

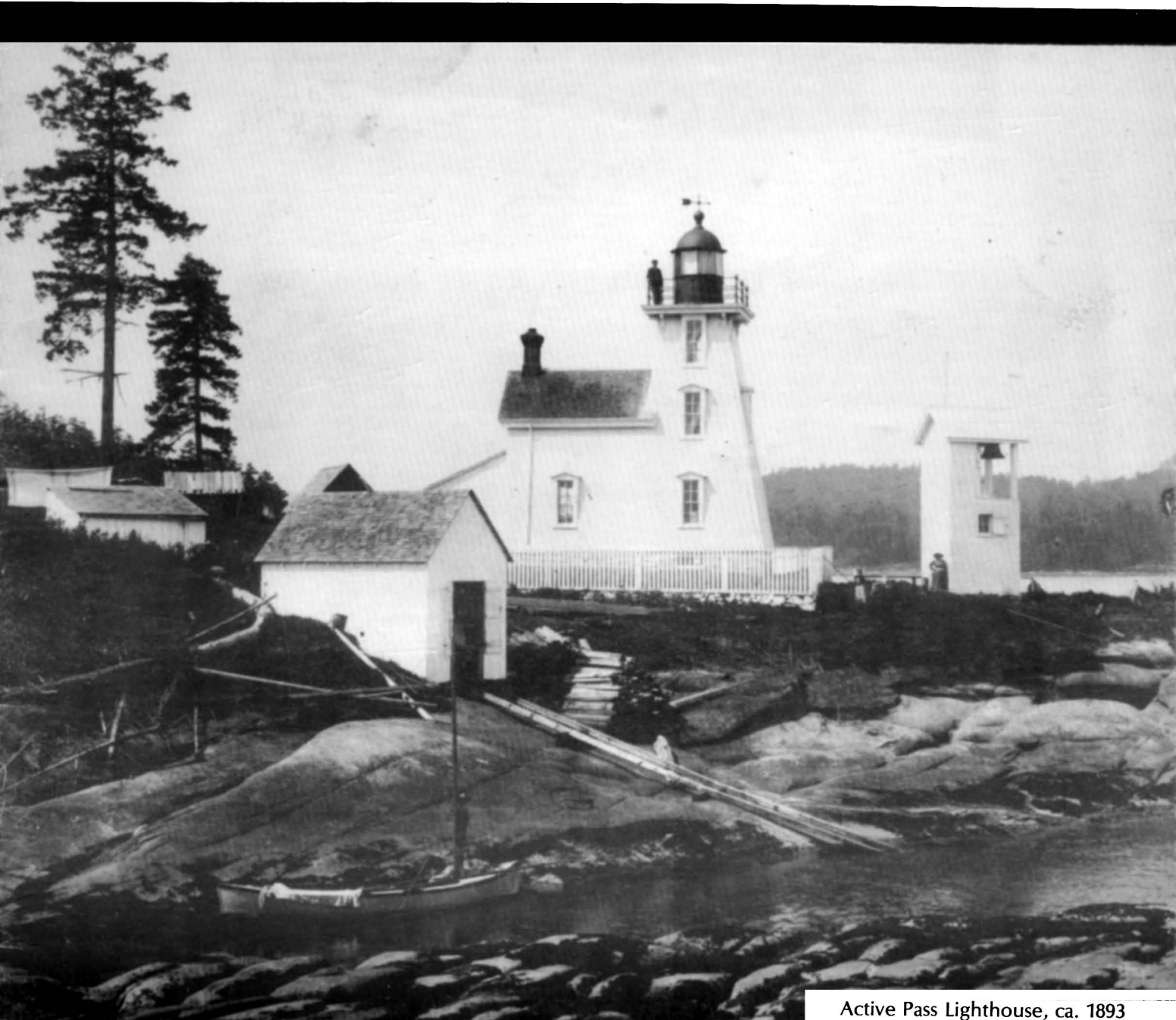
Published by the British Columbia Historical Federation

\$3.50

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VOLUME 18, No. 4
1985

HISTORICAL NEWS



Active Pass Lighthouse, ca. 1893

On the cover:

The Active Pass Lightstation was the sixth lighthouse built on the West Coast. It celebrates one hundred years of service this year. Story on page 5.

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 1984-85 (Volume 18) were paid by the following member societies:

- Alberni District Historical Society, Box 284, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M7
Atlin Historical Society, P.O. Box 111, Atlin, B.C. V0W 1A0
BCHF — Gulf Islands Branch, c/o Mrs. Ann Johnston, RR 1 Mayne Island V0N 2J0
BCHF—Victoria Branch, c/o Zane Lewis, 1535 Westall Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8T 2G6
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
Creston & District Historical & Museum Society, P.O. Box 1123, Creston, B.C. V0B 1G0
District 69 Historical Society, P.O. Box 213, Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0
East Kootenay Historical Association, c/o H. Mayberry, 216 6th Avenue S., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2H6
Galiano Historical and Cultural Society, P.O. Box 10, Galiano, B.C. V0N 1P0
Golden & District Historical Society, Box 992, Golden, B.C. V0A 1H0
Hedley Heritage, Arts & Crafts Society (1983), P.O. Box 218, Hedley, B.C. V0X 1K0
Ladysmith New Horizons Historical Society, c/o Mrs. V. Cull, R.R. #2, Ladysmith, B.C. V0R 2E0
Lantzville Historical Society, c/o Susan Crayston, Box 76, Lantzville, B.C. V0R 2H0
Nanaimo Historical Society, P.O. Box 933, Station "A", Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5N2
Nanooa Historical & Museum Society, RR 1, Box 5, Kinghorn Rd., Nanoose Bay, B.C. V0R 2R0
Nootka Sound Historical Society, Box 748, Gold River, B.C. V0P 1G0 (Inactive)
North Shore Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Elizabeth L. Grubbe, 623 East 10th Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 2E9
Princeton & District Pioneer Museum and Archives, Box 687, Princeton, B.C. V0X 1W0
Qualicum Beach Historical & Museum Society, c/o Mrs. Cora Shipsey, P.O. Box 352, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V0R 2T0
Saltspring Island Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Olive Clayton, RR 3, Comp. 4, Scott Pt. #1, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0
Sidney and North Saanich Historical Society, c/o B. Peirson, 9781 Third Street, Sidney, B.C. V8L 3A5
Silvery Slocan Historical Society, P.O. Box 301, New Denver, B.C. V0G 1S0
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Valemount Historical Society, P.O. Box 850, Valemount, B.C. V0E 2A0
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

- B.C. Museum of Mining, P.O. Box 155, Britannia Beach, B.C. V0N 1J0
City of White Rock Museum Archives Society, 1030 Martin St., White Rock, B.C. V4B 5E3
Fort Steele Heritage Park, Fort Steele, B.C. V0B 1N0
The Hallmark Society, 207 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2K8
Nanaimo Centennial Museum Society, 100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 2X1

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Second-class mail registration number 4447.

Published fall, winter, spring, and summer by the British Columbia Historical Federation, P.O. Box 35326, Station E, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G5. Our Charitable Donations number is 0404681-52-27. Printed by Prestige Printers, Victoria, B.C.

Manuscripts and correspondence for the editor are to be addressed to 1745 Taylor St., Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8. Send all other correspondence, including changes of address, to the Vancouver address given above.

Subscriptions: Institutional \$16.00 per year; Individual (non-members) \$8.00 per year.

The B.C. Historical Federation gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the British Columbia Heritage Trust.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Burnaby Historical Society is in a process of compiling a list of Burnaby's buildings which may have historical and/or architectural significance. This inventory is made possible by a grant from the B.C. Heritage Trust, employing a Simon Fraser University student, Ann Watson.

Are you able to assist this project by supplying any historical information on your home or any other building in Burnaby?

Any information or assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated, please call Ann Watson at 980-1945 evenings, or Mrs. Evelyn Salisbury, Vice President of the Burnaby Historical Society at 298-5777. Thank you.

Heritage Advisory Committee
Burnaby Historical Society

We wish to thank the Federation for having given us the privilege of hosting the 1985 Convention. We trust that those who voyaged to our Island enjoyed their time here in equal measure to our delight in having them visit us.

Precis of the papers presented will be available in late June at a cost of \$7.50 per copy, including postage and handling.

Edrie Holloway, President
The Galiano Historic and Cultural Society

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

September 1, 1985

Please submit all material for the B.C. Historical News (except book reviews) to the Editor, 1745 Taylor Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 3E8.

Book reviews should be sent to Dr. P. Roy, #602, 139 Clarence Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2J1

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Marie Elliott

Active Pass Lightstation Centennial

There have been very few lighthouse centennials on the West Coast of Canada because until the 1880s only five lighthouses were in operation. There were no lights north of Nanaimo, and none to mark safe passage through the southern Gulf Islands.

A number of major shipping disasters off the east coast of the Gulf Islands and increasing water traffic led to the establishment of the Active Pass lighthouse in 1885. It lit up on June 10, 1885, and remained the only guide through the maze of islands for three years, until East Point Lighthouse on Saturna Island was activated in 1888. The other important Gulf Islands light, at Porlier Pass, Galiano Island, was not constructed until 1902.

In the early years the Active Pass lightkeeper used a fog bell to warn ships away from the rocks until a steam foghorn was built in 1893. The fixed light burned coal oil, and was not replaced with a revolving, vapour light until 1910.

The first keeper at the Active Pass station, Henry "Scotty" Georgeson, a native of Walls, Shetland Islands, went to sea as a young teenager. He spent a number of years in marine service before arriving in Victoria in 1858 to take part in the Cariboo gold rush. Scotty later settled on Galiano Island, where he fished and built boats for a living. In 1868-69 he served as assistant keeper on the Sand Heads lightship.

Scotty remained keeper of the Active Pass light for thirty-five years, not retiring until 1920, at age eighty-five. In 1922 he received the federal government's Long Service Medal. There have been only nine keepers at the Active Pass station

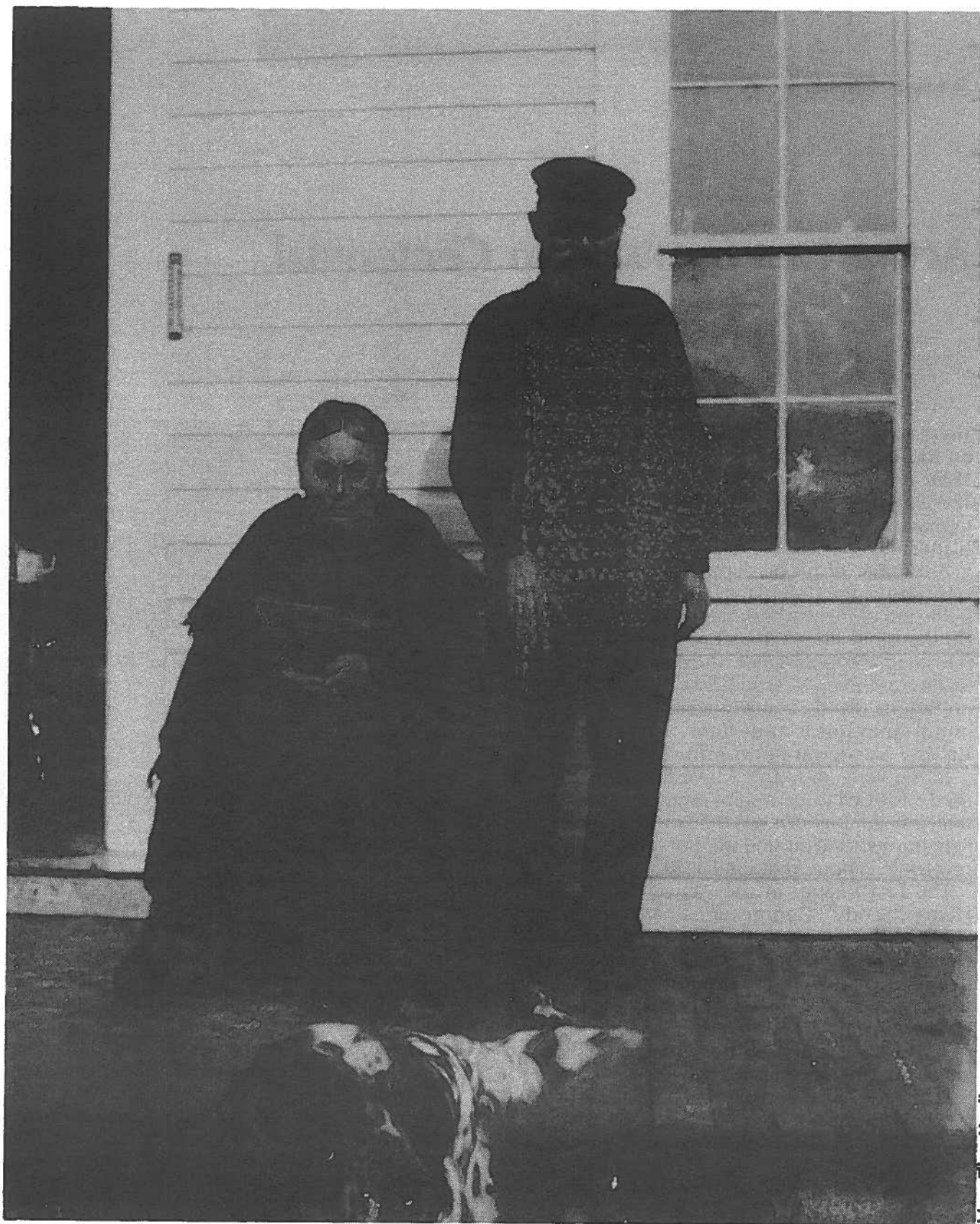


H.J. Gardner

**Scotty's Stopping House, Beaver Pass,
near Barkerville, built ca. 1862**

since Scotty retired: George Georgeson, Arthur B. Gurney, Clarence E. Carver, Hugh S. Gurney, David C. Milne, H.S. Whalen, Elmer F. Cordoni, Jack E. Ruck, and Donald DeRousie.

