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Robert Genn

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N.B. DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: The 10th day of month of issue.

Executive 1973-74

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The cover series for Volume 7, drawn by Robert Genn, is focused on the newest affiliates of our Association. This issue salutes Creston.

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The Society has obtained an automatic collating machine. If your copy of the News has any blank pages please return it to the Editor, who will supply you with a good copy.

CONVENTION '74 or, JOSEPH'S PRAIRIE REVISITED

When joining the B.C. Historical, how many can realise
 The far-flung territory encompassed, in this popular enterprise?
 The Convention this year was at Cranbrook, the Society farthest East
 And the preparations made were fitting, to suit either man or beast.
 The call was made to the faithful to pack in an extra day,
 So the Thursday before the "proceedings" would take us Montana way.
 This extra day of Convention was not going to be taken by all,
 For some of us had to stay at work, so this was the rich man's call
 Your worthy scribe did not attend, he has a wife out working
 And two days off in any week is nothing short of shirking.
 When we arrived on Thursday eve, for the wine and cheese affair,
 We were blatantly told what we had missed, "You really should've been there".
 When we heard about the breakfast, the hospitality "done to a turn"
 And the friendly folk of Grasmere, I was slowly starting to burn.
 It was all in fun I realised, as they continued to rant and rave
 As they told of friends at Roosville, and a visit to Phillipps grave;
 And the feed they had at Libby, and the beautiful journey back.
 In fact it had been a terrific day, it was time to "hit the sack."
 The Council meeting was set for nine at the Towne and Country Motel;
 A few were staying down by "the tracks" and the noise at night was hell.
 But bravely we rose and wandered up, as the "flock" began to gather;
 We got down to facts about this and that for an hour of enjoyable blather.
 The Hall behind us was filling up for the Annual General Meeting
 And promptly at ten the Kootenay Pres. announced a civic greeting.
 Alderman Beresford said some kind words, then Gerry took over the chair,
 He thought it was time for business, since we were all assembled there.
 The Secretary immediately leapt to his feet, and gave his Annual Report;
 The Treasurer, the Editor followed in line, without any sharp retorts
 And so the meeting rolled right along, till we were told of a pleasant surprise
 The Council wished to confer an honour, "Would Donald New please rise;
 "Henceforth Donald New, you will always be for us an honoured life member"
 And nobody cared what happened next; we had something good to remember.
 The meeting was over just after twelve, and we were told to climb aboard
 The buses waiting at the door, which would convey this seething horde
 To Historic Fort Steele for a quick box-lunch and a leisurely afternoon.
 We could look at the Fort or go up the Creek - it would be over far too soon;
 Struan Robertson made us welcome, the "haggis" just dripping from his speech;
 And then it was the Colonel's turn, to step once more to the breach.
 We all dispersed in our various ways, and the scribe was for Kicking Horse Cree
 Yet we were all back in time at Cranbrook to hear Windermere's Winifred speak.
 She had a story to tell about Father De Smet, and was well underway by eight;
 Marjean Noble was next on "the bill", about David Thompson to relate,
 And with coloured slides she took us there, including her husband and dog.
 We had time for coffee and a snack, and went back to sleep like a log,
 Because after the talks we had to fit in a forgotten New Council Meeting
 And were barely awake when we suddenly heard our New President's greeting.
 Next day we were off to Kimberley, for the town was "ours" today;
 The meetings at last were all over, we had nothing to do but play;
 We went up to the ski-hill for coffee, and a chance to walk up and down
 And many of us needed the exercise, to help shake "the suet" down.
 We were taken down town and had a free hand to roam around at will
 It was quite a surprise for many of us, to see what had been done with skill
 The smart new fronts on all the stores are like a lady's fine new gown;
 The Mall, the fountains and little stream, have sure changed an ugly old town.

The Kimberley ladies provided lunch - a veritable gourmet's delight,
 Then back to the bus and off once more to see some more of the sights.
 We were finally taken to the fertilizer plant, and drove among the sheds
 But I found it a sad reflection that everything around was dead.
 And so we started back for town to get spruced up for the night;
 The cocktail hour in the Banquet Hall was a technicolour sight.
 For this would be our final chance to complete our socializing;
 To-morrow all would fade away and we'd all be moralizing.
 The banquet, the speaker and all our friends were what we'd been waiting for;
 Our speaker Dave Turner laid on the wit and made certain no one would snore;
 He chatted about his Heritage Park in a light and informative way
 And rounded out for all of us "The End of a Perfect Day."
 Now lest we forget, my "hysterical friends" our Convention in '75
 Will be held in Campbell River, and I hope you will all survive.

* * * * *

MINUTES

Minutes of the Fourth Council Meeting of the B.C. Historical Association, held at the Towne and Country Inn, Cranbrook, B.C. on May 24th, 1974 at 9.00 a.m. Present: G. Andrews (Pres.); F. Street (1st Vice-Pres.); J. Roff (2nd Vice-Pres.); Jill Rowland (Treas.); P. Yandle (Sec.) Anne Yandle (Co-Ed.); R. Brammall (Past Pres.); R. Watt (Rec. Sec.); Clare McAllister and H.B. Nash (Exec. members); Helen Ford (Aberni); Cliff Hunter (Burnaby); Rex Tweed (Campbell River); Al Hunter, H. Mayberry, Mabel Jordon (East Kootenay); A.K. McLeod (West Kootenay); G. German, K. Leeming, A. Slocomb (Victoria).

President G.S. Andrews called the meeting to order at 9.00 a.m. and the minutes of the February Council meeting were adopted as circulated. Mr Brammall outlined changes in the Association's Constitution, which the Constitution Committee was recommending for the consideration of the Annual General Meeting and noted that the mail situation had prevented the Committee from meeting the statutory notice of by-law changes required by the Constitution. Moved, Mrs McAllister, Seconded Mr Tweed, that the changes outlined be recommended to the Annual General Meeting and the customary notice of changes be waived. - Carried.

The President then introduced the subject of the venue for the 1975 Convention and the Secretary read a letter from the Campbell River Society offering to be host. Mr Leeming made a verbal offer to be host on behalf of the Victoria Society. Discussion followed, which included a report from Mr Tweed, Campbell River, outlining their plans. Moved, Mr Street, seconded Mr Watt, that we accept the Campbell River Society's offer for 1975 and Victoria's for 1976. - Carried.

There was further discussion including a suggestion from Miss Rowland that a standing committee for Nootka '78 be formed next year. Moved Miss Rowland, seconded Mrs Yandle, that the incoming council consider such a committee. - Carried.

The President then introduced the subject of the report of the Grants Committee, and Mr German reviewed the extent of the Committee's correspondence in search of information about the help that other historical associations

were receiving. Col. Andrews reported on correspondence he had had with the Awards Advisory Committee of the B.C. Cultural Fund, ending with a letter from the Provincial Secretary offering the Association \$600, and his concern with the way in which this offer had been made to the Association. Nevertheless, he recommended acceptance of the grant. Moved Mrs Ford, Seconded Mr Nash, that the grant be accepted. - Carried.

The Secretary reported that the Gordon Bowes Memorial book was at last an accomplished fact, and circulated a copy of the Champness volume for the Council to see. He wished Council to set a price to our members, taking into consideration Customs Duty, Brokerage, Freight charges, padded envelopes and postage. It was the desire of Council that we cover our expenses and pay Ye Galleon Press his discount list price of \$7.20 per copy and that there would be a no-profit motive entertained. Moved Leeming, Seconded Mrs McAllister that the price for Champness be set at \$10.-Carried.

Moved Watt, Seconded Street that the Secretary write to Mr Adams expressing Council's appreciation of his efforts. - Carried.

Moved Yandle, Seconded Ford that the Champness volume be sold at the set price to our individual members and that institutions would purchase through Mr Adams or his agents. - Carried.

The President placed before Council the expressed desire by several members that Donald New, a member of the Gulf Islands Branch and a Past President of the Association be honoured for his loyal and devoted service to the Association. Moved Yandle, Seconded Miss Rowland that Council recommend to the Annual General Meeting that Donald New be granted a Life Membership in the Association. - Carried unanimously.

A letter of application was read from the Chemainus Valley Historical Society requesting affiliation. Moved Yandle, Seconded Watt that the Chemainus application be accepted. - Carried.

Moved Tweed, Seconded Brammall that the Vancouver Orpheum Theatre lottery be referred to the new council. - Carried.

Mr Brammall raised the question of future affiliates, and in particular expressed concern on the size of some societies seeking to affiliate. The President repeated his belief that we should have a descriptive brochure to send prospective members. The matter was referred to the New Council.

For information, Mr Brammall stated that the Association has status as a charitable organization in accord with the Federal Tax laws.

The president finally announced that a 30 oz troy weight, formerly belonging to the Gold Commissioner's Office at Fort Steele, would be formally returned to the Park Superintendent, Mr Robertson, at an afternoon ceremony.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.55 a.m.

