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# British Columbia Historical News

Journal of the B.C. Historical Federation



## " Okanagan "

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Member Societies and their secretaries are responsible for seeing that the correct address for their society is up-to-date. Please send any change to both the Treasurer and the Editor at the addresses inside the back cover. The Annual Return as at October 31st should include telephone numbers for contact.

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# BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Volume 23, No. 2

Journal of the B.C. Historical Federation

Spring, 1990

## Editorial

We are deeply indebted to a Kelowna resident, Winston A. Shilvock, for making the "Okanagan Special" possible. This gentleman introduced himself in August 1988 as "a friend of the **Historical News**." He has contributed articles, and advice, for previous issues and now has collected articles, illustrations and fillers which are presented in the following pages.

Many of the stories are new, and a few are favorites from annual **Reports of the Okanagan Historical Society**, which the current editor, Bob Cowan selected. The executive of the Okanagan Historical Society has graciously granted permission to the **B.C. Historical News** to print these articles in the Spring 1990 edition. The source of each article from **OHS Reports** is indicated beside the authors name in the table of Contents on this page.

Naomi Miller

## Map of the Okanagan on page 36

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## Cover Credit:

The John Innes painting "H.B.Co. Fur Brigade Passing Okanagan Lake" is reproduced with permission from the Native Daughters of B.C. who sell postcards of this and other B.C. historical scenes at the Old Hastings Mill Museum in Vancouver.

The H.B.Co. collected furs from throughout New Caledonia. The Brigade started from Fort Alexandria, paused at Fort Kamloops where great bands of horses were maintained to serve as fresh mounts and pack animals. They travelled across dun-colored hills, passed Grand Prairie (Westwold) to the shores of Lake Okanagan. The travellers skirted the west side of the lake and followed the Okanagan River to Fort Okanagan, where the horses would be pastured and the brigade took to boats for the trip down the Columbian River to Fort Vancouver.

At the head of the annual brigade, following the guides, rode the Chief Factor of the district. Custom dictated that he wear a high beaver hat, collar to the ears, ruffled shirt, and a coat of dark blue or black. When camp was made, his fire was the first lighted; his tent the first erected; and when entering or leaving a fort, three guns were fired as a salute in his honor.

The young man riding with the Chief Factor is James Douglas, who, at age 27, was enroute to his posting to Fort Vancouver in 1830.

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# Colonial Osoyoos

by Jean Webber

Few of Osoyoos's resident retirees or its summer visitors enjoying our sun, sand and water realize that the whole of British Columbia's southern interior was once administered from this very place.

The Bill making British Columbia a crown colony was passed by the British House of Commons on August 2, 1858. However, even before that James Douglas, alarmed by the influx of miners who spread north in the aftermath of the 1849 California gold rush, had used all the powers vested in him as Governor of Vancouver Island and Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Victoria to assert British sovereignty and to keep law and order. Once the territory had officially become a colony and Douglas its Governor, with the proviso that he sever his connection with the Hudson's Bay Company, the Imperial Government selected officers for the major posts including Matthew Baillie Begbie, Judge; Chartres Brew, Inspector of Police; and W.A.G. Young, Colonial Secretary.

Douglas had made his first official mention of gold on the upper Columbia in April 1856 although even before this gold had been purchased discreetly from native Indians by the Hudson's Bay Company. However in 1858 the secret was out and by the end of May it was estimated that there were 10,000 miners on the Fraser River.

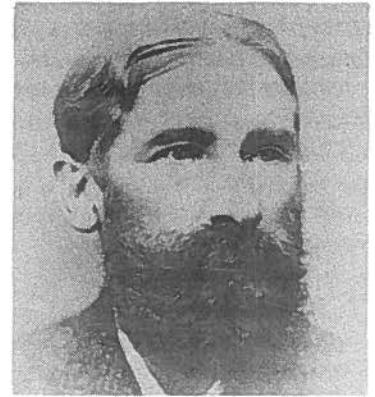
In October 1859 a Canadian, Adam Beam, while travelling from Colville to Similkameen discovered gold at Rock Creek. He began mining May 7, 1860. By October there were 500 miners at Rock Creek and ten miles down stream where Boundary Creek emptied into the Colville (Kettle) River. In the spring of 1860, Douglas moved William George Cox from the District of Kamloops, where he had been

Magistrate, to Rock Creek where he was to keep law and order, sell miner's licences, and collect customs both on the Similkameen and in the Okanagan.<sup>1</sup>

In the fall of 1860 Governor Douglas visited the region, stopping at Keremeos September 21 where a Hudson's Bay post and farm had been developed subsequent to the signing of the Oregon Boundary Treaty in 1846. By the 24th he was at Osoyoos. One cannot help wondering if he visited Hiram F. Smith (Okanogan Smith) who had carried mail for the Hudson's Bay Company between Fort Hope and Fort Okanogan. In 1855 Smith had decided to settle on the shores of Sooyoos Lake not knowing whether his land was in British territory or American. Perhaps in 1860 Douglas was able to monitor the progress of Smith's apple orchard grown from scions which he had carried in from Hope in 1857.

Douglas arrived at Rock Creek on September 25 where he addressed a company of miners the next day. By October 5 he was at Hope on his way back to Victoria. Douglas must have been impressed with Cox's work for he made him a Gold Commissioner and promised him assistance with his administrative duties. The assistant was to be John Carmichael Haynes who became Deputy Collector of Customs at the newly opened customs port of Keremeos. But more of Haynes shortly.

The strategically placed Gold Commissioners were the agents in the field of the Colonial Government. They kept law and order with a minimum of police assistance and no jails; they collected government revenues; they oversaw public works; they registered land preemptions; they attended to Indian affairs. Douglas had Cox mark off Indian reservations throughout the



John Carmichael Haynes, 1831-1888.

Okanagan in consultation with the Indians. The sketch map of the reserve at the head of Okanagan Lake was dated June 30 and was sent to the government with Cox's report written at Rock Creek and dated July 4!

A Gold Commissioner was expected to write frequent and full reports to the Colonial Secretary in which he not only dealt with current business but also reported on the general state of the country: climatic features, geographical features, flora and fauna, soil and timber resources, and the state of settlement if any. Such dispatches are a rich source of historical detail.

While Cox was stationed at Rock Creek American and British Boundary Commissions were busy surveying the 49th Parallel and marking the boundary. Twice Cox mentions them. On December 9, 1860 he wrote: *"I also perceive that the English Commissioners have built their monuments more than 200 yards south of those built by their American companions."* Then on April 27, 1861 we find: *"The American Boundary Commission passed through here (Rock Creek) yesterday en route to Osoyoos to rectify some error connected with the parallel by them committed, I presume. The English Commission has proceeded eastward."* Now Okanogan Smith could be certain

that his land was in the United States. Instructions were sent to Cox and Haynes to see that the markers erected along the boundary were not interfered with.<sup>2</sup>

Cox, in his official reports, frequently referred to the order and peace in the camp. One finds this rather surprising considering that in the eighteen months or so of Cox's posting at Rock Creek there was a shooting over a land dispute in which the murderer escaped; the knifing of a white man by an Indian after which the Indian was captured and lynched at the traverse or ford at the south end of Osoyoos Lake; the kidnapping of a miner's child by an Indian (the child was rescued); the drumming out of town of a young Englishman caught robbing sluice boxes; and the forced departure of a gambler only too ready to relieve miners of their hard-earned gold.

By November 15, 1861 the rush was all over. The miners had moved north to Mission Creek, Cherry Creek and even to the Cariboo. Cox was moved to a more active field. His deputy and assistant, Haynes, remained.

John Carmichael Haynes arrived from his native Ireland in Victoria on Christmas Day 1858. He was carrying an introduction to Chartres Brew and testimonial letters from the Mayor and Chief Magistrate of the City of Cork. By the fall of 1859 Haynes was Chief Constable at Yale and was already being noticed for his efficiency and integrity. From Yale he was posted to Keremeos as Deputy Customs Officer to man the newly opened port.

In April of 1861 Haynes reported to the Colonial Secretary that he had seized sixteen horses laden with liquors, tobaccos, cigars, candles and other items useful for sale in the Cariboo all to the value of several thousand dollars. The party, which had avoided paying duty, were overtaken at Okanagan Falls. When an appeal was made to Cox, the Gold commissioner allowed the group to keep one pack-horse and each man to keep a horse and saddle along

with enough food to get him to the Cariboo. Haynes was highly commended for his part by the Colonial Office but Cox was reprimanded and told that he personally would have to pay for the horses he had let the men keep.

In September 1861 Cox received permission to build a Customs house at Osoyoos. This decision confirmed the importance of the corridor to the central and northern interior which had been discovered by David Stuart in 1811 and used by the fur brigades of thirty-five years. The building was to be made of logs, 20x30 feet and 10 feet high, chinked and daubed, logs hewn outside and in. The floor was to be of boards nailed down. There were to be: one good strong batten door with strong door post and knob, two rooms with doors and knobs, four windows, two with twelve lights and two with six. The cost was not to exceed 130 pounds. The house was located at the north end of Osoyoos Lake on a knoll which afforded a commanding view of trails on both sides of the lake, not far from the present cemetery.

When Cox was moved from the district Haynes was made Gold Commissioner. The great iron safe weighing 1200 pounds which Cox had brought into Rock Creek by way of the Dalles was moved down to the Osoyoos Customs house.

Livestock, destined to be driven to the Cariboo over the old fur brigade trail, was the principal customs item. Records for 1861 and 1862 show:<sup>3</sup>

Jan. 1 to Oct. 19, 1861				
	Horses	Cattle	Mules	Sheep
	365	625	92	....
Oct. 19 to Apr. 30, 1862				
	172	250	....	....
May	963	681	203	....
June	1065	488	135	....
July	461	1532	238	400
Aug.	141	163	82	646
Sept.	172	958	6	....
Oct.	54	53	....	325
Nov.	....	67	19	....
Dec.	12	....	3	....
	3396	4817	778	1371

In 1865 Haynes had the Customs house moved to a more central location about one half a mile west of the bridge over the narrows. The original shake roof was to be replaced by a shingle roof. A cellar was to be added as well as a section containing a dining room, kitchen, two cells and a small room. This work was done under contract by S.T. Marshall for \$750. Again the great safe must have been moved for we have Mrs. Chrestenza Kruger's dramatic description of the fire which destroyed this second customs house in 1878: *"One day in April 1878, we noticed the customs house on fire. Mr. Kruger jumped on a horse and galloped over to assist, arriving just about the time when the Haynes family became aware of the fire. The iron safe which Cox brought into Rock Creek in 1860 was in the house and Haynes was much concerned about it as it held a lot of money and all his valuable papers. The safe weighed about 1200 pounds, but my husband soon solved the problem. He was a big man, standing over six feet and weighing about 290 pounds, and so he tumbled the safe end over end out through the door to a place of safety, fortunately, the joists and flooring held."*<sup>4</sup>

In 1864 Haynes received an appointment as Stipendiary Magistrate. Gold had been discovered on Wild Horse Creek near today's Fort Steele and an undisciplined horde of miners had rushed to the spot. Already one murder had occurred. Haynes was dispatched to the East Kootenay to establish order. The very day on which his instructions arrived Haynes set out with one man and five horses. But how was one to get there through what appeared to be a trackless wilderness of mountains, swift rivers and lakes? Haynes headed for Colville where he could get information from old Hudson's Bay Company hands.

When Colonial Secretary Arthur N. Birch visited Wild Horse camp at the end of September he reported as follows: *"I arrived within six weeks of Mr. Haynes' residence in the district*

*to find the mining laws of the Colony in full force, all customs duties paid, no pistols to be seen and everything as quiet and orderly as it could possibly be in the most civilized district of the land, and much to the surprise of many of the miners who recalled the early days of mining in the State of California. Haynes' accounts show that he has collected over sixteen thousand dollars between August 10th and September 30th, and which he kept in a valise in his office."*

One result of this report was the Governor Douglas appointed Haynes a member of the Legislative Council of British Columbia. A further honour was conferred in 1866 when Haynes was made a County Court Judge, hence the widely used popular name, Judge Haynes.

Another effect of the Wild Horse Creek strike was that, in order to facilitate communication, a contract was made with Edgar Dewdney to extend his trail through the Similkameen, over the Okanagan, through the Boundary country to the Kootenays. Included in the contract was the first bridge over the narrows of Osoyoos Lake, a structure five feet in width with loose split rails for a deck. During high water the loose rails were removed and travellers walked the stringers while their horses swam."

No doubt it was the Dewdney trail and bridge which precipitated the move of the Customs house to its new location. A crossroads had been established. In 1866 the Hudson's Bay Company, appreciating the change in circumstances, established a trading post just west of the bridge. Roderick Finlaison, Chief Factor, hired Theodore Kruger to manage the post. Kruger was born a British subject in Hanover which in 1829 belonged to the British crown. Now with the bridge, the Customs house and the trading post the foundations of the future town had been laid.

As with Cox one of Haynes's duties was the registration of land

preemptions, an expanding task in the 1860's. In 1866 when A.L. Fortune and three Overlander friends wished to stake preemptions at Enderby they were told that they must register with J.C. Haynes, Gold Commissioner at Osoyoos.<sup>7</sup>

In 1864 Sir James Douglas retired as Governor of the Crown Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. The new administration wasted little time in cutting back Indian reserves as laid out by Cox whom they believed to have been overly generous. Haynes, in 1865, took to the field with Chief Nicola in attendance and negotiated substantial cut-backs. One report with sketch was written in his tent at the head of Okanagan Lake in the very late fall.

In 1871 British Columbia entered the Confederation of Canada. The colonial days were over. Colonial officials became provincial agents. One change in 1871 which would have been very noticeable in Osoyoos was the selling of the Hudson's Bay Company posts in both Osoyoos and Keremeos to Barrington Price. Two years later Price sold the Osoyoos store to Theodore Kruger who in 1884 became Osoyoos's first Post Master.

After the fire of 1878 Haynes built a fine house on the east side of the lake, a house presently inhabited by Doug and Dorothy Fraser. One room was used for an office. A provincial map published some time after 1884 shows and names "Osoyoos Lake", "Haynes Customs" at the location of the new house, but

no "Osoyoos".

After the sudden death of John Carmichael Haynes in 1888 temporary arrangements were made concerning his official duties. Then in 1889 Theodore Kruger was made Customs Officer of Osoyoos and in 1890 C.A.R. Lambly became Government Agent. Lambly served at Osoyoos until 1898 at which time the government office was moved to the new and flourishing hard-rock mining community of Fairview.

That move of the Provincial Agent to Fairview signalled the end of Osoyoos's glory days.

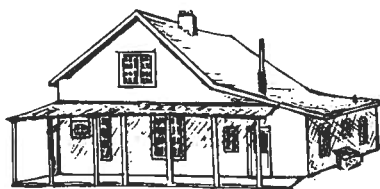
*Jean Webber is a retired educator, former editor of the O.H.S. Report and president of the Osoyoos / Oliver Branch of the Okanagan Historical Society. Jean Webber won two Certificates of Merit for Best Article in the B.C. Historical News - 1986, and Best Anthology in the B.C.H.F. Writing Competition for 1986.*

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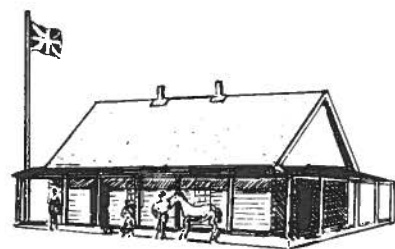
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1. OHS Report #17: p 49-56
2. OHS #6: 198-199
3. Ibid
4. OHS #6: 77
5. G. Fraser p 76
6. Ibid p 88
7. OHS #6: 276



*House built on the east side of Osoyoos Lake by John Carmichael Haynes 1878-1882. The house as viewed from the south 1885.*



*Second Customs Office and Official Residence destroyed by fire, 1878.*

# Camp Fairview

*by Hester E. White*

Years ago when "one-armed Reed" and his partner, Ryan, placer miners came on the scene, a beautiful limpid stream frolicked down the gulch, casting a cooling freshness upon all around, but revealing nothing of the hidden riches which it passed on its way from its source high up on the mountain-side. The name "Reed Creek" is the only evidence left to show that they were the first to discover gold in this vicinity. In 1887 Fred Gwatkins and George Sheenan put in the first stakes on the Stemwinder, which became known as the discovery claim. On the main ledges on the eastern side of a low range of mountains separating the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys, 700 feet above the Okanagan River, a number of valuable claims were recorded. Indeed, the recording mining claims eventually extended over an area of 30 miles, for many were staked under the old mining law which permitted the location of extension claims without requiring mineral to be in sight.

It would be a useless effort to attempt to enumerate all claims. I will mention the major holdings. There was the Stemwinder; the Morning Star, taken up in 1898 by Thomas Woodland, Steve Mangott, and Danny McEachern; the Evening Star, held by Harry Rose who also had a fraction of the Morning Star and the August; the Rattler, first owned by H. Mankind who sold it to a company which put up a five-stamp mill, and which was later bought by the Stratheyre Mining Company; the Ontario owned by Dunc Carmichael; the Wynn M. owned by Harry Simpson; the Wide West which lay across the gulch from the Brown Bear, owned at first by Jon Stevens and Mat Hodder, and eventually by the Stratheyre Company; the Joe Dandy, taken up

by W. Poole and Evan Morris and sold later to Patrick and Clemens; and the Tin Horn, the Smuggler, the Black Diamond and the Wild Horse.

