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"Fellowship of the Arts"

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BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Volume 23, No. 4

Journal of the B.C. Historical Federation

Fall, 1990

Editorial

Note the slight change of seasonal designation. Winter straddles two years, therefore we acknowledge both years.

We thank all those who have contributed to the content and well-being of the News during the past year, and look forward to another four issues presenting many facets of history within our province. In this edition readers will find contrast in the story of an elite intellectual society and a tobacco chewing pair of prospectors; growing up in Alberni or serving in B.C. House of London.

Please keep stories coming in. We are in need of a few short articles (1800 words or less) to balance some student essays which run well over the suggested 2,500 words.

The 1991 conference in Duncan will offer interesting outings and diverse speakers. Plan to attend. (See details page 17)

Cover Credit

The Elizabethans, 1933, shows costumed members of the Fellowship of the Arts as they attended their Twelfth Night Revel, January 6, 1933. Judge Howay sits at the lower left corner. Can readers provide names of any others shown in this picture?

Photo courtesy of Irving House.

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Who Pulled the Cord On The Mainliner?

by *Winston Shilvock*

Between 1916 and 1964 the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) carried passengers from southern British Columbia to the Coast, running from Midway to Penticton to Princeton to Brodie where the tracks turned west and ran through the Coquihalla Pass to Hope, except when massive winter snows blocked the Pass.

On these occasions the trains were routed north from Brodie to Spences Bridge where passengers transferred to the Canadian Pacific Railway Mainliner heading for Vancouver. The KVR would arrive at "The Bridge" around midnight and lie over two or three hours, waiting to pick up passengers from the CPR. When this occurred on December 24, 1924, one of the strangest happenings in Canadian railway history came about.

The KVR locomotive No. 3267 that was to be the principal actor in the coming drama had been cut off the train, wyeed and put on the track back of the station. The engineer and fireman, after completing this job, headed for the bunkhouse for some much-needed rest before starting the return run to Penticton.

No one was moving around the yard in the intense cold and copious amounts of snow. The operator was busy at his desk receiving orders and the travellers waiting for the west-bound passenger train were congregated in the warm waiting room.

Before leaving the engine the fireman had banked the fire and covered it with fresh coal to keep it going. However, on his final check he failed to notice that the engineer hadn't completely shut the throttle valve.

About two hours later the fire took hold and pressure built up in the boiler. Steam was forced through the partially open throttle valve to the main cylinders and Engine No. 3267 started to move.

No one noticed as it broke through the track switch at the end of the yard and disappeared into the night, heading east at a walking speed toward Ashcroft on the Canadian Pacific mainline track.

While this was going on the CPR west-bound passenger train was pulling out of Ashcroft, running an hour late. Trying to make up time, the engineer quickly reached maximum speed on the 25-mile straight stretch to Spences Bridge. As he roared past the Toketic mile board nine miles east of "The Bridge", the three-chime signal, "Stop at the next station," came over the engine communication line from back in the train.

Cursing his luck at having to pull up at a non-scheduled stop, the hogger eased the train to a halt at the empty, snow-covered Toketic station. While waiting for the highball, he looked back down the train but nobody got off. All he could see was an irate conductor running through the snow wanting to know why in hell they'd stopped since they were already late and a second section of the mainliner was hot on their tail.

A choice exchange of words took place as the engineer claimed the conductor had signalled a stop and he in turn denied it. Finally the

conductor yelled, "Get this *## train out of here," and the engineer dropped into his seat and yarded the throttle.

The train had barely started to move when the fireman screamed the signal for an impending crash, "Plug her!" and dove out of the gangway into the night. Slamming home the throttle and setting the brakes, the engineer followed, head first into a snow bank. Seconds later the passenger train was almost stopped when the front of truant No. 3267 nudged gently into it.

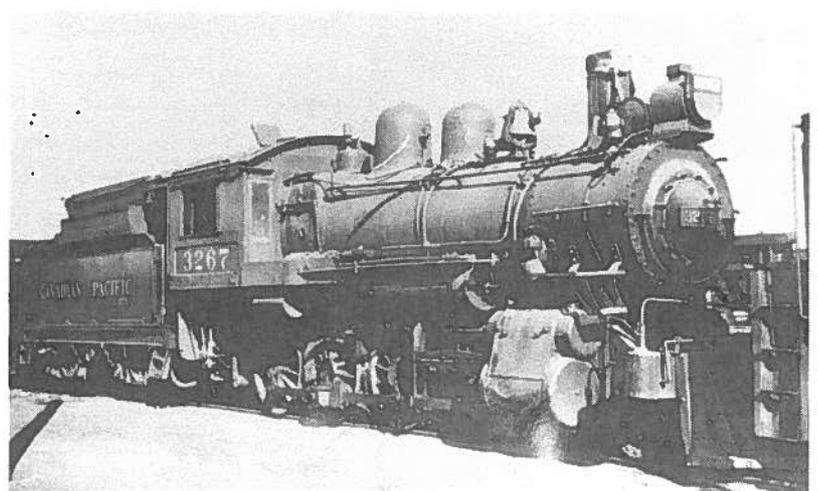
No passenger or crew member was injured. This was fortunate when one considers what could have happened if the mainliner had been barreling at full speed.

An investigation later failed to discover why the signal had sounded.

All the crew members denied pulling the cord and it was unlikely any passenger had done so as none got off at Toketic.

The only solution advanced was that on that cold, snowy Christmas Eve, even though no one had sold Him a ticket, God was a passenger on that Canadian Pacific Railway Mainliner.

Win Shilvock is a retired businessman living in Kelowna. He is a keen history buff who shares the findings of any research by writing articles like this.



Engine No. 3267 Kettle Valley Railway:
Picture courtesy: Wm. J. Presley Vancouver.

Case After Case

Canning at Bestovall 1933 to 1963

by Robert Griffin

Of all the food processing industries that have operated in British Columbia, perhaps the least known is that of fruit and vegetable canning. Its economic contribution to the province was significant. The industry was also an important employer even though its contribution has never come close to that of the better known fish canning industry. The fruit and vegetable canning industry was an industry that existed in great flux, profits were never large, most firms operated very much on a hand to mouth basis. The work for most of the labour force was seasonal and rarely paid enough to support a family all year long, the only exceptions were the few full time employees. The industry was dominated for many years by one major conglomerate, Canadian Cannery, an Ontario based firm and producer of the famous "Aylmer" brand products. Despite this, many independent firms operated in British Columbia and a few of these were quite successful, among them was the Bestovall Canning Co of Vancouver.

Bestovall emerged in the midst of the Great Depression. It was started in 1932 by Charles C. Hayden who, since 1918, had worked at various Canadian Cannery plants in British Columbia. He joined with several other men, mainly from Canadian Cannery, to start their own cannery. It is unclear at this point whether they were unhappy with Canadian Cannery or if the company was reducing staff due to the depression, though it does seem unlikely that Canadian Cannery would have released such a group of skilled men. But whatever the reason the Bestovall Canning Co was established. There were nine original investors in the canning company and all but two of these

investors worked for the company. Charles Hayden ran the operation with his son Art acting as assistant manager. Philip Metcalfe, a former Canadian Cannery field man, acted as field man for Bestovall with his son Donald as shipper. George Lewis was the engineer, Lemond Walkey was sales manager, for six or seven years, and Newton Freeland was the accountant. Freeland, who married Charles Hayden's daughter, took over the selling once Walkey left. The two major shareholders were Charles Hayden and Philip Metcalfe.¹

Despite starting in the midst of the worst depression of the century, Bestovall, with its wealth of experience, quickly established itself. In that first year over 13,000 cases were packed, a good pack but a figure which would nearly double during the next year and grew nearly every year thereafter. Production was to peak at 278,821 cases of goods in 1950, about 5 percent of British Columbia's total production for similar canned goods during that year.

The first cannery building, 40 by 60 feet, was at 2244 West 10th Ave. During those early years much of the work had to be done by hand; washing, cutting and filling. Once filled the cans were run through an exhaust box and an American Can Company double seamer, which applied the tops at about 50 cans per minute. They moved on to the two vertical retorts for cooking. The cans were then placed in a cooling tank and finally moved on into the warehouse section. Even though the cannery used very straight forward processes, times were difficult and novel solutions were sometimes called for. When Bestovall first started canning beans, one of their main products, sacks of beans were distributed throughout the neighbourhood where the ends were

snipped by families using scissors. This was a big event in Kitsilano where money was scarce. Each day there was a big lineup to get the sacks of beans, many more could have been distributed had they been available. This unusual method had not been in operation very long, however, before a salesman from Food Machinery Corporation of Seattle called by the plant. He had known Charles Hayden from Canadian Cannery days, and asked "what . . . are you guys doing here."

He did not think too much of the explanation and sent up a bean snipping machine. The machine could snip about 300 pounds of beans an hour and go full tilt day and night, eventually four snippers were to be in operation doing about 600 to 800 pounds of beans an hour.

In 1943 Bestovall built a new, 190 by 200 foot, plant at 1775 Clarke Drive, a considerable expansion over the previous facility. It was also at this time that Art Hayden, Charles' son, took over management of the plant. Art had been brought into the canning business at Canadian Cannery by his father in 1927 at the age of fifteen. He felt quite comfortable taking over and running the operation with 16 years canning experience, 11 of which were at Bestovall. He also immediately began to introduce improvements to the operation. His father, still president of the company, initially had some trouble relinquishing this control but after a few tussles Art hauled him to the office and asked who was going to run the place and his dad finally said, "you". After that, excepting for an interlude as shipper Charles Hayden just signed the cheques.

The most significant improvement to the new plant was the introduction of conveyor belts. Each canning process required a different

combination of machinery and except for the most permanent bean and gallon can size line being able to move the appropriate machines to the conveyors greatly speeded machinery change-over and greatly increased production by speeding the flow. The plant operated with a wide variety of machinery from bean snippers to pea hullers, three different filling machines were required. Various graders for sizing were also used as well as a potato peeler, apple parers and other machinery. There were three 40 inch by 72 inch retorts with twenty-six metal retort baskets for cooking. In all about sixty different machines were required along with twenty-six cutting and grading tables and a variety of conveyor belts.

Throughout the 1940's and 1950's the plant underwent continu-

two largest packs were pork and beans and beans), three smaller lines and a gallon can size line for commercial and institutional sales. It was to the three smaller lines in particular that machinery would be moved and placed according to the product being canned and the size of can required. Everything was on wheels that could be on wheels, to speed the changing of the machines. Similar to other industrial enterprises, such improvements were a survival necessity, if equipment and process was too outdated the business could not compete. Bestovall was the first in the industry to introduce the use of coolers, the room could also be used as a warmer for ripening, and forklifts and pallets in the early 1950's. In another instance of cost saving improvement the packing of raspberries was completely

supplier and a filler was built at Bestovall. Using the new machinery, only 25 women processing the same number of raspberries were finished by 2:00 p.m.

The canning of each different product required its own special equipment and processes. The canning of cherries, for instance, meant that the cherry stemmers had to be moved in. The canning of pumpkins required that all the pumpkins be chopped by hand as there was no machine available that could handle the wide variety of sizes. Squash was added to the pumpkin for texture and to absorb some of the water. Despite its name, the squash was sometimes so hard that it would stop a saw and need to be cut by hand, often the choppers had to swing away at them "to beat the dickens." The

*Retorts and Baskets in 1943.
Charles Hayden
is standing on the right.*



al modification², every winter was spent by several of the men working on new equipment in order to improve on the previous year's operation. Most of these improvements were devised by Art Hayden who sometimes simply stood watching the operation seeking to "dream up" ways to increase plant efficiency. The plant, after 1943, consisted of five canning lines, a bean line (the

overhauled, during the early fifties when Bestovall packed between 50 to 70 percent of all the raspberries canned in B.C. Before the changes about 200 women were employed filling cans which then moved on to the weighing machine and the syruper, the whole operation lasting from 8:00 a.m. until about 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. each day to empty the 2000 crates. A washer and weigher were purchased from a machinery

pieces were then placed in baskets with screens and cooked in the retorts for about 30 minutes at 220 degrees Fahrenheit. Upon removal they were pressed and taken to pulpers which consisted of several metal paddles to beat the pumpkin. The finishers then brushed the pulp through screens to remove any final seeds or bits of skin. The pulp went to the can fillers and then through a steam jet to create a vacuum for the

closing machine which applied the top. Into the retorts for a final cooking and through cooling tanks and into the warehouse. In this process both the pulper and the filler had been designed by Art Hayden and made at the Bestovall plant though the finisher was a purchased machine.

In November 1939 a pack of beets was put up by thirty-four women and four men. Of the

remove both ends. They then moved along on belts past women who sorted the beans for spots and oversize, the oversize going to a slicer for French Cut beans. A bean cutter sliced the rest into pieces about one inch long and passed them to a bean sizer. The sizer would sort by 1's, 2's, 3's 4's and larger. The 1's, 2's and 3's were combined as fancy, the top grade; the 4's as choice and the larger as

generally in comparatively small packs, the largest packs being pork and beans and beans. Even some soups were tried as well as dill pickles. One unusual pack was of dried peas, Bestovall was probably the only cannery in Canada packing them. Production started in 1933 and continued until 1942. They were mainly brought in from Ontario though a few were purchased from around Lytton. Soaked overnight



*Pumpkins,
1943*

thirty-four women, two were filling the cans with brine and one was stamping the cans. One man was washing beets, another, dumping into pans, another cooking and the fourth was operating the Canco (American Can Company) double seamer, placing lids on the cans. This crew packed 134 cases of 24/2s squat (24 of that can size per case) cans and 11 cases of 6/10s cans. A day later, November 16 1939, thirty-five women were packing solid pack apples, including four on the peelers, four on filling and twenty-seven trimming and coring.

Green beans, one of Bestovalls main products, came to plant in sacks, about fifteen hundred of which would be on hand at a time. About sixty to seventy sacks were packed each day. The beans were dumped into the bean snippers to

standard. The beans were all blanched and finally moved onto an escalator to the can filler, a large disc with about twenty holes in it. At the filler women would scoop the beans into cans through appropriately sized holes. The cans then went up to the brine room where the liquid brine was poured into the cans and then onto the double seamer for the placement of the tops. The double seamers were generally running, by this time, at about one hundred and thirty-five cans per minute. They proceeded to the retorts for cooking at 230 degrees F. for between 25 and 40 minutes depending on can size. They finally moved into the coolers and on to the warehouse for labeling and storage.

Bestovall canned a wide variety of fruits and vegetables though

they were then packed in 18 oz. squat cans with a little salt and sugar. Samples were sent out and they went like wildfire, carloads were shipped to Montreal and elsewhere. Art Hayden thinks the company must have bought up most of the dried pea stocks in Canada. When money became a little freer, however, the market dried up and Bestovall was forced to stop canning them. Bestovall was also among the first to can asparagus in British Columbia commencing with an initial run of 373 cases in 1935. They secured the asparagus through the Japanese strawberry growers cooperative and picked it up in New Westminster. Bestovall was in fact instrumental in encouraging the Japanese to experiment with growing asparagus by offering a steady market. The removal of the

Japanese from the coast to internment camps during World War II put a stop to this budding industry and asparagus was imported from Washington State thereafter.

The company was always looking for a means to extend the canning season, to keep the plant in operation for as much of the year as possible. Bestovall, in order to achieve this, first began to pack more jam and then started canning pork and beans, both of which could be done after the normal canning season had ended for the other fruits and vegetables. The fruit for the jam would be stored outside in about two hundred 45 gallon barrels with SO₂. On one occasion, in the middle 1940's, there was enough stock on hand to make up about five thousand cases of jam and Art Hayden approached the salesman suggesting they attempt to sell the whole jam pack to one customer. The salesman went to Spencers Stores in Vancouver and gave them such a good price that they were able to sell at a considerable discount. It was the great jam rush, traffic was tied up on Cordova street for blocks, Bestovall even received a call from the Police traffic department about the problem. A Bestovall truck was dispatched to Spencer's every morning with some of the customers buying as many as five or six cans at a time.

In the late 1940's the second item developed to extend the canning season was pork and beans. Initially just a winter supplement, it eventually surpassed beans as Bestovall's main product. During some years of the fifties it came close to being half of the plant's total output. Beans were brought in from all over the world, but the majority came from Ontario. The preferred beans came from Lytton but the local suppliers did not produce them in the quantities required. Beans were also tried from near Ashcroft but they became damp and mildewed which affected the flavour. Carloads of tomato paste were

required to pack the pork and beans. The sauce generally consisted of half local puree and half imported tomato paste from Italy and other parts of the world. This was necessary in order to achieve the desired texture and colour.

**Recipes for Canning
Pork and Beans**
Canadian Cannors, 1928,
also used by Bestovall.
"Materials needed
for 3000 sacks Beans

Beans	3000 sacks	100 lbs ea.
Salt	18,000	lbs
Onions	9,600	lbs
Pork	8,542	lbs
Allspice	262	lbs
Cloves	225	lbs
Mace	112	lbs
Red Pepper	132	lbs
Cinnamon,		
stick	300	lbs
Sugar	690	lbs
Pulp		
(tomato)	12,000	gals

If all 2's Squats. 972,000 Cans or about 27,000 cases. Above spread over six weeks."

The above recipe was eventually revised by Bestovall to the following recipe:

Soak 150 lbs Beans in large Barrel for 18 hours, then strain, rinse, and put into kettles.

Then bring to boil, skimming off scum and floating beans with wooden paddle.

When ready dump out of kettle and put into filling machine as follows:

- #10's (can size)
- 3 lbs 14 ozs with 1 oz. Pork
- #2 1/2's -17 ozs with Pork (1 lb. cut into 90 pieces)
- Indiv. - 4 ozs with Pork (1 lb cut into 130 pieces)
- #2's Squat - 9 1/2 ozs with Pork (1 lb cut into 100 (revised to 110) pieces)

COOKS FOR ABOVE

#10's	2 1/2 Hours at 240
#2 1/2's	55 mins. at 248
Indiv.	40 mins. at 248
2's Squat	47 mins. at 248

SAUCE FOR PORK & BEANS

5-#5's or 25 Gals of Tomato Pulp.
Add 25 gals of water bring to boil
Add: -15# (pounds) Ground Onions when boiling
-115 # sugar
-30# salt after ten minutes boil
- 3 ozs Red Pepper after salt & sugar

- 8 ozs Cinnamon
 - 7 ozs Allspice Whole
 - 6 ozs Cloves
 - 3 ozs Mace
- } Put in Bag and throw in kettle at start

Boil for 30 mins. then add enough Boiling Water to make 50 gals finished product.