R.D. Watt, Recording Secretary

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Historical Association, held in the ballroom of the Towne and Country Inn, Cranbrook, B.C. on 24th May, 1974.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m. by Mr Hank Mayberry, President of the East Kootenay and District Historical Association, who introduced Alderman Arthur Beresford of the Cranbrook City Council. Alderman Beresford welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Council, and spoke briefly on his view of history and its place in the community. Mr Mayberry turned the meeting over to Col. Andrews, the President, who added a few words of welcome.

The Secretary read the Minutes of the 1973 Annual General Meeting. Moved Yandle, Seconded Roff, that the minutes be accepted as read - Carried.

The Secretary presented his annual report and reviewed the growth of the Association over the previous year in numbers and stature. The Treasurer presented her report, which is annexed to the records. Moved German, Seconded Brammall, that the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer be adopted. - Carried. The Editor presented his report, remarking that he and the Co-Editor took particular pride in the fact that the forthcoming issue would mark seven years of accomplishment. Moved Mrs Jordon, Seconded Street that the Editor's report be adopted as read. - Carried.

Anne Yandle then read a lengthy and comprehensive report from Mrs Anne Stevenson, Association representative on the Historic Sites Advisory Board. Her report included mention of the terms of reference discussions, The Forestry Museum, Emily Carr House, Barkerville, a research assistant, a fur trade park, Alexandra House and Bridge, and St. Ann's Academy. The President remarked on the very comprehensive nature of the report and asked the Secretary to send Mrs Stevenson a note of thanks.

Moved Slocomb, Seconded Brammall that the usual provisions for 6-weeks notice of by-law changes be waived, in view of the postal strike and the lengthy disruption in service that followed - Carried. Mr Leeming presented the Constitution Committee's recommended changes, and moved that these amendments be inserted in the new draft of the Constitution. Seconded Miss Rowland - Carried.

The President read a letter from the Secretary of the Chemainus Valley Historical Society applying for affiliation and said that Council recommended acceptance. Moved Yandle, Seconded Miss Schofield that the Chemainus Valley Historical Society's application be accepted. - Carried unanimously.

The President asked the Secretary to write to Dr Ormsby and Dr Prang of the University of B.C. in view of the imminent change in the incumbent of the office of Hon. President.

The President announced the unanimous recommendation of the Council to elect Mr Donald New a Life Member and commented that he believed that no living member of the Association had contributed more to the aims and work of the Association. The President observed that the loud applause which greeted his announcement certainly meant that the General Meeting concurred in the decision of Council, and he offered Mr New his congratulations. Mr New accepted, protesting that he hoped he was worthy of the honour and pointing out that he felt it must be partly directed at the many who had offered their help in previous years.

The President announced that Council recommended acceptance of the offer from Campbell River to hold the 1975 Convention there. The meeting unanimously accepted this recommendation.

The President introduced Mrs Weir of the Windermere Historical Society who reported on the desire of her Society and of many citizens of the region to have the Government change the name of Lake McNaughton back to the original name, Kinbasket. Moved Mrs Weir, Seconded Mayberry, that we approach the Provincial Government to ask that the lake now re-named McNaughton Lake be changed back to the historic and honoured name of Kinbasket Lake. -- Carried. Considerable discussion followed, which included comments on the importance of recognizing the contribution of the native peoples in the history of the province and the correct agencies to whom representations should be made.

Branch reports were received from

Burnaby - Mr Street	Port Alberni - Mrs Ford
Campbell River - Mr Tweed	Vancouver - Mr Watt
East Kootenay - Mr Mayberry	Gulf Islands - Mrs McAllister
West Kootenay - Mr Macleod	Windermere - Mrs Weir
Nanaimo - Mr Yandle	Victoria - Mr Slocomb

The President announced that orders would be taken for the Champness book at \$10.00 per copy including postage. Mrs Stephanie Manson thanked the Association and particularly the Brammalls and the Yandles for their efforts in overseeing the preparation of the memorial to her late husband.

Mrs Dunning invited members to take part in the Maple Ridge centennial celebrations.

Mr Tweed moved adjournment at 12.05 p.m., Seconded Yandle.

R.D. Watt, Recording Secretary

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Minutes of the First Council Meeting of the 1974-75 season, held at Cranbrook, May 24th, 1974. Present: Helen Ford (Alberni); Frank Street (Burnaby); Rex Tweed (Campbell River); Mabel Jordon, Henry Mayberry (East Kootenay); Clare McAllister, Donald New (Gulf Islands); A.K. McLeod (West Kootenay); Jack Roff, Robin Brammall, Jill Rowland, Anne Yandle, Phil Yandle (Vancouver); A. Slocomb, Ken Leeming, Mrs Turnbull, H.B. Nash, Gordon German, G.S. Andrews (Victoria); Terry Eastwood (Prov. Archives).

Meeting was called to order at 10.00 p.m. by retiring President Gerry Andrews. It was the first order of business to elect the officers for the ensuing year.

President: Frank Street	Past President: G.S. Andrews
1st Vice-Pres.: J. Roff	2nd Vice-Pres.: A. Slocomb
Secretary: P.A. Yandle	Treasurer: Jill Rowland
Editor: P.A. Yandle	Co.-Ed: Anne Yandle
Exec. Members: Donald New and Rex Tweed	
Recording Sec.: R. Watt	Hist.Sites Advisory Bd. Anne Stevenson

Frank Street took the chair and a hearty vote of thanks was given the retiring President and other members of the Executive who would not be joining the New Council.

Matters referred to the incoming Council were the first items to be dealt with. R. Brammall said we should have a policy regarding affiliates wishing to join the Association, who in fact were interested people meeting as a group, yet in principle were not true Historical Societies. The Secretary suggested that we should consider only those registered under the Societies'

Act and they would therefore have a Constitution and By-laws which could be checked. Moved Mrs McAllister, Seconded Yandle that Robin Brammall be a committee of one to deal with this matter - Carried. Robin Brammall accepted but felt that he should have the assistance of P. Yandle and Ken Leeming. This was agreed upon.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the "Save the Orpheum Lottery". It was finally clarified that the B.C. Historical Association was not as a Council, in any position to sell the tickets for this lottery but that we should recommend the idea to all affiliates. Moved Tweed, Seconded D. New that the Council go on record as approving the lottery, and recommend to all affiliated societies that they consider taking tickets to assist the aim of the lottery. - Carried.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr Philip Akrigg, Dept. of English, U.B.C. offering to give an illustrated lecture on "Hudson's Bay Company days in Early B.C." to any society in the Lower Mainland, Victoria or Nanaimo. He would be available from January to April 1975 and would have to be booked by the end of November 1974.

Considerable discussion took place regarding promotional material that should be readily available for any member to pass on to interested societies. Moved Anne Yandle, seconded J. Roff that the Association produce a brochure of the aims and objects and advantages of affiliating with us. Such a brochure would be free of names and dates so that it would not become obsolete. Carried. Anne Yandle and Jill Rowland would take care of it and report back to the November Council meeting.

Moved Leeming, seconded Slocomb that the present per capita levy remain in effect for 1974-75. Carried. Moved MacLeod, Seconded Jordon, that the Treasurer, together with either the President or the Secretary be the signing officers for 1974-75. - Carried.

The Association had agreed to purchase 500 copies of the Gordon Bowes Memorial book, and inasmuch as this will soon become a collectors' item, a time limit should be set, during which only one copy per member would be available. Moved Tweed, seconded MacLeod, that each Society member be allowed one copy of "To Cariboo and Back in 1862" by W. Champness, up to October 31st, 1974, at which date sales will be open and no limit to quantity purchases. - Carried.

The Secretary now has 130 copies in his possession, which he had to pick up and have released from Customs at Douglas, B.C. All future shipments should be taken through a broker at Vancouver and brought in as required. Storage was also a problem and he did not wish to be held responsible in case of theft, fire, water damage or any other hazard should this happen while they were on his property. He also asked that Glen Adams be paid as soon as possible for the books sent. Moved Leeming, Seconded Brammall, that Glen Adams be paid, that we get a broker for future shipments, and the Secretary be absolved from any responsibility in connection with the books. - Carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion at 11.15 p.m.

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N.B. More information on Champness - To Cariboo and Back on back cover.

SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

ALBERNI At the April meeting Alice Roff Johannson and Joan and Jack Roff were the guest speakers. They combined to give readings from lectures prepared by their paternal grandfather, Wm Roff, for delivery in England, following his return from an extended visit to Canada, especially the Alberni District and Vancouver Island. Wm Roff had a keen eye and good judgement and the lectures were a delight. The Society was given a copy of the lectures and the Museum was presented with an oil painting done in 1891 by Miss Spencer, a relative of the Roff family, and which depicted a scene on the farm of Hector McKenzie at the junction of the Stamp and Sproat Rivers.

