

# B.C. historical NEWS

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CAPT. W. H. BLAGBORNE and the SADBURY 1

*Robert Green*

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\*\*\*\* CONVENTION 1977 and Registration form 28 \*\*\*\*\*

This volume of the News is featuring ships of British Columbia interest. In this issue, our artist, Robert Genn, has drawn the Sudbury I, a tug that gained international fame for its many heroic deep sea rescues. One of considerable note was the rescue of the Greek freighter Glafkos, bound from Japan to Vancouver in ballast, which ran aground off Amphrite Point in fog on the night of Jan. 1, 1962.

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\*\*\*\*\* NOTE The Editors have available a limited number of back copies of most issues of the News. Members may obtain copies at 25¢ each; non-member institutions and other subscribers may obtain copies at \$1.00 each. Packaging and mailing included. THIS OFFER GOOD UNTIL JULY 1st, 1977.

## EDITORIAL

"Then you should say what you mean" the March Hare went on. "I do", Alice hastily replied; "at least - at least I mean what I say - that's the same thing, you know". "Not the same thing a bit!" said the Hatter, "why you might just as well say that 'I see what I eat' is the same thing as 'I eat what I see'".

Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll.

"There's nothing like eating hay when you're faint" . . . . "I didn't say there was nothing better' the King replied, 'I said there was nothing like it".

Alice Through the Looking Glass - Lewis Carroll.

A voyage of discovery into the world of journalism via the daily papers is a rather unnerving experience. Without a glossary of the very bad puns contained in the headlines, it would be totally impossible to hazard a guess what the report that followed would be all about.

The outbursts from our world of politicians can leave the reader with but one thought - that the education system must be in a far worse state than we thought. The basic principles of general knowledge were never taught them, and, if they were, they were as quickly forgotten. The old adages are never observed that "Silence is golden" or "a little learning is a dangerous thing", for the fatuous statements purporting to emanate from them do little to inspire confidence.

A recent example from the Vancouver Province of April 6th with the headline "Good enough for Cook but what about the Socreds" startles the imagination. Where have these politicians been? From the Minutes of our Council Meeting in November 1974,

"The Secretary said that he felt that these celebrations should be something beyond the ordinary and should involve others in the Province in addition to the Association. Mr Turner added to the Secretary's remarks and reported in general terms on a meeting held with the Deputy Provincial Secretary who had received the idea of a province-wide celebration favourably."

The symposium to be held at Simon Fraser University for the Bicentenary of Captain James Cook has been under way for two years! Now the Cabinet Ministers, with less than one year to go, are planning a film for "world-wide consumption and the B.C. schools". What price glory? It is mooted that Pierre Berton is to write the script, to be produced in Ontario with Ontario actors! May heaven preserve us from another airing of Pierre's wardrobe as seen in the C.B.C. television series - The Great Canadian Dream. Just imagine that dramatic figure in "buckskins" overlooking the Indians greeting the intrepid mariner on the shore of Bligh Island, at the same time making suitable platitudinous background remarks.

We have the talent here to write the script, and the movie producers too, and for actors, what about the recent coast to coast performance on C.B.C. of an unknown cast from the East Vancouver Cultural Centre that gave us a magnificent performance of The Merchant of Venice?

Captain Cook was no ordinary explorer; his expeditions compare scientifically with the recent American achievement in placing a man on the moon. It is significant that, although Britain and the United States were at war, Benjamin Franklin, American Minister to the Court of France, issued his famous request to every ship of the line that "..... you would treat the said Captain Cook and his people with all civility and kindness, affording them as common friends to mankind all the assistance in your power..."

One last thought: Once again it's too little and too late.

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### SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

ALBERNI February: As Canada has extended her territorial boundaries to the 200 mile limit, the Society was keenly interested in the address of Dr Robin LeBrasseur, of the PACIFIC Biological Station at Nanaimo.. He showed graphs and slides on the Great Central Lake experiment to increase the supply of sockeye salmon for both sport and commercial fishermen. March: The Society was pleased and privileged to award a Life Membership to a Charter Member, Dr George Clutesi. He was honoured as author of two books (one of which is used as a textbook in the schools), as a painter, orator, and actor. He has revived and preserved the history of his people, and built a bridge between two cultures. Mrs Alice Riley presented him with coloured pictures she had taken of his Indian dancers and his painting exhibits.

CAMPBELL RIVER In December the Society was saddened by the death of member Helen Mitchell, author of Diamond in the Rough. At their annual meeting new officers elected were Pres: John Ackroyd; Vice-Pres. Jim Thomas; Sec-Treas. Helen McLoughlin, Museum Trustee Barry Henshall.

At its March meeting the executive, in reference to a proposed convention being held in Campbell River decided that even a "no-host" gathering would not be feasible without the society becoming totally involved, and that it was not prepared to commit next year's executive for this "Mammoth Job".

The Society has been fortunate to obtain another LIP grant of \$22,100 for the project Genesis III. Genesis I and II were involved with the collection of historic materials and pictures of the Campbell River area. Genesis III will try and fill in the gaps. To help in this area, Derek Reimer, Provincial Archives, conducted a workshop for the society on March 14th. Five workers under the direction of Ruth Barnett are concerning themselves with History of sports fishing (Tyee Club), commercial fishing and logging, Sisters of St. Ann, Cape Mudge Village, aviation history, photographing historic buildings, and oral history of pioneers. When all of this material is catalogued it will be made available to students and others doing research on the Campbell River area.

GOLDEN During October and November of 1976, members held sessions relating to the early history of the area. The first session was conducted by Mr Fred Netherton from Fort Steele. With the help of

many excellent slides he presented a review of Baillie-Grohman and his proposed canal linking the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers. The second session consisted of gleanings from the lives of Captain Armstrong, Walter Moberly and James Hector. Many interesting details of the Steamboat Era on the Columbia River were revealed in the study of Captain Armstrong. His home, now occupied by Fred Franson and his family, remains a historic landmark in this town. Those who attended this session learned that James Hector spent much of his time in "The Cache" (as Golden was then named) trying to locate a suitable route through the Rockies. The third session was a panel discussion among nine men who had been employed on the construction of the Big Bend Highway. This proved very delightful as many personal experiences were recorded. The fourth session was on "Education in the Columbia Valley" and followed a similar pattern to that of the Construction of the Big Bend. The panel consisted of some of the first teachers in the Valley - one of whom was Caroline Soles. The last session was on "Indians of the Columbia Valley". This was presented by Mrs Ellen Cameron. We learned that it was Chief Kinbasket who led Walter Moberley through on his survey for the C.P.R. - so how fitting it would seem to have the lake created from Mica Dam - called Kinbasket Lake, as he was the first man to see the former lake of that name. All the sessions were recorded on tape by Gordon Ambrose. Some articles have been typed and arranged in book form. Plans are in the making to establish a reading area in our Golden museum where such material can be read and tapes can be played.

NANAIMO At its Annual General Meeting in March, the following officers were elected: Pres. Mr W.J. Ince; 1st Vice-Pres. Mrs Barbara Stannard; 2nd Vice-Pres. Mrs Pamela Mar; Treas. Mrs Emily Kneen; Recording Sec. Mrs Dorothy Lawrence; Corresp. Sec. Mr J.Roff. The Society followed its survey of some of the heritage buildings in Nanaimo in January with a slide presentation and talk in February by Martin Segger on conservation areas across Canada. This is the time of the year when the Society, which is an active supporter of Heritage Canada, likes to give particular attention to this theme. A number of members were able to attend the Vancouver conference on "New Life for Old Buildings" and received there the Heritage Canada Communication Award it won last year. The cheque which accompanied the award will no doubt be well used as the Society is contemplating the publication of its archival material. In March, retiring President Mr J. Len Nicholls recounted for members the history of his family and its long association with Nanaimo. Len confesses to having been born between the horse and buggy and the automobile eras and carried the audience back even further in time with stories of his grandfathers and many of the Nanaimo old-timers.

VANCOUVER Dr Philip Akrigg addressed the Society at its February meeting on the gold rush days. Two things gave his talk freshness: many of the events and developments were told in the words of the participants; and instead of giving gold statistics in ounces or American dollars of the time, Dr Akrigg translated them into present monetary values, which made them more realistic. At the March meeting Mr Dan Gallacher of the Provincial Museum gave a talk on "Interesting Personalities in the Vancouver Island Coal Industry of the Nineteenth Century". At the Incorporation Day Dinner, held on April 6th, Garry Colchester spoke on "Houses and History".

