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BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

VOLUME 17, No. 4
1984



- The Provincial Archives of British Columbia
- Trail Ninety Years Ago
- The Hope or New Dewdney Trail

On the cover ...

The main entrance to the Provincial Archives, Victoria, is reached via a sunken courtyard that features plants and shrubs native to British Columbia. The original Archives was housed in the Parliament Buildings.

...story starts on page four

MEMBER SOCIETIES



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

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

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BCHA — Gulf Islands Branch, c/o P.O. Box 35, Saturna Island, B.C. V0N 2Y0
BCHA — Victoria Branch, c/o Margaret Bell, 1187 Hampshire, Victoria, B.C. V8S 4T1
Burnaby Historical Society, c/o 5406 Manor St., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1B7
Chemainus Valley Historical Society, P.O. Box 172, Chemainus, B.C. V0R 1K0
Cowichan Historical Society, P.O. Box 1014, Duncan, B.C. V9L 3Y2
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District 69 Historical Society, P.O. Box 213, Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0
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Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2H6
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Nanaimo Historical Society, P.O. Box 933, Station "A", Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5N2
Nanooa Historical & Museum Society, R.R. #1, Box 5, Kinghorn Rd., Nanoose Bay, B.C. V0R 2R0
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Sidney & North Saanich Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Ray Joy, 10719 Bayfield Road, R.R. #3,
Sidney, B.C. V8L 3P6
Silvery Slocan Historical Society, P.O. Box 301, New Denver, B.C. V0G 1S0
Trail Historical Society, P.O. Box 405, Trail, B.C. V1R 4L7
Vancouver Historical Society, P.O. Box 3071, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X6
West Vancouver Historical Society, P.O. Box 91785, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 4S1
Windermere District Historical Society, Box 784, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0

Affiliated Groups

City of White Rock Museum Archives Society, 1030 Martin St., White Rock, B.C. V4B 5E3
The Hallmark Society, 207 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2K8

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John A. Bovey
Provincial Archivist

The Provincial Archives of British Columbia

Part One:

The Provincial Archives of British Columbia is the oldest archival institution in Canada west of the Great Lakes. The foundations of its collection were laid in the 1890s within the scope of the Legislative Library, which was then being reorganized, while its history as a separate institution begins in 1908 with the appointment of R.E. Gosnell as Provincial Archivist.

Other western provinces certainly did not hurry to follow British Columbia's example; the next provincial archives to be established was the Saskatchewan Archives Board in 1945. In 1952 Manitoba appointed its first Provincial Archivist, and finally, in 1965, the Provincial Archives of Alberta was founded. Yet the West was not unusual in being slow to take official steps to preserve its documentary heritage. Much more surprising is the record of the Maritime Provinces on this score. Nova Scotia may rightly boast that it founded the first governmental archival institution in Canada, in 1852, but the archives of Prince Edward Island were not established until 1964, that of Newfoundland and Labrador until 1959, and those of New Brunswick, the Loyalist colony founded in 1784, until 1967. The question why the ten Canadian provinces have shown such marked official differences—or indifference—to the preservation of their histories is a subject ripe for speculation and investigation.

In British Columbia's case the relatively early establishment of the Provincial Archives seems to be related to both of the dictionary definitions of the word "Archives": (1) "the place in which records are stored;" (2) "the records so kept."

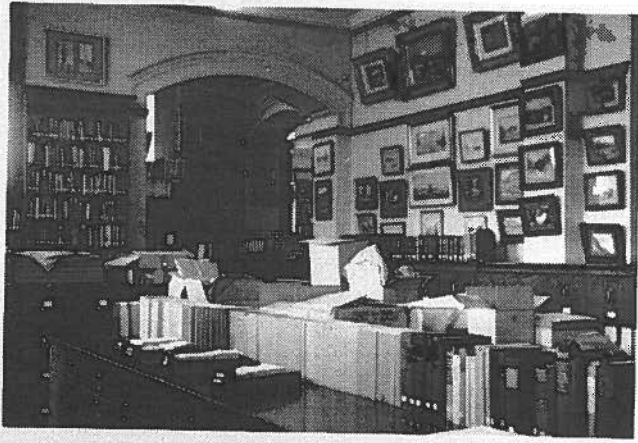
In 1893 the present Legislative Buildings were being constructed. A library was included in the plans and, in the library, a repository for historical records could be provided. Not only did circumstances offer an administrative niche and a physical home for historical records, but the government of Premier Theodore Davie chose as legislative librarian a man fascinated by history, R.E. Gosnell. Before the Legislative Buildings

officially opened in February 1898, the archives of the Province of British Columbia began to materialize in both senses of the dictionary definition of the word.

The completion of the Connaught Library in 1915 gave the Provincial Archives the home that many readers of the *Historical News* will remember well. The top floor of the Library accommodated the Archives' staff, collections, a small museum, as well as visitors and researchers, for fifty-five years.

Until the move into the Connaught Library was made, the collections were little used by the public. But then the researching was remarkably small by contemporary standards. British Columbia was just opening its first university in 1915, and the population of the province was only 450,000. The most obvious result of the collection built up in the previous twenty years was to be seen in the writings of the men in charge of the Library and the Archives. Gosnell's *A History of British Columbia*, for example, was published in 1906, while E.O. Scholefield, Chief Librarian from 1900 to 1910, and Provincial Librarian and Archivist from 1910 until his death in 1919, was the joint author with Judge F.W. Howay of *British Columbia from the Earliest Times to the Present*, published in 1914. In 1915 a contributor to the *New York Nation* expressed his gratification to learn that an "open door policy" was about to be inaugurated, and that "scholars from all sections" might use the rich collections.

In 1970 the Provincial Archives moved out of the Connaught Library to occupy its present home, one of the components of the Heritage Court complex at the corner of Belleville and Government streets. As a photograph shows, the expansion was long overdue because accommodation for researchers had become woefully inadequate, staff and public sat almost literally on top of each other, and the attics around the dome were filled to overflowing with government records, manuscript collections, photo-



Interior view of the original Provincial Archives.

graphs, framed prints and paintings, period clothing, and even, in one unforgettable corner, a grouping of saddles and machine guns. The artifacts were all transferred to the Provincial Museum at the time of the move.

Although the distinction between the Legislative Library—or the Provincial Library as it was long titled—and the Provincial Archives was first drawn in 1908, the two have had a very close relationship up to the present time. Until 1974, in fact, the Provincial Archivist and the Provincial Librarian were usually the same person. Dr. Willard Ireland was appointed Provincial Archivist in 1940 and Provincial Librarian in 1946. It was only after his retirement in 1974 that the positions were permanently separated. Mr. Allan R. Turner was appointed Provincial Archivist that year, and Mr. James G. Mitchell was appointed Legislative Librarian. At the same time, statutory precision replaced popular usage, for the “Provincial” Library returned to the name of Legislative Library, under which it had been formally established eighty years before.

Visual Records

The Visual Records Division preserves pictorial collections of historic photographs and documentary art relating to the history and culture of British Columbia. The collections offer a rich field for research consisting of approximately two and a half million photographs and six thousand paintings, drawings and prints.

The Historic Photograph collection ranges from nineteenth century direct positive forms such as Daguerreotype, Tintype and Ambrotype, through negative/positive print forms such as Collodian glass plate and Albumen print, to

contemporary colour transparencies from both government and private sources.

Included are collections of important early B.C. photographers such as Frederick Dally, F.G. Claudet, Richard and Hannah Maynard, Edward Dossiter, J. Howard A. Chapman, John Savannah, “Trio”, and the complete studio files of several significant B.C. commercial photographers; the non-current photographs of government ministries, and family collections often accumulated over many generations.

Catalogued photographs numbering approximately 100,000 images are accessed through reference files ordered in geographic, topical and biographic series, while uncatalogued collections are made available by appointment.

Paintings, drawings and prints held by the Archives are collected as much or more for informational content than aesthetic value although fortunately the latter is often a dividend. While the work of historically significant professional artists is sought for its biographical application, many artists in the collection are known first as military personnel, surveyors, journalists, gold miners, pioneers, or were simply amateurs sketching for personal amusement.

A special part of the collection which predates the popularization of photography in the late 1860s and 1870s provides the only source of visual records for what later became the Province. A few rare 18th century views originate from exploration and early trade on the North West Coast while many more images date from the expanded activity seen in the colonial period.

As documentary collections, their use tends to be more in day to day reference and research, often for publication, than for the assembly of exhibits of a predetermined subject as is found in an art gallery or museum. Access to paintings is provided primarily through an artist and title index but a growing number of finding aids provide alternative access by chronological period and topical heading. Copy prints (8x10 b/w glossy) may be ordered of originals in both collections, and colour transparencies can be prepared for most paintings, drawings and prints originals. Persistently high volumes of photographic orders make it advisable to plan projects and place orders well in advance of any deadline requirements.

As an extension of Visual Records, the Emily Carr Gallery, located at 1107 Wharf Street, Victoria, exhibits original works by Carr and other historically significant artists represented in the Provincial Archives collection. Drawing from all sources in the Provincial Archives, the Emily

Carr Gallery incorporates manuscripts, newspaper articles, letters, journals and historic photographs in regularly rotating exhibits. Reproductions of a selection of Emily Carr originals and other colonial artists works are obtainable at the Gallery. Films on Emily Carr and tours of the current exhibit are also provided.

Library and Maps Section

The Library and Maps Section administers two of the Archives' major collections: the Library of the Provincial Archives and the Map Collection. Until February 1982 these two collections were administered separately, but a reorganization at that time brought them under the direction of one section head. There is no internal administrative division between the Library and the Map Collection, although at present the Archivist 2 is principally responsible for map work and the Librarians for the book collection.

The Library of the Provincial Archives, formerly known as the Northwest Collection, has apparently existed as long as the Archives, although it may have at one time been considered a special collection of the Provincial (now Legislative) Library. Since it was reclassified and recatalogued by Dr. Kaye Lamb in the 1930s, it has been clearly identified with the Provincial Archives. The major objectives served by the development and maintenance of the Library are: 1) to support research in British Columbia history: political, economic, social and cultural; 2) to enhance the knowledge and skills of staff through the acquisition of professional literature; and 3) to complement other collections in the Provincial Archives. Extension of the Library's scope in recent years to include greater support for the Archives staff has been the rationale for renaming the collection; it is no longer just a regional "Northwest Collection".

The Archives is justly proud of its Library, which includes extensive holdings of printed accounts of early voyages to British Columbia, Alaska, the West Coast of the United States, as well as Siberia and Kamchatka. Journals of early overland expeditions are also prominent, as are primary and secondary works on the fur trade from the Lakehead to the Pacific Coast. An earlier interest in exploration of the Canadian and Alaskan Arctic is reflected in substantial holdings of early works on this topic, but very few additions have been made in recent years. The Provincial Archives has *de facto* responsibility for collecting and preserving the imprints of the

colonial administrations of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, which are not considered part of the Legislative Library's government publications collecting mandate. The Archives Library does not, in fact, have any officially mandated collecting responsibility, and it is not a depository library as is sometimes erroneously stated. Our objectives justify the collecting of a wide range of material, whether substantial or ephemeral, and early imprints of British Columbia or about this province are eagerly sought. Staff and space limitations do, however, prevent us from selecting everything published in or about British Columbia. Local and general histories, biographies, political and economic treatises and most works on Native, Euro-Canadian and immigrant cultures help serve the aim of supporting the study of British Columbia history. The Library now has approximately 41,000 titles in 59,000 volumes.

A further important part of the Library are the 4200 reels of British Columbia newspapers on microfilm. Most of these holdings are transferred from the Legislative Library in 1981, and they are currently supplemented by further transfers of the products of the Legislative Library's microfilming program and by film received by subscription from commercial producers.

The famous "Vertical File", a magnificent resource of approximately 405,000 clippings and other ephemera, was created between the late 1940s or early 1950s and 1982. Since it was closed, it has been the nominal responsibility of this Section, and we are actively investigating the possibility of microfilming the file.

The Library and Map Section's other major collection is, of course, the Map Collection. Its major objectives are: 1) to preserve and make available the published maps and the cartographic and architectural archives of the Provincial Government; 2) to support research in history, geography and cartography by acquiring and making available maps of British Columbia, as well as any other maps showing this part of the world; 3) to contribute to the study of British Columbia's architectural heritage through the acquisition of plans by important architects or plans representative of building types; and 4) to complement other collections in the Provincial Archives.