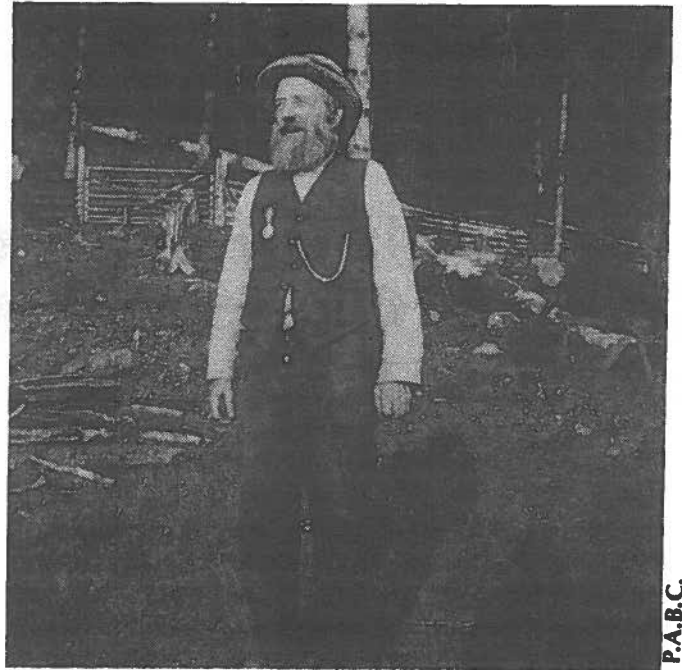
The present keeper and his wife, Don and Tracy De Rousie, were born and raised on Mayne Island. Don is senior keeper on the West Coast, having served twenty-eight years at various stations. In the year and a half since they returned to Mayne Island, Don and Tracy have made many improvements to the buildings and grounds.



Mary Elen Harding

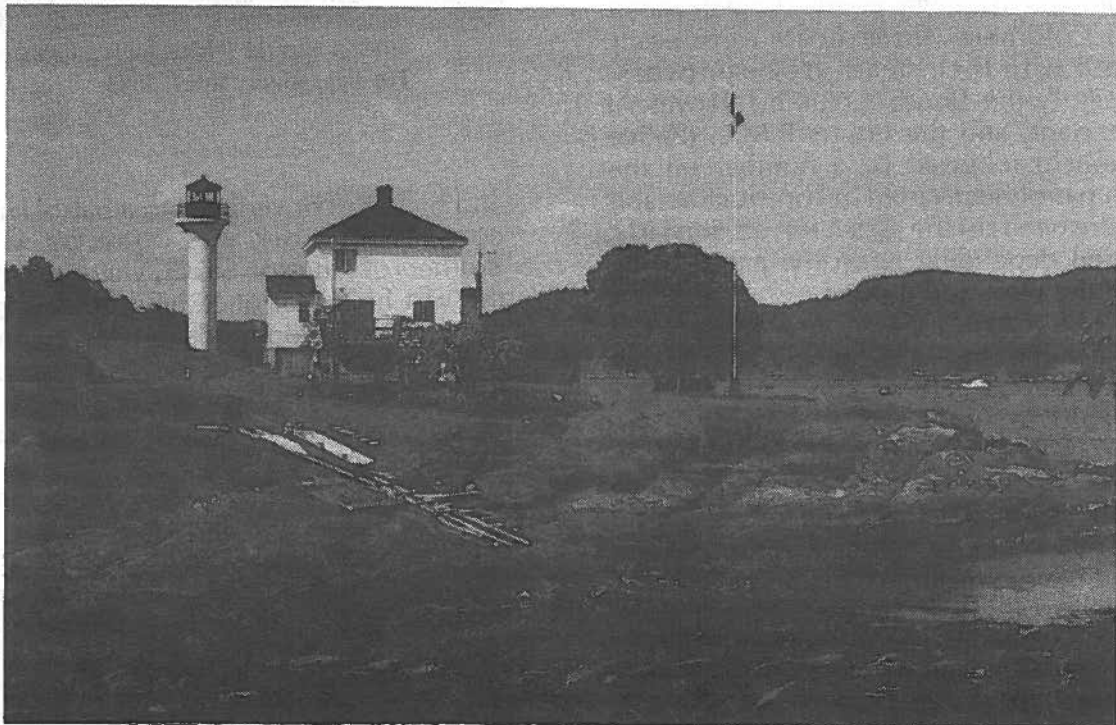
Left: Scotty and Sophie Georgeson. Then, as now, a light keeper's wife was very important, for companionship and to share the responsibilities.

On June 16, 1985, the Gulf Islands Branch of the B.C. Historical Association, with the participation of the Canadian Coast Guard, local organizations, the children and teachers of the Mayne Island school, and Mayne Island residents, celebrated the centennial on the lightstation grounds. During the afternoon a commemorative plaque was unveiled by Fred Bennett, Don DeRousie, and M.H.O. Buchanan of the Canadian Coast Guard. Special guests included: former light-keepers and their families, and almost forty descendants of Scotty Georgeson!



P.A.B.C.

Scotty proudly shows off his medal, at age eighty-seven.



Active Pass Lightstation and tower, 1985, taken from the same location as the 1893 cover photo by Richard Maynard. The light was removed from the roof of the living quarters and placed in a separate tower in 1969.

R.G. Patterson

P.M.L. #14: THE PRIDE OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE FORCES MARINE DIVISION FLEET

The Marine Division of the British Columbia Provincial Police had humble beginnings. The earliest mention of a police boat on the coast is the sloop *Maybelle*, skippered by Constable A.D. Drummond. In this sloop Drummond made his patrols of the islands and the inlets of the southern Gulf Islands in the 1890s.

After the major re-organization of the Provincial Police Force in 1923, the Marine Division began to expand. Soon there were patrol boats stationed at strategic points along the coast of British Columbia. These boats were easily recognized with their pearl-grey paintwork, "Blue Ensign", the British Columbia Provincial Police Pennant, and the letters P.M.L. (Police Motor Launch) followed by a number on the bow. Each patrol boat varied in construction and size to fit the needs of the area it served. Similarly, crews varied depending upon the patrol being made and the work to be done.

Each P.M.L. carried a skipper who was the senior officer in charge, an engineer and, if large enough, a radio operator, a cook, and N.C.O.'s and constables to do the deck-hand work.

The 93-foot P.M.L. #14 was built in 1930 at the Shelbourne Shipyards Limited, Shelbourne, Nova Scotia, and christened the *Margaret S. II*. She joined a fleet of rum runners operating between New York City and the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the south coast of Newfoundland. When prohibition was repealed in 1933, the ship was brought round to Victoria and offered for sale. After Lloyd's of London declared her sound, the British Columbia Provincial Police Force purchased her for an undisclosed figure,

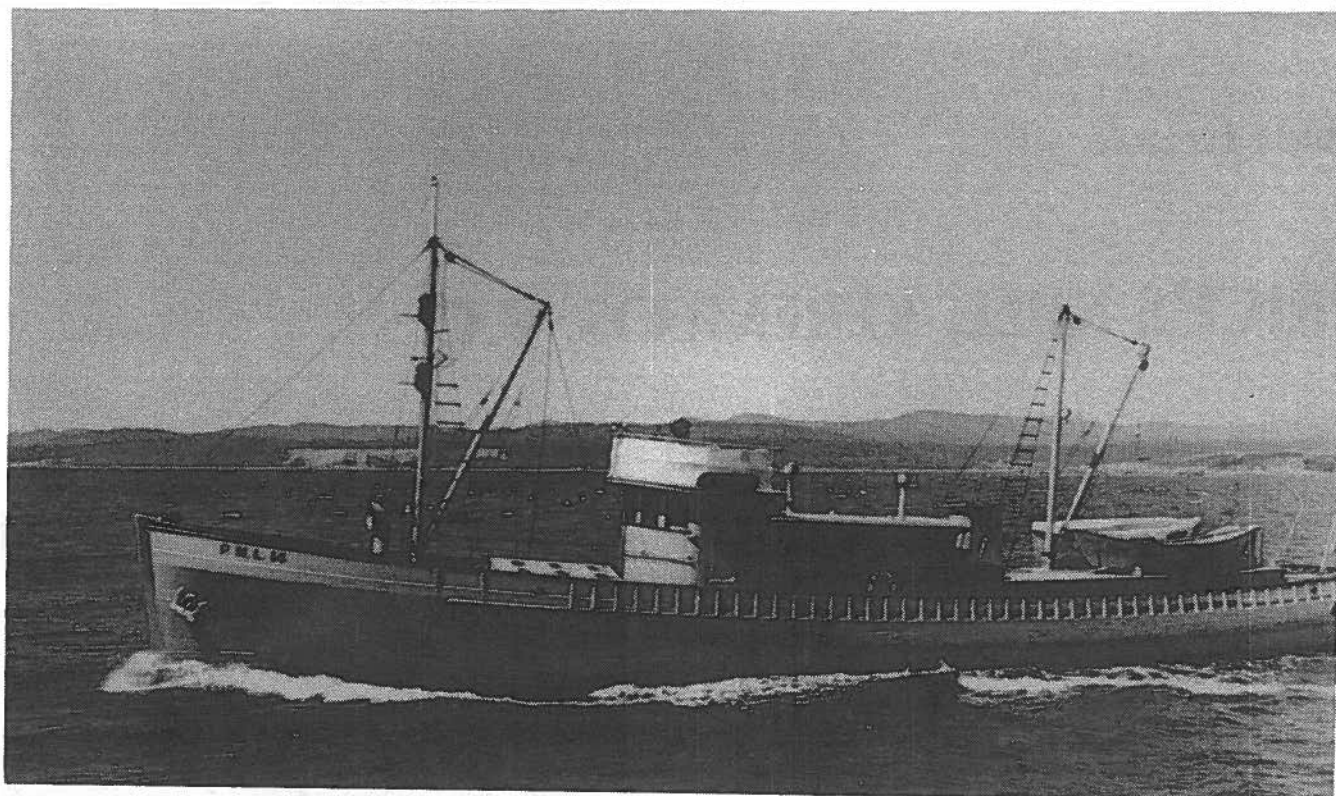


HMCS Ripple (Fishermen's Reserve)
Fin Bay, Rivers Inlet, 1943

Marine Museum of B.C.

and had her converted into a patrol launch. The conversion work was done by Armstrong Brothers of Kingston Street, Victoria. While there, the vast hold that once held bottled goods was turned into accommodation for a crew of five, with additional facilities to hold five prisoners. At the same time, the large fuel tanks were removed creating space for two additional state-rooms and a court-room aft.

Renamed, the *P.M.L. #14* was commissioned into the Provincial Police Force in July 1938. She was attached to "A Division" and operated out of Victoria, first under the command of Sergeant H. Raybone, and, later, Sergeant F. Brooksbank. Her patrol was the rugged west coast of Vancouver Island. She remained with the Force until April 1942, when she was chartered by the Royal Canadian Navy for the remainder of the Second World War. At this point in her varied career she



British Columbia Provincial Police Motor Launch #14 off Victoria, ca. 1938

became known as *H.M.C.S. Ripple* and was part of the Fishermen's Reserve.

The Fishermen's Reserve was formed in 1938 on the British Columbia coast. It mainly consisted of ships and men from the fishing and tow-boat industries, whose knowledge of the coastal waters was unique. When the Second World War was declared, these vessels, armed with machine guns, depth charges and minesweeping gear, sailed for designated patrol areas off the coast. *H.M.C.S. Ripple's* Patrol area was Johnstone Strait west to Yorke Island, and the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Until October 1941, and the arrival of the first corvettes on this coast, these small ships were the only naval presence on Canada's West Coast. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, orders were given for the internment of all Japanese-Canadian fishing boats on the British Columbia coast. Some of these ships became part of the Fishermen's Reserve. At its peak, the Fishermen's Reserve numbered 900 officers and men, and more than 50 vessels of varying sizes. However, by

the end of 1944 the force was no longer needed, and so gradually the ships and men of the "Gumboot Navy" returned to their peacetime duties.

On July 23, 1945, *H.M.C.S. Ripple* was sold by Crown Assets disposal to the British Columbia Packers Limited. Re-named the *Texada*, she once again underwent an extensive refit, this time for fishpacking and related duties. After the conversion, she hoisted the B.C. Packers' flag, and has remained with the company ever since.

At the present time, she is tied up at the B.C. Packers Celtic Shipyards, and is up for sale. According to a company spokesman, she has not been used extensively for the last two or three years and, if the right buyer comes along with a healthy offer, she will be sold out of the company. In the meantime the ex-*Margaret S.*, ex-*P.M.L. #14*, ex-*H.C.M.S. Ripple* bides her time waiting for her next calling.

R.G. Patterson is an Extension/Special Collections Curator with the B.C. Provincial Museum

Linda Eversole

PRICE'S MILL, KEREMEOS, B.C.