VICTORIA The Victoria section has enjoyed speakers on a wide variety of subjects. In November Elwood White spoke on "One Hundred Years of Aviation in B.C." and showed a remarkable collection of pictures of pioneer aircraft. At the Christmas dinner in December, Dr Jacques Mar of Nanaimo, whose father, Rev. Ma Seung, was a pioneer of the Chinese Church in Victoria, spoke on the contribution to Western Canadian development made by Chinese. He noted that little credit was given in histories to Chinese as the men who did so much to build the Canadian Pacific Railway in B.C.; he commented that the photograph showing the last spike of the C.P.R. being driven in did not show a single Chinese. In January Mrs Avis Walton, Victoria, recalled the days of Chautauqua and with the assistance of models, singers and speakers described the excitement of the big tent entertainment and instruction given once a year by the Chautauqua visitors. In February the society did honour to the memory of an almost forgotten best selling author who made his home in British Columbia more than 50 years ago. He was Bertrand W. Sinclair, and one of his books, "Poor Man's Rock" sold about 80,000 copies. Professor Gordon Elliott of Simon Fraser University led a discussion of Sinclair and his work, assisted by the author's daughter, Mrs Cherry Whitaker and three friends, John Daly, Reg Payne and George North, who knew Sinclair when he fished among the Gulf Islands and helped develop a fishermen's organization. In March, the history of the temperance movement in B.C. was described by Rev. Harold T. Allen, long active in the social service work of the United Church.

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#### JOTTINGS

Vancouver Sun Feb 23rd. "The provincial government will begin this summer to catalogue and list all known shipwrecks on the West Coast. Bjorn Simonsen, head archeologist of the Provincial Museum said.. he expects the program to last two to three years. The program, Simonsen said, stems from the need for better protection of shipwreck sites from scuba-diving souvenir hunters who illegally remove artifacts. "We're going to have to consider stricter enforcement, ... possibly calling on the RCMP to help keep an eye on the sites. We would ask them to be on the lookout for people diving on the sites."... The idea for the classification program grew out of a meeting that Simonsen had with the B.C. Underwater Archeological Society Feb.10. The archeological society asked for the meeting after surveying a 105-year old wreck discovered off Mayne Island in December. The Zephyr, a three-masted bark that went down in 1872, was discovered during the Christmas holidays....All West Coast wrecks are protected under the Archeological and Historic Sites Protection Act of 1972. Any wreck designated as a historic site, as the Zephyr is, provides the site with special safeguards.

Vancouver Sun Feb. 2nd. "Shady Deal brought False Creek Land into Vancouver". The new \$35 million B.C. Central Credit Union headquarters planned for construction this fall, is being built on more than just a few acres of scrub land on the south shore of False Creek.... The story of how the lands passed from Indian hands into the provincial government's possession in 1913 marked one of

Vancouver's murkiest property deals. As early as 1901, the government proposed that the Squamish Kitsilano Reserve No. 6, approximately 90 acres on the southern shore of the mouth of False Creek, be surrendered and the Indians relocated. The Squamish band, however, decided not to sell to the provincial government. In 1913, the government reopened negotiations and W.J. Bowser, then Attorney General offered 20 heads of families \$11,250 each plus relocating costs to vacate the land. Unknown to the Indians, however, a railway consortium was preparing to offer the Squamish band \$2 million for the same property. The provincial government was aware of this offer, but said nothing. So the 20 heads of families, without consulting the rest of the Squamish band, and unaware of the \$2 million offer, accepted the provincial government's bid. The total package - including relocation of the band members to Squamish and removal of the burial ground remnants - came to \$219,750. The Attorney General, anxious to complete the sale, forgot one thing: Land transactions involving Indian land can only be conducted and approved by the federal Department of Indian Affairs. To make matters worse, it was disclosed that the provincial government had actually spent \$300,000 for the land, and while the Indians collectively received \$219,750, an unnamed politician received \$80,000 for a "commission".... "

(Just recently a tragic accident occurred at the site in which a construction crane that was being erected collapsed, killing one man and injuring several others. Perhaps there is such a thing as a "hex".)

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Vancouver Sun April 1 "Vernon gets Historic Ranch" "The historic O'Keefe ranch near here has been turned over to the city of Vernon to operate on a non-profit basis as part of Canada's heritage. The move followed the purchase of the ranch, including the original ranch house and a tiny old church and graveyard, by the Calgary-based Devonian group of charitable foundations for an estimated \$600,000.

From the Letters to the Editor of the Vancouver Sun David R. Williams, Q.C. objects to the choice of "Robson Square" for the name of the new Provincial Government buildings now being built in Vancouver. His main reason was that "since the central function of the building was the administration of justice, a name more suitable to that concept could have been chosen". (It is to be regretted that we as an Association did not get behind Peggy Imredy who suggested that the square be named in honour of the memory of Charles Marega who left his works of art for all to see and beautify not only Vancouver, but also Victoria - see the News. Vol. 8:4, June 1975, Charles Marega, by Doreen Imredy.)

The Benjamin Franklin quotation in the Editorial is taken from a keepsake published in 1975 by the Washington State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, entitled "Passport to Glory; Benjamin Franklin and Captain Cook". This publication contains a facsimile reproduction, as well as a transcription of a letter written by Benjamin Franklin to all captains and commanders of American armed ships in 1779. Copies are available for \$2.50 from the Washington State Historical Society, 315 No. Stadium Way, Tacoma, Wash. 98403.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that the News notes the passing of Kathleen Sarah Gibbard at Vancouver on February 24th, 1977. Mrs Gibbard was a long time member of the Vancouver Historical Society and a very faithful and devoted member. To her surviving family we wish to express our deepest sympathy in their bereavement and in particular, her husband, John, and daughter, Ida, who have been long time members of our Association.

BRITISH COLUMBIA BOOKS OF INTEREST

- BRITISH COLUMBIA. B.C. Forest Service. Wilderness survival. Victoria, 1976. 152 pp., illus.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA. Provincial Museum. A selected list of publications on the Indians of B.C., compiled by Alan L. Hoover and Grant R. Keddie. Victoria, 1976. 30 pp.
- BROWN, Brian. The burning bush; a reformed ethic for the north. Dawson Creek, Echo Pub., 1976. 165 pp., illus. \$7.95.
- BROWN, Brian. Separatism; a positive response from English Canada. Dawson Creek, Echo Pub., 1976. 200 pp., illus. \$9.95.
- BURI, Thomas. A preliminary annotated bibliography of the Stikine River country and its people. Telegraph Creek, Author, 1976. 35 p.
- CANADA. Canadian Habitat Secretariat. Two weeks in Vancouver. A selective guide to Vancouver... prepared by Chuck Davis and John Ewing, Vancouver, B.C. Vancouver, 1976. 106 pp., illus.
- CANADA. Ministry of State, Urban Affairs. Profile; Vancouver; the political and administrative structures of the metropolitan region of Vancouver. Ottawa, 1975. 131 pp. illus. \$2.
- DAVIS, Lenwood G. Blacks in the Pacific Northwest, 1788-1974; Mary Vance, ed. Monticelli, Ill. Council of Planning Librarians, 1975. 74 pp. \$9.
- DORCEY, Anthony H.J. ed. The uncertain future of the Lower Fraser. Vancouver, Westwater Research Centre, U.B.C. 1976. \$4.95.
- FISHER, Robin. Contact and conflict; Indian European relations in British Columbia, 1774-1890. Vancouver, U.B.C. Press, 1977. 268 pp., illus. \$18.
- FIVEHOUSE, Dan. The diamond drilling industry. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 199 pp. illus. \$9.95.
- GOULD, Ed. The lighthouse philosopher; the adventures of Bill Scott. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 262 pp. illus. \$9.95.
- GOULD, Ed. Oil: the history of Canada's oil and gas industry. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 256 pp. illus. \$17.95.
- HARRIS, Lorraine. Halfway to the goldfields. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1976. \$6.95.
- HAY, John E. and Timothy R. Oke. The climate of Vancouver. Vancouver, Tantalus Research, 1976. 50 p. \$2.50.
- HITCHCOCK, Sharon. Illustrated legends of the northwest coast Indians. Vancouver, Joint project of the B.C. Native Indian Teachers' Association & Indian Resources Centre. 16 pp. illus. \$14.75.
- KIRK, Ruth. Hunters of the whale; an adventure in northwest coast archeology. N.Y. Morrow, 1974. 160 pp. illus. \$5.95.
- KLASSEN, Agatha E. Yarrow; a portrait in mosaic. Yarrow, B.C. 1976. \$10.95.



- LAMB, W. Kaye. History of the Canadian Pacific Railway. New York, Macmillan, 1977. 491 pp., illus. \$17.95.
- LARGE, R. Geddes. History of the Prince Rupert General Hospital. (Prince Rupert) 1971. 28 pp., 75¢
- McTAVISH, George Simpson. Behind the palisades; memoirs of the north. Sidney, B.C. Gray, 1976. 249 pp., illus. \$4.95. Reprint.
- OBERLANDER, H. Peter, ed. Improving human settlements; up with people; a series of lectures delivered at the University of B.C. in preparation for the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements: Habitat '76. Vancouver, U.B.C. Press, 1976. 198 pp. illus. \$6.95.
- OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF B.C. British Columbia trails, rivers and shorelines; a status report... Vancouver, 159 p. \$5.00. maps
- PIRIE, Peter F. The stump ranch. (Victoria) The author, 1975. \$7.25
- STACEY, E.C. The Monkman Pass Highway. Beaverlodge & Dist. Hist. Assoc. 1976. 44 pp. illus. \$2.
- TOWNSEND, Arthur H. Tall tales that are true. Beaverlodge, Alta., Horizon Books, 1975. 93 p. \$1.50.
- 25th ANNIVERSARY of Mt. St. Joseph Hospital; 50th anniversary of the arrival... of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Vancouver, Mt. St. Joseph Hospital, 1971. 14 pp. illus.
- VOSS, John. Venturesome voyages of Voss. Sidney, Gray, 1976. 326 pp. illus. \$4.95. Reprint.
- WAITE, Don. The Langley story illustrated. Langley, Don Waite Photography, 1976. 240 pp. illus. \$15; \$8 paper.
- WILLIAMSON, Joe and Jim Gibbs. Maritime memories of Puget Sound in photographs and text. Seattle, Superior, 1975. 184 p. illus \$12.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

THE REBIRTH OF CANADA'S INDIANS, by Harold Cardinal. Edmonton, Hurtig, 1977. 222 pp. \$4.95 paper; \$9.95 cloth.

