end being improvement in conditions for women and children, and social justice for all through the women's vote.

One of the women's causes for which Mary Ellen had battled had been equal guardianship for the mother of the child she bore. The law which deprived her of this right had been struck from the statute books in the same year and by the same government that granted her the right to vote.

The booming young city of Vancouver with its crop of overnight millionaires, its hopefuls who saw no reason why they, too, should not be millionaires, its ladies young and old leading the social life of the leisured classes—this Vancouver had at the bottom of the heap poor widows, deserted wives, and unmarried mothers scrambling for a bare existence for themselves and their children. Society recognized its obligation not to let them starve, at least not outright, not obviously, but a scramble for existence it was for many of them. Apart from the social stigma of accepting charity, most mothers found themselves slightly better off if they went to work, even on the low wages then prevailing. Having no option when the job made it necessary, they boarded their children with ignorant, wholly untrained women, who gave these children only minimal care.

Their young sons picked up small change here and there, mowing lawns, clearing snow from sidewalks, peddling papers on downtown street corners and working after school as errand boys for neighbourhood grocery stores. These things did them no harm, but when they dropped out of school at twelve or thirteen if well grown, to take full-time jobs such as floor boys in department stores, or, in the country, as farm labourers, it was an undesirable situation. Almost to a boy, they went to work at fourteen, the legal school leaving age.

It was mothers such as these and children such as these that Mary Ellen Smith, and other more fortunately placed women, saw the need to protect.

The Minimum Wage Bill

Mary Ellen's first bill—and while it was introduced as a Government measure, she was always given sole credit for it—was the Female Minimum Wage Bill. When moving second reading, she reminded the House that men enjoyed the protection of their labour unions, while women, having nothing of that sort, must be protected in other ways.

The bill was very moderate in its terms. No actual minimum was set for any occupation, but provision was made for an inquiry in each case, and no compulsion would be exerted except as a last resort.

In the mercantile industry wages for women aged eighteen and over were fixed at 26 9/16¢ per hour, or \$12.75 per week. The first annual report of the Department of Labour had shown that in this industry some 74% of female workers were receiving less than these rates, 79% less than \$13.50 per week. The newspaper story which brought out these figures was headed "Absolute Need of Minimum Wage Law". "The most interesting feature of the measure," said the editor of the *Vancouver Sun*, "is the calm manner in which it ignores what was only very recently an axiom—the right of an employer to run his business as suited himself. This principle, if it can be called a principle, is one of the many things being tossed into the discard by social advancement."

By way of comparison, in Ontario, in 1920, the goal of minimum wage legislation was to provide a "living wage". It had been determined that a single woman in Toronto would require \$653.25 yearly, which was very nearly the same figure arrived at in British Columbia. In contrast to this, in 1919 the Dominion Civil Service Commission had drawn up a minimum budget of \$903 per annum for a person without dependants. For "person" perhaps one can read "man", as witness the question of eligibility for the Senate. Hence, the difference in the estimates.

The Minimum Wage Bill passed the committee stage with only one major amendment, that a board of five, instead of three members should be appointed to administer it, and that two of these members should be women. The male legislators, however great their respect for the lone female MLA, were not yet ready to put women in a dominant position on a board set up to administer a law passed for the protection of women.

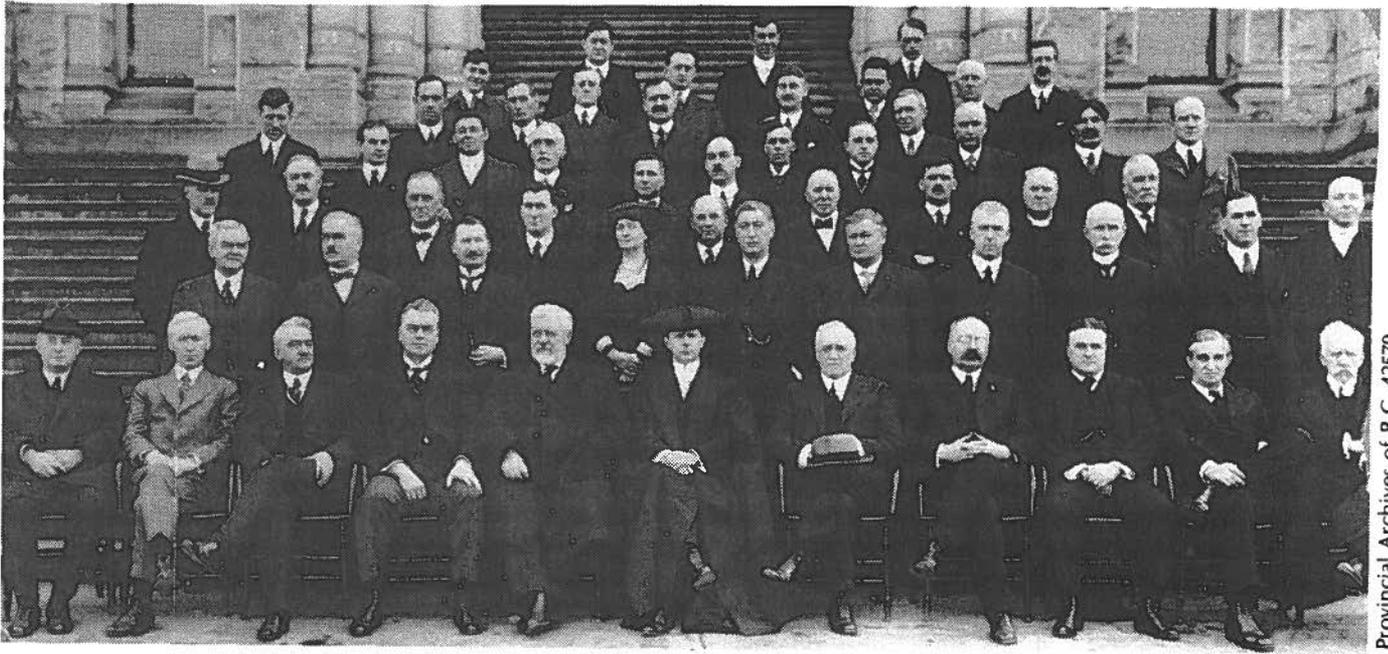
In the next session, the House made one of its first items of business the passing into law of the Minimum Wage Bill. Two years later the Minimum Wage Board was to report that ever since the law came into operation, there had been a constant movement towards higher wages and shorter hours among women and girls. At the same time that this report was presented, regulations were brought in to require employers to give pregnancy leave.