1 Batch of sauce to about 500 lbs Beans.

Each fruit or vegetable required its own recipe, but these were generally not as complex as the ones for pork and beans. Most fruits merely received a sugar syrup solution while a brine solution was added to most vegetables. Cooking times and temperatures varied with the product and can size, standards were by this time well established throughout the industry.

Bestovall was a very efficiently run operation but not everything always went smoothly. In one instance a whole bunch of supposed canned apricots was sent to Edmonton, however, an angry customer reported back that the whole load was beans. They had been canned at the same time as the beans and had been mislabeled. Another problem arose on one

occasion during a visit by the inspector for the Federal Department of Agriculture. The inspector decided that the pork for the pork and beans was being brought out of the cooler too soon and was ready to order the plant closed. A call to the chief inspector, however, quickly straightened out the misunderstanding.

The number of employees not only varied from year to year but also varied according to the production run throughout the year. On the average, however, peak employment might run up to about 175 for several months with about 25 kept on throughout the year. Most of the employees were women who lived in surrounding Kitsilano. They were often housewives with grown children and who used the cannery as an opportunity to get out of the house and earn some extra money. The cannery supplied each worker with a waterproof apron and gloves for a deposit which was returned upon the garments' return at the end of each season. Every year as well the Company held a Christmas Party. In 1945, for instance, the company served turkey with all the trimmings for about 100 staff and employees. The dinner was followed by carol singing and two hours of dancing. Charles Hayden also gave out the Christmas Bonuses. Although a well run plant with good staff and employee relations, Art Hayden only fired one employee in the thirty years of operation; the company along with the rest of the industry was unionized just after World War II. The good relations continued however, including the annual Christmas Party.

Every year as well, Art Hayden attended the annual meetings of the Canned Foods Association of British Columbia³. The meetings were both a work and a social event. A variety of papers were usually presented on aspects of the canning trade or on new processes of interest. In 1950, for instance, when the convention was held at the Ballroom of the Hotel Georgia in Vancouver, the

program commenced with papers by F.E. Atkinson of the Research Station at Summerland discussing fruit as a raw material and H.A. Nelson of Westminster Cannery discussing vegetables as a raw material. In 1950 twenty-one different talks were presented on a wide range of topics and included several talks with speakers from the United States. As well, at the "cutting bees" each canner's product was compared with other canners for quality. The cutting bee was not just for show, it gave the canners an opportunity to see how their product stood against other canners. In a 1941 cutting report, for instance, a can of "Choice Diced Beets" was noted to have "a very ragged appearance as though the dicer had been dull; not a good 'Choice'." In other instances in the same report pumpkins and cherries were both lowered in grade. One can of "Fancy Pumpkin" had "too many pieces of skin and seed" for its grade but otherwise "color and flavor good." One can of cherries had "too many split (and) very soft, probably overcooked." It should be noted, however, that most of the cans inspected were up to grade with "flavor and color good." Much of the meeting was of course a social gathering, giving many of British Columbia's canners a chance to let off a little steam following an arduous canning season of long hours and hard work. During the main canning season the plant might run seven days a week with employees often working nine hours or longer. The presidency of the association rotated through the various canners with Bestovall's Art Hayden acting as president or as a director for many years.

The company generally maintained good relations with its growers and entered into contracts for specified acreages to be grown by the farmer for Bestovall. The method was haphazard at best as the contract was for acreage not quantity, some years huge crops came in and the plant had great difficulty to can everything while in

other years the crop might be poor and everything in short supply. The cannery supplied the seed and then took the crop at the price set in the contract. Purchases also had to be made from the various marketing boards once they came into force.

The marketing boards reportedly gave little consideration to the small competitive edge that local canners had over imported canned goods. One of the primary objectives of the boards was to secure as good a price as possible for the farmer on whose behalf they were acting. Art Hayden suggested that this was particularly true of the fruit situation where often the canner was required to take orchard run, some of which could be unusable for canning. At one point when canning pears, Bestovall found that, due to the price set by the board, Okanagan pears were costing them 80 dollars a ton FOB Vancouver, whereas they could buy American pears for 40 dollars a ton plus 20 dollars shipping. Hayden indicated that almost immediately the federal government imposed a 20 dollar a ton anti dumping duty. However, it still might have been better to bring in the American pears as they were all graded and sorted prior to their arrival at the cannery unlike the Canadian pears.

Bestovall marketed some products under their own labels but these labels were rarely used in British Columbia. Rather they were generally applied to products sent out of province, to Alberta in particular and occasionally to other provinces. In the 1940's Bestovall introduced a black label with a garden elf trade mark, a label they hoped would stun the market. A trade mark that still has an appeal as it has been changed and revived by Fraser Vale at Sardis B.C. Most of Bestovall's pack was sold prior to canning. As well, the company would store part of the pack free of charge until the next canning season should the purchaser so desire. In British Columbia most product was sold under the wholesaler's labels. Bestovall's only export was

loganberries from Saanich on Vancouver Island, sent by them to England where they were in great demand. Bestovall tried loganberry jam as early as 1934 and by 1936 were canning loganberries. There were difficulties in finding customers, they even installed a juicer and experimented with a loganberry drink but were unable to sell much. By 1943, loganberries had caught on and Bestovall could no longer buy the berries cheaply enough to make much of a profit, though they continued to can them right up until 1962.

**LOGANBERRY JAM RECIPE
1934**

- Loganberries 48 lbs
- Sugar 100 lbs
- Pectin 7 lbs
- Tartaric Acid 4 oz of mixture
- 222¹/₂ degrees F.
- 38 to 40 cans - 4 lbs (each can)

Bestovall maintained a close relationship to the wholesale firm of Kelly Douglas who, in fact, assisted them in obtaining the bank loan for their 1943 plant expansion. The product sold to Kelly Douglas was in turn sold under the Nabob label. Up to another 40 percent of the pack went to Safeway. Bestovall in fact found it almost impossible to get its product into the big chain stores under its own label. They were able only to supply a few smaller grocers in British Columbia. The close relationship continued for many years with Kelly Douglas who

eventually absorbed about 80 per cent of Bestovall's output. In the late 1950's and early 1960's Kelly Douglas however, began to reduce their purchases and began to buy instead cheaper product from Eastern Canada where both grower prices and wages were less. Safeway for instance could bring in canned fruit by the boatload from Taiwan where cheaper wages and costs reduced the price per can considerably. Nor could the company compete with the United States, which had larger plants and more up to date equipment. It has been estimated that B.C. plants were about five years behind technologically as compared to the U.S., B.C. companies often went to Seattle and bought the used equipment discarded by the more up to date American plants. This situation contributed to Bestovall's demise in 1963-4. The company found they could not compete with the cheaper product being brought into the province even though Bestovall believed their quality was much superior. They had even selected growers who would supply them with a superior product for canning but this meant paying top prices. Bestovall also began using the recent technology of freezing but the market situation combined with bank loans coming due and increasing indebtedness for supplies decided the owners that the only solution was to close the plant and liquidate the assets to pay the debts.

After packing nearly two million cases of food products Bestovall ceased operation in 1963 and liquidated its assets in 1964. Much of the machinery was sold to other canners and the property and building were sold to a steel company. It has now been broken up into smaller company spaces from which a variety of retailers and wholesalers operate. Despite the sale of the plant and equipment once the debts were paid Art Hayden was unable to retire and went on to work for Queen Charlotte Fisheries. They had recently taken over a Delta juice plant and upgraded it to can a wide variety of products, he managed this plant for an additional 11 years, packing over another million cans before retiring.

* * * * *

Bob Griffin is the head of the History department at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria.

FOOTNOTES

- * Unless otherwise indicated all information in this article was obtained from Art Hayden in either oral or written form.
- 1 In 1955 the shares of Philip Metcalfe and and Lemond Walkey were transferred to the other shareholders and Charles Hayden became the largest single shareholder. The only other changes occurred in 1958 when George Lewis died and 1959 when one of the non-employee shareholders, Arthur Woodgate died. Despite an agreement to keep the shares within the group of current shareholders, Woodgate left his to a brother in England causing considerable trouble until they were finally recovered. The original investors stayed with the company and it remained in their hands, with even a new share issue going directly to them. The directors, as was typical of such closely held companies, could veto any share transfers.
Bestovall Canning Co. Ltd., 13870, Companies Office Records, Provincial Archives of British Columbia.
- 2. *Ibid.*
- 3. *Canadian Food Packer* (January 1946), p. 41
- 4. *Food In Canada* (July 1943) p. 45

New University of British Columbia Guide Available

The Special Collections and University Archives Division of the University of British Columbia Library has just published an eighty-two page guide to the literary, performing and visual arts holdings. The guide provides a brief collection (**fonds**) level description of the materials which fall into these categories. The Division's holdings include the private papers of Riderick Haig-Brown, Malcolm Lowry, Ethel Wilson, Jane Rule, Emily Carr, Toni Onley, Jack Shadbolt, and Jean Coulthard just to name a few.

The guide is available for \$15 from: Christopher Hives, Special Collections and University Archives Division U.B.C. Library, 1956 Main Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Y3

Please make cheque or money order payable to "U.B.C. Library".

British Columbia House, 1 Regent Street: British Columbia Representation In London

by Garde B. Gardom, Q.C.

In 1872, the year after B.C. entered Confederation, Gilbert Malcolm Sproat became Emigration Agent for British Columbia. He later assumed the title of Agent General, and the Province has been represented in London for the United Kingdom and Europe ever since.

The first B.C. office opened at 4 Lime Street where it remained until 1898. Mr. Sproat and his successors, Thomas Stahlschmidt and Henry Beeton, were "honorary" officials, as opposed to being appointed by statute as subsequently has been the case.

For salaries/expenses \$9,000 was allocated in 1894, with Forbes Vernon becoming Agent General in 1895 until 1898 when he was dismissed following a change in Government. William Walter was the next Agent General, at 15 Sergeant's Inn, Fleet Street, until September 1901.

John Turner, who moved the office to Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, then took over until he retired on Government pension fourteen years later in 1915.

Under the aegis of Sir Richard McBride, then Premier of the Province, Mr. Turner acquired the leasehold of the ground (Crown property) at numbers 1 and 3 Regent Street in 1913, and British Columbia House went into construction. The site was formerly that of the Continental Hotel - of questionable repute closed down in 1906, later to reopen as the Hotel Chatham - finally demolished for this construction.

The development of the whole of Regent Street, however, was undertaken about one hundred years earlier by the renowned architect John Nash, who made it the then premier office and shopping



area in all of London. These early improvements were implemented between 1813 and 1816 under Act of Parliament for about one and a half million pounds (an enormous sum in that era).

The design of the British Columbia House office building by Mr. Alfred Burr F.R.I.B.A. a century later complemented its neighbours. The building's solid exterior is pleasing, with an imposing front entrance above which is the former B.C. coat-of-arms in a curved pediment beneath three sculpted figures: "Progress, Justice and Industry".

The corner stone was laid by H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught in July 1914, accompanied by a number of dignitaries, the Band of H.M. Grenadier Guards, and a list of members of the Government of British Columbia, the Programme of the Proceedings of the day, with a

number of gold, silver and copper coins were stationed in a bronze box in the Foundation.

The building was built for \$212,801 which included architect's fees and original furnishings. The up-front purchase price for the 99-year lease (which expires in the year 2013) of the crown land was \$145,624. In addition B.C. pays a yearly ground rent of about \$5,000 gross which by today's standards is remarkably nominal and without an escalation clause!

Earlier B.C. House tenants found that "a charge will be made for each coal fire per day", also in addition to rents, "tenants had to pay £4 per annum for each radiator". Today B.C. still leases out the majority of the building but now enjoys gross rentals of nearly \$800,000. A remarkably good deal to say the least!

Initially it appeared that

acquisition of the land and the construction of this six storey building, with its Portland stone facings, aroused adverse comment in B.C. The Victoria Colonist in 1916 wrote critically of our "London Palace". Today however, the vision and efforts of Sir Richard McBride and Mr. Turner thankfully are justly heralded.

Sir Richard McBride also assumed first posting at British Columbia House as Agent General in January 1916.

Since 1872 there have been twenty-two representatives, including those mentioned and: F.C. Wade - August 1918 to November 1924; F.A. Pauline - January 1925 to December 1930; F.P. Burden - January 1931 to January 1934; W.A. McAdam, C.M.G. - February 1934 to September 1958 (for several of those years only in an "acting" capacity); B.M. Hoffmeister - October 1958 to September 1961; J.V. Fisher, Ph. D. - October 1961 to September 1964; Rear Admiral M.G. Stirling, C.D. - October 1968 to July 1975; R.M. Strachan - October 1975 to August 1977; L.J. Wallace, O.C. - August 1977 to April 1980; W.R. Smart (Acting) - April to December 1980; A.H. Hart, Q.C. - January 1981 to June 1987; Garde B. Gardom, Q.C., since June 1987.

No. 1 Regent Street, on the corner of Charles II Street, is centrally located - just two blocks from Trafalgar Square and two blocks from Piccadilly Circus. Down towards The Mall, past the Guards Memorial to the Crimea and Florence Nightingale statue, is Waterloo Place with the Duke of York atop his 123 ft. column. Then four blocks up The Mall is Buckingham Palace.

B.C. House which clearly enhances the prestige of Lower Regent Street, also well personifies the excellent image of British Columbia in the United Kingdom, and has experienced much of historic interest.

Following World War I Armistice, 4,217 soldiers slept here in tempo-

rory dormitory accommodation.

Canada negotiated to acquire the British Columbia House building for the Federal Government. Sagely these negotiations halted because the B.C. Government was "unwilling to lose the identity of B.C. House". So in 1934 Canada House opened in Trafalgar Square and no longer did Canada rent space from B.C. for its operation in London.

At that time the remarkable Mr. W.A. McAdam took charge at 1 Regent Street. To this day, people still speak of his outstanding representation. He was "at the helm" when World War II broke out and in November 1939 established a canteen, run by women volunteers and a "depot" for cigarettes and food parcels from home for B.C. armed forces. Mail was re-directed for service personnel, and responses made to enquiries from anxious relatives at home. In 1942 the reading room on the first floor of B.C. House became an extremely popular lounge for officers where food was served (not drink). Many have said that B.C. House became the HEART of the war-time effort of the Canadian community in London.

In the same year, the BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWSLETTER was first produced to be sent to Canadian prisoners of war. The Newsletter is still going strong, and is a valuable source of information, and business link, between B.C. and Europe.

After World War II, in 1947, the activities of B.C. House expanded to spearhead trade and commercial interests. Over many years as Industrial and Trade Counsellor Mr. Harry F.E. Smith led that aspect. A few of the more spectacular developments then initiated, developed, or finalized were: Annacis Island Industrial Estate, Grosvenor-Laing Limited situating in B.C. with its first big contract being the B.C. Electric/Hydro building in Vancouver, Northland Navigation, the Peace River Dam, Vancouver Wharves Ltd., and so on. Many substantial projects have stemmed from B.C. House, London,

including the concept of TRANSPO '86, subsequently becoming EXPO 86, the benefits of which to B.C.'s economy and tourism are still being enjoyed.

On the economic side for inward investment, apart from Tourism dollars, and apart also from stocks and bonds and real estate, B.C. House generated into B.C. for 1987 - \$40 million, for 1988 - \$100 million and for 1989 - \$125 million, with an increase projected for 1990. All good business for B.C.

From time to time the appearance of the interior of the B.C. Government offices has been altered. Unfortunately, not all the changes made have been lasting improvements. During early renovations the Exhibition Hall and its fine exhibits and handsome chandeliers, was done away with, as was the marble staircase and the marble columns and flooring on the main floor. The designed plaster work on several ceilings became hidden or spoiled, some elegant mahogany paned windows were eliminated. As well a number of B.C. artifacts were disposed of, plus the library! All treasures now unavailable to be replaced. May those who directed such well intentioned **inappropriateness** in the interest of **modernization** be granted forgiveness!

Recent renovations have permitted restoration of some of the grandeur and marble of the earlier entrances. Also courtesy of a most generous and kind donation by Seaboard International Limited the "B.C. Boardroom" has been established together with its handsome handmade B.C. wood furnishings and boardroom table.

Apart from a one-time representation by Tasmania, the office of Agent General is unique to Canada and to Australia - by virtue of the sizes of our Provinces and their States.

Today there are eleven Commonwealth Agents General based in London: six from Canada representing British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario,

Quebec and Nova Scotia, plus five Australian States.

The historic responsibilities of a B.C. Agent General were immigration, capital and business inflow, plus consular activities (including assisting B.C. business interests and travellers to this part of the world and providing them with up-to-date accounts of B.C. current events). Throughout it has been, and continues to be a Port of Call for British Columbians in this part of the world.

All of these duties have expanded over the years to include assisting B.C. exporters and U.K. - now European - importers, B.C. tourism,

plus fulfilling landlord duties, and today all of those functions continue but more actively than ever before.

In addition, intensive attention is being given and proactive initiatives are taken to locate and attract economic interests from this part of the world to **position** in B.C. so as to enjoy and complement both that which British Columbia has to offer as well as the remarkable opportunities that present themselves within our "Destination Province" with its access to the enormous markets of the United States and of the Pacific Rim.

No. 1 Regent Street continues to acquit itself admirably in the

interest of our province and for all British Columbians. Its unwritten creed is "service". The B.C. flag is still flying here and long may it continue.

The writer practiced law in Vancouver, became an M.L.A. and later Attorney-General under Bill Bennett, and is now the principal resident at B.C. House in London. He thanks Miss Audrey Mortlock and Mrs. Geraldine Chalk for their research and assistance in preparing this history.

The photo of B.C. House was taken in October 1990 especially for this magazine.

