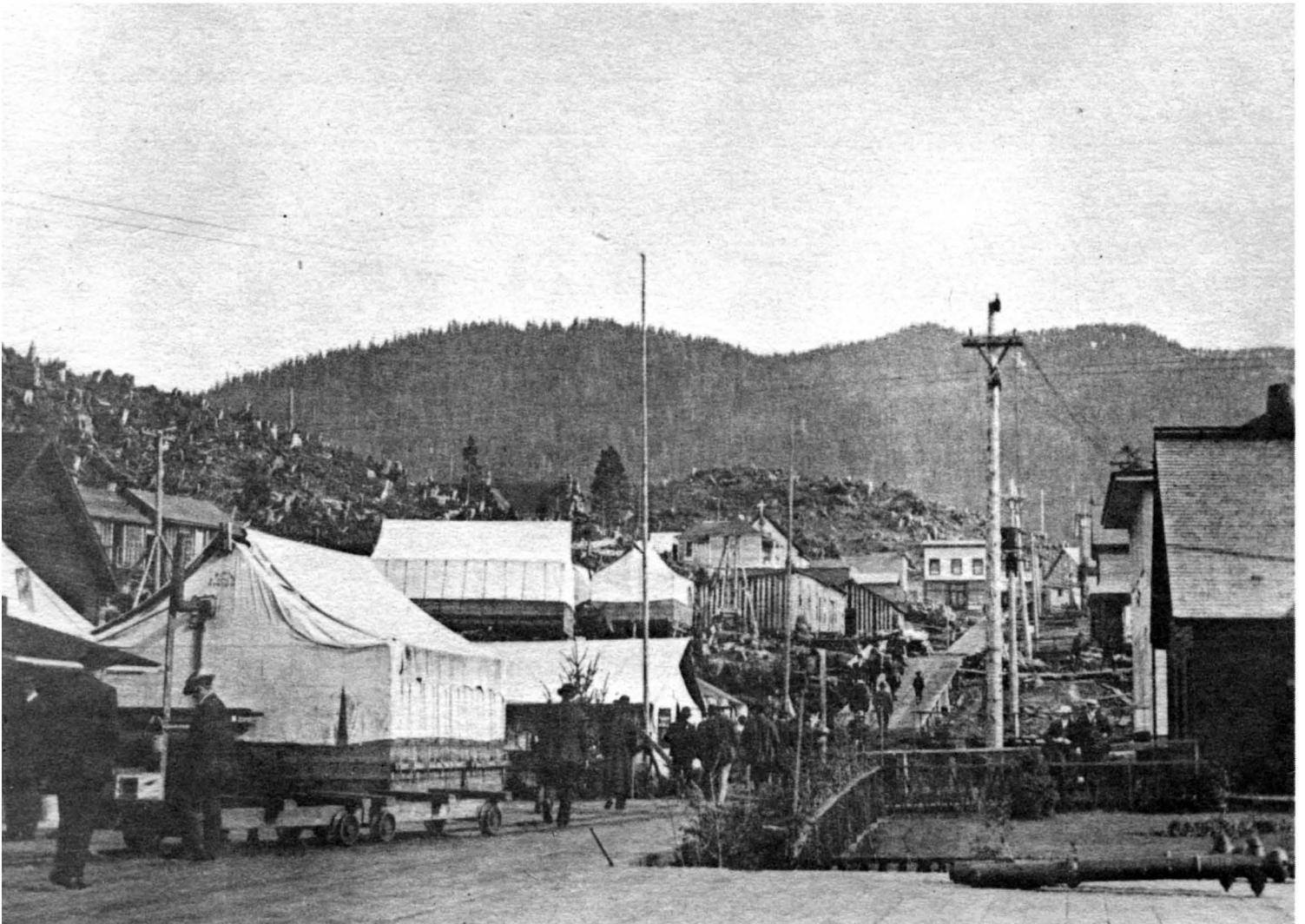


BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

November 1977



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Vol. 11 No. 1

ISSN 0045-2963

November, 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. Refer all correspondence in connection with this publication to the Secretary: Mrs. Ruth Barnett, 680 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, British Columbia V9W 3P3.

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Cover Photograph:

The photograph shows one of the main streets in Prince Rupert, circa 1910, and is reproduced from a private album loaned to the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

EDITORIAL

This latest issue of the British Columbia Historical News must, of necessity, seem a very pale shadow of its former glorious self. It is hardly surprising that the Association is finding it difficult to fill the editorial shoes which were so ably filled by Phil and Anne Yandle, who edited and produced the News for the Association for a decade.

