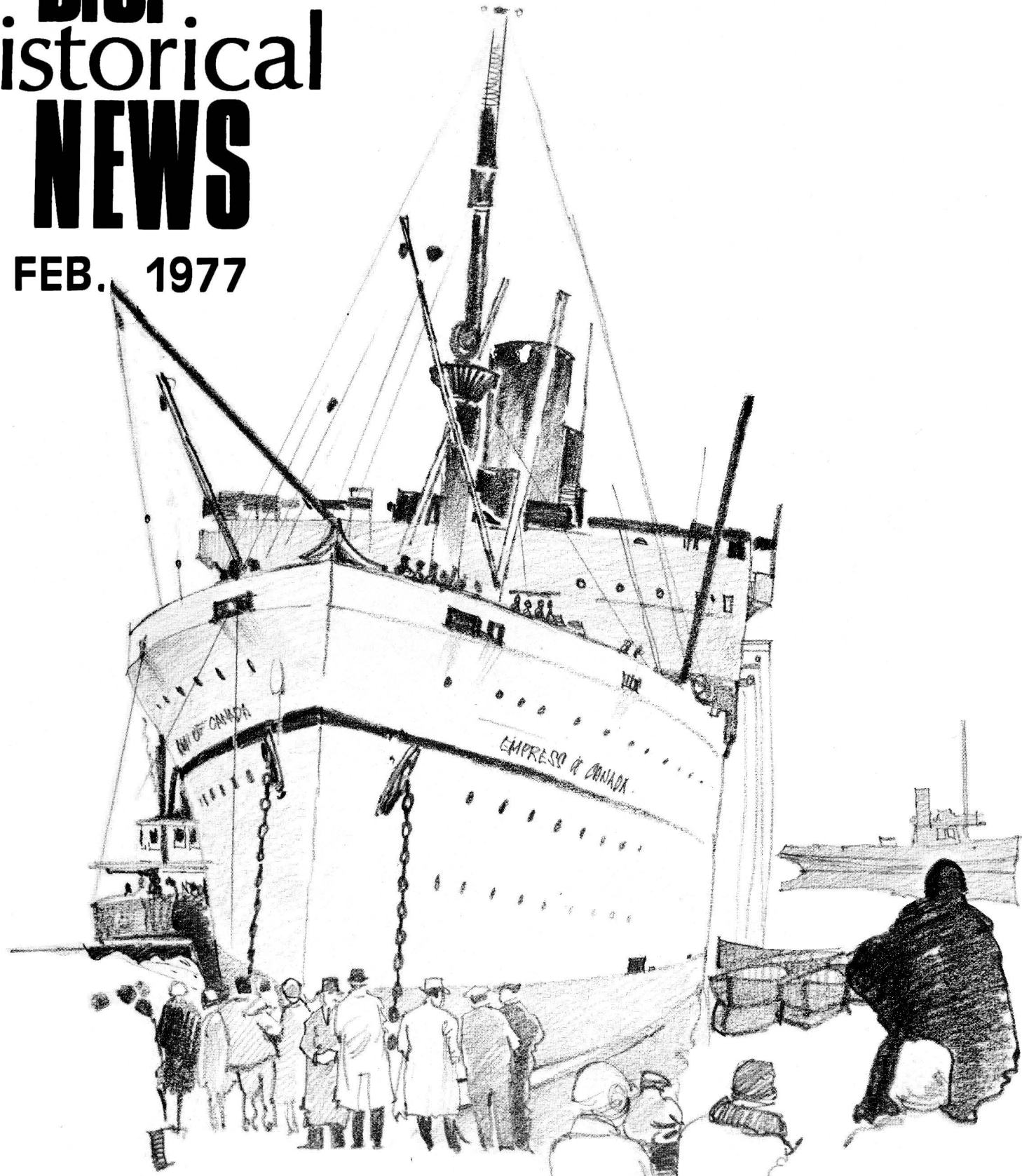


# B.C. historical NEWS

FEB. 1977



EMPIRESS OF CANADA,  
ON THE ROCKS, VICTORIA

OCT. 13, 1929

Robert Gentry

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Vol. 10 No. 2

ISSN 0045-2963

February 1977

Published November, February, April and June each year by the British Columbia Historical Association, and distributed free to members of all affiliated societies by the secretaries of their respective societies. Subscription rate to non-members \$5.00 Can. per year, including postage, directly from the Editor, P.A. Yandle, 3450 West 20th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1E4.

Executive 1976-77

Hon. Patron:	Lieut-Gov. Walter Owen
Hon. President:	Dr Margaret Ormsby
President:	Mr A. Slocomb, 1564 Oakcrest Dr., Victoria, B.C. 595-3656
1st Vice-Pres.:	Mr Rex Tweed
1nd Vice-Pres.:	Mrs Winnifred Weir
Secretary:	Mrs Ruth Barnett, 680 Pinecrest Rd., Campbell River, B.C. 287-8097
Recording Secretary:	Mrs Arlene Bramhall
Editors:	Mr & Mrs Philip A. Yandle
Treasurer:	Mr Michael Halleran

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	2
Minutes	3
B.C.H.A. Annual Conference 1977, Burnaby, details	4
Society Notes and comments	4
B.C. Books of Interest, by F. Woodward	6
Jottings	8
Book Reviews:	
Canadian Frontier, ed. Brian Antonsen	10
The Woodwards, by D.E. Harker	11
Stump farms and broadaxes, by J. Mould	13
Herstory 1977, by Saskatoon Women's Collective	14
Jewish Life in Canada, by W.Kurelek & A.Arnold	15
The Scottish tradition in Canada, by W.S.Reid	16
A member of a distinguished group, by H.Radecki	17
A future to inherit, by G.M. Anderson	18
The Haida Indians, by J.H. Van den Brink	19
News from the Provincial Archives	21
Memorial to Early Chinese Pioneers... P. Mar	21
The Remittance man, by Gwen Hayball	23

\* \* \* \* \*

This volume of the News is featuring ships of interest to B.C. The cover of this issue depicts The Empress of Canada on the rocks on October 13th, 1929. This ship, one of the C.P.R.'s great white trans-Pacific Empresses, ran aground near the quarantine station outside the port of Victoria, to the great consternation of the crew, passengers, and local residents.

EDITORIAL

Since World War II the threat has been to all mankind that some irresponsible person would press the button that would bring about the holocaust of World War III and possibly complete oblivion for all of us. Humanity as a whole seems to relate and respond better to "chicken little" thinking than to the processes of logical thinking.

It is bad enough to listen to the disasters that are to befall us from water pollution, famine, oil spills, yes even to the suggestion that capital punishment will return and the spectacle will be a spectacular on television; but the sudden cry for National Unity in the face of the threat of a separate French Canada or the formation of a new state surpasses all the hysteria that the media has whipped up heretofore.

So, it was an historic occasion when a corrupt government was thrown out and a whole set of new brooms were turned loose to sweep Quebec clean. The panic that followed the election and has continued, is simply unbelievable in an age when new states are emerging all over the world. One would imagine that Doomsday or Armageddon was at hand, and now there was a greater threat to all of us in Canada than even the thought of a nuclear holocaust.

All the vast amount of print that has been spread on the subject has covered every aspect of what it is to be a Canadian, except the one fundamental that has left so many unresolved questions unanswered; for example, just one, the plight of our native people, and that is man's humanity to man. The greed of exploiters of this land since the white man came is as evident today as it was when glib promises were made to our native people and just as glibly broken. The whole fear is not that we will no longer be a country from sea to sea, but that the mighty Corporations that rule our lives will lose out financially. Not a pleasant prospect when a multi-millionaire might lose a million instead of making one!

There is nothing wrong with Canada that some human understanding couldn't quickly cure, but in that case there is no room for greed. Power politics is the "big league" of the big league players who play not only for money but for lives.

Yes, the past election might be the most historic event in Canada since Confederation, but only if the majority of Canadians are willing to be used and stampeded by the hysteria of the media as a whole.

- - - - -

MINUTES

Minutes of the third meeting of the Council of the British Columbia Historical Association, 1976-77, held in Burnaby February 13, 1977.

Present: A. Slocomb, Pres., R. Barnett, Sec., M. Halleran, Treas., K. Leeming, Victoria, C. McAllister, Victoria, J. McCook, Victoria, G. Joyce, Port Alberni, D. New, Galiano, R. Tweed, Campbell River, A. Bramhall, Recording Sec., Burnaby.