When the 1920 session of the legislature opened, Mrs. Ralph Smith (she was still formally referred to as "Mrs. Ralph") again spoke in the Throne Speech debate. The *Colonist* reported her at some length: "The people of this province are not worrying very much these days over the fortunes of political parties; they are not concerned to any degree in the Farmers' Party, or even a Women's Party, but they are very deeply interested in the matters of human needs ... We are sadly in need of more humane legislation..." In particular, she pleaded for mothers' pensions.

Mothers' Pensions Act

The premier had named a commission in the fall of 1919 to investigate mothers' pensions, public nursing and maternity benefits. The report of the commission in respect to mothers' pensions was presented to the legislature in April. It recommended an allowance of \$42.50 per month to a widow with one child under sixteen and \$7.50 per month for each additional child. If these allowances look niggardly—and indeed they were, even related to prices of that period—they were higher than those already in effect in the prairie provinces.

When the bill came up for second reading in the House, Mary Ellen spoke in its support. The needs of industrial widows and fatherless children were, she pointed out, precisely the same for the women with children whose husbands were confined in an asylum. She noticed that there was no specific provision for the unmarried mother, and she made a special plea for that class. And it was here she enunciated her famous and oft-quoted philosophy: "Mr. Speaker, there are no illegitimate children. It may be there are ... people who will contend there are illegitimate parents, but in God's name, do not let us brand the child." This statement has since become so much a part of society's thinking that no one remembers what a startlingly fresh view of the problem it had been at the time.



Provincial Archives of B.C. 42579

Mary Ellen Smith and the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, ca. 1918.

Mary Ellen, when she made that special plea for the unmarried mother, had reason to foresee what might happen. Society at that time had little sympathy for unmarried mothers and divorcees, and in those provinces which had preceded British Columbia in the provision of mothers' pensions, not only were rigorous means and residence tests imposed, but the applicant had also to show good moral character. Perhaps the divorcees and unmarried mothers of British Columbia could thank Mary Ellen Smith for the fact that in British Columbia their problems received more compassionate consideration. At that period in our history the accepted view was that society benefited when the mother was in the home, caring for her children.

In 1924 the Mothers' Pension Act was again to the fore and Mary Ellen again rose to its defence. She was not, she said, in accord with all its provisions, but there could be no doubt that it had been of benefit to the 950 women and 2500 children it had aided. Her criticism was mainly directed to the municipalities. They were responsible for the relief of poverty within their borders, she pointed out, and unless they cared for cases that did not come within the Act, then she suggested that the Government place half the burden of

mothers' pensions on their shoulders. She cited one municipality which, in dealing with a mother and six children who were outside the strict limits of the Act, but in necessitous circumstances, had allowed the family only \$20 a month.

It was a case of shifting criticism from the government she supported to another level. The critics of the Act were mainly concerned with its administration, claiming that the Workmen's Compensation Board (which had been entrusted with its administration) had established regulations which exceeded their powers. That was a problem the attorney-general solved by introducing a bill which gave statutory effect to the Board's regulations.

The attorney-general's bill allowed foster mothers who were grandmothers, aunts or elder sisters to receive the pension. "To go beyond this might encourage adoptions for the sake of the pensions." Mary Ellen complained of a lack of elasticity in the Mothers' Pensions Act, but when the time came, she voted for it, as an Opposition member unkindly pointed out.

A *Colonist* editorial on the subject of the pensions commented: "Under new provisions of the Mothers' Pensions Act a wife must be

deserted for two years before she becomes eligible for the pension." The writer's conclusion might well have come from Mrs. Smith. After remarking that administration of the Act had now been relegated to the Workmen's Compensation Board, he went on to say: "That is a retrograde step inasmuch as that body by its previous showings can hardly be said to have as much of the milk of human kindness as should be in evidence in its new duties ... And," he added, "the appointment of a woman in an advisory capacity would not mitigate the situation."