After the finding of several well-defined veins of gold ore, a large amount of English and American capital was invested in the mines and several stamp-mills were set up. The Stratheyre was an English company which sent out James Atwood and Harry Reynolds in 1892, and which, on Atwood's recommendation purchased Brown Bear located in 1887 by George Wilkinson and Joe Bromley.

For nearly twenty years the camp at Fairview flourished. In 1893 when a great amount of ore was produced at Fairview, there was considerable settlement. Starting up the gulch in that year, one would be welcomed at its mouth by Mr. F.R. Kline, owner of the Golden Gate Hotel, a well-built log house of two stories. On the left side was Miner's Rest, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Evan Morris. It was here that many of the "cousin Jacks", Cornish miners would gather to have a rip-roaring time. Miner's and prospector's cabins would be found as one proceeded up the gulch. Ahead, and situated at a sharp turn in the road, where it left the course

of Reed Creek to wind around the hill, was the stamp-mill. Blue House, the residence of the Stratheyre Mining Company's representatives, Messrs. Atwood and Reynolds, was on the eminence overlooking the quartz mill, and commanded a beautiful panoramic view of the Okanagan Valley to the south. It was the view here which caused the name "Fairview" to be chosen. From this point one could overlook Okanagan Valley, hemmed in by hills and mountains, with the river meandering through the low land, through Haynes Meadows and losing itself in the glistening waters of Osoyoos Lake. At this time cattle were grazing here and there amidst sage-brush and grease-wood.

Near the Blue House was the residence of Dr. Ben Boyce, the popular physician of the camp, who had been brought to the west by the Stratheyre Mining Company. Farther up the road was W.T. Thompson's store which carried a large stock of goods suitable for miners' needs. Thompson was a "Boston Man" who had been around mining camps since his boyhood. Past numerous shafts and tunnel mouths of various mines was J. Moffatt's Saloon. Still farther along was W.T. Shatford's store with F.H.



*The Big Teepee Hotel in Fairview.*



French in charge. At the head of the gulch was the store of Tommy Elliott, the pioneer merchant who still caters to miners.

When the writer arrived back in the Okanagan from England on January 21, 1895, the stage pulled up in front of the Golden Gate, and the passengers were greeted by Tommy Elliott and James Adamson, now the hosts, and miners galore. After wine and chicken lunch we left with "Mexican Joe", the driver, for Osoyoos. Fairview had changed by this time. The Stratheyre Company had pulled up its stakes and gone and Steve Mangott was running Morning Star ore through the Stratheyre mill. Fairview quartz was tricky; in pockets the ore was very rich and streaks of gold were plainly visible, but then it would disappear. In 1897 eastern capital came in when the Fairview Gold Mining Company leased or purchased claims and commenced work on the Stewwinder. This company built the three story Fairview Hotel known as the "*Big Teepee*" on the flat below the gulch and laid out a townsite. Soon there were livery stables, offices, a drug store, a butcher shop, and W.T. Shatford's store was moved down the gulch. Jim Schubert built the new government building; C.A.R. Lambly, Government Agent, and his family were moved from Osoyoos. J.R. Brown, the Assessor, built a cottage nearby. As Fairview boomed again the Bassett Brothers' freight teams were often needed to haul the huge loads up to the mines. For a short time, five mills were active: the Stewwinder, the Joe Dandy, the Tin Horn, the Smuggler and the Stratheyre.

Soon after Dr. Boyce had moved to Kelowna, Dr. R.B. White arrived in camp on May 24, 1897. Dr. White's first patient was Mike Moon, a freighter, whose badly crushed leg necessitated amputation. The operation was performed in the doctor's office, with the assistance of Tony Genn. Mike was cared for by the doctor in his office and nursed back to health. On another occasion the

doctor was called to attend Old Edward, an Indian, who had been attacked by another Indian while he was asleep in a tent down near the river. Old Edward's leg had been smashed with a gun. Dr. White amputated the leg on the ground in the tent, with the assistance of Mr. Bate. When Edward recovered, a collection was made for an artificial leg. Some years later, after the Indian's death, his old wife Jenny rode into Fairview one day with the leg hanging over the saddle. She had brought it to sell and wanted \$80 for it.

Tragedy had stalked down the gulch in 1893 when a diphtheria epidemic took the lives of some of the small children. In November 1902, gloom was cast over the whole countryside when the "Big Teepee" was destroyed by fire with loss of life. The following year the large livery stable was burned, and thirty valuable horses were lost.

The tragedy of 1902 was really the beginning of the end of Fairview. But as long as the camp flourished, the settlers had many good times. Many dances were held at Elliott's Hall where Paddy Atkins (known as the "Man that stole the boots") played the piano into the wee small hours. The Marks Brothers staged "*Uncle Tom's Cabin*" in Elliott's Hall and thrilled the crowd. Pauline Johnson with Walter McRae gave a most entertaining performance at the "Teepee". Isobel Kerr was a charming elocutionist. A ventriloquist with many shabby dolls drew a crowd; and some Italians with trained white bears caused excitement, especially when some "over-joyed" cowboys roped the bears and took them down the gulch.

The miners at the Stewwinder gave a unique dance on one occasion. The company was to operate a cyanide plant for reduction of ore, and four vats, 36 feet in diameter, and 10 feet deep were beautifully built and finished. The miners asked all inhabitants to a supper dance. The floors were polished; the fiddlers were on a platform between

two tubs, and there was enough room for four quadrille sets and a good caller for the dances. Some conscientious objectors preferred not to dance, but played games and romped in the second vat, which was known ever after as the "Methodist Tub."

After 1906 little mining was done and the place was soon deserted. The Guggenheim interests held the Susie for many years; the Granby people studied the field. Britannia, Premier, and Hecla interests all cast enquiring eyes at Fairview; but the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company in time procured most of the ground, for they needed the particular quartz at Fairview with its silica as a flux in the smelter in Trail. With the high value of gold and better price for silver, Fairview is more than paying its way. All the dumps at the old mine have been trucked away.

Few people are left who experienced the thrills and chills of Fairview. The little creek has lost its song and its skirts of green along its banks have died with time. Still, memory lives on of the good old Fairview Days.

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The site of the former mining town of Fairview is situated 2 miles south-west of Oliver on the road to Cawston. Turn up the street (7th) at the traffic light. Drive until you reach the information sign re Fairview. This was erected by the Oliver-Osoyoos Historical Society on the two lots owned by the Okanagan Historical Society and which was the site of the Fairview Presbyterian Church. You will find picnic tables there so you can enjoy the fantastic view.

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*Hester Emily White - 1877-1963*

*Hester was the eldest daughter of Judge J.C. Haynes. She spent her childhood in Osoyoos, some school years in Victoria, and some in England. In 1897 she married C.A.R. Lambly, Government Agent first in Osoyoos then in Camp Fairview. Lambly died in 1907 and Hester married Dr. R.B. White in 1908. She later lived in Penticton, where she was a member of many community organizations, and a very valued member of the Okanagan Historical Society.*



# Brief history of the Town of Oliver

by Constance Seeley

The British Columbia government made a survey of the land south of McIntyre Bluff to the United States border, and in 1919 they advanced the idea of placing the South Okanagan under irrigation with the purpose of supplying farm land to ex-servicemen from the First World War. The project came into effect in 1921 under Premier 'Honest John Oliver' for whom the town of Oliver was named. The Oliver district was the hub of excitement from 1920 to 1924 when men from all walks of life came to lend their energies to the construction of the irrigation project. The engineers' camp was situated where now stands the Oliver and District Arena.

On completion of the project the engineers' camp was abandoned and settlement began in earnest. Where previously nothing but pine trees, clumps of sagebrush and bunch grass grew and large herds of cattle roamed, now those who purchased land could grow crops.

Although apples had been grown in the Okanagan Valley since the mid 1800's, Pete McIntyre was the first to experiment with growing apples in the Oliver area on his property at the foot of the bluff named for him.

The year 1921 marked the sale of the first land in the Oliver District. In 1922 the government planted 300 acres known as the development area. This rocky land was replanted every year until 1928 when it was sold to the Apex Orchard Co., of Kelowna. In those days it was said that many people believed an apple tree was an annual plant because each tree was replaced annually. While waiting for their orchard to bear fruit many of the settlers

worked for the season on the development area, picking rocks and throwing them into piles, irrigating the trees and hoeing around them. Some of the farmers grew cantaloupe, watermelon, cucumbers, tomatoes and even the tobacco industry was given a try. The Oliver Co-op formed in 1923 had a membership of 25 growers.

Vic Fairweather, one of the first businessmen in Oliver, recalls only four buildings when he arrived in 1921. He soon discovered there was a need for goods and set up a second hand store on the site of the present Royal Bank. J.K. Anderson built the first grocery store; Carl Collen opened a dry goods store across the street. Major Thompson operated a real estate office where Tuck's Cafe now stands. Harry Nash built a billiard hall beside Collen's. By 1922 Oliver had a bake shop, Dr. Geo. Kearney had an office, and there was Elliott's restaurant, Bill Raincocks butcher shop, the R.W. Smith drugstore, Charlie Jones butcher shop, Shorty Knight and Slim Archibald's garage, a bank, Al Rynd and Bill Foster's barbershop, Mrs. Hill's restaurant, Elmer Johnson's garage; a liquor store, post office and blacksmith shop. Harry Fairweather brought the Oliver Hotel from New Westminster by truck and train in 1921. The first church service was held in Carl Collen's store, later the United Church was built. The first school which later became a garage and shelter for Rev. Feir's cow was the first formal classroom. In 1922 'the little red schoolhouse' was built and used for about five years. Two teachers taught grades 1 to 8 in the two rooms.

Later a school was built at Testalinda Creek with volunteer labour and material scrounged from the Bucket of Blood Hotel at Fairview, thus affording convenience for the children in the rural area.

By 1926 the population of Oliver was 500 with 60 school children.

The Community Hall had been built and partially funded by the engineers and local help during the construction of the irrigation project.

The once arid desert land has indeed borne fruit and become a thriving community.

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*Constance Seeley was a long time resident of Oliver. She now resides in Ottawa.*

**T**he word "Okanagan" was first written by David Thompson on July 6, 1811, when he recorded, "... a fine view and see high woody mountains of the Oachenawawgan River." Since then there have been 35 other ways of spelling the name but all have disappeared except two. In British Columbia the word is spelled Okanagan and in Washington State, Okanogan.

# An Appreciation

by Dr. Margaret A. Ormsby

With the death of Mr. Leonard Norris on April 18th, 1945, the Okanagan Historical Society suffered a great blow, for it lost its founder and its mentor. The Society was started in Vernon on September 4th, 1925, after Mr. Norris had injected into a group of his townsmen and old friends some of the enthusiasm he had for the study of local history. It was he who did most of the hard work in the Society and assumed the responsibility of seeing that sufficient material was collected so that the Reports were issued regularly. He persuaded pioneers in the Valley to write their reminiscences, revised and edited articles submitted to him, did research in topics in the wider field of British Columbia history, encouraged young historians and scientists to write for the Reports, made arrangements with the publishers, did the proof-reading and arranged for the distribution of the Reports. His was the spirit that breathed life into the activities of the Society, and there could be no better memorial to him than this Report which represents the work of his last years.

It is unfortunate and sad that more is not known of the life of a man who served the province of British Columbia well and who helped to fill in the pages of British Columbia History. Long before he was known as an historian, Mr. Norris had won for himself a reputation as an outstanding public official. But he was the last to draw attention to the quality of his work or to expect credit or thanks for it.

Those who worked with him knew that he was a man of fine fibre, representing many of the qualities which he admired most in the Okanagan pioneer, but they discovered little about his background or his experiences. Occasionally he would be reminded of past events which he considered amusing or ridiculous, then he would recount them with delicacy



*Leonard Norris, the founder of the Okanagan Historical Society.*

and discernment. He never retailed gossip or slander, he was kindly and appreciative in speaking of others although he could be indignant about injustices or wrong-doings and he always understated his own accomplishments.

The early years of Mr. Norris' life were spent in Ontario. He was born on a farm near Brampton in 1865, not far from the land now occupied by the Dale Nurseries. He was nine years of age when his family moved to Langley Prairie, and a young man of seventeen when he first came

to the Okanagan Valley in 1882. From the first he found delight in the natural charm of the Okanagan, and he always spoke with warmth of the beauty of the bunchgrass hills and of the lakes that reflected it. Some of his feelings he expressed in poems which he wrote in his later life. At first he had no intention of settling in the Okanagan Valley, but he came to admire the qualities of the pioneer settlers and to appreciate the hospitality he found in their homes. He worked first on ranches in the Lumby District, then in December 1887, he decided to pre-empt land in the vicinity of Round Lake, just off the Vernon-Kamloops Road. Thoreau's philosophy and way of life appealed to him, and he was convinced that in farming a small piece of land and in living close to nature, personal happiness could be attained. But as events turned out, he was to live a different kind of life.

He had hardly taken up his land, when he was asked to be Provincial Police Constable at Lansdowne. He was reluctant, but was finally persuaded when he was promised that the appointment would be temporary, and that he would soon be replaced. Once he had entered public service, he found it difficult to break away - new duties and responsibilities were pressed on him, and he was soon embarked on a career as a public servant. In July, 1890, he was asked to become Collector of the Provincial Revenue Tax, and after the death of Moses Lumby, he was appointed in October, 1893, Government Agent at Vernon. He was the third man to

hold this office, and he established what will probably become a record for long tenure. When he retired in 1926, he had served thirty-three years as Government Agent.

Old-timers will recall the enthusiasm Mr. Norris had for his work and the thoroughness with which he carried it out. They can tell amusing stories of his pursuit of fugitives, while he was still Police Constable, and how on occasion he was outwitted. They know the respect he had for individual worth, and how little real crime he thought existed in mining settlements or in other parts of the Valley. He had a very strong sense of justice, as persons who were sometimes hauled into the Magistrate's court can testify, and he was very much in favour of having misunderstandings settled in private and without outside intervention. One of his favourite stories was the chase after Smart Alec, following the murder in the Cherry Creek mining field, but this must have taken place while he was still a farm-hand in the Lumby district and before he had responsibility for bringing criminals to justice. As Police Constable, his duties sometimes took him as far north as Enderby and sometimes as far south as Penticton, so he came to know settlers throughout the whole length of the Okanagan Valley.

After 1890, he was more closely identified with people in the Vernon district. He knew Vernon before it was incorporated in 1862, while it was still called "*Priest's Valley*", and he lived to see it grow from a settlement of four or five scattered houses to its present size of six or seven thousand. More than any other man, he had his finger upon the pulse of life in the community. For he was not only Magistrate, but Collector of Land and other Taxes, Registrar of the County Court and District Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registrar of Voters, Judge of the small Debts Court, Official Administrator, and Registrar of Vital Statistics. He must have known something of the private affairs of almost every individual,

but he was never known to betray a confidence or to give out information which might cause unhappiness. Whatever knowledge came to him, he regarded it in a purely impersonal and objective light - except in one respect. Although he believed that every person should stand on his own feet, he could not remain unconcerned when there was suffering. More than one family experienced the bounty of his generous nature and found it difficult to express adequate thanks, for Mr. Norris was not one to look for returns or to want public acknowledgement of his good works.

During his lifetime, Mr. Norris saw the character of farming change in the Okanagan Valley. After the coming of the railroad, the cattle ranches were broken up and fruit farming started. He was keenly interested in the experiments in co-operative marketing and in the technical improvements which were made in the growing of fruit. He took pride in these changes, yet always felt that more attention should be paid to producing fruit at lower cost for the benefit of the prairie farmer. He thought, too, that a high degree of specialization might embarrass the farmer in times of depression, and he had a nostalgic fondness for mixed farming which he had known in Ontario and in his early days in the Okanagan.

His chief interest, however lay in recording the events of the past so that they would become known to the new settlers in the Valley and to those who knew little of the romance of the early days of the interior of British Columbia. He turned his attention to this work after his retirement from office. He had already read widely in the field of Canadian and British Columbia history, and now he did research at the Provincial Archives and in the Provincial Library at Victoria, and started to write. While he was primarily interested in writing the history of the Okanagan Valley, his horizon was by no means limited to this study. For one thing, he decided to acquire some knowledge

of the French language, and to perfect his grasp, he subscribed to newspapers published in Quebec, and bought phonograph records to hear the spoken word. He had an excellent library of historical works, but he also read poetry and collected phonograph records. During these years, he indulged in all the pleasures which go with the cultivation of a fine mind. As a result he had a remarkable fund of knowledge and the ability to inspire others with his enthusiasm for great works of literature and music.