A Pioneer's Medicine Chest

by Shirley Cuthbertson

In 1906, Thomas Lindsay Thacker, who had settled in Hope, British Columbia, was visited by his fiancée Beatrice Sprague (from Edinburgh), and his sister, Gladys Thacker. They stayed long enough for Beatrice to appreciate not only the natural surroundings but also the isolation of Hope at that time, because when she married Mr. Thacker and settled there in 1908, she brought a fully stocked medicine chest. She was to rely on her own medicine and skills for the next ten years, until there was a doctor in the community, and she continued to use this resource for family ailments for many years. Her son, Lindsay Thacker said, "The whole family depended on the kit."¹

The chest is now at the Royal B.C. Museum - it is representative of an important aspect of the history of this province, since isolated families throughout our history have had to rely on the skills and knowledge of someone in the neighbourhood. I was particularly interested, because

my own great-grandmother was supposed to have had a medicine chest. I had never really considered what it might be like. In fact, I made the assumption that most people make: that the home medical resources of our great-grandmothers were just kitchen and garden. For some, this was far from the truth.

"Domestic" medicine chests were made and filled to individual requirements with drugs of the orthodox medicine of the period. In Canada, purchase of medicines "over the counter" was not restricted until 1908. Chests contained both drugs and implements for mixing and measuring doses, since dosage was neither standardized nor encapsulated. Ingredients were chemicals commercially processed and refined from natural sources (plant, animal and mineral), but they were not measured and mixed. Drugs came in individual bottles and the owner was expected to be his or her own pharmacist, but these were not "herbal" recipes.

Until the last part of the 19th and into the 20th century, many diseases and injuries could not be cured - drugs were used to treat symptoms, but those who understood their usage did not expect a cure. Standard drugs in medicine chests were used to treat symptoms of common ailments, minor injuries, and pain. There was sometimes more than one drug for treating the same symptom, these were simply alternatives.

Commercially produced physicians' chests had been used by naval and military surgeons, and "domestic" chests were produced for aristocratic households from the 17th century. Domestic medicine chests were common in both Europe and America by the last half of the 19th century. They became a popular item for educated emigrants to take with them to the colonies. By the mid-nineteenth century, travellers and settlers coming to British Columbia were quite likely to be well-informed about what they should bring, including medical supplies.

The collection of the Royal B.C. Museum includes two small leather chests (one of which belonged to a whaling captain who sailed out of Victoria in the 1880's), and another chest similar in size to the Thacker chest. There are also domestic medicine chests in the collections of medical groups in Vancouver and Victoria, as well as a detachment chest brought out by the Royal Engineers (New Westminster Museum) and Dr. Helmcken's chest (Helmcken House, Victoria). There is evidence that at least one engineer used what appears to be a company recipe some years after he took up land in the Fraser Valley. Alben Hawkins' ledger/diary gives the ingredients for a "Diarrhea Tincture".²

Domestic medicine chests were never standardized, they were fitted out according to requirements of the individual buyer, although some medical catalogues listed different sets of contents for different circumstances - sea captains, vicars or emigrants. Usually home medicine chests no longer have their contents, and some have had bottle labels removed. So far, very few of the medicine chests I have seen have the contents intact.

Drugs prescribed by professional doctors are usually described as "orthodox" medicines. These have changed rapidly because of new research and medical fashion throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, but some of the components isolated in modern drugs go back centuries. The chests that have survived indicate a wider use of orthodox medicines than one might assume from the stories people tell of grandmother's favorite "cures". Perhaps these cures are the more exotic, therefore the more memorable, medicines inflicted on young families. Evidently some homes had resources other than kitchen remedies, although both may well have been used by the same people.

Mis-used, some of the drugs in domestic medicine chests could be dangerous, if not lethal. The only drug common to nearly every chest I have looked at is opium, or some derivative of opium. Medicine chests were for use by people who must have

been literate in the more common pharmacology of the period.

Some of the drugs in the Thacker medicine chest include laudanum, quinine (used to reduce a fever), ipecacuanha wine (an expectorant, or in larger doses, an emetic), two kinds of rhubarb which were not much used (a purgative), aspirin ("for neuralgia, lumbago and painful rheumatism"), and large bottles of Castor oil and Dr. Gregory's Powder (both laxatives). The choice of these drugs probably reflects family tradition or preference - some are already a little old-fashioned for 1908, others were probably added later.

Lindsay Thacker and older members of my family remember both kitchen remedies like mustard plasters and doses of the orthodox medicines in the chests (like ipecac or blue mass). The medicine chest was probably kept in the kitchen, since bathrooms were not yet a place to keep medicines. Medicine chests were forerunners of both medicine cabinets and first aid kits.

Medical catalogues in the latter part of the 19th century not only had lists of contents for ships, families or medical missionaries, they also mention directions for using them, which described symptoms

and prescribed doses for both adults and children . . . and sometimes horses. It is likely that the instruction booklets were similar to the home reference books of the day, although few of the original booklets survive with the chests. Medical reference books and even cook books gave recipes for cooking for invalids and for preparing doses from drug ingredients. It was only in the twentieth century that doctors' prescription medicine and home medicines became separated. In England, a cheap case with a box made of pine or perhaps leather, could be purchased for a shilling, while large mahogany cases with silver-capped bottles could only have been for the rich.

The chest that belongs to Mrs. Thacker tells us that she made careful use of these orthodox drugs - successfully raising a healthy family. Her care of the drugs is evident in her replacement of the parchment covers that sealed them, and in the precise placement of items in their niches. The key is still with the chest, and it has its original leather case, with a carrying strap. The case and the interior are well worn, but aside from a little corrosion of the metal items, it is in very good



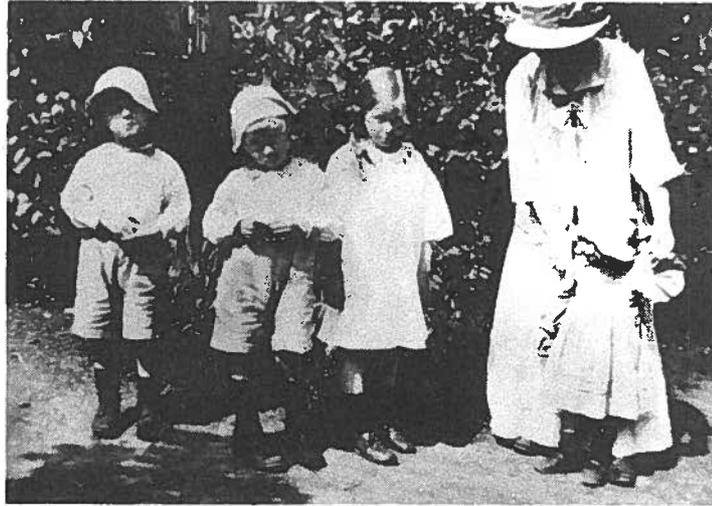
A domestic medicine chest that belonged to the Thacker family of Hope, B.C. The chest is mahogany, lined with red velvet, 9" high, 12" wide, and 5 1/4" deep. It contains a measuring glass and scales, and a small glass mortar and pestle as well as drugs.

condition and has nearly every standard item. All the bottles have glass stoppers, and several are still covered with parchment, tied round the neck of the bottle with coloured string. The brass scales and weights are complete, and there is a small glass mortar and pestle. It is exceptionally well looked after, ingredients are not muddled, and everything is in place.

This particular medicine chest was made in England - it has "Chubb's Improved Patent, 27618, St. Paul's Churchyard" on the lock. All but one bottle in the Thacker chest have the label of Duncan, Flockhart & Co., Edinburgh. The contents reflect orthodox practice of the period during which it was used, - it does not contain any of the notorious patents of the day. Some bottles contain drugs in their more recent forms: for example, the bottle labelled "Quinine Bisulphate", which has the label from a London company with outlets including Montreal, has capsules, rather than powders or pills. This indicates a change of contents - perhaps by Mrs. Thacker.

It is very likely that the owners of medicine chests refilled bottles from time to time. Druggists might change the label, but if supplies were obtained in their own containers, owners could easily refill bottles for convenience.

The Thacker medicine chest may have been purchased by Beatrice Sprague's family earlier than 1908. One feature of this particular medicine chest is the inclusion of two small tinned boxes. Dr. Anne Mortimer Young mentions that chests were "... often used by two or even more generations of the same family ..."; and that "... early chests commonly had tin boxes for powders ..."³ This might mean that the chest was made before 1850. However, the box has later military style handles - inset, so that they are flush with the surface when they are folded down. The fact that bottles containing opium are labelled "poison" also indicates the latter part of the 19th century, since such labels were required in Britain after 1868. It is possible that this chest was used by



Mrs. Thomas Lindsay Thacker and Family

Beatrice's parents, but probably not by her grandparents. It was perhaps refilled and given to her to take to Hope, British Columbia in 1908.

Most young British Columbians now take medical services for granted, even though some areas are still isolated, and few can imagine what it must have been like not having a doctor at all. Lindsay Thacker remembers being given medicine from the kit whenever he was sick: "ipe-cac, in water, for fevers; rhubarb, soda, powders",⁴ and one that isn't in the kit, but which grows in the area: Cascara sagrada. Mrs. Thacker was very knowledgeable about natural history, and the diary she kept in 1906 shows an inquiring and literate individual.⁵ A neighbour describes the family: "They could talk on any subject, and their house was a treasure trove of intriguing articles."⁶ It is likely that the owner of a medicine chest would have been able to read directions about medicines which often had Latin names, and that implies more than a primary education. Mrs. Thacker used Latin names for plants in her diary, and later collected and wrote about insects for the University of British Columbia. She must have had the education or background to measure doses accurately, including dividing a dose for a younger child. It would be essential for the owner to be able to recognize common symptoms and diagnose ailments, which also implies some medical knowledge and/or em-

pirical experience.

It would probably be reasonable to say that, at least in rural areas, many women and sometimes men were expected to have a level of medical skill somewhere between first aid and St. John's Ambulance training today, though with different resources. Many pioneer anecdotes support this theory, but it is interesting to have evidence of a degree of medical competency, like this medicine chest. The prepared doses and explicit instructions we receive now do not require us to undertake the responsibility Mrs. Thacker had when she administered medicines to her family.

If anyone has further information: I would appreciate the opportunity to photograph and document any similar medicine chests within reach of Victoria, and would also be interested in hearing recipes or anecdotes from anyone who was given medicine from a domestic medicine chest. (See Cuthbertson's address on inside back cover).

The writer is on staff at the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria. She also serves as Recording Secretary of the B.C. Historical Federation.

FOOTNOTES

1. Personal conversation with Mr. Lindsay Thacker, 1988
2. Hawkins, Alben *Ledger/Diary 1874-1880* Add. Mss. Provincial Archives of B.C.
3. Young, Dr. Anne Mortimer "Domestic Medicine Chests: Part 1, Orthodox or Allopathic" *Antique Collector*: Dec. 1980.
4. Personal conversation, 1988
5. Quoted in *Forging a New Hope* Hope and District Historical Society, 1984, pp. 292 - 295.
6. *Ibid.* p. 308

The Fellowship of Arts 1914 - 1968

by Kevin Barrington - Foote

The Fellowship of Arts was the brainchild of Freeman Bunting, a citizen of New Westminster. On the evening of January 6, 1914, Mr. Bunting called together a group of twelve men and women to consider "the formation of a brotherhood of those to whom the intellectual side of life is of interest and necessary." At that initial meeting specific proposals concerning aims, membership, and structure were set before the group. The society was to be open to both sexes who would number thirty in total, twenty "companions" and ten "initiates." In order to join the group an individual's name would have to be put forward by a member for consideration by all the members. If accepted -- and apparently there was usually no dispute -- the new recruit would serve a probationary period as an initiate before becoming a full-fledged voting companion. The group would be led by a "Master or Dominus at the head, and a Scriber (Registrar & Secy-Treasurer)." The primary objectives would be

to meet together at regular intervals and partake of the joy of companionship, and the benefit of association of ideas in literature, the arts and crafts. To encourage and promote the arts and crafts in any way that may be advisable and necessary. To assist in any manner that may be deemed well any member or friend of the brotherhood, who may be in need, not necessarily of money, but perhaps of that aid which a little influence can give. From time to time to entertain distinguished workers in the field of art who may be visiting the locality.

Mr. Bunting even went so far as to propose that the Fellowship "might one day form the foundation of an

academy and become an arbiter in matters of art." The last of these objectives was perhaps somewhat pretentious or ambitious but was likely born out of sincere enthusiasm. Although the Fellowship never did become an arbiter it certainly did achieve its other objectives.

Bunting's proposed fraternity received unanimous support. One of the items not agreed upon at that initial meeting was a name for the society. It was decided that until such a time as a satisfactory name was found, they would refer to their group as "The Circle." Further, it was agreed that the society should consist of the following departments: literature and languages, music, travel, arts and crafts, science, and drama.

The Circle met again on January 21 and January 28. At the former meeting the group elected an executive, decided to meet once a week, and noted basic expenses. At

the meeting on the 28th a constitution committee was established.

Having dispensed with the initial organizational necessities The Circle was ready to begin in earnest. Their first real meeting was held on February 4, 1914 when a paper was read by one Mr. Savage about his travels in the Peace River Country.

The next two meetings of importance for our purposes were February 26 when the group agreed upon a constitution and by-laws, and March 5 when the group adopted the name of "The Fellowship of Arts."

After only six months the FOA had established the basic profile and procedures most of which were to characterize the organization for its lifetime. The one item missing in that first year was an insignia which did not appear until January 1916. A printed program from the following season, 1916/17, shows that the FOA had adopted as its

Fellowship of Arts

❖

EXECUTIVE

President Judge Howay
 Vice-President Dr. B. A. Hopkins
 Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. C. D. Peele
 31 Albert Crescent

❖

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Literature and Language Mr. Dunlop
 Music and Drama Mrs. Clark
 Science Mr. Peck
 Art Mrs. Anstey
 Travel Miss Dauphinee

The Columbian Co. Ltd.



Fellowship of Arts.....

Season 1932-33

Example #1

slogan a line of Ben Jonson, "Art hath an enemy called ignorance." Sometime between 1917 and 1922 the slogan and the insignia were combined as seen in Example 1. Apart from the insignia, however, the basic policies and procedures were in place. Each spring the following year's program was developed and individuals committed themselves to researching a topic and making a presentation. The meetings were held at members' homes alternately and, as was clearly printed on the programs, non-presenters were expected to assist in any way as required. The meetings began in the early evening and included the main presentation, refreshments,

death in that year, various members held terms as president, the last being Mr. W.R.T. Brooks, a high school English teacher.

In the earliest days of the FOA topics were apparently suggested ad hoc by individuals and covered a host of subjects including Travels in the Peace River Country, Travels in Egypt, The Parthenon, Love Letters of Famous Men, Improvements at the Mouth of the Fraser River, Arthur S. Sullivan, The Territory of Hawaii, Appreciation of Music, Browning, Architecture, the Cost of Living, and so on. At some point the group began choosing a theme, usually a place or period, for the year and decided upon various topics relevant to the theme. Most

returned the favour in June of the following year. In another instance, the Vancouver Dickens Fellowship wrote the FOA in May 1922 soliciting sales of its post cards. Occasionally the FOA was able to draw upon the resources of an acknowledged artist or expert in the arts. On March 16, 1921, a Professor Ashton of the University of British Columbia came to talk to the group on Cyrano de Bergerac. In November 1922 the FOA hosted Bliss Carman, Poet Laureate of Canada, and in 1923, Charles G.D. Roberts, another renowned Canadian poet.

Most meetings met the intended goal of broadening, in a quite rigorous fashion, the members artistically and intellectually; more will be said of this shortly. But not every meeting was spent in such earnest pursuit. On November 14, 1914, it is recorded that "Miss Collins displayed here (sic) embroidery works which were very highly praised. The evening was spent musically and socially." Although more lighthearted perhaps than most of the meetings, that same evening does illustrate a characteristic of the group, namely the encouragement of its members to make original contributions. On another occasion, February 24, 1915, Mr. Gildersleeve performed a song of which he had written the music and Mr. Bunting had written the words. At the same meeting, Miss Dauphinee "read a very amusing dialogue which she wrote last year on the occasion of a local bridal shower." Scattered throughout the minutes are many acknowledgements of members' songs, poems, and skits. Unfortunately almost nothing of these original contributions survives in the FOA's archives. I did find, however, among the music of Mabel Cave-Browne-Cave, Beatrice's older sister who died in 1958, a song or two which were in all likelihood performed at FOA meetings. The song is a setting of a poem by Charles G.D. Roberts, the poet mentioned above. Except for the fact

"Elizabethan England"

Each evening will be opened with a quotation from Shakespeare appropriate to the occasion.

Oct. 5—Re-Union. Hostess—Mrs. Drew	Feb. 1—"Elizabethan Seamen" Mr. Dalton Hostess—Mrs. Dalton
Oct. 19—"The World as Known in Elizabeth's Reign" Mr. F. J. Rundle Hostess—Mrs. Stevens	Feb. 15—"Marlowe" Mr. Gordon Rundle Hostess—Mrs. Rundle
Nov. 2—"English Homes and Home Life" Mrs. Anstey Hostess—Mrs. Anstey	Mar. 1—"Historic Thames" Mr. Morey Hostess—Mrs. Stevens
Nov. 16—"Madrigals" Mrs. Clark Hostess—Mrs. Peck	Mar. 15—"A View of the Sciences" Mr. Peck Hostess—Mrs. Peck
Nov. 30—Spenser: "Faerie Queen" Mrs. Stevens Host—Judge Howay	Mar. 29—"The Story of the English Bible" Mrs. Peele Hostess—Mrs. Matthison
Dec. 14—"The Two Queens" Mr. Dunlop Hostess—Mrs. Peck	April 12—"Ben Jonson" Dr. B. A. Hopkins Hostess—Mrs. Sinclair
1933 Jan. 6—"Twelfth Night" Mrs. Peck Hostess—Mrs. Drew	April 29—Music Miss Cave-Browne-Cave Hostesses—Misses Cave-Brown-Cave
Jan. 18—"England's Foreign Relations" Judge Howay Hostess—Mrs. Hopkins	

Example #2

and, frequently, musical entertainment.

As the years passed there were, to be sure, changes but only some of the major ones need concern us here.

In 1916 the meetings were changed to fortnightly and in 1942 to monthly. Moreover, although summer activities were originally included in the annual plans, these were eventually abandoned. In 1918, Judge F.W. Howay took over the presidency from Bunting -- who stayed on as a member of the group before moving to England in 1922 -- and held that position until 1943. Following Judge Howay's

attention was devoted to western European culture as evidenced by such titles as Scandinavia, Elizabethan England (Example 2), Modern Germany, In Search of Ireland. But other studies of, for example, China, The Old South, Australia and others are indicative of the FOA's interest in expanding its members' horizons.