Hurtig Publishers are to be commended for continuing to bring to the public controversial books on Canadian subjects. These do not make for soothing reading; and those familiar with Mr Cardinal's previous book "The Unjust Society" will not be surprised to find that time has not mellowed Harold Cardinal. He still has scathing words for government departments and government officials, notably the Department of Indian Affairs, and former Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chretien.

In essence, this book is a chronicle of the Indian struggle for survival, physical and cultural. "The Rebirth of Canada's Indians" begins where "The Unjust Society" ends, just after the 1969 appearance of the government white paper on Indian policy. Some progress is reported: adoption of the proposals contained in the white paper has been blocked; funding has been obtained for Indian organizations to research and present their position on aboriginal rights. Progress in this direction is more than counter-balanced, however, by government inertia in the matters of housing and education.

As the author freely admits, he is a politician; this is a political document, dealing on the surface with the political

manoeuvres of the Indian Affairs Department and the intricate countermanoeuvres of Indian groups. We are provided, incidentally, and perhaps unintentionally, with some interesting insight into the political jostling taking place between opposing native factions.

Cardinal's political base is a provincial organization, the Indian Association of Alberta. Such organizations are a relatively new phenomenon, cutting across the widely differing structures which must have existed originally, as well as across the structures imposed for management purposes by various levels of the Canadian government. The developing strength of the provincial and national organizations of native people is a major new factor in a complex situation. Policies of native leaders must have strong support in order to make any impact on government decisions. Unanimous support is almost impossible to obtain, given the enormously varying opinions of the provincial/national organizations, the elected band councils and chiefs, and the supporters of radical action groups. Mr Cardinal sees the provincial/national organizations as a bulwark against radicalism on the one hand, and on the other against what he terms the corruption and disloyalty of the councillors and chiefs.

The author provides an excellent outline of the serious problems the native people face - problems toward which the indifference and ignorance of most of the rest of the people of Canada is truly shocking. His account is flawed, however, by being repetitive; and too often his illustrative examples are vague, as are his suggested solutions.

Perhaps the least persuasive part of his argument is his tendency to regard all government officials as involved in a malignant conspiracy to suppress native people. Charges of callousness and neglect may be well founded - conspiracy is unlikely. Furthermore nothing Cardinal says can justify the active intervention of the Native Indian Brotherhood, a national organization, against the cases of Mrs Bedard and Mrs Laval - victims of political manipulation by the very group which should have protected them; these women join Mrs Irene Murdoch in a second class status under Canada's Bill of Rights.

In spite of flaws, this book contains a great deal of important material for those who seek to understand the present dilemma of native people in Canada. One cannot doubt Mr Cardinal's genuine concern, nor help but admire his tenacity. Perhaps the most provocative new idea in the whole text is his introduction of ancient native religious concepts as an integral part of aboriginal land claims. A whole new dimension thus opens: the implications for the continuing debate on aboriginal rights are extremely serious.

Audrey Shane

Mrs Shane is a member of the staff of the Museum of Anthropology, UBC.

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MANKIND'S FUTURE IN THE PACIFIC, edited by Robert F. Scagel. Vancouver, University of B.C. Press, 1976. 206 pp. \$6.95.

"Mankind's Future in the Pacific" consists of the papers presented at the 13th Pacific Science Congress held in Vancouver in 1975. Generally, the lectures, which were given by experts in the social and natural sciences, deal with world problems. Although the Pacific region is emphasized, facts about other areas are included and the subjects have world wide significance.

The book is difficult to characterize because the papers are so varied in subject and style. Three papers analyze human population growth. N. Keyfitz contrasts Malthusian and Marxian views of the population problem. He makes some penetrating observations about the social and environmental aspects of the American consumer lifestyle. He also discusses the political effects in Asia of rapid urbanization due to growing populations. G. Piel stresses the menacing division of the world into rich and poor nations and the importance of technology transfer in bridging the gap. F.J. Fenner presents a biologist's view of population growth and reviews historical aspects. Although other authors have written more dramatically on the subject, these authors present a balanced, constructive view of the present population momentum.

In contrast to the human species, other animal species have declined drastically. In a systematic and succinct fashion, I. McTaggart Cowan reports on the extinction of animal species throughout the Pacific. His brief, matter-of-fact warnings about future economic development of the Pacific Islands have considerable political impact.

Two authors discuss world food shortages. M. Behar reminds us of the drastic effects of malnutrition in perpetuating ill-health and poverty. L.H. Shebeski compares world food requirements and agricultural resources. He stresses Canada's small but critical role in the food equation and presents a convincing argument for Canadian financing of agricultural developments in countries such as India.

Two other papers concern the role of scientists in government. In a sombre paper on the arms race, W. Epstein explains the significance of MIRV's, the SALT agreements, and other military acronyms that appear in newspapers. He expresses strong views on the moral duty of scientists involved in weapons research. P.A. Larkin, in a light, well-written account, discusses the complexities and difficulties of formulating science policy, but urges Canadian scientists to become involved.

In a class all its own is the scholarly and interesting essay on primitive navigation by the famous author and anthropologist, T. Heyerdahl. He summarizes the diverse data which suggest that the Coastal Indians of British Columbia settled Polynesia.

From the four remaining papers, I gained a minimum of information and understanding. None has reference lists and probably were aimed at listeners rather than readers. Although one of the papers deals with energy sources, alternative sources such as wave energy of the ocean and new applications of solar energy are barely mentioned. More on the Pacific Ocean itself would also have been desirable.

Because of its diverse and timely subject content, I tend to

liken this book to a newspaper. The book, however, is more informative and costs less than a two months' subscription to a daily newspaper. Another advantage of the book is that the authors not only report the facts, but try to offer solutions to present world problems and anticipate future problems.

Helen Mayoh

Dr Mayoh is a science reference librarian at the University of B.C.

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THE BAD AND THE LONELY, by Martin Robin. Toronto, James Lorimer & Co., 1976. 222 pp., illus. \$12.95.

Stories about villains are irresistible. Best-selling fiction has always been liberally salted with bad guys who committed highly romanticized misdeeds before they met their doom. The lives of such characters are usually depicted as exciting drama played against a rich background.

Martin Robin's villains are all real people who actually lived. His seven stories of Canadian outlaws are carefully documented, scrupulously detailed, and the result - for once - is a chronicle of crime shorn of romanticism.

There is the story of Simon Gun-a-noot, who lived like a hunted animal in the forest for thirteen years, accused of murder, until he wearily gave himself up, stood trial and was acquitted. Donald Morrison, a young Scot whose Quebec farm was lost to a scheming mortgage lender, shot and killed (apparently in self-defence) a special constable who had volunteered to bring him in. The jury's subsequent recommendation of mercy cut no ice with the judge, who sentenced Morrison to eighteen years' hard labour: he was dead within five.

Almighty Voice, a Cree Indian who killed a government-owned cow to feed his ailing wife, was so fearful of the consequences that he shot a Mountie to avoid arrest, and was later cornered by a force of more than one hundred men. He died, riddled with shrapnel, under heavy cannon fire.

The author handles their stories and others with a minimum of heartstring-tugging, but his message comes through clearly. People like these don't plan careers of crime, they blunder into bad situations and then panic. They end up backed up into a corner, and their next decision proves fatal not only to other people but to themselves.

This perceptive book is also something of a cure for false nostalgia. The "good old days" of the outlaw were, at least for some, an era of mindless cruelty and indifference to human suffering. If Simon Gun-a-noot and his fellow fugitives were alive today, they might think Canada had turned into Utopia.

On a lighter note, there is the tale of Bill Miner, a train robber who won the hearts of children and old ladies. His other hobby was stealing bags of money from the railroad. "Oh, Bill Miner's not so bad," one local resident remarked at the time. "He only robs the CPR once every two years, but they rob us every day".

June Franklin

Mrs Franklin is Publicity Officer at the Van. Centennial Museum.

BOOK NOTES

OUR HOMES ARE BLEEDING: A SHORT HISTORY OF INDIAN RESERVES, by Reuben Ware. Victoria, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, 1975. 26 pp.

For our members who wish to learn what our native people are talking about when they speak of the "Cut off lands", the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs has put out a most interesting and illuminating booklet dealing with this subject, entitled "Our Homes are Bleeding". The table of contents has such headings as "What is an Indian Reserve", "1865, the new Land Policy", "The Indian Reserves Commission, 1876-1910", "The McKenna-McBride Commission, 1913-1916" and this is just a sampling, together with maps of the reserves and the resultant disputed lands. Copies may be obtained at \$2.00 each from Stalo History Project, Coqualeetza Education Centre, Box 370, Sardis, B.C.VOX 1Y0.