During the year the Society was given three diaries written by Alberni Valley pioneers. The Society hopes to edit and publish these. They have also been given two minute books and a cash book of the Alberni Farmers' Institute.

Other projects are progressing favourably: members are taping conversations with old timers of the Alberni Valley; the Society is still endeavouring to have plaques erected to mark the Horne Lake Trail and the farm of Daniel Clarke, the first independent land owner; over 1140 copies of "Tse-Wees-Tah" have been sold, and 650 of Meg Trebett's "Pioneer Women of the Alberni Valley"; commencing in 1965 when the Society was organized, questionnaires were prepared to provide information on residents of the District. These continue to come in and the files often cover 2nd and 3rd generations. On Mondays a small group meets at the Museum workshop to file documents, news clippings etc. and to identify photographs.

GULF ISLANDS The annual meeting was held on Pender Island in April. Donald New declined to stand again as President and in his place Mrs J.M. Campbell of Saturna Island was elected. Other officers are: Sec. Mrs Hope Jenness, Treas. Jesse Brown, Councillors - Galiano Mrs Nan New, Mayne Mrs Jesse Brown, N. Pender Island Mrs Helen Claxton, S. Pender Island Mrs Gertrude Bennett, Saturna Mr John Saunders.

Preparations are being made for a second volume of Gulf Islands Patchwork, to carry it forward from 1920.

NANAIMO At their April meeting Judge Wardill spoke to the Society about his family's history. Constantly connected with the sea, the Wardills came to Canada from Northern England and settled in Nanaimo in the 1880's where their home soon became a musical centre for family and visitors. The Wardills' boats plied up and down the coast carrying cargo and passengers. Judge Wardill's father and uncles ran the bicycle and sports goods shop on Victoria Crescent and many remembered the free bicycle repairs that were given during depression days. The family also had connections on Valdes Island and farmed next to one of Brother Twelve's settlements.

The speaker at the May meeting was Miss Katherine Capes, an anthropologist engaged in local investigations under the sponsorship of the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board. She spoke on the prehistory of the B.C. coast.

1974 is Nanaimo's centennial year and events are leading to the culmination of celebrations in December. The Society is urging the preservation and marking of historic places in the City. Special efforts have been made to preserve Haslam House, a fine example of early Nanaimo architecture. A student committee from Malaspina College has been making duplicate copies of many of Mr Barraclough's tapes. Hopes are fading for having these tapes transcribed, due to the high cost. Members of the Society have participated as lecturers in an evening class session organized jointly by the Society and the Continuing Education Dept. of the Nanaimo School Board, to commemorate Nanaimo's 100 years.

VICTORIA New officers for 1974-75 are Pres.: K.L. Leeming, First Vice-Pres.: Mrs S. Manson, Second Vice-Pres.: Mrs D. Laundy, Recording Sec.: Geo. A. Turner, Corresponding Sec.: Mrs E.F. Stewart, Treas.: L.G. Toms, and Asst. Treas.: L.W. Turnbull.

WINDERMERE During the past year the Society has been active in trying to secure protection for several wilderness areas which are of historic significance. Of particular importance is the Argenta-Windermere (Earl Grey Pass) Trail which crosses the Purcell Mountains between Invermere and Argenta. Though a large portion of the trail has been included in the recent Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, the fine cabin built in 1909 by the then Governor-General of Canada, Earl Grey, has not. It is still hoped that protection can be secured for this cabin. The great-divide passes. Whiteman, Palliser, Kananaskis etc., have also been suggested as an area that should be reserved because of historical interest.

Other activities included an attempt to secure the last remaining blockhouse from the David Thompson Memorial Fort and the interior finishing of the Indian Room at the local museum.

New officers for 1974-75 are Pres.: Mrs T.N. Weir, Vice-Pres.: Mr Arnor Larson, Treas: Mrs W.G. Lockhart, Sec.: Mrs E. Stevens.

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JOTTINGS

From Stuart R. Tomkins, Victoria, a most interesting letter:
 ". . . I wrote a couple of years ago that British Columbians should know more of the history of what is now B.C. before the building of Fort Victoria and the coming of Sir James Douglas. It is not the fault, of course, of Dr Ormsby who has covered it well in her book. But it is surprising how few people know that the Spanish at one time occupied Vancouver Island.

May I suggest a couple of corrections in the comments on The Mighty Company. (See April 1974 issue of News, p.10 - Ed.) The first is hardly a correction but merely a comment or amplification. Though Astoria was sold by the occupants to the representatives of the Northwest Co., that is not the end of it. The British man of war sent around to capture it arrived to find the Northwest Co. in possession of it. However, he insisted that the sale should be superceded by a ceremony being gone through to represent its seizure by the Navy. This proved a serious mistake. It thus became a prize of war, and by the Treaty of 1814, it had to be returned to the United States, though Astor does not seem to have resumed possession of it. This proved later to have been a grave mistake since it gave the United States rights to the northwest coast. This mistake was compounded by making a still greater mistake that a further treaty was signed in 1818 giving the Americans the same rights as the British to all the country west of the Rocky Mountains. This enabled the Americans, when the limits of Russian possession on the Northwest Coast had been established, to insist on their right to have equal rights with the British. Thus the American representative Middleton, forestalled the British by giving the Russians everything down to Lat. 54°40' north. Stratford Canning who negotiated the final treaty had no option but to follow suit. Of course the author is not bound to expand on this.

Re the amalgamation of the two British companies in 1821, whatever Simpson may have signed, he refused at first to employ Black or Ogden, both of whom had harried the H.B. Co. factors unmercifully during the years

of rivalry and only accepted them grudgingly after some years had passed. I think my authority for this is, I believe, R.M. Patterson, in his introduction to Black's account of his exploration of the Finlay River, which he edited for the Hudson's Bay Record Society.

Sincerely, Stuart R. Tomkins. "

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Items culled from the Vancouver Sun May 4th, Victoria. An announcement by Provincial Secretary Ernie Hall that the Provincial Government has acquired the oldest school in Western Canada and will assume responsibility for its maintenance and preservation as an historic site. Craigflower School-house was opened for classes on March 5th, 1855.

April 25th, Prince George B.C. Hydro will sponsor a \$20,000 archaeological survey of the Peace River Canyon this summer, above the planned site of a dam. The consulting firm pointed to four "sites of interest" in the reservoir area - a possible burial site, two circular features each about 12 feet in diameter, and an area containing possible artifacts.

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From Washington State Historical Society comes the news of an invitation to take part in a fascinating tour to the South Seas, October 15th - 29th, 1974. "On the Track of Captain Cook". Anyone wishing a trip of a life-time for about \$1000 should write immediately to the Society for information. (315 N.Stadium Way, Tacoma 98403)

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A new association of archivists has been formed and will be known as the Association of British Columbia Archivists. Terry Eastwood, a staff member of the Provincial Archives, is their Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor of their Newsletter. The News wishes them every success.

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An era has come to an end. Dr Margaret Ormsby will be retiring as Head of the History Department at U.B.C. this month. She joined the Department in 1943 and was appointed Head in 1965. She has been considered somebody very special by the Association and has been our Honorary President for many years. We wish her well in her future endeavours and hope to keep in touch.

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CONGRATULATIONS: To Allan R. Turner who has been appointed Provincial Archivist to succeed Willard Ireland who recently retired. Mr Turner was born in Ontario, grew up in Saskatchewan and served in the Army during World War II. He has a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Canadian history. He joined the Saskatchewan Archives in 1953 and since 1962 has been Provincial Archivist there. He will assume his duties on July 15th. Welcome to B.C.

To Dr Margaret Prang, who has been appointed Head of the Department of History at U.B.C. to succeed Dr Margaret Ormsby who will be retiring this month.

To Jim Mitchell, our new Provincial Librarian. Mr Mitchell has been Assistant Librarian for many years before being appointed to his position on the retirement of Mr Ireland.