Although the FOA relied for the most part on participation from its members, it did make connections with other cultural organizations. For example, on April 10, 1918 the FOA spent a delightful day with the Vancouver Vagabond Club, and

that the poetry is of higher quality than that written by the group's members, we can safely assume that this song is representative. The musical setting is a fairly simple one but shows due attention to text underlay and some word painting. Of particular interest is the inscription by Roberts at the end of the score which reads

As the words had their inception in Vancouver, it seems appropriate that they should acquire this lovely setting in New Westminster.

Charles G.D. Roberts
Jan. 17, 1927

It would be interesting to know more about Freeman Bunting. The only member of an age to remember him was Miss Beatrice and, although she spoke fondly of him, did not offer any information that would enable us to construct an image of the founding president. The New Westminster City Directory of 1913 lists Mr. Bunting as a court stenographer. Indeed, a letter of his dated December 30, 1914 indicates he held the position of secretary-treasurer of the Royal Commission on Milk Supply in B.C.; a later piece of correspondence from 1922 is written on letterhead from the provincial Supreme Court. It is perhaps in this latter capacity that he met Judge F.W. Howay, of whom more will be said shortly, and brought him into the FOA. Beyond such scant details, however, we can only surmise that Mr. Bunting possessed an abiding love of the arts on the basis of his initiative in founding the FOA and on the records of his contributions such as the song text previously mentioned.

Fortunately we have a good deal more knowledge about Bunting's successor as president, Judge Howay. Surviving members remember him well. There is little doubt that for three decades, Judge Howay was the driving force behind the FOA's success. From all reports it seems that the Judge was a man of extraordinary energy, personality, and curiosity, who insisted upon punctuality and quality. Meetings

started promptly at 8:00 p.m. and members were required to wear formal attire in keeping with the Edwardian atmosphere of the evening. Moreover, as W.R.T. Brooks recalls, presenters were expected to research their topics well and did not even entertain the thought of giving a poor presentation. This is perfectly in keeping with what we know of Judge Howay's activities in other quarters. As an amateur historian Judge Howay produced an enviable quantity of creditable work including an early history of the Fraser River mines and an account of the work of the Royal Engineers in B.C. from 1858 to 1863. He also coedited items for the Washington Historical Quarterly in 1917. Several of the FOA papers survive in the archives; the length and overall good quality of most of them is ample testimony to Mr. Brooks' recollections and the assumptions about Howay's expectations.

It is not clear whether the initial meeting date of January 6 was a conscious or fortuitous one on the part of Mr. Bunting. It is, of course, Epiphany and that date soon became the highlight of the FOA's annual activities. Each January 6 or thereabouts, starting in 1915, the group held Twelfth Night Revels, an evening of ceremony, singing, dancing, acting, and general festivities. It is this aspect of the Fellowship that did receive the most attention in local newspapers.

In that first year, 1915, the group must have underestimated their capacity for enjoyment. When it came time to plan in September of the same year for January of the next year (1916) it was resolved to start Twelfth Night at 7:30 p.m. in future in order to allow "plenty of time for business and pleasure." Evidently, all must have gone exceedingly well for a further alteration was found necessary in

1917. In that year "the Festa was changed to January 5th owing to the 6th being a Saturday night which would necessitate early closing (Sunday, The Lord's Day)."

Each year the Twelfth Night revels took on more importance; the preparations and celebrations



Ye Fellowship Of Arts—At ye sign of ye good St. Andrew, on ye street yelept Carnarvon, on ye twelfth night after Christmas, doth honour to Dan Chaucer and his Pilgrims, who wend them Canterburyward to ye shrine of St. Thomas ye Martyr.

If ye be a debout and pious person, or if ye be a merrie, and would journey with them, be at the aforesaid place on the evening of sixth January, memxxx, at eight of ye clock and ye shall be rarely welcomed.

Vouchsafe a response to Mrs. C. D. Peele, 31 Albert Crescent, New Westminster, B.C.

Example #3

became more elaborate. Well in advance of the night the invitation (see Example 3) was printed and distributed to the members and, presumably, other selected individuals. During the months preceding the event, participants would have designed and made their often elaborate costumes. Although in later years some costumes were rented, the majority of members still took considerable pride and delight in making their own. For many years the gatherings were held at the larger homes of the FOA's wealthier members, such as one Dr. Clarke whose house seemed to be a favorite. (During the '50s and '60s local halls were rented since Dr. Clarke's house and others had since been torn down.) In keeping with the general atmosphere of a medieval pageant, the main part of the house was decorated appropriately including



1923 The Voyageurs & Indians

pewter and holly on the dining table.

The program from 1920 illustrates not only the degree to which the celebrations had developed within four years, but also the basic format that was followed annually thereafter. The evening's activities were contingent upon the choosing of a Queen of the Revels. As explained in the Proclamation -- Proclamation was not apparently read out in 1920 but was in subsequent years -- this was accomplished by the implanting of a bean in a cake which was cut up and distributed to everyone at the beginning of the evening. The lady receiving the bean was crowned or, in the event that a gentleman received the bean, he would choose who was to be Queen. According to the proclamation this practice apparently honours a custom once followed at the Court of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Once crowned, the Queen commanded the festivities to begin. The entertainment usually consisted of a mixture of music, dancing, and acting. Following the entertainment were dinner, refreshments, more music and conversation. The evening concluded with a Sir Roger de Coverley dance, a once traditional finishing dance at English balls, and

the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

There is one item missing from the 1920 program, an item which figured prominently in the Revels in later years. Sometime probably during the '20s, someone made a boar's head out of papier-mache. Once the revellers had donned their costumes upstairs in Dr. Clarke's house or in some anteroom, they would process behind the boar's head on a platter of leaves into the main room singing "Deck the Halls." The boar's head still survives at Irving House along with several photographs of the revellers in their costumes.

For over half a century the Fellowship of Arts provided, just as Freeman Bunting intended it should, a congenial atmosphere wherein the members could find cultural and intellectual stimulation. In the '50s and '60s interest in the FOA -- and, it would appear, cultural clubs in general -- waned. Many of the staunch old members passed on and, at the same time, it became increasingly difficult to recruit new members. Perhaps in the post-war economic boom attentions and energies were directed elsewhere. Certainly the advent of television in the '50s must have contributed to the decline. Whatever the reasons the demise of the FOA and groups like it signalled

a regrettable reduction in such intellectual and cultural activities.

In the winter of 1968 the members of the FOA gathered together for the last time in order to say good-bye to each other and to, what was for many of them at least, a way of life.

NOTE: The basis for this article was an interview with Beatrice Cave - Broune - Cave in 1986. Miss Beatrice passed away in February 1987 at age 103.

Judge Howay was one of the founders of the British Columbia Historical Federation.

The writer graduated from U.B.C. with a Master of Music in 1973. He teaches music history and theory at Douglas College in New Westminster.

B.C. Historical Federation Conference 1991

Cowichan Historical Society will host the 1991 annual conference from Thursday, May 9 to Sunday, May 12, with headquarters at the Silver Bridge Inn. The program will include speakers, slide presentations, tours and a lunch at Native Heritage Centre. We will learn about early settlement, district pioneers, the Prince of Wales Farm School, and the evolving Ecomuseum, then have our Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet.

Members of branch societies will be able to obtain registration forms from their local secretary after March 1st. Readers who are not members are invited to attend and should write for details to:

**Convention Committee
Cowichan Historical Society
P.O. Box 1014
Duncan, B.C. V9L 3Y2**

The Great Sheep Creek Volcano Hunt

by Ted Burns

It happened sometime in late October or early November in the year nineteen forty-five. The first report came from Mr. Ted Baker of Sheep Creek, a small ranching community in the East Kootenay valley some thirty miles northeast of Kimberley. Mr. Baker heard rumblings and saw flashes in the night sky east of Sheep Creek and reported that his cattle refused to drink from Lussier River, known locally as Sheep Creek, for seven days in late October due to the presence of turbid water which smelled strongly of sulphur. Further evidence that a major disturbance similar to volcanic activity had occurred in the area was presented by Mr. James White, a Fort Steele trapper, and his partner, Mrs. J. Smith when they encountered a heavy flow of mud in Coyote Creek, a major Sheep Creek tributary while packing equipment into their winter quarters on Coyote Creek. The discharge of mud was so great that one of Mr. Smith's horses became mired and required some effort to release.

This report was received in Cranbrook on November fifteenth. Although geological authorities at the University of British Columbia and Victoria doubted the presence of active volcanic activity in the Southern Rockies, a great deal of interest was generated by the reports and wire services relayed the story to many newspapers in Canada and the United States. A major North American weekly magazine (Newsweek) also expressed interest in the story and two Kimberley residents familiar with the area were commissioned to try and determine exactly what happened.

On November seventeenth, Charles Wormington, miner and

photographer, and W.J. (Red) McKim, miner and widely travelled prospector, left Kimberley for the Sheep Creek valley. The following account of their trip was extracted from Mr. Wormington's field notes.



Red McKim and Charles Wormington on the trail.
Charles Wormington Photo

November 17

Left Kimberley by car for lumber camp near Canal Flats where trail goes into Sheep Creek. Enough snow to make the trail hard to see. Much deer, elk, and moose sign.

Two miles along trail we came to what is known as the Indian grave. The old Indian custom is to put an evergreen branch on the cairn as you pass to insure a safe return. One of the many legends about this cairn is that the son of a Kootenay Indian Chief was slain here by the son of a Stony Indian Chief.

Along the trail are natural salt licks utilized by wildlife.

Arrived at hot springs beside

Sheep Creek at three in the afternoon. These are hot sulphur springs not commercially developed.

Checked our equipment here: 8 dry soup mixes, 4 lbs. hard tack, 3 lbs. bacon, 1 lb. each of butter, sugar, and coffee, 2 lbs. prunes, 1 lb. pancake flour, 24 chocolate bars, 2 sleeping robes, ice picks, axe, 2 pairs of snowshoes, fluorescent light, cooking utensils, and, finally, two cameras and associated equipment. The two packs weighed around 45 lbs. each. Spent the night here and used the hot springs to ease the aches of the first day's travel.

It was here that we first found traces of mud in Sheep Creek. Red checked some adjacent rocks with the black light and discovered a coating of lime that fluoresced. Travelled six miles today.

November 18

Breakfast consisted of hot cakes, bacon, and prunes. As we left the cabin a deer started up the mountain after drinking at the springs. A fine snow was falling and old snow was knee deep on the trail. Camping at Good Luck Camp on Sheep Creek where we found a water mark two feet above the present level of the creek. Weather began clearing at dusk. Made six more miles today.

November 19

On breaking camp we found ice underneath the canvas where we had slept. A four point buck was standing on the trail and was reluctant to move. Arrived at Coyote Creek where the mud

had entered Sheep Creek. From this point the trail petered out and going was rough with many windfalls. Forded the creek here.

Stopped for lunch which consisted of soup, cheese, and hard tack. Made slow progress during the afternoon. No well-defined trail or good blaze marks. Camped under big fir. weather clear and bright, snow eight to twenty-four inches in depth. Only covered four miles today.

November 20

Up at six after a good sleep. Weather fine after cold night. Breakfast bacon, prunes and hard tack. Had to wait for good light to see blazes before leaving.

A five point bull elk was on the trail and not anxious to move. Little evidence of sediment in the creek. Trail became well blazed in timber eight to twenty-five inches in diameter.

Arrived at small burn where trail became indistinct. Snow very dry. Came to the cabin of James White of Fort Steele, oldest trapper in the district. Mrs. J. Smith, one of the several women trappers in the East and West Kootenay, assists him. Spent the night here after a supper of deer liver, bacon, macaroni and cheese, hard tack and coffee. Highlight of the day was Red running out of snuff after putting a thumb tack in the bottom of the box to keep himself from taking too much. Made five miles today.

November 21

Red made breakfast of hot cakes mixed with macaroni and cheese, prunes and coffee. Started out at eight on well defined trail. Saw much evidence of mud and debris on creek bank. Along the trail we came across martin sets. About six miles up, we came to a slide about six hundred feet wide. No sediment and debris on Creek



From Left: Red McKim, B. Rauch, W.C. Hughs and C.F. Kearns examining map at Canal Flats lumber camp. Charles Wormington Photo

above slide. Many big, mud coated boulders in the slide. Followed slide up a ravine to where it narrowed. Took sediment samples for future analysis. It appears that source of slide is at least another several miles above this point. Had supper of cold hot cakes and hard tack and returned to the cabin after travelling fourteen miles today.

November 22

Turned back today since trip was limited to eight days. Weather fine, temperature around freezing. Made good time returning over our well broken trail. Arrived at Good Luck Camp at three in the afternoon and decided to go on to the hot springs. Deer, cougar, and coyote had crossed our trail.

Arrived at the springs at six p.m. after travelling in the dark for at least one hour. Supper soup, beans and hard tack. Another bath in the sulphur springs relieved our weary limbs.

November 23

Breakfast prunes, hot cakes, and coffee. After breakfast met Arthur Nicol, guide and hunter on his way out from White Swan

Lake after photographing bighorn sheep. Mr. Nicol, who has climbed in this part of the Rockies for thirty-five years, agreed that a big slide could obstruct headwater creeks until they overflowed with tremendous discharge carrying large amounts of mud and debris down stream.

Started out for lumber camp and home. Met Inspector C.F. Kearns of the Provincial Game Department's Nelson office, Game Warden Ben Rauch of Cranbrook and H.C. Hughes, mine inspector from Nelson. The party was conducting an official investigation. We informed them of trail conditions and Red told them they needn't worry about losing the trail as long as it didn't snow since my tobacco juice stains were plainly visible at even intervals from the camp to the slide.

November 24

Saw Mr. Kearns, Mr. Rauch and the mine inspector on their way and returned home by car, arriving at mid day. Arranged to compare notes following their return. Both Red and I are ready to tackle the next erupting volcano in East Kootenay environs.

A few days after returning to Kimberley, Charles Wormington and Red McKim compared notes with Mine Inspector Hughes. Mr. Hughes and the Game Department team had climbed several miles up the slide to its source: a high rock face where huge rocks had given way precipitating more trouble. The rock obstructed a small stream creating a pond which eventually spilled, carrying more rock, sediment, and debris down the ravine to Coyote Creek. Coyote Creek was then temporarily blocked to a much greater extent, and when this

stream flushed the obstruction, a great surge of mud and debris roared downstream affecting the lower section of the watershed and nearly engulfing Mr. White and Mrs. Smith.

So there you have it. A slide which carried large amounts of mud, rock, and debris, a reasonably large stream obstructed by the slide, a build up of water behind the obstruction, and the inevitable breakthrough carrying a large volume of water, sediment, and debris downstream through an area of sulphur springs. Along with the

mysterious flashes and rumbling in the East Kootenay sky, all the makings of a first class volcanic eruption-almost.

The writer grew up in Nelson, Ainsworth and Kaslo and once worked as a wrangler on a ranch near Skookumchuk. He now works as a biologist stationed at Lake Cowichan. He has written a children's book about salmon.

The photos were taken by Charles Wormington, who is still the official photographer for the Kimberley Bulletin newspaper.

From the Archives

Pages from the 1883 British Columbia Directory

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An Old-Fashioned Christmas

by J.A. Green

While I don't feel that I've achieved "Old-timer" status yet I'm sure that my memories of Christmas will relate to Christmases long before my time - the family were staunch observers of the traditional ways of doing things.

Preparations for Christmas started in November, on "Stir-up" Sunday. The cakes and puddings would be mixed on the Sunday next to Advent, the Sunday when the Anglican Church collect commences "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord." and each member of the family would stir the mixtures, for luck. The puddings to be eaten the following Christmas had been made the year before, and since then hung in the pantry, like cannon balls in unbleached cotton. No-one could expect a freshly cooked plum pudding to have the proper flavour.

Early in December would come the preparation of candy boxes, and paper chains for decorations. The candy boxes were shaped like flowers, and by twirling crepe paper on knitting needles a petal-like effect could be obtained. Then followed evenings of making divinity fudge, Turkish delight and other goodies to fill the baskets.

In early dawn on Christmas day the children would find, by their bedsides, stockings stuffed with small gifts, candies and Japanese oranges. Many people would attend church during the morning, returning to a light lunch, light to leave room for the festive Christmas dinner. After lunch gifts would be opened and during the afternoon visitors would call.

Christmas dinner was very special. We only ate turkey once a year, at Christmas, so it was an occasion to celebrate. The table cloth and napkins would be white linen, the family silver was polished until it glistened, and the best china and

glasses put out to make a show. The table would be decorated with crepe paper and crackers, and lit by candles.

After drinking a toast the crackers would be pulled, fortunes read and paper hats donned. Then would come soup, followed by turkey with roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts and other vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing and gravy. All lights other than candles would then be put out, and the Christmas pudding brought to the table, the blue flames from lighted brandy curling up to a sprig of holly on top. The pudding would be eaten with brandy sauce, or hard sauce laced with brandy. To finish there would be trifle, mince pies, nuts (in the shells, of course), candy, coffee and liqueurs. A feast to remember!

After dinner all gathered in a large room referred to as the billiards room, though billiards had not been played there for many a year. The room would be decorated with streamers, paper chains and tinsel, all wound across the animal heads which were trophies from African expeditions of earlier times. As a small boy I used to keep looking in the adjoining rooms being sure that the animals' bodies must be there somewhere attached to the heads.

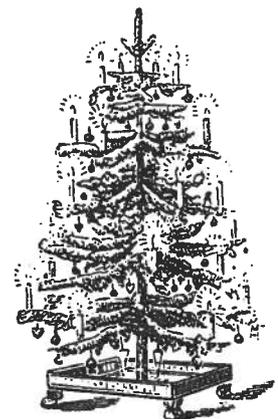
The Christmas tree, a real tree reaching to the ceiling, would be decorated with tinsel and ornaments, some of which, of blown glass, had been set out for many years and were like old friends. Clipped to the tree were candles, possibly three dozen or more. These would be lit and for a brief quarter of an hour the tree would be lit up in all its glory. Of course a modern fire marshal would curl up with horror at such a fire hazard, but with so many people near the tree, and damp cloths kept ready, the occasional branch which caught fire would be

quickly snuffed out.