In 1979, the British Columbia Heritage Trust purchased an historic grist mill and store located in Keremeos, B.C. The mill was built in 1876 by a young Englishman, Barrington Price, and operated in conjunction with a store until the mid-1890s. It was then used for a variety of purposes, which included a storage shed, chicken coop, and artist's studio, while the adjacent store was converted to a house. In 1974, the site was designated by the province, and since its acquisition in 1979, work has progressed on the restoration of the buildings and the milling machinery.

The story of the establishment of this mill and store begins on a warm September afternoon in 1872, when, according to the reminiscences of Henry Nicholson, he and his partner Barrington Price rode into Keremeos:

I well remember my first glimpse of the Similkameen Valley, when after a long and fatiguing ride from Princeton (Mr. Allison's) together with my partner Barrington Price [we] arrived at the Hudson's Bay post which we had leased as a stock ranch. It was a beautiful September afternoon in the year '72, the day had been exceedingly hot and now as the sun was westering, the valley bathed in a haze was so quiet and lifeless as to be oppressive...¹

By the following year their stock ranch had expanded to include a store at Keremeos and a "travelling post" to supply the needs of the popular mining camp of Rock Creek. They preempted adjoining land, but in 1875 suddenly announced the end of their partnership, with Price taking over Nicholson's land and the sole operation of the store.²

Nicholson stayed in the area, and for a while acted as mining recorder, while Price continued to build up his ranch, acquiring more land



Barrington Price

Penticton Museum

including a 40-acre parcel on Keremeos Creek. It was on this land that he constructed a small, water-powered, log, grist mill and a second log building for his store. A traveller passing through the area in 1876 was suitably impressed by Price's progress:

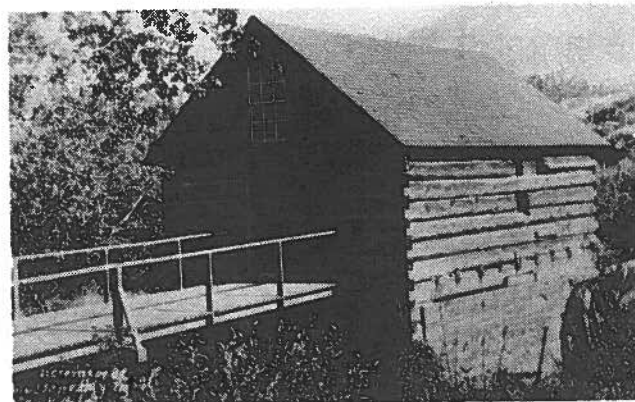
At Keremeos [sic] we rested at the hospitable house of Barrington Price. It cost \$5,000 and is a charm in the wilderness. The wide hall by which you enter is like a cead mile a failthe and the sporting parlor on the

right decorated with guns, hooks, and fishing tackle, reminds you at once of the romantic ideas boys in college conceive of a life in the woods. Mr. Price has men employed sawing lumber for a flour mill. It will encourage the farmers to cultivate the valley and maybe [sic] a very good speculation.³

In 1877 the mill was completed and the machinery, including grist mill stones, installed. Production began in the fall and one of the first customers was William Ralph, a government surveyor who was busily recording the property lines. In his diary he notes the purchase of two bags of flour from Price at a cost of \$10.50.⁴ Apparently this early attempt at flour milling produced a coarse, dark flour, adequate but not as desirable as the higher quality flour which was brought in from Colville in Washington Territory. In 1881, in an attempt to improve the quality of his flour, Price imported the latest in milling technology, a "new patent" roller mill from Louisville, Kentucky.⁵ The machinery now included a Eureka Smut and Scouring machine to clean the grain, a Barford and Perkins steel grinding mill, the new patent roller mill, and a variety of belts and conveyors, all powered by the water wheel. Undoubtedly, the system also included a bolter, which sifted the flour into various grades. Unfortunately, the one from Keremeos has long since disappeared.

By this time Price had amassed a considerable amount of land, livestock, and of course the mill and store. His success was short-lived, however, and in 1881 he was forced to mortgage his entire property to the Turner-Beeton company of Victoria, to whom he was in debt.⁶ He apparently defaulted on this mortgage and in 1884 the Turner-Beeton company sold his ranch "The Willows" to Thomas Daly. Price retained ownership of the store and mill on the forty acres, but the actual operation was taken over by John Haning Coulthard, a wealthy rancher from Langley who had purchased property nearby.

Price himself went to live in a log cabin on his remaining property near the Similkameen River, and kept a few horses and a small farm. In 1903 he sold the mill and store to Coulthard, and returned to England to live with his brother Capt. George Barrington Price.⁷ By this time the mill was closed, and Coulthard had converted the store to a residence with the addition of two wings. By the time he sold it in 1905, both the store and mill had long since gone out of operation. Since that time the property has had a variety of owners yet,



Grist Mill in the 1930s

Kelowna Museum

remarkably, both buildings have survived well despite their early age.

Although small, local mills of this type were not uncommon throughout British Columbia, the Keremeos mill is unique in the survival of the building complete with most of its machinery. The fact that the adjacent store has also survived has provided a special opportunity to preserve one of the earliest industrial/commercial sites in the Similkameen Valley. Restoration of this site has been underway for several years, utilizing the skill and experience of various specialists. Architects, researchers, archaeologist, and technical restoration specialists have all contributed towards as accurate a restoration as possible. Unfortunately, no original records or photographs have been located of the mill and store and some conjecture has been necessary. Although the restoration process will continue, the site will be officially opened on August 5, British Columbia Day, and all are welcome to attend.

Linda Eversole is a Research Officer for the Heritage Conservation Branch.

Footnotes

1. *Hedley Gazette*, Jan. 19, 1905, p. 1.
2. *Mainland Guardian*, Oct. 2, 1875, p. 2.
3. *Colonist*, Aug. 6, 1876, p. 3.
4. Lands Branch, Victoria, *Diary of William Ralph*, 1877.
5. *Inland Sentinel*, Nov. 2, 1882, p. 3.
6. Victoria Land Titles Office, *Record of Mortgages* Vol. 1, fol. 466.
7. Correspondence Barrington Price to Frank Richter April 7, 1905, PABC - Richter Collection, 741A.272.

Margaret Stoneberg

Susan Louisa Moir Allison “Mother of the Similkameen”

The writing career of Susan Louisa Allison spanned about thirty years at the end of her life. Writing her recollections, largely from memory, she gave us a picture of pioneer life in British Columbia, particularly in the Similkameen Valley in the late 19th century. This was a period of growth and a time of great change when early customs were disappearing, both among the Indians and white people. Susan Allison lived intimately with the Indians and wrote about them as no other white woman had done.

The story of this remarkable woman is a romance in itself. She was born in Ceylon, the younger daughter of Stratton Moir. Of Scottish extraction, he was a coffee planter; his parents had also lived and owned property in Ceylon and India. Susan's mother was Susan Louisa, daughter of Jan Mildern, a Dutch sea captain of Amsterdam.

Before Susan was five years old, her father died and her mother took her family, two daughters and a son, to England. Mrs. Moir's income was not large but her relatives were well-off, and they made a place for her. Her daughter Susan was placed in a good school in London, where she showed a gift for languages; she became proficient in French, Latin and Greek.

Mrs. Moir spent some time with relatives in Scotland and here she met a charming man called Thomas Glennie. He had recently come into some money and he persuaded Mrs. Moir to marry him and emigrate to Canada. The fact that he had already squandered several fortunes was ignored. The tales of a free land where gold was abundant appealed to him.

Their furniture, suitable they thought for a hunting lodge, was sent ahead by ship round the Horn. Susan and her family took ship at Southampton, crossed the ocean and travelled across the Panama Canal on the newly-built railroad. They journeyed by ship again to Victoria,

and here Governor Douglas advised Glennie to take up land at Hope. The family landed there on Susan's fifteenth birthday.

At first there was much to amuse them. The town was full of life. There were a Hudson's Bay fort, stores, a church. They met the numerous men who afterwards were important in the new province—Peter O'Reilly, Dewdney, Moberly, McKay—and the dashing Royal Engineers. Many of these people became friends and were familiar to Susan all her after life. Mrs. Glennie was rather quiet and retiring, but her husband spent his time in a round of dances, horseraces, and other pastimes. Then his money ran out.

He built a cabin home, but the women had no experience with housekeeping and found pioneer conditions very hard. Glennie's few efforts to farm his land were disastrous. Eventually their credit ran out and they had to sell some of their furniture. In the meantime the older girl, Jane, had attracted the attention of Edgar Dewdney and they were married in 1864.

About this time Thomas Glennie disappeared and was no longer heard from. Before he left he had disposed of the home and property, and his family were stranded. Neighbours continued to help out but the Glennies were becoming an embarrassment. The son, Stratton Moir, who had remained behind in England, decided to join his mother and sister in Hope; but he contracted yellow fever and died in the West Indies (1866).

Edgar Dewdney was much away from home and his wife invited her mother and sister to live with her in New Westminster. This young town was to be for a time the capital of the Colony, and life was quite lively. Susan was now twenty years old and found employment with Mrs. Work in Victoria as a governess. Then she came into a small legacy, and she and her mother took a cottage in New Westminster. After about a year, when Susan unsuccessfully tried to earn money

by sewing, she and Mrs. Glennie returned to Hope at the suggestion of a friend, Mrs. Landvoight. They started a small school.

Hope was by then a quiet village. Monotony was only broken when Hudson's Bay pack trains passed through, or drovers brought cattle from the Interior on the way to the Coast. One of these was John Fall Allison, whom Susan met at Mrs. Landvoight's home. In 1868 they were married. She was 23 and he was 20 years older. There is no record that she had any other suitor.

John and Susan Allison rode over the Hope mountains accompanied by a few Indians. As she said herself, she "entered into the wild free life" that she thereafter always enjoyed. When they reached Allison's home, a comfortable log cabin, a couple of miles downriver from the confluence of the north and south forks of the Similkameen River, they were greeted by Allison's partner who was less than pleased that Allison now had a wife. Hayes disliked her and she returned the feeling. This antipathy remained for years until the partnership ended.

From now on her life was bound up with her husband's and something can be told about him. He was the son of a surgeon from Leeds, England, who had emigrated to Oriskany, New York, in 1837. John received a good education, including some medical training. He sought to make his fortune and he headed a party of ten men who made up to go to the gold fields in California. (The 1849 rush was at its height.) He found mining very hard work and soon became a storekeeper and later a commission agent.

Allison did quite well, started to send money back to his parents, and even managed to go back home for a holiday. In California again, he heard about the Fraser River diggings and, armed with a letter to Governor Douglas, he came north. He arrived in Victoria on September 1, 1858, and enjoyed the social life there. The next year found him on the Fraser, not particularly successful, but making about \$5.00 a day.

The gold strikes in the border country, at Similkameen and Rock Creek, caused Governor Douglas some concern, especially about the growing American presence. He sent a party of men to investigate the Similkameen country and he put Allison in charge. His report to Douglas showed that the country was rich in gold, covered with fine trees, and had many showings of both coal and copper. John Allison himself was much taken with the country, where the grass was six feet high. He discovered a route through the Cascade Mountains that was much easier going

than the one previously in use, this route remains today as Allison Pass.

Douglas authorized Allison to put the trail through immediately, and contracts to build this road and parts of the Dewdney Trail to Rock Creek formed a good part of Allison's cash income for the next few years. He pre-empted land and stayed in the Similkameen for the rest of his life.

When John Fall Allison married Susan Moir in 1868, he and his partner Silas Hayes operated a store and ran cattle, driving them to the Coast. The miners had largely moved on to richer fields and there was no market for produce. They suffered competition from American cattle ranches in the Thompson River valley area.

The first of Susan's fourteen children was born the following year. As a pioneer wife she learned to make clothes for her children, make moccasins, braid straw for hats, strand and braid lariats, plough (with help), and plant a garden; bake bread, cure fish, dry venison and a hundred other chores. She made two trips across the mountains to Hope, but with small children it became increasingly difficult to visit her mother. Susan soon found that she had to learn Chinook in order to talk to the Indians and this linguistic ability enabled her to learn their ways and legends.

The pack-trains came and went from Colville, the Kootenays, Osoyoos and Keremeos. Geologists were familiar visitors, as was the Indian agent, J. McKay. Allison's was the centre of the district, the post office and store, and almost every man of any consequence at that time passed through and stopped at Allison's. Susan was hospitable, and their wives were her friends. She had some books and was much influenced by Longfellow's epic "Hiawatha", the metre of which she used in her own poems.

John Fall Allison did not have an easy time. After overgrazing in the 60s it was necessary to winter the cattle in the Okanagan. He blazed a trail by way of Trout Creek and, in 1872, moved his family to Westbank. The daughter who was born there was the first white child born on that side of the lake. Mrs. Allison liked this place and did not want to leave. She was one of the first, if not the first, white person to record that she sighted the monster in the lake.

There were four very severe winters when Allison lost many cattle. Hayes had pulled out and Allison was hard put to find ready cash to pay him off. So the Westbank property was sold and the family moved back to the Similkameen. Mrs.

Allison came reluctantly. As she said, "Here I was compelled to keep the store." She was much engrossed in educating her children, which she did herself. Sometimes a tutor was hired, but not continuously.