While major improvements in the areas of map conservation, storage and initial administrative control have been effected in the last five years, cataloguing lags far behind, and the systematic acquisition of published and archival maps and

plans of the Provincial Government still is relatively undeveloped. Large series of maps and architectural plans which are available for transfer from government offices pose problems for even the best organized map archives because of the very awkward nature of maps, and the inadequate storage facilities in their offices of origin. The orderly scheduling of government records by the new Records Management Branch should allow this section to plan acquisitions more rationally, and new accessions may come in better order and in more convenient formats (e.g. microfilm) than heretofore.

Purchases, transfers from other departments of the Archives, and smaller-scale, more manageable acquisitions from government (particularly published maps) still make up the bulk of our intake. In the last two years we have reinstituted purchasing of antiquarian maps from private map sellers. This program picks up an old and long-standing pattern of acquiring maps intended to show the development of geographical knowledge of this part of the world. Valuable early atlases and maps had been purchased earlier, some originally published in the early sixteenth century. Treasures such as Ptolemy and Ortelius atlases, now clearly beyond our budget, were acquired when prices were nearer the means of a Provincial Archives on the Pacific fringes of the British Empire.

Transfers from other collections in the Archives produce a never-ending supply of maps—manuscripts and published—most of which are new to the collection. The interchange of provenance information between divisions lays down the “paper path” which ensures that researchers can trace a map that has, say, been transferred from the Manuscripts and Government Records Division to the Map Collection and, also, that the map user will be able to ascertain the documentary context in which the map was produced or filed.

Architectural plans of various government departments make up the bulk of our holdings in this area. About 1400 originals from the files of the old Department of Public Works were accessioned in 1978, and microfilm of the rest of the file of over 10,000 plans was acquired at the same time. Various other files of plans, especially from regulatory offices such as the Fire Commissioner, have come to us at other times. Our acquisition of the plans of private architects has been necessarily selective due to space limitations, but we are particularly proud of our holdings of the works of F.M. Rattenbury, P.L. James, and Peter Cotton, to name a few of the

more prominent ones. We are fortunate to have the drawings from the 1850s and 1860s of three of the first four buildings to serve as Government House in Victoria, including the house constructed too late to keep a disappointed Richard Blanshard at his Vancouver Island post.

Conservation and cataloguing of maps are two of the most tenacious problems of this Section. Fully a third of the 12,000 catalogued maps are in serious need of repair—most of this fraction lack adequate mechanical strength to be handled. Resources for conservation may never be sufficient to undertake the needed work, so we will look to methods within the means and range of skills of the Library and Maps Section. Simple flattening and cleaning may be followed by mylar encapsulation if the needed intermediate step of deacidification can be accomplished. Cataloguing is a rather slow process, and much recataloguing is necessary. Fortunately, national and international standards of description have been laid down in the last few years, and we can be confident that we will produce records which should not need modification in the future. Staff to do the actual cataloguing is not available at present, but a program to reduce the backlog in the Library is underway. Its successful completion will free at least one professional librarian to work on maps. Complete and competent cataloguing of the Map Collection is the key to making this valuable collection accessible to the public.

Sound and Moving Images Division

The Sound and Moving Image Division acquires and preserves sound recordings, films and video recordings (moving images) of enduring value to British Columbia, and makes these records available to the public for research and other uses.

The division is the official repository for non-current films, sound and video recordings produced by and for the British Columbia government, its agencies and Crown corporations. The principal functions of the division are to locate, select and preserve those materials which have long term legal, administrative and historical value, and to make them available for official and public use. The staff also extends advice to these government bodies regarding retention methods for their holdings of audio visual materials.

A second major responsibility of the division is to preserve the sound recordings and moving images of private organizations and individuals.

Films, videotapes, published and unpublished sound recordings and other sound artifacts are selectively acquired to ensure permanent preservation and public access.

The division's holdings comprise more than 20,000 hours of sound recordings, more than 1,500 films, several hundred videotape recordings. The Archives provides listening carrels and viewing equipment for researchers. In addition, transcripts of many of the audio recordings have been prepared and are available upon request. Copies may be obtained, subject to donor and copyright conditions.

A special service of the division is to present oral history workshops for organizations wishing to record spoken history. Through these workshops the division aims to encourage public participation in this method of preserving British Columbia's heritage, and to set standards of recording quality and tape documentation.

The division has recently published *Voices: A Guide to Oral History*, a guide for creating, preserving and using oral history. It is the only book of its kind published in Canada.

The Sound and Moving Image Division is the most recent addition to the Provincial Archives, having been added in 1974. The division currently has a staff of five; three archivists, an audio-visual technician and one clerical support position.

The Collection of Sound Recordings

The collection of original sound recordings is one of the largest in Canada and is comprised of cassette and reel-to-reel tapes, phonodiscs and wire recordings. Recorded material consists of oral history interviews, speeches, conferences, folklore, ethnology, folk and popular music, poetry, radio programs and sound effects.

Oral History

Recorded interviews with people about their past form the largest part of the division's holdings. These include collections of oral history tapes produced by local history societies, museums and individuals which document the history of many British Columbia communities. Another large group of recordings focus upon subjects of historical and cultural interest to the province. Subjects presented are ethnic groups, Native Indians, industries and institutions, politics and public administration, the arts, recreation, women, and regional studies.

The Imbert Orchard Collection consists of recorded interviews with over 900 persons from varied walks of life and from all regions of British Columbia, many of whom belong to the first generation of settlers. It is one of the finest collections of material on Canadian pioneer life ever produced. Mr. Orchard, a broadcaster, made the recordings for a series of radio documentaries for the CBC. Because of the broadcast quality, the tapes not only preserve a rich account of early life in British Columbia but capture the voices and personalities of its pioneers. Forming part of this collection are approximately 170 radio documentaries which were produced by Mr. Orchard.

Radio

Other radio holdings include phonodiscs and tape recordings of live radio coverage of significant events and broadcasts from the 1930s to the 1980s.

British Columbia Music

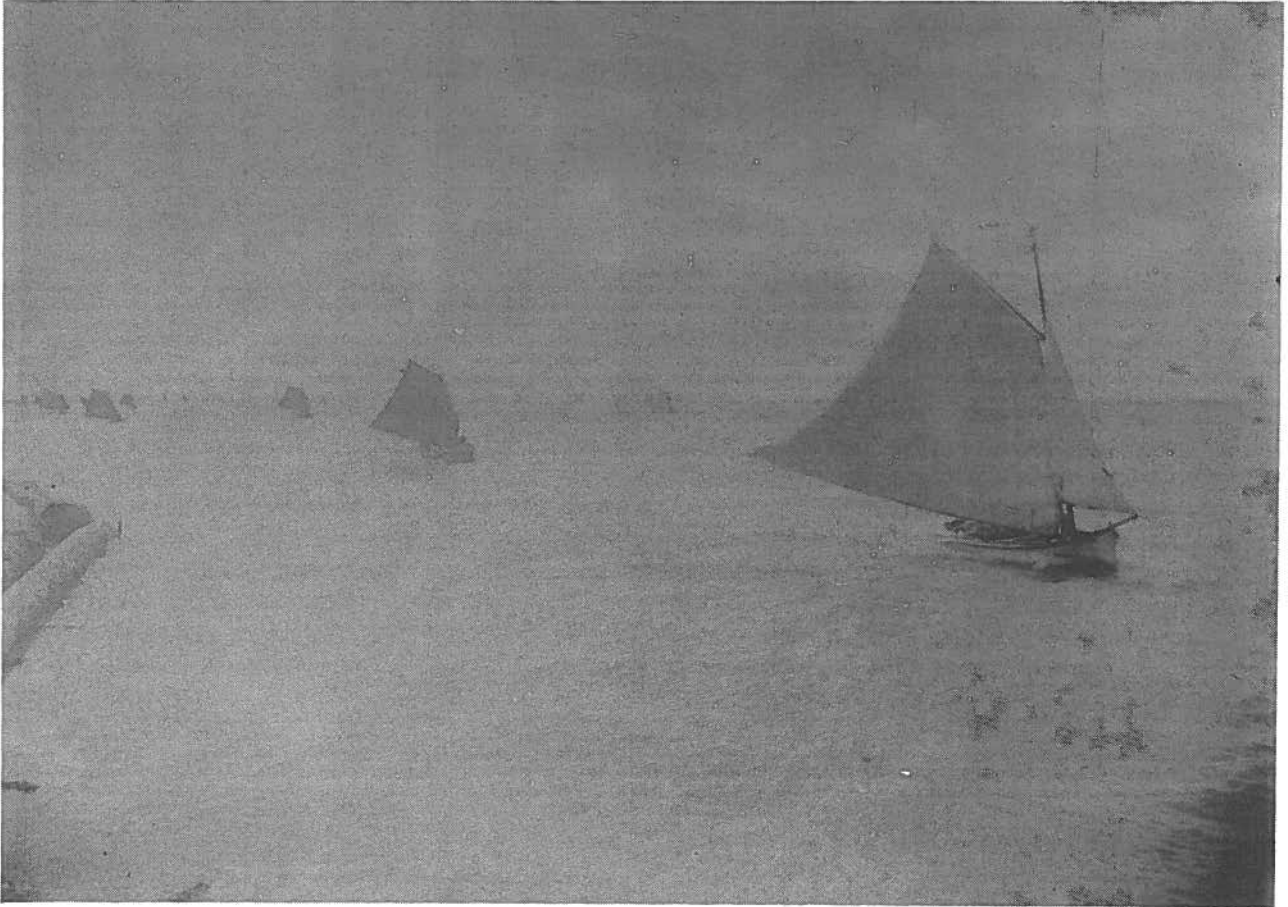
The division holds the "British Columbia Song Writers' Collection" of songs and instrumental music by British Columbia composers, and the Phil Thomas Folk Music Collection of 500 recorded musical items performed by singers and musicians throughout the province. Acquisitions of phonodiscs include the productions of British Columbia's first recording studio, Aragon Records (1945-1971), and published sound recordings produced by more recent recording studios or which feature British Columbia talent. The division is the only public institution in British Columbia which systematically collects and preserves British Columbia published sound recordings.

Prior to replacing Willard Ireland in September 1979 as Provincial Archivist for the province of British Columbia, John Bovey was the Archivist for the Government of the Northwest Territories from 1962 to 1966, and Provincial Archivist for the province of Manitoba from 1967 to 1979.

*The history of the Provincial Archives will continue in the next issue of the Historical News with **Part Two: Manuscripts Division**. This division forms the vital core of the Archival Collections.*

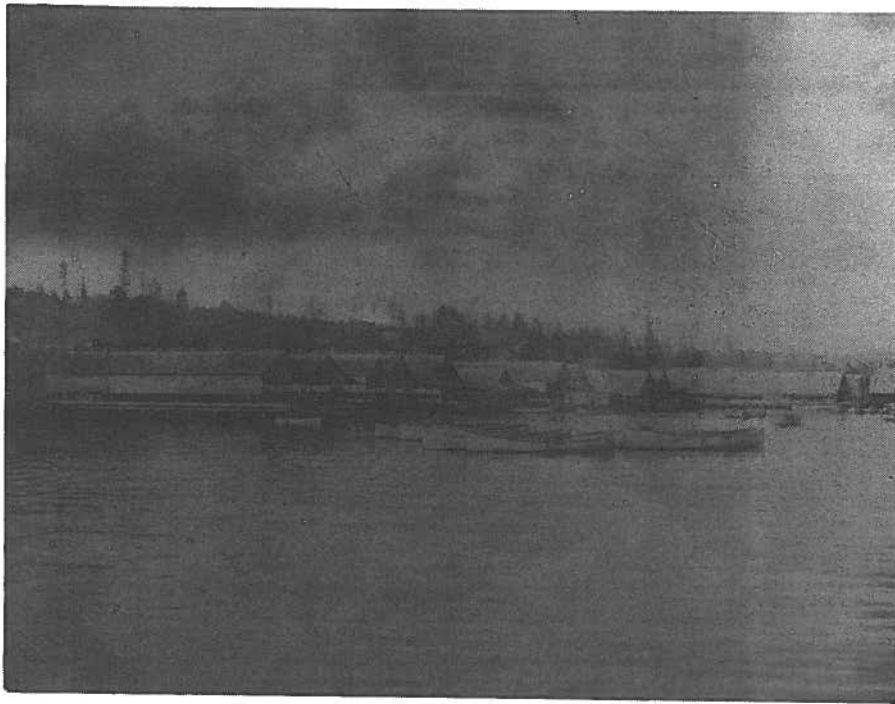
Barbara Stannard

Photographs by a German Prisoner of War, 1914



During World War I, German prisoners of war were housed in the Provincial Jail on Stewart Avenue in Nanaimo. These people were both political detainees and military, and supervision was very superficial—morning and evening roll call were accepted. The prisoners planted trees on the boulevards of the streets of Nanaimo.