With the punch bowl fully active, games and dancing would commence. The "French Minuet", "Sir Roger de Coverley" and other folk dances were known to all. Everyone, grandmothers to toddlers, joined in singing games such as "Nuts in May", "In and Out the Window", "Musical Chairs" and "Forfeits". After the children had gone to bed there would be dancing - fox trots, waltzes and tangos, to the music of the Victrola, one person standing by to wind it up, turn the records, and change the needles. Sometimes a piano would provide music.

And so another Christmas went by. The older generation has gone its way. Habits and values have changed. My wife, reading this, tells me that I am more than showing my age - it is like a chapter from Charles Dickens, a memory from those far off days before Television when family groups would gather to share good times.

Jack Green grew up in Victoria and now lives in Cowichan Bay. He heads the committee planning the 1991 conference for B.C. Historical Federation members in Duncan, B.C.



Women's Role in Early Farming in British Columbia

by Gwen Szychter

The development of agriculture as an economic sector in British Columbia has been relegated traditionally to at least secondary status, certainly by historians.¹ Perhaps this neglect stems from a perception of the production of food as a primary activity, which can be taken for granted, and consequently is not very exciting on its own merit.

The prevailing myth of British Columbia has been founded not on agricultural settlement, but rather on the gold rush, which has largely excluded the participation of women.

In addition, geographical reality dictates that the widely dispersed arable land constitutes only 5 percent of the province's land area. Therefore, agriculture in British Columbia has been carried on in widely scattered pockets, and has been diversified into a wide variety of farming pursuits from the earliest days. Centre stage in the economy has been assumed by other sectors, namely forestry, mining and fisheries.² Natural resources existed in abundance and fortunes could be made in the exploitation of those resources. In this province, farming did not hold the same promise, at least not without hard work on the part of the settlers themselves in the early years.

This paper will examine the history of Euro-Canadian agriculture in British Columbia,³ by exploring its early development in two of the principal agricultural areas. In spite of limited sources, women and their contributions to agriculture will be introduced to complete the story, wherever possible, with a view to determining how much can be learned about women's role in the early period of farming. There is no doubt that women contributed to settlement and early agriculture, in this

province as in other parts of Canada.⁴ Certainly, women's activities often propped up the agricultural economy in the early years. A prime example is dairying, which, as Cohen has shown for Ontario, was the mainstay of farm survival, and was carried on by women until improved technology and expanded markets made factory production feasible.⁵ This occurred in British Columbia as well,⁶ but obtaining documentary evidence of the extent of women's involvement in farming enterprises has proved a major challenge.

Agricultural history in British Columbia essentially began in the early part of the nineteenth century in a neighbouring country, namely the United States, during the fur trade era. In the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, provisioning was a major requirement that stimulated the development of agriculture. In Rupert's Land, the need for less expensive and better quality provisions led the Hudson's Bay Company to encourage the founding of the Red River Colony under Lord Selkirk in 1811.⁷ In New Caledonia, the region that would later become British Columbia's interior, and Columbia, part of which would form the province of British Columbia, agricultural self-sufficiency was a principal component of George Simpson's belt-tightening policy after the 1821 merger. Even the North West Company prior to 1821 had attempted to meet the needs of its posts by introducing gardening where conditions permitted, as had also the Pacific Fur Company.⁸

In the Oregon Country, at the junction of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, a settlement developed at Fort Vancouver which did just that. In 1839, a wide variety of products

was made available for the five hundred or so white inhabitants and a substantial number of mixed-bloods. Among the crops grown were wheat, oats, barley, peas, melons, squash, berries, tomatoes, and apples. Livestock was also raised, including horses, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, turkey, and pigeons. The fort was able to supply beef, hide, mutton, wool, milk, butter, cheese, and flour, not only for its own use and to augment the provisions of other forts, but also for export.⁹

It is noteworthy that very few experienced farmers were brought from Great Britain. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Capendal who were hired in 1835 as field supervisor and dairy manager respectively. Gibson reports that the couple "returned to England in 1836 because Mrs. Capendal found circumstances on the Columbia 'different to what she expected.'"¹⁰ There is no indication of whether Mrs. Capendal objected to the physical conditions, which were decidedly basic, or to the social structure, which has been described as being patterned after manor life in England.¹¹ This is the only reference to a woman's involvement in the farming operation.

In what would remain British territory after 1846, Fort Langley was one of the more successful locations that produced a surplus of flour, beef, and dairy products not only to supply its own inhabitants, but also to supplement the efforts of other forts to achieve self-sufficiency. The exporting of agricultural produce began in the formation of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company in 1839. Through this arm, the Hudson's Bay Company exported wool, skins and hides, and horn to England, and wheat, beef and butter to the Hawaiian Islands. It also

shipped wheat and butter to the Russians on the Northwest Coast in what is now Alaska, under an agreement with the Russian-American Company.¹²

The 1846 boundary agreement between Britain and the United States made the Hudson's Bay Company's position untenable in the Oregon Country because of encroaching American settlers. The Company's headquarters and economic operations were moved between the years 1845 and 1849 to Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island,¹³ which had been established in 1843 for just such an eventuality. There, and at Fort Langley, farming was continued, although on a smaller scale. The provisioning of the Russian-American Company was suspended under these new circumstances.¹⁴ Agriculture from this point onward was limited to the support of the local population.

Farming was slow to develop during the 1850s in British Columbia, even after the gold rushes had run their course. An examination of the topography of the region reveals that although 5 percent of the land area may be considered to be arable, only a fraction of it is rated first-class.¹⁵ Much of this required dyking and drainage in order to facilitate more stable production. In most of the balance, irrigation was essential to make the arid land viable for farming. The remainder of what was classified as arable land was deemed suitable only for cattle grazing. The Hudson's Bay Company traders regarded the climate as inhospitable, being often wet and cold in the lower Fraser Valley, and dry and cold in the upper Fraser Valley and the interior of the province.

Added to the physical disadvantages was the inconsistency of colonial, and later provincial, land policy. Settlement by pre-emption was permitted to take place before the land had been surveyed, which resulted in haphazard settlements of people. A substantial portion of the land after 1873 was set aside by the provincial government as railway re-

serves to induce the building of transportation and communication links. These reserves reduced the amount of land that was available for pre-emption. Also, the province did not help prospective settlers by directing them to land suitable for farming, with the result that a significant number of failures took place.¹⁶

There is disagreement over the extent to which provincial land policy in British Columbia differed from that of the Dominion government, if at all, in the later nineteenth century. In respect of the Canadian prairies, orders-in-council in 1871 and the Dominion Land Act of 1872 provided for 160 acres of free land on the condition that homesteaders met certain residence and improvement requirements.¹⁷ According to Cail, free land in British Columbia, however, was made available for only a short period of time between 1874 and 1879. In addition, he suggests several possibilities as to why the free land policy was unceremoniously abandoned. In his opinion, the most plausible explanation was that the greatest percentage of people continued to be willing to purchase land outright.¹⁸ On the other hand, Siemens, a geographer, maintains that a system of free land grants did operate in British Columbia, beginning in 1873, and remained in force. This system "allowed a man 160 acres . . . for a nominal payment covering the processing of the transaction and the promise to live on the land for a time, and to carry out certain improvements."¹⁹ The issue of free land, therefore, is neither straightforward nor resolved.

Nevertheless, farming did gradually develop. Fort Victoria continued to grow through this period. In the early 1850s four farms were established on Vancouver Island by the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, which grew in importance during the period of the Fraser River gold rush in the late 1850s.²⁰ Since the area for ten miles around Fort Victoria was held by the Hudson's Bay Company, out of necessity private farming expanded beyond these

lands into the most fertile valleys. In the 1860s, farms became established in the Alberni, Cowichan, and Comox valleys, after the forests had been logged off. The farms of Vancouver Island and of the Gulf Islands have almost exclusively supplied the local market since the 1880s. They concentrated initially on dairy production, followed by poultry production.²¹ At the turn of the century, these islands were the only locality raising sheep in considerable numbers.²² In addition, berries and apples were being cultivated on the Saanich Peninsula, and the Gordon Head area was becoming known for its flower bulbs, seeds, and vegetables.²³

What is missing from this description is an acknowledgement that women were integral to the development of agriculture on Vancouver Island. There are few direct references to their contributions, even in books about women. **Wild Roses at Their Feet: Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island** contains only very sketchy accounts of women's economic role. At best, the information confirms that numerous women participated in the early dairy industry. They milked the cows, made the butter, and occasionally even carried it on horseback to Victoria to sell.²⁴ Whether women did more than this is difficult to determine since the references are rather vague. Mrs. Cheeseman, for example, a pioneer who arrived with her husband and child in the 1850s, is credited with "sparing what time she could from her household duties to help her husband clear the land."²⁵ Elizabeth Rath is said to have "worked with her husband to clear the land,"²⁶ but what this means in terms of specific labour is unclear. Florence Cliffe, who began farming with her husband in Comox Valley in the 1870s, "drove a team of oxen over the fields" in the early years.²⁷ In the 1890s and 1900s, Mary Woods, also in the Comox Valley, sold eggs and vegetables in addition to butter and made weekly day-long trips to Comox or Cumberland to sell her produce.²⁸ Some women attempted

to continue operating their farms after their husbands died, but few were successful.

Widespread farming also gradually developed in the lower Fraser River valley. Of this region, the Bureau of Information was saying in 1905 that "there are few, if any, agricultural districts in the world of similar extent of equal fertility."²⁹ Not surprisingly, the land was alienated early on in the settlement period, in part by men who had originally come for gold. The first to settle in the lower Fraser Valley was Hugh McRoberts who in 1861-62 "dyked in, cultivated and harvested a field of wheat and planted fruit trees for an orchard on Sea Island,"³⁰ where Vancouver International Airport is now located.

On Lulu Island, which presently forms the major part of the Municipality of Richmond, William McNeely was the first settler there to have land dyked and ploughed between 1863 and 1865.³¹ Shortly thereafter, other settlers followed. On the north side of the Fraser's north arm, which is now the southern edge of the city of Vancouver, the McCleery brothers, nephews of McRoberts, had taken up land for farming.³² In 1864, Henry Mole and others acquired land in what is now Point Grey.³³ On the south arm of the Fraser, in 1868, the Ladner brothers, Thomas and William, preempted land, on part of which the village of Ladner now stands.³⁴ Further upriver, farms were developed on the land outside the established townsite of New Westminster and on Hall's Prairie, near present-day White Rock.³⁵ By 1870, there were "nearly three hundred farms of 1,200 or more cultivated acres in the lower Fraser Valley" in widely separated communities.³⁶

The area around Fort Langley, commonly referred to as the Langley Prairie, continued to be an important agricultural area. Fort Langley remained a principal provisioning centre as well as the embarkation point for the Fraser River gold fields and later for the Cariboo.

Once the Hudson's Bay Company had reached an agreement with the colonial government in respect of its land grants,³⁷ it began to contemplate withdrawing from the farming business, convinced that it was unprofitable.³⁸ From 1870 on, its properties were leased to farmer tenants and later sold outright. By 1886, all Hudson's Bay Company lands had been disposed of through private sale.³⁹ Further up the Fraser valley, farms were established as far east as Chilliwack, predating even those on the Delta, for disillusioned gold miners had begun farming here in 1862 to supply the gold field markets.⁴⁰

Clearing the land was an expensive and arduous undertaking. In addition, some of the terrain, especially in the municipality of Delta and in some parts of Langley, as well as all of Lulu Island and Sea Island, had to be dyked and drained. The original rudimentary dyking was made of unstabilized earth, which was subject to frequent deterioration by the periodic flooding of the Fraser River. Furthermore, dyking was initially done on an individual basis, each farmer being concerned to protect his own holdings.⁴¹ Even after dyking and drainage had been carried out, the soil had to settle for a number of years before regular cultivation became feasible.⁴² Improved dyking for areas like Delta and Richmond was not constructed until late 1890s, since municipal governments, with limited revenues, were reluctant to undertake expensive public works. After the disastrous flood of 1894, the provincial government became involved in financing the construction of a system of permanent high dykes.⁴³

Essentially mixed farming was carried on in the lower Fraser Valley, not unlike the situation which had existed in the fur trade period. Dairy farming and poultry raising were major activities, although both were carried on initially as cottage industries. Most of the goods produced were exchanged for staples with merchants in the local town or

village. In the period to the turn of the century, the production of field crops concentrated on the basics: hay, oats (which was the principal grain crop), wheat, potatoes, turnips, beets, and other vegetables. This production was geared more for the market, constituting the farmers' primary source of revenue. However, different areas also had developed specialties. In Richmond, mostly dairying was carried on, while Burnaby was noted for fruit and market gardening. In the district of Maple Ridge, a considerable amount of fruit farming was being done in the early twentieth century. Fruit and hops were also grown in the region near Chilliwack.⁴⁴ The growing of wheat in the lower Fraser Valley ceased in the late 1890s because British Columbia farmers could not compete profitably with those in the Prairies.⁴⁵

Even sympathetic observers do not do justice to the role of women in the establishment of agriculture in this region. T. Ellis Ladner in **Above the Sand Heads** acknowledges the participation of women in a fashion, saying "More has been written and said about the adventurous and courageous men than about the women, yet without the women few of the men would have pioneered."⁴⁶ The activities of his mother, who came to Delta with her husband in 1870, occupy all of three pages in the next chapter.⁴⁷ The balance of the book, however, is devoted almost exclusively to male activities. Alfred Parmiter, an oral history source, was certain that his grandmother, Mary Ann Parmiter, had milked cows and made butter to sell in the 1870s and 1880s. He has in his possession her account book, recording information about butter sales, probably in New Westminster. She was thus able to supplement the irregular farm income derived from shipping hay to Victoria.⁴⁸ It is not surprising, therefore, that Mrs. Parmiter is described in **Above the Sand Heads** as a hard-working woman.⁴⁹

Perhaps a more realistic approach

is to view much of the work that women did in support of men's economic activities as farm work. The following example from *Wild Roses at Their Feet*, describing the contribution made by Margaret Williams to the butchering, salting and smoking of meat, may serve as an illustration. "On butchering day there was always extra work for Margaret not only in feeding the men who came to help and to buy, but in cleaning up the shed after the day was over."⁵⁰ In addition to their family and household responsibilities, women were doing farm work, whether we define that as field work or as support activities. The challenge is finding documentary evidence to substantiate the recognition that these women truly deserve.

The writer prepared this paper as part of her studies leading to an M.A. at Simon Fraser University. Ms. Szychter lives in Delta, B.C.

FOOTNOTES

1. See Margaret A. Ormsby, *British Columbia: A History* (Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, 1958) in which the development of agriculture is incidental to the political history of the province.
2. Martin Robin, *The Rush for Spoils: The Company Province 1871-1833* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited 1972), p. 35. See also Margaret A. Ormsby, "Agricultural Development in British Columbia," *Agricultural History* 8 (Fall 1979), p. 14, where the figure of 5% is used. On the other hand, Fritz Dalichow in *Agricultural Geography of British Columbia* (Vancouver: Versatile Publishing Co. Ltd., 1972), p. 13, uses a much lower figure of 2%. Robert E. Cail, *Land, Man, and the Law: The Disposal of Crown Lands in British Columbia, 1871-1913* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1974), p. 168, used the figure of 3% for the amount of arable land.
3. This paper will not consider group settlements, since the region of interest for research purposes was not settled by groups. Native peoples will be regarded as a group for the purposes of agricultural development.
4. Veronica Strong-Boag, "Pulling in Double Harness or Hauling a Double Load: Women, Work and Feminism on the Canadian Prairie," *Journal of Canadian Studies* 21 (Fall 1986): 32-52. Also Mary Kinneer, "Do you want your daughter to marry a farmer?: Women's Work on the Farm, 1922," in *Canadian Papers in Rural History*, VI, ed Donald H. Akenson (Gananoque, Ont.: Langdale Press 1988), pp. 137-153.
5. Marjorie Griffin Cohen, *Women's Work, Markets, and Economic Development in Nineteenth-Century Ontario* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988), Chapter 5.
6. Even official sources acknowledge this fact. See Bureau of Provincial Information, *Bulletin No. 10: Land and Agriculture in British Columbia*, 6th ed. (Victoria: King's Printer, 1907), which confirms that, prior to the advent of creameries, farmers' wives and daughters had carried on the work of dairying, p. 6.
7. A.S. Morton, "The Place of the Red River Settlement in the Plans of the Hudson's Bay Co., 1812-1825," *Annual Report of the Canadian Historical Association* (1929): p. 105.

8. James R. Gibson, *Farming the Frontier: The Agricultural Opening of the Oregon Country 1786-1846* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1985), p. 14.
9. Gibson, p. 37.
10. Gibson, p. 37.
11. N. de Bertrand Lugin, *The Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island 1843-1868*, ed. John Hosie (Victoria: The Women's Canadian Club, 1928), P. 17.
12. Gibson, pp. 82-83
13. Gibson, pp. 203, 257. Also Mary K. Cullen, *The History of Fort Langley, 1827-96* (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1979), p. 38.
14. Gibson, p. 107.
15. None of the sources I consulted were in agreement on how much of the land was capable of sustaining all kinds of agriculture.
16. Cail, p. 56.
17. Gerald Friesen, *The Canadian Prairies: A History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984) p. 183
18. Cail, pp. 33-35.
19. Alfred H. Siemens, "The Process of Settlement in the Lower Fraser Valley - in its Provincial Context: in *Lower Fraser Valley: Evolution of a Cultural Landscape*, ed. Alfred H. Siemens (Vancouver: Tantalus Research Limited, 1988), p. 31.
20. Gibson, p. 119.
21. Dalichow, p. 113.
22. *Bulletin No. 10*, p. 30.
23. Dalichow, p. 113.
24. Elizabeth Forbes, *Wild Roses at Their Feet: Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island* (Victoria: British Columbia Centennial '71 Committee, 1971), p. 75.
25. Lugin, p. 87.
26. Forbes, p. 123.
27. Forbes, p. 125.
28. Forbes, p. 133.
29. *Bulletin No. 10*, p. 49.
30. Thomas Kidd, *History of Lulu Island and Occasional Poems* (Vancouver: Wrigley Printing Company Limited, 1927), p.22.
31. Kidd, p. 27.
32. Kidd, p. 22.
33. Kidd, p. 23.
34. T. Ellis Ladner, *Above The Sand Heads* (Burnaby: Edna G. Ladner, 1979), p. 11.
35. Catherine J. Rosie, "Richmond - Delta - Surrey 1879-1979," *The British Columbia Genealogist* 8 (Fall 1979), p. 54.
36. Ormsby, *British Columbia: A History*, p. 238.
37. Cullen, p. 64.
38. Cullen, p. 71.
39. Environment Canada, *Fort Langley National Historic Park* (Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1987).
40. George R. Winter, "Agricultural Development in the Lower Fraser Valley", in *Lower Fraser Valley: Evolution of a Cultural Landscape*, ed. Alfred H. Siemens (Vancouver: Tantalus Research Limited, 1988), p. 106.
41. Kidd, p. 61.
42. Kidd, p. 106.
43. Leon J. Ladner, *The Ladners of Ladner* (Vancouver: Mitchell Press Ltd., 1972), p. 131. Also *Bulletin No. 10*, p. 85.
44. *Bulletin No. 10*, pp. 50 - 52.
45. Ormsby, "Agricultural Development," p. 14.
46. T. Ellis Ladner, p. 14.
47. T. Ellis Ladner, pp. 27 - 29.
48. Interview with Alfred Parmiter, Ladner, *British Columbia*, 24 June 1988.
49. T. Ellis Ladner, p. 33.
50. Forbes, p. 137.