Disasters plagued the Allisons. In 1880 there was an earthquake. In 1882 the stovepipe started a fire that burned the house to the ground. Her husband was away at the time but a neighbour in Keremeos sent them flour, beans and bacon. Susan lost everything, including valuable books and mementos. No doubt she had a diary and perhaps other writings. The home was rebuilt, and it was typical of this woman that she said that "money did not buy the essentials."

The next year they lost some of their cattle which were wintering at Joe Linton's place at the border. An American rancher adopted the Allison brand and thus stole in a legal way. The gold rush at Granite Creek (1885) should have enabled the Allisons to sell supplies to the miners, but they were in competition with traders who packed in from Spence's Bridge and Nicola. John Allison's ventures were marginally successful. He was appointed Justice of the Peace for a time, but was caught between two warring Chinese factions and in the end it cost him \$1400.

Worst of all, in 1877 he had an accident on the trail and was unconscious for 30 hours or more. He was never quite the same afterwards. At another time a man was given shelter when he was ill and the whole family caught his fever (probably scarlet fever). In 1894 a flood carried off the house and other buildings downriver. Each time Allison started again and rebuilt and this he planned to do again. But three years after the flood he contracted pneumonia and died.

During the time when Susan Allison lived the life of a pioneer woman, it was evident to all who knew her that she was a happy, contented person who was interested in everything around her. She studied botany and was knowledgeable about local plants. In the evenings she told stories to her children to entertain and instruct. When General Sherman and his troop passed through the district he wrote: "A rosy-cheeked woman, looking younger than her age, with ten children, healthy, happy youngsters. She appeared happy and contented." This was the impression of all who knew her. She was friendly with the Indians around and she and her husband supported them against the government on many occasions.

As her children grew up they spent much time when their Aunt Jane and Uncle Edgar Dewdney

in Victoria. At one time three of them were living there and going to school. One became a teacher, one a nurse. Jane Dewdney died in 1906.

TIME NOW FOR WRITING

As the time passed, the girls married and the boys went off on their own, and Susan had a chance to take up writing seriously. "In-con-mas-ket", her long Indian narrative poem, was published. (Chicago, Scroll Publishing Co. 1900). Her writings on the Similkameen Indians were published by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. (Report 60,815, 1891). Her "Recollections" ran serially in the *Vancouver Province* (1931), republished in *Canada West* later (Barlee). She contributed to the *Victoria Colonist*, the *Okanagan Historical Society Annual*, and to the local *Similkameen Star*. Inevitably, some of her letters and other material have not been published.

After her husband died Susan had the house rebuilt. In 1900 she and Edgar Dewdney tried to promote her property as a townsite, but it did not sell. This failure was partly because the property at the Forks had been sold by her son-in-law, W. Sands, to the Princeton Coal Company and this site was expanding rapidly. Mrs. Allison tried to start a school but the new Princeton community had become large enough to support a public school.

Susan left the Princeton area in 1928 to live with a daughter in Vancouver. Here she revived her interest in Eastern thought and received many visitors. She died in Vancouver in 1937 and was buried in the Allison Cemetery near her husband and some of her family.

This is a sketch only. Much more could be said about this remarkable woman. I relied on *A Pioneer Gentlewoman in British Columbia* by Margaret A. Ormsby, on the writings of Susan's daughter Aurelia Angela Allison-McDiarmid, "When Great Grandma was a Child" (1978) and "Letters and Reflections of John Fall Allison" (1977); "Some Recollections", Mrs. S.L. Allison, *Vancouver Province*, Spring 1931, "A Pioneer Woman's Life of Struggle", Barry Broadfoot, *Vancouver Sun*, April 27, 1971 and my own local research for the Princeton Archives Collection.

Margaret Stoneberg is Recording Secretary for the B.C. Historical Federation, and Curator of the Princeton and District Pioneer Museum and Archives.

LANDMARKS

Geoffrey Castle

Walter Moberly - B.C.'s Pioneer Engineer

Walter Moberly was born at Steeple-Aston, Oxfordshire, England, in 1832, but his parents emigrated to Canada, and he was trained in Toronto as a civil engineer. The gold strike on the Fraser River caused Moberly to go West hoping to find work in his field. He obtained a letter of introduction to Governor James Douglas, who asked him to report on the feasibility of the Harrison-Lillooet route to the interior of the Colony of British Columbia.

Accordingly, in 1859, Moberly made his report to the Governor and advised that improvements should be made to the portages from Port Douglas to Lillooet. This report established Moberly as the first professional engineer to engage in public work, in what is now the province of British Columbia. The field work was carried out in winter, and on foot, in spite of snow and wind. The explorer-engineer always remembered that trip with some incredulity. However, it set the tone for the massive projects he would undertake in his subsequent professional life.

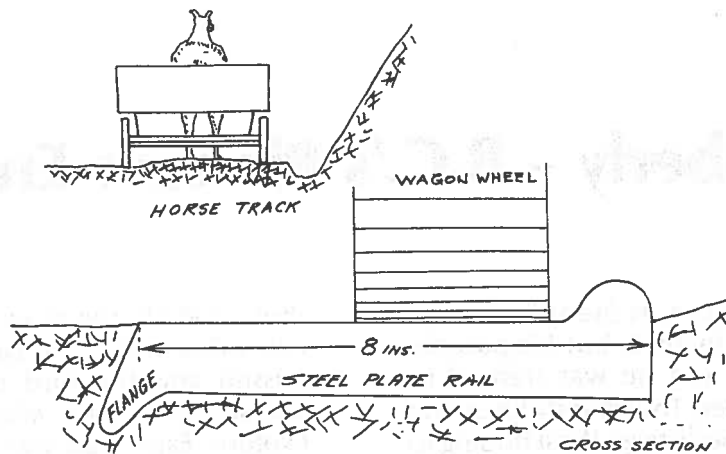
Moberly was a practical dreamer, almost obsessed with the single purpose of bringing the West into the Canadian fold, and furthering the development of British Columbia's rich resources. To this end, in 1862-63, Moberly built a portion of the Cariboo road, expending much energy, and even personal finances, on a project whose administrative problems more than equalled those of actual construction.

In 1864, Moberly was elected to the Legislative Council for Cariboo West and appointed assistant Surveyor-General. While he was making exploratory surveys in the Shuswap-Columbia area, an event occurred which is worth recounting. One day, Moberly, who was a crack

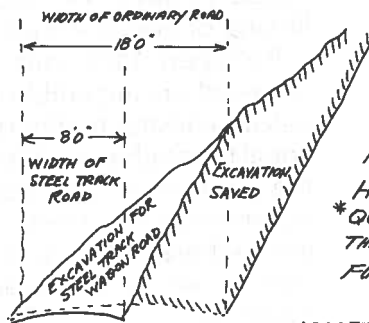
shot, fired his gun at an eagle in the mountains a few miles west of what is now Revelstoke. He missed and the bird headed off through an undiscovered pass which Moberly decided to explore. Eagle Pass was later chosen as the best route for the Canadian Pacific Railway, which would remove the Rockies as a barrier to the linking of east and west.

Between 1871 and 1878, Walter Moberly surveyed an incredible total of 47,000 miles for railway construction purposes, which is a distance equal to roughly one fifth of the mean distance of the earth from the moon. Although he never experienced or craved wealth, he made friends everywhere, among whom were Sir John A. Macdonald, prime minister of Canada, and Paul Kane, the artist, who shared his intimate knowledge of the terrain with Moberly.

Always an active man, both physically and mentally, Moberly, in 1900, was still eager to work on a highway or railway project should his services be needed. At that time he came up with a scheme and tried to gain the interest and approval of the provincial government. His proposal, which probably demonstrated his view that railways were the panacea of transportation, was to lay an eight-inch wide, flanged steel track, spaced to accommodate wagon tires, particularly in the difficult sections of the highway in the Cariboo. His design was based on a similar idea which the United States government tested successfully in Pittsburgh and other places. The main advantages were that a single horse would easily haul 22,000 pounds on the level, and negotiate ten percent grade with lighter loads. Moberly also saw this modification to the highway as a means to rapid travel for bicycles. He envisioned horsepower being replaced by electric power.



SECTION - 5/8 FULL SIZE



MOBERLY'S
SKETCH FOR STEEL
TRACK WAGON ROADS

PROPOSED TO BE ADOPTED ON THE
HOPE-PRINCETON AND THE COAST-
* QUESNELLE ROUTES TO DEVELOP
THE COUNTRY SUFFICIENTLY TO ENSURE
FUTURE RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

ADAPTED AND DRAWN BY G. CASTLE
MAY 1985.

* MOBERLY'S SPELLING OF QUESNEL

Another benefit of the Moberly road scheme was the reduced cost of construction. He figured that the width of an ordinary roadway was 18 feet, whereas the width for steel tracks needed only 8 feet, thereby saving considerable excavation and filling. As with many apparently good schemes, Moberly's proposal appears to have died—caught between political considerations and changing technology.

Walter Moberly's last big challenge was his battle with cancer of the larynx to which he succumbed in 1915, at the age of eighty-three, in Vancouver. Several geographic features in the

Kootenay and Peace River districts commemorate this truly great Canadian.

References

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Moberly, Walter. Letter to James F. Garden. 3 August 1900.

Moberly, Walter. Letter to C.E. Pooley, 18 August 1900.

Moberly, Walter. Sketch for Steel Track Wagon Roads. Add MSS 62 P.A.B.C.

Geoffrey Castle is an archivist with the Provincial Archives of British Columbia.

News and Notes

ANNUAL REPORTS 1985

Alberni District Historical Society

There were seven monthly meetings at which we had the following speakers: Laurie Caron from the local fish hatchery, illustrated with slides; Fred Bishop whose family arrived in the valley 100 years ago; Joe Van Bergen on the history of our local ski club. He presented us with scrap books covering this time. Dwayne Partee came from MacMillan Bloedel, Nanaimo, with a very interesting account of map-making, illustrated with slides and maps.

We continue to work on our archives every Monday and Thursday. We are very fortunate in having space in the Museum which is humidity controlled, etc. In a joint endeavour the Museum provided us with ample map storage drawers and we are in the process of sorting and filing the considerable map collection. Fourteen members have become both efficient and proficient in the various phases of archives collections.

We have 63 members including three Life Members: Ketha Adams, Helen Ford, and George Clutesi. Our April meeting was in the form of a birthday party—20 years—and was held in the Museum Conservatory. The Alberni Valley Rescue Squad took this opportunity to present us with a microfilm of all their scrap books. We had various gifts in the form of what we call “paper treasures”. Sixty people, members and former members and guests were present.

On June 29, 1985, it is 125 years since the “Meg Merrilees” first came up the Alberni Canal to establish the Anderson Mill on our waterfront. We are in the process of having a plaque made, commemorating this event which led to the first white settlement in the Valley. The plaque will show the mill, oxen pulling logs, and the Indian village that was on the site. We have permission to place it at our new attraction on the waterfront: Alberni Harbour Quay which is located at the exact spot where the mill was built.

North Shore Historical Society

We have had nine meetings in the past year, mostly at the North Vancouver City Library, with an average attendance of 30 people. During the year we received nine Newsletters, edited by Rhea Juvik. Several people join the Society just to get the Newsletters.

On July 2nd, 1984, we celebrated Canada Day with a bus-trip to Ladner, B.C., where we were given a conducted tour by Matt Rogers; we visited Deas Island Park, new site of the historic house, “Burrvilla,” originally built in 1905.

At a Christmas Party, we celebrated our ninth anniversary as a Society. Old-fashioned parlour-games were followed by tasty refreshments and “Pink Party Punch” served from a punch-bowl.

In February, 1985, we made our annual pilgrimage to the “Station Museum” in Mahon Park, a “must see” for any visitor to our North Shore of Burrard Inlet. This time we were treated to pictures and other memorabilia of the Cates Towing Company, dating from 1914; a display depicting a bicycle shop of the 1920s era, and another of radios from 1925 onwards.

Also in February, we celebrated the birthday of our honorary member, Walter MacKay Draycott, who became 102 on February 24th, 1985. He was called on in his home by the Mayor of the City of North Vancouver and by the Mayor of the District of North Vancouver.

During the past year, four or five members of our Society appeared on the Community Television program, “*Our Pioneers and Neighbours*”, produced by Shaw Cable 10. Our member, Olga Ruskin, has frequently been a most able interviewer.

The North Shore Heritage Advisory Committee has submitted its report to the Mayors and Councils of the three North Shore municipalities. Let us hope that By-laws will soon designate the list of buildings recommended in the report for preservation.

—David C. Grubbe, Program Chairman

route at the treatment given to the "wounded". It was decided to delay another Fashion Show until 1986 and for Expo year, a fashion show and ethnic dancing is planned. We also hope to stage a Blossom Time Tour (hopefully May 1, 1986) which will incorporate historical buildings in the area and the beauty of the Cowichan Valley.

Representation at the Heritage Conference '84 and the B.C. Museums Annual Conference was made by our Society.

The Board of Officers spent much time in attempting to obtain permanent quarters for our museum and this will continue until suitable space is found.

The financial status of our Society has been maintained, as has our membership. We hope to attract more members and thus enlarge our activities in the future.

Vancouver Historical Society

The Vancouver Historical Society had a full program of speakers for our past season.

Our first speaker was Dan Cornejo, Vancouver's Heritage Conservation Officer, who told us of the heritage building inventory his office was planning (this came out in March with approximately 2,500 entries).

Lynne Bowen, author of *Boss Whistle* spoke to us on using oral history for writing a book.