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B.C. BOOKS OF INTEREST, by Frances Woodward

- BEMISTER, Margaret. Thirty Indian legends of Canada. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1973. 153 pp. illus. \$3.50.
- BOWES, Gordon E. ed. Peace River chronicles. Vancouver, Prescott Pub. Co., 1974. 557 pp. illus. \$17.50. Reprint.
- CANADA. Health and Welfare Canada. Pacific Region, medical services. Indian food; a cookbook of native foods from British Columbia; Victoria, B.C. 1973. 63 pp. illus. \$5.50.
- CHAMBERS, Edith D. History of Port Coquitlam. Burnaby, B.A. Thompson, 1973. unpagged, illus. \$3.95.
- CHAMPNESS, W. To Cariboo and back in 1862. Fairfield, Wash., Ye Galleon Press, 1972 (1974). 106 pp. illus. \$12.00. (\$10 to individual members of B.C.H.A. ordering directly from the Editor)
- COOK, Fred D. comp. The Canadian Military Engineer (1973); a brief history of the Canadian Military Engineers 1610 to 1973. C.F.B. Chilliwack, Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, 1973. iv, 27 pp.
- DENNY, Winifred. The story of a house; Ceperley mansion to Burnaby Art Gallery. Burnaby, Burnaby Art Gallery, (1974) unpagged, illus. \$2.00.
- FOX, Christine R. Index to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of B.C. Victoria, Queen's Printer, 1974. 895 pp. \$15.00.
- HITCHCOCK, Sharon. Illustrated legends of the Northwest Coast Indians. Vancouver, Indian Education Resources Centre, University of B.C. 1974. 16 pp. illus. \$1.25.
- JEWITT, John R. The adventures and sufferings of John R. Jewitt, captive among the Nootka, 1803-1805. (from the Edinburgh 1824 edition); edited.. by Derek G. Smith. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart (1974) 150 pp. \$3.95. (The Carleton Library)
- KNOX, Paul and Philip Resnick, eds. Essays in B.C. political economy. Vancouver, New Star Books, 1974. 81 pp.
- LARGE, Richard G. Prince Rupert, a gateway to Alaska and the Pacific. 2nd ed., rev. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1973. 230 pp. illus. \$10.00.
- McCLURE, Willa. The forgotten years; memories of Marysville. (Marysville, B.C. 1973) 140 pp. illus. \$3.50.
- McCONKEY, Lois. Sea and cedar; how the Northwest coast Indians lived. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1973. 30 pp. illus. \$4.95.
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- Kalman, Harold. Exploring Vancouver; ten tours of the city and its buildings. Photos by John Roaf. Vancouver, University of B.C. Press, 1974. 264 pp. illus. \$5.95. (Official guide book of the Greater Vancouver Chapter of the Architectural Institute of B.C.)

BOOK REVIEWS

HISTORY OF PORT COQUITLAM, by Edith D. Chambers. Burnaby, Web Press, 1973. unpagged, illus. \$3.95.

Writing recently in the literary section of the Sunday Times of London, the historian, Hugh Trevor-Roper, spoke of Professor Braudel's historical philosophy and method: "total history, written in three different conceptions of time; the almost immobile level of geography, the slowly moving level of social and economic factors, the quick moving level of human choice, politics, events."

The local historian writes at the pleasing, immediate, third level of personalities and happenings, in one particular area and, in the case of British Columbia, in a very short span of time. The record may well be enlivened by eye-witness and living-memory.

Nevertheless, the excitement engendered by this third level should not blind the writer, however dedicated and knowledgeable a native son or daughter, to the importance of the other two. Geography is the essential foundation for all the rest. Without a map the reader cannot visualize; without some introductory account of the fundamental natural features, resources and climate he cannot grasp the implications of the early landscape. With such a map and such data, the reader may trace the influence of the supra-local socio-economic factors upon the local scene: the location of aboriginal peoples, their villages and centres of culture, the routes of explorers and traders, the gold rush influxes, the growth of towns, the engineering of trunk roads, the proximity of the American border, the economic effects of Confederation, the advent of river steamers and railways.

Over few of these second level factors has the local community had more than token influence, for they form part of the larger design. But at the third level, the resulting types of settlement, population, occupations, communications and services control the life style for every individual. It is the task of the local historian so to report the events at human scale they fit, in orderly and credible fashion, into the frame of reference.

Mrs Edith D. Chambers, in her History of Port Coquitlam, has omitted almost all of the first level. There is no map, and only glimpses of the geographic situation and resources appear in the descriptive passages of the text. At the second level, the reader is left largely to guess the background of events. At the third level, she has collected splendid material, has obviously engaged in much painstaking research, amassed a vast number of old photographs and obtained access to civic records.

She is writing about an intrinsically interesting area. The original Municipality of Coquitlam was incorporated in 1891. It comprised what later became the City of Port Coquitlam, the District of Coquitlam and the Municipality of Fraser Mills. In their excellent short History of Coquitlam and Fraser Mills, Messrs Monk and Stewart¹ have already covered the early days of the last two. Though all three areas share the north bank of the great Fraser River, the unpredictable spring freshet, the delta terrain, the mountain backdrop, each area is different in ethnic pattern, economic development and the use of the long lines of roads and railways traversing them.

1. History of Coquitlam and Fraser Mills: H.A.J. Monk and J. Stewart, 76 pp. Now out of print.

The one supremely dramatic incident in their joint history was the secession on March 7th, 1913, of the City of Port Coquitlam from the Municipality, followed on March 25th by the company-town of Fraser Mills. Fraser Mills remained a separate entity until two years ago when it rejoined Coquitlam, but the City of Port Coquitlam still prefers distinctive independence.

Mrs Chambers' book is, in essence, a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the pioneers of this little town and of their descendants up to the present day. They have survived the natural disasters of flooding, the difficult, varying fortunes of logging and agriculture, always hoping that the grand promises made to them by the Canadian Pacific Railway would turn the tide of fortune. The local newspapers in 1913 were filled with prophecies of huge marshalling yards and machine shops to be built within the city boundaries. The realtors forecast, and the City fathers believed, that a vast real estate boom and massive industrial development were inevitable. After nearly fifty years of constant disappointment, it is only recently that the growth of the megalopolis Vancouver has brought the development of a new dormitory town and some commercial prosperity to the city.

Unhappily, Mrs Chambers' book is extremely hard to read. Not only is it without maps, the pages of the book are unnumbered. There is no formal index or bibliography. The two-column format makes for ease in reading a short line but requires great care in lay-out. Her general arrangement is awkward and the chronology is not clear. There are insufficient sub-headings, and not sufficient white space in the division of subject-matter. Hard facts of funding probably dictate the quality of paper and reproduction of pictures - many are almost indecipherable - but all such pictures need clear captions, acknowledgement and dating. The use of appendix sections at the end would remove from the text an over-abundance of materials such as lists of mayors, May queens, early voters, the brief biographies and reminiscences of prominent citizens. Quoted passages are not fully referred to source. Repetitions, misspellings, grammatical and typographical errors should be cut out at the galley-proof stage. It would not, perhaps, be out of place, at this point, to suggest that inexperienced writers and publishers, with fine primary material ready for final arrangement in book form, would do well to seek the advice of an experienced professional. A tough editorial blue pencil, scissors and paste would have made this book a more valuable source for future scholars.

Garry M. Colchester.

Mrs Colchester is a member of the Vancouver Historical Society

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SHIPWRECKS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, by Alfred C. Rogers. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1973. 256 pp. illus. foldout map. \$10.95.

Several books have been published in recent years on B.C. shipwrecks, so it was a surprise for me when this one appeared in the bookstores a few months ago. My initial fear that it would be a mere rehash of the earlier works was quickly and pleasantly dispelled once I settled back to read.

It is fortunate to find combined in one person the knowledge, interest and perseverance possessed by Fred Rogers. He does not write as a romantically inclined outsider, but as a person who knows how the ships are built, knows how they behave at sea, knows (intuitively, I assume, as he doesn't mention his own involvement in an actual shipwreck) how they behave

in their final hours on reefs or beaches, being smashed or burned, while their crews do their best to get away with their lives. It is obvious that Mr Rogers spent many years and much effort in ferreting out the facts for his book, obvious because without this solid groundwork, coupled with a good honest writing style, he could never have individualized the story of each disaster so uncommonly well. This differentiation is not only good for the reader; it also does honour to the seamen who underwent the hardships he describes. This is an accomplishment worth commenting on.

Mr Rogers brings another dimension to his study of shipwrecks - his firsthand knowledge as a scuba diver. Some of the most exciting pages in the book tell of the many dives he has made around and inside old wrecks. Diving is a dangerous game, especially in the vicinity of wrecks. Strong currents, poor visibility, capricious weather, heavy surges in shallow waters, all these factors and many more, taken singly or in combination, threaten to smash the unwary diver against a jagged metal plate or crush him beneath a wobbly structure. He can get lost in pitch darkness inside a wreck, he can over-exert himself, or underestimate the amount of time it will take to return to the surface. It will come as a surprise to most readers to learn that sharks can sometimes pose a threat in our local waters, and killer whales too, regardless of what Skana would have us believe.

The organization of a book such as this should be dictated quite clearly by the nature of the material: chapters or parts by geographical area, episodes within chapters by date. The geographically defined parts are given us, but the chronological sequence within the parts is rarely observed. Part 1 is in perfect order, and parts 4 and 5 almost so, but parts 2, 3, 6 and 7 are quite unaccountably scrambled. Fortunately, this is a weakness which can easily be sorted out for a later edition. Each part concludes appropriately with a series of excellent photographs.