Meeting was called to order by President Slocomb at 1.30 p.m.

Moved Tweed, seconded Leeming, minutes be adopted as circulated - carried.

Committee reports: Historic trails committee, James McCook - The B.C.H.A. is now a member of the "Outdoor League".

Cook Bicentennial Committee 1978, Alf Slocomb - The B.C. Government has allocated funds. Correspondence continues with the Postmaster General concerning a stamp. Pacific National Exhibition re Cook theme, S.F.U. seminar, the program has just been released. B.C.H.A. Annual Convention 1978 at Campbell River was discussed.

Treasurer's report - Balance \$1201.11 plus \$336.84 in Canada Permanent. Moved Halleran, seconded Leeming, Carried.

1977 Annual Meeting and Convention, A. Bramhall Burnaby. Council meetings will be scheduled for 3.00 p.m. Thursday, May 26 and Sunday May 29 at 10.00 a.m.

Correspondence - Letters were received from Community Arts Council, Martin Seggar, Provincial Museum, Mr Jack Roff, Golden Historical Society, La Société Historique Franco-columbienne.

Application for membership with the B.C.H.A. received from Sydney and North Saanich Historical Society, Moved Leeming, seconded McAllister that the Council recommend their acceptance. Carried.

A discussion was held concerning a new brochure. Mrs Barnett presented a draft.

President Slocomb appointed a nominating committee for 1977. C. McAllister, Chairman, D. New, member.

New Business: Regrets for not attending were received from Col. Andrews, Frank Street, W. Weir, A. Turner.

Gun-ah-noot grave marker near Stewart is reported to be in need of repair.

Accredited delegates, one for every ten members, plus Council members will be given voting cards at the 1977 annual meeting.

Moved McCook, seconded Halleran, meeting be adjourned.

Arlene Bramhall, Recording Secretary.

- - - - -

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

\* ANNUAL CONFERENCE \*

\* Burnaby, B.C., May 26-28, 1977 \*

THURSDAY EVENING. . . Wine and Cheese Party at B.C.I.T. \*

FRIDAY MORNING . . . . 'Mini' Seminar 'THE FRASER' with \*

Dr Carl Borden et al. \*

FRIDAY NOON . . . . . Luncheon with Mayor Tom Constable \*

FRIDAY AFTERNOON . . . Visit to Heritage Village - \*

Burnaby's famous museum \*

FRIDAY EVENING . . . . Sunset tour of Simon Fraser Univ. \*

SATURDAY MORNING . . . Annual meeting of B.C.H.A. \*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON . . Old-fashioned Garden Party \*

SATURDAY EVENING . . . Annual Banquet in the beautiful \*

pavilion on Burnaby Lake. \*

\* BE SURE TO PLAN TO COME: MARK YOUR CALENDAR \*

\* BURNABY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - HOST \*

\* \* \* \* \*

SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

ALBERNI In November readings were given by members of prime source material of our local history. Adam Horne's own account of the first crossing of Vancouver Island to the West Coast, in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company; the reports of missionaries, Father Brabant and the Rev. Willemar, and concluding with a letter sent by pioneer James Thompson to the Seychelle Islands at the turn of the century, giving him all the news of the small settlement at Alberni.

In January, Treasurer Anne Holt produced a very well-received programme about Della Falls. The mining, logging and recreational features were discussed. Highlight was the paper given by Kay Dukowsky on her uncle, the well-remembered Joe Drinkwater, who discovered Della Falls and named it for his wife. Mrs Alice Riley found a poem written by her father, Mr Clegg, on the loss of Joe Drinkwater.

A short series, "A Long Look Back" is now appearing on the local television. The Alberni Valley Museum and members of the Historical Society are featured.

BOWEN ISLAND The Bowen Island Historians marked their 10th anniversary in 1977. Since that time they have learned a lot, have amassed a large quantity of historic material, and have published a book on Bowen Island's history. The Society has now

acquired a piece of property, with a view to building a museum some time in the future.

BURNABY At their February meeting Professor Phyllis Auty gave an address on Tito. The Society is busy making plans for the Annual Convention of the B.C.H.A., details of which can be found on page 4.

GULF ISLANDS New officers are as follows: President: Lorraine Campbell, Saturna, Vice-Pres. Mr Jesse Brown, Mayne, Sec. Mrs Gillian Allen, Galiano, Treas. Mr Jack Saunders, Saturna, Councillors, Mrs Nan New, Mrs Helen Claxton, Ms Jean Morgan and Ms Elsie Brown.

NANAIMO The November meeting found locally-born Dr Larry Gio- vando, who is a well-known raconteur, reminiscing for members on the development of medical services in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith area. From the days of his early training, when surgery was performed and anaesthetics administered by whichever doctor was on hand, to the sophisticated techniques of today, Dr Larry carried his audience through the changing phases of Nanaimo's history - the City where he still practises.

January's meeting was a slide presentation put together by the Heritage Advisory Committee, who have been busy photograph- ing gems of Nanaimo's architecture before they vanish. The visible history of a city often has to be sought out and pointed out: we do not all recognize it instantly. Gradually working on City Council to observe and preserve our past, the Committee is achieving some of its aims. It is publishing a brochure of a walking tour of the downtown area, well illustrated with artist's sketches and with historic and heritage points of interest set out, which will be available to visitors this year.

TRAIL 1976 was an active year for the Trail Historical Society. The society is no longer known as the West Kootenay Branch but has chosen to be more identifiable with Trail, its headquarters. 1976 saw the Society finally acquire a place to house its museum. The City of Trail turned over the abandoned R.C.M.P. headquarters to the Society and for the past six months, members have been busy getting it ready for opening this summer. The Society participated in Trail's 75th Anniversary in June.

Also in June, the Society paid tribute to one of its biggest supporters, Mr A.K. Macleod. Mr Macleod has retired and moved to Summerland in the sunny Okanagan.

A field trip to the S.S. Moyie museum in Kaslo and the Nelson museum was held, also in June.

The Annual Meeting of the Society has now been held with Jamie Forbes elected President, David Birch, Vice-President, and Molly Jory returned as Secretary-Treasurer. Outgoing President, Fred Edwards, made Miss E.D. Johnson and Miss D.L. Schofield Courtesy Members of the Society.

VANCOUVER At their January meeting Janet Bingham gave an illus- trated lecture entitled "Craftsmanship in early Vancouver houses". Several members attended, Feb. 10-12, a B.C./Yukon Heritage Conference, "New Life for Old Buildings".

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

- AFFLECK, Edward L. ed. Kootenay yesterdays.... (The Kootenays in Retrospect, v.3) Vancouver, Alex. Nicolls Press, 1976. 174 pp. illus. \$10.
- ANTONSON, Brian ed. Canadian Frontier Annual. Surrey, Nunaga Pub., 1976. 112 pp. illus. \$4.95.
- ASHLEE, Ted. Gabby, Ernie and me: a fond recollection of a Vancouver boyhood. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1975. 129 p. \$7.95.
- BEEBE, Frank L. Hawks, falcons and falconry. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 320 pp. illus. \$24.95.
- BERNSOHN, Ken & Kathy. Prince George backroads. Sidney, Saltaire, 1976. 139 pp. illus. \$4.95.
- BOWERS, Dan. Exploring Golden Ears Park. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 98 pp. illus. \$3.95.
- BRIDGE, Raymond. The campers' guide to Alaska, the Yukon and northern British Columbia. N.Y. Scribners, 1976. 169 pp. \$10.
- B.C. DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT. Saltspring Island; a landscape analysis, by H.E. Hirvonen et al. Victoria, 1974. 54 pp. illus.
- BRUCE, Jean. The last best west. Don Mills, Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1976. 177p. \$15.
- CARELESS, Virginia. Bibliography for the study of B.C.'s domestic material history. Ottawa, National Museums of Canada, 1976. 73 pp. illus.
- CLARK, Lewis J. ed. Wild flowers of the Pacific Northwest. Sidney, Gray, 1976. 600 pp. illus. \$39.95.
- CURTIS, Edward S. Visions of a vanishing race. Don Mills, Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1976. 320 pp. \$41.
- ELLIS, Patricia M. ed. Indian tales of the Northwest. Vancouver, Commcept Pub., 1976. 102 pp. illus. \$3.85.
- GALBRAITH, John S. The little Emperor: Governor Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Co. Toronto, Macmillan, 1976. 232 pp. illus. \$16.95.
- HALL, Tom W. Guide to the wildlife of the Rockies. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1975. 32 pp. illus. \$2.50.
- HARKER, Douglas E. The Woodward's. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1976. 316 pp. illus. \$9.75.
- HARPER, J. Russell. W.G.R. Hind. Ottawa, National Gallery, 1976. 91 pp. illus. \$3.95.
- HEWLETT, Stefani. Sea life of the Pacific Northwest. Toronto, McGraw Hill-Ryerson, 1976. 176 pp. illus. \$14.95.
- HILL-TOUT, James E. The Abbotsford Hill-Touts. Delta, The Author, 1976. 43 pp. illus.
- HUTCHISON, Bruce. The far side of the street: a personal record. Toronto, Macmillan, 1976. 320 pp. illus. \$15.95.
- JAEGER, Sig. The ABC of fo'c'sle living. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 160 pp. illus. \$2.95.
- KEATING, Bern. Inside passage. Toronto, Doubleday, 1976. 160 pp., illus. \$22.95.
- KERR, Lois. How to get the most out of your cruise to Alaska. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 176 pp. illus. \$4.95.
- KLINCK, Karl F. Robert Service: a biography. Toronto, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1976. 199 pp, illus. \$9.95.
- KNIGHT, Rolf. A man of our times; the life history of a Japanese-Canadian fisherman. Vancouver, New Star Books, 1976. 90 p. \$8.00.
- KOPAS, Cliff. Packhorses to the Pacific. Sidney, Gray's Pub., 1976. 160 pp. illus. \$8.95.