A Mr. Eckles was one of these prisoners (we are not sure which category he represented). During his time in Nanaimo, he took many photographs of the area, but after World War I he moved to Seattle. He passed away recently, and a neighbour returned to the Nanaimo Centennial Museum one of his albums containing many valuable pictures of the Nanaimo area. On these pages is a brief sample of the local history Mr. Eckles recorded while a prisoner of war.



Salmon cannery, Newcastle Channel



Sandstone quarry, Newcastle Island. As early as 1872 the sandstone quarry on Newcastle Island was providing structural material for important buildings on the Pacific coast, such as the Mint at San Francisco.

Barbara Stannard is immediate past president of the BCHF. She has been a member of the Federation for twenty-four years. For an even longer period of time she has played a key role in the history of the Nanaimo Museum Society. She helped to supervise the construction and operation of the Nanaimo

Museum, where she is the conservator, and she is currently President of the Nanaimo Museum Society.

In recognition of her outstanding service to the community, the City of Nanaimo honoured Barbara as Citizen of The Year in June 1984.

A Little Girl in Trail Ninety Years Ago

When she looked back to childhood days, everything appeared in a series of pictures, and somehow these pictures seemed unique. They belonged to her alone, just as her parents did. Her parents were Danish but she herself had been born in St. Paul, Minnesota. Then her father, who was a butcher by trade, decided to join his brother Simon F. Petersen in running a workmen's hotel, in the newly opened Trail Creek Mining District where extensive deposits of copper-gold ore had been discovered in the Rossland Mountains.

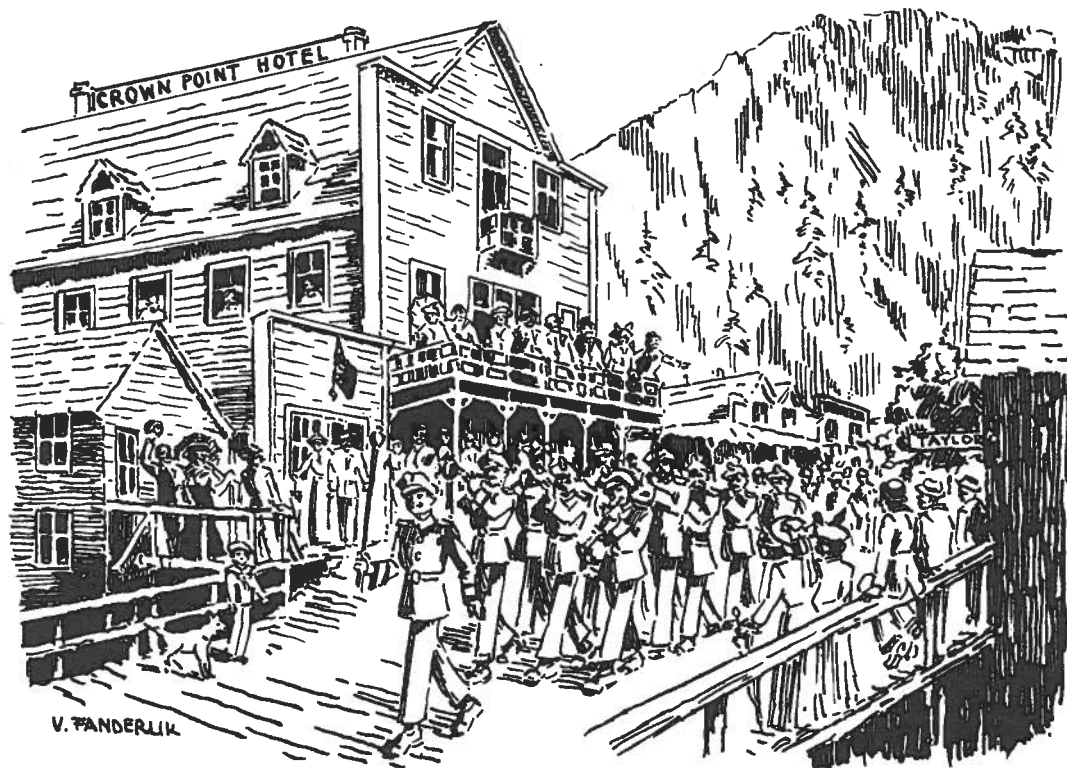
British Columbia's Simon Petersen had heard in the summer of 1895 that Fritz Augustus Heinze, a mining tycoon from Butte, Montana, was about to build a smelter to treat ores from the Rossland mines, at a landing on the Columbia River. Arriving at Trail Creek Landing in July 1895, Petersen found E.S. Topping, Mr. Humphries and S.E. Green appraising a townsite, which was to be put on the market in a short time. Making a deposit on three lots close to the river bank at the corner of Bay Avenue and Spokane Street, he boarded the steamer for Nakusp to get lumber. On his return he set two men to work on the Crown Point Hotel, building a small place at the rear of the lots for living while construction continued. By the middle of August the floor of a 40'x40' structure was laid and, foreseeing a busy time, Petersen sent for his brothers Julius and John to join him in the new project.

Early in September John Petersen arrived with his wife Laura, daughter Anna, and Anna's cream-colored English mastiff, Fanny. Anna was nine years old that day they came down the Columbia River on the thrashing paddlewheel steamer. That night, darkness swallowed the hills on each side of the shiny water as they approached the Landing, but myriads of little fires could be seen along the beach. "Look,

Anna, those are Indians," said the boat's captain. She knew no different, but next day when she looked out she saw they were not Indians but groups of workmen, sleeping and eating on the stony shore. There was no other place for them to go. In the roughly cleared area above the boat dock stood a few tents and shacks, and the one hotel other than her uncle's. It was called the Trail House, run by E.S. Topping and Frank Hanna. The Crown Point was unfinished and yet already it was full of guests. Sometimes in the morning she and her mother had to step over sleeping men lying on the hallway floor.

Everything was very rough that first autumn. Dusty roads skirted stump-covered lots; light came from coal-oil lamps; water was delivered at the door from a barrel wagon. The sound of hammering and sawing was constant as builders sought to replace tents which housed barber, shoemaker, laundryman and short-order cooks. Across from the hotel stood a livery stable, noisy with neighing horses and creaking wagons as packers and drivers unloaded freight from the sternwheelers.

By Christmas time the smelter was almost ready for its blowing-in ceremony, which would take place in early February. A dozen or more shops lined the roadways, neat frame houses had appeared in town, and a new Opera House opened with a Grand Ball on Christmas Night. The Crown Point Hotel celebrated with a dinner of special goodies imported from St. Paul, Minnesota, and a four-page colored folder presented a menu featuring among the conventional duck, turkey and ham, plum pudding and mince pie, bluepoints on the half shell, mock turtle soup, oranges, apples, nuts, raisins and grapes. Anna recalled many festive occasions when townspeople gathered in the large dining room or annex of the hotel for dances or card parties. Everything called for a



time of fun—a birthday, a holiday or arrival of distinguished visitors.

Spring of 1896 saw the appearance of the first scowload of rolling stock for the Trail Creek Tramway, a narrow-gauge line built to haul ore from the Rossland mines to the smelter, with a spur through the town of Trail to the waterfront. Trains shunted up and down many times each day as freight was unloaded from the steamboat. Anna remembered that sometimes the smelter owner, big handsome Fritz Heinze, came to town, arriving in a private coach which had belonged to Brigham Young in Salt Lake City. It was switched to a siding behind the Crown Point where all the children flocked to see it in curiosity. With his aides, Heinze moved into the hotel, making it noisy with parties and games. Often he brought lady friends but that stopped when her father disapproved, and Heinze went to another hotel.

Thoughts of school brought a series of pictures to her mind. At first there was the big bare room in the Hanna Block, with a teacher at each end and two classes sitting back to back. Then she climbed the steep hill to a rough, one-room shack whose wooden desks and benches were homemade and sticky with resin which clung to

her dresses. Knot holes in the walls kept falling out, leaving holes through which one could glimpse the outside world. The pupils pushed their pencils down cracks in the floor, and then had to go outside and crawl beneath the building to retrieve them. How cold and rude that schoolhouse was! The young teacher couldn't keep order and sometimes had to send for school trustee Mr. Hanna to thrash the big boys for her. Fire destroyed the shack and then she went to a new schoolhouse, much more sturdily built and more comfortable.

Always there was talk about the big mines up the hill in Rossland. Her father and uncles ran the cookhouse at the Crown Point mine, which lay on the lower flank of Lake Mountain. One day she rode with her father as he took up supplies. Astride the back of a heavily laden pony she followed him along the narrow road beside Trail Creek. Just beyond Warfield the path was blocked by debris, and her father pushed into the growth of trees while the horses clambered over a trackless hillside. How terrified she was as she clung to her precarious perch!

Later there were journeys to the town of Rossland in an open democrat drawn by four horses, or a trip in a cutter over the crisp snows of

winter. Sometimes she travelled in the little, narrow-gauge train which chugged and puffed up the winding switchbacks. Stacked cordwood stood close to the track, ready for use in the wood-burning locomotive, and on one trip they found a pile burning fiercely. The conductor closed doors and windows tightly, the engineer got up a head of steam, and the train rushed through the flames as fast as possible. Cinders and sparks fell on the cars, smoke billowed through the coach, but nothing caught fire and the travellers passed the hazard safely.

Excursions on the river boats were gala affairs. Chapman's band played music all the way up the lakes, and the grownups danced until the boat docked at a picnic spot. Lunch was eaten on the beach, baseball games entertained the crowd, and at dusk all returned aboard, to slip swiftly downriver with music floating over the water and cool night breezes brushing against their faces.

Then there was the time in the spring of 1898 when her father and uncles built a hotel—a second Crown Point—in the town of Brooklyn. Brooklyn was headquarters for construction crews building the Columbia & Western railway from Robson, at the foot of the Arrow Lakes, to Cascade and on to Midway. An instant town sprang up beside the warehouses and wharf, and in a month's time saloons were operating, and nearly all kinds of stores. The Crown Point was soon serving breakfast, and customers were lining up at the bar (as the local newspaper reported) "as thick as editors in Paradise!" Anna's parents would not let her stay in the rough and ready town. Instead, she was sent to Kyle's Hotel at Deer Park across the lake. Here she rode a mule over the pleasant hills and meadows. Often her mother rowed over for a visit, and sometimes her father came with Colonel Topping to inspect the mines they owned up in the mountains. A year later the railway crews had moved on past Brooklyn and the town closed down, stripped of doors and windows and anything else that could be carried. The Petersens returned to Trail. Nothing came of the Deer Park mines and her father sold his property.

Suddenly the good times were over. Heinze, facing opposition in further railway construction plans, and competition from the new smelter built at Northport by the LeRoi Company, sold his holdings in February 1898 to the Canadian

Pacific Railway Company. The new owners closed the smelter temporarily, but seemed in no hurry to re-open. Anna's father decided there was not enough business to keep three families, so he moved to Spokane where he set up a butcher shop. Anna's childhood days in Trail were ended, but later she would marry storekeeper Jack Young and return to live out her life in the smelter town.

Although the Petersens have long been gone from the Kootenays, the Crown Point Hotel still stands in Trail at the corner of Bay Avenue and Spokane Street. It is not the original 2½ storey building that S.F. Petersen raised before the smelter had taken form, but a four-storey, four-square replacement, erected in 1929, which proudly flaunts the old advertisement: "Crown Point! Best Bar! Best Meals! Best Hotel! Since Autumn 1895!"