At the risk of sounding too demanding, I would like to interject here one suggestion for consideration by Mr Rogers and other writers of books about registered vessels. I realize the information is sometimes difficult to come by, but it would be very helpful to have the technical data about each vessel laid out in a standard format at the beginning of each article. There are reference works from which this data can be obtained without too much effort in most cases. Here is an example of what I mean:

The story about the Ocean Plunger on p.223 could be prefaced with:

Canadian registry No. 111547
 Built 1900 in Irving, B.C.
 Length: 57 ft. Width: 14 ft.
 Tonnage: 36 gross, 5 registered
 Formerly called the Lottie N

I realize the reference works can be inconsistent themselves over the years, but they do make possible an attempt at standardizing information.

Shipwrecks of British Columbia has a good index and an excellent set of foldout charts on which are pinpointed the locations and brief circumstances of over 1100 wrecks or sinkings. The index covers only the vessels referred to in the body of the text, giving the chart references also where they apply. For some reason the charts are called A, B, and C in the index, even though they are actually numbered 1, 2, and 3 - a minor inconsistency which presents the reader with no problems. A more serious omission from the index are the vessels listed with brief notes on pp. 241-244.

I would not be doing my duty as a librarian if I did not put in a plug for a bibliography. It is true that several works are mentioned in the foreword, but I would still like to see all the sources cited in conventional style at the end of the book. It makes further reading easier for the person whose appetite has been whetted by this most enjoyable book.

It was a pleasure reading Shipwrecks of British Columbia, a book which will certainly remain within handy reach on my reference shelf. My criticisms are offered with the sincere wish that they will prove useful to the author and publisher. I look forward to seeing this work reappearing in a new edition in the not too distant future.

Graham Elliston.

Mr Elliston is a member of the staff of the University of B.C. Library.

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'THE NEED FOR ACTION - NOW' - Paper Conservation by Jean Webster

Paper conservation can be broken down into three main divisions:

1. Works of art on paper
2. Rare books.
3. Archival collections.

The basic causes of deterioration and requirements for conservation are the same in each case; however, when it comes to the final restoration, rebinding or repair of an item the techniques involved are quite different. Since I am primarily involved with the conservation of archival material I shall confine myself to item No. 3 - Archival Collections.

What constitutes an archival collection?

"Archives are an actual part of the activities which gave them birth, material evidences surviving in the form of writing. "1

A manuscript or document of archival characteristics is a vehicle of evidence, of impartial evidence of events from the past and it is for this reason that it has been preserved.

No copy, no matter how good, can replace the historical, financial or aesthetic value of original material. Originals possess unique and desirable characteristics which are lost in copying, therefore it is vital to preserve the original material for reference and, only when absolutely necessary, for display purposes. Reserachers usually prefer to work with original material. In many cases the copy may be clearer and in better condition, than the original, due to deterioration of the paper or fading of the ink, however even this does not usually deter the researcher from wanting to use the original.

1. G.M. Cunha. Conservation of library materials. Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press, 1971. p.241.

Of course it is not possible to conserve an entire archival collection. Material must be organized in order, according to its value and importance to present and forthcoming generations of researchers, and then conserved according to a priority system created by the custodian of the material.

People often ask why paper conservation is necessary in a part of the world where even the earliest records are only a little over a hundred years old. The answer rests in the quality and stability of the paper on which the records are written. The quality and stability of the paper is governed by the raw materials from which it is made. The strongest and most durable type of paper is hand made from disintegrated linen and cotton rags, and sized² with gelatin. The poorest and most unstable paper is made by machinery from ground wood and is sized with alum/rosin size.

By tracing back through the history of paper making it is possible to see where the impermanence of paper began. In 1774 when it was no longer easy to obtain clean cotton and linen rags chlorine was used to bleach old and discoloured rags. If the chlorine was not properly removed from the pulp it caused a high degree of acidity in the paper and eventual deterioration. In 1807 the use of alum/rosin size was started; unfortunately, alum/rosin size is highly acidic and, therefore, harmful to paper. The practice of making paper from ground wood pulp began in 1840. This pulp was not only sized with alum/rosin size, but lignin - the non-cellular part of the wood - was not removed from the pulp. Lignin is an unstable material and if not removed from the paper in the initial pulp stage will cause the paper to deteriorate. This particular cause of deterioration can never be successfully treated once the pulp has been made into paper.

Another factor in paper deterioration in the mid 1800's was the increased use of chemicals in paper making. Just as the removal of chlorine from pulp made from cotton rags was important, equally important was the removal of chemicals from pulp made from wood. If the chemicals were not removed from the pulp, paper deterioration quickly resulted. However, if the chemicals were completely removed from the pulp it was possible to make paper of the same high quality as that made from cotton and linen rags.

Having touched briefly on the history of paper making it is easy to see that most records of the North American Continent fall within the time period when unstable, rather than stable paper was made. In most libraries and archives we, therefore, have a serious case of paper deterioration with many books and manuscripts already crumbling on the shelves.

In order to ensure the preservation of archival material it is important that the factors causing paper deterioration be fully understood in order that they can be avoided and minimized.

Although the stability of paper depends to a large extent on the raw materials used in its manufacture, it can also be gravely affected by the degree of acidity in the paper. Acidity can be acquired during the manufacturing process, through natural ageing, or by the type of ink used on the paper.

In addition to the various injurious compounds found in both inks and

2. Sizing makes the paper less absorbent and thus prevents ink from feathering.

paper there are conditions of storage which adversely affect the permanency of paper.

I shall briefly touch upon some of the adverse factors which affect paper stability.

Acidity:

There is a close co-relationship between the loss of strength of paper and its acidity. As previously mentioned, acidity can be acquired during the manufacturing process, from acidic inks and from adverse storage conditions. Due to the amount of sulphur dioxide in the air of urban and industrialized regions the degree of acidity in paper is much higher than in rural areas. The paper absorbs the sulphur dioxide from the air which is then in time converted into acidic compounds, thereby causing a breakdown in the cellular structure of the paper.

Acidic Migration:

Migration of acid from highly acidic materials to less acidic materials can also be a serious cause of deterioration in paper. Cheap wrapping paper, amateur lamination with inferior materials, the use of certain synthetic materials, corrugated cardboard and wood panels for backing prints and watercolours can all be serious sources of acid contamination.

Light Rays:

The UV radiation found in both fluorescent lighting and daylight creates a photochemical reaction which causes a breakdown in the structure of paper. Heat generated from an incandescent light (infrared rays), if placed too close to a document, can accelerate the acidic deterioration of paper.

High Temperature:

A relatively high temperature will activate most injurious compounds found in paper. The length of time and the degree of heat are both factors to be taken into account when considering the damage that may be expected. The temperature must be kept below 75°F. and at a constant level.

High Humidity:

The humidity must be controlled in order to prevent the growth of micro-organisms. High humidity is a prime cause of acidic migration due to the movement of moisture in the paper. The relative humidity must always be kept below 60%, maintained at a constant level, with a free circulation of air.

It must be understood that all these factors are interrelated; if a document is already highly acidic and is then subjected to high temperature and/or long exposure to light, the deterioration of the document is greatly accelerated by one or both factors.

Before any type of repair work can be done to an item any impurities within the paper that are causing deterioration must be eliminated or rendered inert. The type of repair to be done to an item is dependent on the following factors:

1. The value of the document, print, drawing, watercolour, etc.
2. The frailty of the document.
3. Whether it is important to retain the aesthetic quality of the paper as well as the information.
4. The amount the document will be handled and by whom.

In archival repair it is important that no process of repair be allowed to remove, diminish, falsify or obscure in any way the information or the value of the document.

All materials used in the process of repair must be of the highest quality and permanence. Any method of repair must be reversible, except in the most extreme cases where reversibility is not possible due to the condition of the item.

To sum up, let it suffice to say that all repositories in Canada and the United States are faced with a serious problem of paper deterioration. However, there are ways, some of which I have touched upon briefly, in which we can all consciously retard paper deterioration in order that the most valuable part of our collections can be saved - but we must start now.

Miss Webster is Conservationist at the Vancouver City Archives

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AGNES DEANS CAMERON
1863 - 1912

by Gwen Hayball

Agnes Deans Cameron entered the Victoria scene when the City was riding on the crest of a wave of prosperity. The Cariboo gold rush was at its height. Due to the improvement of the Cariboo Road, the urgently needed supplies of the men in the gold-fields were now reaching them in greater quantities, and at cheaper rates, from the well stocked warehouses of Victoria. It was a boom period. But for this, the Cameron's fourth child, Agnes, would probably have been born in California. Agnes' father, Duncan Cameron, was a restless adventure seeking man. Just as he had been lured by gold to California from Scotland, so the Cariboo gold beckoned. The family arrived in the early sixties. Duncan Cameron was successful in his mining and contracting ventures.

Old timers, recollecting Agnes Cameron as a child, at the time of her death, spoke of her as 'the quick-tongued wit and humorist'; a child who was distinguishable from her companions because of her striking individuality. While still a girl, Aggie Cameron, as she was called, became successful as an amateur entertainer. Her personality, together with the original way in which she presented her act, became the chief attraction of the evening. People went out of their way to attend one of her readings. Her audience would look forward to the hilarious pieces and Aggie, standing on one foot, a half smile about her mouth and twinkling eye, would pause, giving the captivated audience time to fully enjoy the scene described.