- KOZLOFF, Eugene N. Plants and animals of the Pacific Northwest. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. \$17.50.
- LERMAN, Norman, comp. Legends of the river people. Vancouver, November House, 1976. 128 pp. illus. \$6.95.
- McGEACHIE, Pixie. Bygones of Burnaby: an anecdotal history. Burnaby, Century Park Museum Assoc. 1976. 108 p. illus. \$4.95.
- MARSTON, Doris R. A guide to writing history. Cincinnati, Writers' Digest Div., F & W Publishing Corp., 9933 Alliance Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45242. 259 pp. \$8.50.
- MASON, Elda C. Lasqueti Island history and memory. South Wellington, Author, 1976. 102 pp. illus. \$10.50.
- NEAL, Armenta. Exhibits for the small museum. Nashville, Tennessee, American Assoc. for State and Local History, 1976. 169 pp. \$8.
- PATERSON, T.W. Canadian treasure trails. Langley, Stagecoach, 1976. 120 pp. illus. \$2.95.
- PATTERSON, R.M. Finlay's River. Toronto, Macmillan, 1976. 315 pp. \$5.50.
- PERRIN, Tim. More exploring by bicycle. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 80 pp. illus. \$3.95.
- PERSONALITY & HISTORY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: Essays in honour of Margaret Ormsby, ed. by John Norris and Margaret Prang. B.C. Studies No. 32, Winter 1976-77. \$4.
- PETHICK, Derek. First approaches to the northwest coast. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 232 pp. illus. \$12.50.
- REES, David. Cross-country skiing: touring and competition. Vancouver, Copp Clark, 1975. 207 pp. illus.
- REID, Wm. Indian art of the northwest coast: a dialogue... Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 265 pp. \$22.50.
- RENWICK GALLERY. Boxes and bowls: decorated containers by 19th century Haida, Tlingit .... Washington, Smithsonian Inst. 1974. 93 pp. illus. \$10.
- SMITH, Helen K. Sitkum Siwash; a full-length historical drama about the life of John McLoughlin... Lake Oswego, Oregon, Smith, Smith & Smith. 1974. 104 pp. \$2.95.
- STELTZER, Ulli. Indian artists at work. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. 144 pp. illus. \$12.95.
- TURNER, Robert D. The Pacific princesses: an illustrated history of C.P.R.'s Princess fleet... Victoria, Sono Nis, 1977. 252 p. \$24.
- UNIVERSITY OF B.C. School of Architecture. Saltspring Island patterns, 1974-75. Vancouver, 1975. 85 pp. illus.
- WEINSTEIN, Robert A. Collection, use and care of historical photographs. Nashville, Tennessee, American Assoc. for State and Local History, 1976. 222 pp. \$16.
- WICKS, Walter. Memories of Skeena. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 288 pp. illus. \$10.95.
- WILSON, Stuart R. Vancouver Island reflections. Nanaimo, Vancouver Island Real Estate Board, 1976. 97 pp. illus. \$17.95.
- WRIGHT, Richard. British Columbia cross-country ski routes. New Westminster, Nunaga, 1976. 80 pp. illus. \$3.95.
- WHITE, Charles. Where to find salmon - Vancouver Island. Sidney, Saltaire, 1976. 192 pp. illus. \$4.95.
- STOP PRESS:
- ACLAND, James Alison. Aclands - and the sea. Dorchester, The Author, 1976. £2.40. Available from the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, Dorset, England.



JOTTINGS

HANCOCK HOUSE Publishers Ltd. offer an opportunity for amateur and professional photographers to compete in a competition for a photographic publication British Columbia - Our Land, containing 165 colour and black and white pictures (13½ x 10) throughout the province. At least 100 will be from the competition and will be worth an award of \$50 each. Competition will close April 30th, 1977. For further information write to: British Columbia- Our Land Competition, Hancock House Publishers Ltd., Ste 12, 1112 Government Street, Victoria, V8W 1Y2.

Vancouver Sun Dec. 1st, 1976 : A grant of \$5000 has been authorized by West Vancouver municipal council to the fund raising committee of the "WOOD SCULPTURE OF THE AMERICAS" Symposium, to be held in West Vancouver this summer. The event is slated to attract a dozen of the top wood sculptors in both North and South America. They will live and work for two months in West Vancouver.

Vancouver Sun Nov. 24th, 1976: The Nature Conservancy of Canada intends to buy 11 acre Cabbage Island (one of the Gulf Islands) for use as a public marine park. When the purchase has been completed Cabbage Island will be turned over to the Provincial Parks Branch.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY. HISTORY DEPT. A printed programme is now available from the History Department on the Captain Cook Conference which will take place from the evening of Wed. 26th April to the evening of Sunday 30th April 1978. Details of fees, distribution of conference papers and accommodation will be mailed approximately 6 months before the Conference to those on their mailing list. If you wish to add your name please write to the Cook Conference at the History Department.

From Dr Margaret Prang, Co-Editor, B.C. Studies "May I draw your attention to the publication this week of a special issue of B.C. Studies - Personality and History in British Columbia: Essays in Honour of Margaret Ormsby. This issue sells for \$4.00 per copy. For \$5.00 readers may secure this issue plus three subsequent issues of B.C. Studies."

From Gwen Hayball, Christchurch, Dorset, England; regarding a new publication Aclands - and the Sea, by James Allison Acland. "It (the book) has some of the weaknesses of privately published works. There is no lack of authoritative sources, even a letter from Willard Ireland reproduced. Lots of illustrations, one of Plumper I had not seen before, and charts - one of a section of the Gulf Islands to show the two islets off Prevost Island, which are called Acland Islets..... Apparently there is a relative, an Acland living on Saltspring Island, and it was he who brought the Acland Islets to the notice of the author's father..... You can imagine how exciting it was for me to have this connection with my beloved islands, right on my doorstep." See B.C. Books of Interest, last item.

At the Vancouver Public Library on Wed. Feb. 23rd, the Library was presented with a Merit Award from the American Association for State and Local History, for the outstanding achievement in gathering together one of the finest local photographic collections in the Pacific Northwest. The presentation was made by Dr Kaye Lamb at a reception to honour Ron Daltroy, the builder and mastermind of this fine collection of over 200,000 photographs. Dr Lamb paid particular tribute to the dedication and perseverance of Mr Daltroy in bringing this honour to the Vancouver Public Library.