Elsie Turnbull lived in Trail from 1928 to 1966. She has written four books on the Trail area: Topping's Trail, Trail Between Two Wars, Trail 1901-1961, and Church in the Kootenays (a history of the United Church). These books are available from Mrs. Turnbull, Victoria, or from the Giftshop, Provincial Museum, Victoria.

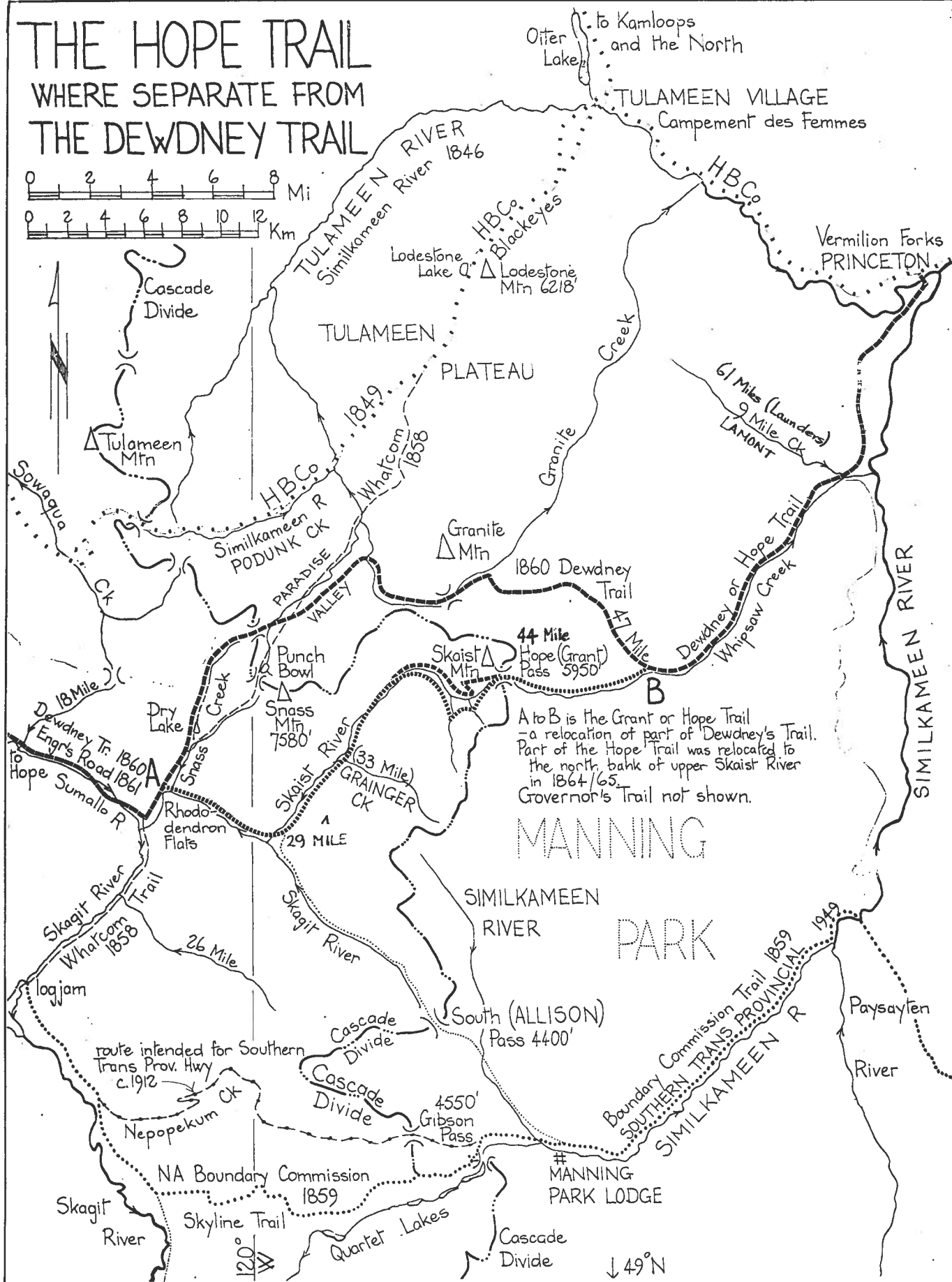


Back Issues of the News

Back issues of the News can be ordered at \$3.50 each plus postage from the Editor.

THE HOPE TRAIL

WHERE SEPARATE FROM THE DEWDNEY TRAIL



The Hope or New Dewdney Trail

Routes to British Columbia's Southern Interior

Following the setting of the international boundary at the 49th parallel in 1846, an "all British" trade route was established by the Hudson's Bay Company from the lower Fraser River to Kamloops. This line shifted, in stages, ever further to the south and east, as required to serve British Columbia's southern interior.

1848 This HBC Brigade Trail was built from Fort Yale to Nicola and Kamloops, going northeast over the Cascades from Kequeloose, near the site of Alexandra Bridge.

1849 South of Nicola, the HBC trail was relocated. It now ran due east from Fort Hope, up Peers Creek and over Manson Ridge, crossing the Cascade Divide at the head of Podunk Creek. At that time, Podunk Creek was regarded as the Similkameen or Tulameen River, since that was the way that the trail went. It is now perceived as a branch of Tulameen River. From the first crossing of the main river, the trail used Blackeye's Trail to cut across the great bend of the Tulameen, rejoining it at Campement des Femmes. Here the trail met the main Similkameen Trail, which led left up the Otter Valley for Nicola and Kamloops, or right, down the Similkameen Valley to the Okanagan, and to Fort Colville in Washington Territory.

1860 Enough gold mining developed down the Similkameen and at Rock Creek that Governor Douglas ordered improvements to the difficult 1849 pack trail over Manson Ridge. The result was Dewdney's "Good Mule Road to Similkameen",¹ via the Nicolum and Sumallo Rivers, up Snass Creek and over the Cascade Divide just west of the Punch Bowl. The mule road then swung round to Whipsaw Creek, which led down to Vermilion Forks (now Princeton). This trail became known as the Canyon Trail, from the canyon at the head of Snass (Canyon) Creek.

1861 Business continued brisk in the Rock Creek area. Douglas ordered Dewdney's mule road widened to a wagon road.² Eighty-three sappers under Captain Grant worked east from Hope, augmented by fifty civilians.

At the same time, exploring ahead, the Royal Engineers cut a 22 mile diversion of the Dewdney Trail,³ marked A to B on the map. This bypassed the canyon section of the trail, and the wet stretch north of the Snass and Skaist mountains.

The new trail crossed the Cascade Divide further to the southeast, at what became the Grant, or Hope Pass.

With some further relocations in 1864, this became the main route between Hope and Princeton for the next 40 or so years. The trail was not abandoned until the present Hope-Princeton highway was completed in 1949, but as early as 1906, Charles Camsell⁴ noted the trail was little used.

Nor was the Dewdney Trail completely abandoned, the softer ground and better feed suiting it to sheep and cattle drives.

1874 The passes over the Cascade Divide were explored and reported on by George Landvoight⁵ of Hope, for the Lands and Works Department. Settlers were demanding a better cattle trail to the coast. South (Allison) Pass received favourable consideration; though longer, it was lower, and could be used a month sooner in the spring, and a month later in the autumn.

1911 Surveys for the proposed southern Trans-Provincial Highway ran even closer to the 49th parallel, going south from Hope, via Silverhope and Nepopekum creeks, crossing the Cascade Divide at (Luke) Gibson's Pass, and joining the present highway near Manning Park Lodge. This was the furthest south of any contemplated route to the interior.

A.C. Anderson was taken this way by his Indian guide in May, 1846. Anderson soon rejected it as too steep, too rocky, and heading too far south from Kamloops, and he turned back.

- 1949 The southern Trans-Provincial Highway was completed on its present alignment, crossing the Cascade Divide at Allison Pass. Though this line is 20 miles longer than the Hope Trail, Allison Pass is 1500 feet lower than Hope Pass. The valleys are wider; some parts of the road have recently been widened to four lanes.

Building the Grant or Hope Trail (Sept. and Oct. 1861)

(See footnotes 2, 3, 8-11)

After the Dewdney Trail's first winter, 1860/61, there was concern that snow lay too late in the narrow canyon at the head of Snass Creek. This defile is a former glacial meltwater channel, with vastly over-steepened sides, prone to blocking by frequent snowslides and broken trees. Furthermore, in summer there were swamps and mudholes, unsuited to heavy freight traffic, north of the Snass and Skaist mountains. Alternatives were examined.

While extending the wagon road from Hope, the Royal Engineers explored the Cascade Divide east and south of the Punch Bowl. Sapper James Turnbull recommended the Skaist-Whipsaw route, Governor Douglas set a budget of £6000 for the project, and Captain Grant pushed on with the new trail, ahead of the wagon road construction.

The 22 mile diversion was built in "a little over three weeks", and soon became the main east-west trail. Though higher, and lacking horse feed, it led through drier, more open country, and was a few miles shorter.

Public records show that the trail, like all others, required steady maintenance,⁶ and that some sections were soon relocated to more favourable ground. Many maps and descriptions of journeys over the trail are also on record. (A few are given in footnotes 4, 5, 12-22.)

The trail has had several alternate names, apart from those used above, including the New Dewdney Trail, or, of course, the Dewdney Trail.

As early as 1863, a heavy user, the Hudson's Bay Company, requested improvements to the new trail. The Lands and Works Department⁷ sent surveyor J.B. Launder to examine and report in the spring of 1864. Using Launder's report and sketches, a six mile section of the trail was

relocated on the drier north side of the upper Skaist valley, rejoining the old trail exactly at the summit. To get the extra distance for a reasonable grade on this side, the great zigzags, which remain to this day, were built.

Another significant change was made on the upper Skagit between Miles 27 and 28, where the present highway makes two crossings below a high cutbank to the north.

The Hope Trail Today

Point A on the map is Mile 25 from Hope, at the head of Rhododendron Flats, just above the Snass (Canyon) Creek bridge on the present highway, and well inside Manning Park. Work on the wagon road ceased here in October 1861, never to be resumed, as attention was diverted to the Cariboo gold rush. The remains of a work camp are here. Judge Begbie had a house nearby.

From Snass Creek bridge, the Hope Trail climbs east, above the highway. The unmistakable groove may be followed intermittently as far east as the Skaist River. Above the Skagit Bluffs section is a parallel trail for cattle, intended to keep them back from the steep sidehill. Where the highway has encroached on the old trail, the Parks Branch is joining the old trail sections with new trail, to make a continuous route.

A good section of old trail, with rock cribbing, is the 1864 relocation above the cutbank on the Skagit River, at mile 27. This eliminated two unreliable crossings of the river (until recently, known as Cedar Creek).

The section of trail up Skaist River has been reopened for foot or horse traffic for some years now, allowing travel from Highway 3, through Hope Pass, and down Whipsaw Creek. Cattle are brought up Whipsaw Creek every summer, to graze west and north of Hope Pass.

Point B on the map is near the junction of 47 Mile and Whipsaw creeks. Before the Hope Trail was built, 47 Mile Creek was taken to be the headwaters of Whipsaw Creek, since the Dewdney Trail went that way. More field study is required in this area to determine the intersections of the Governor's, Dewdney and Hope trails.

Footnotes

- ¹ R.C. Harris, "A Good Mule Road to Similkameen", *B.C. Historical News* (Spring 1981).

² "...the waggon road ... by the Royal Engineers ... is progressing most favourably. ... Capt. Grant has received a report from a party of Sappers sent by him ... that they have discovered a pass South of the Punchbowl which again joins the present [Dewdney] trail about a mile and a half beyond the prairie at the junction of ... the Governor's trail with that of Mr. Dewdney, by which a saving of about ten miles will be effected..." Peter O'Reilly to W.A.G. Young, August 17, 1861. File 1280, Colonial Correspondence, Provincial Archives of British Columbia.

Peter O'Reilly was gold commissioner and magistrate at Hope in its busiest days. He was the colonial government in the district. W.A.G. Young was Governor Douglas' Colonial Secretary, based in Victoria, V.I.

A section of this road is commemorated as the "Engineers Road" at a stop of interest near the west entrance to Manning Park.

The "Governor's Trail" was a ridge trail running west from Princeton to intersect the 1858 Whatcom Trail below what is now Paradise Valley. It will be described in a future issue of B.C. Historical News.

³ I enclose Sapper Turnbull's report to me respecting a different line from Sergeant McColl's, from the Skagit to the Similkameen.