As a historian, he made a very real contribution to our knowledge of local history, and his work won acknowledgement and acclaim in the east as well as in the west. Its great appeal, of course, was to the people of the Okanagan Valley, for here were recorded the stories of the early settlers, the adventures and vicissitudes of their arduous lives. The spirit that permeates all his writings, reflects something of the quality of the man himself - for he reveals his kindly feeling towards his fellow men, his high moral standards, his patience with and amusement at human foibles, and his great sincerity. It was typical of him that he should have preferred to write of the exploits and achievements of others, rather than of his own important work as one of the real founders of the Okanagan Valley. We can count that as our great loss, for his character as revealed in his life and work would have held inspiration for many.

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The Okanagan Historical Society has prepared, with financial assistance from B.C. Heritage Trust, a plaque honoring Leonard Norris. The plaque will be affixed to the wall of the Courthouse in Vernon following the O.H.S. Annual meeting in May 1990.

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*Dr. Margaret Ormsby was born and grew up near Vernon. She was on the Faculty of History at U.B.C. for many years, author of British Columbia: A History 1958 and President of the B.C. Historical Federation in 1949-50.*

# Vernon Celebrates Ninety Years of Incorporation

by Edna Oram

Thursday afternoon, December 30, 1982, people flocked to the Recreation Centre to celebrate Vernon's 90th birthday. The city was the first to be incorporated in the Okanagan Valley, the charter for incorporation being granted December 30, 1892.

They came early, greeted friends, welcomed holiday visitors they hadn't seen for years and settled in for an afternoon of light entertainment by choirs, bands, dancers, and ethnic performers.

Activity for the children was at the outdoor skating rink and the indoor swimming pool but you can swim and skate anytime so the children drifted in and out of the auditorium to watch the colourful swirl of the entertainers. In a corner of the auditorium three pre-schoolers put on a spontaneous dance of their own. People for whom this was a working day, dropped in for a few minutes and lingered on.

In formal dress of the 1890's, Ian MacLean was a great master of ceremonies. Mayor Hanson gave the welcoming address. Good Citizens and Freemen of the city, including 100 year old Guy Bagnall, were invited to place of honor on stage and individually introduced. Winners of the birthday cake contest were announced. The cakes were cut with a piece for everyone and a cup of tea or coffee to enjoy while they mingled with the crowd.

Royce Moore, Chairman, and his Birthday Celebration Committee came up with an afternoon of fun well suited to the multicultural talents and the friendliness of Vernonites.

For the ensuing six weeks, visitors enjoyed displays in the Greater Vernon Museum and Art Gallery, the foyer of City Hall and in a main

street display prepared by the Friends of History, showing photographs and stories of the early days. Copies of an illustrated history - **Ninety Years of Vernon** - are still selling well.

The first permanent settler was Luc Girouard who, in 1867, pre-empted land which today encompasses the central core of the city. Other settlers followed, mostly from the British Isles. They brought with them traditions of law and order, culture, sports, pride in themselves and a strong sense of community responsibility that remain the cornerstone of life today.

The tiny hamlet of forty people in 1888 was in the right place at the right time and had settlers with the foresight to take advantage of the coming of the railway to Sicamous in 1885 and to Vernon and Okanagan Landing in 1892. The railways and the development of a connecting boat service for travel south opened the southern part of the valley to settlers.

For years Vernon was the centre of all provincial and federal government services and was a distribution point for movement of people and supplies up and down the valley. Today Vernon is a bustling city of some 20,000 and a distribution and shopping centre for over 75,000 area residents.

A provincial Heritage Trust official says that Vernon has more historic buildings than any other valley city.

In addition to the beautiful provincial court house, the CPR railway station, Park and Bearisto School and many private homes, there are eighteen buildings within the central core awaiting historic restoration. There are in business today eight firms founded in 1892, some into the fourth generation of the founding

family. Many descendants of early settlers live in the original homes of their grandparents.

Superimposed on the base of settlers from the British Isles are more residents of varied ethnic background than in any other city. Emigrants are coming from uncertain futures in Europe and Asia. Retirees come for the salubrious climate. Young families come to get away from the stress of life in large metropolitan areas. Vernon is truly international.

Vernon has no desire to become a large industrial city. There is no large single employer of labor. There are many low-profile small businesses, craft workers, service industries and ever growing businesses catering to tourists. Volunteer associations provide health, educational, religious, cultural, sport and social services. There is a relatively sound economic base affected only marginally by world events. It's just a pleasant place in which to live and raise a family.

In 1904, on a trip from Manitoba to the coast, Sam Polson stopped over in Vernon, with the result that he wired his family "get ready to move. I've found the Garden of Eden." He is remembered today as the donor of the land for the Vernon Jubilee Hospital and for the park that bears his name. Those born in Vernon take the good life here for granted. Newcomers agree with Mr. Polson.

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*Edna Oram was a Social Worker in Vernon. She served as Treasurer of the Okanagan Historical Society from 1976-79.*

# *Soldiers of the Soil 1914-1919*

*by William Ruhmann*

It was summer and I was happy to be visiting my grandparents in Kelowna. Then one day I came home to find Grandma weeping - Grandpa angry! Germany had attacked Russia! England and France had declared war on Germany.

The next day, August 5, 1914, my grandparents put me on board the paddle-wheeler **S.S. Sicamous** for my trip back to Vernon. My homecoming as I remember, was rather restrained. Questions about my visit seemed perfunctory. There were no smiling faces - the shock of war was already changing our lives. The newspaper headlines were: **VOLUNTEER! JOIN UP! SERVE KING AND COUNTRY!** For the youth of the land fun, games and laughter were lost.

Squadrons of the Okanagan Valley reserve regiment, the 30th British Columbia Horse which consisted of more than 500 cavalymen, were called into active service. A training camp was established on Mission Hill south of Vernon. Row on row of white bell tents were a constant reminder that our soldiers were in training.

After establishment of this camp, an internment camp for enemy aliens was constructed. The new camp was ten acres, enclosed by a high barbed-wire fence, located at the intersection of 27th Street (Mara Avenue) and 43rd Avenue. Soldiers walked on guard duty between the sentry boxes. Each guard would call out the hour and, on a descending note, "*All's Well!*" How the internees and townspeople endured that hourly call for more than four years is impossible to say. Each day there was a changing of the guard. Those at the internment camp were replaced by a new unit from Mission Hill.

A marching group with drum and

trumpet band was formed in 1916 to escort the guard unit. It was trained and lead by Sgt. Tommy Vaughn; adult members were W. Western and A.G. Treadgold (of Kelowna), and Marriott, Pruitt and Newell. The rest were high school boys from Vernon.

**Trumpeters:** Corporal Spence Newell, Lance Corporal Frank Marriott, Walter "Wally" Mattock, Robert "Bert" Mattock, Ted Pruitt, William May, Horace Foote, Alan Robey, A.G. "Bert" Treadgold, Wilfred Phillips, Cecil Phillips.

**Side Drums:** Willfred Moffat, Stuart Jenkins, Leslie Dodd, Sidney Briard, Homer Conn, Albert "Spud" Murphy, W. Western.

**Bass Drummer:** Maurice Mitchell.

In December 1916, a fourteen year old high school boy, Thomas E. Jessett, joined the 30th B.C. Horse Regiment. Because of his self-taught stenographic skill, he quickly advanced to Orderly Room Corporal. Tom, with a glint in his eye, years later commented, "*My rank caused problems at home-Dad was just a private in the same regiment.*"

The battalions in training on the Hill grew as recruits from throughout the Province arrived by troop trains. Soon there were soldiers everywhere! They were marching on the parade ground, attacking dummies in bayonet drills, performing long marches in full packs and shooting on the rifle ranges. Those in the Signal Corps practiced sending messages with flags and, when the sun was shining, by heliograph. At night, messages went from one hill to another by lights blinking dots and dashes. Boys who had learned the Morse Code made clandestine watches - hoping to intercept a secret communication.

During the summer of 1916 a group of ten schoolboys organized to deliver the daily paper to men in the camp. This was strictly a business venture. They made arrangements to have the two town jitneys (Model T Fords with the tops removed) at the station when the noon train arrived from Vancouver. Each boy grabbed fifty papers when the bundled newspapers were thrown out of the baggage car. They jumped aboard the jitneys for a noisy race to the Hill, down Barnard Avenue and up 32nd Street (Seventh Street) with horns blowing. They raced to the camp gate where the soldiers were eagerly waiting.

Men in uniform were everywhere - on Barnard Avenue Saturday evening, at church on Sunday, as guests in homes, relaxing on the beach at Kalamalka Lake. Four battalions trained at the Central Mobilization Camp at Vernon. By the winter of 1916, the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, the Okanagan's own battalion, and the 172nd Battalion, called the Rocky Mountain Rangers, were overseas. The 158th, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles left in November. Still training on the Hill was the 225th Battalion made up of recruits from the Kootenay and Boundary regions. Four years of close contact with soldiers had a noticeable effect on the youth of the community. Almost every boy collected mementos such as officers' swagger sticks and bronze hat badges from various regiments.

The war was seriously depleting the work force of the Okanagan Valley. More than 22% of the manpower had enlisted. At that time the fruit crops were the mainstay of the area. Harvesting the apple crops, and other agricultural products, became a problem. On

January 4, 1917 Thomas Richmond, chairman of the Farmers' Institute, reported that the Department of Agriculture was advocating the establishment of training schools to teach high school boys and girls how to pack apples. Making boxes in the packing houses was a job that boys enjoyed. (Hammer damaged thumbs were proudly exhibited.)

At a Consumers League meeting in Vancouver it was proposed that women from that area help with the harvest of the apple crop in the Okanagan. *"What kind of dress would be worn in the orchards?"* asked a woman. *"Overalls,"* someone shouted. There was a ripple of laughter. *"Yes,"* said the chairman, *"this would be one time when women will be permitted to wear Overalls."*

During the Easter vacation six of us boys had a job picking up prunings in an orchard on Silver Star Road. Our employer transported us in a very crowded Model T Ford. Charlie White and I got a summer job on a twenty acre orchard on Swan Lake Road three miles north of town. Our first job was to pull weeds from rows of navy beans planted between the orchard trees. Kytes also wanted other chores done so they boarded me to save the six mile daily walk. I split firewood, hilled half an acre of potatoes, and helped prepare the packing house for apples. Some trees were an early variety of apple so picking started mid-summer. My mother joined some other women with this first picking. Hornets harassed our pickers, so I volunteered to burn out the nests. At dusk when all the insects were home for the night I used a birchbark torch on the end of a stick. (Incredibly I survived without a sting.) Pickers were paid four or five cents per 55 pound orchard box; an energetic boy could pick 60 or more boxes in a ten hour day. Many older boys worked in packing houses operating hand trucks to move boxes of packed fruit into storage or into box-cars for shipping; box making was piece work done as time permitted. Some lads helped with haying, milk

ing and care of livestock. Farm work became our war effort in 1917.

The 30th B.C. Horse, along with the drum and trumpet band, was disbanded early in 1918. Those over sixteen and those too old or too disabled to serve overseas were transferred to the 11th Battalion Canadian Garrison Regiment. They were stationed at the internment camp doing guard duty. Trumpeters Alan Robey, Horace G. Foote, and Robert Mattock served as buglers. In December Robey followed Corporal Thomas Jessett into the position of Orderly Room Corporal under Major Nash. Robey served as a guard in the transfer of the last war prisoners to Europe, and was able to visit relatives in England before returning to Vernon.

SOLDIERS OF THE SOIL were formed in March 1918 as part of a federal plan to increase food supplies. Boys 13 to 18 years of age were registered with the Department of Agriculture under Deputy Minister William E. Scott. Rev. J.H. Miller of Cloverdale was appointed head of the B.C. sector. Thirty-four Vernon boys, out of 130 in the Okanagan Valley, had registered in April. In spring, as farming activity accelerated, some of the SOS boys were excused from school to start jobs assigned to them. Some of us worked on Saturdays. I recall working with Thomas Richmond, President of the Farmers' Institute. He plowed and harrowed a vacant lot while my friends and I cut potatoes for seeding. We followed each furrow planting the potatoes. When this lot was finished I rode with Mr. Richmond on the wagon to a fenced lot at the east end of Pine street (39th Avenue) near the 12th Street intersection. When this lot was plowed and harrowed I was given a bag of navy beans to plant. I kept close watch on my bean patch. One Saturday I discovered that cut-worms were levelling my crop. Catastrophe! What could I do? I went to the entomology office in the Court House for help. They prepared a bucket of poison bait-bran mixed with molasses and sprinkled

with Paris Green (copper arsenite). Up and down the rows I spread this toxic lunch for the worms. I don't know if the worms ate the bait because of its beautiful green colour or because they liked the molasses. My bean patch was saved!

That summer the government sent a bean thresher through the Okanagan Valley to harvest the enormous crop. The Hon. E.D. Barrow, Minister of Agriculture, travelled with the thresher and operated it. This, he said, was an ideal opportunity to get away from the political scene at the Provincial capital.

When school closed in June, I was hired as chore boy at the Vernon Orchards, a 250 acre fruit ranch on the east side of Swan Lake. Pol LeGuen, a native of Brittany, France, was manager of the orchard and Frank Lucas was foreman. (Pol LeGuen, though a naturalized British subject, was called up by France to serve on the front in his old regiment. He was invalided home in 1915.) Ranch teamsters were Len Rice, Jack Brown, and Len Parent. Farmhands that summer were Camillo and Angello Gaspardoni. We lived in a two story bunkhouse. The "plumbing" was outside and water was by bucket from a hand pump at the horse trough. The washstand was on the porch and the dining room was in the manager's residence. Our cook was Mrs. Jane Roze. I was paid \$15 a month to milk two Holstein cows, clean the barn, care for a saddle horse and a driving horse, tend several pigs, help with fruit harvesting and haying. When school reopened, after milking the cows, feeding the pigs, cleaning my share of the barn and having breakfast I would hitch Caesar to the democrat and drive to school with the three Lucas children, Bill, Dorothy and Donald, as well as Bernie Roze, the son of our cook. I was in eighth grade.

In 1918 the influenza epidemic swept across Canada and on October 21 our school was closed. Now life on the ranch became boring.



There wasn't much to do between the 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. milkings. To pass the time I would go down to the lake and trap muskrats. I did very well until the lake froze over. Harry Blurton, a trapper and fur buyer from Enderby, came by every few weeks to buy my pelts at 20 cents each.

Len Rice, a teamster who lived in the bunkhouse, had his own saddle horse, a wild, mean animal sixteen hands high. His brother Harry often visited. On Hallowe'en the two of them invited me to ride into town with them. Each wore a big Stetson hat; Len had bat-wing chaps and Harry wore black angora long haired ones. Their spurs jungled and their horses pranced. I felt a bit subdued - me with my grade school knickers riding Queenie who had the "heaves". We attracted a lot of attention. After entertaining the intermission crowd at the theatre we rode down Coldstream Avenue to 33rd. I was told to ride down 33rd to the next intersection and wait.

We were in Chinatown. The street was alive with Chinamen. (The immigrant Chinese work force in Vernon was estimated at 500). On each side of the street were unpainted, boxlike two-storey buildings. They were dimly lit. In the background unfamiliar tones of a stringed instrument were heard and there was the drone of singsong voices in the air. A couple of men were seated on a porch with lighted punks in hand sucking on their gurgling water pipes. Noise coming from one building told us that a gambling game was underway. As I rode down the street doors opened and men came out to investigate. Then two "phantom horsemen" emerged from the shadows, their horses rearing and plunging in an apparent uncontrolled charge. The men standing in the street lunged in all directions. The commotion was unbelievable! When Len and Harry reached me they were laughing so hard they could hardly speak. *"We sure broke up their fan-tan game, didn't we?"*

November brought cold weather. I

had just received my new heavy belted jacket from the T. Eaton Co. It cost me nearly a month's pay, but when school opened again my trips to school would be more comfortable.

One morning I was given the job of taking a wagon load of harness to town for repair. As I drove down Barnard Avenue I thought it strangely deserted. I backed the wagon into the sidewalk in front of the Okanagan Harness and Saddlery Co., across from the Empress Theatre. I dragged a set of harness into the store, hoping for help from the two men in the back of the shop. Suddenly a huge explosion shook the area. I jumped to stop my team from bolting. At that moment, the two men dashed out of the shop and ran in the direction of the blast. The once deserted street was now alive with excited people. I quieted my team and dragged the rest of the harness into the shop. As I turned to leave I saw my team and wagon going up the street at a dead run. There was another explosion. Then I heard the fire bell clanging madly, and the church bells at the Presbyterian and Anglican churches on Mara Avenue.

*"My team, my team-someone's stealing my team and my brand new jacket in the wagon!"* I shouted.