In November one of our members, Dr. Jean Barman, showed slides and talked about *Growing Up British in British Columbia*, which is the title of her book on private boys' schools in the province.

In January, Maurice Hodgson, author of *Squire of Kootenay West*, reminisced about Bert Herridge.

For February we had a panel of Louise May, Veronica Strong-Boag, Keith Ralston, and Robert McDonald tell us of their forthcoming book about working lives in Vancouver 1886-1986.

Francis Rattenbury's architecture was the topic of our March lecture with Anthony Barrett and Rhodri Liscombe, authors of *Francis Rattenbury and British Columbia*.

Our April talk was by Don Graham of Point Atkinson lighthouse, discussing lighthouses illustrated with historic slides.

At our A.G.M. last May, George Shaw showed slides of Stanley park taken during the years he worked in the Park.

Our Incorporation Day celebration on April 6 at the Maritime Museum was enlivened by Phil

and Hilda Thomas and their songs of Vancouver. He is the compiler of *Folk Songs of British Columbia*. Our Annual Award was given to Evelyn Atkinson for her tenacity in pushing for the restoration of Engine 374—the engine which brought the first train into Vancouver. Our main speaker was Hugh Pickett, impresario for Famous Artists. He related stories of many of the stars he had brought into Vancouver.

The Vancouver Centennial year is uppermost in the minds of Vancouver Historical Society members. Our contribution to the celebration will be the publication, we hope, by November this year of a bibliography of Vancouver. Five years ago Elizabeth Walker presented the idea to the Society and three years ago Linda Hale was given the task of gathering the material. Combined efforts of paid staff and volunteers have assembled approximately 12,000 entries. Jill Rowland, chairman of the committee, and researchers are looking forward to this publication.

Elizabeth Walker is chairman of another of our Centennial projects, "The Voices of False Creek & Fairview Slopes". The committee has hired an interviewer to tape the memories of those who worked in the industries on the Creek, and the people who live on the Slopes. This area of Vancouver has changed from a quiet waterway of 100 years ago, to a major industrial heart in the new city, then evolved as the "in" place to live in condos and townhouses on the south side of the inlet and the slopes, with the exciting Expo 86 site on the north shore and eastern end.

Janet Bingham was chairman of the Park site 19 and Roedde House committee. Recently they formed a separate society to forward this major project. A city block had been purchased by the Vancouver Parks Board. Some houses have been demolished, and one house, Roedde House, will be restored to 1890s style. A turn of the century garden will be incorporated; space for community activities will be made in another house. People will live in the remaining apartments. This will be an ongoing project of a few years.

Our final project, under Mary Rawson, is a search for "Vancouver's Citizen of the Century". Forms are out and response has been excellent. Mary and her appointed judges are looking for someone, dead or alive, who has made an outstanding contribution to Vancouver in the past 100 years.

We have an active committee of Anne Yandle, Jill Rowland and Dorothy Shields, who are planning the BCHF Conference in Vancouver for May 1986.

—Peggy Imredy

Golden & District Historical Society

A Federal Works Grant enabled the Society to hire three students for the summer, keeping the Golden and District Museum open for July and August, and doing several related projects. Considerable work was done on the older portion of the cemetery, and brush was cleared off the museum property. Many pictures, documents, ribbons, and other archival material were encapsulated. The large collection of photographs was indexed and cross referenced. The students were kept very busy.

Many donations arrived at the Golden Museum during 1984, putting pressure on storage and display space. There seems to be a need for expanding the building, and funding is being sought for this purpose. Volunteers removed a wall to enlarge the meeting room in the Museum. There have been such excellent programs and guest speakers that crowds turn out to every meeting. Slide shows have included the history of Donald; National Parks Centennial presentation; Heli-Skiing in the Selkirks; and travel in Nepal, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia.

A picnic was held in Parson in June 1984 with members of the Invermere Historical Society as guests. The wedding of the young curator of Golden's Museum took place in August 1984 and was a real highlight in a very good year.

Currently the Society is co-sponsor of a reunion of students and teachers of Lady Grey School. This school served Golden families from 1909-1954. Plans include enactment of the May Queen crowning typical of the Lady Grey School years.

—May Yurik, Secretary

Chemainus Valley Historical Society Annual Report

It was a busy year for our society. We are still in search of a museum as the artifacts, books, memorabilia, etc., keep coming to us.

Our struggle for new members continues. We have answered many letters asking us history questions, and many more requesting our book "Memories of the Chemainus Valley" which is now out of print.

A number of historical functions were attended, and we co-operated with several other historical societies. The Victoria Historical Society visited "The Chemainus Murals" and we hope they will come again.

We presented a \$300.00 bursary to a deserving student, and will do so again this year.

Our Lamalchi Bay Pioneer Cemetery was cleaned up to our satisfaction.

Our meetings are held in the historic Horseshoe Bay Inn. This was the luxury stopover between Victoria and Nanaimo in the 1890s and the early 1900s. The old register shows many a prominent Canadian and American name.

Thanks to many interesting people, we had the pleasure of very fine speakers.

—A. Ginn, Secretary

Gulf Islands Branch

The Gulf Islands Branch, which includes Federation members on Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna Islands, has had a renaissance over the past year—expanding from about a dozen loyal old-timers to over 70 members. Despite the logistical problems related to all getting together at the same place at the same time (something that B.C. Ferries seems to be determined we should not do) we have had six meetings.

Last summer we visited the Simon Fraser University dig at the Pender Canal, which dates back over 5,000 years. This fascinating work continues this summer and is well worth a visit. John Edwards, author of *Romance Cookery*, spoke to us on his "Pepper Theory" of world exploration. Doreen York organized a wonderful meeting on Pender when half a dozen representatives of old Islands' families shared their memories of early events or of family history with us. These were augmented with an excellent video of old Pender homes. On another occasion we visited the old Payne family home on Saturna. On June 16th, almost every group on Mayne Island will have contributed to the Centennial celebration of the Active Pass lighthouse. The Coast Guard has generously supported this event, offering displays as well as paying for publication of a centennial booklet.

—Ann Johnston, Secretary

Nanaimo Historical Society

The year has seen an encouraging increase in visitors to our meetings. The topic which received the greatest response was the review of the Brother XII trials by Provincial Court Judge Stan Wardell, with an estimated crowd of eighty and as many turned away! Also well attended was the D-Day Commemorative Programme. Recalling their own experiences, six local men represented all the armed services involved.

Special reference to items of local interest were included when Provincial Archivist, John Bovey, explained the resources available in Victoria. Natural resources were well covered by marine biologist Dr. W.E. Ricker, on the pioneer trails along the Fraser River, and Ted Barsby on the availability of wildlife prior to European contact.

Shirley Goldberg traced the Canadian film industry's trials and triumphs. Lynne Bowen shared some of her recent research on the Wellington Mines.

President Seiriol Williams remembered many of the pioneers he knew as a child on Gabriola Island, prior to a varied life which preceded his medical career.

The annual picnic included a visit to the underwater weapons testing range, with a visit to the Nanooa Museum.

The Bastion provided shelter for the few hardy participants who braved heavy snow to commemorate Princess Royal Day. Don Sale filled the dual roles of minister and speaker at the last moment, and descendant Marjorie Jeffs called the roll.

The Ethel Barraclough Memorial historical essays were excellent this year; books were presented to the students and their schools. One essay was published in the local press.

The Nanaimo Pioneer Cemetery plaque will be installed within the next few weeks. The burial of a crew member from HMS *Virago*, a victim of the Crimean War, will be included.

A Life Membership was presented to Mrs. Emily Kneen in recognition of her many years on the Executive.

Several members assisted with the Heritage Conference "Future of our Past" in May, Pamela Mar as a guide of the downtown area.

Elizabeth Low received the City of Nanaimo Heritage Advisory Committee Award this year.

Finally, a reminder that *Nanaimo Retrospective* and *Company on the Coast* are available in bookstores or through Nanaimo Historical Society, P.O. Box, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5N2.

—Daphne Paterson

East Kootenay Historical Association

Our Annual Meeting is held in the Spring at Kimberley and our Fall Meeting in Cranbrook.

We are in phase three (final) of restoring the St. Eugene Indian Mission Catholic church six miles north of Cranbrook. We've secured funds from government agencies and various business and private donations. Thus far we've spent over \$60,000 and need another \$21,000 to complete same.

We have worked on various historic projects in the Fort Steele historic park, including cemetery clean ups, graves of old pioneer prospectors in various areas of East Kootenays and cleared historical sites such as the Baillie-Grohman Canal at Canal Flats.

Presently, we are exploring and improving such trails as the Dewdney and Armstrong trails in the Creston and Invermere areas.

Most of our members enjoy our four outings each year when we visit and hear about ghost towns such as Moyie, Wardner, Bull River, Yahk and Lumberton.

We enjoy free advertising in our local advertiser, thanks to Crestbrook Forest Industries and occasional radio spots on local CKEK.

—F.V. Downey, President

Cowichan Historical Society

Our Society continues to foster public awareness and interest in the history of the Cowichan Valley in a variety of ways. One of our members is appearing regularly on a morning radio programme and another is working towards programmes on the local television station. Successful bake sales and a raffle were held during the year which were financially rewarding. A number of our members are faithful volunteer museum attendants and we were able to obtain the services of a qualified student during the summer months, his salary being funded by Federal Government.

Our meetings are exceptionally well-attended, far above the national average for club and fraternal order attendances. Committees for telephoning, refreshments organization, publicity, programme and ways and means have been active throughout the year. A float was entered in the Summer Festival Parade, the theme being "Salute to Sports", and our entry being a hospital room of long ago with wounded athletes being attended to by very "competent" medical staff. There were lots of laughs along the parade

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS BACK ISSUES

Many back issues of **The British Columbia Historical News** are available through the B.C. Historical Federation Post Office Box number. Copies up to Volume 14, Number 4 are 25¢ each (except for Volume 11 Nos. 1 & 2 at 5¢ each); Volume 15 copies are 50¢ each; and Volume 16 and later copies are 75¢ each. In all cases postage is additional. The Editor is storing later issues beginning with Volume 16, Number 4. When a back issue becomes a year old the cost is reduced to 25% of the cover price.

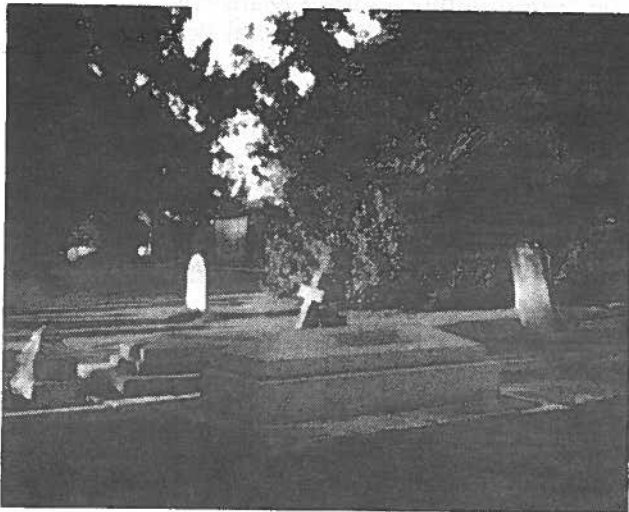
Please advise the Treasurer if the location of additional back issues is known.

Vol. No.	Date	No. of Copies	Article(s) and Author
3	2 Feb. 1970	7	Glacier National Park, B.C.—1880 to 1970; John Marsh. Rose Skuki; Michael Robinson.
	3 Apr.	Missing	
	4 Jun. 1970	1	Sanford Fleming; Mabel E. Jordon.
4	1 Nov.	20	Trutch—Dynamic Road Builder: 4 letters; Ed. by C.F. Forbes
	2 Feb. '71	Missing	
	3 Apr.	1	Trutch—An Immigrant Journeys to a New Life; as above.
	4 Jun. 1971	12	Lord Dufferin—Godfather of Confederation; H.R. Brammall
5	1 Nov.	27	War and Patriotism—the <i>Lusitania</i> Riots; C. Humphries.
	2 Feb. 1972	33	Death of a Railway; C. McAllister. [Kettle Valley Line] With the Nisei in New Denver; G. Suttie.
	3 Apr.	32	Vitus Bering's Voyages; Jack McIntosh. "Alberni"; E. Leslie Hammer.
	4 Jun. 1972	34	Folk within the Sound of Big Ole; Margaret Trebett. Moran Dam; Doug Stevenson.
6	1 Nov.	8	The Naturalists Discover British Columbia; Dr. Philip Akrigg.
	2 Feb. 1973	7	Vancouver; the van Coeverden family; Adrien Mansvelt.
	3 Apr.	6	The town of Coevorden; Adrien Mansvelt. Armorial Bearings of the City of Vancouver; Rob. Watt.
	4 Jun. 1973	21	Kenneth McKenzie & the Origins of B.C. Agriculture; W.R. Sampson
7	1 Nov	.	British Columbia's Air Survey Story; G. Smedley Andrews.
Vol. 7 no. 2 - Vol. 10 no. 3 MISSING			
10	4 Jun. 1977	2	A History of the Van. Public Library, Part 2; Gwen Hayball. [This is the last issue with Mr. & Mrs. P.A. Yandle as Editors.]
11	1 Nov. 1977	176	
	2 Feb. 1978	88	
	3, 4 Apr.-Jun.	44	The Coastal Logger as Seen in Some Novels; Ronald Woodland. Mrs. Moody's First Impressions of B.C.; Jacqueline Gresko.
12	1 Nov. 1978	2	Chief Benedict of Boothroyd & Dept. of Indian Aff.; R. Ware. "Very Dear Soldiers" or "Very Dear Labourers"; F. Woodward.
	2 Feb. 1979	90	Recollections of Phil Yandle; H.R. Brammall, G. North. Early Coal Personalities; Daniel Gallacher. Indian Reserve Commission of 1876 and the Nanaimo Indian Reserves: Terry Eastwood.
	3 Apr. 1979	310	Bible and Booze—Prohibition in Chilliwack in the late 1800s; Robert L. Smith.
	4 Jun. 1979	Missing	
13	1 Fall 1979	29	T.D. Patullo's Early Career; Daniel J. Grant. Prince Rupert, B.C.—Adjusting to Peace after W.W. II; Sheila Dobie. John Webber—A sketch of Capt. James Cook's Artist; Douglas Cole. Lieut. Palmer's Precipice; R.C.. Harris.
	2 Winter	Missing	
	3 Spring 1980	5	Alexander MacLeod—Tofino Lifesaver; Debra Barr. An Infernal Triangle (Richard McBride); Sheila Keeble. Jumbo Pass in the Purcell Mtns.; R.C. Harris.