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STORIES FROM PANGNIRTUNG. Illustrated by Germaine Arnaktauyok, foreword by Stuart Hodgson. Edmonton, Hurtig. 100 pp., \$5.95.

This is an artistically prepared series of stories told by the old people of the area recalling their young days. The Inuit people of this region of Baffin Island had no contact with white people until the turn of the century. As many of the story tellers are aged from the early 60's to age 75 it gives a glimpse of life in an entirely different world and way of life from today. There is no controversy, no hostility, just regret that maybe the old harsh ways had a more interesting and fulfilling experience than all the new methods that have not fitted either the land or the people. An ideal children's book, with beautiful coloured illustrations.

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DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY, ED. BY Frances Halpenny. Vol. IX. Toronto; University of Toronto Press, 1976. \$25.

Volume IX of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography is the most recent volume of this series to be published. This volume is devoted to persons of Canadian interest who died between the years 1861 and 1870. It has a lot of material on the fur trade and Hudson's Bay Company empire, as well as explorers to the Pacific coast. A few examples of names appearing in this volume are Peter Warren Dease, Simon Fraser, Klatassin, Leonard McClure, Donald McLean, Thomas McMicking, David Thompson, Mervin Vavasour and John Work.

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THE GULF ISLANDERS, compiled and edited by Derek Reimer. SOUND HERITAGE Vol. 5 No. 4. Victoria, Aural History, Provincial Archives of B.C., 1976. 70 pp. \$1.75.

These are excerpts from the interviews made by Imbert Orchard for the C.B.C. in 1965-66. This edition of Sound Heritage is entirely devoted to the Gulf Islands and has many interesting pioneer pictures of places and people on the Islands in the early days of settlement.

Fortunately, for those interested, it is possible to obtain cassette copies of the original sound programme by producer Orchard (by permission of the C.B.C.) for an additional \$2.50. To order write Aural History, Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

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WOMEN OF THE WEST KOOTENAY

Clare McAllister

(text of a talk given to the Gulf Islands Society in spring 1975)

A child in the mining camps or the towns of the Kootenay was well aware that there were "women" and "ladies". Some, overly loud and gay, one avoided. In a "city" with a business district or perhaps two streets, each some five or six blocks long, a child did not go on to the lower street. The early newspapers excelled in references which still record the differing degrees of respect which women were perceived as deserving in the community. In 1891 Nelson was, as for many years after, celebrating a four-day festival which ranged through from Canadian Dominion Day, July 1st to American Independence Day, July 4th. On this first recorded steamboat excursion from Nelson to Ainsworth, there were 110 persons willing to pay for the trip. The Nelson Miner recorded that the brass band "played all the pieces they knew", and further boasted that "the boys proved, though far from home influences, worthy to associate with good women". The paper gave an account of sports and games; greasy pole, rowboat and shell races, horse races, slow mule races, steeplechase and tugs of war, and went on to state "there was not a disorderly scene". Further, to honour the ladies, these festive days were crowned by two balls, one under the sponsorship of the Miners' Union "over Lemon's Store", and one under the auspices of the Band.

Where there were men and women, there certainly were those who wanted to marry. A newspaper commentator remarked early in the '90's "There are a number of young men and maidens sojourning at Nelson. Among them are two or three who would willingly join hands in wedlock could they find a person authorized to celebrate the marriages. One of the great natural industries of the country is being retarded - while orators at Victoria are so busy on export duty, or nickel, or reciprocity". Some of the principals were obliged to journey to Bonner's Ferry in Idaho to be married by a Justice of the Peace; or to Spokane, Washington, where the ceremony was performed by a Presbyterian or other minister. On their return to the mining camps, a surprise reception, gift giving, or toasts, might meet the celebrants.

The daughter of a pioneer of the Boundary and Kootenay country recalls her mother's often repeated story of a wedding near Rock Creek. People had assembled from far and wide, a minister being available to perform the ceremony, and festivities were not all that common. When the minister, ready to officiate, asked the groom for his licence, it was produced with a flourish. However, the minister, to the consternation of all present said, "My good man, I can't marry you with this. This is a free miner's licence". To this the groom

thundered: "Well, I'm a miner!" Further enquiry disclosed that the groom had ridden a day and a half, going in to get his licence, and, when asked his occupation, had said "miner". As he had not specified that he was prepared to enter the state of matrimony (thinking perhaps that all the world knew he had been accepted), it was assumed that he wanted a miner's licence and that is what he was given. It was necessary, on the minister's indication, for him to ride a day and a half again to secure the proper licence, and to return, consuming another day and a half. While some of the wedding guests necessarily had had to leave to attend to their animals and their work, a sufficiency of them remained to honour the proceedings.

That there were those who found a simpler means of getting around the problem of entering the state of matrimony is heralded in a headline of the Nelson Miner of August 1890: "Wedded Under the Good Old Common Law". A lively account is given (the parties being named) of a man aged 61 and a woman aged 19 who "were, by their own sweet wills, joined in the bonds of holy wedlock". No reference was made to Gretna Green (perhaps as the groom himself was a blacksmith and had no need to journey to a forge). It is noted that the man and woman received their friends in the adjoining blacksmith's shop. In continuing its account of the occasion, the newspaper maintained its somewhat special tone, remarking "It was with feelings akin to parting with a lost love that some of the boys bid the bride a last farewell.... The bride is a piquant brunette and well known in the gay social circles of Revelstoke and this city".

There were also ladies who played the numerous "opera houses" and theatres of the burgeoning settlements, and with whom a man might hope to have "a bit of fun". Word went round the settlements near Kaslo of a quarrel between the driver of an ore-sleigh and a young man who was out merely for a sleigh-ride "with a consignment of the youth and beauty of the Theatre Comique bound for New Denver". An 82-year old pioneer in Kaslo, still full of lively memories, said in 1966 "It is only about 25 years ago that a Nelson jeweller received a letter from a Kaslo woman asking him to come and value some jewellery for her and to loan her \$400. She enclosed \$10 for his travelling expenses. When he saw the jewellery, which he considered worth more than \$2,000, he was only too glad to loan her the \$400, which she wanted to help an old friend develop his mining claim. She was probably the last of the Opera Comique Company". We can see that giving pleasure was not without its enduring rewards.

At the same time worthy ladies were busy preparing worthy dinners for various worthy causes. They gave a New England Dinner for the benefit of the Fire Hall, or put on a Parlour Social. Presbyterian ladies were known to give an "Experience Social", an occasion when the guests turned in money and gave an account of how they had earned it, their method of earning being by the exercise of other than their usual skills. This added a spice of novelty to the occasion. Such ladies were organizing "Reading Rooms" (a precursor of libraries), or buying silver-mounted shaving mugs and brushes for their spouses.

While in Rossland in 1900 the famous Peri Troupe of French dancers were entertaining in the International Music Hall, while other entertainment was under way in the Opera House and the Palace Grand. For an approaching Ball, ladies might purchase "Gauze; fans; gloves;

art muslin; cream and coloured silk or lisle hose". Those interested in charitable enterprises could attend a meeting of the Provincial Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which had 101 children in care and was buying a new property "On Hastings Road east of Vancouver". The gentleman speaker told the ladies of his audience "I fear I shall have to take more children into care this trip". He was grateful for the ladies' money to assist in his good work.

That there were other women, the early newspapers did not hesitate to record, and their references turn up at various times. In 1899 Nelson newspapers abounded in letters protesting "The incessant pounding on a score or more pianos all night long" in "the east-end houses". There seems never to have been any objections to the houses of prostitution in themselves, although suggestions were made "Why could they not be moved down by the Chinese Gardens?" or "out to Bogustown?" The objections were made on the basis of the sounds of revelry at night and "the maudlin condition of these women" in the daytime, since they were allowed to "frequent certain saloons of the 'tenderloin' district, where boxes are kept for their entertainment". The letter writers also made objection on the basis of the women returning home who "so flauntingly paraded vice before children of a tender age". The Civil Liberties Union of today presumably did not exist in 1897, when a controversy arose because of a charge of conducting a house of ill repute, the defence being that the owner had a receipt from the City Clerk for \$20. This defence was cut to ribbons by the testimony of the City Clerk that this was not a licence, but that "all the girls who kept houses had his receipt". It was "not a licence, but money paid more in the nature of fines, so as to save the trouble of arresting and fining them.

The newspapers of the period were not above an effort to endeavour to extract entertainment value for the community for some of the episodes connected with these women. In August of 1897 the Nelson papers named a woman who was not murdered, because the shot directed at her heart was deflected by a corset steel. The man who had thought to bring her to her end was more successful in taking his own life. Another episode in the same year recounted in a humorous vein, was the case of the quarrel between Porcupine Billy Cowgill and one of the community's constables. The constable, courting a widow, had put a flask of whisky under her mattress as a tender token. Porcupine Billy, finding the gift and taking exception to it, assaulted the constable, saying proudly that the woman in question could get lots of whisky elsewhere, and didn't need the constable's gift. It is recorded that the widow's son opposed her espousing either of the combatants.