The horses disappeared around the corner at the Post Office. I ran as best I could with cleated rubber boots, oversocks with tassels that gyrate as I moved. Another explosion, this time in the Post Office Block. I made the turn and saw a group of men in front of the Police station; there was the Mayor, City Clerk and some aldermen. I ran past them to Chief Constable R.N. Clerke, who was wearing his cavalry officer's uniform. *"They stole my team - didn't you see them?"* The fire bell was clanging - there was another explosion - Chief Clerke had an odd expression on his face. *"The war is over Billy-boy. We're celebrating. Don't you understand? the war is over."*

Mayor Shatford put his hand on my shoulder. *"Billy-boy, we are celebrating. We are going to build a*

*big bonfire across the street. I suppose someone took your team to get wood for the fire. Don't worry, you'll get it back."* *"But,"* I said, *"I have to haul a load of oats back to the ranch."* I still hadn't realized that the war was over. The Mayor took me over to the Police Station and telephoned my boss, Pol LeGuen. *"Pol,"* he said, *"have you heard the news? wonderful isn't it. Say, your Billy-boy is here with me - eh - Bill is here with me. We would like to borrow his team to help build a bonfire for the celebration this evening. Thanks, Pol."*

*"Well, Bill, we're all fixed up. We can use your team and you have the day off."* That day, Monday November 11, 1918, I made the big jump from "Billy-boy", fourth grade marbles champion to eighth grade "Bill."

Behind the Royal Bank Jim Vallance and Jim Silver were exploding dynamite. Once, deciding to make a bigger bang, they enlarged the powder charge. Unfortunately several windows in nearby buildings were shattered. My friends and I were fascinated. But it was getting cold, and since my toque and new coat were in the wagon I headed for home missing a parade in the afternoon and bonfire in the evening.

Those boys who had signed up for soldiers of the Soil were recognized at a ceremony at the Court House. Dr. K.C. MacDonald, M.L.A., congratulated the boys and presented each with a small bronze lapel button provided by the Dominion Government. 1, 671 British Columbia boys took part in the Soldiers of the Soil program while many others worked on farms unaware of the requirement to sign up and thus did not receive public recognition.

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**William Ruhmann prepared this article as part of a project for the Vernon Museum. He lived in Lake Oswego, Oregon in the latter part of his life.**

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Many assisted with recollections covering the activities of Vernon boys during the war years.

**The Vernon News 1914 through 1919.**

Corporal Tom Jessett is now a Canon in the Episcopal Church in Seattle. Further recollections are on file in the Vernon Museum.





source of food and large band hunts were organized four times a year. Large game such as deer, elk, big-horn sheep and bear were plentiful while goat and moose were found occasionally. Fishing had both social and economic significance, the rapids in Okanagan River at Okanagan Falls being a favorite spot at which to gather during the salmon run. Berry picking in season and collecting roots for drying added to the food supply. However, by the time the white settlers arrived the Indians had become proficient stock raisers and were growing crops, thus they knew the value of agricultural land. Their main village which they called Pen-tik-tan, was located on the east bank of the Okanagan River and extended from the south end of Railway Street to the Fairview Road bridge.

Archeological research tells us that the site accommodated the largest

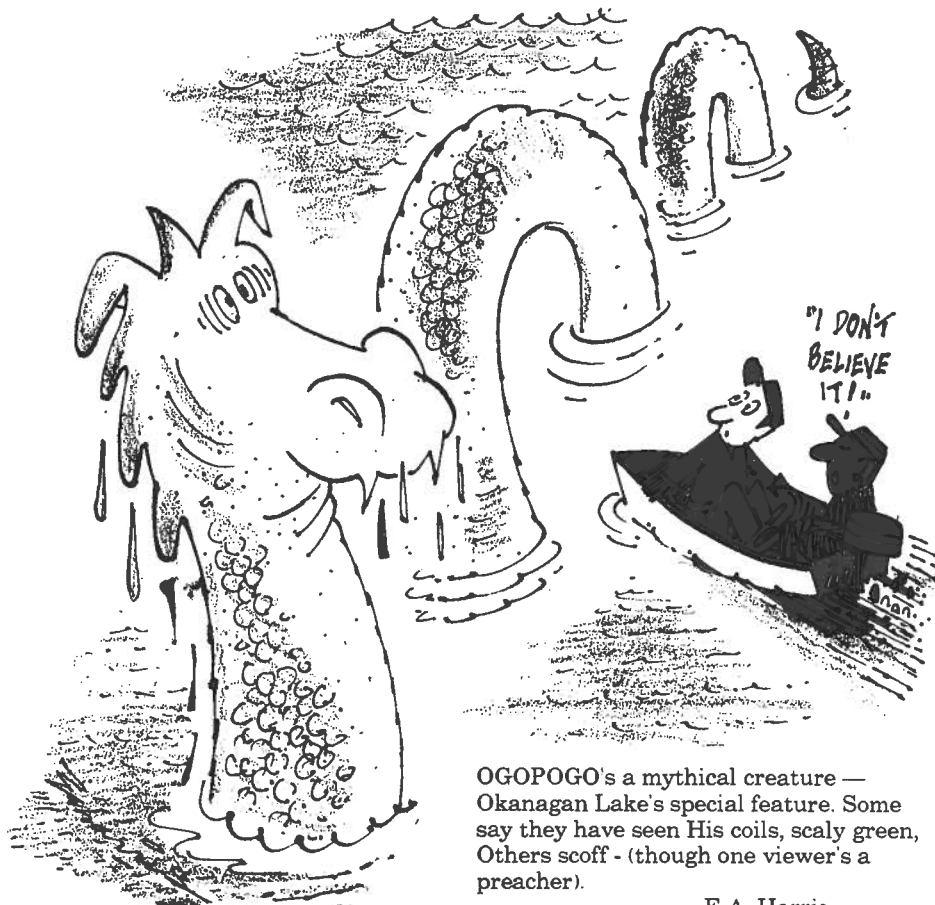
concentration of population in the Okanagan Valley. The choice was logical, being midway in the valley's chain of lakes which provided easy transportation by dugout canoes and rafts in summer and over the ice in winter. The river at this point consisted of a half-mile stretch of gravel shoals providing easy fording. The campsite was well sheltered, fuel was abundant and game abounded. Materials for the manufacture of weapons, baskets, ropes and garments were close at hand.

The name Penticton is derived from the language of the Okanagan Indians but its exact meaning has been interpreted in several ways, all of which centre around the word "permanent." The village on Okanagan River between Okanagan and Skaha Lakes was a permanent Indian camp when the first white man arrived. The Indians referred to the camp as 'pentktn', permanent

camp; linguists have analyzed the word as 'pen-tk-in' meaning 'always-time-place.' Some persons believe that it was the constant flow of water in the river which accounted for the use of the term. In late spring and early summer, the small creeks feeding the main lakes and river rose in flood but by mid-summer the flow of the water has been attached to the site itself, a 'permanent' abode or 'place to stay forever.' Whatever the exact meaning, both Indian and white settler agreed that it was a highly desirable place to live.

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*This was written by A. David MacDonald, editor of "1908-1983 75 Penticton - Years to Remember" as an introduction to a publication sponsored by the City of Penticton to commemorate its 75th Anniversary.*



OGOPOGO's a mythical creature — Okanagan Lake's special feature. Some say they have seen His coils, scaly green, Others scoff - (though one viewer's a preacher).

E.A. Harris

# *The Okanagan-Nicola Connector of the 1830's*

*by R.C. Harris*

The southern interior of British Columbia was first explored for the fur trade from the south, when David Stuart started from the Columbia River late in 1811. By 1813, using Indian trails, two main routes from the Columbia basin to Kamloops had been examined. What became the first main trail ran up the west side of Okanagan Lake and round by Monte Lake to Kamloops. The other, more important in later years, ran up Similkameen River and Otter Creek, reaching Kamloops via Nicola and Stump lakes, <sup>13, 14, 15</sup>.

Though both routes made easy crossing of the Columbia divide, they were somewhat circuitous. Using other Indian trails, a shortcut was developed between the two main trails for use by light and express traffic, see accompanying sketch map. This cutoff headed northwest from near today's Peachland, via upper Nicola River and Chapperon Lake, to join the Similkameen-Kamloops trail at Stump Lake. The cutoff was impractical for heavy pack trains. Not only were parts of the trail steep and narrow, but it climbed to 5500 ft. elevation, and the snow lay late.

It was 90 miles to Kamloops from the site of Peachland, using the cutoff, a saving of 40 miles, or two days, compared with going by the head of Okanagan Lake. Alexander Ross travelled twice from Fort Okanagan to Kamloops in 1812, going by the head of the lake, taking ten days each time. AC Anderson, in his 1867 map <sup>5</sup>, shows the nine traditional camps on the journey. This confirms that ten days were still allowed for the journey, and suggests that Ross as early as 1812 was travelling on well established trails.

Archibald Macdonald's 1827 map

<sup>1</sup>, from the early fur trade days shows that the territory of the Okanagan Indians reached north and west of Okanagan Lake and over the Columbia divide to include Nicola Lake and the upper Nicola country. The cutoff trail of interest to the HBCo lay entirely within this territory. The Handbook of Indians of Canada <sup>9</sup>, states that the Upper Nicola Indian Reserves are assigned to the Okanagan Indians; for example:

"Spahamin (Upper Nicola). An Okanagan village situated at Douglas Lake, 11 miles from Quilchena."

Nina Woolliams, writing of the Douglas cattle ranch <sup>10</sup>, gives several instances of long established travel over the Columbia divide between the Okanagan and the Nicola.

Using today's place names, the cutoff left the regular brigade trail along Okanagan Lake at Trépanier Creek, just north of Peachland. It ran up the east side to the forks of the creek, where the trail also forked, passing on either side of massive Mount Gottfriedsen, formerly known as Mount Swara or Hatheume. The two parts rejoined on the upper Nicola River, following the right bank northwesterly, passing to the left of Chapperon Lake, then to the left of Glimpse Lake, then north to the left side of Peter Hope Lake, whence it descended to the east slopes of Stump Lake. Here it joined the other main trail of the fur trade. <sup>14</sup>

From Stump Lake, this trail continued north, deep in the valley of "Lake River", today's Campbell Creek. At Richie Lake the trail climbed north on to the plateau, passing between Brigade Lake and Brigade Hill, but closer to the lake, maintaining a northerly course before descending Peterson Creek to

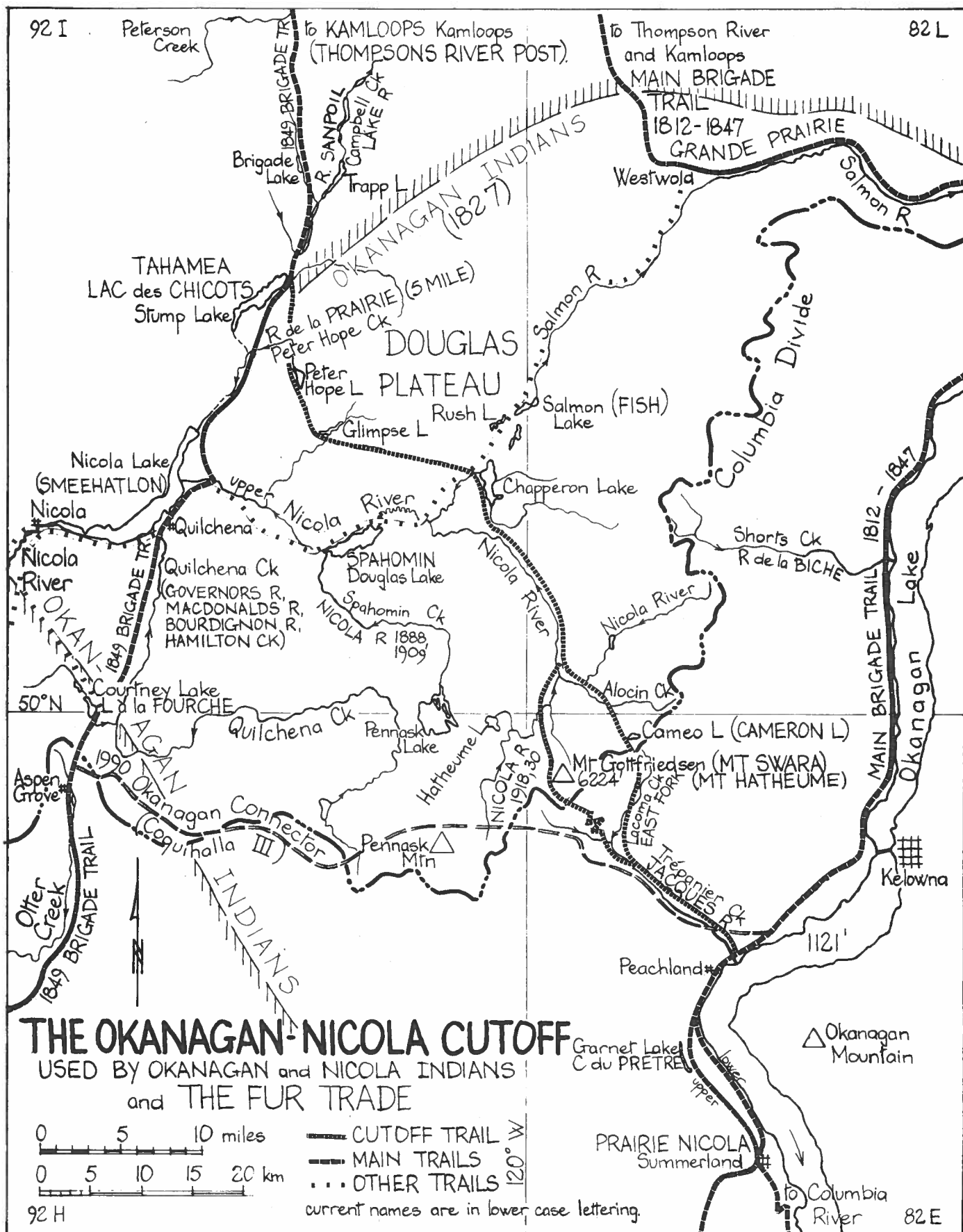
Kamloops. Before the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Kamloops was north of Thompson River.

Looking at the early maps; Archibald Macdonald, 1827, <sup>1</sup> shows the extent of the Okanagans' territory, and the trail up the Similkameen, past Nicola Lake to Kamloops. On this he notes "Mr Archd McDonald's trail in Oct. 1826". Samuel Black, c.1833, <sup>2</sup> gives more detail, showing the cutoff trail in addition to the main trails. He names the cutoff as "Rout to Jacques River by SB". ("SB" was the South Branch of Thompson's River, i.e. it was Nicola River). Jacques River or Rivière de Jacques was the old name for Trépanier Creek, and was named for Jacques Trépanier.

Black <sup>2, 4</sup> also shows the trail passing either side of "Snow Monte" (Mount Gottfriedsen), and he shows Nicola River rising from a lake (Hatheume) and flowing first east, then north. This interpretation remained until the 1930s, when the name "Nicola River" was moved to a tributary from the northeast, where it remains today. Other locations for Nicola River have been Spahamin Creek, flowing from Pennask Lake to Douglas Lake, <sup>6, 7</sup>, and Alocin Creek, which is 'Nicola' reversed.

AC Anderson shows the cutoff trail on his 1867 map <sup>5</sup>, as a dashed line, whereas all other trails are solid lines. Along the trail, he wrote "Trail to Okn Lake - Snow lies xxx Summit". One word is obscured by Anderson's heavy line for "Watershed of the Columbia".

Many geographic features have changed names in the last 100 years; some of these old names are shown on the accompanying map in capital letters. Settlers and surveyors came and went. "Rivers" were



moved, and renamed "Creeks". Many of the early names were French; the working language of the fur trade was Canadian French.

In May of 1989, Ray Findlay, Bill Sanderson, Harley Hatfield, Ken Favrholt and Bob Harris looked for the trail up Trépanier Creek. A good section of trail was found up the east fork, leading to the abandoned Lacoma dam. There was not time to cross and continue up to the divide. Later, a section of the western branch was found on top, as yet untouched by the extensive clearcut logging nearby. The south slopes of Mount Gottfriedsen may have been too steep for logging, and we expect to find more of the trail there in 1990.

Meanwhile, four-lane Coquihalla III, the latest "Okanagan Connector", is nearing completion. This crosses Trépanier Creek low down, and runs up its south side, passing over the Columbia divide and heading due west over an earlier location of Nicola River, and past Pennask Mountain. It joins the ancient Similkameen-Kamloops trail

(now Highway 5A) near Aspen Grove.

One or other of the trails past Mount Gottfriedsen was shown on government maps until the 1960s, by which time the trails had been supplanted by easier routes, mostly logging access.

The old trails here no longer have commercial significance, but are interesting to hikers and historians.

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#### REFERENCES: MAPS SHOWING THE TRAILS

1. 1827. Archibald Macdonald. "Sketch map of Thompson's River District".
2. c. 1833. Undated, untitled, worn and folded manuscript map of Thompson's River District, attributed to Samuel Black. Shows rivers, lakes and trails; and mountains by shading. Probably the basis for several of the following maps.
3. 1861. Royal Engineers. "BRITISH COLUMBIA, THOMPSON RIVER DISTRICT. From a Map in the possession of H. E. GOV. DOUGLAS, C.B. made in 1835 by S. Black Esq. H.B. Company's Service . . . "This copy of Black's map, presumably a fair copy of 2 above, is lost.
4. 1862. Gustavus Epner. "Map of the GOLD REGIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA". The place names on this map make an interesting study.
5. 1867. A.C. Anderson. "Map of a portion of the Colony of BRITISH COLUMBIA Compiled from various sources, including original Notes

from personal explorations between the years 1832 and 1851".