At the September meeting of the B.C.H.A. Council, the directors accepted the offer made by the Vancouver Historical Society to produce two very small issues of the British Columbia Historical News while the search for a new editor or editors is completed. The main purpose of these issues, which cannot hope to compete with the high standards set by the previous editors, is to keep the British Columbia Historical News alive until a new appointment is made. At the same time we hope these issues will keep the member societies informed of each other's activities and in a small way continue to be the bond between the affiliates, which, in our view, was the greatest of the Yandles' achievements.

This hiatus in the existence of the British Columbia Historical News should serve as a reminder to all our members that our organizations run, sometimes more smoothly than at others, as a result of a great deal of effort by many individuals. Without such effort, we would not be able to enjoy the high standard of publications, field trips, lecturers and meetings which all our societies are able to arrange each year.

We close by asking for your patience and understanding during this period of transition and express our firm conviction that by early 1978, the British Columbia Historical News will have regained much of the quality developed in it since 1967.

The Editorial Committee

SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

Bowen Island: At the Annual Meeting of the Bowen Island Historians in June 1977 the speaker, Mr. Leslie Brooks, formerly Administrator of Presentation House for North Vancouver Community Arts Council, outlined in some detail the many administrative steps required in planning for the building of a museum. His suggestions were of a very practical nature based on long years of sound administrative practise and the Historians are aware that some years of hard and detailed work will be required to realize their goal of a Museum. A committee for the preliminary planning has been convened.

Fund raising activities have been continued and hopefully by the end of 1977 a considerable portion of the debt owing on the purchase of a lot for the Museum site will be paid.

Creston: Of particular interest among the current activities of the Creston and District Historical and Museum Society is correspondence with Gillies Fortineau, Professor of Naval Archaeology, University of Nantes, France. He is working on a thesis on primitive watercraft and is interested in the Kutenai Canoe, used in early days by the Lower Kootenay Indian Band.

An eight foot model, made by Mrs. Charlotte Bazil, is now on display at the Kanawa International Museum of Canoes, Kayaks, and Rowing Crafts at Kandalore, Ontario. He hopes to reveal that the style of the Kutenai canoe can be traced back to styles used by early natives of East Asia. This activity has roused the enthusiasm of three of our members to interview members of our Indian band, particularly, Mrs. Bazil, 78 years old, who has constructed many small models of the Kutenai canoe. She has taught this skill to Irene Louis and Isaac Bazil.

We are fortunate to have in our midst a relative newcomer, Mr. Wilson Rockwell, author of two new books, Our Kootenay Heritage, and We Hold These Truths.

Gulf Islands: The following report on 1976-77 was prepared for delivery at the Annual General Meeting but was not given:

Mrs. Harvey Jensen gave a talk and slide show on the subject of "Gulf Island Wild Flowers". Mr. James McCook gave a talk entitled "High Life on the Pioneer Trails". A guided tour of Fort Langley was made by a large group of members of the branch. Mrs. Lorraine Campbell gave a very interesting talk about her childhood memories of life on Vancouver Island. Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Reitz gave a slide show about their trip across the continent. Mr. Ralph Sketch, the well-known sculptor gave a talk illustrated with slides on the topic "Five Moments in Canadian History". The Underwater Archaeological Society of B.C. gave a talk on the Society's work in the Gulf Islands vicinity.

Besides continuing work on a new edition of the popular "Gulf Islands' Patchwork", the Branch sponsored a school children's essay contest which produced interesting work. It has been decided to make the contest an annual event.

Captain Clanton of Pender Island died recently at the age of 90. Both he and his wife have been active members of the Gulf Islands Branch for many years. They were both involved in the original production of the "Gulf Islands Patchwork" in 1960, a work which has gone through many printings since.

Sidney and North Sannich: Members of the SNSHS report with regret the destruction of the Saanichton Red Barn, which faced Mount Newton and was built in 1913 by Edwin John. A report in the Sidney Review says two master carpenters spent three months building it with materials from the Richard Hamilton Sawmill at the corner of Welch and Martindale.

In the same paper there is a very interesting article setting forth the reminiscences of Gus Bill, a member of the Tseycum reserve, who recalls family memories which reach back to the period of first contact with European settlers. The editors are keeping the whole article on file in the hope that it can be printed in full at a later date.