Apart from those who did not at all mind, perhaps even rejoiced in being thought of as "common"; apart from those who thought of themselves (and were probably thought of by others) as ladies; apart from these, there were women who were just women - good women perhaps. In a pioneer situation, these were often tough. Now this was not tough in the sense roughly synonymous with bad, or potentially bad. This was tough in the sense that the root of a windswept pine on a mountain ledge is tough; searching, seeking, durable, useful, sharing in productivity.



So pioneers, now aged, recall tales that a child heard when young. It could be stories about Maud Haley, who came to Kaslo from Howser and helped her father run pack-trains. One old timer thinks she is probably the only human being who ever got a horse to stand to face a large bear. She roped the bear! She roped the bear from her saddle on her standing quaking horse. To be a girl just helping her father on a pack outfit was not enough!

A certain Susie told me as a child how she went into the Rock Creek Boundary and West Kootenay country when she too was a young girl. Alone in the cookshack of some small mining operation, one day she heard a noise at the door. When she opened it, one of the miners who worked the hoist was at the door with his hands cupped into a loose fist. "What have you got?" she asked, thinking he had picked up a fledgling bird, or some hillside treasure. Then his blanching face told her there was no offering of pleasure in his stance at the door. There was no-one but Susan to deal with his mangled hand and further, to have to deal with the hoist when he could not.

Women were respected for being able to cope, to pitch in. Although pioneer women could not only cope, they were also vigorous in the pursuit of pleasure (they could snow-shoe 14 miles downhill from Rossland to Trail and back again for a Sunday's diversion, or could walk several miles carrying their dancing slippers in a gay silk bag to attend a winter ball). It was, therefore, not without some implied criticism for "heathen" ways that an early newspaper recorded an incident from Ainsworth on Kootenay Lake, when "Kootenai" (an Indian who would apparently have been well-known to readers) had contracted with some miners to do a job of packing. When he saw what was to be carried, he took from his wife a 20-lb papoose, although a child was a burden which ordinarily a man would have scorned, and left his wife to carry an 80-lb load of drill steel. The newspaper writer, like his readers, referred to the burden bearer as Kootenai's "Klutch", in the Chinook jargon that was then in frequent use.

While a child in the mining camps would not necessarily read such tales in the papers, it was easy to see that there were women who were not spared other kinds of burden bearing. When a husband simply vanished, a woman took in washing, or undertook home nursing to earn a living for her children. She was not categorized in her own mind, or in the minds of the community as a "deserted wife" - she simply got on with what she had to do. One of a family of five Rossland children can still recall the time of the strike when father went elsewhere to look for work. When father died, mother took in boarders. There was a lot of coal and wood to pack to the stoves in the bedrooms, for boarders must be kept warm and must find a warm room after leaving the warmth of the underground mines for the cold of the outside winter world. Mother straightforwardly carried her burden of work and the children straightforwardly carried it with her.

All of the women had the sorrows inherent in the human condition, sometimes sooner or oftener, due to rough living conditions, in the early days of the settlements. Down at the edge of the dark woods, at the bottom of Rossland's vertical mountain cemetery, one mother, who was in the town before the railway stood by the grave of

ner blue-eyed baby girl, dead on her first birthday; was she thinking of water at \$1.00 a barrel? - the lack of sanitation? - the quality of the milk? A town starting out saw enough of death to give an undertaker a good livlihood. It is hard to forget the undertaker, not quite sober, who had come to the home to get the baby into a coffin not quite long enough. "She was a dear baby", the mother remembered, speaking to a remaining child; that child still remembers.

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## A HISTORY OF THE VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY 1869-1900

by Gwen Hayball

This article in two parts traces the early beginnings of the City of Vancouver and its early pioneers who strove to provide a place of peace and comfort, where men far from home and family could find solace in a book or at least get word of local interest through newspapers and periodicals. Those who have lived through times and similar circumstances related in this historical background will appreciate the worth of the "reading room" cum library, and the unappreciated, unrewarded (and often reviled) unselfish people who made it all possible.

### Part I. THE BIRTH OF A "MENTAL OASIS" IN A WILDERNESS SETTLEMENT.

While the settlement of Victoria was consolidating its good fortune, brought about by the rush to the Fraser and Cariboo gold mines, the vast wealth of timber which forested the shores of Burrard Inlet remained undisturbed. The government had some idea of the potential of this deep inlet, and in 1860-61 created a reserve for a townsite in the area of the present Second Narrows, but the sale of lots did not take place until 1869. The first clearing on the Inlet took place on the North Shore, to establish the Pioneer Mills, in 1863; two years later it was renamed Burrard Inlet Mill. Sewell P. Moody, the owner, was a patriarchal type of man who maintained strict control of his employees and ran the community as a company town. Alcohol was forbidden on company property. To "Sew" Moody must go the credit for opening the first library on the Inlet; it was called the Mechanics' Institute, and in recognition of his personal donation to the library he was made an honorary member, and his guidance was sought in selecting the first hundred books purchased in San Francisco for the library. It was well organized from the beginning, with by-laws and well defined constitution. The British Colonist of Feb. 8, 1869, described the opening: "The Mechanics' Institute at Moody's and Company's Mill, Burrard Inlet, was opened on the 23rd inst. with appropriate ceremonies. The Rev. A. Browning, of the Wesleyan Mission delivered a very entertaining lecture, the subject being "Woman"."

The second commercial enterprise on Burrard Inlet was the British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar, Lumber and Sawmill

Company, situated on the South Shore. Incorporated in England, it started production in 1867. For the first two years it was under the management of Captain Edward Stamp, and 'Stamp's Mill' as it was called, was situated on 243 acres along the shore from what is now Main Street eastward. Stamp was a quarrelsome and most difficult man to deal with. Coming from Victoria, he adopted a superior attitude towards the locals of Burrard Inlet. Unlike Moody who encouraged his married employees to build homes and settle, Stamp cared nothing for the welfare of his men. Consequently the north shore mill was a neat, orderly community, while Stamp's mill on the south shore was an untidy collection of shacks inhabited by the riff-raff of the waterfront, deserters from sailing ships, and unsuccessful gold seekers. In spite of the fact that Stamp produced and shipped an impressive quantity of lumber and shingles, the company went bankrupt and he returned to England January 2, 1869. In February of the following year the mill was sold by auction to a Californian firm and Captain Raymur was appointed manager, a position he held until his death in 1882. Vancouver had its birth here and grew up around the mill. Early paintings and photographs depict the simple wooden buildings against a background of dense forest. Transportation was by boat; four to five miles eastward along the shore was the New Brighton hotel, built by Oliver Hocking, and the summer cottages of the New Westminster elite, who came from the Fraser to the Inlet by boat or by horse drawn vehicle along the trail which became the Douglas Road. Three miles westward of the mill was 'Gastown', later Granville, an isolated community which earned a bad reputation for its brawls, murders and lawlessness. At first there were no connecting trails between the three separate clearings along the south shore.

An historic change took place when Captain James A. Raymur became manager of the mill as successor to Stamp. He was a complete contrast to his predecessor in every respect. Handsome, rigorously self-disciplined, dignified and 'every inch a gentleman', the ex-sea captain set about making the mill a civilized, decent place in which to live and work. On first seeing the settlement he is supposed to have exclaimed, "What is the meaning of this aggregation of filth?". On being told that it was a by-product of the mill and would come within the sphere of his influence, he answered, "Aye, aye, and I'll make the beggars mind me. I'll not permit a running sore to fasten itself on an industry entrusted to my care".<sup>1</sup>

Captain Raymur was also a local magistrate and therefore had authority over the settlement to the west of the mill, where Gassy Jack's saloon was situated. The latter had built a plank walkway from his saloon to the mill. It was Gassy Jack, with Raymur and Moody who appealed to Governor Seymour for a resident policeman to establish law and order in the community.

Victoria was home to Captain Raymur and because his wife chose not to leave the pleasures and comforts of civilization, a modest cottage at the mill site was sufficient for his needs. Joe Mannion, who later owned the Granville Hotel, gives us this delightful insight to his character:

"He had the pallor of an ascetic which could be mistaken for intellect, nobody would believe that he had sailed the seven seas -  
1. Native Sons of B.C. Romance of Vancouver. Vancouver, 1926.

well educated, well dressed, with a ready business manner. The captain dearly loved a bit of display and on court days his coming was Gilbertian, lacking but costume to give it a Mikado setting. He was accompanied by his clerk, who labored under a great tome large enough to contain all the statutes from William and Mary down.... But the court had a saving grace in the brains of the clerk who wisely directed proceedings and gave it a measure of legality."<sup>2</sup>

This rousing ex-sea captain was determined to match his mill with Moody's. In addition to erecting bunk houses for the single men there was a separate building used as a sitting-room for the mill hands. "Bummer's Hall", as it was originally called, was where the Vancouver Public Library really had its beginnings. The library which Raymur founded was housed in this building and was named "The New London Institute". The date of the official opening does not seem to have been recorded, but it was before March 18, 1869 since the British Columbian of that date made the following announcement: "Change of name". "As a compliment to Admiral Hastings, the name of the New London Institute, at Burrard Inlet, has been changed to that of the Hastings Institute". Soon after, the mill itself became Hastings Mill, and to further honour the admiral a public notice appeared in the B.C. Gazette, May 15, 1869, stating that a public auction would be held at New Westminster on 10th July, offering for sale lots laid out in the Town Site at the terminus of the Douglas Road. "The town will be called "Hastings". Signed, Joseph Trutch, Lands and Works Office, May 14, 1869.