6. 1877, 1882. G.M. Dawson. "GEOLOGICAL MAP of a portion of the Southern Interior of BRITISH COLUMBIA"
7. 1930. Department of Lands, B.C. Map No. 4N PENTICTON. Shows the trail west of Mount Gottfriedsen, but not up the East Fork (Lacoma). This trail crossed "Nicola River", which at that time rose southwest of Mount Gottfriedsen.
8. 1960. Department of Lands and Forests, B.C. Sheet 82 E/NW, KELOWNA, Second Status. Shows the trail up Lacoma, the east fork, continuing on the west side of the creek beyond the dam to Cameo (Cameron) Lake, just over the divide. The trail passes both sides of Cameo Lake. This is the last government map to show either branch of the trail past Mount Gottfriedsen.

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11. 1978 November. "Blackeyes and 1849 HBC Trail"
12. 1979 Summer "The HBC 1849 Brigade Trail. Fort Hope to Kamloops. Collins Gulch Section"
13. 1980 Fall. "The Hope-Nicola Trail, 1875-1913"
14. 1983 Spring. "The Brigade Trail. Nicola Lake to Kamloops"
15. 1989 Summer. "Fur Trade Trails. Princeton to Nicola Lake"

## THE GHOST OF GALLAGHER'S CANYON

The Chinese who came to the Okanagan Valley in mid 1800s were very efficient at panning gold and one of their sites was on Mission Creek where it flows through Gallagher's Canyon.

One day a cloudburst roared through the canyon and one of the Chinese workers was caught in the flood and drowned. When his body was recovered it was buried beside the stream on the present day golf course.

About 16 years later a shepherd named Clegg pre-empted land and built a cabin close to the grave. Then strange thing began to happen. Every night when he doused his lantern he was visited by a ghostly Chinese image with a pigtail hanging down his back.

After numerous ghostly visitations, Clegg became fed up and appealed to the boss Chinaman in Kelowna, Lim Yun, who lived on Abbott Street where the Underhill Clinic is today.

"That Chinaman you got buried up at my place?"

"Yes, we know him."

"Well he keeps coming to my place and wants to get out."

A couple of weeks went by and nothing was done, so Clegg again visited Lim Yun and said, "That man you got buried up at my place says if you don't come up and take him away he's coming to town."

The next morning a party of Chinese arrived in the canyon and took away their compatriot. History doesn't record what happened, but since it was the Chinese custom in those days to ship remains back to China, that is probably what happened. In any case Clegg had no more wraithy visits and that was the end of the Ghost of Gallagher's Canyon.

- Win Shilvock

## SMALLEST POST OFFICE

Although it had no building, no name, no postmaster and no postmark, it routed the mail and sold stamps for ten years and earned the distinction of being Canada's smallest post office.

Thomas Alva Wood (Wood Lake) gave his middle name Alva to the post office named Alvaston which was established in 1909, where Winfield is now. But it was set up a half mile from the Kelowna-Vernon mail coach route which followed today's Highway 97, and thereby hangs our story.

The stage had a schedule to keep and the driver refused to travel a mile out of his way to the post office to deliver and pick up the mail. The problem was quickly overcome, however, by the local residents when they acquired a large packing case with a lid on top and set it up by the side of the road where the stage would pass. The driver then agreed to deliver and pick up the mail.

From 1909 to 1919, the postmasters of Alvaston P.O., A. Chatterhorn; H. Horsnell and C. Lodge, cooperated with this arrangement and obligingly took the outgoing mail to the packing case and picked up the incoming mail to be distributed from the official post office.

Individual pieces of outgoing mail were allowed to be left in the packing case rather than go through the regular post office and for the convenience of the sender, an empty four-pound jam tin containing a dollar or two in stamps was kept inside and money for stamps taken would be left in the tin.

This bizarre arrangement worked splendidly throughout the whole decade that the Alvaston post office existed and it's recorded that never was the privilege abused. No mail, money or stamps were ever stolen from the jam tin post office.

- Win Shilvock

# *Armstrong: From Celery to Cheese*

*by Judy Riemche*

Armstrong held its 90th annual Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE) in September. For nearly a century, this yearly celebration has recognized the integral link between the people of Armstrong and Spallumcheen, and the land.

In the earliest history of the area, when settlers came to the swampy lowland country, they came to farm. People were farming in the Knob Hill and Round Prairie areas when Robert Wood, Daniel Rabbitt and E.C. Cargill founded the town. Those three men, trading under the name of E.C. Cargill Co., were harvesting fir and cottonwood from the region.

In 1887, the area known as "The Swamp" surrounded the island of land where Armstrong was eventually established. In that year the swamp was drained and the black soil left behind was planted in vegetables. It was the beginning of a change in the direction and the character of the town, and led to the city's new nickname - Celery City.

The first established settlement had been at Lansdowne, about three miles northeast of the present city of Armstrong. The coming of the Shuswap & Okanagan railway line in 1891 changed the location of the townsite, and brought many changes in the lives of the people.

Settlers wanted to call their town Aberdeen, but when the railway came through, the name of Armstrong was erected at the station house. The name was in honour of Mr. Heaton-Armstrong, a banker who had arranged the issue of bonds to finance the Shuswap and Okanagan Railroad. Townspeople held on to their chosen name of Aberdeen until the Post Office was built and when it too was named Armstrong, Aberdeen faded. When it became obvious that Armstrong would be the centre of commerce, the settlement of Lansdowne itself moved to the Armstrong townsite, in 1892. The Anglican church, St. James, was moved from Lansdowne

to its present site on Patterson Ave., where it's still serving the people of Armstrong.

Farmers had followed the fur traders who were the first to settle in B.C. They came from Britain, Western Europe, from eastern Canada and the United States, and with them they brought their own familiar types and varieties of livestock, and their own farming methods. Each came with their own variety of seeds and plants, poultry and animals. Over the years they discovered which produced better in the soil and climate of the area, and those observations resulted in more efficient and successful farming techniques.

Rapid change followed the laying of the railway lines. The municipality of Spallumcheen was organized and a council elected. A grist mill was built beside the railway line, processing and shipping locally-grown wheat. C. Brewer built a major sawmill at the east end of town, which was later purchased by T.K. Smith. And these were the days when farmers saw the first of many threshing machines rolling through the fields of golden grain.

In 1900, the IPE was established as a table fair under the leadership of Donald Matheson, who served as president for the next 14 years. It was the producers' way of celebrating the industry that played a major role in the lives of the settlers, but it was also a way of comparing agricultural methods, not only among the local producers, but with farmers from the surrounding towns.

By 1903 the population of Armstrong proper had reached over 500. Three of the largest industries in town included the Okanagan Flour Mill Co., the Farmers Exchange and the Okanagan Creamery Association. Four churches, an elementary and a high school, and several lodges (including Odd Fellows, Foresters, Orangemen and the Masons) had large memberships. The Armstrong Advertiser

had been reporting on all these since 1902.

One of the major crops grown was hay, but harvests included berries of several kinds (strawberries, raspberries and black currants), potatoes, and turnips. Orchards were thriving, and the Egg and Poultry Co-op had been established to grade and market eggs and processed fowl.

Vegetable production attracted hard-working Chinese families, who came in 1907. Where other had seen only black muck in the drained swamp grounds, the Chinese saw gold in the production of celery, lettuce and cabbage. Their faith in their own hard work saw its own harvest when five packing houses were built to process the vegetables and ship them to the prairie provinces and west to the coastal cities.

The Chinese lived near their land, in buildings on Okanagan Street. Foster Whitaker, who came to Armstrong in 1910, remembers a large building near Spallumcheen's newly-established road paving plant which housed about 100 Chinese. More Chinese buildings lined the street to the corner north of the paving plant, and in the general vicinity. He said, at the peak, there were more Chinese adults over 21 than white.

When Alex Adair arrived in the city in 1911 to start his merchant tailor business, there were "two hotels, a theatre, two grocery stores, two butcher shops, two drug stores, a confectionery, a bakery, two livery stables, dry goods store, gent's furnishings, pool hall, five or six churches, a harness shop, blacksmith shop and various emporiums," according to his daughter. The elementary and high schools were well established, and the first cottage hospital on Patterson Ave. was nearing the end of its time. A new hospital was built in 1912, with Dr. Van Kleek the first doctor.

Peggy Adair Landon, who came to Armstrong with her father in 1911, said: "When we first came, Messers

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Daykin and Jackson ran a successful flour mill, but the chief job opportunities were at the lumber yard and sawmills, the Creamery, and the packing houses."

On March 31, 1913, the City of Armstrong was incorporated, formally separating itself as an entity apart from the Municipality of Spallumcheen.

After the first World War, with Germany and Holland rebuilding their own agricultural industries, the bottom fell out of the seed market, and Armstrong's Seed Co-op closed. Small farms were in trouble as jobs became more readily available in industry, and that caused both remaining packing houses to close. Cheap produce from California and Washington guaranteed the loss of Armstrong's vegetable markets, and imported eggs did the same to the egg industry. But that still didn't daunt many of the producers.

A fire destroyed the Chinese section of town in 1912 but didn't hold back the production of vegetables. While production of celery and some of the other vegetables growing in the area had declined, the discovery that asparagus grew well in Armstrong created an expansion in that direction. Soon Armstrong became one of the major asparagus growing districts in the country.

Hog production also survived, and with the increase in asparagus, growers had a strong basis on which to build. Ranchers and cattlemen who were raising pure breeding animals improved the strains and continued successfully. Mechanization, specialization, and new technology meant successful farming. Automatic feeding systems, seeding and thrashing machines came into general use, changing the family farm forever.

This was also a time of revolution in the dairy industry. Smaller herds gave way to larger ones, milking parlours were made more efficient, with several cows being milked at one time by automatic milking machines. The herds themselves were changed through new breeding methods that enabled cattle to make more efficient use of feed to create

**B.C. Historical News**

more milk per animal. The dairy industry was served by a creamery established by local farmers which has evolved to become the Armstrong Cheese plant.

As agriculture grew, new related industries sprang up in the town-site. Feed and supply stores were established, with Buckerfield's the first. Charlie Hoover built an alfalfa mill (where the Pea Growers now stands) to grind alfalfa, and he operated Inland Flour Mills, later purchased, in 1946, by Buckerfield's. When the CNR brought in its branch line in 1924, there were four trains coming through the town every day, bringing in necessities and taking away farm products to markets both east and west. Farm machinery and equipment sales outlets were built to service the growing trend toward mechanization on the farm.

Each winter, hundreds of tons of ice were hauled in from Otter Lake by teams of horses and sleighs. They were stored in straw and sawdust, kept ready for packing fresh vegetables. By 1925 there were four packing houses in Armstrong, with a Chinese shipping office (Wong Chong & Co.) established later near the stockyards.

Throughout those years, the expansion and changes in the industry were reflected each year at the IPE. Farmers continued to bring their new varieties of stock and produce, and their innovative ideas, to the fair. The need for expansion was increased by the burning of the cattle barn on the fairgrounds in 1925. Over the next four years, Fair directors bought more land and built a sheep barn, poultry barn and two more 30 x 100-foot barns to house the swelling interest in exhibiting.

The Depression and War years brought the Armstrong area the same hard times as every other part of the country went through. Times changed, markets dwindled, and many of the Chinese moved away, leaving the economy at its weakest. But the pursuit of agriculture continued. The IPE reflected the changes, and served as a reminder of the strength of the land. In 1930 the IPE Association held its first class B show; by 1938 further land was

added to the grounds, the livestock buildings and grandstand were rearranged to make room for a quarter-mile race track and 200 feet of box stalls.

And agriculture, like the fair, has continued to endure and grow. The days following World War II saw rapid price hikes, and again consumers and farmers alike had to respond to a changing environment. The first hay balers were used in the district in the late 1940s, and more mechanization meant higher initial costs to farmers. It also gave them the means to become more efficient, and to remain in the industry.

Changes in the railroad system also had its effect on agriculture. Throughout the early history of Armstrong, farmers depended on the railway to ship their goods, but during the 1950s costs for shipping were rising. That, combined with the fact better highways were being constructed to connect Armstrong with major markets both east and west, brought about changes in how goods were shipped. The last passenger train pulled out of Armstrong on March 16, 1957, a service no longer felt necessary because of the completion of Highway 97 the preceding year. In March of 1958, steam locomotive number 4308 made its final run through the city, and an era ended.

Farming continues to be the backbone of the Armstrong economy. Dairymen supply Armstrong Cheese with milk for its operation, and there is a flourishing poultry market. Hatcheries, breeders, and poultry farm supply Colonial Farms and Starbird Enterprises, and egg producers are a growing industry.

The city has benefitted through the many related industries that serve those involved in agriculture, and logging continues to contribute to the economy. This year, (1989) the city again paid tribute to its beginnings with the IPE, and 50,000 people, the largest crowd ever, joined in the celebration.

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*Judy Riemche is a feature writer with the VERNON MORNING STAR paper, and Secretary of the Armstrong/Enderby OHS branch.*



# *The Role of Enderby in Early Okanagan History*

*by Bob Cowan*

Enderby played a pivotal role in the development of the Okanagan Valley. Situated on the west bank of the Spallumcheen or Shuswap River, it was located at a point where the river changed its westerly flow to a northerly direction, emptying into Mara Lake. It was a mile south of this point that Alexander Leslie Fortune, an Overlander, pre-empted land in 1866, thus becoming the first white settler in the north Okanagan.

This geographical quirk made the bend in the river an ideal stopping spot for steamboats from Kamloops shipping supplies to settlers in the south. It was from this point that goods could be transhipped to the head of Okanagan Lake, a distance of twenty miles.

In 1871 Fredrick Brent bought mill-stones, iron frame and hopper in San Francisco for his flour mill near Okanagan Mission. They arrived by sailing ship in Victoria, where they were re-shipped to Yale. They travelled by freight wagon to Savona's Ferry where they were again placed on a steamboat. They progressed through the Thompson River system, Shuswap Lake, and then up the Shuswap River to Fortune's Landing. From there they were taken overland to the head of Okanagan Lake near Cornelius O'Keefe's ranch. A rowboat took them to Lequime's Landing where they were off-loaded and skidded by stone-boat four miles inland.<sup>1</sup> The connection at Fortune's Landing was central to the success of this marathon adventure.

Recognizing the importance of this spot on the river, Thomas and Robert Lambly pre-empted the 320 acres to the west and north of the Spallumcheen Band Reserve in 1876. They built a large warehouse. Thomas Lambly was made Commissioner of Lands and Works

for the Okanagan Polling division, and had his office initially in part of the warehouse. The site became known as Lambly's Landing or Steamboat Landing.

The large ranches to the south continued to grow and prosper. They had considerable success with wheat and other cereal cultivation. To mill their crop the farmers had to take their product to the Fortune mill (no relation to A.L. Fortune) in Kamloops or the Brent mill near Okanagan Mission.

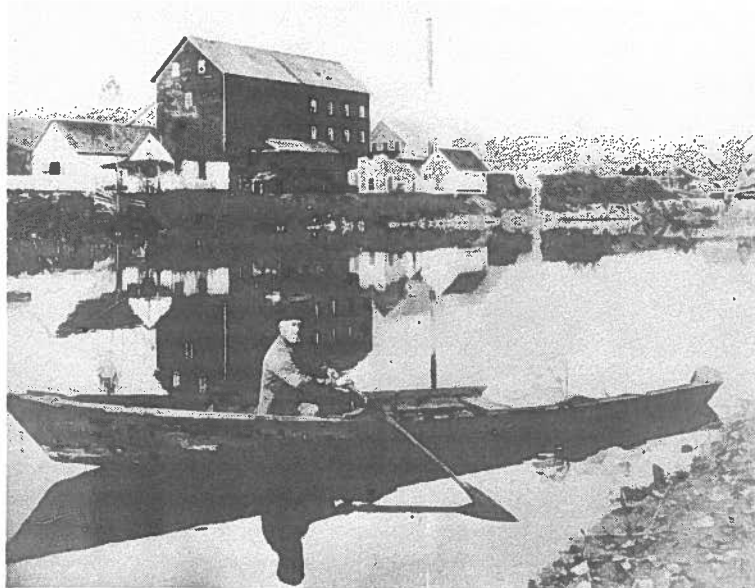
With the completion of the CPR mainline in 1885, it did not seem unreasonable that a flour mill could be built at Lambly's to handle the wheat production in the Spallumcheen and transport the finished product to Sicamous by boat.

Messers. Lawes and Rashdale constructed a five story roller mill on the river bank in 1887. Mr. Lawes had come from an old milling family in the neighborhood of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. More recently he had managed a mill in Oregon. A.S. Farwell reported to the provin-

cial government (June 9, 1887) on the viability of the Okanagan for future development if a rail line was extended from Sicamous to Okanagan Landing with the following:

*Messers. Lawes and Rashdale expect to have their mill in running order by the first of August next. They inform me that they have 1,500 tons of last years's wheat on hand, which quantity is sufficient to supply the mill at its full capacity for four months. The cost of the mill on the day it starts work will be over \$60,000. I mention this fact to show Mr. Lawes' firm belief in the wheat growing capacity of the district in the first place, and his confidence in being able to manufacture an article of flour which will compete successfully with that imported from Oregon, in the second.*

*If Messers. Lawes and Rashdale succeed in stopping the drain on the resources of the province for bread stuff, amounting annually to over \$200,000.00, they will deserve the thanks of the community at large.<sup>2</sup>*



*Columbia Flour Mill, Enderby. Jack Bailey delivering flour, circa 1892.*

Without the aid of rail transportation, Messrs. Lawes and Rashdale had great difficulty getting their finished product to Sicamous with any regularity. At one point, Web Wright, local teamster and owner of the Enderby Hotel, attempted to take a load of flour to Sicamous over the frozen river and lake only to lose his team under the ice at the Sicamous narrows.