Of all Miss Cameron's achievements, her career as an educationalist was probably the most outstanding. She was a pioneer teacher whose methods of teaching were original and never by rule of thumb. As the Victoria Times so aptly put it - 'she robbed the daily school routine of its grind'.

At the age of eighteen she secured her first teaching position at Angela College in Victoria, a private school conducted by the Church of England. During the next twenty-five years she taught at public schools in Comox, Granville, (later named Vancouver) and Victoria. In crossing the Georgia Strait to teach at Granville she was really going to a rather raw community. The population was not expanding very quickly as the end of steel was at flourishing Port Moody, twelve miles to the east.

A familiar sight to the new young teacher were the cedar trees and foxgloves which grew in the bush at what is now the intersection of Granville and Hastings Streets. She got to know Miss Kirkland, the teacher at Moodyville, and frequently crossed Burrard Inlet by canoe, to visit her. Early in her career she learned to cope with angry parents, as indicated by a notice, which appeared on the school door which read: "Irate parents will be received after 3 p.m.".

Perhaps it was the sudden, tragic death of her father in January 1884, that took her back to Victoria and to her mother. The accident occurred while Duncan Cameron was returning from a shooting excursion. He was thrown from a spring-cart, on the Gorge Road a few miles from his home, and died on the spot.

It was while she was principal at South Park School, Victoria, that the incident occurred which was to erupt into letters in the paper and the whole town taking sides. Miss Cameron had whipped a boy because she believed in this method of punishment. The father of the boy took the matter up with the School Board; meanwhile the ding-dong battle went on. The strong minded disciplinarian stood by her guns and fired back by way of a forthright letter to the Editor of the Colonist. The upshot was, that she was dismissed for 'insubordination' and her certificate suspended for three years. This much publicized issue, of which Agnes Cameron was the central figure, did nothing to mar her career nor break her spirit. In a clever move, she then appealed to the people of the City for support as a school trustee, and was elected with the highest number of votes, thereby becoming a part of the very board that had dismissed her.

For some time Agnes Cameron had been a successful part-time writer of newspaper and magazine articles. At the age of forty-five she decided to devote her time exclusively to writing. The new profession as journalist took her to Chicago and it was from here that she set off on a ten thousand mile journey to the Arctic Sea. The year was nineteen hundred and eight.

As a companion and secretary, she took a niece, Jessie Cameron Brown. The two set off from Chicago across the 49th parallel where, to quote the traveller, "The eagle perches and makes amorous eyes at the beaver". The tangible result of this six months journey was a fascinating book entitled The New North. The physical make up of which is like Miss Cameron's style, rather lavish. The design of the book and Miss Cameron's writing are in keeping with the period, leisurely, luxurious and no skimping. And unless read within this context, which I found delightful, the book might appear too discursive. The many literary, historical and classical references testify to her broad educational background. The author has no thought

for a tightly knit account of the journey. Histories and natural histories of places, people, animals and plants, the Hudson's Bay Company in a nutshell and several lengthy chapters on the Eskimo and a thousand and one odd bits of information all tumble on to the page from the author's tremendous storehouse of knowledge. The book is fully illustrated, and not the least interesting is the photograph of the niece and her aunt at Herschel Island. Seated before an Underwood typewriter Jessie is typing while Agnes dictates. An open boat serves as a temporary office. Miss Cameron is dressed in a Royal Northwest Mounted Police hat, hiding most of her hair, a high-collared blouse, bush-jacket and a voluminous skirt. The appearance of her niece is quite feminine, by contrast. Hatless, her hair shines in the sunlight and stray wisps blow in the breeze. Her blouse is decorated at the neck with a wide band of ribbon tied in a bow at the front. She is wearing a fashionable jacket with leg-of-mutton sleeves. This is one of several photographic illustrations where the cover of the typewriter, with the name "Underwood" on it, seems to have been deliberately placed to catch the eye. The author would be quick to recognize the possibilities of this kind of advertising.

There are many interesting, quotable incidents in the book, but I hope that a few selected passages will tempt you to read the book for yourselves.

Before setting out Miss Cameron placed herself in the capable hands of the Hudson's Bay Company in Winnipeg. It is almost with a parental attitude that the travellers' welfare and every need is provided for. She received introductions to the Factor at each post, a letter of credit which would secure bacon, beans, blankets, sturgeon-head boats, guides' services, succulent sow-belly and to quote the author, 'an outfit guiltless of the earmarks of the tenderfoot'.

The history and atmosphere of Athabasca Landing must have stirred the adventurer's blood within the daughter of Duncan Cameron. It was the true gateway to the north and as such had more facilities than most trading posts. In addition to a large Hudson's Bay establishment there was a school, two missions, police barracks, post office, a dozen stores, a reading-room, two hotels and a blacksmith's shop. Less English was heard than Cree, French, and a mixture of both. Perhaps the Catholic priests of the past were responsible for this, when they told the natives that French was the accepted language of the white man; only the degraded and debased spoke English. The little amount of English used by the natives had originally been learned from the Klondikers.

The scow in which Agnes Cameron departed from Athabasca Landing was one of a flotilla of seven. It was the beginning of the annual voyage taking supplies to Hudson's Bay posts along the Athabasca, Mackenzie and Peace Rivers and bringing out peltry.

Interesting herself in the half-breeds who made such skilled crew-men, she discovers that when a Frenchman marries an Indian woman he reverts to her level of civilization, but if a Scot marries a native woman he raises her to his level.

As they floated towards Fort McMurray on the Athabasca the roar of the Big Cascade rapid was heard, a prelude to the most thrilling experience of Miss Cameron's life. As the scow tipped over the edge of the limestone ledge to a sheer drop, a cry of elation escaped from the lips of this intrepid woman. A near tragedy almost cost the lives of the two passengers in the

next scow. With a sharp crack the back of the vessel broke and it began to fill with water. Quick action on the part of the crews of the other scows saved the lives of Inspector Pelletier of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and Doctor Sussex, an Englishman. Even at this most dramatic moment Miss Cameron saw humour in the actions of the two imperilled men. She describes the scene thus: "The inspector says, 'Step quick, Doctor. There's no time to waste.' The native politeness of Sussex doesn't fail him, even in this crisis, 'After you Inspector'. Then Pelletier says, sharply, 'Jump, I tell you, jump, there's no time for - Gaston-and-Alphonse business here'."

On June 21st the steamer to which they had transferred, entered Lake Athabasca and tied up at historic Fort Chipewyan. In the loft above the Company's office, Agnes Cameron and her niece browsed through the old record books, so faithfully kept by the Factors. Sitting on the floor amidst ancient flint-lock rifles and discarded ox-yokes they made extracts from these books, one of which reads: "..... a party of Isle a la Crosse Indians cast up. They have not come in this direction for the sake of running about, one of their relations is dead and in their own words, they are travelling on strange lands to kill grief, not an unusual custom among the Northern Indians".

Awaiting them at Fort Smith was the newly launched boat The Mackenzie River. On July 7th, as the Union Jack dipped, the bravely built, new stern-wheeler, set off on her maiden voyage. It was indeed an honour to be a passenger, and a joy to be assigned one of its staterooms.

On reaching the confluence of the Salt and Slave Rivers, where the great salt plains have been created, they came upon the shacks of the Beaulieu family, 'a family' Miss Cameron says, 'which has acted as guides for all the great men who ever trended northward. They have been interesting characters always, and as we look in upon them today, neither Beaulieu nor salt has lost his savour'.

When Miss Cameron stepped ashore at Fort Simpson it had lost its place of importance and the warehouses were beginning to disintegrate. There was an air of sadness about the place. Of all Miss Cameron's enthusiasms, foraging in old buildings was her favourite. The discovery made at Fort Simpson, was perhaps the most unexpected of the whole journey. It was the mouldering remains of a natural history museum created by Captain John Bell, originally of the Northwest Company. It was a sad sight to see the specimens with their glass eyes falling out and stuffing showing through the skins. While the part time naturalist, Captain John Bell, pursued his hobby in isolation, several thousand miles away in London, England, an official of the British Museum had reason for feeling extremely gratified. An arrangement had been made whereby Captain Bell was to supply specimens for the Museum. Meanwhile a letter had been sent making certain requests. The clue to this interesting sideline was found in a Journal dated 1842. In part the letter reads: 'I may observe that in addition to the specimens asked for, any mice, bats, shrew-mice, moles, lizards, snakes or other small quadrupeds or reptiles would be acceptable. They may either be skinned or placed in rum or strong spirits of any kind, a cut being first made in the side of the body to admit the spirits to the intestines'. Mounting an outside staircase to the upper floor the two women were again swept backward in time when the library which now faced them, was an important part of the way of life among the factors and clerks of the Company.