Should you abandon the present [McColl's] line, I sanction you carrying [forward] a Mule Trail at once, continuing also in rear the Waggon Road.

The total expense may not exceed the £6000 sanctioned."

R.C. Moody to J. Grant, "on the Similkameen Road", 21 August 1861, New Westminster. CAB 30.71 Book 3, pp. 2-3, Colonial Correspondence PABC.

Lt. Col. R.C. Moody, R.E. was Officer Commanding the Columbia Detachment of Royal Engineers, and also the colony's first Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, an appointment of equivalent rank to Attorney General.

Captain Jack Grant, R.E., was Moody's construction officer, sometimes called "the greatest roadbuilder of them all." In the summer of 1861, Captain Grant was widening [Dewdney's 1860] "mule road to Similkameen" into a wagon road, to serve the Similkameen and Rock Creek mines.

Sapper James Turnbull, a surveyor and draftsman with the Royal Engineers, explored and laid out many of the routes adopted in the early days of British Columbia.

Sergeant William McColl had recently laid out the line of Dewdney's mule road up Snass Creek and north of the Snass and Skaist mountains.

⁴ "Princeton can be reached ... over the old Hope trail across the mountains from Hope. Hope is distant about 65 miles, and the trail is merely a pack trail, which is not being much used at the present time ... only ... from May to October." Charles Camsell, "Preliminary Report on a Part of the Similkameen District", with map. Geological Survey of Canada No. 986, 1906.

⁵ "South Pass Exploration—Hope to Nicola," by George Landvoigt; Hope, 14th September, 1873 (1874 is intended) B.C. Sessional Papers, Report of Public Works, 1874, pp. 328-330; and sketch map.

⁶ "The Hope-Similkameen trail will be open by the 30th of this month. I have entered into a contract with ... [John Fall] Allison, who for £120 makes a firm foot trail the whole distance—75 [actually 65] miles—to have thoroughly repaired this road would have cost a very considerable sum of money, for no less than five bridges were destroyed..." E.H. Sanders to W.A.G. Young, Colonial Secretary, June 20, 1862. Colonial Correspondence, PABC

Peter O'Reilly was transferred north when the main gold mining excitement moved north. Hope became nearly deserted. E.H. Sanders, gold commissioner and magistrate at Yale added the responsibilities of Hope to his own. Winter 1861/62 was a heavy one.

⁷ James Benjamin Launders, surveyor, engraver, draftsman, and former Royal Engineer, continued working in the Lands and Works Department when the Royal Engineers were disbanded in 1863. The new C.C.L. and W. was Joseph Trutch, for whom Launders later drew the renowned 1871 "Trutch" map of British Columbia. By then, Launders had a decade of surveying and mapping experience in the country involved.

In this letter, Launders was reporting on his inspection of the Hope Trail, ordered by Trutch on 26 May 1864. Launders included sketches of his proposed relocations of the Grant Trail.

Launders found snow slides extended from mile 1½ to mile 5½ up the Skagit Pass [upper Snass or Canyon Creek]. There was too much snow to continue on Dewdney's Trail beyond [Hubbard Creek] so he struck southeast, across country, to Captain Grant's trail near the summit [Hope or Grant Pass]; thence down Whipsaw Creek to Princeton, "where the inhabitants don't expect the Dewdney Trail to open in 1864."

Launders' main recommendation was to relocate the Grant trail in the headwaters of Skaist River to the sunny north side of the valley—the snow there had already gone.

More work was needed above Skagit Bluffs, about one mile from the end of the [Engineer's] wagon road. James B. Launders to Joseph Trutch, June 9, 1864. F969/2 Colonial Correspondence, PABC.

The work was done by J.F. Allison, and accepted by Launders, in 1864. A.N. Birch also reported officially on Allison's work in September 1864.

⁸ Moody acknowledges instructions from Governor Douglas to push "the new route from hence [near Rhododendron Flats] to Shimilkomeen" and will use "Captain Grant's known energy..."

The wagon road is "...approaching the Skagit river, and the woodchoppers in advance have commenced opening the new line."

Moody asks for an additional £1000 [say \$4,000], which was granted. Moody to Douglas, Sept. 4, 1861. F928/12, Colonial Correspondence, PABC.

⁹ "The wagon road is progressing most favourably. Captain Grant has spent three days during the last week in exploring the new pass beyond the Skagit." O'Reilly to Young, Sept. 14, 1861, F1280 Colonial Correspondence, PABC.

¹⁰ "...the wagon road has been completed to within a half a mile of Mr. Begbie's house on the Scagit Flat, a distance of 25 miles from Hope.

"The Engineers under the command of Captain Grant are now employed in constructing a mule trail from that point to Similkameen ... will [probably] complete to Princeton this season." Ibid., Oct. 11, 1861.

- ¹¹ "The new [Hope or Grant] trail has been completed by ... Captain Grant to the third creek [47 Mile] from Similkameen, where it joins the old [Dewdney] trail about six miles this side of Johnston's store. [Point B on the map.] I returned by it, and think it shorter than McColl's line, the grades are easy throughout ... but feed is not as plentiful as I expected. The entire distance from the turnoff at Skagit flat to its junction with the old trail will be about 38 miles [actually, about 22 miles], which has been completed in a little over three weeks.

"The Engineers have returned to Hope and are waiting the arrival of the steamer to convey them to [winter quarters at] Westminster." Ibid., Oct. 31, 1861.

- ¹² "I had a small pack train sent to me at Fort Hope, and with this I commenced my journey on the 29th of June [1873]. Following the wagon road by the Nicolaume and Sumallow Valleys to the River Skagit, I took the Grant Trail up the valley of the latter, the slopes of which are in many places steep and rocky to the summit of the mountain which the aneroid indicated to be 5600 ft. above sea level.

After a pleasant ride down the Whipsaw Valley we arrived ... at the Nine Mile Creek..." CPR Surveys, Annual Report, 1877, p. 116.

- ¹³ "Sketch Map of portion of the New Westminster, Similkameen and Yale Mining Divisions" shows "Main Hope-Princeton Trail" up Skaist Creek. W.M. Brewer, B.C. Minister of Mines Annual Report, 1915.

Down Whipsaw Creek are shown 41, 43, 45 and 47 Miles Creeks, [measured from Hope] and 9 Mile Creek, [measured from Princeton].

- ¹⁴ "The party was organised at Princeton and moved up the Hope-Princeton Trail by pack train. Arriving at Hope Pass ... we found ... considerable ... snow and no horsefeed at all. This forced us to continue down the Skaist Creek to the first feed, which we found at Strawberry Flat, about 6 miles from and 2500 feet below [Hope Pass] ... we ... worked down the Skaist and Skagit Rivers to the junction with the Klesilkwa Rivers.

"We also made two side trips, one up Cedar Creek [now the headwaters of Skagit River] as far as Allison Pass, and the other up Mount Snaas between Skaist and Canyon [Snass] Creeks." Report by G.J. Jackson, BCLS, on the season's phototopographic surveys of the Skagit Basin 1924. Minister of Lands (published 1925), Sessional Papers, British Columbia, pp. 120-122.

- ¹⁵ March 1862. Conroy, J., Royal Engineers. A lithographed map. "British Columbia, Hope to Similkameen and Rock Creek..." shows the trails east of Hope, but only "Capt. Grant's Trail 1861" is named.

- ¹⁶ 1877. Landvoight, Geo. PABC F964. An informal journal of a 16-day round trip, Hope to Keremeos, mostly on foot, in February.

- ¹⁷ 1877-78. "Report of Progress", Geological Survey of Canada. Dawson, G.M. On p. 45B to 48B, he follows the Hope Trail.

- ¹⁸ August 1883. (Sherman, General William Tecumseh; U.S. Army, U.S. National Archives, Record Group 77, AMA 275.) "A Map of the Country between Old Fort Colville, W.T. and the Fraser River, B.C. showing the Trail followed by the General of the Army."

- ¹⁹ 1886. Trout, P.L. "Prospector's Manual"; PABC NW p. 971-355 T861 p. 21: "How to get there [Granite Creek]—The Hope Trail"

- ²⁰ 1915. Davidson, Professor John, Provincial Botanist. B.C. Sessional Papers, 1916. p. 94 to 111, and sketch map. "Botanical Exploration of the Skagit River Basin, B.C."

- ²¹ 1922. Geological Survey of Canada, "Summary Report". Cairnes, C.E. p. 108. Descriptions and map in text. The Hope Trail is called the Dewdney Trail in this report.

- ²² R.C. Harris, "The Hope Trail", B.C. Outdoors, (Feb. 1976).

- ²³ R.C. Harris, "Dewdney's Second Contract", B.C. Historical News (Summer 1981).

COSTUMES ANYONE?

This year, Ontario celebrates its bicentennial. As one of its contributions, the Royal Ontario Museum has prepared a series of period costume pattern diagrams. Two sets represent eighteenth century dresses in the Museum's collection; a third consists of diagrams for three dresses of the decade 1834-1843. The pattern diagrams, which include instructions on how they can be adapted to fit dolls or adults of any size, may be obtained for \$7.95 plus 10% handling charges from the Publication Services of the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6.

Naomi Miller

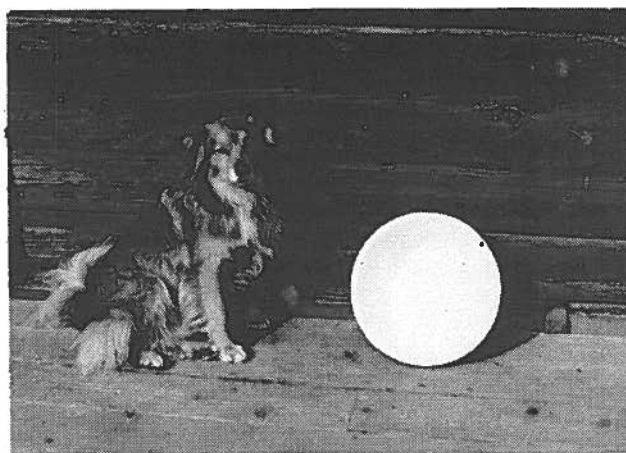
DISHWASHING IN PIONEER DAYS

The first provision for dishwashing at an early settler's habitation was usually a washbasin set on some improvised table or washstand. Dishes were washed in a metal or enamel bowl that likely served as a personal washbasin, too. Water carried in from the well, creek, or pump was heated in a kettle over a woodstove. Dishes were set to drain on the table, or a cookie sheet, or in a spare washbowl if one was available. Dishes were dried with tattletale grey dishtowels made from cloth flour or sugar sacks. This washing process was done outdoors as long as weather permitted. The bowl of dishwater would be carried over and dumped on the garden, if such was established, or flung among the surrounding trees.

When the tiny shack was expanded into a house, a sink was built into the kitchen, with a drain exiting above ground quite close to the house. In our house we brought a cold water tap into the house with the advent of the kitchen sink. Water was heated in the kettle, supplemented with the warm water in the big reservoir beside the stove. Dishes still had to be washed in a washbasin. We whipped up suds for dishwashing using a little wire cage holding forlorn scraps of bath soap. Clear rinse water was allowed to drain out of the sink, but the grey, greasy dishwater was still carried outside to a prearranged area for disposal. (That dishwater area was a rich worm farm where my brother and I gathered worms to sell to tourists for fishing.)

My uncle, Noel Bacchus, told me of one more way dishes were washed in pioneer days. His recounting went something like this:

When I came to Canada in 1919 the first job I obtained was clearing land for Colonel Richardson near Kaslo. He hired me and a Swede named Carl Johanssen. On the block next door to Colonel Richardson's there was a tiny log cabin, empty at the time. Carl was a good worker and we got along quite well. We took turns doing the cooking and cleaning up after meals.



Yes, I liked Carl and I liked his dog Fritz.

Towards the end of the summer Carl insisted on doing the breakfast dishes every day. I'd go off to start working and he'd follow along pretty soon afterward. One day I forgot my smokes, so I turned back to get them. As soon as I could see the cabin I saw Carl's dishwashing technique. He'd put the plates, cups, and frypan on the doorstep and lolled in the door while Fritz licked them clean. I was mad at first, but then I had to laugh. And you can be sure I washed my own dishes after that.