	4	Summer 1980	32	Ranching in B.C. 1859-1885; John S. Lutz. Roads, Ranchers and Reds: Politics and Ranching in 1894. First Gold in British Columbia; Elsie G. Turnbull.
14	1	Fall 1980	196	Marching to Different Drummers; Jean Barman. (Public and Private Schools in B.C., 1900-1950). Culture and Credentials (Teacher Certification in B.C.; John Calam. One Room Schools of 50 Years Ago; T.D. Sale. The Hope-Nicola Trail, 1875 to 1913; R.C. Harris.
	2	Winter '80	193	Victoria Theatre Photographic Gallery; David Mattison. Sapper Duffy's Exploration; (Duffey Lake) R.C. Harris.
	3	Spring '81	Missing	
	4	Summer '81	32	Gilbert Malcolm Sproat and the Origins of the Agent-General's Office; Sheila Keeble. Impressions of Father A.G. Morice, OMI; G.S. Andrews. Dewdney's Second Contract—The Seven Mile Cutoff; R.C. Harris.

Requests for back issues should be sent to B.C. Historical Federation, P.O. Box 35326, Station E, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G5.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE



The final resting place of the first governor of the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island is a quiet churchyard in Bouldre, England. Peter Porter, a member of the Victoria Branch of BCHF, provided the photograph of Richard and Emily Blanshard's tomb, and the church nearby.



Convention Characters

Fraser Wilson of the Burnaby Historical Society has treated us to another one of his Convention masterpieces. If the shoe fits...

REPORT ON THE 1985 ANNUAL B.C. HISTORICAL FEDERATION CONVENTION

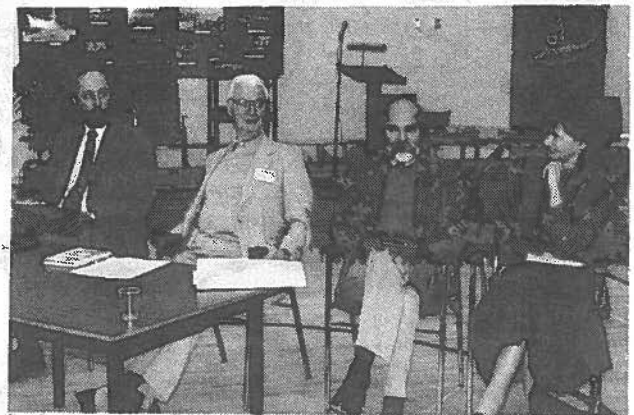
Galiano's Historical and Cultural Society planned and executed an ambitious program for museum workers, amateur archaeologists, and delegates to the British Columbia Historical Federation's Annual Conference. The Federation Convention got underway with a welcome from former president Donald New and his wife Nanette. An Author's Table, set up in the Activity Centre, featured local writers, plus some of the authors who participated in the 1984 historical writing competition, with their books for sale—autographed and personally explained. The evening of May 2nd concluded with a happy hour where old friends and new exchanged greetings.

The Spanish in Perspective was a series of talks illustrated with slides which took from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The opening speaker, John Dewhirst, gave a detailed study of Natives of the West Coast with particular reference to his archaeological studies done for Parks Canada on Nootka Sound. Jack Kendrick, who is now a resident of Galiano Island, recounted not only the progress of the early white explorers and traders in coastal waters, but also the background of politics and philosophy in Europe at that time. Dr. Christon Archer of the Department of History, University of Calgary, spoke of the Spanish Empire in the Pacific, and British reaction against expansion north of California. He highlighted the records which show mutual respect and cooperation between Spanish and British sea captains working out of Friendly Cove in the late 18th century. The perspective moved to the west coast of Newfoundland when Selma Barkham described the work which earned her the Order of Canada and a gold medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Mrs. Barkham did archaeological work in Newfoundland and extensive research of naval archives in Spain to verify the visits of Basque fishermen to the Grand Banks long before Christopher Columbus took credit for crossing the Atlantic. Concluding speaker was from resident Andrew Loveridge who had just returned from Spain with fresh information on the life of Don Dionisio Galeano.

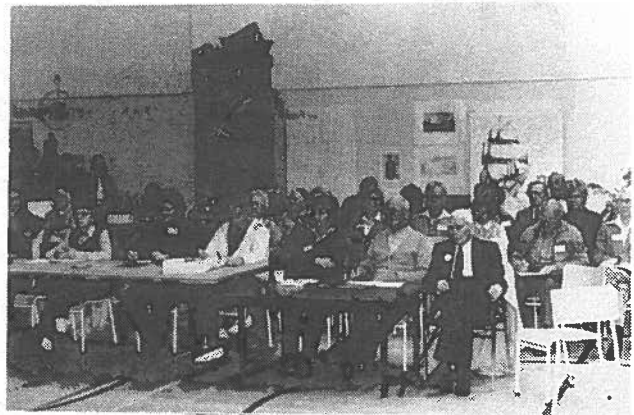
Saturday morning the participants were treated to a talk on "Canoes of North America" by Philip Shackleton, followed by Mary Ellen Harding who told about Galiano residents from the time of her



Donald New and Robin Brammell



John Dewhirst, Jack Kendrick, Christon Archer, and Selma Barkham



Saturday Morning

great-great-grandfather, one of the first settlers, to the present.

Galiano hospitality included breakfasts, marvellous sandwiches for lunch, and a banquet cooked and supervised by James Barber. The seafood prepared in exotic Spanish style served with brilliant vegetables, and lean loaves of crusty bread, was followed by delicious duck and a rich dessert.

The banquet hour was also the time for presentation of awards. Barbara Stannard, at home due to illness, was informed by telephone that she had been made an Honourary Life Member by unanimous decision of all present. Winners of the writing competition were called to the podium where they were introduced and accepted their awards. Barry M. Gough, winner of the Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for 1984 for his book *Gunboat Frontier*, was away in England. His daughter Melinda, a student at Lester Pearson College of the Pacific, received the medal from Honorary President Colonel Gerry Andrews. Michael Kluckner received a Certificate of Merit for his superbly illustrated *Vancouver the Way It Was*. Hilbert DeLeeuw and Connie Philip took home a Certificate of Merit for their Heritage Committee of Rose Hill Farmer's Institute of Knutsford, B.C. Competition chairman, Naomi Miller, described the Knutsford history *Bunch Grass to Barbed Wire* as the best anthology she had ever read. Honored in absentia was the writer of the best 1984 article in the **Historical News**, Kay Piersdorff of Salmon Arm.

The Conference was attended by the Spanish Consul Frank Bernard and his wife. The Spanish element was further represented by Tomas Bartroli, guest speaker at the banquet. Professor Bartroli has recently retired from the Department of Hispanic Studies at the University of British Columbia, and now divides his time between Vancouver and Barcelona.

Galiano Island, with its unique beauty, was an unconventional site for the seminars, workshops, speakers and field trips scheduled from May 1-7. The Convention was declared a tremendous success. Our newest member society deserves an accolade for their imaginative program, roster of famous speakers, and hours of work implementing their ideas to entertain over one hundred guests attending the Conference and Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Historical Federation.

—Naomi Miller



Mary Ellen Harding



Naomi Miller, Melinda Gough, Gerry Andrews



President Len McCann at Bluffs Park

All photographs by John Spittle

Report of the Annual General Meeting 1985

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Historical Federation was held on the afternoon of Saturday, May 4th, 1985 in the Galiano Community Hall. President Leonard McCann was in the chair. Delegates present represented twenty member societies.

The Treasurer's report indicted the precarious financing of our magazine. (Detailed report printed separately.)

John Spittle reported on the creation of a Recreational Corridors Department within the Ministry of Lands, Parks, Housing and Forestry. This government department is implementing policy which will afford some degree of protection and preservation of historic trails such as the H.B.C. Brigade Trail in the Cascades, two sections of the Dewdney Trail, and the McKenzie Trail. Helen Akrigg distributed copies of the revised application form for the Publications Assistance Fund. Naomi Miller described the mechanics of the writing competition and announced the winners.

A delegate from the Valemount Historic Society was welcomed. He presented a brief report along with representatives from several other member societies.

Vancouver Historical Society confirmed its invitation to the 1986 Convention which they will be hosting at the University of British Columbia. Francis Sleight spoke on behalf of the Mission Historical and Heritage Societies to extend an invitation for the 1987 convention.

A committee was struck to work with the Editor of the B.C. Historical News to cut costs and yet maintain as much quality as possible.

A motion was made to establish a B.C.H.F. scholarship for a student entering fourth year at a British Columbia university taking a major or honors course in Canadian history. The motion was adopted to allow the Federation to appeal for funds to endow this scholarship.

Frances Gundry acted as Nominations Chairman. The existing council was returned by acclamation.

Colonel Gerry Andrews agreed to be our Honorary President for one more year

Scholarship Fund

Help us establish a scholarship for a 4th year student taking a major or honors course in Canadian history at a B.C. University. All donations are tax deductible. Please send your cheque today to:

**The British Columbia Historical Federation
Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 35326
Station E
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G5**

**Publication Assistance Fund
British Columbia Historical Federation
P.O. Box 35326, Station E
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G5**

This Fund was established in 1980 with a donation from a member (and has been added to since) for the purpose of aiding British Columbia Historical Federation members (groups or individuals) to publish material relating to British Columbia history. The grants are made specifically to help to pay printing costs, and are not to be used for other expenses such as typing or editing.

It is hoped that, if the sale of an assisted publication goes well, part or all of the grant will be repaid to the Fund so that other members will benefit in the future.

NOTE—Applicants must have been members of the B.C.H.F. for at least a year before any financial help will be granted. March 1st and September 1st are deadlines for receipt of applications.

Extracts from the Treasurer's Annual Report

For the last three years the Treasurer's Annual Report has been lengthy—as such, it was an attempt to provide information that would stimulate members to greater support of **HISTORICAL NEWS** and the B.C. Historical Federation.

Two years ago the magazine had: 1,176 Member Subscribers, 80 Individuals, 97 Institutions, and Sales of \$623.55. This year the numbers have fallen—to 802 Members, 36 Individuals, 33 Institutions, and Sales of \$172.25. The stimulation has not been very effective!

Member Societies and Affiliated Groups:

1. The Annual Return due by December 31st, 1984 has not been received from: (a) Creston and District Historical & Museum Society; (b) Hedley Heritage Arts & Crafts Society; and (c) Windermere District Historical Society. The Nootka Sound Historical Society reports "No Members—still in Recession".

2. An Application to join the B.C. Historical Federation as a Member Society has been received from: (a) Galiano Historical and Cultural Society; and (b) Valemount Historical Society.

3. An Application to join the B.C. Historical Federation as an Affiliated Group has been received from: (a) The B.C. Museum of Mining, Britannia Beach; (b) The Fort Steele Heritage Park; and (c) The Nanaimo Museum Society.

Your Federation Treasurer would be most remiss if he did not acknowledge the ready co-operation from Member Society Treasurers throughout the year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

British Columbia HISTORICAL NEWS

Cost of Production and Distribution	\$9,494.21
Subscriptions	\$4,143.00
Sales	172.25
U.S. Exchange	17.22
Typewriter Rental	60.00
Donations	125.00
	<u>-4,507.47</u>
EXCESS EXPENDITURE over REVENUE	\$-4,986.74
REFUND of Federal Tax paid on earlier issues	+1,001.90
GRANT from B.C. HERITAGE TRUST	<u>+4,000</u>
	15.16
LESS Refund for copies returned from Bookstore	<u>-236.60</u>
Net EXCESS EXPENDITURE	<u>\$ 221.44</u>

British Columbia HISTORICAL FEDERATION

DUES from Members	\$1,363.00
INTEREST (Investment, Bank)	1,143.86
On acc. of SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS	<u>2,647.00</u>
+5,153.86	
LESS:	
EXPENSES of Table Officers (Supplies, Postage, Etc.)	353.42
WRITING COMPETITION	173.41
On acc. of SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS	<u>686.06</u>
	-1,212.89
EXCESS RECEIPTS over EXPENDITURE	+3,940.97
INVESTMENTS	
Maturing	\$12,910.95
New	<u>17,000.00</u>
Increase	4,089.05
	<u>-4,089.05</u>
Net EXCESS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$148.08</u>

BALANCE in the Bank: on April 1, 1984 was \$4,285.80; REDUCE THIS by \$221.44 for the Historical News, and by \$148.08 for the Historical Federation; the **BALANCE on March 31, 1984 was \$3,916.28.**

ASSETS To the Balance in the Bank of \$3,916.28 add the Investments of \$17,000.00 for a Total of \$20,916.28. RESERVES for Special Purpose Funds total \$6,983.63. This leaves \$13,932.65 for general purposes.