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Endicott Centre

by Shirley Armstrong

The original concept of the Dr. Endicott Home was proposed by Dr. W.F. Endicott, a family physician from Trail, B.C. He became concerned about the number of handicapped children brought to him for treatment. At this time, the education of mentally handicapped children was not a part of the regular public schools responsibility as it was thought they were incapable of learning. The only alternative for parents was to send their handicapped children away to one of the major institutions if they were to acquire any form of training. Dr. Endicott did not hold the opinion that the mentally handicapped could not learn, as through his association with them as a medical practitioner he saw the wasted potential. Dr. Endicott also felt it was unfair to families to have to send their children out of the region eliminating opportunities to visit with them and retain family ties. So, as early as 1948 he began the task of developing a residential school within the Kootenays.

Dr. Endicott's first step in the realization of his unorthodox dream was the establishment of an organization which he named the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children. In 1951, with the help of a few friends and professional associates, he started the first branch of this Society in Trail. He was appropriately elected its first president.

Under Dr. Endicott's leadership, chapters of the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children were later established in Nelson and Kimberley, and on April 18, 1956, a chapter was also started in Creston. Lastly, chapters were formed in Cranbrook and Castlegar to make a total of six. While each chapter was a separate entity with its own membership and officers, they were unit-

ed under a regional group of officers, known as the Board of Governors, who are elected representatives from each of the six branches.

Dr. Endicott's idea of decentralized care of handicapped children spread throughout the province, and in 1955 the British Columbia Association for the Mentally Handicapped was formed. This organization was the co-ordinator of all local chapters in the province, including those in the Kootenays. It represented the local associations in presenting policy and proposed legislation to the provincial government.

Pine Grove School:

On September 6, 1956, the Creston day school for handicapped children was begun under the auspices of the Creston Chapter of the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children. Mrs. Eva Street of Creston was a teacher. The class had five pupils, and school was held in the Mission Covenant Church in Erickson. It was named the Pine Grove School.

A year later in 1957, the Pine Grove School was moved to the Malandaine Building, situated just below the old Creston elevators on Canyon Street. The following year the school was closed, but in the fall of 1961, it was opened again with Mrs. Street once again being appointed teacher. Class was held in a room of the Creston Elementary School Building. When the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children took possession of the Archibald property in 1963 for establishing the Endicott Home, the Pine Grove Day School was moved to the Archibald estate. In 1964, this day school became a part of the Endicott Home's residential school.

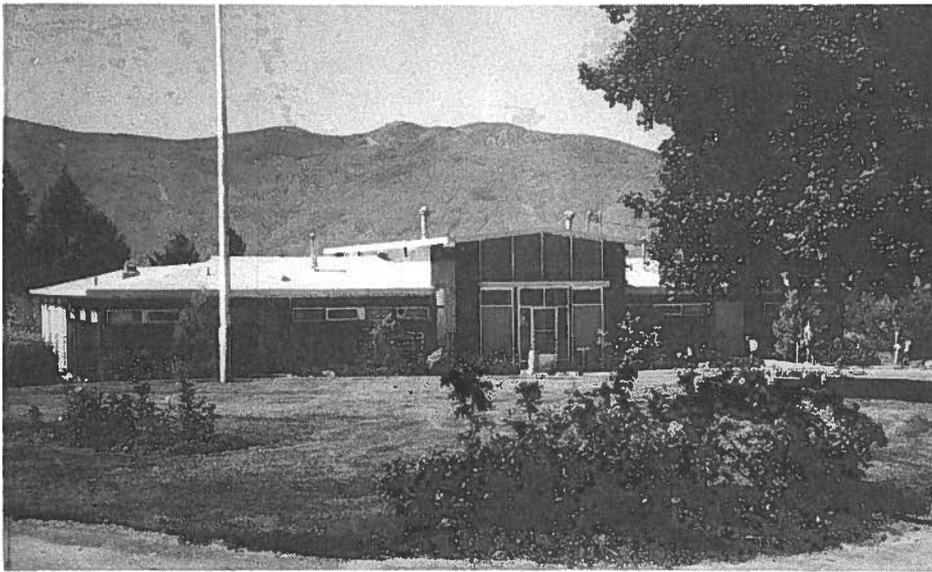
The Dr. Endicott Home:

Even while the Creston Chapter, as well as its five affiliated chapters in

the Kootenays, were setting up their respective day schools for mentally handicapped children, Dr. Endicott was making arrangements for establishing a central custodial home and residential school in the region. In 1956, he and the Society made plans to build his dream home at Blewett near Nelson, where property had been donated to the Society for the purpose. However, a year later the Board of Governors of the Kootenay Society abandoned the Blewett location and chose the Creston area for the proposed home because it was more central. A 35 acre plot at Alice Siding, north of town, was purchased in 1961. It was decided to name the new structure the "Dr. W.J. Endicott Home and School." in honour of the man who had first proposed its creation. A sign was erected on the Creston-Wyndel highway pointing toward the Endicott Home site.

Then, in 1962, the plan for the Home's location was unexpectedly changed once more when Donald K. Archibald offered to sell his large family estate south of Creston to the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children. The Archibald property consisted of forty acres of orchards, gardens and hay fields with a large brick dwelling in which ten or twelve people could live. There were some brick outbuildings which included a double garage, a steam heating plant and a gardener's home. All of these buildings were supplied with Creston water and there were wells for irrigating the orchards and fields.

The Board of Governors of the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children voted to sell the Alice Siding site and to purchase the Archibald estate. The Society took possession on April 1, 1963.



*First Unit built - Dr. Endicott Home for Mentally Handicapped
Children's Unit - now called Lenden Place/Cedar Place.*

Archibald Estate:

The Archibald dwelling, which became the first administrative centre at the Endicott Home, was built in 1929 by the famous Consolidated Mining and Smelter Company, commonly known as "Cominco" for William M. Archibald, who was vice-president of the company. The brick mansion was constructed near Creston because the town was situated midway between Trail-Rossland, where Cominco had a mine and smelter, and Kimberley-Marysville, where the Company operated a smaller smelter and the North Star and Sullivan mines.

Official Opening of Children's Unit:

Construction of a dormitory building to house thirty children at the Endicott Home was started in October 1964 and it was completed in March 1965. Financial drives to obtain the necessary funds were conducted by the six chapters of the Kootenay Society for Handicapped Children. The new dormitory consisted of two wings -- one for boys and the other for girls. Each wing also contained a classroom and an infirmary, and the full unit had a kitchen and an auditorium which also served as a dining room.

The Endicott Home and School was officially opened on May 23, 1965, during the Creston Blossom Festival. Five hundred persons attended the opening. Richard Vogel,

president of the Board of Governors, was master of ceremonies. Dr. Endicott, chief founder of the Home was present at the ceremony. After helping to cut the ribbon, he was presented with a portrait of himself by an artist from Trail. This portrait now hangs in the Board Room of the main office of the Endicott Centre.

Donald Archibald, whose former residence had become the site for the Endicott Home and School, came from Sidney to attend the ceremony. He gave a short speech in which he said that the creation of such a needed residential home and school on his old family estate brought him and his family great satisfaction and happiness.

A Board of Management was formed to operate the newly opened Endicott Home. Richard Vogel and A.W. Burch resigned as president and vice-president of the Board of Governors so that they could serve as the first chairman and vice-chairman of the Home's Board of Management.

Five Sisters of our Lady of the Cross, a Catholic Order of Nuns, signed a two-year contract with the Society to provide the first care, training, instruction and administration of the Home. Sister Mary Joseph was appointed Administrator and Sister Bernadette was made Principal and

Head Teacher:

The Sisters took up residence in the old Archibald dwelling, which also became the Home's first Administrative Centre. The Nuns operated the Home and School for two years under the policies set up by the Board of Governors of the Society and the Board of Management of the Home. The policies and administration were completely non-religious and non-sectarian even though the Catholic Nuns were the first administrators of the new institution. It served the entire East and West Kootenay region.

The Sisters taught the students by designing programmes individualized to the needs of the whole child, therefore programming began at the wake of day by teaching self care skills and whatever housekeeping skills were needed to tidy one's room, before coming out for breakfast. After breakfast the residents dispersed to either of the two classrooms or to crafts and prevocational training. Life Skills such as tying shoes, doing zippers, etc. were an integral part of teaching independent living skills.

Initially, there was no teacher training for working with the mentally handicapped so teachers had to use their own initiative which involved lots of imagination, trial and



Sister Joseph & one of the first pupils

error, if one approach didn't work they developed another approach. The prime qualification was lots of patience and the ability to be consistent over time.

As more schools for the mentally handicapped developed throughout the province, and more and more teachers were reaching out for help and training to enable a more efficient approach, the Association of Instructors of the Mentally Retarded was formed. Each summer there was a training session held at various universities or colleges with experts in the field such as Dr. Bob Poute, Mark Gold, W. Wolfensburger, etc. presenting. The Endicott Centre sent their instructors each summer to broaden their knowledge as well as offering in-service training on a regular basis. Through accessing whatever came available in the way of teacher training, the Endicott Centre was able to offer the residents and day students of the Endicott Centre School a well rounded education which included not only academics, but life skills and vocational training.

Mrs. Sophie Baynton probably deserves more credit than any other individual for constantly changing the school system to keep up with ever changing technology. She was a part of the Endicott Centre for over twenty years and touched the lives of many handicapped people in a most positive way.

Official Opening of the Adult Unit:

As families of mentally handicapped persons became increasingly aware of the Dr. Endicott Home, there was pressure to develop an Adult Care facility. Attitude and beliefs surrounding the lives of mentally handicapped persons were rapidly changing. The concept of normalization conceived by Dr. Wolf Wolfensburger was rapidly gaining approval in North America. Designs for residential facilities for mentally handicapped persons were becoming more normative in their appearance and function. Construction of an Adult Residence for fourteen mentally handicapped persons started in August of 1969 and was completed in April 1970.

Archibald Residence, Orchard House and Apartment Programs:

The original Archibald residence and Fajnor property residence were renovated and furnished for further adult residential accommodation in 1971. The realization that mentally handicapped persons could function independently as contributing members of our society prompted the development and plan for a transitional program into the community. Construction of a motel-type duplex, housing four mentally handicapped persons commenced in June 1975 and was officially opened for residence on November 1975. The facility was constructed by high school students of Creston's Prince Charles Secondary High School.

Progression of History and Normalization Movement:

Dr. Endicott and his many associates worked towards improving the quality of life for all mentally handicapped persons. The original Endicott Centre Custodial Care Model of Service was changing rapidly in 1975.

The various program models in place up until that time were designed for group activities with concentration on "Maintenance and Care." In 1976, the momentous beginning of Dr. Endicott's noble and revolutionary dream of improving life for mentally handicapped persons was being actualized. Developmental models replaced custodial care models with several individuals who have lived at the Centre for many years moving on to community-based residential options.

On June 29, 1976, the Board of Governors of the Kootenay Society for the Handicapped adopted the following Policy Statement of Normalization:

"The Board of Governors of the Kootenay Society for the Handicapped believes that each handicapped person should be given the opportunity to develop to his/her fullest potential in the most unrestricted way possible. A variety of services, facilities and programs must be developed to meet the individual needs of the handicapped."

In early 1977 the Dr. Endicott Home's name was officially changed to the Endicott Centre with Dr. Endicott's full appreciation of the issues and with his delighted approval.

Dr. Endicott lived to see his impossible dream come true. He died at his home in Trail on May 1, 1977 at the age of seventy-five. However, his dream will live on forever, not within the walls of the Endicott Centre, but in the lives of married couples and persons living independently in the Creston community and Kootenay region who are graduates of the Endicott Centre and his dream.

The Provincial school system finally accepted responsibility for the education of the mentally handicapped and in 1982 the Endicott Centre phased out the school program and consequently the child care services, and has now as its main focus adult residential services.

There is presently an Occupational Orientation Course at the East Kootenay Community College, which accommodates the educational needs of the adult mentally handicapped.

As a result of the many hours of dedicated and innovative work by the instructors at the Endicott Centre, many of the original "children" are now adults living independently or semi-independently in the community. Several are happily married and I believe a smaller percentage than the national average of marriages have failed.

The Endicott Centre continues to change and to educate the mentally handicapped in whatever aspects of life they need help and training, with the focus always toward enabling them to maximize their potential in life.

* * * * *

The writer is a Creston resident who served for many years as secretary of the Endicott Centre. She also served as leader of the Brounie Pack which was organized in the Centre. She thanks Mrs. Gay Peck and Mrs. Sophie Baynton for their assistance in researching this material.

String of History

by Richard McMinn

NOTE: Prior to 1967 "Port Alberni" was two cities, Alberni (incorporated 1913) and Port Alberni (1912). Alberni lay along the mouth of the Somass River and Port Alberni to the south along Alberni Inlet. Dick McMinn grew up in "Port Alberni" but would roam over to "Alberni" at will.



Dick McMinn February 1973

The McMinn family arrived in Alberni in 1919. We travelled on the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway train following tracks down the Beaufort Range, through Bainbridge and out to the green flats at the harbour. (The E. & N. Railway first came to Port Alberni in 1912.) On the east side of the E. & N. depot the Somass Hotel dominated with green lawns and shrubbery; the streets were gravel with board sidewalks. Horse-drawn vans were standing with their teams; Roseborough Transfer and Shead's Transfer were ready to haul freight from the incoming train. We were driven to the "Calgary Side" in a jitney. My father had rented a cottage from Mr. Pender on 8th Avenue just off Bute Street.

Memories of the world around 8th and Bute include the view of Mt. Arrowsmith from our front door; the mighty edifice of the West Coast Hospital half a block away, and the people who lived close by. Across the street lived a mysterious figure in a long black dress with a white collar - "Sister Bertha" whom we viewed from afar. At the corner lived Fred Marshall who became a schoolmate. Just below 8th on Bute lived the Robinsons. Mr. Robinson was a fisherman with daughters Dorothy and Jean. Inside the West Coast Hospital I was fascinated by a large brass door at the end of the entrance hallway. Dr. Morgan, very confidentially, told me that babies came out through that brass door. I never entered that hall without casting furtive glances at it - but it never

opened to flip out a baby when I was there. (Years later I learned it was a laundry chute.)

A walk (for miles it seemed to me) up the gravel road that was Bute Street to Drummond's farm at what is now Seventeenth Avenue was a great adventure. My older sister Jessie and I each carried a clean five pound lard pail to fetch milk. The Drummonds had cows and geese. More than once a can of milk came to grief as we fled before a hissing gander!

By the time I was old enough to start school we moved to a new home on North Park Drive. We could walk to school down a trail to Dry Creek, across a log near the present 10th Avenue, up a trail through the "Rec" or recreation field to the 8th Avenue School. Or we'd take a longer route down the road to the "Golden Stairs" (wooden staircases on either side of the ravine with a footbridge across the creek). There were many new friends near this new home; Muriel Rogers and her brothers, Bill and Gertrude

Jones, Bert and Willie Carson with little brother Fred, Willie Archer, Gordon Barr, and the Olsen boys. The world of these children was the creek and the woods, school and the Golden Stairs. We caught minnows in the creek, floated bark boats, built forts, played cowboys and Indians. And in summer my mother took us down Redford, across Third Avenue where the Cablevision is now, into a swampy trail that came out on the "Y", the E. & N. turnaround track which wound out across where the Pulp Mill now stands, into acres of grass and wild crab-apple trees till we emerged at the river mouth onto the most beautiful sandy beach Port Alberni ever had. There she taught us all to swim.

My father had been in three wars: the Zulu Rebellion, the Boer War, and the 1914 War. He had been wounded, gassed and shell-shocked and his body finally rebelled. The doctor's verdict was that he must go to a warm dry climate. Mother had relatives in Africa so it was agreed he would join those family members. There was not enough money for the whole family to go. Poor Mother! The new house was given up. We (5 children and mother) moved to a two-room shack in a grassy patch at about Bute and Seventh Avenue. Father was away for seven years.

My mother gave music lessons at 75¢ a lesson. Her piano was her only source of income. There was no such thing as welfare. You supported yourself -- or you didn't make it! Mother got a job at Mr. Hamly's Port Theatre, which was opposite Alberni Hardware. She made music for the silent movies, be it Tom Mix drawing his guns or Mary Pickford "pitching woo." Once in a while, one of us accompanied my mother to a movie. It was quite a treat. On one occasion Mr. Hamly sold peashoot-

ers at the door; the next night he was collecting them to avoid further shambles.

In the summer of 1924, I remember sitting on the steps of the shack watching tall trees at about Twelfth Avenue burst into flames. In that hot summer evening the great forest fire worked its way down Dry Creek, south as far as Tenth Avenue, then almost to Polly Point. The highway was closed and there was talk of evacuating the townspeople by sea. The town policeman came into the Port Theatre and commandeered all able bodied men to help fight the fire. Thankfully the fire burned itself out and history continued.