Ah yes ... pioneer dishwashing ... not condoned even at Boy Scout camps anymore. Public Health laws, affluence and education have changed our ways.

Naomi Miller is 1st vice president of the BCHF, and chairman of the Lieutenant-Governor's Award Committee.

"Wiggy" and the dishpan belong to Winifred Spalding, South Pender Island, who is a long-time member of the BCHF.

British Columbia Historical Federation's Annual Convention, Vernon, May 3-6, 1984



"Convention Characters"

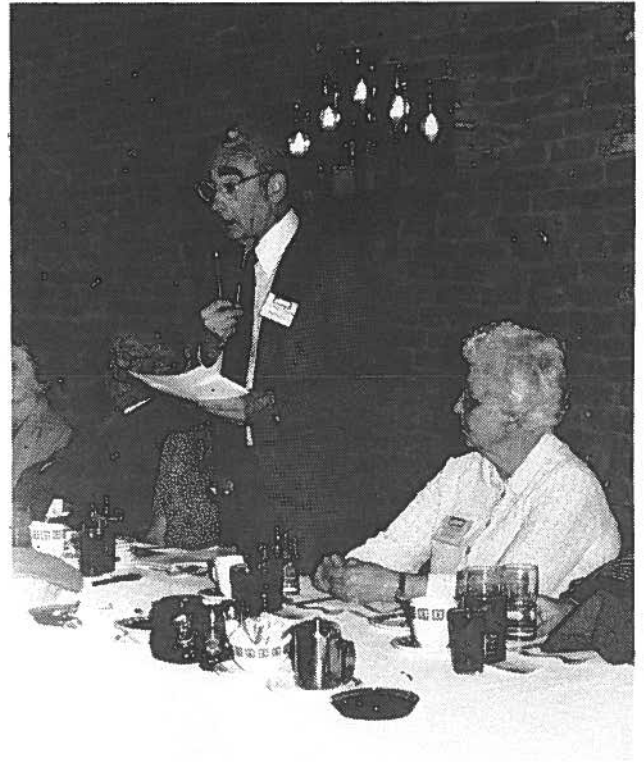
How many faces do you recognize? Fraser Wilson of the Burnaby Historical Society prepared this intriguing collage. Many readers will remember Fraser's regular feature, "Candid Caricatures", which appeared three or four times a week in the *Vancouver Sun* during the 1930s.

Highlights of the Annual General Meeting

**New president
Leonard McCann with guest
speaker Dr. Margaret Ormsby.**



**Friday afternoon visit to the
O'Keefe Ranch and St. Ann's
Church.**



Sixty-five delegates and visitors were present (approximately eighty people had registered for the convention). Following a welcome by President Barbara Stannard, Col. Gerry Andrews, Honorary President, addressed the meeting.

The Treasurer, Rhys Richardson, reported that the balance as at April 1st, including investments and reserves for special purpose funds, was \$12,574.06. A grant of \$4,000 had been received for one year from the Heritage Trust for publication of the *B.C. Historical News Magazine*. There are now two affiliated groups and twenty-seven member societies listing 1178 members.

The Election of Officers was conducted by Ruth Barnett. New officers are: President, Leonard McCann; First Vice-President, Naomi Miller; Second Vice-President, John Spittle; and Member-at-Large, Mary Orr.

At the invitation of Edrie Holloway and Jack Kendrick, who made a presentation regarding the recreation of the Spanish ship *Sutil*, next year's BCHF Convention will be held on Galiano Island, in the southern Gulf Islands, in May.

—Margaret Stoneberg



**His Honour the Honourable Robert G. Rogers and
Mrs. Rogers, with Charlie**

The Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Historical Merit

His Honour the Honourable Robert G. Rogers, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, has kindly consented to be Honorary Patron of the British Columbia Historical Federation, and to allow the Federation's annual award for historical merit to be designated the Lieutenant-Governor's Award.

This year, at the annual BCHF Convention held in Vernon, the Lieutenant-Governor's Award was presented by Honorary President Col. Gerald S. Andrews to Mrs. Daphne Sleigh for her book on local history, *Discovering Deroche: From Nicomen to Lake Errock*. BCHF Secretary Don Sale delivered a copy of this book to His Honour at Government House on Saturday, May 12, 1984.



Col. Gerald S. Andrews and Daphne Sleigh

Writing Competition



The British Columbia Historical Federation invites submissions of books or articles for the second annual competition for writers of British Columbia history.

Any book with historical content published in 1984 is eligible. Whether the work was prepared as a thesis, or a community project, for an industry, or an organization, or just for the pleasure of sharing a pioneer's reminiscences, it is considered history as long as names, locations, and dates are included. Stories told in the vernacular are acceptable when indicated as quotations of a story teller. Please include the selling price of the book, and an address from where it may be purchased.

Submit your book with your name, address, and telephone number to:

British Columbia Historical Federation
c/o Mrs. Naomi Miller
Box 105,
Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0

Book contest deadline is January 31, 1985.

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

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

Written length should be no more than 2,000 to 3,000 words, substantiated with footnotes if possible, and accompanied by photographs if available. Deadlines for the quarterly issues are September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1.



Naomi Miller presented a Certificate of Merit to Shirlee Smith Matheson at the BCHF Convention for the best article published in the *B.C. Historical News* in 1983.

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for *Historical News* is September 1, 1984. Please send all manuscripts to the Editor, *B.C. Historical News*, 1745 Taylor Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8.

News and Notes

Reports from the Branches

Nanaimo

The Society continues to play an active part in both the past and present life of the city.

The two books published by the Society, *Company on the Coast* in 1982, and *Nanaimo Retrospective* in 1979, have been reprinted this year. *Nanaimo Retrospective* has been revised, and now contains the names of Mayors and Freeman of the city, with a full index.

We shall miss Elizabeth Norcross who edited the books, as she is now living in Duncan. She recently received the first City of Nanaimo Heritage Advisory Committee Service Award for her contribution to the preservation of the city's heritage.

The Ethel Barraclough Memorial Fund book awards were presented to Grade IX and X students for essays on topics related to B.C. History. Participating Secondary Schools in School District 68 were given books for their libraries.

Two new projects remain in the planning stage: A plaque will be installed in the old cemetery on Comox Road, inscribed with the names of pioneers interred there since 1853, including a victim of the battle of Petropavlosk on the Amchatka Peninsula during the Crimean War. A Miners' Memorial is also proposed.

The Society's annual commemoration of the arrival of the families who travelled from Staffordshire in 1854 on the *Princess Royal* was held on November 27th. B.C.H.F. President Barbara Stannard recalled the trials of the voyage from her own family's history and the ship's Log. It is encouraging to see so many descendants attending.

The Field Trip in June explored the museums and countryside around Duncan.

—Daphne Paterson

Cowichan

This is the tenth anniversary of our society being re-formed after a long dormant period. We have a lot to show for the work put in by our members over these years: our museum, our collection of artifacts in storage, the counters and fittings that we have stored for the day when we have our own building, funds in the bank, and a good and active membership. The intangibles must not be forgotten—our museum has fostered interest in the history of the Cowichan Valley, help has been given to those seeking information on the history of the Valley, and each year we become better known.

While our major activity of the past year has been the operation of the museum, we also put on a tour of some historical points in Cowichan for twenty members of the Nanaimo Historical Society in June, 1983. Our major event was the staging of an historic fashion show and tea on March 24th this year that attracted an audience of over two hundred. Representatives of historical groups at Shawnigan Lake, Chemainus, Crofton, Cowichan Lake, and Saltspring Island were invited to attend and exhibit items from their localities, and we received a good response. We hope to have annual affairs of this nature to build up communication and cooperation among groups interested in the preservation of history.

—J.W.A. Green,
President

Burnaby

The Burnaby Historical Society meets each second Wednesday, 8 p.m., Studio "3", James Cowan Centre, for seven months of the year. The Annual General Meeting is in March at the Ice Cream Parlour, Heritage Village, Burnaby. The June meeting features an outing, a noon picnic and a tour of historical significance, usually a museum. At Christmas, we enjoy a party with a dinner and entertainment, in the home of one of our 36 members.

West Vancouver

Our society was formed on February 25, 1982, with the assistance of the West Vancouver Rotary Club. The West Vancouver School Board has assisted us by providing a meeting place, and allotting the society a classroom in the Pauline Johnson School as a work area. In the spring of 1983 we used the Community Recovery Program to hire three aides to catalogue and file over 700 pictures, collected by Rupert Harrison, former city clerk. Our society had ninety-three members in 1983.

—B.G. Holt

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

In an effort to try to clear up some misunderstandings that have arisen since the Federation's Annual General Meeting in 1983, parts of various letters that have been sent to Member Society Office-bearers are repeated or re-interpreted:

(1) A Member Society sets its own dues for its own purposes as it sees fit. Bylaw 2(1)(e) of the Federation stipulates that "all members of a local Member Society ... shall pay dues to the Federation..." At that 1983 A.G.M. the members dues were set at \$1.00 per individual member (however that term is defined by the Member Society) plus another \$4.00 if a subscription to the magazine is desired.

(2) Since a Member Society sets its dues and its Annual General Meeting, the above (and any succeeding) change in Federation Dues/Subscriptions becomes effective for a particular Society from the time of its succeeding A.G.M.

(3) For the Federation's purposes, involved as it is with the production of *The British Columbia Historical News*, it is desirable to receive Member's Dues and Subscriptions from Member Societies as soon as possible after the start of the program-and-publication year in September. To this end, some years ago, Council set a common reporting date of October 31, whilst acknowledging that each Member Society establishes its own Financial Year. Regulation 7 under Bylaw 38 instructs the Federation Treasurer to send to the Treasurer of each Member Society an "Annual Return" form before the end

of September. This gives Member Societies time to prepare for the "Annual Return as at October 31." It is reasonable to expect that all such forms should be completed and sent to the Federation P.O. Box number before the following December 31. This fully completed "Annual Return" helps to ensure that no oversight of entries and receipts has occurred in the course of the previous 12 months. During that 12 months each Member Society will have had its own "drive" for members and subscriptions to the *B.C. Historical News*, and the resultant membership (numbers) and subscribers (names and addresses), and any corresponding monies, should be sent to the Federation P.O. Box. In the course of the year, as additional members join and new subscriptions are made, the information (numbers) and monies (with names and addresses) should be sent in. Keep in mind that no subscription can start until the Treasurer and Subscription Manager (through the Treasurer) have received the information. Unless the A.G.M. of a Member Society is held shortly before October 31, it is requested that any changes that are made in the Office-bearers of a Member Society be notified soon after the date of that meeting.

Now, leading up to the Financial Statement, the Treasurer's records show that the Federation consists of 27 Member Societies with 1178 Dues-paying members, and 2 Affiliated Groups. Subscribers to the *B.C. Historical News* include 907 members of Member Societies, 60 individuals and 97 institutions, for a total of 1,064 magazines. The post office invoice shows that

1,248 copies of the magazine were mailed on April 1. There is too big a difference between these figures—1,248 copies mailed, 1,064 paid for! The Subscription Manager is now showing the expiry issue in the top right hand corner of the address label, and will be removing a subscriber's name if there is significant delay in making the renewal payment. Conversely, an early payment will extend the subscription by 4 issues.

In the Financial Statement a major change in format is the separate presentation, as far as possible, of *The British Columbia Historical News* monies from those of the Federation's Other Activities. There is no change in banking practices as all monies are passed through our Community Service Account at the Bank of British Columbia.

Now, the Financial Statement in summary: we began the Financial Year on April 1, 1983 with a Bank Balance of \$7,768.32. During the year, revenue allocated to the *B.C. Historical News* was \$5,532.74, whilst the actual cost of production and distribution was \$11,858.49. The B.C. Heritage Trust sent \$3,333.00 being the last third of its original grant, so that the net cost of the magazine was \$2,992.77 more than we received. For the other activities of the Federation the receipts from dues, interest and certain small amounts totalled \$2,748.54; working expenses were \$1,238.29 and an advance from the Publications Assistance Fund of \$2,000.00 was also made, so that there was an excess disbursement of \$489.75. The excess of the disbursements for the magazine and for the other activities reduce the bank balance (\$7,768.32 - 2,992.77 - 489.75) to \$4,285.80 as on March 31, 1984.