MUSEUMS/ARCHIVES

Britannia Mines concentrator: Canada's largest museum artifact

A heritage resource, what does it mean? To most people "heritage" means a birthright, a tradition, culture or characteristic inherited from the past. Why preserve the Britannia Mines, and specifically, why the mill, that dilapidated structure with broken windows, leaking roof and flood-damaged interior? The Britannia mining operation (1904-1974) was a marvel in its day. It was the first mine successfully to exploit a low-grade underground copper orebody over such a long time-span. Over 62,000,000 tons of copper ore were mined from which more than 6,000,000 tons of copper concentrate were extracted. The gravity-fed concentrator still stands as the main surface feature of the old mining operation. It is symbolic of the innovations and economies achieved in all facets of the operation, and it is a distinctive coastal landmark. As the value of this heritage resource cannot be appreciated until the story is told, the following is a brief history of the Britannia Mines.

The Britannia Mines were discovered by chance in 1888 but the prospect was slow to attract local attention. George Robinson, an American mining engineer from Butte, Montana, visited the property in 1899. He was able to convince New York City financiers of the immense potential of the property. Access was by tidewater, a mere 30 miles from the burgeoning city of Vancouver. A four-mile horse trail had been hacked through the dense mountain forest from Britannia Landing up to the Jane Basin prospects. One million tons of high-grade copper ore was estimated. There was ample timber, water, and a favourable climate. The Britannia syndicate was formed of which Robinson secured controlling interest in 1903. The next year a new company, the Howe Sound Co., was formed and it gained controlling interest in the Syndicate. Then in 1905, the Britannia Smelting Co. Ltd. was formed to purchase the Crofton Smelter on Vancouver Island. Now operations could begin in

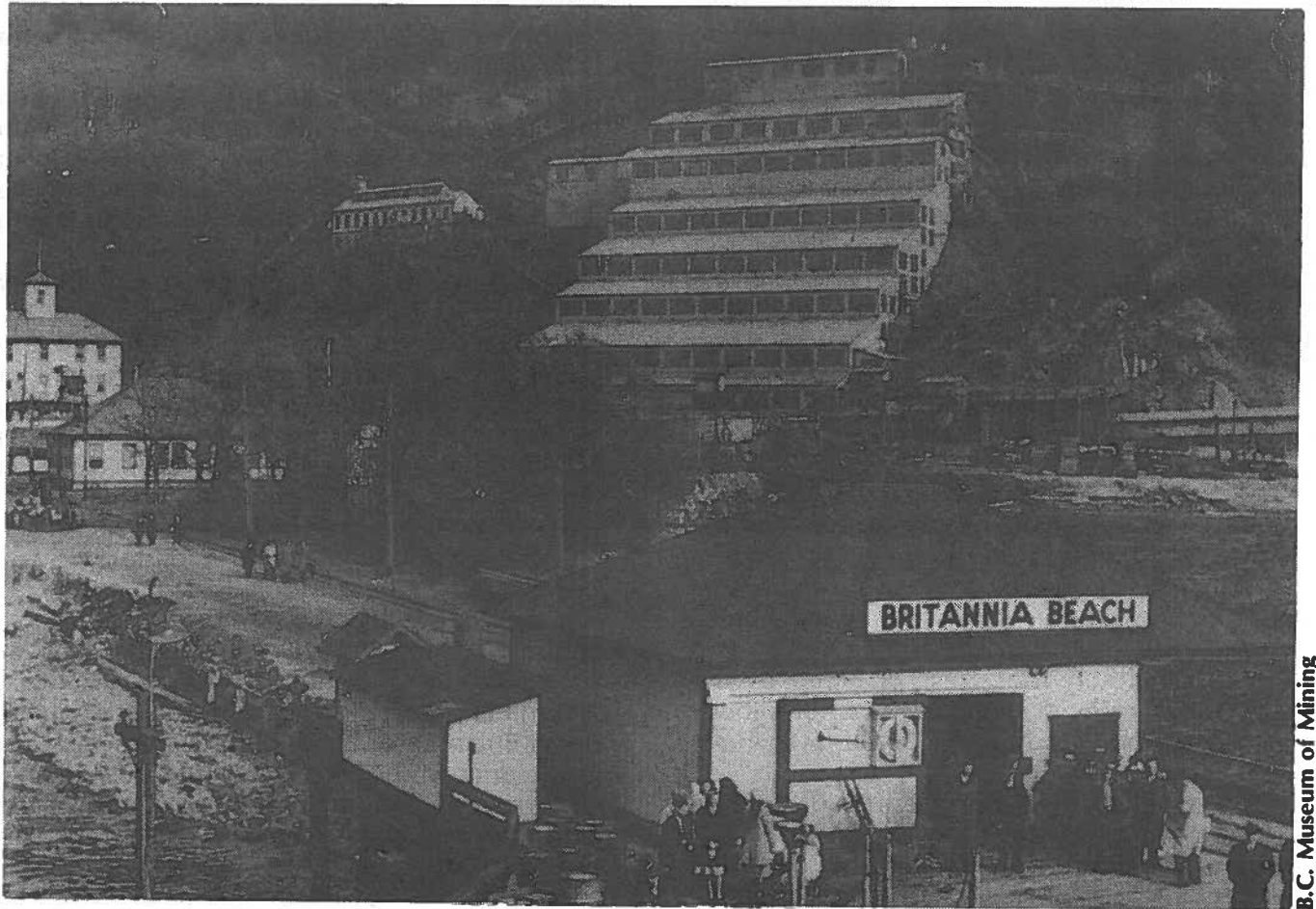
earnest. (Incidentally, the Smelting Co. and the Britannia Syndicate merged in 1908 to form the Britannia Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd., the operating arm for Howe Sound. The success of the Britannia mining operation was due largely to the stable long-term ownership by Howe Sound.)

Meanwhile, under Robinson's direction early development work began. Mine service buildings and employees' housing were constructed at the Jane Basin. New adits were driven. A true community grew up around the mine. A four-mile gravity Riblet aerial tram was constructed in two sections to transport the ore down the mountain to Britannia Landing, or the "Beach". Here two mills were built, one for crushing and one for concentrating. Transportation facilities were constructed and a community grew up to service both the mill and mine.

At the top of the crusher house ore was dumped from the tram buckets into bins and fed into large crushers, after which it was washed and the fines fed directly into the mill for separation and concentration. The coarse ore (2½ inch) was carried on a picking belt under lights which coloured the copper sulphide in the ore black. The fines which had passed into the mill from the crusher house passed through trommels, jigs, rolls and screens until they reached 20 mesh, at which point they were ready for the Frue Vanners and Whifley Tables.

The first ore was shipped to the Crofton smelter in 1904, and in the next year full production was achieved. The early years were beset with difficulties, however. Robinson died suddenly in 1906, copper prices fell, and there were problems separating the minerals in the ore using the experimental new Elmore bulk oil flotation process.

In 1912 the production at Britannia was given a boost by the arrival of a demanding and skillful mining engineer from Ontario, James Dunbar Moodie. The company of operators had given him the authority and the capital (about \$5,000,000) to revamp every aspect of the operation. During the next 10 years, he successfully expanded operations and thereby brought Britannia Mines into the first rank of world copper producers. Although Mill No. 1 had been modified and its production capacity increased to 850 tons per day, increased ore production from the mine and improvements in the mineral separation process stimulated plans for a new mill and a change in the smelting



B.C. Museum of Mining

Britannia Beach in its heyday

arrangements. Mill No. 2 was started in 1913 and completed in 1916. Built on the side hill overlooking Howe Sound it consisted of six stories and was capable of processing 2,000 tons of ore per day. The mill crew numbered 83, of whom 25 were Japanese. The improved milling practices and the lack of custom ore made it more economical to ship the concentrates by water to the ASARCO smelter at Tacoma, Washington. The transportation system was also revamped. A tunnel was driven from the mine through the mountain at the 2200-foot level to connect with a narrow gauge electric railway with switch backs on the mountainside. The railway connected with an incline and a skipway which transported ore to the mills.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 increased demand for copper and the price rose sharply; this in turn funded further development. Then disaster struck. On March 21, 1915, an avalanche of mud, rock, and snow crashed through the Jane Camp, just as the men were coming off the midnight shift. Fifty to sixty men, women, and

children were killed outright and another 22 people were injured. The owners ordered construction of a new and safer town at the 2200-foot level which came to be known as "The Townsite" or "Mt. Sheer".

Moodie's drive and vision directed the broad and farseeing program that made Britannia one of the world leaders. He and George Robinson before him, had received strong support and financial assistance from the Howe Sound Co. But with the end of the war, copper prices became uncertain and Howe Sound issued orders to tighten up operations. Moodie was recalled to home office, after which he resigned, in 1920.

Further setbacks ensued. During a brief period of shutdown in 1921 Mill No. 2 burned to the ground. Just seven months later, on October 29, a flood unleashed itself on the unsuspecting Beach community. Thirty-seven persons died and 15 were seriously injured. Once again a new mill had to be constructed again and a new town had to be built.

The person to direct operations for the next 25

years through a period of both peak and decline of production was Carleton Perkins Browning, a 1913 graduate of Columbia University. Under his direction, Mill No. 3, the mill that stands today, was constructed in 1922. The million-dollar structure was designed on lines similar to the No. 2 Mill with refinements and improvisations. It was constructed of steel on concrete foundations and comprised eight roof levels. Equipped with the latest machinery, including 26 ball mills and apparatus for differential froth flotation, it was ready for the great industry that was to be carried on within its walls. It rapidly became a prominent feature on the coast landscape—a thing of beauty.

By 1929 the Britannia Mines were attracting attention as the largest copper producer in the British Commonwealth. Britannia was isolated and linked to the outside world by steamer alone, but with Browning and his wife Mary at the helm, community life flourished. The social and recreational activities were directed by the community clubs in both townsites. Everybody belonged. Everybody participated. Everybody was employed.

The onset of the Great Depression in 1930 signalled another downturn in fortunes. But despite the depression, operations continued without interruption. Browning was awarded the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Randolph Bruce Gold Medal in 1931 for his technical skill, organizational ability, and remarkable leadership.

Zinc production was started at the East Bluff and, in 1933, the first shipment of zinc concentrates (containing gold) was shipped to the smelter.

Meanwhile within the walls of Mill No. 3, the mill superintendent, A.C. Munro, carried on a constant search for better and more efficient methods and machinery. In 1935, two units of the elevation-type classifier, designed by Munro, were installed. Six years later, the primary crushing process was improved by the installation of a Buchanan Jaw Crusher. In 1938 and 1939, a total of 122,000 tons of pyrite was shipped to Japan.

Copper prices rose during World War II. As the war progressed the mine continued to produce minerals for the war effort, but the work force fell off drastically to about 400 because of men enlisting in the armed forces and the lure of better jobs in wartime industries. The Britannia

Mines became unionized and suffered through its first strike in 1946.

After some boom years in the early 50s, when the Korean War created a demand for zinc from No. 6 "Fairview" mine, copper prices sank to an all time low. The outside world came to Britannia when the rail line was completed from Squamish to North Vancouver in 1956. Two years later, the Squamish highway was completed. Community life could not compete with outside attractions. Mt. Sheer emptied and eventually all the buildings there were destroyed. For reasons of economy, all operations for the mine were moved to the Beach. The once proud Britannia Mining and Smelting Co. was down to seven employees and in 1959 went into liquidation, its assets being taken over by the Howe Sound Co.

This was not the end for Britannia Mines, however. In 1963, the Montana-based Anaconda Mining Co. purchased the property from Howe Sound Co., intending to use Britannia as a base for its exploration programs in Western Canada. Anaconda launched an aggressive search for new ore at Britannia. A labour dispute intervened just as the drills were intersecting mineralization in a new ore zone. This new orebody proved to be the carrot that brought the company and the union to the bargaining table.

The mill was not left behind in the renewed activity. The fine grinding circuit was remodelled. By increasing the horse power and adding rubber liners, the capacity of each ball mill was increased and the number of mills decreased from 15 to 6. The coarse ore bins were rehabilitated to accommodate the coarse ore now being crushed underground. In addition, the silica contained in the coarse sands of the tailings was recovered and sold to cement companies in the area. A new precipitation plant to remove copper from the mine water was installed at the "Townsite" to replace the very successful smaller ones that had operated there and at several other places on the surface and underground since 1924.

Although 300 employees continued to produce an average of 60,000 tons of concentrate annually, the new ore reserved were limited, and rapidly rising costs and increased taxation combined to defeat efforts to keep the mine operating. The rumors of shutdown became a reality and on November 1, 1974, the whistle blew a three-second requiem blast for the 55 men who went underground on the last shift. During the 70-year life of the mining operation, approximately 60,000

employees with their families called Britannia their home. Their story is representative of the key role of hardrock mining in the Western Cordillera. Determined to preserve their story, Britannia people commissioned a history of the mining operation and planned a mining museum. In the spring of 1975, the British Columbia Museum of Mining opened its doors to the public. Since that time a great deal of energy has been spent on developing the museum and the old mining property. In the words of Olive Baxter, a Britannia "old timer", ... "as long as the Museum remains open, the old mines will always be with us."