After about two years in the two-roomed shack we moved into a large house on 6th Avenue between Redford and Bute. The shack had been a little crowded for mother and five children. I remember when chicken pox or measles struck the neighbourhood she would put us all in one bed hoping that we would catch the affliction at the same time to keep her sick-bay duties reasonably short. Mr. Imlach, known as "Bucky George", was a Scottish fisherman living nearby, who many times brought mother a huge fresh ling cod saying, "A wee bite for the bairns, Missus!" An old gruff builder of fishing skiffs would occasionally let me help him, but more often he told me to get the hell out of his way. The Gattman family lived close by; Mr. Gattman was Port Alberni's blacksmith, and later the builder of the Arrowview and Kingsway Hotels. There were the Kevis family, and a Japanese family, the Toni's, and others. Haunches or roasts of pitlamped venison would turn up in our outside cooler by the back door. Neighbours quietly helped those in need!

Our new neighbours were the Mulcasters. One day I was helping their daughter Annis to mow their lawn. We found a tennis ball, and while trying to toss and mow, the ball rolled under the lawn mower. I inserted my hand between the blades to retrieve it just as Annis pushed the mower. When I stood up

the diagonal half of my index finger was hanging by the nail; in a welter of blood and tears I hiked for home. My practical mother swabbed it with iodine, pushed the slice back in place, and fastened it with sticking-tape. It grew back perfectly, but years later when I joined the Navy the finger-printing Petty Officer advised, "With a print like that don't ever take up a life of crime." Thanks Annis.

All this time my older sister and I went to 8th Avenue School via the Golden Stairs, along with most children on the Calgary side. (The district was known as "Calgary side" because of a large influx of Calgary people and real estate investment in 1911 - 1912 as the railway opened the area). There was a distant awesome figure known as Mr. O. Harries, the Principal. My teachers were all feminine - Miss Loudon, Miss Horner and Miss Smith (daughter of Andrew Smith whose name appears on many Alberni Valley surveys). I think the most startling event of my years there was the day Lloyd Forsythe took Miss Horner's brutal pointer from her and broke it over his knee. He never returned to school. (It was an act of insubordination that I secretly admired.) New faces appeared in our school. Hilliard Strain, Jock McKay with his Scottish accent, and others. All became part of the Valley's history.

Our next move was to a house which stood on the corner opposite Woodward's present store. Boys at Angus and Third played beside the brick Post Office with its large clock tower. (The gravel walk to my present home is lined with bricks from that old building.) Dr. Hilton's home stood where Woodward's is now, very conveniently near the day my brother pulled a kettle of boiling water onto his back. Hortons and Mowats were other neighbours. George Shead's large stables, sheds, and office took up most of that block on Third.

Our swimming place changed to the rocky beach where Imperial Oil now stands. It was bordered on the south by a large cannery, and on the

north by the C.P.R. dock. Bathing houses were built because half the town swam there. The harbour was clean then.

That bathing beach nearly terminated my career. I was poking around the steeper rocks when the afternoon westerly was blowing quite stiffly with the usual choppy waves surging up the rocks. I slipped and went in. The wave went over my head; I don't know how many times I went under and came up clawing at the slippery rock. Finally two pairs of arms reached down and hauled me out. The two older Brimacombe boys had been up on the cannery and had seen me fall in. They hauled me back up on the cannery roof and took off my clothes to dry in the wind. I recall that my only worry was that my clothes might blow away and I'd catch hell from my mother. As it was she never did know it happened.

Regarding transportation, bulk goods came to the Alberni Valley by E. & N. rail freight or by **Princess Maquinna** to the C.P.R. docks. Roseborough and Shead's transfers delivered around the valley. There were a few automobiles; a sprinkling of Model T Fords, Mr. Shead's Moon (thought of by local boys as "the hot rod"), and Mr. Fred Street's air-cooled Franklin. Most transportation locally was by horse and buggy. I particularly recall the bread delivery wagon driven by Fred White, who on occasion would allow youngsters to accompany him. And there was great excitement the day an aeroplane came to town. It was a little biplane which gave paying passengers a short flight over the harbour.

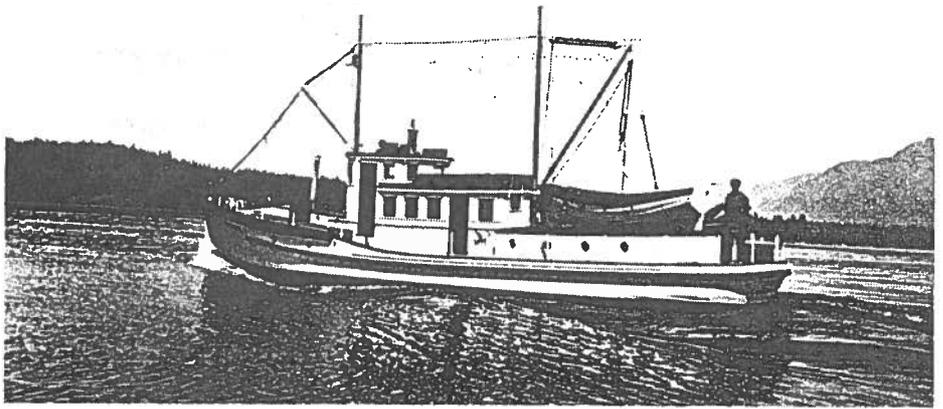
The town had one sawmill, the A.P.L. (Alberni Pacific Lumber). One other mill stood on the tide-flat west of the E. & N. near where Revelstoke Ltd. now stands. I never saw it operating. It had weather bleached booms of logs floating around it, from which we boys used to swim. Mr. Potter, the policeman at the time, came down over the booms. He said, "A lady at the Somass Hotel has complained about naked boys swim-

ming off the boom." We looked astonished -- the hotel was a good distance away. Potter grinned. "She has a very good pair of field glasses. Now look, suppose you fellows move over to the other side of the mill." We gladly followed his advice.

About this time my mother had a windfall. Someone in the old country died and left her a thousand dollars. She immediately booked passage for all of us to join our father. I remember a letter from Africa in which Uncle Willie enclosed a snapshot of the pony he would give us when we arrived. But it was not to be. My older sister developed double pneumonia and was seriously ill. My mother cancelled passage, and, grimly determined to have a roof over our heads, bought a 5-roomed cottage on 5th Avenue between Mar and Montrose.

When I was old enough to take on my first newspaper route, I delivered and sold the "Vancouver Star". The eight dollars a month it brought was a godsend. I also found other methods of capitalism. We caught perch and cod down at the floats and sold them to the Chinese at YeeLee Laundry at the bottom of Third Avenue hill. We collected beer bottles and sold them to Mr. Roseborough. About once a month we crawled under the sidewalk outside the Somass Hotel beer parlor where we picked up a bonanza of coins which had fallen through the cracks from drunkards' pockets. Fred Marshall and I used to dive for nickels, dimes and two-bit pieces at the Fishermen docks. The trick was to dive deep just as the thrown coin hit the water, turn and come up so we could see the coin moving in slow arcs like an autumn leaf, then catch it with one hand under its gentle descent. And I watched boats for those away in winter, pumping water out and checking fenders, receiving a payment when the owner returned.

Next summer a fisherman friend took me to sea with him in a little troller named *Useless* after Useless Inlet. We anchored in Dodger's Cove and went fishing every day at 2 a.m., returning to Bamfield about 3 p.m. to sell the catch at about seven



Uchuck III

cents a pound, then crossed to Dodger's Cove to anchor again. Those were good days, be they sunlit or rainwashed, calm or windy. I steered through the swells for hours and caught "sea-fever" for the rest of my life.

Father came home from Africa. He and Mother traded the cottage on 5th Avenue for one acre of land and the creamery on Creamery Road (now Margaret Street) beside Kitsuksis Creek. This was in the "Old Town" section of Alberni. We attended the Johnston Road School. I became Troop Leader of the Arrowsmith Scouts under Reverend Porter. Father took a government exam, became a Customs Officer, and suddenly, we were living "high on the hog" at the astronomical sum of a hundred dollars a month.

A Chinese market gardener delivered vegetables in a horse and wagon, selling the produce from his property on Beaver Creek Road. Many times I passed his sign, placed prominently beside the road where the creek cut through his property. That sign read, "NO FISHING ARE ALLOW IN THIS GARDEN."

I started High School in 1929 at the brand new high school at the corner of 4th Avenue and Redford. Mr. Eric Dunn was the Principal, and to many of us, a good friend. I finished school in 1932, but had failed in Algebra. I went to work for Thompson & Clarke at Horne Lake, setting chokers. Mother mailed my algebra book to me when I requested it. After studying algebra all winter I went down to Parksville in June and passed the exam 96 out of 100,

which proved I could do anything if I really worked at it.

A variety of employment kept me away from the Alberni Valley for twelve years except for brief visits. I served as a seaman on the *Princess Maquinna*. Port Alberni was one of her many ports on Vancouver Island's west coast. Then other ships, other places, and service in the Canadian Navy during W.W. II. In February 1945 I put my Master's ticket in my pocket and registered for courses in Victoria College where the aim was not to change my profession, merely a yen to learn more about more things.

Captain George McCandless purchased the *Uchuck I* in partnership with Captain Esson Young, from Captain Dick Porritt. McCandless asked me if I'd like a job where I'd be home every night. I had known George in the merchant service before the war, and Esson in the Navy. It was worthwhile to leave the world of education and return to the Alberni Valley where I became Master of *Uchuck I*, then *Uchuck II*, and *Uchuck III*. When Esson and George took off for Nootka Sound, my friend John Monrufet and I acquired the *Lady Rose*. We served Barkley Sound out of Port Alberni year round for twenty-five years - and then retired.

The Alberni Valley ties a string to its own people; this is the String of History.

Captain Richard (Dick) McMinn was born at Ladysmith, B.C. in 1914. He writes poetry published locally under the name of "Pat Grace".

NEWS & NOTES

WANTED: items suitable for the "From the Archives" section. If you have a favorite clipping, ancient advertisement, programme of a special event, or similar tidbit, obtain a good quality photocopy and send it, with a few words of explanation on its source or significance to:

The Editor - B.C. Historical News, Box 105, Wasa, B.C., V0B 2K0.

CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AWARDS - 1989

Two Regional Certificates of Merit were awarded to B.C. citizens at the annual conference held in May 1990. The winners were:

A. Mrs. Gladys Blyth, a self-taught community leader from Port Edward, B.C. Mrs. Blyth created and directed the Northcoast Marine Museum in Prince Rupert; led a successful campaign to preserve British Columbia's oldest standing cannery, the North Pacific on the Skeena River, and to have it designated a National Historic Site; and has done much to enhance our understanding of B.C.'s northern fishery.

B. Norbert MacDonald, author of **Distant Neighbours; A Comparative History of Seattle and Vancouver.** 1987.

BURNABY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP 1990



Dean Crawford UBC

The Burnaby Historical Society's first scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Dean Allan CRAWFORD, a fourth year UBC student enrolled in an Honours History Program. The Presentation Ceremony took place at 7:00 p.m. Mon., Sept. 17/90

in the Council Chambers of Burnaby Municipal Hall. Dean Emeritus Joe Gardner brought greetings from UBC.

Dean Crawford, born in 1968, moved with his family from Edmonton, Alta. in 1977 to Creston, B.C. where he graduated from Prince Charles Secondary School in 1986 with honours standing. He served on the student council and was the school's male student of the year and citizen of the year. He participated in several sports and at UBC played for two years on the UBC junior varsity soccer team. Dean was inspired to choose history as his major after winning the SOWARD prize and being influenced by his teachers of History and Social Studies. His thesis topic is "Early Trail: Social Life and Labour Relations as influenced by Cominco."

Dean's summer employment (1990) with the provincial government's Public Affairs Bureau in Victoria has enabled Dean to do preliminary research on his thesis. For four summers he has worked as a newspaper reporter for the Creston Valley Advance. His knowledge of B.C. was increased as he visited many areas in his capacity as a member of the B.C. Youth Parliament over the past six years. At present he serves as their Premier.

GATHERING OF CORNISH COUSINS

The Cornish American Heritage Association invites all persons with an interest in Cornwall, past and present, to the sixth gathering of Cornish Cousins to be held August 8 - 11, 1991 at the University of Victoria. Those interested please write to: Ross Lane, 823 Gulfview Place, Victoria, B.C. V8Y 2R6

MAIL DELIVERY BY HORSE

Lasqueti Island has rural route mail service. The contractor doing these deliveries is about to make a change in the interest of clean air and reestablishing a historically correct transportation. Perhaps you can help. Any reader who has a picture of a horse drawn mail delivery carriage is asked to send a photocopy of that picture to:

Gail Fleming, 3/4 Thyme, Lasqueti Isle, B.C. V0R 2J0
Fleming is particularly interested in a single horse wagon called a 'C' cab.

CEMETERY HISTORY

We are looking for individuals or groups who have done research and/or restoration of pioneer cemeteries. Please drop a line to the Editor to tell us of your historic graveyard. We thank Ron Welwood for this information on "NELSON MEMORIAL PARK."

Nelson Memorial Park Cemetery is located in the Uphill district south of the city centre. The cemetery is a beautifully treed, 14 acre park that provides an excellent site for a serene walk past approximately 10,500 graves of some of Nelson's most prominent and earliest citizens.

The first funeral in Nelson was for A. Bart Henderson who died in 1888 and was buried at a site near Baker and Falls Streets in what is now the downtown district. The bodies from this first graveyard were eventually removed by contractor, Mickey Burns, to Nelson's second cemetery located in the vicinity of the City Tourist Park on High Street. By 1898 forty acres of land had been purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway for a permanent cemetery. The bodies were once again exhumed and transferred to the present cemetery via the *Resurrection Wagon* driven by the City's powderman, Thomas Jerome.

In 1898 the city had passed a debenture by-law to raise \$5,000 "for the purpose of acquiring and holding lands . . . for a cemetery for the burial of the dead". An unregistered by-law drafted in 1901 "intended to place the cemetery on a proper and businesslike basis," was expanded and approved (1903) to include clauses common to many communities in the province:

"No horses will be allowed to pass through the grounds at a rate faster than a walk."

"Neither bicycles nor tricycles will be allowed on the grounds."

"Drivers of carriages at funerals are required to remain in their seats, or by their horses, during the performance of funeral ceremonies."

"No picnic party will be admitted to the grounds."

"No smoking will be allowed within the grounds."

"Dogs will not be admitted."

"Any person disturbing the quiet and good order of the place by noise or other improper conduct, or who shall violate any of the foregoing rules, will be compelled instantly to leave the grounds."

All individuals interred in the cemetery contributed in some way to the development of the city's character and charm. In order to sustain some interest in Nelson's historical personalities, the compilation of a Heritage Cemetery Tour has been endorsed by the Nelson Heritage Advisory Committee and City Council. When published this brochure will be a companion piece to the very successful, award winning Architectural Heritage Walking and Motoring Tours.

ALPINE ARCHIVES

Anyone wishing to do research on Banff or the Alpine Club of Canada would naturally head to the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Your editor has recently acquired two catalogues listing the manuscripts, pictures and records held in the extensive archives in Banff. The descriptions and titles of pieces held in this repository promise fascinating reading for a researcher.

B.C. HISTORICAL FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP 1990

The B.C. Historical Federation is awarding \$500 this year but arrangements have been made to substantially increase the value of this scholarship in the future. The 1990 winner of the Federation scholarship is John Angus MacTavish. McTavish, 28, is a student at Simon Fraser University.

He is married to a fellow student at SFU.



John MacTavish
BCHF Scholarship winner 1990

**MESSAGE
FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

UPDATE -

**THE COOK FAMILY
MEMORIAL, CAMBRIDGE**

Thirteen years have passed since the Diocese of Ely declared the Church of St Andrew the Great redundant. It contains, you may recall, a magnificent family plaque portraying Cook's voyages and the grave of his wife and two of their sons. When it was learnt that it might be redeveloped as a shopping center, protests, both locally and from around the world, resulted in a public enquiry. Finally, in September of this year, it was reported that the way had been cleared to lease the church to Grosvenor Properties who had supposedly agreed to restore the building for use as a tourist information office to be run by the city. In reality, as I learnt during my visit to Cambridge last month, the agreement reads "... Shall be used for civic, cultural, community, retail, financial services and banking purposes ..." The fight is still on to have it limited to the first three uses. Frankly, I find it hard to believe that any property developer would be interested in investing in a tourist bureau. Meanwhile, the church remains boarded up and a sign warns pedestrians to beware of falling masonry.

UPDATE -

**THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE
APRIL 24-26 1992**

It will soon be 1991 and the Vancouver conference on exploration and discovery will be but one year away! This conference will commemorate the bicentary of the arrival of Captain George Vancouver on the Pacific Northwest Coast and already an impressive list of participants from over a dozen countries has been confirmed. The programme sessions will focus not only on George Vancouver, but include the Russians, French and Dutch in the Pacific; overland expeditions; the indigenous people; navigation and technology - to name but a few. Appropriately, it is to be held in the downtown campus of Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre overlooking Burrard Inlet where Vancouver sailed in 1792. All of us remember the invaluable contribution made by, and the enormous success of the Cook Conference in 1978. Once again, therefore, SFU is to be commended for hosting what will, I am confident, be an equally exciting event.

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Book Shelf

Books for review and book reviews should be sent directly to the book review editor;
Anne Yandle, 3450 West 20th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1E4

Atlin, The Last Utopia. Allison Mitcham, Hansport, Nova Scotia, Lancelot Press, 1989. 204 p., illustrations, maps, no index. \$12.

(Anne Yandle thinks I know a lot about Atlin. She is right, but I learned more from this book. Over 60 years ago a chum of mine taught the Discovery school near Atlin, 1923-24. Among other things his letters mentioned gold nuggets, placer activity on Spruce Creek and "moonshine". My colour photos of the area date from 1948, and include exquisite air views. Most recent are of Atlin celebrities at their 1989 Old Timers' dinner. I first put my feet on Atlin ground in 1953 when we were mapping it. This initiated enduring friendships. I still enjoy my Atlin cabin, inherited in 1965 from Harper Reed, a remarkable character who is not mentioned in Mitcham's book. I am proud of my "Certificate of Lifetime Membership in the Atlin Historical Society" dated 3 December 1975.)

An attractive photo of the author of **Atlin The Last Utopia** appears on page 202, with this annotation:

"A westerner and northerner by birth, Allison Mitcham attended schools and universities in six provinces. She has lived for the past thirty years in Sackville, New Brunswick, where her husband Peter teaches at Mount Allison University. They have three children. This is Allison Mitcham's tenth book; her fourth with a northern focus."