Other Social Legislation

Among other social legislation passed during the amazing decade in which Mary Ellen Smith served as an MLA were: the Juvenile Courts Act, which provided for the appointment of women judges in Juvenile Court; the Maintenance of Deserted Wives Act; the Testators Family Maintenance Act; the Act for Registration of Nurses; and the Maternity Protection Act.... Most of this was legislation in which British Columbia, prodded forward by Mary Ellen, pioneered and served as a model for the rest of Canada.

The Female Minimum Wage Act eventually lost its separate identity, and rightly, but that was not until 1972. Mothers' Pensions, which became known as Allowances, also lost its identity in the general welfare system in 1958. One other piece of social legislation passed in Mary Ellen Smith's time is still with us, recognizably the same, and that is Old Age Pensions.

This legislation was initiated by the Dominion Government and presented to the provinces in 1927 as a scheme in which they might participate under the conditions of eligibility laid down by the Dominion Act. The proposal was the subject of considerable debate in the provincial legislature. There was general agreement that the minimum age requirement of seventy years was too high and the maximum pension payable too low.

Noting that the senate opposed the bill, Mrs. Smith had this to say: "Why the senate should reject the Bill is more than I can understand. The senate should be the last body to do any such thing, as the senators themselves are living in a luxurious old man's home, drawing down the handsome stipend of \$4000 a year."

What Mary Ellen and everyone else had in mind was that \$240 a year was the maximum payable in old age pension, and anyone with an independent income of as much as \$365 a year would not be eligible for any portion of the pension.

The terms of provincial participation provided that the province would pay 75% of the cost, the Dominion 25%. This meant that while the richer provinces, which included British Columbia, entered the plan, the poorer could not, although they were left in the position of contributing through their Dominion taxes to the Dominion portion. Recognizing this inequity, cost-sharing was soon changed to a 50-50 basis.

The Depression wreaked havoc with the social gains of the 1920s. Principles, however, had been established from which society benefits today.

*Elizabeth B. Norcross is a familiar name to many of our readers. Born in Cowichan, and a graduate of U.B.C., she has been a freelance writer for many years, mainly in non-fiction and juvenile fiction. Her books include *The Warm Land: A History of Cowichan*; *Pioneers Every One: Canadian Women of Achievement*; and *Frontiers of Vancouver Island*, which she co-authored with the late Doris Farmer Tonkin. She recently edited *The Company on the Coast* and is co-ordinating editor of *Nanaimo Retrospective*. "The Decade of Social Legislation" is drawn from her as-yet unpublished biography of Mary Ellen Smith, *Queen of the Hustings*.*

R.C. Harris

The Tweedsmuir Trail 1937

North From Bella Coola Valley to the Rainbow Mountains

Tweedsmuir Trail was cut in 1937 by the Parks Division of the B.C. Forest Service, as a recreational horse trail, leading north from the deep Bella Coola valley to the Rainbow country. Prehistoric trade routes up several side creeks already provided access, but these trails were too rough and steep for recreational use. Moreover, the trade routes did not necessarily traverse country noted for its scenic qualities.

A proponent of the new trail was Tommy Walker, who ran a lodge and a guiding service at Stuie, some forty-two miles up the valley from tidewater at Bella Coola. Walker checked the feasibility of a new horse route to the Rainbows in the summer of 1936, and made a detailed proposal to Hon. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands, in Victoria, in August 1936. He included a sketch map of the route, and a firm cost estimate of \$650 for the eight miles of heavy construction to reach timberline in the meadows of upper Edwards (now Mosher) Creek. The cost of clearing the forty-four miles of old trail down Rainbow (now Mackenzie) Valley and through to the Dean River crossing was given as \$250.¹

On September 20, 1936, after granting an interview to Tommy Walker, the Hon. Wells Gray noted to the Deputy Minister: "Suggest that \$1500 be included in estimates. AWG." A 3,500,000 acre park reserve had already been placed over the land on March 11, 1936, and