Postscript: On May 20, 1984 more than 800 former Britannia residents attended a highly successful reunion, including a lunch hosted by the B.C. Museum of Mining, as part of this year's anniversary celebrations. The Museum is anxious to contact as many as possible of the men and women alive today who lived or worked at Britannia. Please contact B.C. Museum of Mining, P.O. Box 155, Britannia Beach, B.C., V0N 1J0. By *Marilyn Mullan, Curator, B.C. Museum of Mining, and Dr. Dianne Newell, Department of History, University of British Columbia*



**Winner of the best historical article
Kay Piersdorff**

WRITING COMPETITION

The British Columbia Historical Federation invites submission of books or articles for the third annual competition for writers of British Columbia History.

Any book with historical content published in 1985 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, dates and locations are included. Stories told in the vernacular are acceptable when indicated as quotations of a story teller. Writers are advised that judges are looking for fresh presentation of historical information with relevant maps and/or pictures. A Table of Contents and an adequate Index are a must for the book to be of value as a historical reference. A Bibliography is also desirable. Proof reading should be thorough to eliminate typographical and spelling errors.

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

Please include the selling price of the book and an address from where it may be purchased.

Book contest deadline is January 31, 1986.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There will also be a prize for the writer of 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 2,500 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.

Winners will be invited to the British Columbia Historical Federation Convention in Vancouver in May 1986.

Bookshelf

Letters from Windermere, 1912-1914, ed. R. Cole Harris and Elizabeth Phillips. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1984. Maps, illus., intro., 243 p.

A quotation from Edward Lear introduces *Letters from Windermere*—"The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea/In a beautiful pea green boat/They took some honey and plenty of money..."

In the spring of 1912, thirty-five year old Daisy Oxley married Captain John Noel Phillips, who had just resigned his commission in the British army. She left her comfortable, middle-class family in Windsor, England, to go with him to the Windermere Valley of British Columbia. The Phillips had decided to take up fruit ranching on land being developed by the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruit Lands Company, under the direction of Robert Randolph Bruce, later Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. As Professor R. Cole Harris makes clear in his introduction, the Phillips were not so much leaving the old country in search of a new life, as they were going to a new country to fashion their vision of an old life—one which their income and capabilities would make it difficult for them to continue to lead in England.

The reality of Lot 22—twenty-eight dry acres high above Toby Creek, near Invermere, B.C.—was very different from the affordable, transplanted, English country life so seductively portrayed in the literature distributed by the company. The Phillips' experience—and, both explicitly and by inference, their reaction to it—is chronicled in the letters Daisy wrote home to her mother and sister, and in a few letters written by Jack, rather in the style of military dispatches, to reassure and inform the Oxley family.

Daisy wrote mainly about domestic affairs: she asks for advice on housekeeping, boasts of her advances in cooking—"there is nothing I cannot fry now" (p. 24)—and describes every inch of their new bungalow. The letters will be a gold mine for those interested in the domestic taste of the period. Denied the social life she must have loved in Windsor, her liveliness also found an outlet in descriptions of her new surroundings, and, especially, of the people she met ("The great thing here is to shake hands with everybody, and if a friend is with you, introduce him on the spot." (p. 19))

While the letters are a delight to read, with hindsight the story they tell is terribly sad. "The

scenery is certainly splendid and all that is written in those pamphlets will be true in about a year's time; but the place has grown quicker than they expected and they are not quite ready for us," Jack wrote on April 20, 1912 (p. 10). Two years later, the settlers were "all fighting Bruce and the C.V.I. Company for compensation because our cisterns leak and we have paid too high a price for our land." (p. 208) The Phillips had learned a lot in those two years, but we can only speculate on the course of their lives had they remained in Canada. They left the valley at the end of December, 1914, with their infant daughter, Elizabeth (the joint editor of these letters). Jack died on April 18, 1915, of wounds suffered at the first battle of Ypres.

One of the many values of *Letters from Windermere* is the light they shed on the experiences of a middle-class woman emigrant. In some ways, the Phillips could live less expensively in the Windermere Valley than in England; but they could not afford labour, and they had emigrated to maintain a certain style of life. Jack helped to polish the floor on Saturdays, and wrote to Daisy's brother, "Our house is so small and everything so much at hand, with so many labour-saving devices . . . that I hope Daisy will find it quite easy as running a house at home with a limited number of servants." (p. 104) Daisy wrote to her mother, "the hard work that must be done because there is no help, makes Canada a land for men and a very hard one for women. . . . Without doubt all the men here love the life, but I think when any two women get together and talk, from the bottom of their hearts the tears always shine in their eyes and they long for a 'general' and 'washer-woman'". (p. 152) Typically she added, "Of course, this is just between you and me."

While *Letters from Windermere* should appeal to all sorts of people, they will have a particular fascination for those interested in the iconography of the Edwardian English middle class, especially that section of it which seems to fit so well Mavis Gallant's description, "Not British but English. Not Christian so much as Anglican." (Daisy's family, however, were members of the Brethren.) Professor Harris, in his introduction, describes the forces at work on that class in pre-First World War Britain, brings out many nuances in the letters, provides a biographical background on the Phillips, and a brief history of the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruit Lands Company. In

some respects, one could wish for more detail—on Jack's enlistment as a private soldier when he failed his Sandhurst exams; on the company's experimental garden Daisy alludes to; on the backgrounds of the other settler families and the fate of those who did stay on, for example. (One hesitates to mention about a volume edited by a geographer of Professor Harris' stature that a map somewhere between the large and small scale ones provided would have been useful.)

To Professor Harris, the particular interest of the letters lies in the way they illustrate the "practical, psychological, and cultural problems of home in a strange place." (xv) Daisy's letter and the pre-occupation with establishing a physical home, which is increasingly their theme, were her "strategy for survival." (xvi) He argues that by being removed from the England, which recognized their position and assumptions—by becoming "players without most of their props" (xix)—the Phillips were led to define themselves and the inhabitants of their new world as much by ethnicity as by class. "In their new home behavior that was implicit in England had become explicit; ... the Windermere Valley had tended to reduce the whole array of custom to a leaner selection of symbols." (xix) This is a useful idea to bring to bear on two other recent books which have examined aspects of Britishness in British Columbia—Patrick Dunae's *Gentlemen Emigrants* and Jean Barman's *Growing up British in British Columbia*.

Finally, the introduction places the Phillips in the context of other immigrants to Canada who have faced "the implications of coming to terms with here when what one really knows is there..." (xxii) The strains that transplantation imposed on Daisy, revealed and partially remedied by her letters, are evoked by the second quotation which prefaced the volume: "Something of this being heard, I am/not merely talking to myself, that is in the/wilderness, a thing I could never bear to do/for any length of time." (Samuel Beckett, "Happy Days".)

Frances Gundry is head of the Manuscripts and Government Records Division of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia

Growing Up British in British Columbia: Boys in Private School. Jean Barman. (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1984), Pp. viii, 259, illus. \$29.95

This is possibly the most significant book in British Columbia history since Robin Fisher's *Contact and Conflict* of 1977. Some of the more remarkable findings that introduce this exceptionally well-documented book are of a demographic nature. Between 1891 and 1921 some 175,000 Britons immigrated to this sparsely populated province, bringing with them institutions ranging from trade

unions to private schools, all of which helped define British Columbia's unique social character. Between 1881 and 1931 the British-born accounted for an average of 31% of the total white population; by 1951 this had dropped to 17%. In spite of a steady increase in the numbers of native born and considerable immigration from the rest of Canada, the "Canadianization" process that occurred on a national level after World War One did not apply with equal force in British Columbia. Not until after World War Two did the British influence wane, only to be supplanted in the 1950s and 1960s with an overpowering American cultural and economic influence. In some ways *Growing Up British* is a nostalgic look at British Columbia before Bullwinkle, Hawaii Five-O and garburators.

Growing Up British traces the origin and development of some sixty private boys' schools founded in British Columbia during the first half of this century. Jean Barman expertly and adeptly supports a wealth of statistical data with traditional narrative sources, including interviews, to trace the careers of the 7,500 boys who attended these schools. She documents how the schools—initially intended for British immigrants—were soon patronized by their native-born offspring and by immigrant "Canadian" families; and how several schools have, to ensure their survival, adjusted their image in recent years from socially exclusive "private" schools to academically exclusive "independent" schools.

Barman stands well back from her subject: her sometimes exasperating refusal to pass judgement will, moreover, make the book of equal value not only to old boys, but to educational, business, social, immigration, and Marxist historians. Certainly, *Growing Up British* could be used by private school advocates as a legitimation of the system. No doubt the Victoria headmaster's parade drill instruction "March as if you owned the world and had the receipt in your pocket!" (p. 65) will be taken seriously by some. And just as Peter Newman's *The Canadian Establishment* was translated into Russian to display the sinister composition of a capitalist corporate and social elite, so this book might be translated to show the ways in which an elitist institution spreads from one country to another and propagates itself in fertile soil. But this raises an interesting question. What happened to the offspring of the majority of the 24,000 British middle or upper class immigrants who arrived between 1891 and 1921? Not all immigrant parents were able—or willing—to send their children to private schools (p. 16). Were their offspring more, or less able than private school children to maintain "generational continuity" in occupational terms? Did public school sons of lawyers become lawyers or loggers? Barman states that this question is "unanswerable" (p. 158) but it is unclear why detailed research could not trace the careers of children not attending private schools. Such additional data would

provide this study with a control group drawn from the school population at large.

Because the book breaks so much new ground, it calls for further or more detailed studies in several areas, from the history of school and university education in the province at large, to the process of immigration to the Cowichan and Okanagan Valleys, to the role of that ubiquitous character, the immigrant Anglican clergyman in the province's political, educational and cultural life. It also calls for further analysis of private school teachers. Who were they, and why did they teach in private schools? The schools seem to have attracted several highly creative and capable teachers in the decades prior to the establishment of the provincial university. We know, for instance, that journalist Agnes Deans Cameron taught at Angela College, and later, novelist Irene Baird at St. George's. In the absence of a university, could these numerous and unregulated private schools have served as safe havens for creative or nonconformist men and women?

One of Barman's most surprising finds is that few private school graduates went into politics. Most went into professions, business, sales or service. But it is unclear why, on the back cover, the publisher quotes an old boy's contention that private schools "stifled" ["stilted" on p. 159] self-confidence and "contributed to the general reticence in this country to take calculated risks, which were basic to the higher rate of industrial development south of the border," when this theme is not developed further in the book. If anything, Peter Newman's writings should have dispelled the myth that Canadian businessmen are

any less acquisitive than businessmen anywhere else, given even their reliance on resource exploitation over industrial development. It is also unclear who "Vancouver Island's leading colonial governor" was (p. 24). But these are minor criticisms of an important book that proclaims British Columbia's unique social and educational identity; it is good to see Porter, Clement and Newman's supposedly national patterns of class structure relegated to phenomena "with no more than a regional reality" (p. 172). In what other ways is British Columbia's history unique?

Richard Mackie recently received an M.A. in History at the University of Victoria.

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

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Emily Carr strove constantly for artistic excellence, and we would like you to briefly do the same for the *Historical News*. Your entry for this contest is a constructive suggestion for improving the magazine. All entries will be eligible for the draw.

The prize is a handsome book for the lover of nature and landscape art, *Sunlight in the Shadows, The Landscape of Emily Carr*, (Oxford University Press, 1984) with photography by Michael Breuer and text by Kerry Dodd. Please send all entries to the Editor, 1745 Taylor Street, Victoria, V8R 3R8. Deadline September 1, 1985.

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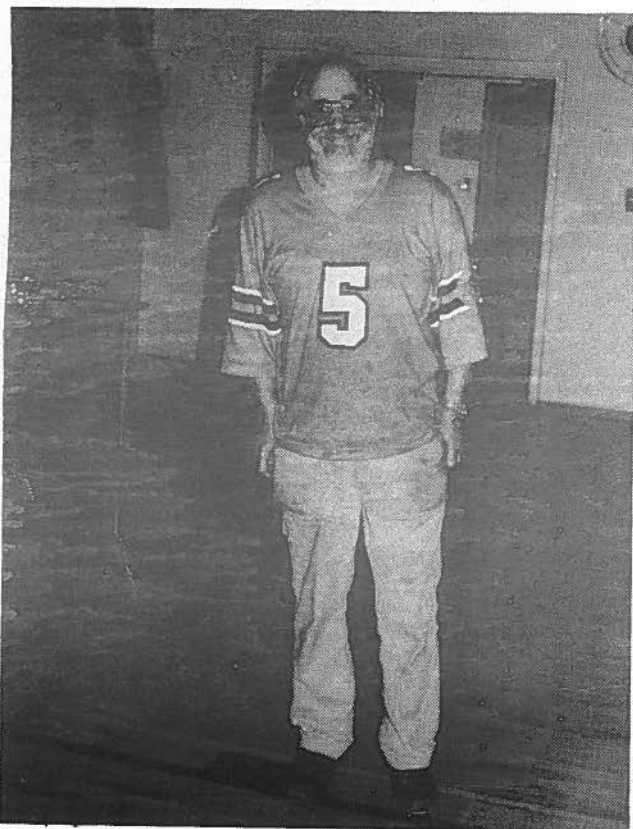
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