After acknowledgments and foreword, Chapters are: I Introduction II The Town, III The Environs, IV The Gold Seekers, V Eccentrics, VI Missions, VII Medicine, VIII The Native People and IX A Special Place Threatened".

A six-page listing of source material affirms diligent research over a wide range. Some unusual references include Narcisse Belleau Gauvreau (1855-1933), early B.C. land surveyor, who in 1892, was probably the first white man to report on Atlin Lake; Philip Marmaduke Monckton, BCLS (1892-1965) in 1930 explored the old Telegraph Trail between Telegraph Creek and Atlin for road location; Ernest Chas Wm Lamarque BCLS, DLS (1879-1970) blazed the trail for the Bedaux Expedition, 1934. Some omissions are Christine Dickinson and Dianne Smith, former Atlin residents and writers of Atlin history; Dr. Peter Steele whose Atlin articles appeared in the Medical Post and the Atlin Claim;

and Bob Coutts, an Atlin resident, who wrote **Yukon Places & Names**.

I learn that Dr. F. Banting of insulin fame was an Atlin devotee and an artist, inspired by the Group of Seven. He was much in the limelight when I studied at Toronto University, 1926-30. Perhaps Professor E.W. Banting, who taught us surveying for two years was related.

The enduring delights of Atlin are well described, but GOLD put it on the map, contemporary with the Klondike Rush, in 1897. Atlin had the advantage of being 300 miles closer to "civilization". It featured all bizarre aspects of gold fever. Atlin's true location was then uncertain. It was near the then unsurveyed B.C./Yukon boundary (on the 60th parallel of North Latitude), but on which side? Mining laws differed accordingly. In 1899, 1900 and 1901 experts from Ottawa, G. White-Fraser, DLS, and A. Saint Cyr, DLS, located and demarked the 60th parallel from Teslin Lake west some 117 miles to the Takhini River.

This put Atlin about 30 miles inside B.C., so provincial officials moved in to make everyone behave. Mitcham deals colourfully with this. A book could be written about the B.C./Yukon boundary surveys. People are still alive who could help. Two early B.C. land surveyors who rationalized property and mining claim boundaries were J.H. Brownlee, D.L.S., 1899 and T.H. Taylor, O.B.E., M.C., 1904. Brownlee was held in high esteem by the local Indians for his skills at the poker table.

I learned much of interest in the chapters on missions and medicine. The dedication of both Roman Catholic and Protestant clerics was exemplary. Father Joseph Plaine, present incumbent at St. Joseph's, is my good friend. The Rev. F.L. Stephenson's 600-mile trip, circa 1905, by dog team from Atlin to the Bulkley Valley on the old Telegraph Trail was epic. His son, Daryl, born in Port Simpson, circa 1898, died in Victoria two years ago. A daughter, Molly (Mrs. H.S. McLeod), born in Atlin, now lives in Victoria.

The native people mostly of the Tlinkit (or Tlingit) race, are an interesting feature of the Atlin story. Atlin was an ancient seasonal camp. Their origin seems to have been the lower Taku River and Inlet near Juneau. It is probable that there have been infusions of both Tahltan and European blood. Their cemetery, on the Indian Reserve about a mile south of town is a model. One grave identifies "Mary Susie Jackson, wife of

Paddy Ward, died Sept. 6, 1961, age 115 years". Her story could be interesting.

Chapter V, "Eccentrics", offers much humour and history. Some of Atlin's characters, permanent and seasonal, living and deceased, are understandably omitted. A book could be written about my benefactor, Harper Reed. Herman Peterson, pioneer Atlin bush pilot, now lives quietly with his wife Doris, on the lake south of Rant Avenue. His hobby is making violins in a beautifully equipped workshop. Mlle. Renee Maluin from Saint Jean de Monts, Vendee, France, as a child spent many summers in Atlin with her father, Henri, a principal in "La Compagnie Francaise du Mines d'Or du Canada" with placer claims on Otter Creek. She still has a small cottage in Atlin where she visits with her pal, Dr. Anne Ripoche. Renee, with keen humour, tells delightful stories about her early days in Atlin. My sister Nora studied art in Paris 1928-29, where Renee was a friend. Another book?

There are forty-five interesting black and white illustrations, of which nine are Naomi Mitcham's water colours. Two colour plates and the cover do better justice to Naomi's art. Nine maps suffer from reduction to fit the page format. An index would have helped with this review, and is a desideratum for serious study by others. I repeat, there is much scope for another Atlin book by Allison, and competent people, still alive, would be glad to help.

G. Smedley Andrews

Gerry Andrews is a past president of the British Columbia Historical Federation.

Transit In British Columbia. The First Hundred Years.

Brian Kelley and Daniel Francis, Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 1990. 150 p., illustrated, maps. \$39.95.

For British Columbia history readers, this book is a must, for it is not about transit only. As the pages are turned, the province's history unrolls, and the importance of transportation to a vast area is shown. An area does not develop unless quick and easy transit is possible, whether it is urban or rural, a fact early entrepreneurs were quick to grasp, and here we get a clear picture of how they went about it.

The pictures are excellent, and their

accompanying explanations explicit and have an interesting feature: the reader is instructed to compare a given photo to another: for example, the photo opposite "Contents" is to be compared to one on page 16, taken at the same spot thirty-five years earlier.

From the beginning of public transit in British Columbia, on Saturday, February 22, 1890 in Victoria, to the spanning of the Fraser River with the SkyBridge to carry the SkyTrain into Surrey, it is all there, starting with street railways, going on to interurbans, buses and trolley coaches, stage lines, sea bus, sky train . .

The pictures alone are worth the book's price. So much to be seen: the fashions of the early years, the varying uniforms of the transit workers, the proof that we drove on the left until 1922, shots of the interiors of the cars. A photo on page 32 is hilarious- passengers in the year 1914 are clinging like flies to the rear of a streetcar. To compare this to to-day's super-cautious approach to passenger safety is a fascinating insight into our society's changing values. There are photos of the many men who brought about the transformation, the wreck scene of the Point Ellice Bridge disaster, ". . . still the worst accident in Canadian transit history". Others are as interesting. Not only the transit of the Lower Mainland is detailed, but that of the entire province.

This is not just a coffee-table book, but an illustrated history. There are even cutaways of SkyTrain's Burrard Station and the SeaBus terminal. The maps are good, the appendix concise; all of this work together to make a valuable reference book. That it is also entertaining makes it unique in that field.

Whether your interest is in the actual vehicles themselves, the way transportation developed, reference, or in the adding to the general knowledge of how British Columbia developed, there is something to be discovered in this book.

Kelsey McLeod

Kelsey McLeod is a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, she has contributed articles to the B.C. Historical News.

The Beloved Island: The Queen Charlotte Islands, Vol. 3

Kathleen E. Dalzell. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 1989. 152 p., illus., maps. \$24.95

Kathleen Dalzell is well known to many readers of North West Coast history for her two previous volumes of Queen Charlotte Islands history. **The Queen Charlotte Islands 1774-1966**, now published over twenty years ago, is a compendious overview of the discovery, ex-

ploration, and settlement of the "Canadian Galapagos." **Places And Names**, the second volume of history, is an island by island, place by place geographical dictionary and local history of the entire Queen Charlotte archipelago, reminiscent of Capt. Walbran's classic **BC Coast Names**. Both volumes show an easy familiarity with the complex web of native prehistory, sporadic but intense early exploration, settlement, and industry of this network of islands. Useful to historians, travellers, and residents, the earlier volumes have gone through many reprintings, and are still in wide demand.

With **The Beloved Island**, Dalzell's work finally comes home. The book is largely a tribute, lovingly drawn, of Dalzell's parents, Meta and Trevor Williams, pioneers in northerly Graham Island's Masset Inlet area. Originally from Wales, Trevor leaves the close confines of late - Victorian Great Britain for distinguished action in the Boer War, a stint in Argentina, and clerking in Montreal before being lured to British Columbia in 1908. The excitement attending the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the coal developments around the Yakoun River in the Charlottes persuade the adventurer to seek a homestead pre-emption in the Masset Inlet area.

Dalzell's treatment of this early period of settlement around Masset will be of considerable interest to those curious about this still rather untamed and remote area. The gold-seekers, the missionaries, the land grabbers, the toilers against the wet and shaggy forests of the near rain forest conditions were all partners with Trevor in exploring and exploiting this area. The briefest of mention is given to the local Haida, principally at Masset - but one gets the impression that most of these settlers had little or no contact with the native people. In common with her **Places And Names**, Dalzell supplies **The Beloved Island** with detailed maps of these early homesteads, townsites, skid roads, logging trails, and other landmarks. By consulting modern maps of the same area, the ups and downs, and eventual centralization of the settlements around Port Clements can be seen to follow the pattern documented here by Dalzell. A major element of this settlement, the arrival of wives and children, also is clear from Dalzell's narrative. Meta's arrival from Wales and her participation in the small community form the complement to the bushshacking and land scheming typical of the men depicted here. Unfortunately, Dalzell's treatment of Meta's reactions and adaptations to life in the wilderness is much thinner and less satisfactory than to Trevor's. Since Dalzell refers to Trevor's diaries and notebooks, one can

only assume that very little similar material exists for Meta, and her death occurred before Dalzell was able to record her reminiscences as she was able to do for Trevor.

The calamitous disruption of life even in these remote outposts caused by the First World War brings this early narrative to a close. What follows includes a fascinating and harrowing excerpt from Trevor's war diary. For those familiar with the horror of the campaigns around Vimy Ridge, the excerpts reveal nothing new. Coming on the heels of homesteading in the wilderness, the grim events here recounted bring a cold sweat to one's palms. For those like Trevor, whose prose is honest and level-headed observation -- and all the more horrifying, returning to anything like a normal life must have required a soundness of will and spirit that the reader must admire with awe. Yet return with Meta he does, prospering through the twenties, slogging through the thirties, and bearing it out through another war.

Only the last thirty five pages of the book are devoted to the period from 1919 to Trevor's death in 1976. For me, this brief look was sad and worse than anticlimactic. The Williams' lives seem to bog down in a series of minor disasters and trivial victories, distinguished by competent bridge-playing and struggling tennis. I suppose pioneers must often suffer this fate, striving against wilderness, only to succeed into normalcy and the ticking of the clock on the mantel.

I have long admired Dalzell's two earlier volumes on the Queen Charlotte Islands. **The Beloved Island** clarifies why she wrote them. It is an elegy, loving, poignant and ultimately sad to a man and a woman who chose to live on our evergreen coast.

Stephen Lunsford

Stephen Lunsford is a Vancouver bookseller, specializing in the Pacific Northwest.

Ginger, The Life and Death of Albert Goodwin

Susan Mayse, Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 1990. 230 p., \$24.95.

Susan Mayse has used her descriptive skills as a novelist to write a biography of Albert 'Ginger' Goodwin. She gives us a feeling of the times and atmosphere in British Columbia's mining towns of Trail and Cumberland during World War I.

Goodwin after his arrival in Canada at the age of 19, in 1906, until his death in 1918, was a restless young man. He moved across Canada, back and forth in British Columbia; when he was living in

a town he lived everywhere and anywhere. Interviewees claimed he either lived at their house or dined at their table, and as children they were not privy to the union talk in the next room after the meal was finished.

We never learn from the book what drove this restless man. Did he deliberately put himself in situations where he had to move on? He helped organize unions wherever he lived. He belonged to the Socialist Party, which repudiated him when he allowed his name to be put forward for Deputy Minister of Labour in the Harlan Brewster Government, though he was not appointed. Had Goodwin decided it might be easier to change the system from inside the government?

While Goodwin lived he was not treated by Cumberland people as anyone special; he was one of their own young men. It was Joe Naylor, one of Goodwin's old friends, who insisted that the shooting be investigated and the record be set straight. Later, no one who was involved with the shooting, discussed in any great depth their thoughts and actions at that time to their relatives or to younger friends.

After the trial his grave was unmarked for 20 years. The stone has now become an icon for labour in British Columbia.

Tighter editing would have eliminated Joe Naylor twice taking measurements of the body on page 189.

Mayse is mistaken in the date of naming of Forbidden Plateau on page 149. Cecil Scott was editor of the **Vancouver Province**, April 17, 1927, when a short article, written by Ben Hughes was published, describing the beauties of the region and a mythical tribe . . . a race of Indians, ferocious and wild, of another nature altogether . . . inhabited the centre of the Island . . . Mr. Scott titled the story **The Forbidden Plateau - Beauty Spot on Vancouver Island**.

Peggy Imredy

Peggy Imredy is a past President of the Vancouver Historical Society.

"It's Up to You": Women at UBC in the Early Years

Lee Stewart. UBC Press, 1990, 176 p., illustrated. Cloth, \$29.95; paper \$19.95.

Lee Stewart's thought provoking book offers a well researched and clearly written study of the strategies and struggles of women to establish and define their role within the conservative patriarchal structure of UBC. As might be expected, the story of women at UBC in the early years reflects the general

trends of Canadian society in which women began to articulate and challenge their secondary status in both public and private life. Throughout this time, changing social mores simultaneously altered and reflected the status of women.

The book presents readers with the history of the university as seen from the perspective of women. Such a perspective offers an unusual and refreshing twist to a normally staid tale. It is also a tale that is at once both disheartening and encouraging. It begins with an amendment to the University Act of 1891 which proclaimed a bold and enlightened commitment to the premise that "no woman shall, be reason of her sex, be deprived of any advantages or privileges accorded to other students of the University."

Stewart then proceeds to describe and analyze the women's protracted and successful campaign that resulted in the establishment of programs in nursing in 1919, teacher training in 1924, home economics in 1942, and social work in 1945. Women also were successful in establishing a women's residence and an office of the Dean of Women. The women believed that these two offices could provide practical support to women in their struggle to educate themselves in the midst of an overtly patriarchal environment. The discouraging part of the story resides in the solid entrenchment and pervasive hostility of that environment.

Throughout the book, Stewart identifies a central division that existed in the women's strategy. A small number were outspoken integrationists, who demanded full equality in all disciplines including science and engineering, no matter what the level of hostility encountered. Most, however, were separatists, who worked for the establishment of more socially accepted women's programs such as nursing and home economics.

Stewart exerts much effort in analyzing the responses of the separatist women. While she presents their story sympathetically, she obviously is uncomfortable with their perspective. Stewart's editorial comments sometimes jump erratically between extolling the active role women took to ensure their participation in higher education, and chastising the separatist women for choosing alternatives that in her view narrowed their future choices.

Stewart's argument could be better supported by more clearly placing the example of the UBC women into the perspective of the Canadian women's movement of the early twentieth century.

The debate about whether the maternal feminists were essentially radical or conservative continues. Some argue that

such women limited their role to the private sphere of motherhood. Others argue that their redefinition of motherhood to include all of society radically altered their arguments.

Whatever the answer to the continuing debate, all must agree that Stewart's study indicates that the UBC women demonstrated an intelligently devised strategy in which persistent and effective pressure was applied to the university administration in order to force it to respond to their demands. The women began with the stringent limits by society and with slow and determined imposed force first identified those limits, and then proceeded to extend the boundaries.

The question of whether such strategies were essentially radical or conservative may never be answered to anyone's satisfaction. What is indisputable, however, is the fact that women established for themselves a place in higher education, against great odds. Stewart's book is a compelling reminder to any who might forget our history that women have long sought to identify and redress their secondary status in academe.

Jane Turner

Master of Archival Studies Program UBC

Other Books Received

From Trail to Rail; Surveys and Gold, 1862 - 1904.

The story as told by people who were there. Vanderhoof, Northern B.C. Book Publishing, 1990. \$9.95.

From Trail to Rail; Settlement Begins, 1905-1914.

The story as told by people who were there. Vanderhoof, Northern B.C. Book Publishing, 1989. \$9.95.

These two titles cover the historical area of Fort George, Fort St. James and Fort Fraser. First person accounts cover early construction of the telegraph and railways, Indians, Hudson's Bay Company, the important role played by Giscome Portage, and gold.

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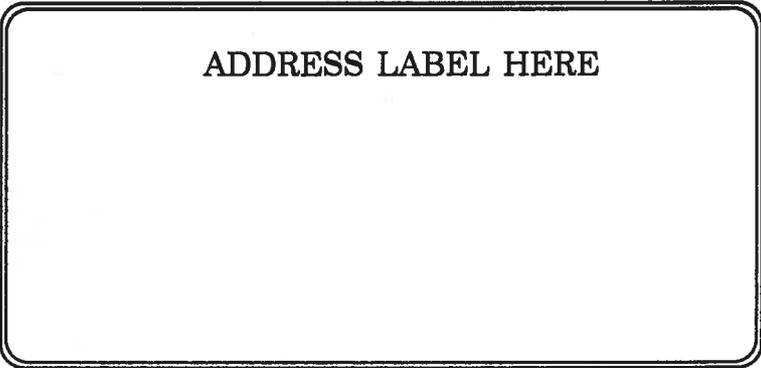
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Contact Helen Akrigg for advice and details to apply for a loan toward the cost of publishing.

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British Columbia Historical Federation

WRITING COMPETITION

The B.C. Historical Federation invites submissions of books or articles for the eighth annual Competition for Writers of British Columbia History.

Any book presenting any facet of B.C. history, published in 1990, is eligible. This may be a community history, biography, record of a project or an organization, or personal recollections giving a glimpse of the past. Names, dates and places with relevant maps or pictures turn a story into "history."

The judges are looking for fresh presentations of historical information, (especially if prepared by amateur historians) with appropriate illustrations, careful proof reading, an adequate index, table of contents, and bibliography.

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Awards are given where entries warrant. (i.e. a lone entry in group 2 or 3 will not automatically be given a prize.)

Submissions are requested as soon as possible after publication. Please state name, address and telephone of sender, the selling price of the book, and an address from which the book may be purchased if the reader has to shop by mail. **Send to:**

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The Best Article award is given annually to the writer of an article published in the **B.C. Historical News** magazine with the aim of encouraging amateur historians and/or students. Articles should be no more than 2,500 words, typed double spaced, accompanied by photographs if available, and substantiated with footnotes if possible. (*Photos will be returned.*) Deadlines for quarterly issues are February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. **Please send articles directly to:**

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