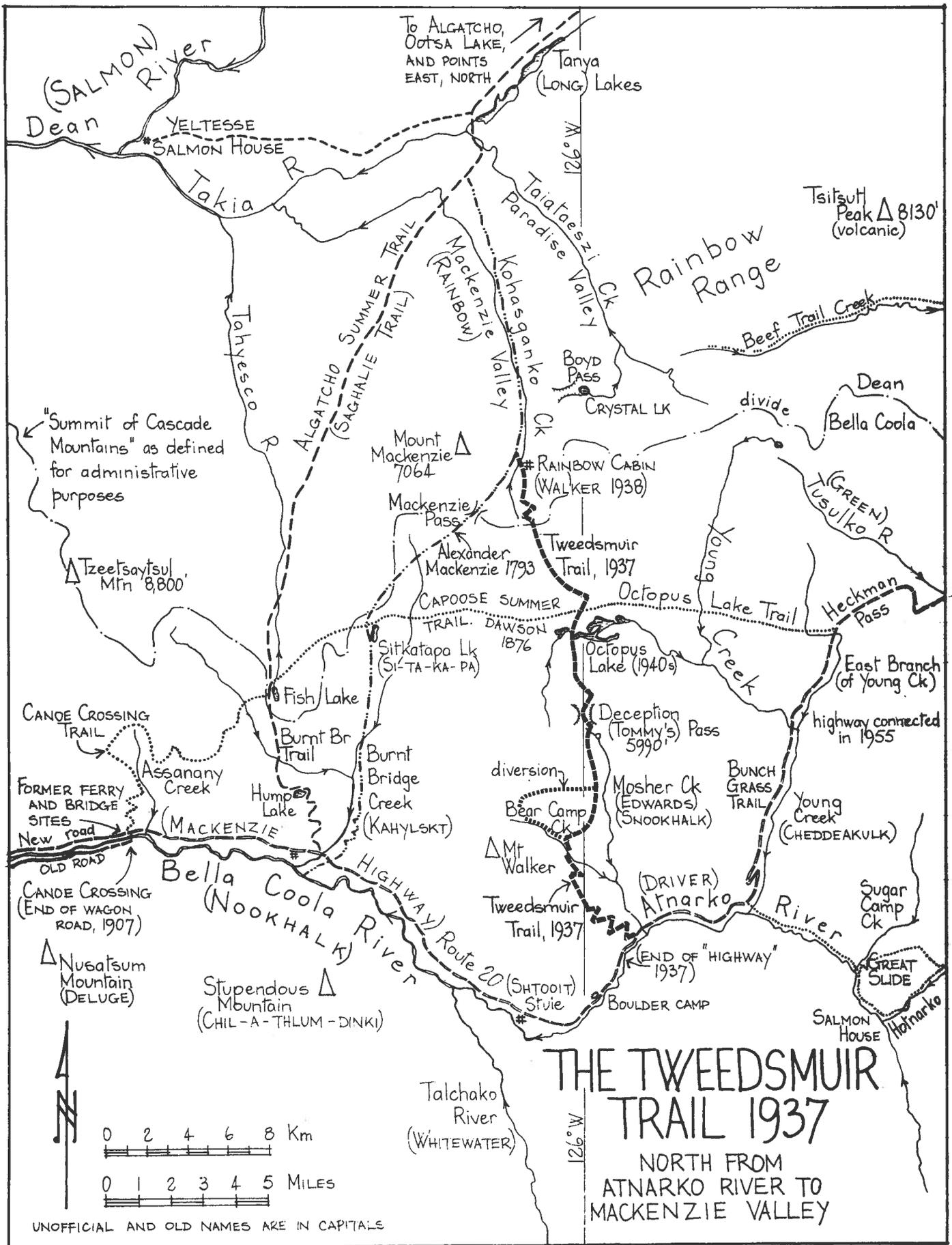
Wells Gray was aware that the Province of British Columbia had invited the Governor General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir, to visit the park in 1937.

The park reserve was gazetted as a Class B provincial park on May 21, 1938. In the same year, the Minister of Lands issued a commemorative booklet,² and Lady Tweedsmuir published an extensive, illustrated article in *National Geographic Magazine*, both describing the 1937 vice-regal progress through the new park.

A large "Mackenzie Park", honouring the July 1793 visit of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, had earlier been proposed for Dominion administration in 1925.³ This would have extended twenty miles south of the Bella Coola valley, to South Bentinck Arm, and for seventy miles east-west.

In 1951, Tweedsmuir Park, which then did not reach as far south as the Bella Coola valley, was curtailed when the Ootsa Lake country was appropriated for hydro-electric power purposes. However, some compensation was made by extending the park southwards to Monarch Mountain. Also added were Lonesome Lake, the Turner Lakes, and Hunlen Falls, which had been part of the 1925 Mackenzie Park proposal.

Mackenzie's name survives in the area as the Mackenzie electoral district, and more recently with the reopening of his trail to Bella Coola.⁴



Early History

The Bella Coola valley was first mapped in some detail by the Royal Engineers in November 1862 following Lt. H.S. Palmer's exploration of the well-used trail between North Bentinck Arm (Bella Coola village) and the Fraser River at Fort Alexandria.⁵ Plan No. 3 of Palmer's report, shows the main creeks that enter the Bella Coola valley. He notes three of the deep hanging valleys to the north as "Possible pass to the Plateau".⁶

The first side creek was the Kahylskt, now Burnt Bridge Creek. Mackenzie came down the cliffs on the east side to his "Friendly Village" in July 1793. Palmer shows this village as "Nootkleia",⁷ and his contemporaries as "Newcliff", in the early 1860s.⁸ Nothing remains of Friendly Village, but Rascals' Village (Bella Coola) flourishes.

The steep old Burnt Bridge Trail comes down the west side of Burnt Bridge creek. Tommy Walker proposed using it for access to the Rainbows in 1935, before he found the better route up the next creek, in 1936.⁹

The next creek, Palmer's "Snookhalk", was in Walker's time Edwards Creek, and is now Mosher Creek.¹⁰ This was the route chosen for the 1937 Tweedsmuir Trail. Again, the west bank was used. Palmer's third possible side creek was the Cheddea-kulk, now Young Creek. The Bunch Grass Trail, and in 1955, highway 20 to the Chilcotin country, again used the west side of this deep valley.