The name Hastings is even more dominant today; what could be the reason for so marked an honour? No one single act, it seems, but rather that Admiral Hastings was of a generous nature, a very likeable man, and Raymur, his friend, very much the master on the south side of Burrard Inlet.<sup>3</sup> Finally a piece in the British Columbian, March 1869, speaks of Admiral Hastings as "a good friend to this colony", suggesting public recognition of his approaching departure.<sup>4</sup>

For Admiral the Hon. George Fowler Hastings had arrived with his family at Esquimalt on board the Zealous. 12 July 1867, to take up his duties as Commander in Chief of Her Majesty's North Pacific Squadron.<sup>5</sup> For the next twenty-one months they entertained from Maplebank, a house overlooking the harbour. Victoria society was charmed and the Hastings' became favourite guests.

The Navy, by custom, had become an integral part of community life in Victoria and other settlements on the Coast. As Captain Raymur and the admiral were friends, it seems probable that just before the latter returned to England in April 1869, he gave the ship's books to the library at the Mill, as is suggested by a type-written memo in the Vancouver City Archives, Hastings Library Docket. "Rear Admiral the Hon. George Fowler Hastings, C.B., left on his return trip, 15 April 1869 from Esquimalt after giving the books,

2. Matthews, J.S. Early Vancouver. Vol. III p. 114.

3. B.C. Provincial Archives. Raymur folder. Letter from Geo. Ditchman to Miss Wolfenden. 9/2/34

4. Howay, F.W. Early settlement on Burrard Inlet. B.C. Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1, 1937.

5. Nesbitt, J. Old houses and families. Colonist, Aug. 27, 1950.

which his officers and crew had read over and over until they were tired of them - no use taking them back to England". This may have been a fairly common practice as, similarly, Captain Gilpin of the barque Virgil had donated books to the Mechanics' Institute at Moody's Mill.

Unfortunately no official records of the Hastings Literary Institute have survived, but it is known that membership was by subscription. Mr Calvert Simson, who was the third store keeper at the mill, quotes from a source not given, that the rate was 50¢ per month.<sup>6</sup> Certain outsiders also enjoyed the benefit of the library as none other than the well known Jeremiah (Jerry) Rogers, associated with logging at Jerry's Cove, now Jericho Beach, subscribed from September 1870 to October 1872. An employee subscriber was Mr C.B. Sweney, who was probably related to the school teacher at the mill, Miss Georgia Sweney. By January 1874 the fee had been raised to one dollar per month. Among the half dozen Hastings Literary Institute books which the Vancouver Public Library possesses is "Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith", which is inscribed, "presented by Thomas Saueville, M.A. Jan. 7, 1869". It is extremely interesting on account of the date, which suggests that the Hastings Mill Library may have been opened before Moody's Mill Library and that it was probably the very first volume to appear on the shelves. It also poses a question: who was the donor? Obviously an educated person but as far as can be traced, not a resident of the Inlet or Victoria. He might have been a friend of Raymur on a freighter or naval vessel. The other five volumes are, George Eliot's "Middlemarch" Vol. 2; Marion's "The wonders of optics"; Waterton's "Wanderings in South America"; and Bunyan's two works "The Holy War" and "Pilgrim's Progress". Two further volumes, "Tales from Blackwood" and Byron's "Works" are in the City's archive collection.<sup>7</sup>

Until the greatest event in the history of the Inlet, the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Port Moody in 1886 and to Vancouver in the following year, the population increase was very gradual. In 1871 the two mills employed approximately 114 men, and the number of white people on the Inlet altogether was only about 378. The passing of time was marked by such events as the opening of the school at Hastings Mill in 1872, due to Captain Raymur's efforts. There was already a post office, a gaol and customs house. In October of that year an announcement in the Mainland Guardian, New Westminster, stated that the names of three gentlemen had been added to the present Board of Pilots, and Captain Raymur was among them.<sup>8</sup> Determined to maintain an atmosphere of restraint and decency along the shores of the Inlet, in 1873 there appeared a notice in the paper signed by three J.P.'s, J.A. Raymur, C.M. Chambers, and J. Rogers. "The undersigned hereby give notice that, at the next granting of licences, we will oppose all houses at Burrard Inlet, that keep open after 12 o'clock at night, or allow cards to be played on Sunday."<sup>9</sup> However, the situation was much the same several years later when W.C. Van Horne, President of the C.P.R.

6. City Archives Hastings Institute Docket. Letter from Calvert Simson to Major Matthews, April 23, 1945.
7. City Archives. Hastings Institute Docket. Letter to Mrs Barker from Major Matthews.
8. Mainland Guardian, New Westminster. Oct. 2, 1872.
9. Mainland Guardian, New Westminster. Aug. 20, 1873.

arrived in Granville to change the name to Vancouver; he remarked on it being 'a hard boiled, hard drinking, hard living town'. At another level among the civilized citizens, the usual social events were taking place: a wedding such as that of Abbie Patterson in 1874 to Capt. William Jordan of the ship Marmion. The ceremony was performed in the parlour of the Patterson's home, and after refreshments served in the kitchen, the company 'all went down to the library and danced, sang songs and recited'. This was the Hastings Literary Institute. Gassy Jack's present to the newly-weds was a case of wine and whisky. The B.C. Directory, 1882-83 records the fact that the A.O.U.W.<sup>10</sup> Granville Lodge No. 29 meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. Literary Institute, Hastings Mill. In fact the Hastings Mill was looked upon to fulfil many functions, and under its good management, rose to the occasion splendidly. Until the railway arrived it kept a boarding-house, where people walking the trail from Hastings Townsite could put up overnight.

It was Captain Raymur's responsibility to receive dignitaries and deliver addresses of welcome on such memorable occasions as the visit to the Mill of Governor Musgrave and the Marquis and Marchioness of Dufferin. As a contrast he was referee at the most impressive Dominion Day celebrations in 1876. The programme included a wide variety of races in all kinds of boats and canoes, and included a duck hunt.

Among the officials was Richard Henry Alexander, who had been working at the mill as an accountant since 1870. When Captain Raymur died in 1882 he became manager of Hastings Mill. An energetic public spirited man, he became a J.P. and was the first secretary to the School Board. Mrs Alexander who had sung so sweetly at Abbie Patterson's wedding had arrived in Victoria on a bride-ship and is supposed to have been the first white woman to live in Gastown or Granville. In the B.C. Directory, 1882-83 it is noted that R.H. Alexander was president of the Hastings Literary Institute, C.E. Renouf secretary and A.O. Campbell librarian, the latter a clerk at the store.

The great Vancouver fire in 1886 was another occasion when the ever open door of Hastings Mill proved a blessing to hundreds of fleeing settlers of Granville. Miraculously the flames did not jump the clearing to the Mill. The Rev. H.G. Fiennes Clinton, who had arrived in 1885 and who was the rector of St. James Anglican Church (or St. James on the Beach), with true Christian spirit worked with Mrs Alexander attending the injured in a temporary hospital at the Mill. More pertinent to this history is the fact that he was leader of a group of men in Vancouver who decided to start a library and reading room in Vancouver itself.

The railway and the fire seemed to have suddenly created the spark which woke the early Vancouverites from their somewhat 'Sleepy Hollow' existence. The incessant rattle of machinery and clouds of escaping steam of the Mill were no longer conspicuous as buildings went up at a tremendous rate. The employees at the Mill were attracted by the life of the new city and less and less time was devoted to reading. The library had fulfilled its purpose.

It was Mr Alexander who set the ball rolling by offering the  
10. A Masonic Lodge.

ex-library books at the Mill to Rev. Clinton who lost no time in consulting with two other prominent citizens: these were Mr H.P. McCraney, a contractor and alderman and Mr Francis Carter-Cotton, owner and editor of the News-Advertiser. They decided to form a temporary committee and use the gift of some 400 odd books as the nucleus for a public reading room and library. With enterprise and drive they begged more books and cash from all who were willing to support the idea. Premises were found on the upper floor of 136 Cordova St. West, above Thos. Dunn's hardware store.<sup>11</sup> The library opened its doors early in December 1887. The exact date is not known but it was probably about December 19th, as George Pollay, who became the first librarian, gave a lecture in aid of the Reading Room on this date.

It is interesting to note that a condition of the gift was that all members of the Hastings Literary Institute in good standing on June 1, 1887, be made life members of the Vancouver Reading Room.<sup>12</sup> This strengthened the link of continuity and also indicates that the Hastings Library was a going concern up to that date.