- - - - -

#### OBITUARY

From a copy of the Polar Record, Sept. 1976, which came to hand too late for inclusion in the November News: "With the death of Sir CHARLES SEYMOUR WRIGHT, KCB, OBE, MC MA., in Victoria, B.C. on 1 November 1975, there passed the remaining survivor but one of the shore party of Scott's last expedition. Of that legendary band only Major Tryggve Gran of Grimstadt, near Oslo, remains to tell the tale. Born in Toronto, Canada, in 1887, Wright was educated at Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, where he carried out research work on cosmic rays under Professor McLennon. From there he won an '1851' scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he did research at the Cavendish Laboratory, again on cosmic rays. A fellow research student in Cambridge at that time was the Australian physiographer, Griffith Taylor. It was 'Griff' who introduced Wright to Douglas Mawson, recently returned from the South Magnetic Pole on Shackleton's expedition of 1907-09. As a result of their meeting Wright at once applied to join Scott's forthcoming expedition as physicist and was promptly rejected. 'Griff' then persuaded Wright to walk with him from Cambridge to London and apply for the post in person. The upshot of the marathon was that Wright was accepted by Scott on the advice of his Chief of Scientific Staff, Dr E.A. Wilson....." Wright was a member of the first supporting polar party and reached the top of the Beardmore Glacier before turning back on 21st Dec. 1911. It was Wright who headed the search party the following year and discovered the tent of the ill-fated polar party on the Ross Ice Shelf....." After the expedition Wright returned to Cambridge as a lecturer in cartography and surveying and also wrote up his scientific work. With the outbreak of World War I in 1914 he joined the Royal Engineers as a second lieutenant and was sent to France, where he developed instruments and techniques for French wireless communication..... On demobilization Wright joined the newly established Admiralty Research Department in 1919 as assistant to its director F.E. (later Sir Frank) Smith. .... From 1934 to 1936 he was director of scientific research at the Admiralty, involved with experimental work in geophysics. He played an important part in the early development of radar and methods for detecting magnetic mines..... He became first chief of the Royal Naval Scientific Service when it was formed in 1946, the year in which he received the KCB.....

In 1947 Sir Charles left Britain and returned home to Canada on the first of his several 'retirements'. Almost at once he was recalled to become scientific adviser to the Admiral at the British Joint Services Mission, Washington D.C. In 1951 he retired for a

second time to Esquimault, B.C., but the same year he accepted an invitation from the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Ships to become, temporarily, director of the Marine Physical Laboratory of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla, California. He carried out research there until 1955 when he retired again, returning to British Columbia to join the staff of the Pacific Naval Laboratory at Esquimault. Sir Charles's fourth 'retirement' came in 1967, this time to the Institute of Earth Sciences, University of B.C., and Royal Roads Military College, Victoria, B.C.....

In 1969 he finally did retire - this time to his cottage on Saltspring Island near Victoria, B.C. Here he settled down with his artist daughter, Pat, and came to be regarded by the many who visited or corresponded with him as a kind of Antarctic elder statesman. He continued his research and his writing to the end. On 13 November 1975 his mortal remains were consigned to the Pacific Ocean in the course of a service on board HMCS Restigouche off Esquimault."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### BOOK REVIEWS

CANADIAN FRONTIER, ed. by Brian Antonson. Surrey, B.C. Nunaga Publishing, 1976. 112 pp. \$4.95.

Canadian Frontier, the publishers explain in their introduction, is "an outgrowth of the former quarterly magazine". The magazine had been established in 1972 as a forum for historical journalism. Now the same type of material is given us in an "annual", an excellent move, in my opinion, because it fits on one's bookshelves much more handily than a pile of magazines.

The 1976 number is made up of 27 stories from Canadian history, stories that offer us some of the colour and excitement which our school textbooks seem deliberately to cull out.

There is variety here, both in subject matter and in period, from "Canada's First Play" (1606) to "Daredevil in a Petticoat" (1901), and geographical representation from the Atlantic through Central Canada, the prairies, British Columbia, and the north. Only Newfoundland with Labrador appear to have been left to some future Annual.

For the reader with a particular taste for military exploits, eight of the 27 stories deal with "battles long ago", which leaves a pretty fair number for those whose tastes lie elsewhere. There are biographical sketches of individuals, ranging from the pioneer photographer Frederick Dally (leaving his Victoria studio to take pictures of gold rush scenes in the Cariboo), to the woman teacher who sought fame and fortune by going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. There are glimpses of another day, in terms of transportation, in articles such as "Teamboat and Grinders" and "Her Majesty's Mail of the 1890's", and much more. Altogether, a good cross-section.

As might be expected in a book which includes so many writers,

the style varies from story to story, but I could wish for a lighter touch now and again. History (particularly Canadian history) is deadly serious as we all know, but perhaps an occasional contributor could be found to introduce a little whimsicality. Even those dour looking gentlemen, the Fathers of Confederation as shown in the group painting so frequently reproduced, had their frivolous moments.

It is good to note that the publishers require their authors to submit bibliographies, which are included at the back of the book. Even so, I did pick up an error in the tale "To Dawson or Bust", in which the author places Robert Service in Dawson City in 1899. His bank did not send him to the Yukon until 1904.

Was it a typographical error which made two words of "Old Man" River? The river was actually named for an individual, "Oldman", and not for an anonymous elderly trapper.

As a convinced feminist from away back, I cannot forgive the author of "Tiger in the Forest" for not naming the woman who saved his hero's life.

I regretted the absence of any article on the daily life of a pioneer family, but must grant that such a subject would have difficulty fitting into a book sub-titled "27 exciting stories from Canada's history".

"Canadian Frontier" is well illustrated. For this reader, therefore, the very bold type sub-heads are simply a nuisance and a distraction, particularly when they break up sentences and frequently follow some paragraphs or a page after the topic in question. Perhaps I am in a minority with this complaint.

With these few criticisms, I can recommend "Canadian Frontier" to all who enjoy the by-ways of history.

Elizabeth Norcross.

Miss Norcross is a member of the Nanaimo Historical Society.

- - - - -

THE WOODWARDS: a family story of Ventures and Traditions, by Douglas E. Harker. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1976. 316 pp. illus. \$9.75.

This is a family story, but it is also the success story of a Western Canadian commercial venture, a department store familiar to shoppers in British Columbia and Alberta. The family story has not been told before, and this is what makes Douglas Harker's account fascinating and engrossing for the reader. The personalities of the family from the persevering founder, Charles Woodward, to his grandson, C.N.W. Woodward, are all so diverse and yet, they are bound by a commercial enterprise in the best Horatio Alger tradition.

In tracing the early days of the founder of the store, the author makes effective use of a diary where Charles recorded his

thoughts and ideas. This makes delightful reading, besides giving readers insights into the personality of a man whose future personal traits did not engender much warmth or sympathy.

Although his father was a hardworking and prosperous farmer near Orangeville, Ontario, Charles had no desire to follow in his father's footsteps. Instead, he wanted to be a merchant. He kept his ambition alive even though he had settled down on his own farm and married Elizabeth Anderson. Two years later he sold his farm, apprenticed himself to a local shopkeeper, and began a new career at the age of twenty-three. For the next sixteen years Charles was to experience success and bankruptcy; then fire and disaster. Nevertheless his restlessness and all-consuming ambition drove him on. At the age of thirty-nine and with a family of eight children he made another major decision in his life. This time it was to move West to Vancouver in 1891, and start all over again with a new store. Once again he faced financial difficulties and personal tragedy when his wife and two children died of consumption. By sheer strength of character he overcame all of these obstacles. Success and expansion finally came to Charles, and by the age of sixty in 1912, he was a millionaire. Rather than retiring, he carried on in spite of having two capable sons running the business. At the age of seventy-four, he started another store, C. Woodward, Limited, in Edmonton. It was not until his death in 1937, that he finally relinquished control, and his two sons, W.C. "Billy", and P.A. "Puggy", finally came into their own, after a thirty-year apprenticeship. When P.A. Woodward retired in 1955, and W.C. Woodward died in 1956, an era was finished.

It fell to the new President, C.N. "Chunky" Woodward, the thirty-two year old son of W.C. Woodward, to expand with the boom of the 1950's and 1960's, thus taking the store to new heights of success.

The book has three obvious major sections: Charles' establishment of the store, his son's ability to expand and innovate during the difficult years of depression and war, and the explosion of growth in recent years. The author is more successful in his presentation of the first two sections because of the diaries and letters which nicely complement the text.

A jarring note to this book is the poor quality paper, inferior printing, and a total lack of imagination or care in handling the photos which are not properly reproduced. Mitchell Press, the local printer and publisher, is capable of much better work. It is unfortunate, however, that it is this particular book that suffers from these serious faults.

Most readers will enjoy this book, although some will be disappointed in the emphasis which the author has placed on certain events. As a former Woodward's employee, Douglas Harker tends to be over enthusiastic in places, but he does offer unique insights into the development of the store's methods of everyday operation. Nevertheless, he has captured the essence of the family and the ultimate success of Woodward's stores. It is always interesting to have a business reduced to easily identifiable human traits.