Walker's Trail

Tommy Walker's location for the new trail to the Rainbows runs almost due north, in the general direction of the 126th meridian.¹¹ Deception Pass, at about the midpoint, is split by the meridian, and is thus not apparent on maps until adjacent sheets are joined. This may account for most maps showing the Pass two miles west of its true location. Despite this minor deception, the name is attributed to 1937 trail foreman Bob Boyd, who had expected to find a "real" pass in the ridge, rather than a shallow saddle in the skyline.¹²

From Deception Pass, and particularly from its west flank, there are extensive views north over the broad flat valley of the Capoose to the volcanic Rainbows country.¹³ The Capoose meadows contain sloughs, swales, swamps and lakes. The largest lake is Octopus, named by

Ches Lyons in the 1940s for its long arms. The Rainbow Mountains, or "Mountains that Bleed" according to the Indians, display mostly reds, but patches of yellow, green, white, and purple will be seen in the ashes and lava flows which originate from Tsitsutl Peak.

Just north of Octopus Lake, the Tweedsmuir Trail crosses the ancient east-west Capoose summer trail, a "summer trail" because it is passable in July, August, and September only. The *Bella Coola Courier*, 1912 to 1917,¹⁴ shows Antoine Capoose frequently used the trail, bringing pack trains from his ranch on Abuntlet Lake to Bella Coola several times a year, to trade furs for supplies. He occasionally continued to Vancouver. Dr. G.M. Dawson of the Geological Survey of Canada also used this trail, eastbound in 1876, during one of his numerous surveys in British Columbia, in association with the Canadian Pacific Railway Surveys which followed Confederation.

Construction

The Tweedsmuir Trail was built, or cut, by the Parks Division of the Forest Service, working through the Young Men's Forestry Training Program.¹⁵ They brought in Bob Boyd as foreman, Wally Hughes as assistant foreman, and about twenty-two young men from the Vancouver-New Westminster area. The crew travelled to and from Bella Coola on the Union Steamship vessel *Cardena*.

Location of the five miles of trail from base camp to the first summit was by Tommy Walker. From summit camp, Walker and Boyd climbed a fairly high peak (probably now Mount Walker), and Walker showed the general route north to Boyd, who continued the locating. The trail construction camps were set four or five miles apart, as follows:

- No. 1 Base Camp— at the end of the wagon road (Mackenzie Highway), near Atnarko River
- 2 Summit Camp— at the first summit, before descending to cross Bear Camp Creek
- 3 Mosquito Camp— near crossing of Mosquito Creek
- 4 Pass Camp— near the small lake, south-east of Deception Pass
- 5 Capoose Camp— between Octopus Lake and the rim of Mackenzie Valley

6 Rainbow
Camp—

in Mackenzie Valley, near
Kohasganko Creek, where
the new trail joined
Mackenzie's route

North from Rainbow Camp, the old trail down the Mackenzie was brushed out as far as Tanya Lakes, near where it intersected the prehistoric Algatcho summer trail from Bella Coola, described in the Minister of Lands Report for 1914, p. 335.

Not long after the Tweedsmuir Trail was opened, Tommy Walker put in a westerly diversion via Bear Camp Meadows (just north of Mount Walker), to ensure horse feed would be available on the first night out. The two ends of this diversion are still marked by wooden finger boards on trees, now illegible. Where the diversion rejoins the main trail, a Rogers Golden Syrup tin is also nailed to the signpost tree. A card in this simple mail box records that a Geological Survey party under Alex Baer passed this way, en route to Octopus Lake on August 17, 1962, confirming that the Tweedsmuir trail was being used 20 years ago.

During his 1937 visit Lord Tweedsmuir and his entourage were expected to fly to Tanya Lakes, on their way south through the new park. Due to a shortage of time, they were flown over the trail, and landed in the sea at Bella Coola, whence they were driven east to Tommy Walker's lodge at Stuie. Tommy Walker was graciously permitted to rename it as Tweedsmuir Lodge.

Though Lord Tweedsmuir did not use his trail, it fulfilled its primary purpose of improving recreational access to the Rainbows. However, completion of highway 20 in 1955 has drained much of the traffic from the horse trails.

¹ T.A. Walker to Hon. Wells Gray, August 17, 1936, letter 1168940, Lands file 0124360, Victoria.

² *Tweedsmuir Park, British Columbia, Canada*, a commemorative booklet, pp 30, incl. map and illus. Minister of Lands, Victoria, B.C., 1938.

³ "Mackenzie Park as a Field for Survey, Exploration, Literature and Art" by Harlan I. Smith. Reprinted from *Science*; Sep. 4, 1925, NWp 971.242 S649, PABC.

⁴ *Trail Guide: "In the Steps of Alexander Mackenzie"*, John Woodworth and Halle Flygare, 1981, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, pp 105, illus.; + folded maps.

⁵ "Reliable News from Bentinck Arm", *British Colonist*; Aug. 26, 1862; and "Four Days Later, from Bentinck Arm", *British Colonist*; Aug. 27, 1862.

⁶ Plan No. 3, "Sketch of the Valley of the Bella Coola or Nookhalk River from the Coast to the Precipice" by Lieut. H.S. Palmer, R.E. "To accompany Report of Nov. 24, 1862." Scale: Two Miles to One Inch.

⁷ Barnston and Macdonald to Governor Douglas, from Bonaparte River, July 24, 1861. Report on a new and shorter route into the upper districts of British Columbia. Mentions "Nontclaoff". EB B261, PABC.

⁸ "The Bentinck Arm Road", Oct. 1862, A.L. Fortune, in *British Colonist*, Jan. 3, 1863; p. 3, mentions "Newcliff", Mackenzie's Friendly Village.