The Statement of Assets shows that we finished the financial year with no change in investments, whilst, as shown above, the working bank balance was reduced. Also reduced were two Special Purpose Funds: Council travel by \$100.00 and publications assistance by \$2,000.00. The formulation of Regulation 9(3) under Bylaw 38 means that the two recipients in receipt of advances must now be shown in the Statement of Assets as having received the advance from the publications assistance fund (one was not reported in last year's financial report). Including the advances just mentioned the Special Purpose Funds amount to \$7,072.69, and that leaves funds available for general purposes at \$12,574.08.

—J. Rhys Richardson

Contest



As this issue of the *Historical News* was being prepared, the media was speculating on John Turner's choice of constituency. Some commentators have suggested that he may choose to run in British Columbia. If so, he could become only the second prime minister to sit for a British Columbia constituency. Our question is: who was the first prime minister to represent a British Columbia riding?

The prize is an appropriate one for summer. It is a package of three volumes published by Douglas & McIntyre, namely: *Exploring the Southern Selkirks* by John Carter and Doug Leighton, *Easy Hiking Around Vancouver* by Jean Cousins and Heather Robinson, and *The West Coast Trail* by the Sierra Club of British Columbia. While these volumes are designed to serve as practical guides, they are well illustrated with photographs and maps, and should appeal both to outdoorsmen and armchair travellers.

Send your answer to the editor before September 1, 1984.

INTRODUCING



Recording Secretary, Margaret Stoneberg

Margaret grew up and attended school in Montreal. Her first job during summer holidays was with a newspaper. She subsequently worked for nine years with the Princeton, B.C. newspaper, when she became interested in local history. Not only is Margaret a hard-working member of the BCHF Executive Council, but she is also a member of the British Columbia Museums Society, and she assists with the operation of the Princeton & District Pioneer Museum and Archives.

WELCOME

The following society has recently joined the BCHF:

Silvery Slokan Historical Society, New Denver

In Memoriam

History buffs throughout the lower mainland lost a good friend with the passing of Bill Duthie, owner of the Duthie chain of bookstores, in April, 1984. Bill opened his first Duthie Books store in August 1957, after serving as the western representative for McClelland and Stewart. Always supportive of Canadian writers and publishers, he was happiest when selling a book we wanted to read, rather than a book that needed promotion. We shall miss him.

Subscribe!

I wish to subscribe to *B.C. Historical News*. I enclose a cheque or money order payable to the B.C. Historical Federation, P.O. Box 35326, Station E, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G5.

Individual Four issues for \$8.00 (_____)

Institutional Four issues for \$16.00 (_____)

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MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame & Museum

Have you ever wondered who invented ice rinks, what “Baggataway” was, or just exactly when and how rugby evolved into football? Well you wouldn’t wonder anymore after paying a visit to the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum!

Although located in the B.C. Pavilion on the P.N.E. Grounds in Vancouver, the museum encompasses the sporting history of the entire province. Originally opened in 1966, the Hall of Fame recognizes the achievements of this province’s outstanding athletes, coaches, and builders. The institution has also begun to document the fascinating history of sport in British Columbia and is rapidly building a sports archives that includes newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, films, and photographs—all which document a facet of social history that until recently has to a large degree been ignored.

The displays reflect the changes in equipment and facilities that have occurred in over 75 sports during British Columbia’s development, and provide the background upon which the accomplishments of the athletes can be related.

A popular education program, “Neglected Heritage”, attracts school and community groups of all ages year round and includes informal lectures, films, and graded questionnaires which allow students to discover for themselves how rich our sporting heritage is.

This year, a new display entitled “B.C. at the Olympics”, traces the accomplishments and contributions made by B.C. athletes from as early as 1912 through to the modern games.

Hours of operation are from 9:15 to 4:45 Monday to Friday. Guided tours and the use of the library and archives can all be arranged through the office (604) 253-2311/local 233 or 238, or write to Box 69020, Station K, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 4W3.

—Patricia Farrow
Assistant Curator

Yukon Archives

The Yukon Archives is located beside the Whitehorse Library on Second Avenue at Hawkins Street in Whitehorse, and its public reading room is open to researchers from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The Archives house Government Records dating back to 1896, a collection of more than 15,000 photographs, corporate records, private manuscripts, films, sound recordings, a library of 6500 volumes, 2,000 maps and plans, and 65 individual newspapers. For those people who are unable to visit in person, the Archives can provide some reference assistance through correspondence. Write to: The Yukon Archives & Records Services, 2nd Avenue and Hawkins Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory Y1A 2C6.

RESEARCH

On the Trail of '98

Are you tracing someone who went to the Klondike during the gold rush? If so, there are several sources of information available at the Yukon Archives that may help you. These are: Mining recorders’ records, Polk Directories, Index to Miners’ names in the 1902 Dawson newspaper, and the Dawson City Funeral records. (See address for Yukon Archives in Archives column.)

If you have the time and patience, you may also find your quarry listed in a ship’s passenger list, published in newspapers for Victoria and Vancouver. Relevant Vancouver and Victoria newspapers are available on microfilm at the three B.C. universities and in many public libraries.

Bookshelf

Francis Rattenbury and British Columbia: Architecture and Challenge in the Imperial Age. Anthony A. Barrett and Rhodri Windsor Liscombe. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983. pp. xii, 391, illus., \$29.95

Rhodri Liscombe, an associate professor of fine arts at UBC, had been cataloguing Rattenbury buildings and collecting masses of information about Rattenbury's career with the intention of producing an "architectural monograph". Then in 1978, Anthony Barrett, a classics professor whose avocation is the study of famous British murder cases, was given access to letters Rattenbury had written to his family in England. These 87 letters represented the only examples of Rattenbury's private correspondence that have been found. (Recently, after the death of Mary (Rattenbury) Burton, nine letters were found among her papers and were presented to the Victoria City Archives.)

Rattenbury's letters begged publication. But how to include them in a study of Rattenbury's architecture? Liscombe and Barrett solved this problem by writing what their publisher describes as a "professional biography".

"We decided," the authors state, "to combine architecture and biography, so as to make our account as comprehensive as possible." Whether they succeeded in combining the two into a satisfying whole depends primarily on the reader's taste in biography. With its emphasis on brick and stone rather than flesh and blood, *Francis Rattenbury and British Columbia* works only as well as this type of book can work. Inevitably, the man himself tends to become somewhat lost in the detailed study of his work. And detailed this book certainly is. An appendix, which runs to fifteen pages, lists 111 Rattenbury designs, many of which are painstakingly described in the text.

So apparently comprehensive is this study that omissions attract more attention than they might otherwise merit. It is, for example, hard to understand how they missed, or why they neglected to mention, the 'Chalet' at 1737 Rockland in Victoria, a building long attributed to Rattenbury and identified as "one of Rattenbury's more successful residential commissions" in the inventory of residential heritage buildings published by the City of Victoria in 1978.

Some of the information they supply, which corrects or at least contradicts other sources, is strangely unexamined. Rattenbury's renovation of the Hotel Dallas, they state, "seems to have been confined to the interior." But they do not account for the exterior changes apparent in before-and-after photographs of the Dallas, nor do they attribute the work to any other architect. They provide the information that in 1908 Rattenbury invited tenders for a schoolhouse to be erected for the Chinese Benevolent Association in Victoria. But then they say no more. Does this refer to the school standing on Fisgard Street? If so, this contradicts Segger and Franklin who, in their *Victoria, A Primer for Regional History in Architecture*, attributed this building to D.C. Frame. Or is it that Frame designed the building and Rattenbury served as supervising architect? It would be nice to know.

Intended for "both the specialist and the lay reader", the text is clear, straightforward and readable. And that, in an academic work, is refreshing. But it should come as no surprise to discover that a familiarity with architectural terminology is required to process much of the information supplied.

In describing the book as "richly illustrated", the publisher is verging on understatement. The 200 illustrations, which include many buildings, sketches and elevations not previously published, are superb. Unfortunately, the book's standard (6x9) format does not always do them justice and when three or four sketches are printed on a single page, we are treated to a microbe's-eye-view of Rattenbury's vision.

Not for those who want to curl up in front of the fire for a good read, *Rattenbury and British Columbia* will become a valuable source book for anyone interested in the province's architectural heritage.

Terry Reksten is the author of the award-winning biography, Rattenbury (1978).

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

Imagine Please; Early Radio Broadcasting in British Columbia. Dennis J. Duffy. Victoria: Provincial Archives of British Columbia, 1983. Pp. iv, 92, illus., \$4.50. (Sound Heritage Series, no. 38).

Some readers will remember those days back in the early '20s when schoolboys assembled radio sets by buying a piece of equipment each week from Woolworth's. Spools of fine wire, cardboard tubes for vario-couplers, galena crystals with cat's whiskers—slowly we amassed the components of a wondrous machine that we didn't fully understand but which, with the aid of borrowed headphones, produced most satisfying Morse code in a rapid-fire stutter, and, wonder of wonders, tiny sounds of music and the human voice.

It is incredible now, at this late date, to learn that the unseen, mystic transmitting stations which caused our tableful of bits and pieces to emit soul-stirring sounds were not much more sophisticated than the receivers. There were "breadboard" transmitters, with knobs and dials mounted on a piece of wooden plank, and a cascade of tangled wires falling to the floor. There were homemade parts, haywire contrivances, bits of electrical equipment borrowed from automobiles, telephones and household machinery. It was a triumph of junk calling unto junk—and it was wonderful!

The fantastic story of that era is detailed in the book here reviewed. The title "Imagine Please" is borrowed from the name of a series of radio plays aired by producer Fletcher Markle over CKWX in 1940-41. The phrase recalls a fundamental difference between radio and television, in that the radio listener must depend on his imagination for everything but the words he hears, whereas in TV the camera and the director's own ideas deprive the audience of that pleasurable exercise. It is a theme which frequently recurs as radio men get together to discuss the world and their position in it.

Dennis J. Duffy has assembled a volume of fascinating quotes from twenty-nine men and two women who were prominent in the boisterous years of the 1920s and '30s. The tapes were obtained from numerous sources, including some from the Provincial Archives of British Columbia.

It is interesting to note the scarcity of women in the infancy of radio. Only later, when the TV screen found it profitable to lure us with blonde curls and attractive faces, did female announcers and interviewers come into their own.

The desperate efforts of early broadcasters to keep their low-powered, mostly homemade transmitters on the air, the stratagems used to evade trouble with government inspectors, curious about valid licences, power output and live scheduling, and above all, the frantic need for money—these were all part of the early story.

Those were days when a dollar was worth more than today, but tales of actors who participated in radio plays for their share of a \$5.00 fee, spread over the whole cast, apparently were common. Most programs used willing, stage-struck volunteers, school choirs, musicians eager to be paid in publicity, and other no-cost talent. One hilarious account by Don Laws, who spent 30 years with CJOR in Vancouver, tells us: "We had Laddy Watkis, who was our accountant at CJOR. She was Laddy Watkis and sang as a contralto; she was Margaret May and played the piano. If she played and sang both, she was Margaret May and Laddy Watkis."

Organ music, at the cost of a ten-second plug for the movie theatre, amateur bands, live broadcasts from hotels and dance halls, and news read from the latest newspaper edition, all helped to fill in the time. One small-town station read the entire weekly paper on the air minutes after it appeared on the street, despite the vociferous protests of the publisher. And increasingly, as they became more readily available, there were recordings, recordings, recordings.

A studio floor was often crowded with on-the-spot sound effects—tubs of water, metal sheets, bells, saws, whistles, and and grandfather clock to provide chimes. A reasonable sound of horses' hooves could be provided by the narrator beating himself on the chest.

Many a mainland broadcast station got its start in the back room of a hardware or electrical appliance store. The storekeeper had radio sets to sell, but the public had little opportunity to tune in a broadcast. The answer was to improvise a transmitter, get a licence and go on the air for one or several hours a day to build a market for receiving sets.

Some of these stations were short-lived, or frequently changed owners. Transmitter locations and call letters were switched around as required. Often several "stations" shared one outlet: a 1932 program lists a 730 kilocycle transmitter that alternated as CKMO and CKWX during the day, and in the evening became CKCD and CHLS. But in 1933 the granting of so-called "phantom licenses" was discontinued.

The problem of interference from the signals of other stations was common and could sometimes be solved by illegally shifting your frequency slightly or boosting your power. It was all part of the radio game.