At a meeting held shortly after, the following officers were elected: President, Rev. H.G. Fiennes Clinton; Treasurer, E.V. Bodwell; Secretary, Dr Bodington; Librarian, George Pollay. Two of the trustees were R.H. Alexander and F. Carter-Cotton. The newly appointed librarian, Mr G. Pollay, arrived with his wife in 1886, and witnessed the awesome spectacle of the city burning. By trade, Mr Pollay was a cooper. Rather a studious man who read a great deal, he turned from Methodism to the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg. Although described as a man of pious disposition, George Pollay had a passionate interest in 'labour' and its conditions, and this is borne out by a request to the City Council on February 14, 1887 asking for the use of the Council Chamber for the purpose of holding an Anti-Chinese meeting. The request was granted. This was after a mass meeting held in the City Hall protested the employment of Chinese and also the horrifying raids on Chinese labour camps. The subject of a lecture which Pollay gave in aid of the Vancouver Reading Room, Dec. 19th of the same year might have been dull but for its subject and timing "Labour problems - past and present". Mr & Mrs Pollay very generously agreed to work as librarians without payment and continued to do so until his resignation in 1890.

Mr Carter-Cotton was an ardent advocate for the establishment of a reading room and library. As the owner and editor of the News-Advertiser, he was in a favourable position to persuade others to agree to the necessity of such an institution. In an editorial of January 18, 1888 he writes at length on the importance of a well founded library to any city "which has any claim to enlightenment and progress..." But just as important is the statement here quoted, "The manner in which the Council on Monday night, received the deputation from the managers of the Reading Room and Library which waited upon it to solicit a donation from the City Treasury towards the funds of that institution, will we think, meet the approval of the citizens". Later in the same article he says, "...and the City Council in making such a liberal donation as in their judgement the present resources of the city will permit of,

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11. Vancouver City Directory, 1888.

12. Walker, Elizabeth. Vancouver Public Library before Carnegie. B.C. Library Quarterly, Oct. 1966.

should consider that the money now voted will .... be returned many fold in the course of a few years..."

The donation referred to was a grant from the City Council of \$250; an important first step towards acknowledging that a library was an essential part of a civilized community.<sup>13</sup> Prior to this first grant a fee was being charged to users of the library but it was not being patronized by those for whom it was founded. The Committee then relied on voluntary subscriptions, but this did not meet the cost of maintaining the Reading Room and Library. A letter of March 22, 1889 refers to the grant made the previous year, and after stating the case for such an institution continues, "...the Committee therefore now venture to hope that they may again look to the Council for aid this year. The Committee are now of opinion that they can carry on the Reading Room in a thoroughly efficient manner for the sum of about \$1000 a year, half of which sum they feel confident can be raised by voluntary subscriptions. If, therefore, City Council will give them \$500 they see their way greatly to improve the present condition of the institution, and to develop it to such extent that it will be worthy of this rapidly progressing City and be a source of general pleasure and usefulness. The Committee beg me to respectfully represent their case in the hope and expectation that the Council will be good enough to make a grant this year of \$500 for the support of an institution which is for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the City of Vancouver.<sup>14</sup> Such zeal and altruism is moving. Alas, four months later the Committee of the Free Reading Room had to admit defeat. The following letter addressed to His Worship the Mayor and Council of the City of Vancouver was sent 22 July, 1889:

"Gentlemen! At the last committee meeting of the Vancouver Reading Room it was resolved owing to insufficiency of funds to close this institution, but on considering the importance of the step about to be taken I was requested to communicate with your honorable body before carrying out the said resolution.

The Reading Room being free and open to resident (sic) of the city has been and still is growing daily in favor with the public, the class of people making use of it comprising merchants clerks, professional men, as well as some of our most respectable mechanics and working men.

Our library is a free circulating library and many of our citizens avail themselves of this boon to the fullest extent, and for these and other reasons the committee would consider it a disgrace to the city should they be forced to take the step resolved upon. Up to this time the work and expense in connection with the institution (with the exception of \$500 granted by the City), has been dependent on the exertions of a few individuals who in spite of every effort now find themselves compelled reluctantly to wind up the affairs of the institution. Under these circumstances I am instructed by the Managing Committee to suggest that considering that the Reading Room and Library is a free and a public institution and has, we firmly believe, been a credit to our city, that the council should take

13. Letter from A.J. Mouat, Sec. Van. Free Reading Room to the Mayor and City Council, 22 March, 1889.

14. Letter book of the Free Reading Room, March 22, 1889.



into consideration the advisability of taking the institution out of the hands of the present management and placing it under their own control. I am further instructed to state that the Committee of the Reading Room if desired will meet the representatives of the Council at any place or time approved."

During the first year of operation, December 1887-1888 an appeal had been made for public donations and a fee of 50¢ per month was charged. The number of subscribing members was 63 and honorary members numbered 17.<sup>15</sup> The population of the city was 6,085.<sup>16</sup>

A point of interest though not directly related is the fact that Moody's Mechanics' Institute had had their 'government' allowance of \$125 stopped ten years earlier.<sup>17</sup>

February 2, 1888 marked another important step forward in the history of the Vancouver Public Library; on this day the bylaw of the Vancouver Reading Room and Library restricting membership to men only was repealed. In future ladies too could enjoy the facilities of the library on payment of the usual fees.

It might have been the lure of gold or the zeal of his religious beliefs that compelled George Pollay to go north to the Atlin area. In any case he did not cut himself off from the library completely; we are told by Mr Carter-Cotton that 'he continued to take a deep interest in the library and was for many years a member of the Board.'<sup>18</sup> It is probable that he would be allowed to take up his position on the Board when he came south in the winter as was the custom with miners. But in July 1912 he was killed by a mining blast. Having been chaplain to the Arctic Brotherhood, it was this organization which bore the responsibility of transporting the body from Discovery, where the accident occurred, to Atlin for the funeral service and burial.<sup>19</sup>

Mr McCraney, in his account of these early days says that minute books were kept and he wonders what happened to them.<sup>20</sup> No trace has been found of any records such as minute books, of the Hastings Literary Institute nor the Vancouver Reading Room and Library covering the period 1869-1890. The only documents of this period are the two letters to the City Council mentioned above which were recently discovered by Mr Grossman, late Director of the Vancouver Public Library.

James Edwin Machin succeeded Mr George Pollay as librarian. He was a lawyer by profession and had arrived in Canada from England in November 1889, accompanied by his wife and daughter. A retiring scholarly man with fluent French and German, he had been a frequent user of the library during the Pollays' time. Machin's daughter, Elsie, who later married Herbert Beeman, clerk of the municipality of Point Grey, said that her father 'took long walks daily', which must have been difficult since the hours at the library were from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. However, when Mrs Machin and their daughter joined him at the library as unpaid assistants, there would be more oppor-

15. Vancouver City Directory, 1888.

16. Henderson's B.C. Gazetteer and Directory, 1889.

17. Minutes of Mechanics' Institute, Moody's Mill, Jan.21,1879. V.P.L.

18. Forsyth, J. The library movement in B.C. Washington Historical Quarterly, Vol. 17, 1926 p.274-277.

19. Pollay Docket, Vancouver City Archives.

20. Matthews, J.S. Early Vancouver.Vol. 1, article 167.

tunity for this pursuit. As Mr Carter-Cotton says a great deal of credit must be given to the Machins for their devotion and years of hard work in the early and struggling days of the library. The editor of the News Advertiser also states that the librarian's salary 'was only a miserable pittance of \$65 per month'. Although it was increased to \$100 in June 1893, it remained at that figure until 1898. In that year he meekly accepted an adjustment - there is nothing to suggest that he asked for a raise at any time.

It appears that Mr Machin must have been a very submissive man to have accepted deductions from his salary in order to put the assistant on the payroll and to engage a caretaker; their respective yearly salaries were \$780, \$300 and \$120.

The Machins were indeed a generous, self-sacrificing and devoutly Christian family. While actively associated with church work and Christ Church Cathedral, their annual Christmas dinner and entertainment given to the 'down and outs' in the library, was an outstanding example of their depth of feeling for those worse off than themselves.

It is difficult to believe that a lawyer would prefer to work as an employee, with long hours and little pay. One can't help wondering why he did not practise law in order to do even more work for the poor and also to improve his own position. The reason for not taking the necessary examination in order to practise in Canada sounds unconvincing. "...he would have to pass an examination on Canadian law, which would take some time, he was glad to accept the position of librarian...."21

One of the first things the Machins did was to increase the number of books and magazines available to the readers by appealing to their friends in England to donate reading material. Mrs Beeman also a dedicated worker, assisted her parents on a part-time voluntary basis for a period of twelve years. In an article in the Province in 1945 she describes the Vancouver Public Library of 76 years ago. It was one fairly large room equipped with a packing case, small desk, large table, chairs and a few hundred books; the library was open from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. There were no official breaks for meals. The borrowers had to make requests for specific titles which the librarian handed to them from the shelves which were not open to the public. For a while a primitive system was used to indicate if a book was in or out. It was a board with rows of numbered, small holes in it and pegs placed in the holes when books were available. It proved impracticable and was removed.

Not all the habitués were readers. Some came just to sit there because it was warmer and more cheerful than the rooms where they lived. Some of the regular borrowers were remittance men. Mrs Beeman recalls that the mother of one of these men used to forward his allowance in care of her mother, Mrs Machin. When she discovered that the recipient was too lazy to let his mother know he had received the allowance she insisted that he write a letter and give it to her to post. Thus, the Machins, good hearted that they were, were ever ready with help and advice for anyone who came to the library with a problem. It is evident that more and more time was spent in counselling and lending a sympathetic ear. In fact it was a small social centre in addition to being a reading room and library. The first of the Christmas dinners and entertainments for the poor, particularly men, was held in the Reading Room, 1892.