⁹ T.A. Walker to Chief Geographer (Major G.S. Aitken), Victoria, B.C., September 10, 1935 pp 5, proposing a tourist route from Stuie to Tetachuck, 9 days, using the Burnt Bridge trail, then following Mackenzie's route.

¹⁰ See number 1.

¹¹ With the Trail Riders through Tweedsmuir Park, under the Personal Direction of Mr. T.A. Walker. Inaugural Ride, 1938, from Tweedsmuir Lodge to the Rainbow Mountains" [uses the new Tweedsmuir Trail]. Lands File 0124360.

¹² Bob Boyd continued with the Parks Branch until his retirement. He was responsible for the Lightning Lakes dam, and several of the main trails in Manning Park.

¹³ "The Rainbow Mountains in Tweedsmuir Park", by Don Munday, shows pack train crossing, "Tommy's Pass", *Canadian Geographical Journal*; Jan. 1939. p 2-17; illus.

¹⁴ *The Bella Coola Courier*, a local weekly newspaper, published almost continuously between 1912 and 1917.

¹⁵ Record of Interview between Bob Boyd, Trail foreman, 1937, and Bob Broadland of Heritage Conservation Branch, 1973.

¹⁶ Topographic Sketch Map 19T2, Surveyor General of British Columbia; by F.C. Swannell, B.C.L.S. April 9, 1928 1 inch = 1 mile, shows parts of Algatcho and Capoose summer trails, and Mackenzie's route. Swannell's Report of Surveys, seasons of 1926 and 1927, describes trails north of Bella Coola valley. Add. MS. 392, PABC.

R.C. Harris is a retired professional engineer and has a lifelong interest in trails and bridges.

Reports from the Branches

Nanaimo

The major event of the year was the very successful and well-attended symposium, "The Company on the Coast", in March 1982.

Three junior secondary schools participated in the Ethel Barraclough Memorial Fund Awards. Books were presented to students and school libraries, and to commemorate the year Constitution Dollars were also presented to the students.

There has been an encouraging response from members to a request for their Family Histories. A valuable resource is being accumulated for a possible further publication.

The book published by the Nanaimo Historical Society in 1979, *Nanaimo Retrospective*, proved to be a best seller, and paperback copies are now out of stock.

An excellent slate of speakers provided variety and special knowledge. All were taped for reference.

Due to the inclement weather the *Princess Royal Day* ceremonies organized by the Society were held inside the Bastion this year. Mr. Howard Nicholson used his many years experience as clerk to the city council in his address.

Hope

Late in 1981, the Hope and District Historical Society began to make arrangements to acquire and restore the derelict Home Gold Mill. The machinery was dismantled at the mine site and brought to Hope Museum by enthusiastic volunteers in 1982. Plans to restore the mill adjacent to the museum were approved by Hope town council, which supported the society's application for a winter grant under the Community Recovery Program funded jointly by the Federal and Provincial Governments in conjunction with the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Great attention was paid to re-creating the exact layout of the mill circuit and, fortunately, people involved in the original design were available to give valuable advice. Metal parts were sandblasted to remove rust and then painted. Many donations of time and materials necessary to build the log foundation and assemble the machines were received from interested residents. A special plaque mounted on the front of the mill building lists these indispensable donors.

Since most of the machines are free to rotate, the society plans as a future project to fully restore the circuit to working condition.

The official opening of the mill took place September 16, 1983.

District 69

Craig Heritage Park has been established this year in the Qualicum School District 69 on land bordering the Island Highway near Craig's Crossing where the Craig family first pre-empted property in the 1880s.

Through grants-in-aid, District 69 Historical Society moved Knox Heritage Church to the new park, and then restored it to its original appearance. It was officially opened on February 19 by Mrs. Barbara Stannard, President of the British Columbia Historical Federation, and remained open for the showing of special displays during the day, and also was open to visitors on Sunday, February 20, 1983.

The first post office in District 69, a log building dating back to 1886, has been moved from French Creek to Craig Heritage Park, near the old church. In the early days, fires were kindled on the beach at French Creek, signalling to the pioneers on Lasqueti Island that their mail had arrived.

The Society is now waiting for funds to move the old Duncan McMillan house from the Seaton farm near Englishman's River in Errington. Built in 1886, it is one of a very few which were built of squared-off logs in British Columbia. It will join the Knox Heritage Church and the French Creek post office at Craig Heritage Park.

Regarding plans for a museum in District 69, all organizations in the district, including Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Errington, and Nanoose Bay, were invited to a meeting addressed by Mr. Greg Evans, Museums Coordinator for the Provincial Museum, who provided our Society with guidelines for planning. This April meeting is to be followed up by a September meeting to receive further input from District residents. We have the approval to go ahead with washrooms and a fireproof vault for Craig Heritage Park.

—Grace d'Arcy

Cowichan

The Cowichan Historical Society has had another busy and interesting year. We have held eight General Meetings and ten Executive Council Meetings.

Our speakers have been: Mrs. Audrey Ginn, on the history of Kuper Island; Hank Williams, slides of Port Townsend, Washington; Jack Fleetwood, on Duncan and the boom year of 1912, and the early days of education in the Cowichan Valley; Mrs. Shirley Green, slides of totem poles near Kitimat; and Mrs. Barbara Stannard on first aid to small museums. We also had one meeting of show and tell, and at our December meeting we had entertainment by the Chemainus Hillbillies.