Trail: This past summer the Trail Historical Society opened its museum for the first time. It is located in the City Hall building in quarters formerly occupied by the RCMP. Completely renovated over the past 1½ years, the premises have served the needs of the society very well this summer.

Six students were employed this summer as staff, accessioning, sorting, indexing and filing both our artifacts and archive materials. They also assisted in display preparation and reception duties. The students worked very hard and did a great deal to make the summer a success.

The Society has applied for a Canada Works Grant to continue this work and construct cabinets and shelving. The Society is confining its activities mainly to its museum and archives but they hope to expand in 1978 to include protection of the site of Fort Shepherd and designation of heritage buildings in the City of Trail.

Vancouver: The 1977-78 season opened with a fascinating lecture by Professor Robert McDonald on "Early Business Elites in Vancouver 1886-1914", in which he presented extracts from his recently completed doctoral thesis. This study is generally believed to be one of the most significant pieces of new work on the social history of B.C. In October, VHS members were given a glimpse of some of the wealth of early films taken in British Columbia that have been discovered by Saanichton writer-filmmaker Colin Brown. Among the visual treats were an Indian canoe race in Victoria's Gorge, circa 1910-11 and a travelogue of Vancouver filmed in the mid 1930's.

Victoria: The Victoria section council has approved the payment of a \$100 scholarship annually to the leading undergraduate students in a course on B.C. history at the University of Victoria. This replaces two prizes of books which have been awarded annually in the past to outstanding students.

The most recent speakers heard at regular meetings were David L. Rozen, ethnographer and school teacher resident in Victoria, who discussed the European influence on the Straits Salish Indians and covered the pre-contact vs. reserve society in the Victoria area, while Daniel T. Gallacher, curator of modern history: B.C. Provincial Museum, spoke on the development of coal mining on Vancouver Island and the personalities associated with this activity.

Windermere: The Society, centred in Invermere, continues to direct its energies toward restoration and refurbishment of the Athalmer CPR Station. Built in 1923, one of four still in existence, this ornate log structure was damaged in a 1975 train derailment. The Society subsequently purchased the station, moved it to a panoramic view site overlooking the Windermere Valley, and, to date, with the help of Fort Steele advisors, has restored the damaged exterior. Currently, fund-raising and grant applications have been initiated so that interior reconstruction may begin. A bikeathon in the Spring raised \$1,800 for the cause, and they hope to acquire a copy of a 1923 John Barrymore film that was made in the area and use it as the nucleus for a winter fund raising campaign. Concurrent with the Station project, they hope to move the present two log structure museums to sites adjacent to the Station, thereby forming a museum complex.

PROVINCIAL HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Following passage of The Heritage Conservation Act the Historic Sites Advisory Board and Archaeological Sites Advisory Board discussed the ramifications of the Act, archaeological, historical and legal, at their last meeting, 15 August, 1977. Discussions led to the formation of a sub-committee selected from the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board and the Historic Sites Advisory Board to review the Act in consultation with a legal advisory and to strengthen the Act in accordance with the aims of both Boards and to report directly to the Minister.

As explained by the Minister to the Board members, a register of designated heritage areas is part of the Act. It is hoped that the Register is a prelude to the survey of the whole province to establish priorities for reconstruction-marking-preservation in situ.

To emphasize the importance of the British Columbia Heritage Advisory Board and Heritage Conservation, the Minister has appointed Mr. George Giles as Associate Deputy Minister, Heritage and Conservation.

The composition of the B.C. Heritage Advisory Board has not yet been announced. There will be some retention of previous members plus new members. The Minister has stated he is anxious to have all communities involved in their Heritage.

Anne Stevenson

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SPECIAL OFFER

Due to some difficulties with the distribution of the June issue of the British Columbia Historical News some members were not able to take advantage of the special offer made by the publishers of the Akriggs' new book, GOLD AND COLONISTS: B.C. CHRONICLE, 1847-1871.

Discovery Press has indicated its willingness to extend the deadline on the pre-publication price of this book to affiliate members of the B.C.H.A. and the following offer is therefore still available.

The Akriggs' book, GOLD AND COLONISTS: B.C. CHRONICLE, 1847-1871 can still be obtained at the pre-publication price of \$13.50 postpaid. (The retail price for this book will be \$17.50.) Please complete the tear slip below and send it off immediately with the appropriate remittance.

To: Discovery Press
P.O. Box 46925
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 4G6

Please send me copies of B.C. Chronicle, 1847-1871: Gold and Colonists at the special pre-publication price of \$13.50 postpaid.

Remittance of \$ is enclosed.

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