By 1888 the Lawes and Rashdale mill was in receivership. Mr. R.P. Rithet, a Victoria businessman, purchased the mill. Mr. Rithet was a major shareholder in the proposed Shuswap and Okanagan Railway that would connect Sicamous with Okanagan Landing. He, together with Moses Lumby (owner of the large ranch south of town, later known as the Stepney Ranch), was instrumental in persuading the provincial government to become financially committed to the Shuswap and the Okanagan Railway.

It seemed clear that the railway was coming, and the little settlement on the river would be the hub of the construction. A post office was slated to open in Mr. Harvey's General Store. But what name would appear on the post mark? Would it be Steamboat Landing or Lambly's Landing or Belvedere (Mrs. Lambly's preference)? At a literary gathering at Mrs. Lawes' home, the group became excited by a

Jean Englow poem about a rising tide of water. The villagers were saved by the chiming of church bells playing the tune "The Brides of Enderby". When the post office opened that fall, many local residents were surprised that they lived in Enderby.<sup>3</sup>

Enderby was the centre for the Shuswap and Okanagan construction crews. The scow, the Red Star, plied the river carrying railway construction material south and flour from the mill north. Mr. Rithet also owned the Red Star.

The completion of the railway in 1891 marked the end of an era for Enderby. No longer was Enderby pivotal for the shipment of goods into the Okanagan. While products such as flour (and later lumber) could more easily be shipped from Enderby, the town could now be easily by-passed. Enderby's growth and importance became inversely proportional to the development and importance of other Okanagan cities such as Vernon or Kelowna.

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*Bob Cowan is chairman of the Enderby and District Museum Society, and current editor of OHS Report.*

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2. A.S. Farwell - June 9, 1887 Report p. 22
3. OHS Reports #6 p. 22 & 24



*The paddle wheeler, the "Red Star" (in background) and the barge, the "Colonel".*

## OFFICIAL PROGRAM

# VICTORIA DAY

ENDERBY, B.C.

May 25, 1908

### Royal Salute 9:45 a. m.

The booming of canon and chorus of whistles will welcome the city's guests

#### WATER SPORTS

10 o'clock—sharp

Indian Canoe race, 3-paddles—1st, \$4.50; 2nd, \$1.50.

10.20 o'clock

White Man's Canoe race, 2-paddles—1st, \$4; 2nd, \$2.

10.40 o'clock

Single Canoe race, white man's, for the amateur championship of the Valley—Trophy.

11 o'clock

Klutchman's Canoe race, 3-paddles—1st, \$6; 2nd, \$3.

11.20 o'clock

Log Rolling contest—One prize, \$15.

11.40 o'clock

Walking Greasy Pole—\$5.

12 o'clock

Launch race, open to all—Trophy.

#### FIELD SPORTS

**BASEBALL:** Vernon-Armstrong-Enderby

Captains will draw for the bye. The first game will be called at 11:30 a. m.; the second at the conclusion of the lacrosse match in the afternoon.

**LACROSSE:** Armstrong vs. Vernon

Game called at 1:30 p. m.

**RACING:** First race called at 4:30 p. m. In all men's races an entrance fee of 25c will be charged. Four to enter, three to start.

100-yards, open to all—1st, \$4; 2nd, \$2.

Half-mile, open to all—1st, \$4; 2nd, \$2.

Fat Man's race, over 200-lbs.—1st, \$4; 2nd, \$2.

Obstacle race, for boys, 16 and under—1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.

Sack race, boys under 12—1st, \$1; 2nd, 50c.

Klutchman's race—1st, \$2; 2nd, \$1.

Wheelbarrow race, blindfolded—1st, \$4; 2nd, \$2.

Girl's race, 75 yards, open to all—1st, \$2; 2nd, 1.

Relay race, 4 men, must be bona fide residents of the town they represent—Medals.

Tug-of-war, married vs. single men—Box 50 cigars.

### Grand Ball in Evening

Accommodation for 200 on the floor. Combined hall room of the Ball block engaged. Following the days sports, and as a prelude to the Grand Ball, a street celebration of All Fools Hour will be held. The Enderby band will open the frolic from the band stand at 8 o'clock. Everybody is invited to participate in the frolic, masked or unmasked. Have all the fun you want until the day we celebrate  
patrons  
out

# Commandos in the Okanagan Valley

by Win Shilvock

During the 1939-45 world war, the British war cabinet operated an organization called Special Operations Executive (SOE) which trained commandos to function behind enemy lines in Europe. Few people ever knew that these covert activities also operated in the peaceful Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.

The action began in 1944 when attention was directed more closely to activities in the South Pacific. In April, Major Hugh John Legg, who worked with the SOE for some years in England, was ordered to Vancouver to set up the organization.

Since Occidentals wouldn't fit into Asian setting, a search began for Chinese men who would volunteer for this very perilous assignment. Many Chinese had enlisted in the Canadian army and from these several dozen quickly volunteered, but only 12 were required to fill the establishment.

The names of these intrepid men were; Tom Lock, Eddie Chow, Henry Wong, Raymond Low, John Ko, Doug Jung, W.L. Wong and Norman Wong. The remaining four, Roy Chan, James Shiu, Norman Low and Louie King would receive the Military Medal for their heroic actions in combat. All were given the NCO rank of Sergeant.

Secrecy was important to the mission so a secluded spot on the east side of Okanagan Lake was chosen for the training area. It was a small bay directly opposite today's government campsites between Summerland and Peachland. No roads led to the site and access was gained to it only by water.

At this time it was known as Dunrobin Bay after L.R. Dunrobin who had pre-empted the area many years before. After the war,

however, when the story leaked out, local custom changed the name to Commando Bay, a name that is now preserved forever as part of Okanagan Mountain Park.

In addition to the volunteers, the party that arrived in Penticton via the Kettle Valley Railway from Vancouver on the first of May, comprised Major Legg, two Canadian sergeants who were trained in explosives and sabotage and Mr. & Mrs. Francis Kendall. Mrs. Kendall was Chinese and the couple had lived for many years in the Far East. Besides contributing a knowledge of the country the commandos would operate in, Kendall was also a demolition expert.

At this point a curious fact was discovered. Since the trainees were all Chinese it was assumed they all spoke Chinese, but such wasn't the case. Eight of the 12 had been raised in families that spoke only English at home, so Mrs. Kendall set up classes to teach her compatriots the rudiments of their native language.

By the middle of May, with a wharf constructed and a campsite set up, a rigorous training schedule was put into effect.

Only four months had been allotted for training so the schedule was rigid and intense. Every one was up and in the lake at six a.m. Then it was discovered that none of the boys could swim. This was quickly taken in hand and by the end of the course all excelled in the art. Brisk exercises were next and following breakfast from seven to seven-thirty, a half-hour clean up took place. Except for time out for meals, training went from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The basic instructions were self-preservation and sabotage which meant being able to kill the other

fellow before he killed you. It was necessary to know radio telegraphy and this was carried out on the lake-shore north and south of the camp. Sabotage required demolition and many thumps, booms and crumps were heard day and night by the residents on the west side of Okanagan Lake. The benches above the camp took a pounding and an abandoned cabin in Wild Horse Canyon was annihilated.

Secrecy forbade movement too far from the training area, but twice in the four-month period everyone crossed the lake to Paradise Ranch and picked fruit for a few hours. The routine was also broken when General George Pearkes, GOC Pacific Command, spent a week-end at the camp to see how things were going.

Training was completed the first of September, 1944, and the commandos shifted to B.C. coastal waters for undersea exercises. This was quickly completed, and after a circuitous journey via New Guinea to dodge enemy action, the party arrived in Australia. Here, at another secret



Commandos (L. to R.) Louie King, Jim Shiu and Eddie Chow. Courtesy Penticton Museum & Archives.

SOE camp, parachute training was received.

The moment of truth came when they were parachuted into the interi-

time to retake the area after the bombs were dropped on Japan in August 1945.

Despite the manifold perils of the

B.C. was able to erect a memorial at Commando Bay extolling the deeds of the 12 intrepid Chinese-Canadian volunteers. The ceremony was held on September 17, 1988.

Wing Won, although now 87 years old, was able to attend. He had lied about his age and although he was 43 at the time, was able to keep up to the grinding pace required of a commando.

Another veteran in attendance, at the age of 64, was Doug Jung. After his discharge Jung spearheaded the Chinese community in Vancouver to obtain the Chinese right to vote. If we were good enough to fight for our country (there were 400 Chinese-Canadians in the armed forces) we were certainly good enough to vote. In 1947 the franchise was acquired.

Jung also studied law, and in 1953 when his compatriots were allowed to be called to the British Columbia Bar, he became the third such lawyer to qualify. He was then attracted to politics and became the first Chinese in Canada to become an MP, serving Vancouver Centre from 1957 to 1962.

Although the memory of events fades with time, there will always be a small reminder at Commando Bay on Okanagan Lake of the exploits of 12 brave men who played an integral part in the war in the South Pacific.



*Commando Bay - Okanagan Lake. Photo Courtesy Penticton Museum and Archives.*

or of Borneo among the native head-hunters. The combination of trained commandos and natives who knew the jungle and were skilled in the art of quick killing worked extremely well. So well, that in two months the Japanese were forced from the interior to the coast.

The radio telegraphy training received in the Okanagan now became very important. From the continuous reports that were sent, the Allies knew exactly the whereabouts of the Japanese on Borneo when it came

jungle and many encounters with the enemy, all 12 men survived. However, Norman Low, who won the Military Medal, was wounded and despite several years of hospital treatment died in 1960.

The operation was so secret that no official records were ever kept and for 44 years any recognition of the part played by these men in the Pacific was masked with silence. Although many details will never be known, enough came to light over the years so that Parks

## THE BOUCHERIE MOUNTAIN SECRET

Our story of buried treasure takes place near the log house where John and Susan Allison (Allison Pass) lived at Sunnyside, just east of today's Westbank. The house still stands at the corner of Sunnyside and Boucherie Roads.

When Allison's cattle were all but wiped out in the frightful winter of 1879-80 he was forced to sell his property and move back to his old home at Vermillion Forks (Princeton).

The purchaser was a grizzled cowpuncher named John Phillips who, the following year went into partnership with Hugh Armstrong, a tough bullheaded Irishman who came from the Oregon Territory. Armstrong had just sold some property down south for a considerable amount of gold which he was carrying when he arrived at Sunnyside. Not knowing what to do with it he buried it but kept secret its location.

The cattle-ranch partnership carried on amicably until 1886 when the two men had a falling out and agreed to divide the stock and horses and sell the property. All went well until a vicious argument erupted over who owned a certain halter. No decision had

been reached when on March 28, 1886, Phillips became ill and went to bed in his cabin which was near the Allison house where Armstrong lived.

For some time Armstrong stewed over the halter matter and having worked himself into a state of almost frenzy, decided something should be done about it. Picking up a large stick he crossed to Phillips' cabin, determined to get the matter settled. When the burly Irishman exploded through the door, wielding a stick, Phillips panicked, grabbed a nearby rifle, fired and Armstrong dropped dead.

After a lengthy trial in Kamloops, a jury decided Phillips acted in self-defence and he was acquitted of a murder charge. It was suggested, though, that he might have done in Armstrong in order to get the gold. But he had never been told the secret and Armstrong took the location of the treasure to his grave.

So somewhere around the south side of Boucherie Mountain is buried a lot of gold. To this day no one has found it.

- Win Shilvock

# *Private Schools in the Okanagan*

*by Winston A. Shilvock*

In the early days of the Okanagan Valley there was a plethora of private schools but most had a comparatively short life, due mainly to financial problems.

The schools grew out of a need for discipline; religious education; athletic facilities; small classes that gave personal instruction; more desirable companions, and personal supervision 24 hours a day for boarders. A large percentage of the youngsters came from the Coast, for oddly, few private schools existed there.

The first record of a "private" school is when F. Adrian Myers began what he called a "College" in his home in Vernon in 1893. This failed to develop and it was followed in 1905 by a school in the Coldstream run by the Reverend St. John Mildmay. This, too, didn't last long.

Two years later, in 1907, the enterprising Okanagan Baptist College was founded at West Summerland. Although it existed for only eight years it left a lasting impression on local education.

The main building was three and one-half stories high, heated with hot water and had full electric lighting. There was accommodation for 50 boarders, seven teachers and the household staff; a large chapel, music room, principal's office and a dining room to seat 100.

A gymnasium and large women's residence were added the following year. All this was built 600 feet up on the side of Giant's Head Mountain, providing a magnificent view over the town and Okanagan Lake.

The project had an auspicious start when almost immediately the enrollment was 71 pupils. They came from as far away as Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the B.C.

Coast. The first few years were very successful, but when a depression hit in 1912 and the war started in 1914, attendance declined rapidly and indebtedness rose sharply.

The future looked bleak and despite an affiliation with McMasters University, in the Fall of 1915 the Baptist Union of Western Canada decided to close the college and write off the many tens of thousands of dollars invested.

The gymnasium became a fruit packing house but today is a Youth Centre in Summerland and the women's residence became a Home for the Friendless. The two largest buildings remained, but in 1941 one was destroyed by fire and off and on for the next 47 years the other served as a restaurant. Finally, in July, 1988, the last vestige of the Okanagan Baptist College vanished when the building was moved to Penticton to serve as a restaurant and pub.

Almost in step with the Summerland venture was an attempt by a Miss Bloomfield to establish a co-ed day school at Okanagan Mission in 1908. Little is known of this effort except that it ceased to operate in 1909 and the peak attendance is thought to have been about 10 pupils.

In 1908 A.H. Scriven established a non-denominational boys school in North Vancouver, called Chesterfield School. However, in 1912 his wife became seriously ill and was told to move to a drier climate. The school was sold and a move made to the Okanagan Valley where Scriven, his senior teacher, W.J. Bennett, and Matron, Mrs. T.W. Harvey, began another Chesterfield School in Kelowna.

Shortly after the opening in October, 1912, the Scriven's decided to return to England and Mr.

Bennett and Mrs. Harvey took over as joint owner.

The school was never very successful financially and, as with the Baptist College, the depression of 1912 and war of 1914 caused a decline in attendance. However, the two owners managed to carry on until 1924 when they married each other and returned to North Vancouver, again joining Scriven who had returned to Canada and started Kingsley School.

The record shows, that in the 12 years it operated, Chesterfield School in Kelowna graduated 71 boys. Attesting to the excellent education received, many of the young people became famous in future years and made names for themselves in the military, politics and the professions.

The private schools that were most successful in the Valley were two that began within a year of each other in Vernon.

St. Michael's School was started in 1913 by Miss Maud LeGallais to cater to girls aged eight to 18. It began in two houses, but by 1921 it had prospered to the extent that a new, large, three-story building was able to be built on five acres of land on a hill overlooking Vernon.

It had four dormitories and an infirmary, class rooms and rooms for music, dancing and dramatics. From the start it had the blessing of the Anglican Church and back in 1917 was designated "The Bishop's School of the Diocese of Kootenay".

Conformity in dress was required and all girls wore a tunic, silk blouse and blazer. Bloomers were worn for sports for shorts were unheard of for young ladies in those days.

Physical fitness was stressed and there was a well equipped gymnasium. In the surrounding acreage grass hockey, tennis, badminton

and cricket were played. The cricket team often competed successfully with one from the nearby boys school.

Financial problems arose during the depression of the 1930s and St. Michael's School was forced to close in 1937. It was turned into an apartment block which, when deterioration later set in, was torn down and a condominium complex was built on the site. It's called St. Michael's Court which today carries on the proud memory of the school.

The Vernon Preparatory School for boys was founded by the Rev. A.C. Mackie and his brother. H.F. Mackie, January 13, 1914, and began in a small house in the Coldstream with packing crates for desks.

It catered to boys eight to 15 years of age and covered grades one to 10. On opening there were five students which grew in number when a maximum of 63 was reached in 1921. When the brothers retired in 1946 they had educated 456 boys during a 32-year period.

The school was run in a typical English spartan manner and great

emphasis was placed on physical fitness. The men were graduates from St. John's School, Leatherhead, and the Rev. A.C. also from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and Durham University. They were well grounded in the rigid Old Country methods of schooling.

"Mackie's" as it was affectionately called, never made much money but it did construct several buildings for dormitories, classrooms and a gymnasium. It also acquired land for great sporting events and in 1921 the graceful St. Nicholas Chapel was dedicated to the religious aspects of education. A well-stocked library provided reference books on manifold subjects.

An unfortunate incident happened in 1927 when one of the boys was bitten by a rattlesnake and died. Rev. Mackie swore a vendetta on the creatures and is reputed to have killed more than 4,000 during the rest of his life.