Sue Baptie

Mrs Baptie is Vancouver City Archivist.

STUMP FARMS AND BROADAXES, by Jack Mould. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 148 pp. illus. \$9.95.

By the reviewer's (possibly inaccurate) count, the 147 pages of this book give space for 88 reproductions of photographs, from the 1920's and 30's. As the format also provides wide margins and generous blank space between all of its fourteen brief chapters, it can be deduced that the written matter, in the space remaining, will not make a great demand on reading time. The early settlers in the Burns Lake-Bulkley Valley area were certainly better photographers than those represented in some other pioneer chronicles. Their prints have been well reproduced.

While the pictures clearly help tell the story, what deserves most praise is the clean, economical writing. It tells of the demand for hand-hewn railway ties, which developed "until it became a way of life for two decades, then disappear(ed) so completely that today the tools that were part of it are now museum pieces".

Early settlers, following the Canadian National Northern British Columbia Railway line, filed claims on crown grant lands, which proved to be of marginal quality for farming. Incomers were therefore fortunate to be able to secure cash from the hard specialized labour of hewing ties. Swedes and Norwegians with useful skills; "green Englishmen" with skills to learn the hard way; prairie Canadians; single wanderers, all found themselves melded in a society where "there were only two sure crops: kids and stumps".

The author gives us a precise picture of the harsh economic pressures of the time, and of the powerful, he-man skills developed by those who produced the ties, so that families might have money for other necessities than moose and rabbit meat. For 20¢ a tie: trees were winter felled, limbed, each sawn into three to six tie lengths, each one hewn to prescribed dimensions. "All that remained" was then to get to the roadside, and pile 20 to 30 ties a day. Powerful horses were an aid..... we see many of their photos and learn some of their names. Even small boys could earn. There was "nine year old Jimmie", beside a pile of ties he was peeling for 4¢ each. (The glossary tells us his necessary tool was called a "spud". If you'd like to know what was a "dryass", or a "prairie chicken", or "remittance man", try the glossary again.)

The most prodigious performers were the workmen who loaded ties into box-cars, often from snowy piles, on rough ground. It is calculated that, in a day's work, a loader walked some fifteen miles, half of the distance with a 200-300 pound tie on his shoulder. (Any reader care to just pick up and shoulder a 300-lb tie? Walk no further!)

The loaders' tremendous energy output required fuelling with much food. As logs collected at sidings were cleared, the loaders moved on to the next. Boarding the loaders might supplement a housewife's egg money? One woman set on the table a pot of porridge she had calculated to feed her family and the new boarders. As she turned to sit down the individual porridge bowls, she found one boarder had already downed the potful.

Thus the neatly presented technical descriptions of tasks associated with this industry are enlivened by glimpses of community life. We see Christmas sleighloads falling through the ice of frozen lakes - saved children flung on ice, drowned horses, sodden adults in quick-freezing winter clothes. We hear again of fresh-from-Normal, 20-year old "school marms", and the varied uses of their log school-houses. These could serve for dances, drama performances by local groups, churches, morgues, political rallies.

The area marched to "progress" with mechanized mills, model T Fords, the depression years, the end of a way of life.

This book is a very praiseworthy economic and social history.

Clare McAllister

Mrs McAllister is a member of the Victoria Society.

- - - - -

HERSTORY 1977: A CANADIAN WOMEN'S CALENDAR, by Saskatoon Women's Collective. Edmonton, Hurtig, 1976. 121 pp., illus. \$3.95.

Herstory 1977 is the fourth edition of the successful women's calendar compiled by the Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective. The obvious primary goal of the collective, the members of which donate their skills and time as researchers and writers, is to raise the level of awareness of feminist issues amongst Canadians. Each week the calendar features a one page article about an aspect of women's lives in Canada since the seventeenth century. Topics as diverse as midwifery, political activism, sports participation, social activism, sexuality, the arts, religion and the economy are reviewed in relation to women. Additionally, each week includes a reflection on women by a Canadian feminist and the dates of the achievement of women suffrage in each of the provinces are duly noted.

The emphasis of the calendar is largely historical and designed, one suspects, to provide inspiring examples for modern women of the triumphs of their foremothers despite innumerable obstacles. Particularly indicative of this tactic is the frequent utilization of the biographical vignette to summarize the achievements of women as diverse as Marguerite Bourgeoys, Laure Gaudreault, Thanadelthur, Sevela Stechishin and Abigail Hoffman. Poorly substantiated and more politicized than the biographical sketches are the sections devoted to remedying current problems in the Canadian women's movement. For example, directives that "Women need not drag each other down" (Women as Enemies: Training for Inferiority, p.20) are at best banal and sloganistic and suggest an alarming lack of critical inquiry. Fortunately this type of article is infrequent, the majority are sufficiently researched and informative.

While a reasonable range of issues and persons are explored within the prescribed confines of a calendar format, the reader seeking specific connections with British Columbia will be disappointed. Mary Ellen Smith, the first woman elected to the provincial Legislative Assembly, and Grace MacInnis, the first British Columbia woman elected to the House of Commons, are the

only British Columbians discussed. Unfortunately, the section on Mary Ellen (the only one in the calendar not written by a collective member) does not mention her important polemical novel Is It Just? (1911) written under the pseudonym Minnie Smith.

On balance, Herstory 1977 constitutes a worthwhile contribution to efforts attempting to redress the general lack of information concerning the role of women in the past and present. Underlying the work to assert the importance of women's experiences is also a strong theme of Canadian nationalism which many will welcome. The adequately spacious layout of the calendar combine with the index, footnotes, bibliography and photographs to add to its usability.

Linda Hale

Linda Hale teaches Canadian history at Langara College, Vancouver.

- - - - -

JEWISH LIFE IN CANADA, by William Kurelek and Abraham Arnold. Edmonton, Hurtig, 1976. 91 pp. illus. \$9.95.

History is an accumulation of individual biographies, and no biography is complete without some representation, either imagistic or prosaic, of the particular characteristics of the individual's lifestyle. And it would seem that viewing an historical event from the aspect of colour and imagination is as creditable a perspective, in its own order, as a strictly analytical work of historical scholarship. William Kurelek's engaging and illustrative paintings in the latest of his series (A Prairie Boy's Winter, Kurelek's Canada, etc.) offer us this kind of perspective.

The historical event in this case is the series of causes and social tensions which led to the influx of Jewish peoples into Canada. To see the whole of this event, from all its various vantage points, e.g. the reasons behind the racial discrimination manifested in Canada's immigration policies in the past, would involve a great deal of time and study. Abraham Arnold does attempt to offer us the required background but, perhaps because of restrictions of space, can barely scratch the surface. But the point is that this book does not purport to represent the whole, to give us the final synopsis; instead, it depicts a modern painter's vision of the concrete domestic scenes, the type of food prepared and the customs concerning the table, the religious practices, and the everyday life of the early Jewish families.

In this way, one aspect of the whole, i.e. the images and colour surrounding history, are particularly enlivened. And if this aspect is one which attracts the still receptive imagination (generally children but not necessarily) then we are, indeed, coming closer to the whole. We are immediately aware of our own utensils and eating habits, our own clothes, and it is these objects, which surface in a different cultural and temporal situation, that retain their immediacy. Kurelek's humble figures



and gentle pastels are, for that matter, less intimidating than turn of the century, period photographs; they are both unassuming and interesting,

Whether the work is, however, an effective collaboration between an artist and an historian, is best left to the reader. Suffice it to say that there seems to be little other than subject matter shared by the two. Arnold's essays are brief and interesting, but seem to devolve more into contemporary applications of lessons learned in the past. What would have been of greater interest would have been an in depth discussion of the various paintings, outlining the social foods and clothes in greater detail for example; this would lead the reader back to the paintings with larger appreciation.

Russell Keziere

Mr Keziere is a former member of the University of B.C. library staff.

- - - - -

THE SCOTTISH TRADITION IN CANADA, by W. Stanford Reid. Toronto, Published by McClelland and Stewart in association with the Multiculturalism Programme, Dept. of the Secretary of State. 324 pp., illus. \$12.95; \$5.95 paper.

W. Stanford Reid has made an extremely worthwhile contribution toward the study of the Scot in Canada. His work will be especially appreciated by the vast number of genealogists researching their Scottish ancestry in this country.