Our executive council meetings were held in the museum and were mostly concerned with the purchase and storage of the mahogany shelving from the Rexall Drug Store, and the development of the C.P.R. train station.

We have had interviews on CKAY Radio and CHEK-TV—Channel 6.

Our display case in the library has been well used and well received. Displays have been a bell collection by Roma Croy, antique toy cars by Shane Davis, Egyptian display and presently we have a display of items from an old country store by Art Dawe.

For the third year we were able to hire a student, Michael Sandercock who was extremely efficient in the museum, cataloguing, arranging displays and performing many other valuable duties.

The archival section of the museum is developing with the acquisition of the old copies of the Cowichan Leader; the tax rolls of the Municipality of North Cowichan; the diaries of Elias Castley, the first telephone linesman in the district; and the autobiography of May Robinson Castley, the first telephone operator.

—Myrtle Haslam

Vancouver

An active program for its members and friends was held during the 1982-83 season, its 47th year. In addition to our monthly speaker at our Annual Incorporation Day Celebration on April 6, 1983, we were addressed by Chuck Davis on his forthcoming book on the history of Vancouver.

A seminar on Oral History was given by Mr. Alan Specht of the Provincial Archives, which has now led to the establishment of a permanent operation on the part of the Vancouver Historical Society.

Two tours were laid on: one to the Grocery Hall of Fame in Vancouver, which is a gathering of items from times past that used to be the stock of your neighbourhood grocery store; and the other was a visit to the Western Canada Gold Rush Museum in Cloverdale, operated by VHS member, N.E. Barlee. This is a celebration of the pioneer days and people of British Columbia. The VHS's Certificate of Merit was awarded to the Grocery Hall of

Fame for its unique and nostalgic presentation.

The Society's current major undertaking, a bibliography of Vancouver—to be published as its contribution to marking Vancouver's centenary in 1986—is proceeding very well both in terms of operation and staff. Financial support from both the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and from the B.C. Heritage Trust is in place.

At its Annual General Meeting held on May 26, 1983, membership was reported to be 189 and finances were in a satisfactory condition, but major problems in both areas were foreseen to be imminent and steps to meet the problems were urged. The *Vancouver Record*, the proposed annual publication, has not yet appeared due to ever-escalating publishing costs. Three members of the Executive retired and three new members were elected to the Executive.

—Leonard G. McCann

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News from the British Columbia

Heritage Trust

Grants

Some grants of note recently awarded by the Trust include:

A \$15,000 grant was awarded to the Underwater Archaeological Society of B.C. toward their inventory of historic shipwrecks in Clayoquot Sound and Nootka Sound. The UASBC will research, locate and document the current status of each wreck. Their findings will be compiled into a final report as well as recorded on film.

- The Trust has awarded a grant of \$42,500 to the Greater Vancouver Regional District for restoration of the former Bowen Island General Store. The store was built by the Union Steamship Company in 1924 and continued to operate until 1975. The building will be restored for use as visitor centre for the newly established Crippen Regional Park.
- The District 69 Historical Society received a grant of \$4,000 toward restoration of the McMillan log house, built in 1885-86 and believed to be the only hand-hewn log building in the area.
- The District of Chilliwack was awarded a grant of \$31,750 to assist with restoration of their former City Hall. The structure was designed by Thomas Hooper and served as municipal offices until 1980. Upon completion of restoration, the building will be used by the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society.



British Columbia Heritage Trust

Bowen Island General Store

New Publications

The sixth publication in the Trust's Technical Paper series is *Local History in British Columbia: A guide to Researching, Writing and Publishing for the Non-Professional* by Maureen Cassidy. The paper guides the inexperienced author through the monumental task of writing a local history. The paper provides the criteria the Trust uses to judge all local histories submitted for a possible grant from their Publications Assistance Program.

Copies of the Technical Paper are available from the Trust at the cost of \$5 per copy of \$3.50 each for ten or more copies. The Trust's address is: B.C. Heritage Trust, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V1X4.

The Trust's *1982-83 Annual Report*, which describes the Trust's programs and lists all grants awarded in the previous fiscal year, is now in print. It is available upon request, free of charge, from the Trust.

Roberta J. Pazdro

Bookshelf



Mattison's Miscellany — Brief Notes on Some Recent Books

The Best of Canada West. N.L. Barlee, ed. Volume 2. Langley: Stagecoach Publishing, 1980. 184 pp., illus. \$3.95 pa. (Stagecoach Publishing, P.O. Box 3399, Langley, B.C. V3A 4R7)

Second anthology from N.L. Barlee's *Canada West* magazine. Lively, entertaining stories all set in B.C. Compares with the *Pioneer Days in British Columbia* series (see below) for colour and conversationality. Unencumbered by footnotes, bibliographic references or index, all the articles should be used with caution. Great value as motivational reading for budding historians as many may go on to research further some of the fascinating but lightweight treatments offered in this collection.