In 1946 C.M.W.C. Twite took over and ran the school until 1953 when it was incorporated as an Educational Trust. It gradually

went downhill, however, and in the mid 1960s was closed permanently and became a home for the elderly.

The last private school to start and the only one still in operation is the Okanagan Adventist Academy.

In 1917 Robert Clayton, a Seventh-Day Adventist, opened a family school in his home in Rutland. In time the facilities became too small and in 1920 a move was made to a nearby hotel where a co-ed boarding academy was established.

At the same time property was purchased in Rutland and in 1925 a school was built to handle all grades up to Grade 10. This was known as the Rutland Junior Academy. Growth continued and the school was expanded and in 1944 Grades 11 and 12 were added and the name changed to the Rutland Academy.

Finally, in 1968, the building in use today was built and the name changed to the Okanagan Adventist Academy which is carrying on the educational traditions established by Robert Clayton.

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## *John Moore Robinson*

*by Win Shilvock*

Three towns in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia owe their existence to the workings of the spirit world, a long-dead Sioux Indian chief and the considerable foresight and unbounded energy of John Moore Robinson.

"J.M.," as Robinson was invariably called was born of English stock in Ontario in 1855. A good education was obtained in Canada and the United States when he moved west to Winnipeg, Manitoba. By the time J.M. was 33 he had been a school teacher, a newspaper reporter and owned three newspapers in

Portage la Prairie and Brandon. He had also found the time and stamina to be Grand Master of the Orange Lodge and a member of the Manitoba Legislature.

In 1888 Robinson made a trip to the Kootenays in southern British Columbia to investigate several mining operations. Then, continuing westward he came to the Similkameen Valley which extends for 70 miles between Princeton and Okanagan Lake. He took an immediate liking to the country and determined this was the place to search for gold. It took some time, however,

to organize his affairs in Manitoba and it wasn't until 1897 that he was able to carry out his plans.

Robinson was keenly interested in the occult so when he formed a mining company from among his Manitoba associates, one of the six directors was a Mr. Anderson, a clairvoyant. Diamond drills and scanners were unknown in those days and J.M. reasoned that Anderson could invoke the aid of the spirit world to locate the mother lode.

The spirits didn't cooperate, however, and the venture failed. One day



while looking over the situation near Okanagan Lake, Robinson had lunch with Charles Lambly who ran a cattle operation at Trepanier Creek and had a few fruit trees for his personal use. When some luscious peaches were served for desert and Robinson learned they had been grown just a few yards away, his agile mind jumped at the idea of developing the land commercially to grow fruit of all kinds - apples, pears, plums, cherries and grapes. Up to now Ontario was the only area in Canada to grow fruit commercially.

Not one to dally when he got an idea, he discarded the mining venture and with the help of some more Winnipegonians, in 1898 founded the Peachland Townsite Co. Ltd. Extensive blocks of land were purchased from early pre-emptors and divided into 10-acre fruit lots.

With irrigation water guaranteed from Deep Creek, the lots sold for \$100 an acre.

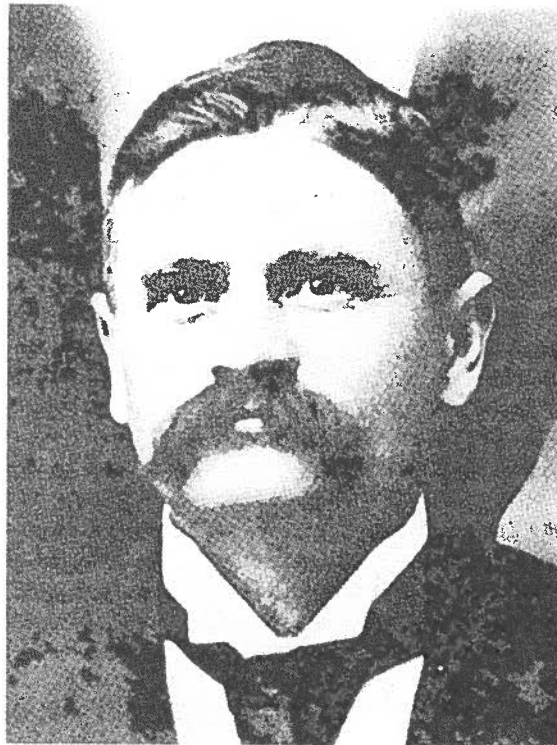
Through intensive promotion back east, immigration surged following the first carload of settlers who arrived May 6, 1898. So rapid was the flow that in December that year a post office was opened and at the request of Robinson was named "Peachland."

While all this was going on J.M. had been surveying the country immediately south of Peachland. Some pre-emptions were being worked in the Trout Creek area, but the benches to the west were practically virgin territory since no irrigation was available. He reasoned that if water could be provided the land would be as good or better than what he had already developed.

In 1902 the Summerland Development Co. Ltd was incorporated and with the help of a \$75,000 loan from Sir Thomas Shaughnessy of CPR fame, acquired a huge block of land owned by George N. Barclay of Barclay's

English bank, along with several marginal pre-emptions. With the construction of an extensive irrigation system things began to hum and as more settlers flowed into the valley a townsite was laid out on the lakeshore.

A two-story 20-room hotel was built; a domestic water system in-



*J.M. Robinson.*

stalled; a hydro-electric plant was constructed, making Summerland the first community in the Okanagan Valley to have electric lights. In November, 1902, a post office was opened and at Robinson's suggestion was named "Summerland." By the end of 1906 the population warranted incorporation and Robinson was elected the first reeve.

Never content with his accomplishments he looked south for further property to develop but was thwarted by the cattle baron, Tom Ellis, who owned the land. However, Ellis agreed to sell 12,000 acres directly across the lake from Summerland and in 1905, 3,000 acres were developed into 10-acre lots. This venture also boomed and in 1907 a post office was opened.

In naming this new development J.M. toyed with the idea of calling it Brighton Beach in honor of the English locale of his family. However, the matter was settled one night when a seance was held in the tent home of J.S. Gillespie whose wife was a noted medium.

In 1931 Robinson wrote to a friend explaining what happened.

"The question of the name NARAMATA has been identified with claims of spiritualism and I hesitate to explain it to you as you will not know what I'm talking about unless you, too, have spent the last 30 or 40 years trying to investigate the subject."

He went on to say that Mrs. Gillespie was entered by the spirit of a Sioux Indian chief named Big Moose who spoke of his beloved wife, calling her NAR-RA-MAT-TAH which meant "Smile of Manitou." Robinson then continued, "I decided this was a good name for our village." The unnecessary letters were dropped and NARAMATA came into being.

Of the three towns established by Robinson, Naramata appealed to him

the most and in 1907 he gave up the spacious family home in Summerland, and with his wife, five daughters and three sons, moved across the lake where he lived until passing away February 23, 1943.

None of the three towns he founded has grown to a metropolis, but they are, and probably always will be, quiet, comfortable places to live. Through them the dynamic, visionary John Moore Robinson attracted more settlers to the Okanagan Valley than any other person.

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# *The Development of the Orchard Industry in the Okanagan Valley, 1890-1914*

*by David Dendy*

Fruit has been grown in the Okanagan almost as long as the area has been settled. The Oblate Fathers planted apple trees at the Okanagan Mission in 1863, and small orchards were laid out by other settlers, such as George Whelan and Alfred Postill at Kelowna in 1875-76. But these were small plantings, intended only to supply fruit for the ranchers themselves. There were no serious attempts at commercial fruit-growing in the Okanagan until the 1890s.

Basically, the small production was a result of the lack of transportation facilities. The completion of the C.P.R. in 1885 really did little to alter the situation, for the line was forty miles or more north of the best fruit lands at Vernon and south. While relatively imperishable grain and cattle could withstand such a trip in a wagon or afoot, fruit could not.

All this was changed by the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway which was completed from Sicamous through Vernon to Okanagan Lake on May 12, 1892. But fruit was not king of the land yet.

The man who brought fruit to attention and prominence, more than any other, was the Earl of Aberdeen, Governor General of Canada from 1893 to 1898. In the fall of 1890 he bought 480 acres at Okanagan Mission (later named the 'Guisachan' Ranch) and in 1891 the Coldstream Ranch of Forbes G. Vernon, an estate of over 13,000 acres. Lord Aberdeen was an innovative man, and in 1892 planted out 200 acres at each of his ranches to orchard, as well as experimenting with hops. Some of the farmers in the valley, inspired by this example, also planted fruit trees. By 1893 roughly 75,000 trees, mostly apples



*Early ditch and flume irrigation, circa 1890's.*

had been planted in the Yale-Cariboo district, largely at Kelowna and Vernon.

But this burst of energy did not last. One very significant check on the expansion of the industry in the Okanagan was the continent-wide depression which commenced in late 1893 and lasted for five years. Such conditions were not conducive to ventures requiring large capital expenditures, and fruit growing fell into that category. Lady Aberdeen, for example, wrote that the prospective orchardist needed a capital of not less than £ 500 so as to afford to buy twenty acres, plant it, put up a house, and live for the four or five years before the trees produced a crop.

Development was also slowed by the fact that so much of the best land was part of huge properties of the original cattle ranchers, and until they decided to sell there was no possibility of extensive fruit growing.

Lord Aberdeen attempted to alleviate the problem by subdividing part

of his Coldstream Ranch in 1893, and the Okanagan Land Development Company also sold some lands in smaller plots, but most of the land was still locked up in huge ranches.

Other problems beset the infant industry as well. Many went into orcharding with the belief that all that had to be done was to plant the trees, which would take care of themselves, and to collect the profits. Even Lord Aberdeen's experiments suffered from this assumption. In 1896 the 'Guisachan' orchard had to be pulled out, and the original plantings at Coldstream were also not very successful. It was not until the turn of the century and the coming into bearing of the replanted areas, that the Coldstream estate could again be pointed out as an example of the success of orcharding, as can be seen from the fruit production statistics: 25 tons in 1897, 150 in 1898, 100 in 1899 and 279 in 1900.

A final problem was that of finding

markets for the fruit and getting it to them. As early as 1894 the manager of the Coldstream Ranch complained that *Lack of markets we consider the greatest drawback to farming in this district, and also the high freight rates.* The first sales, of course, were local. The miners at Fairview and Camp McKinney in the southern Okanagan provided a market for some fruit, particularly from Summerland and south, but these camps were not large and could certainly not absorb the crop from further north.

The prairies were another matter. Most of the fruit sold there came from the United States. The Canadian fruit which was sold on the prairies was almost entirely from Nova Scotia and Ontario, which had the transportation advantage of cheap Great Lakes shipping. Freight rates were very high on the C.P.R., and only very slowly was it pressured into reducing them; for example, it cost six cents per pound in 1895 on fruit expressed from Vancouver to Winnipeg, and by 1899 this rate had been reduced to two and a quarter cents. By 1901 rates had been cut to the point where apples could be shipped from points in the Okanagan to Calgary for only eighty-five cents per hundred pounds.

The time was ripe for renewed interest in Okanagan fruit lands. British Columbia was emerging from the economic doldrums, and the older orchards were now producing enough to show that fruit growing could be profitable. Surprisingly, it was a prairie man who first took advantage of the new conditions. J.M. Robinson came from Manitoba to prospect for gold near Peachland. The mining venture was a failure, but Robinson was impressed by the fruit he found there. In 1899 he started selling fruit lands at Peachland to wheat farmers from the prairies, who were entranced by the combination of favourable climate, sport, and easy living. When he had finished selling the land available at Peachland he

moved on to wider fields, and in 1903 incorporated the Summerland Development Company.

Others, noting the trend of the times, were quick to follow Robinson's example. W.R. Pooley and E.M. Carruthers had been engaged in the real estate business at Kelowna since 1902 and in 1904 they combined with T.W. Stirling to form the Kelowna Lands and Orchard Co., which bought 6,743 acres from the Lequime family for \$65,000. This land was quickly provided with roads and irrigation, and placed on the market at prices from \$100 to \$200 per acre. In 1905 the Southern Okanagan Land Company, a similar enterprise, was incorporated at Penticton to buy the huge Ellis estate and subdivide it. The great Okanagan land boom was on.

An illustration of the boom can be seen in the statistics of fruit acreage in British Columbia: in 1901 there were 7,430 acres planted. In 1904 there were 13,340, and in 1905 a total of 29,000, almost all of the expansion being in the Okanagan. "This increase in acreage for 1905 meant the planting of about 1,000,000 young trees." It should be noted that most of the first buyers were settlers from Manitoba and the prairies who were well off, but who had had enough of prairie weather. Only later was there an influx of English settlers, lured out to farm the colonies by expensive advertisements promising large returns and appealing for British immigrants.

The promoters of Okanagan lands continued to boost their holdings, promising great profits: *After a maximum wait of five years, I understand the settler may look forward with reasonable certainty to a net income of from \$100 to \$150 per acre, after all expenses of cultivation have been paid.* Some advertisements went higher, speaking of income from a ten-acre orchard as £600 or even £700 per annum.

By 1911 scepticism was rising, particularly among those who found that the land they had been sold did

not match up to the promises. one man, who had bought an orchard from the Coldstream Estate, then sold out and returned to Britain in 1911 reported: *It was impossible not to be struck with the obvious, shall I say, lack of riches everywhere. I met man after man, some of whom had been fifteen or twenty years in the country, but never a one of them had done much more than keep his head above water.*

The sceptics were confirmed in 1912. By this time many of the new orchards were coming into bearing. A heavy crop in the Okanagan coincided with similar heavy crops in Washington and Oregon, and the result was that the usual markets on the Canadian prairies were glutted with the American surplus at low prices, and the Okanagan fruit, which came onto the market later than the American crop, was put at an enormous disadvantage, with resultant disastrously low prices.

One result if the disaster of 1912 was that the growers decided that cooperation was a must if they were to survive. The only cooperative organization previously extant, the Okanagan Fruit Union, had been formed in 1908 and had operated on a small scale, but was forced to go into liquidation as a result of the 1912 debacle. A new organization, Okanagan United Growers Ltd., was formed in May of 1913. This venture was more successful, and managed to hold a large portion of the market until 1923, when a new and larger cooperative association was set up.

As far as land sales were concerned, the damage had been done. Although the promoters tried to keep the boom going the customers no longer appeared. Conditions were aggravated by the collapse of the province-wide real estate and investment market at the beginning of 1913. After 1912 land sales dropped off to almost nothing, and the land companies were left in severe difficulties, for few of them had sold more than a third of their irri-gable lands. They had been depending on the revenue from sales of land

to pay for the building and repair of their rather makeshift irrigation works, now, with sales vanishing, they had still to maintain these expensive systems for the settlers who bought land already, and who had been promised cheap water as an inducement to purchase.

Despite the shortcomings of the land promoters, they fulfilled a valuable function in the development of

the Okanagan valley. They changed the complexion of the land from that of extensive to that of intensive agriculture, and firmly established orcharding as a major economic activity. The fruit industry of the Okanagan had grown to the point where it accounted for the vast majority of the province's output, producing in 1913 over twenty million pounds of fruit, worth to the

farmers more than \$640,000 and with 30,000 people dependent on the success or failure of the crop or Fruit growing had become the established and important industry of the Okanagan.

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*David Dendy is a graduate of the University of British Columbia. He is now teaching in the Department of History at Okanagan College in Kelowna.*

## In Memoriam

Barbara Stannard, Honorary Life Member of the B.C. Historical Federation, passed away in Nanaimo on Saturday, March 24, 1990. Mrs. Stannard was a valued member of the staff at the Nanaimo Centennial Museum for many years. She was President of the B.C.H.F. from 1981 - 84. She assisted the implementation of the Competition for Writers of B.C. History. It is suggested that donations in her memory be made to the B.C.H.F. Writing Competition Fund.

Donations should be sent to:

The Treasurer - B.C. Historical Federation  
Mr. F. Sleight  
P.O. Box 29  
Deroche, B.C. V0M 1G0

This "Okanagan Special" issue of the B.C. Historical News is reaching history buffs all over the province. For those reading this magazine for the first time we will briefly define our editorial policy. Spring and Fall issues are compiled with a theme; Summer and Winter editions are a potpourri of B.C. History. The Fall 1990 theme is "Because of the War" which may refer to the effects of any war since 1858. Articles are being sought for "Because of the War", deadline July 15, 1990. A projected theme for 1991 is "B.C.'s Coast and Islands".

If new readers wish to join the B.C. Historical Federation see the form on p. 35. Readers who wish to subscribe, or give a gift subscription to a friend, may do so at a cost of \$8 per year to an address within Canada, \$12 outside Canada.