It took a long time before advertisers with real money could be lured into radio. But when they were, better equipment could be bought, record libraries assembled, power increased and staffs could be adequately paid. The industry set out to become a major entity in our lives.

Dennis Duffy has brought this fascinating epoch alive again with his compendium of reminiscences by many of the figures who were directly involved.

With the vigorous teams of midwives who attended its birth radio could not fail to thrive. And with such a background of surging will-to-live as radio provided, television could not fail to inherit the prominent position it enjoys today.

But there is still a little sadness in some minds. To quote Don Laws again: "Radio was glamorous. People listened to radio. You know, you had these big sets in the living room and it was the centre of your living room. It was a different era, and I don't think you can go back to it."

—Brian Tobin

Extra! When The Papers Had The Only News. Peter Stursberg. Victoria. Provincial Archives of British Columbia, 1982. Pp ii, 94, illus., \$4.50. (Sound Heritage Series, no. 35).

The editorial preface to Peter Stursberg's *Extra! When the Papers Had the Only News* wisely disclaims any attempt to present a definitive history of British Columbia newspaperdom between the two great wars of this century. The small volume is, rather, an anthology of comments and reminiscences by two dozen outstanding newspaper characters of those years. The net result is a realistic picture of a vigorous, chaotic, sometimes ruthless period in the history of this province's daily news industry.

Some readers may question the space given to describing a few hard-drinking, Hollywood-movie types, but they were all able workers, and a genuine part of the scene at a time when newspapermen were expected by their employers to wear a jacket and tie, and by their friends to have a bottle in the desk drawer.

It is a trifle ironic that the words of some writers, familiar in style to many readers through their printed output over the years, are here presented through the medium of recording tape, and lose their identity through the awkwardness of impromptu speech.

A handful of individuals has been chosen from scores of colleagues—Torchy Anderson, Mamie Maloney Boggs, Evelyn Caldwell, Bill Forst, Bruce Hutchison, Stuart Keate, Cliff MacKay, Pat Slattery, Art Stott, Archie Wills and others. This, of course, inevitably stirs memories of other possible candidates for honorable mention: Sandy Graves, Jack Scott, Bessie Forbes, Pinky McKelvie and so on. But everyone could dredge up recollections, and absence of alternative names is no criticism of the book, merely a recognition of spatial discipline.

Perhaps the most significant chapter in the book is the last, in which various news figures compare "the old days" with "now"—often to the disparagement of the latter. Comments on invasion by the computer terminal, the shortcomings of television reporting, the evolution of creative newspaper "reporters" who find it easier to interpret the news than dig out

facts and write them down, the financiers and industrialists who have replaced the dedicated ink-stained publishers—these all make good journalistic meat for chewing and will probably prove to be the book's most interesting gift to the future.

Peter Stursberg has done a wide-ranging job and nicely caught the spirit and feel of the era. After all, he was there!

The photographs—mainly portraits and cluttered newsroom shots—rouse nostalgia. A minor annoyance is the list of errata noting misplaced type and errors in photo captions—plus a number of additional errors not caught by the proof readers. But ... that's newspaper business.

Brian Tobin is the retired editor of the *Victoria Times*.

Because of Gold... Branwen C. Patenaude, Quesnel: Branwen C. Patenaude Publisher, 1981. illus. pp. 88.

In 1978 Quesnel celebrated fifty years of incorporation. To commemorate the event a local radio station asked Branwen Patenaude to write a series of historic recollections about Quesnel's past. The radio station had each tale read on the air. The program was so successful that Miss Patenaude decided to compile her tales into a book. The result is a delightful collection of vignettes of Quesnel's history.

Miss Patenaude tells us about both the people and the places that make up Quesnel. We meet such colourful local characters as Alvin Johnston, Lily Susag—"A Lady and a Pioneer", and the Sing Family. Miss Patenaude also traces the history of Bohanon House, The Old Fraser River Bridge, and the Quesnel branch of the Royal Bank. Her descriptions of these people and buildings, coupled with her careful illustrations, make a valuable guide to Quesnel.

Everyone who reads this text is sure to find a favourite story. The "Royal Bank Bathtub" particularly appealed to me. In 1928 the Royal Bank built a new branch in Quesnel. Most of the staff of the bank lived in rented accommodation with minimal plumbing facilities. Hence the bank decided to incorporate a bathtub in the branch so that the staff would, at least, be clean. "The luxury of a hot bath was soon discovered by residents other than the bank employees and it became a social privilege to be allowed to use the heavy iron tub." (p. 38) In fact the tub became so popular that the bank had to schedule bathing times for its customers. I wonder if bathtub and banking hours corresponded—10 am to 3 pm Mondays to Fridays and closed on holiday Mondays?

Miss Patenaude's own illustrations of each of the vignettes certainly add to the appeal of the text and help the reader to get a "real feel" for Quesnel. Her only omission (from the point of view of a non-

Quesneller) is a map showing the points of interest that she discusses. As a ready reference the map would not only give the readers a sense of where some of the events took place in relation to others, but also enable us to follow the growth of the town.

Miss Patenaude is to be commended for her efforts in this book. She has managed to compile an interesting and informative series of tales which must appeal not only to local residents but also to those of us who have not yet been to Quesnel. Anyone planning a trip to central British Columbia this summer would do well to take *Because of Gold...* in his suitcase.

Emily Sutherland is a recent graduate of the University of British Columbia in History and French.

Fur Trade and Exploration: Opening the Far Northwest, 1821-1852. Theodore Karamanski. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983. Pp. xxii, 330, illus., \$27.95.

According to his brief *curriculum vitae* on the dust cover, the young and handsome author of this book got his bachelor's, masters' and doctoral degrees from Loyola University in Chicago, where he now teaches. This means we have western Canadian history written from a United States' point of view. That does not mean the history is badly written, but it explains why the author, when considering persons who had crossed the continent, should think first of his fellow Americans, Lewis and Clark, who did not travel until 1803-6, and, second only, of the Scot, Alexander Mackenzie, who had reached the Pacific ten years before Lewis and Clark started. Likewise, his American angle doubtless explains his choice of subject, since the borderlands between British North America and the Russian Empire, which the traders explored, have become borderlands between Canada and the United States of America. And, while discussing personal facts about the author, we should add that "he had himself canoed and backpacked" along the traders' routes—an enviable qualification for a fur trade historian.

Dr. Karamanski has studied his period conscientiously. Among the men with whom he deals are Samuel Black, Robert Campbell, John Bell, John McLeod, Murdock McPherson and, of course, George Simpson of whom he interestingly observes, that Simpson "wanted expansion, but not its risks or costs." (p. 214)

His illustrations include some of his own photographs, four of the photos taken by C.W. Mathers before 1904, and pictures which Frederick Remington painted for Caspar Whitney's *On Snowshoes to the Barren Grounds*. These are good, but examples from Frederick Whympers's 1868 book on Alaska are less fortunate—one entitled "Moose Hunting in the Yukon River" especially strains

credulity. (Moose are strong swimmers. How many single canoeists can overtake one? Or make an overarm downward dagger thrust across their canoe's gunwale without upsetting?)

It is natural that Dr. Karamanski should be weakest on broader aspects of his subject less immediately tied to his special period. Thus his statement (p. 135) that Simpson "sponsored the adoption" of York boats, instead of canoes, is true only of the country beyond the eleven-mile long barrier of the Methy portage. Elsewhere these capacious and economical craft had long been in general use by the Hudson's Bay Company. It also hurts to read that "geography" finally "brought the Nor'Westers down." (p. 3) That corny old chestnut is such an unsatisfactory half-truth! It so blandly ignores the striking advantages which Hudson Bay lacked but the Nor'Westers enjoyed in the St. Lawrence Valley: professional firms to provide freighting canoes; abundant birchbark of which to build them; a growing population from whom to recruit voyageurs; freedom from competition for men with British armed forces in wartime—and for Britons "wartime" meant most years between 1774 and 1821; also, Montreal's opportunities for communicating with inland posts were immeasurably superior to London's route through the sub-arctic Hudson Strait. Lastly, this half-truth obscures what was surely the Nor'Westers' gravest weakness, extravagance so reckless as finally to leave them, after all their prosperous years, without reserves needed to face a rainy day.

But, as noted, Dr. Karamanski is young; and the younger one is, the less have been one's opportunities to broaden one's knowledge. It would be unfair, therefore, to overstress errors that belong to the general background of his topic rather than to his special period. Within that period his research struck me as sound and his interesting book as full of promise.

Dr. Richard Glover, a Victoria resident, taught history at Carleton University for many years. One of his special interests is the exploration of western Canada. Among his publications is the Champlain Society edition of David Thompson's Narrative.

Thinking of Publishing?

A seminar publishing local history, given by Philip and Helen Akrigg, may be arranged for your historical society. Please contact Leonard G. McCann, #2, 1430 Maple Street, Vancouver, V6J 3R9.

BOOKS SUBMITTED FOR THE 1983 B.C. HISTORICAL FEDERATION'S WRITING COMPETITION

First Prize:

Discovering Deroche: From Nicomen to Lake Errock

Author - Daphne Sleight, 103 pages, \$9.95

Order from: Mrs. Daphne Sleight,
Box 29, Deroche, B.C., V0M 1G0

A very complete history of this area, 1800 to present.

Second Prize:

9th Report of the Boundary Historical Society

Editor - J.B. Glanville, 132 pages, \$6.00 plus .75 postage

Order from: Boundary Historical Society
Box 746

Grand Forks, B.C. V0H 1H0

An anthology

Honorable Mention:

Historic Guide to Ross Bay Cemetery

Author - John Adams, 40 pages, \$4.95

Order from: Sono Nis Press
1745 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C.

Other Entries

'Til We See the Light of Hope

Editor - Ed Ouchi, 152 p. English, 156 p. Japanese, \$25.00

Order from: Japanese Senior Citizens Association
307 - 24th Street

Vernon, B.C. V1T 7M2

A history of the Japanese people in the Vernon area.

Nanaimo - The Story of a City

Editors - T.D. Sale & Devina Smith, 68 pages, \$9.95

Order from: Nanaimo & District Museum Society
100 Cameron Road

Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 2X1

A presentation of pictures not commonly seen, plus some written commentary.

Imagine Please—Early Radio Broadcasting in British Columbia

Sound Heritage Series #38, 92 pages, \$4.50

Author - Dennis J. Duffy

Order from: Sound & Moving Images Division

Provincial Archives
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Three Towns: A History of Kitimat

Author - Janice Beck, 67 pages, \$4.95, \$2.05 postage

Order from: Kitimat Centennial Museum
293 City Centre
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6

Floodland & Forest—Memories of the Chilliwack Valley

Sound Heritage Series #37

Author - Imbert Orchard, 92 pages, \$4.50

Order from: Sound & Moving Image Division
Provincial Archives
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Trevor Goodall's Memories of the Alberni Valley

Author - Trevor Goodall, 153 pages, \$11.00

Order from: Nootka House Books
Port Alberni, B.C.

British Columbia Post Offices

Editor - William Topping, 72 pages, \$8.00

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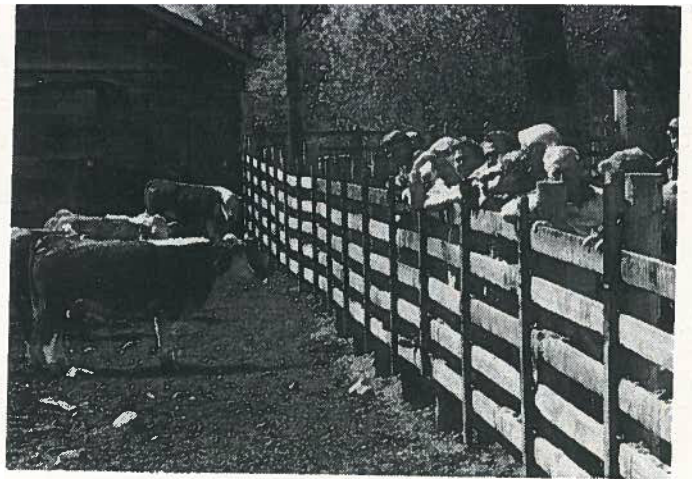
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Saturday afternoon visit to the Coldstream Ranch.

At the BCHF Convention, Vernon



Stuart Fleming welcomed members Friday morning.

All photographs by John Spittle.



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