Pioneer Days in British Columbia. Art Downs, ed. Volume 4. Surrey: Heritage House, 1979. 160 pp., illus. about \$7.95 pa. (Heritage House Publishing Company, 5543-129 St., Surrey, B.C. V3W4H4)

Layout improvements have shaped this reprint series into one of the finest of its type in Canada. Largely selected from past issues of *B.C. Outdoors*, this volume also includes articles from reports of the Okanagan Historical Society and the Boundary Historical Society, as well as an article from *The Fisherman*, and an excerpt from Hilary Stewart's *Indian Fishing: Early Methods on the Northwest Coast* (J.J. Douglas, 1977). The map indicates the general area of each article; the index, photo credits and the notes on contributors all make this and previous volumes good reference tools, though, again, the lack of bibliographic notes is a shortcoming for scholarly purposes.

Patricia Roy is the Book Review Editor. Copies of books for review should be sent to her at 602-139 Clarence St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 2J1.

The Nine Lives of a Cowboy. H. "Dude" Lavington. Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1982. 216 pp., illus., \$8.95 pa.

Born in Alberta in 1907, Dude Lavington's densely packed memoirs are full of humour, aphorisms, cowboy English (note the glossary of terms), and just plain good information on the life of a rancher near Quesnel. Contains all the quirks and prejudices one expects from the older generation. No index.

Barkerville Days. Fred Ludditt. Revised ed. Langley: Mr. Paperback, 1980. 158 pp., illus., \$3.95 pa.

Originally published by Mitchell Press in 1969, this history of Barkerville by long-time resident Ludditt is unimpeded by footnotes, a bibliography, or an index. Covers not only Barkerville but satellite communities such as Camerontown and Richfield. Deals largely with the 1860s-70s and 1930s-50s period. Lacks continuity. Ludditt credits himself and another early resident, Miss Lottie Bowron, daughter of Barkerville pioneer John Bowron, with initiating the restoration of Barkerville by the provincial government.

The Long Beaches: A Voyage in Search of the North Pacific Fur Seal. Ian MacAskie. Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1979. 136 pp., illus., \$6.95 pa.

Reminiscences of fur seal research. If ever there were a misleading title, this is a prime example. The cover likewise lends credence to the old saying you can't judge a book by its colour photograph. Candid and graphic, MacAskie's memoir reveals little of his research work—he was primarily a collector of corpses. Sketches impressions of coastal life in the late 1950s through the 1960s. Dates are almost non-existent. Author's value judgments—"If mankind continues to spread himself across the earth like mould upon an orange" is a typical sample—spoil the effect. A few pages of photos break a nicely written but otherwise unexceptional book.

New Beginnings: A Social History of Canada. James H. Marsh and Daniel Francis. Volume 2. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1982. 270 pp., illus., \$8.95 pa.

High school social studies text in the "new" style of history. Concentrates on social movements and general trends. Well supplied with photos, maps, glossaries of terms, bibliographies, and an index. Chapter 3 on the development of Vancouver and the coming of the CPR is particularly revealing as shoddy writing: "The year before the railroad came, there were only 900 people living in Vancouver. Forty years later the city was the fourth largest in Canada." Nowhere up to this point has the date of the railroad's arrival been given!

The text covers the period from 1850 to 1919, though the sections on British Columbia begin with native contact with European explorers. There are some anomalies such as the Klondike Gold Rush preceding the Cariboo Gold Rush in the British Columbia section.

East Kootenay Chronicle. David Scott and Edna Hanic. Langley: Mr. Paperback, 1979. 171 pp., illus., \$3.95 pa.

First published as *East Kootenay Saga* by Antonson Publishing in 1974, this general history focuses on some of the more outstanding episodes of this region's history: the 1860s gold rush days of Wild Horse Creek, David Thompson's exploration of the area in 1812, Father De Smet's duplication of Thompson's feat in 1845, the Kootenay Indian uprising of 1887 and the founding of Fort Steele, and William Adolph Baillie-Grohman's land reclamation scheme. Maps and a bibliography make this work appealing, but no notes are used and much of the "history" is fictitious with character's thoughts and dialogue being thrown in as if they were on record somewhere! No index.

David Mattison is an archivist with the Sound and Moving Image Division, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Victoria, and a regular contributor to the B.C. Historical News.



New Titles



The Faces of Captain Cook—A Record of the Coins and Medals of James Cook. Allan Klenman. Victoria: Cook Publications, 1982. Illus., \$30 pa. (Cook Publications, 944 Woodside Place, Victoria, B.C. V8Y 2P3.)

The British Columbia Heritage Trust assisted with publication of these new titles:

Indian Art Traditions of the Northwest Coast. Roy L. Carlson, Burnaby: Archaeology Press, Simon Fraser University, 1983. 214 p., ill.

A Bit of Okanagan History. Dorothy H. Gellatly, Kelowna: Ehmann Printing, 1983.

Historic Routes '82: A Seminar Summary. Gordon Price, Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., 1983. 28 p.

As Far As I Know: Reminiscences of an Ahousat Elder. Peter S. Webster. Campbell River Museum and Archives, 1983.

Contest

We received several correct answers to our contest, necessitating a draw. Our winner is Margaret R. Grant, Chetwynd, B.C., who will receive *To Market, To Market: The Public Market Tradition in Canada* by Linda Biesenthal (Toronto: PMA, 1980), for correctly identifying the New Westminster public market.

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WRITING CONTEST



See page 7