It is obvious that the thirteen authors who wrote the various chapters took time to research their topics in a scholarly manner, documenting and noting their facts, yet presenting their information in a very palatable form. The notes and bibliography given at the end of each essay will be of particular interest and aid to the aforementioned genealogists and to any serious student of Canadian history.

As the authors developed their themes, certain basic historical facts were necessarily repeated in each essay. However, because these historical events were presented from different points of view, it only added to the interest. The resulting series of sixteen chapters on various topics such as "The Scot in the Fur Trade", "The Highland Catholic Tradition in Canada", "The Scot as a Businessman", "The Lowland Tradition in Canadian Literature" to mention only a few, gives a very understandable picture of the Scottish place in Canadian history.

Although the topics were varied, it was interesting to note the unanimity in the authors' points of view about the strength and ability to endure hardships and rise in triumph over them, which characterized those early Scots. It was that strength and ability that led the Scots into every walk of life which made compiling a book such as "The Scottish Tradition in Canada" a mammoth endeavour.

I especially enjoyed George M. Stanley's chapter on "The Scottish Military Tradition in Canada". His love of the Gaelic, his use of the "old" words and phrases and the obvious love and pride he feels for his countrymen, both past and present, broke all

the rules set out for the authors to remain objective and allow no filio pietism to creep in. - Good for you, Geordie! - Slàinte mhath! -

Mr Stanley has listed in the appendix to his chapter, the Scottish Regiments in the Current Army List, giving the name of the regiment, tartan, regimental march, regimental motto, order of precedence and headquarters. This is only one example of the treatment each author gave his topic.

Mr Reid states in his introduction that the purpose of the book was to show what the Scottish interest has meant to Canada. He has fulfilled that purpose.

Isabelle McColl McLean

Isabelle McColl McLean is a member of the British Columbia Genealogical Society.

-----

A MEMBER OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY; THE POLISH GROUP IN CANADA, by Henry Radecki, with Benedykt Heydenkorn. Published by McClelland and Stewart, in association with the Multiculturalism Programme, Department of the Secretary of State. 288 pp., \$12.95, \$5.95 paper.

The series, "Generations; a history of Canadian peoples", published by McClelland and Stewart, is designed to provide profiles of the various groups that make up the Canadian mosaic. "A Member of a Distinguished Family", which is part of that series, was designed to provide an in-depth study of the Polish group. The result is not particularly satisfactory. The authors recapitulate the history of the various phases of the Polish immigration to Canada, they describe the problems that each of these phases experienced upon arrival, they tell us of the kinds of adjustments that each of these groups have made, and describe the various organizations that were created to help the Poles meet their new country, the new conditions and the utterly alien culture on one hand, and on the other, to help the newcomers preserve their own language, culture and religion. Unfortunately, we learn very little new in this book. At best, it is no more than an expansion and up-date of an earlier study done by William B. Makowski, the "History and integration of the Poles in Canada", published by the Canadian Polish Congress in 1967. Radecki and Heydenkorn have further limited the usefulness of their work by concentrating their attention on the Polish groups and settlements in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, that is, the areas for which there is already reasonably adequate primary and secondary literature. True, it is always useful to provide a synthesis of this scattered literature, and this the authors have done. However, we still have almost no data at all for the Polish minority that has settled in the Maritime provinces, Alberta or British Columbia. I suspect that it is particularly difficult to find any information on the Polish ethnic group in British Columbia. Makowski's work is of some help, the ethnic newspapers and pamphlets are also useful, but surely a definitive study should have included a coverage of the very areas that have not been studied before.

Interestingly enough, there has been a lot of work done in

Poland on its emigrants to Canada. A few monographs, and countless periodical articles have been published on the subject. In 1971, a collection of memoirs "Pamiętniki emigrantów; Kanada, nr 1-16" finally appeared in print. Its story is an involved one. In 1936, the Institute of Social Economy in Warsaw announced a contest in which it invited Polish emigrants to Canada to send in their memoirs. Thirty-three entries were received, all from simple, semi-literate people. Almost all were labourers or farmers. Some of them had done reasonably well in Canada, many had not. These memoirs present a rich, vivid picture of Canada and the Canadian conditions as perceived by these simple, bewildered people who had to face their new realities in the 1900-1936 period. The collection was to have been published in 1939. The Second World War postponed this undertaking until 1971. Now the first sixteen of these memoirs are available. They make fascinating reading and provide a rich source of sociological data.

Memoir writing in Poland is an old and well established tradition. Each year there are 60 to 90 competitions, which produce between 30,000 to 40,000 entries. These are used by numerous historians and social scientists as valuable sources of information. It seems sensible that perhaps we in British Columbia, who have only recently begun to take an interest in the history of our province, and have discovered to our horror the lack of recorded materials, might think of supplementing our oral collections with memoirs.

Iza LaPonce

Mrs LaPonce is a social-sciences librarian at the University of B.C.

A FUTURE TO INHERIT; THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITIES OF CANADA, by Grace M. Anderson and David Higgs. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, in association with the Multiculturalism Programme, Department of the Secretary of State. 192 pp. \$12.95; \$5.95 paper.

Mono-culturalism, bi-culturalism, multi-culturalism ..... what is it that forms the fabric of this country, a fabric that currently seems to be in some danger of permanent rendering? Is it that we are so apprehensive of our immediate future that we must, for comfort, seek out our immediate past? Or is this book, however well-wrapped sociologically, just another contribution to the contemporary craze for Instant Nostalgia?

A Future to Inherit essays a detailed look at an ethnic presence in Canada that is but 25 years old. Since the early 1950's, immigrants from Portuguese territories, which include the Azores and Madeira as well as mainland Portugal, have possibly approximated 100,000 in number. (Using these qualifiers delineates some of the difficulties inherent in trying to obtain an overview of this kind at such close quarters in point of time. The data, when they can be located and sorted out, tend to be rather inchoate for objective analysis.) These immigrants have by now largely settled in the environs of the major urban centres of this country, initially bringing with them strong cultural patterns from their native homelands. As the second generation comes of age, their patterns are emerging with some distinctiveness from those of the first.

Certainly, the authors offer this as but a firm base only for

future studies and indeed they have documented a cohesive study - with an occasional flash of odd naivety. Having good foot-notes, bibliography and index, this paperback is a thoroughly researched and well-presented initial contribution to this country's cultural mosaic - though possibly it is a bit ahead of its time.

It is idle to take to task this publication for what it is not; but one could hope that the publisher and associates are undertaking equivalent studies in ethnic groupings that would lend themselves to more detailed evaluation simply because of the length of time of their presence in this land. The format of a country-wide spread is a clear and valid one and should be productive of a more objective look at an ethnic grouping than are many existing studies which have been compiled from a provincial orientation only.

But an analysis of a society that is only twenty-five years old and whose pioneers are still largely active in their own communities? It smacks slightly of the triumphant announcement of the success of a complex operation in which the diagnosis, prognosis and ultimate stitching were carried out with masterful aplomb. (The patient, of course, is no longer with us.)

Why the rush?

Leonard McCann

Mr McCann is Curator of the Maritime Museum, Vancouver.

- - - - -

THE HAIDA INDIANS; Cultural change, mainly between 1876-1970, by Jacob Herman Van den Brink. Leiden, E.J. Brill, x, 275 pp., map. no price available.

Early in 1965 a gentleman with a slightly Teutonic accent asked my wife if she were the daughter of Rev. B.C. Freeman. Thus began an acquaintance of which we both became very proud. A secondary school teacher from the Hague, he had got a year's leave of absence to come to Canada to study the effects of European-North American civilization on the Haida Indians. He introduced himself as Jaap van den Brink and his charming wife as Cor or Cora. Unfortunately, after returning to his home and professional work he suffered a good deal from spinal injury, which made teaching, study and writing difficult, so that nine years were to pass before his thesis appeared in English, though it had been accepted for the doctorate at Utrecht in 1967. The book was updated in the seven year interval.