Kneeling to examine the dusty volumes strewn about the floor, she patiently made a list of about thirteen authors represented, including this title, The Philosophy of living, or the way to enjoy life and its comforts. The many old journals stored in the room above the offices, were most inviting, and taking the year 1837, she could not resist copying some of the comments. Among those appearing in her book The New North are: 'February 11. Rabbits are numerous, but the ladies of the Establishment make no great effort in snaring them'. May 19. Felix and Roderick McLeod made twelve bags of Pemmican today'. And an extract from the entry of January 1st, 1838; 'The morning was ushered in by a salute fired by our people . . . after which they came to wish us a happy new year - and in return, in conformity to the custom . . . they were treated, the men, with half a glass of brandy each, and the women with a kiss, and the whole of them with as many cakes as they choose to take and some raisins . . .'.

With the whole population gathered on the banks of the river to say goodbye, the steamer left Fort Simpson on July 10th. The arrival of the big new ship at the Mackenzie Ramparts was heralded by a group of Indians firing from ancient rifles. The sound ricocheted between the rock cliffs, and was heard by more Indians further downstream, who repeated the message and so the news reached Fort Good Hope within the Arctic Circle.

At historic Point Separation the Mackenzie delta begins. The name is associated with Sir John Franklin and Dr Richardson who at this stage of their exploration, parted, in order to cover different areas of the Arctic coast. The year was 1826. The arrival of the two Edwardian ladies on Herschel Island was probably a 'first', the first white women to step ashore on this most desolate place, eighty miles beyond the Mackenzie Delta.

On the return trip, in place of supplies the steamer now carried furs and people, fifty-four people who were 'heading for outside'; a mixed bunch of surveyors, fur traders, Hudson's Bay Company employees, a Royal Northwest Mounted Police officer, some nuns and a priest. A relaxed atmosphere prevailed; if Mr Peele, the surveyor, decided a place was good for fossils, the boat obligingly stopped and everyone gathered them.

It was August 6th when the steamer landed Miss Cameron and Miss Brown at Fort Chipewyan. The next chapter in their adventures covers the great Peace River country.

Even though they were mere specks on a vast landscape there had been few opportunities to enjoy solitude during this six months long expedition. What with the cramped quarters on the various kinds of transportation and miseries of the ubiquitous mosquito, surely it was a test of endurance. But throughout the journey there was no whining or complaining. Instead there is a verve and often lightheartedness about the writing.

One of the unusual sights to be seen on the banks of the Peace River are the lobstersticks. These are tall, conspicuous trees which are lobbed or shaped in a certain fashion. A tuft is left at the top, then a section of the trunk is bared with the exception of two branches; these look like arms or direction indicators. They serve a number of purposes. Some denote good fishing or hunting grounds but most are created to honour individuals, or as memorials to happenings on the river. Imagine how the two women felt when the boatmen decided to honour them with their own personal lobsterstick. The ceremony and ethics relating to lobstersticks are described in Miss Cameron's book.

They waited for weeks at Vermilion-on-the-Peace for a steamboat connection. Finally the tug Messenger transported them to Peace River Landing.

In another aside the author pays glowing tribute to all the boatmen who had brought them safely, thus far, in their voyage on rivers and lakes of the New North. In addition to having complete confidence in their skill to master a difficult situation, Miss Cameron also finds their intuitive delicacy rare and pleasing.

Now a different mode of travel was found to take them overland to Lesser Slave Lake, a distance of one hundred miles. Waggons were engaged to transport their dunnage while Agnes and Jessie chose to walk most of the way. A slight suggestion of frost made walking invigorating across the rolling, lightly wooded country. On October the first they made good connections for Athabasca Landing via steamer, dugout canoe and scow. On this occasion Miss Cameron and her niece were travelling in distinguished company; on board were Judges Noel and Beck, making their first circuit of justice in this country. Athabasca Landing was the end of their wilderness trail. Reluctantly Agnes Cameron made her way back to civilization, Chicago and the writing of her very readable and informative book, The New North.

As the journalist and her secretary travelled south from Edmonton they reflected on the picture of the empty spaces beyond the latitude 55 degrees north. Perhaps it was then that Miss Cameron became inspired to tell the world, figuratively speaking, what a magnificent country Canada was; its vast potential and beauty, and in particular about the wonderful opportunities in the wide open spaces of the New North. This experience had indeed been a preparation for her almost evangelical venturing forth to spread the word about the last great frontier where it was possible for people to live healthily and grow in stature.

And so it was, shortly after this thrilling adventure that Agnes Deans Cameron journeyed to the British Isles where she achieved great success as a lecturer. In the meantime she had finished her book and fulfilled a commitment to give a series of lectures before the Teachers' Convention at Minneapolis. In Toronto she paused long enough to give at least two lectures where she received high praise from prominent men and the press. Miss Cameron had been engaged by the Dominion Government to carry out a two-year assignment of lecturing and writing to put Canada on the map, which she did with remarkable success. There is no doubt that Miss Cameron's sincerity and enthusiasm were responsible for some if not quite a few immigrants coming to Canada. She had already produced some effective publicity material for the City of Victoria and Canada generally, for distribution in the States and Europe.

In the fall of 1911 Agnes Deans Cameron returned to a British Columbia where land and forestry speculation were rife and railways were the thing. She was now a minor national figure and was immediately swept up into the quickening pace. In addition to giving a series of talks on her two years' experience abroad, she lent her support to a number of organizations among which were, the British Columbia Women's Council, the S.P.C.A., the British Agricultural Association, the Canadian Women's Press Club, and the Ladies of the Maccabees. Yet another of her special interests was

the Y.W.C.A., the library of which houses the Agnes Deans Cameron Collection.

In spite of her aggressiveness and rather direct manner, she had a deep compassion for humanity; for example she gave a talk at the Victoria Theatre in aid of the survivors of the Titanic disaster, and asked that the proceeds be given specifically to the stewardesses. Little did that audience realize that this was to be her last public appearance in her native city. Two other engagements took her to Vancouver. Members of the Women's Press Club, Vancouver Branch, had invited her to be guest of honour at a select luncheon, the date, March 21st 1912. The Vancouver Province reported the event in detail the following day. It was spring and daffodils and pussy-willows decorated the oval table in the large drawing room of the Vancouver Hotel. Open fires created an atmosphere of 'home-likeness', the paper says. On the table lay the favours, a spray of lilies-of-the-valley for Miss Cameron and violets for the rest. Miss Cameron spoke on her recent visit to 'the old country'.

The second function was the unveiling of the memorial bust of David Oppenheimer. It is possible that Mr Oppenheimer had joint business interests with Duncan Cameron, her father.

But her very last appearance in public as an invited guest was at Alberni on May 3rd. It was the beginning of the new Canadian Highway at Alberni, when she took part in the planting of the first post. A fitting last act for one who so loved her native land.

Agnes Cameron was operated on for appendicitis on Thursday evening, May 9th, 1912. She died of pneumonia in St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria, four days later. A memorial service was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Douglas St, Victoria. Her body was then transported by steamer to Seattle for cremation and the ashes scattered in the Strait of Georgia in accordance with her wishes.

The wide coverage that the press gave to the sudden passing of a native daughter was proof, if proof were needed, of her renown as an outstanding Canadian. The Victoria Times paid tribute in three and a half columns. The City Council which met the same day voted a message of sympathy to the family and a striking tribute was voiced by the Mayor and two Aldermen. They spoke of the great loss to the community and the Dominion of Canada. They remembered her services as an educationalist and as a publicist for her native city and Western Canada. Victoria was justifiably proud of their native daughter.

So much has been revealed of Miss Cameron's personality and character that it is reasonable to think of her in association with feminist groups and women's suffrage, although she did not live to see 'votes for women'. Mr J.K. Nesbitt in his article on the Cameron family in the Colonist of June 18th, 1950, confirms the view that she favoured 'votes for women'. Religion was one of the few subjects on which she did not expound, but her simple philosophy is worth quoting - 'Do your work well and be kind'. This paraphrases her mother's simple rule, which she includes in the dedication to her mother in The New North. It is, 'We must just try to do the very best we can'.

Her journalistic output is most impressive. The type of magazine for which she wrote ranges from the Geographical Journal and Atlantic Monthly, to the Canadian Magazine and Western Recreation. In addition she has two books to her credit and a third would have been written, a history of British Columbia, if death had not intervened.

If this most energetic lady had lived out her three score years and ten, there were other matters which she would have become actively concerned with, for example pollution, and conservation of birds and animals. Another, which was touched upon in her book, The New North is a political one, that of the Americans using Herschel Island to take whales from Canadian waters. And who knows, we might have had a dedicated member of Parliament named Agnes Deans Cameron.