21. Beeman, Elsie. Newspaper article, no date. Beeman docket # 2.

Mrs Hamilton, sister of Dr G.F. Bodington, who was secretary of the Reading Room and Library, says that body odours were something one could not be squeamish about. On wet days the atmosphere worsened with steam from the dampness of coats.

Fortunately the minute and letter books of the Machin period have been preserved. The hand and style of the scholarly librarian-secretary are evident. It is interesting to note that the library Committee, as the board was originally called, and the librarian were alert to the fact that the rules and by-laws might need revising. With this in mind three different libraries were asked for copies of their regulations and any suggestions which might assist.<sup>22</sup> Another early letter was written by the Treasurer, Mr M.H. Hirschberg, to a local bookseller, Mr Diplock, who had gained the contract to supply books to the value of \$1000, giving a discount of 30% plus 2½% for cash. Rather rashly he had promised to obtain the books within 6-7 weeks. The books were overdue and he was asked 'to act promptly or the order must be cancelled'. In the Committee's endeavour to obtain donations with which to buy more books they met with a rebuff from the Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council. This organization would not contribute to the purchase of technical books because they considered that they were already contributing to the Library through taxes.<sup>23</sup>

Inexperience of the Committee of the Free Library in those early days led to such incidents as having to return some rebound books to the binder to have their titles endorsed on the back, and not being aware of the fact that the whole of the year's grant of \$2000 had to be used within the year, they stood to lose \$159.74 from the 1892 grant.

Soon after Edwin Machin became librarian a letter was sent to the Mayor and Council drawing to their attention the inadequacy of the space occupied by the Free Public Library, also naming three committee members who would attend the next council meeting to discuss the needs of the library. The city fathers were sympathetic and by 22nd November 1892 were able to report that a resolution had been passed in favour of the Library Committee securing larger premises. In the meantime a special meeting of the Committee had taken place to discuss a proposed lease of part of the new YMCA building which was at 169 Hastings St. West. Having received the 'go ahead' a committee of three was named to 'wait upon the YMCA directors and obtain the precise terms of the proposed lease and report at the next meeting.' At the meeting of January 13, 1893, a letter requesting a draft of the proposed lease for perusal and approval was requested from the Directors of the YMCA. To be included in it were the clauses, that the time for occupation must not be later than 1 April, that the apparatus for lighting and heating the building be first supplied at the expense of the YMCA, and that the lease could be terminated by a year's notice on either side.

Notice was sent to Messrs Rand Bros. managers of the Cordova St. Building, 9 March, 1893, advising them of the Committee's decision to move. But two months later a letter of apology was sent to Messrs Rand saying that they were unable to move out on the date arranged as the move into the YMCA had been delayed and were therefore obliged to continue in the present premises until the end of May. In the meantime new furniture and appliances were being ordered for the new 22. New Westminster Pub.Lib. were also consulted.  
23. Minute Book, Free Reading Room, V.P.L. May 10, 1892.

quarters and it was agreed that lighting and other interior arrangements should be carried out in order to make it thoroughly comfortable. The delay in producing the proposed draft of the lease caused Mr Machin to write a second letter to the YMCA, rather sharply demanding that it be forwarded without delay, as 'the Board are anxious to have the matter settled before possession of the new building is given. I need hardly add that such a course is the one that should be adopted'.

The Board finally received the draft lease from the YMCA. It was carefully examined and several alterations made. A clause was introduced dealing with the control of noise from other parts of the building. It prohibited the YMCA from holding concerts, entertainments or assemblies. However, YMCA representatives could not make a decision on so important a point on the spot. Five days later the YMCA offered a modified version which read in part "And lastly it is expressly agreed that no undue noise or disturbance which will tend to distract the necessary quiet of a reading room shall be created or allowed". The Board agreed to this but questioned the YMCA as to the exact meaning of what constituted 'undue noise or disturbance.' It was ultimately arranged that in order to obviate noise as much as possible, 'that sashes should (if found necessary) be affixed to the room overhead to deaden the sound and double doors made in the other rooms with the same object in view'.

But a much more annoying aspect of the lease came about through the disagreement between the Committee of the Free Library and the City Council; neither would accept the responsibility for signing the lease. The following letter addressed to Thomas McGuigan, City Clerk concerning the lease is a good example of Edwin Machin's style.

"At the monthly meeting of the Free Library Board held yesterday your letter to the Chairman informing him that the City Council had refused to allow the Mayor to execute the Lease of the new building on Hastings St. from the YMCA on the ground that it was within the province of this Board to take the lease themselves, was read and discussed and on motion it was unanimously resolved that this Board had no power vested in them to execute such a lease on behalf of the City and that the secretary do write to the City Clerk informing him of such a resolution and return lease. The Board will be glad to know that the Council have, on reconsidering the matter, admitted that the Mayor and City Council were the proper parties to take and execute the Lease and I therefore enclose same for that purpose." 24

Still the City Council would not sign the lease and returned it with comments from the City Solicitor to back up the stand taken. The Library Board 'adhered to the contention that it had no power to deal with same'. It was not until Jan. 10, 1894 that the Chairman of the Library Board was able to announce at the monthly meeting that the lease of the new library had been signed by the YMCA and also by City Council. The Free Reading Room and Library had been operating for one year at the new premises before agreement was reached.

24. Letter Book, Free Reading Room, V.P.L. 16 Aug. 1893.

To be Continued.

This article is published with the permission of Mr M. Jordan, Director, Vancouver Public Library.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONVENTION, BURNABY, B.C. May 26-28, 1977

GENERAL INFORMATION

A detailed printed programme will be included in your registration package, and a map of the area of the Conference.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday May 26th, 3.00 p.m.  
YM/YWCA, 180 6th St. New Westminster.  
Sunday May 29th, 10.00 a.m.

SEMINAR

Friday May 26th, 9.00 a.m. - 12 noon - James Cowan Theatre  
Moderator: Dr Blythe Eagles, Dean Emeritus, Agriculture, U.B.C.  
Speakers: Dr W.H. Mathews, Dept. of Geological Sciences, U.B.C.  
'Geological history of the Fraser River - glaciers to the present.'  
Dr C.E. Borden, Professor Emeritus, Archaeology, U.B.C.  
'Archaeological history of the Fraser River.'  
Dr G.P.V. Akrigg, Dept. of English, U.B.C.  
'The Fraser River gold rush'  
Mr Gordon Gilroy, Director, Fort Langley Hist.Park.  
'The history of Fort Langley'

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REGISTRATION Registration will be open Thursday evening, May 26th, at the B.C. Institute of Technology, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. and Friday morning, in the foyer of the James Cowan Theatre, 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.

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TRANSPORTATION It is expected that cars will be available to transport out-of-town guests from the Y. to the various Conference functions. Mrs Gladys MacLeod (426-6613) is co-ordinator of the car pool. Should you have any difficulties please call Mrs MacLeod, or Information Chairman, Frank Street (521-4529), or check the bulletin board. Members of the hosting Burnaby Historical Society will be wearing "Host" ribbons. Feel free to ask for any assistance you may need.

Bus schedules will be posted on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to travel to Vancouver or New Westminster.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 3700 Willingdon, Burnaby.  
JAMES COWAN THEATRE, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONVENTION, BURNABY B.C. MAY 26-28, 1977.

REGISTRATION

NAME: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

From which local society? \_\_\_\_\_

Address while attending Convention \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK THE EVENTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

- \_\_\_\_ Registration fee (all delegates) . . . . . \$3.50
- \_\_\_\_ Wine & cheese party (BCIT) Thursday 7-9 p.m.. . . \$3.50  
    Transportation requested \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Seminar "The Fraser" (James Cowan Theatre) Fri 9a.m no charge  
    Transportation requested \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Luncheon (James Cowan Centre) Friday . . . . . \$3.00
- \_\_\_\_ Tour of Heritage Village, Friday 2.30 p.m. . . . . no charge
- \_\_\_\_ Bus tour of Simon Fraser University. Fri. 7 p.m. \$1.50  
    (Bus fare included)
- \_\_\_\_ Garden party, Saturday 3 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . no charge  
    Transportation requested \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Banquet Burnaby Lake Pavilion, Saturday 6.30 p.m. \$7.50

ON SUNDAY

Post-Convention Cruise to Fort Langley, 1.00 - 5.00 \$10.00  
p.m.

TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE must be received by May 1, 1977. Please make cheques payable to BURNABY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MAIL TO:

Mrs Nancy Peter, 5928 Baffin Place, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3S8.  
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The members of the Burnaby Historical Society will provide transportation from Howard Chadwick Lodge (New West.) to Convention functions, if you indicate that you would like this service.  
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RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION

Howard Chadwick Lodge, YM/YWCA, 180 - 6th St., New Westminster.

Single or double rooms are available to Convention guests at a special rate of \$6.00 per person. Cafeteria.

This is good accommodation, next to the New Westminster Bus Depot, and just a few minutes by car from the Burnaby Arts Centre.

Write immediately to the Lodge for reservations.