Dr van den Brink's research is truly impressive, especially in view of the fact it had all to be done in what is, to him, a foreign language. He began in England with the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and those of The Church Missionary Society, then came to Ottawa for the Public Archives and the Reports of the Department of Indian Affairs. Toronto gave him the most information through the United Church Archives in Emmanuel College and the Anglican Archives in Church House. Finally he came to British Columbia for the Provincial Archives and Museum in Victoria and the materials in the theological colleges and U.B.C.'s Department of Anthropology and the regional office of the Department of Indian Affairs in Vancouver, and a brief,

unfortunately timed visit to Masset and Skidegate. At the time, a fatal accident, followed by a light sentence of the white driver and resulting racial conflict, made the Haida very understandably uncooperative. He was able, however, to get considerable help from the late Dr Peter Kelly in Nanaimo and to find correspondents in the islands to cover the years 1965-1970. His "Selected Bibliography" lists 132 books, reports, articles and manuscripts. All but two, one Dutch and one German, are in English and all except the official reports are based on either personal experience or specialized research. There is no record of the number of hours he spent in personal interviews with Haidas, government and church officials, anthropologists and others, many of whom are identified in the prefatory acknowledgements on pages ix and x.

The book is in seven chapters, of which the first, Introduction, deals with the source materials, gives a brief sketch of the Haida contact history, the geographic setting and basic aspects of Haida traditional culture, and summarizes their demographic history. The second outlines early contacts with European culture, mainly through traders and prospectors; the third, with the influences mainly of missionaries in the period 1876-1900; in the period of the fourth, 1900-1940, the greatest single influence was that of the Department of Indian Affairs, but extended by further missionary work and the advent of settlement and industry, particularly in fisheries and forestry. The latter, however, had greater influence in the period of the fifth chapter, 1940-1970, when intercultural relations became much more complex and were further complicated by internal disagreement among the Haida as to the desirability of "assimilation". Chapter VI deals briefly with some comparisons: the Indian and "white" communities, the northern or Masset Haida and the southern or Skidegate Haida, and the Kaigani or Alaskan Haida and the Queen Charlotte Haida. The last chapter tries to analyze, interpret and evaluate the changes effected during the last century or more, with two appendices summarizing and in effect comparing the life and work of two Haida leaders, unrelated, Godfrey Kelly of Masset and Dr Peter Kelly of Skidegate. There follows the brief summary usually required in doctoral dissertations.

The book is, in its essential nature and by requirement, detailed, prosy and scientifically oriented, with no attempt at "popularizing". Nevertheless, this reader, for one, found it stimulating and readable. It suffers little, one feels, from translation, though Mrs I. Seeger's English is rather "bookish"; she introduces an apparently new word, "distantiation", seeming to mean "deviation" or "separation"<sup>1</sup>; revives a word almost obsolete, at least in North America, "conservancy", meaning "conservation";<sup>2</sup> calls split cedar or shakes "cedar chips"<sup>3</sup>; and confuses "on the contrary" with "to the contrary".<sup>4</sup> Some misprints have been missed and some errors of spelling, but not so as to interfere with reading. If the book has not broken new ground it has surely ploughed much more deeply than anything previously published and made a supreme contribution to one aspect of British Columbia's history. It surely deserves the attention of local historians as well as anthropologists and a wider recognition and readership than it seems to have attracted so far.

Footnotes: 1. Pp.232, 237; 2. P. 162; 3. P.61; 4. P.137.

John E. Gibbard

Mr Gibbard is a long time member of the B.C. Historical Association.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

The Manuscripts and Public Records Division sponsored its first workshop of the year on Archival Principles and Practices, presented by Mr Kent Haworth at Fort Steele Historic Park, for individuals and groups in the Kootenays working with archival material in their respective communities. More than thirty persons from various points in the region (Trail, Castlegar, Nelson, Fernie, Sparwood, Creston, Cranbrook and Invermere) attended the Friday evening and all day Saturday sessions. Mr Haworth began the workshop with a discussion of the role and justification for an archival programme in the community. The responsibilities for providing security, access, and trained staff as minimal requirements for the establishment of any archival programme were emphasized. This was followed by a day-long session involving participants in role plays, and, through the use of archival kits, the actual processing of archival material. Collections policy, accessioning, arrangement, description and cataloguing procedures were all dealt with during the course of the workshop.

The Provincial Archives will be sponsoring a similar workshop for the Okanagan Region in conjunction with the B.C. Museums Association Convention in Kelowna. Enquiries should be directed to Mr Leonard Delozier at the Provincial Archives who will be directing this workshop.

- - - - -

Aural History Opens to Public Use

The aural history collection of the Provincial Archives opened to public use on January 31st. Researchers will be able to use the material any time during the normal opening hours of the Archives. The tape recordings and typescripts provide unique insights into the social and cultural life of the province and a broad coverage of the late 19th and 20th century history of British Columbia and Western Canada.

Users will be aided by a computerized catalogue to the collection which contains many cross references for each of the approximately 1000 tapes that will initially be available. Other large sections of the collection will be made available over the coming months.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMORIAL TO EARLY CHINESE PIONEERS NEARS COMPLETION

The following account was sent to the News by Mrs Pamela Mar, Secretary of the Nanaimo Historical Society.

From the time that man first looked into the next field and found it greener than his own, he has moved about to seek his fortune. It was the lure of gold that brought men from all countries to the west coast of North America and later moved them to the Canadian gold fields. Among them came the Chinese, and when claims were apparently worked out and the miners moved on, the Chinese

would often stay behind to patiently sift again and find the specks of gold which meant "riches".

As British Columbia was gradually drawn into Confederation with the rest of Canada and the railroad became a promise to be fulfilled, many thousands of Chinese were brought across the waters to help make that promise a reality. The wages were not so high that fortunes were made, and often it became necessary for the labourers to continue to work rather than return to their homeland and families. The railway was finally completed and the Chinese, with others, moved into mining, logging, market gardening or perhaps into merchanting. Still the longing for "home" was there and those who died were buried in the Chinese cemeteries, to be disinterred later and their bones returned to China.

At one period Vancouver Island had the largest Chinese population on the North American coast outside of San Francisco, much of it concentrated in the Cumberland to Ladysmith region. Even in Victoria the Chinese once outnumbered the white population.

Nanaimo's first Chinese cemetery lay overlooking the waterfront on the Newcastle Channel. As a burial ground it was not an ideal site as an underground spring made digging a problem and a second site was later chosen, with a view east to Mount Benson. For many years the old cemetery stood deserted - the bodies now safely among the ancestors in China - and the ground provided rich haul for the lover of blackberries. Periodic clean-ups were made as attested to by the engraved altar stone which marks the spot. But what is not used soon falls prey to incipient weeds.

Some of the elders of the Chinese community felt that the ground would make a pleasant park, but no steps were taken towards transforming it. At the February 1973 meeting of the Nanaimo Historical Society the opportunity was taken to sound out the Mayor as to the City's reaction if the site were to be offered to the City as a park. His response was immediate, enthusiastic and affirmative. In conversation some of the older members of the Society enlarged on the role the Chinese had played and the importance of their contribution to the history of the Province. This led to the idea by one of the Society's members that the site should not be offered just as a park but as a Memorial Garden to all the early Chinese pioneers who came to Canada. With the City's Centennial year coming along it was felt that this would be a most appropriate project for the Chinese to offer the public. The Chinese elders therefore began to work towards this end. Initially with private subscriptions, and then helped by public grants, funds to begin the project were accumulated. Traditional ceremonies were observed to "inform the ancestors" of what was about to happen, and the work of clearing the land started. The site slopes and had to be terraced to retain the earth. At the top a stylized Chinese temple was erected, reached by arched steps. Eventually lawns and oriental trees and shrubs will complete the landscaping.

What had begun as a \$30,000 project increased in cost through two years of rising prices to a \$50,000 one. An annual dance has been instituted by the Chinese to help raise funds, and donations have come from many sources. As soon as possible the Garden will be handed over to the City and the Chinese will continue to raise funds to pay off their debt. The sponsors would welcome participation

by historical societies and individuals. Any donations will be used to buy shrubs and trees and can be sent care of Mrs J. Mar, 242 Cilaire Drive, Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 3E4.

The Memorial, though erected in Nanaimo, is to all the Chinese for this, strangely enough, is the first memorial of its kind in British Columbia and, we think, in all Canada. Perhaps it may become the forerunner for other similar projects.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE REMITTANCE MEN: WERE THEY ALL BLACK SHEEP?

by Gwen Hayball

Very few people today are familiar with the phrase 'remittance man' but those interested in the literature of Western Canada will come across it frequently. Definitions are to be found in several reference volumes including the Oxford English Dictionary, but the Dictionary of Canadianisms (1957) is the most explicit and the only one which describes the term as a disparagement. It reads thus: "Remittance man. (especially West. Derogatory. Historical.) A person living in Canada on money remitted from his family in the Old Country, to insure that he did not return home to become a source of embarrassment". With few exceptions the contemptible type of remittance man appears throughout Canadian literature matching the definition quoted. He is the black-sheep of the family, a ne'er-do-well, one who has blotted the family escutcheon. Sometimes, but rarely making good. At whatever cost he must be kept as far away from the family estate as possible, presumably this is why so many landed in the Canadian West. However, the French also had problem sons and as early as the 17th and 18th centuries were sending their worthless sons, whose morals were as loose as their purse strings, to French Canada, to quote Mr A.R.M. Lower from his book Canadians in the Making.