Miss Hayball, formerly of Mayne Island, is now residing at 67 Walcott Ave., Christchurch, Dorset BH 23 2NQ, England.

* * * * *

QUERY - HELP WANTED

While a British expedition of two ships led by Captain James Cook was carrying out explorations in the Pacific Ocean, a situation of war developed between Great Britain and the United States of America. By 1779 the famous American Benjamin Franklin was Minister Plenipotentiary from the Congress of the United States to the Court of France. He knew of the Cook expedition, though he was under the erroneous impression that it consisted of only one ship. Sympathising with the expedition's avowed aims, Franklin issued a letter "To All Captains and Commanders of Armed Ships acting by Commission from the Congress of the United States", requesting that in the event of their encountering the "ship" under Cook, they should "not consider her as an enemy" but treat Cook and his companions "with all civility and kindness", and give them assistance if needed. (The great British mariner was dead by the time this letter was issued.) Some doubts have been expressed as to its effectiveness.

The London periodical The Gentleman's Magazine in Volume 58, p.617, makes references to the Cook expedition and comments to the effect that while the French proved honourable in this respect, "the narrow-souled Americans and Spaniards did all they could to obstruct him". Vol. 59, p.1187 of the Gentleman's Magazine published a letter sent from New York, with a reminder that Franklin had issued such a letter, which was therein reprinted, and seems to imply that it had been sent "to all the commanders of American cruizers then in the European seas". The next volume of the magazine, Vol. 60, p.217, published a letter dated March 6th, 1790, which states: "I say on undoubted authority that the circular letter issued by Dr Franklin for the protection of Captain Cook . . . was not allowed by the Americans; and it was purely owing to the protections of Providence that that celebrated navigator did not fall into the hands of their cruizers".

This statement was apparently unchallenged in subsequent issues of the Magazine. I wonder what the facts are . . . Can anyone shed any light on the matter?

Cook Fan.

A Few Reminders of the 1974 Convention.

1. "Really, I look much better in shorts"
2. "You can't expect me to believe that kind of a story."
3. "I said smile, not do this."
4. The local Ladies'Aid and friends.
5. "Are you sure the Ladies' is straight ahead?"
6. "Out of gas, and it's a mile to the nearest supply and I have to lug it back uphill."
7. Weddings, births and funerals a specialty. (St. Eugene Mission)
8. "I wonder if they have a cocktail lounge."
9. "This entry permit says 'tomato plants', but these look like marijuana to me."
10. "In an hour there won't be this much space between us. We're both shy."
11. "Are you sure this is a good road to hitch a ride?"
12. "Why don't you pay attention? It's not funny to find I've been aboard the wrong bus. I wanted Trail and this is Kimberley."
13. "You can laugh if you like. I'm warm and you're shivering."
14. "M'm'm, now where did I say I'd meet them?"
15. "I fully expected to find something different to that, in there."
16. "So what! Of course I smoke. Do you think I carry this for ornament?"
17. "So long. See you all next year."
18. "If there isn't a litter bin at this corner I'm going to dump this blasted box in the street."
19. "Oh look, who is that streaking? I'm sure I know the face."
20. "Sorry old boy. Things are tough all over. Did you ever think of robbing a bank?"
21. "My God! Look at the drunken swine."

* * * * *

HASLAM HOUSE

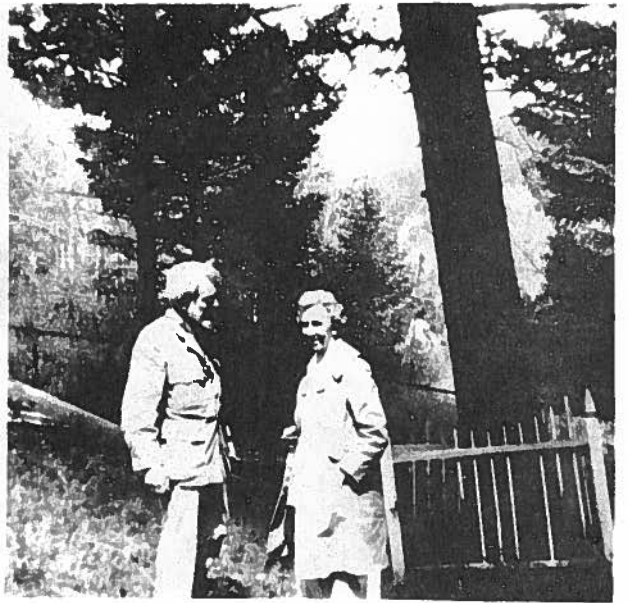
At the Convention at Cranbrook, the Council received a Special Delivery letter from the Nanaimo Historical Society seeking the assistance of the Association in helping it to save one of Nanaimo's historical pieces of architecture. When the Secretary returned home after the Convention he wrote to the Provincial Secretary, the Premier, the Historic Sites Advisory Board, and several other interested parties. Since that time the Provincial Secretary has answered and assured the Secretary that he will keep the Association advised as to what happens to the house. The Research Assistant of the Historic Sites Advisory Board phoned the Secretary asking for more details and has made a trip from Victoria to Nanaimo to inspect the house.

Prior to the Nanaimo Society asking our aid, they had appealed to Heritage Canada for assistance, but were advised that they could do nothing inasmuch as the Nanaimo Historical Society was not a member of Heritage Canada. It makes us wonder what would have been the answer if it was Nanaimo's famous Bastion that was in danger of being demolished.

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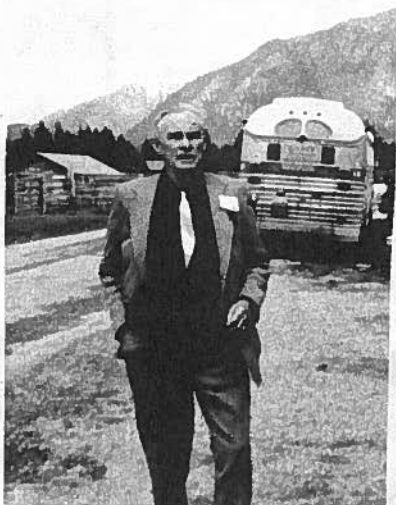
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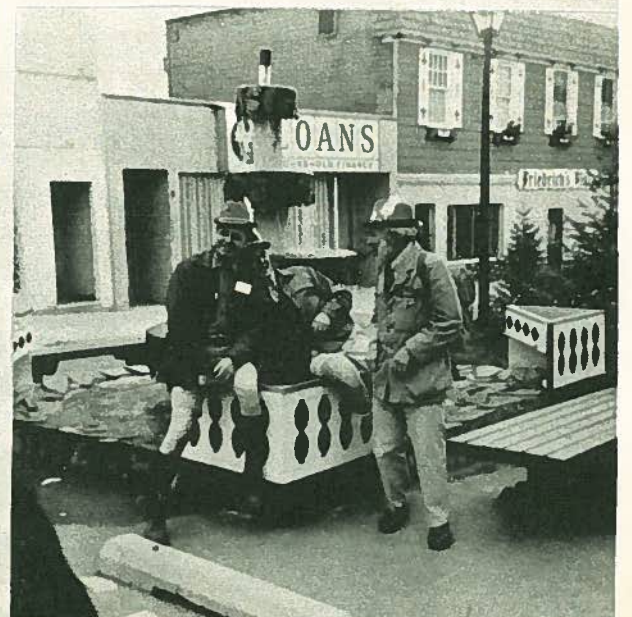
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GORDON BOWES MEMORIAL VOLUME

TO CARIBOO AND BACK IN 1862, by Wm Champness. Introduction by Wm Sampson. 106 pp. illus. hard cover. Fairfield, Wash., Ye Galleon Press, (1974). \$10.00, including postage, to personal members of the B.C. Historical Association.

This is the long awaited volume which has been published in memory of Gordon Bowes, who was a highly respected member of the B.C. Historical Association for many years until his death, and who compiled and edited Peace River Chronicles in 1963. To Cariboo and Back is a deluxe limited edition of a long out of print account of a trip to the gold diggings in the Cariboo. It is hand-printed in two colours on high quality paper, with lavish illustrations, including a pen and ink portrait of Gordon by Patricia Brammell.

Five hundred copies of the book have been purchased from the publisher at a discount, to be sold, at cost, to our members. Until October 31st, 1974, the quantity will be limited to one book per member, after which the remainder will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

It is important to note that this offer does not apply to institutions, who should purchase directly from Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, Washington, 99012.

Tear off

CHAMPNESS - TO CARIBOO AND BACK

The Secretary,
B.C. Historical Association,
P.A. Yandle,
3450 West 20th Avenue,
Vancouver V6S 1E4,
B.C.

Please send me one copy of Champness - To Cariboo and Back, for which I enclose \$10.00 to cover cost and postage.

(Would you put my name on reserve for _____ copies after October 31.)
(Do not enclose payment for these.)

Date _____ Name (please print) _____
Address _____