Of all the references found in books and newspapers the most damning criticism was found in an English newspaper. It appeared in an article published in 1908. It stated: "..... that these persons (that is, remittance men) are a curse in Western Canada - a curse to themselves, to their neighbours, and to the country. In the course of six months' stay in Vancouver I heard of half a dozen scandals caused by the presence of Englishmen of good family and education who were even less scrupulous and honourable in Vancouver than they had been at home. Two of these persons landed in gaol and the others were expelled from hotels and clubs. It is not worth while to go into details. The conduct of which 'remittance men' is so often guilty is the same all over the world". What were the crimes that they committed? As far as my research has gone, they were based on financial difficulties. As long as the allowance lasted they had friends to help them



spend it; the greenhorns and their cash were easily parted. He would then have to try and get a loan and eventually involve himself in large debts. Sometimes he was the victim of unreliable real estate deals. With so little to occupy his time, drinking became a habit, with the inevitable consequences.

There were those who went beyond the limits of the towns to the rural settlements. Here they were despised equally by the native Canadian and by the industrious new settlers. From the 1880's up to the First World War, the country people looked upon a man who did not go out to his labour in the morning as undesirable. A few remittance men attempted occupations such as ranching but lacked the experience and stamina required and only became the butt of jokes by the established ranchers. A few succeeded at other jobs and became respected citizens. To be fair one should mention that apart from the ne'er-do-wells, there were numbers of well-bred, well educated Englishmen who were successful in making their way in the wilderness who were not necessarily being supported on funds from their families. Agnes Deans Cameron in her book The New North, is surprised at the number of educated men living in the regions of Lake Athabasca, Great Slave Lake and the Peace River, many of whom were trappers and traders.

In Victoria the remittance man was easily recognized by the 'honest working man'. If it was possible to get by without working, they would be seen in their English cut tweeds, smoking the fashionable briar pipe, strolling about the rooms of the Empress Hotel or taking their ease at the Union Club. The majority were content to live on their periodic allowances which they usually collected from the General Delivery wicket at the Post Office. One writer states that their real home was in British Columbia, which afforded them their natural resting place. Work was considered beneath their dignity and they would rather get a loan on the strength of their next remittance than join the hoi polloi to make up the deficiency in funds. This attitude was one of snobbishness, a feeling of superiority to the colonial. Just as the Westerns used the phrase 'remittance man' in a derogatory sense, so the remittance men used the word 'colonial'. Their unpopularity was not only on account of the loss of respect for themselves through degradation, but also because of their rudeness and arrogance.

Emily Carr had no time for them and says in her book Growing Pains that "... Canada was infested .... by Old Country younger sons and ne'er-do-wells, people who had been shipped to Canada on a one-way ticket ..... They were too lazy and too incompetent to work, stuck up, indolent, considering it beneath their dignity to earn but not.... to take all a Canadian was willing to hand out".

In Alberta they were the cause of amusement and source of many stories which are now woven into the social history of the West. The remittance man was such a well known feature of the scene that Bob Edwards created a fictitious remittance man whom he named Albert Buzzard-Cholmondeley, son of Sir John Buzzard-Cholmondeley of Skookingham Hall. However, when the call came in 1914 the Albertans gave them their due, green they might be, but not yellow. Not all of this class of men were stupid; it appears that they were not above deceiving their parents into believing that they were

the owners of prosperous cattle ranches. Thus letters from Bob Edwards' character, 'Bertie' would appear in the Calgary paper from time to time. It was believed by some that remittance men were responsible for Calgary's early growth and prosperity. They had money and the local businessmen made sure they spent it all in the town of Calgary. Bob Edwards was not the only writer to cash in on remittance men who by the early 1900's had become picturesque characters. They were appearing in short stories and even as the subject of a novel. Among Sir Clive Phillipps-Wolley's books is one entitled One of the Broken Brigade, the first half of which emphasises the fact that the hero is a remittance man. It is a delightful period piece in itself and exciting enough to hold one's attention to the end.

It was strange to discover an American remittance man. He is the chief character in a short story by W.L. Comfort, published in Lippincott Magazine, June 1905. His adopted country is China.

Yet another case against 'those outcasts of society' is described by L.M. Goldstone in an article entitled "The Remittance Man"; and which was published in a paper called The Week. The author states that for all his faults he is honest and therefore is able to obtain a loan easily, at least at the beginning. The author continues by describing an imaginary case where a remittance man has gone up the Island to take a job temporarily for room and board, until quarter day comes round when he would be able to collect his remittance and live in Victoria again.

But there was at least one person in the world who cared, who followed very carefully the experiment of sending abroad and protecting with periodical allowances young men of unsatisfactory life at home. He was the Reverend D.W. Duthie, whose article on the remittance man appeared in the magazine The Nineteenth Century, November 1899. His observations were based on his experiences in Australia and South Africa. In his opinion this kind of treatment is not the right one to cure an individual of his weaknesses, but rather sends him to the devil more quickly. To quote Mr Duthie, he is removed from the wholesome restraints of decent society and of the people whose good opinion he would not willingly forfeit. He finds himself where he is not known and where conventionalities of good behaviour are not demanded of him. They all drink and gamble and only work when they have to. The allowance is their downfall". The author goes on to describe one remittance man who managed to make good, who eventually became a Member of Parliament in the Upper House. Another example of one who made good is told in an article by L.V. Kelly, "A Vanished Type", Colliers, January 1912. He joined the R.C.M.P., but the periodic allowance from home was doing more harm than good. His superior officers wrote to his people asking that the remittance be stopped, which they did. It made a man of him. The new recruit's name is honoured in the Force for having pioneered a winter trail.

Another clergyman, the Reverend A.A. Boddy, has no sympathy whatsoever and states in his book, "By Ocean, Prairie and Peak", that they are "loafers who go around trying to negotiate loans....", that "Winnipeg is not the place to send the black sheep of the family to".

By 1912 the word remittance man was still a household term in the British Colonies, but the men themselves were less conspicuous. Mr L.V. Kelly, in his short piece, shows an objectivity lacking in most definitions and articles. A remittance man, he says, "is an Englishman who has had the misfortune to be born of rich parents and who possesses an inherent dislike for anything staidly respectable. He is a man who cares no more for the exercise of common sense than he does for outraged propriety, so long as he succeeds in his own peculiar aims of selfish enjoyment.." and continues to say that when such a person becomes unmanageable he is dispatched to Canada because, being bigger and wider than other colonies, unwelcome news would arrive less frequently.

The point I wish to make has been most aptly described by Mr Kelly. It is, that to Westerners the phrase 'remittance man' was synonymous with 'rich Englishman', consequently many respectable British were saddled with this sobriquet undeservedly. It is a supposition to say that an Englishman living in Canada on an income stemming from England, is a remittance man, as defined by the Western Canadian mind. The apparently idle rich, the law-abiding immigrant or sojourner should not have been so maligned. During the 1890's and early 1900's Canada came into prominence as an exciting new country to settle in or to visit. The vast open spaces and potential big game areas were becoming known and this drew a large number of adventurous sportsmen to British Columbia in particular.

Warburton Pike, the well known big game hunter and author was of this calibre, although he is still spoken of as one of the wealthier remittance men. George Walley in his book "The Legend of John Hornby", makes the distinction clear, "(Hornby) .... was sometimes spoken of contemptuously .... as a remittance man. But in fact Hornby had some private income from home". Meaning that it was his personal income and not an allowance from the family which supported him.

The remittance man may be a vanished type; on the other hand he may still be around but now no longer prominent due to the large increase in population and prosperity. He has in fact become a segment of the mosaic which is Canada.

Since there are people who still like to recall memories of the so called remittance men, it may not be too late to segregate the black sheep from the rest whose total remittances did, after all, help to swell the coffers of the country.

\* \* \* \* \*