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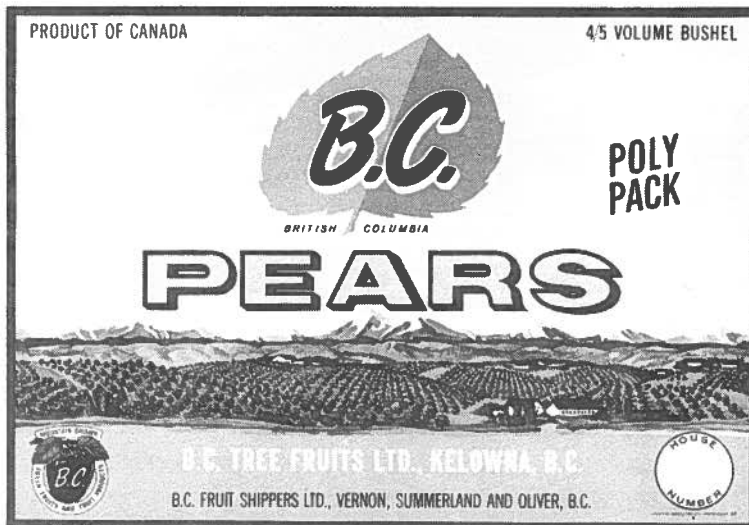
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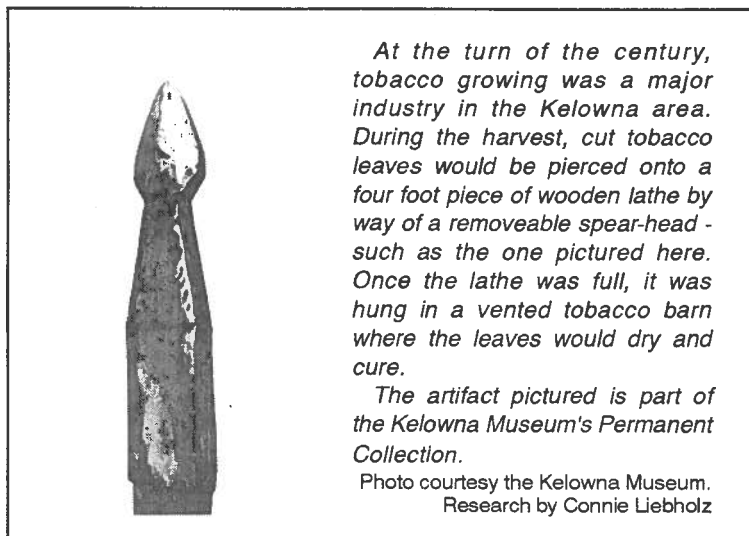
The Subscription Secretary - B.C. Historical News  
5928 Baffin Place  
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3S8

## Gems from the Archives



Shown are 3 examples of fruit box labels that were used in packaging. There were many different kinds.

Labels courtesy of the British Columbia Orchard Industry Museum in Kelowna



PRICE 10 CENTS.

## Programme OF THE PEACHLAND

Amateur Aquatic Association's  
Second Annual

## Regatta

Thursday, July 21, 1910.

# Writing Competition - 1989

The following books were submitted for the seventh annual Competition for Writers of B.C. History. Books are listed in the order in which they were submitted for judging. Books are for sale at local bookstores or may be obtained by writing to the address given below the title.

## WINNERS:

### Lieutenant-Governor's Medal

ROBERT BROWN AND THE VANCOUVER  
EXPLORING EXPEDITION

### Best History for Juniors

WIDOW SMITH OF SPENCE'S BRIDGE

### Best Anthology

FACES OF THE PAST



### CONTINENTAL DASH

The Russian-American Telegraph:  
by Rosemary Neering  
\$22.95 - 244 pp - Hard Cover  
ISBN 0-920663-07-9  
Horsdal and Schubart Publishers Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 1, Ganges, B.C. V0S 1E0  
*The story of the Collins Overland Telegraph*

### THE FERNWOOD FILES:

John J. Ellis with Charles Lillard  
\$12.95 - 125 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-920501-17-6  
Orca Book Publishers, P.O. Box 5626, Stn. B.  
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4  
*History of the Fernwood District, Victoria, since  
1843*

### THE COAL COAST: by Eric Newsome

\$13.95 - 195 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-920501-11-7 (Hard cover \$26.95  
ISBN 0-920501-25-7)  
Orca Book Publishers, P.O. Box 5626, Stn. B.  
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6S4  
*Drama and conflict of coal mining in B.C.,  
1835-1900*

### THE JOURNALS OF GEORGE M. DAWSON

British Columbia, 1875-78:  
Ed Douglas - L. Cole and Bradley J. Lockner  
\$70.00 2 volume set. Vol. 1 296 pp 1875-6  
Vol. 2 297-611 pp 1877-8  
ISBN 0-7748-0276-6 & 07748-0286-3  
University of B.C. Press, 303-6344 Memorial  
Rd. Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5

### CROFTON HOUSE SCHOOL

The first ninety years.  
by Elizabeth Bell-Irving  
\$21.00 - 273 pp - Hard Cover plus \$2 p & p.  
ISBN 0-9693399-0-1  
Crofton House School, 3200 West 41st Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6N 3E1  
*The school's history since 1898*

### WETCOAST VENTURES by Walter Guppy

\$11.95, postpaid - 192 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-919763-12-x  
Cappis Press, 1119 Oscar St.  
Victoria, V8V 2X3

Obtainable from: Milestone Publications, P.O.  
Box 35548, Stn. E, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G8  
or WetCoast Ventures, Box 94, Tofino, B.C.  
V0R 2Z0

*Mine finding on Vancouver Island described.*

### HAMMERSTONE: BIOGRAPHY OF AN

ISLAND: by Olivia Fletcher  
\$17.95 - 150 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-9693960-0-7  
Apple Press, Hornby Island, V0R 1Z0  
*The historical geography and growth of  
Hornby Island*

### A WHITE MAN'S PROVINCE

B.C. Politicians and Chinese and Japanese  
Immigrants, 1858-1914: by Patricia E. Roy  
\$37.95 - 327 pp - Hard Cover  
ISBN 0-7748-0330-4  
University of B.C. Press, 303-6344 Memorial  
Rd., Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5  
*Changing attitudes towards Asian  
immigrants.*

### \*\*ROBERT BROWN AND THE VANCOUVER ISLAND EXPLORING EXPEDITION:

by Ed. John Hayman  
\$29.95 - 211 pp - Hard Cover  
University of B.C. Press, 303-6344 Memorial  
Rd., Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5  
*Selections from Brown's 1864 Journals*

### ASSU OF CAPE MUDGE: Harry Assu with

Joy Inglis  
\$29.95 - 163 pp - Cloth Cover  
ISBN 0-7748-0333-9  
(Soft Cover, \$19.95, ISBN 0-7748-0341-x)  
University of B.C. Press, 303-6344 Memorial  
Rd., Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5  
*Personal recollections of an Indian Coastal  
Chief together with Indian legends.*

### THIS WAS OUR VALLEY: Earl K. Pollon

and Shirlee Smith Matheson  
\$26.95 - 403 pp - Hard Cover  
ISBN 0-920490-92-1 (Soft Cover \$17.95,  
ISBN 0-920490-91-3)  
Detselig Enterprises Ltd., P.O. Box G 399,  
Calgary, Alberta T3A 2G3  
*Effects on the Hudson's Hope area of building  
the W.A.C. Bennett Dam.*

### THE SAME AS YESTERDAY:

Joanne Drake-Terry  
\$29.95 - 341 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-88925-925-9  
Lillooet Tribal Council Press  
P.O. Box 1420, Lillooet, B.C. V0K 1V0  
*The Lillooet chronicle the theft of their land*

### \*\*WIDOW SMITH OF SPENCE'S BRIDGE

Jessie Ann Smith, as told to J. Meryl  
Campbell and Audrey Ward.

\$9.95 - 128 pp - Soft Cover

ISBN 0-929069-00-5  
Sonotek Publishing, P.O. Box 1725, Merritt,  
B.C. V0K 2B0  
*Pioneer Life and the Spence's Bridge  
Orchards, 1853-1946*

### DICTIONARY OF LOGGING TERMS:

Gordon W. Carefoot  
\$6.95 - 72 pp - Soft Cover  
Published by the author. Copies from Mrs.  
Robin Schatz, P.O. Box 464, Cultus Lake,  
B.C. V0X 1H0  
*Terms garnered from loggers across Canada*

### WETCOAST WORDS: by Tom Parkin

\$9.95 - 156 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-920501-30-3  
Orca Book Publishers, Box 5626, Stn. B.  
Victoria, B.C. V8S 3H9  
*A dictionary of B.C. words and phrases.*

### 1990 AND COUNTING: Ed. John

McTaggart, for the Sharon History Book  
Committee, Chairman Norman Sheritt.  
\$25.00 - 183 pp - Hard Cover  
Published by Sharon United Church History  
Book Committee.  
**Obtainable from:** Richard Chell  
507 - 21973 48th Ave.,  
Langley, B.C. V3A 3N1 Add \$3.00 postage  
*History of Sharon United Church, Murrayville*

### EDGE OF DISCOVERY: by D.E. Isenor, E.G.

Stephens, and D.E. Watson.  
\$49.95 - 471 pp - Hard Cover  
ISBN 0-919537-10-3  
Ptarmigan Press Ltd., Campbell River, B.C.  
**Obtainable from:** Campbell River Museum and  
Archives, 1235 Island Highway, Campbell  
River, V9W 2C7 **Attn:** Irene Ross.  
*A history of the Campbell River district.*

### MERRITT AND THE NICOLA VALLEY: An

Illustrated History: by Nicola Valley Archives  
Association.  
\$14.95 - 120 pp - Soft Cover  
ISBN 0-929069-01-3  
Sonotek Publishing, P.O. Box 1752, Merritt,  
B.C. V0K 2B0 **Obtainable from:** Sandhill  
Book Marketing, Box 197, Stn. A, Kelowna,  
V1Y 7N5  
*Accounts of the pioneers and life in the area.*

### BRASS ROOTS: by Amy Campbell

\$12.95 - 68 pp - Soft Cover (plus p & p)  
ISBN 0-9694313-0-9  
Published by Amy Campbell, 3681 Place Rd.,  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 1M9  
*A history of the Nanimo Concert Band since  
1872.*

**GUARDIAN ANGLES CHURCH:** Ed. Mary Landry.

\$10.00 - 86 pp - Soft Cover

Published by Guardian Angels Parish

Anniversary Book Committee, 1161

Broughton St., Vancouver, B.C. V6G 2B3

*40th Anniversary of Guardian Angels Parish Church.*

**WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART:** The Epic World of an Okanagan Storyteller by Harry Robinson, Edited by Wendy Wickwire.

\$18.95 - 319 pp - Soft Cover

ISBN 0-88922-273-8

Talon Books, 201 - 1019 East Cordova,

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1M8

*Indian stories and legends by a native storyteller*

**THE GHOSTLAND PEOPLE:**

by Charles Lillard

\$18.95 - 318 pp - Hard Cover

ISBN 1-55039-016-3

Sono Nis Press, 1745 Blanshard St., Victoria,

B.C. V8W 2J8

*A documentary history of the Queen Charlotte Islands 1859-1906.*

**HISTORY OF MUSIC IN BRITISH**

**COLUMBIA 1850-1950:** by Dale McIntosh

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*"The first complete music history in B.C."*

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by Peter Corley Smith

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B.C. V8W 2J8

*B.C.'s Aviation Pioneers, 1910-1930*

**STREET NAMES OF PRINCE GEORGE -**

**OUR HISTORY:** University Women's Club of Prince George.

\$10.00 - 144 pp - plus separate map - Spiral

bound - (add \$1.50 p & p)

ISBN 0-921087-06-3

University Women's Club of Prince George,

c/o Community Arts Council, Studio 2880,

2880, 15th Ave.,

Prince George, B.C. V2M 1T1

*The origin and history of street names in the City.*

**WHITE BEARS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES:**

by Peter Corley Smith

148 pp - Soft Cover

Crown Publications Inc., 546 Yates St.

Victoria, B.C. V8W 1K8

*The first 100 years of the Provincial Museum*

**\*\*FACES OF THE PAST:** Ed. Barbara

MacPherson for the Arrow Lakes Historical Society.

\$25.00 - 216 pp - Hard Cover

ISBN 0-9694236-0-8

Arrow Lakes Historical Society, P.O. Box

584, Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0

*First volume in a series to commemorate the centennial of Nakusp.*

## NEWS & NOTES

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Six provincial historical societies participated in a meeting held October 25, 1989 in the Hotel Vancouver in conjunction with the Heritage Canada 1989 Conference. In the reporting of the functioning and financing of the provincial organizations, the following facts appear:

#### Historical Society of Alberta -

Membership of 2000.

Annual fee \$15.

Government grant of \$23,000 to assist with financing the publication of a quarterly magazine, newsletter and a series of books.

#### Saskatchewan Historical and Folklore Society -

Annual fee \$20. Single, \$30. Family.

Annual Budget of \$300,000 - 45% of which comes from lotteries.

Society has an office with 3 full time, 3 part time staff. They publish a quarterly magazine, mark heritage farms and businesses, offer school programs, an annual writing competition and have an oral history project.

#### Manitoba Historical Society -

Membership of 700

Government grant of \$6000 to assist with publication of a twice yearly magazine.

Government assistance for special projects, and an office with one full time secretary and a part time Executive Director.

#### Ontario Historical Society -

Membership of 3000.

Annual fee \$40.

A million dollar budget - 1/3 of which is a government grant. Society has a permanent office, Executive Director and 7 staff members. Publishes a quarterly magazine and a newsletter; gives 300 workshops annually; arranges travelling displays, school programs, heritage conservation advice, and multicultural programs.

#### Federation of Historical Societies of Quebec -

Membership of 80 societies - almost 20,000 members.

This society was given a large endowment by the government and operates mainly on annual interest from this sum.

Publishes a quarterly magazine - occasional government supplemental grants.

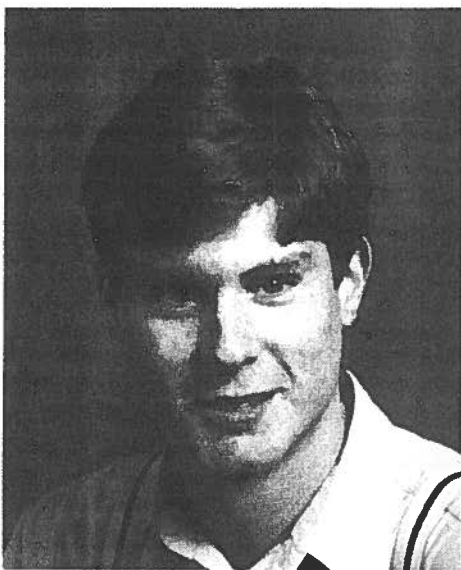
#### British Columbia Historical

**Federation** - Membership-23 local societies -1,800 Annual fee \$1

Subscription cost to members of member societies - \$5 (Local members pay between \$2 and \$20 local dues)

Government grant \$2000 to assist with publication of quarterly magazine. This society also has an annual Writing Competition, Scholarship, and offers short term loans to a member or society to assist with publishing cost.

\*\*\*\*\*



### SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 1989

David McCrady of Penticton received the 1989 B.C. Historical Scholarship. A presentation \$500 award was made at the November meeting of the Victoria Branch of the B.C.H.F. David is a serious young man who began his post-secondary career studying political science at the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College. The highlight of his student years there was attending, with four other Okanagan College students, the 1988 North American Model United Nations held in Toronto. In the fall of 1988 he enrolled in the honours history program at the University of Victoria. He is concentrating on research to document native/white relations in the Okanagan Valley. David sends sincere thanks to those in the B.C. Historical Federation who made this scholarship a viable entity.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CHURCH HISTORY GROUP

The B.C. Church History Group held its founding meeting in September, 1989.

They are still setting objectives and arranging for exchange of information. Anyone interested in this group is asked to contact Rod Fowler at 420-3316, Tom Lascelles at 736-9363, or Jacqueline Gresko at 520-5466

\*\*\*\*\*



## REPORT FROM THE NEWS PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that the Heritage Trust has increased our grant to \$2000 for each of the next two years. Unfortunately this will not be enough to balance our budget as all our costs continue to mount. During the coming year, the cost of publishing each copy of the News will reach \$1.75 or \$7 per annual subscription. This means that our rates will have to be increased to at least \$7 for members subscribers. Non-members pay \$8, institutions \$16.

As you consider this increase in price, we would remind you that the magazine has increased from 28 to 36 pages and now contains twice as many articles as it did in the past. For this we thank our editor's contacts and commitment.

We have three new members on the Publishing Committee: Tony Farr (Saltspring), Penny McDonald (North Vancouver) and Margaret Matovich (Burnaby). Margaret has undertaken the onerous task of keeping our books, thus relieving some of the load of the Federation treasurer.

Finally a reminder to branch treasurers that we should like to have cheques covering subscription renewals sent directly to the Subscription Secretary, Nancy Peter; Federation membership fees continue to go to the Treasurer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BURNABY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Burnaby Historical Society Scholarship, given by Dr. and Mrs. Blythe Eagles in honour of Evelyn Salisbury, is a new, annual award of approximately \$500 to a fourth year under graduate student enrolled in a major or an honours program that specializes in the history of British Columbia. Candidates should apply in writing, outlining their studies to date, including a current academic transcript and letter of recommendation from two professors, such application to be submitted by June 15th to:

THE BURNABY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP  
COMMITTEE

c/o THE MAYOR'S OFFICE  
4949 CANADA WAY, BURNABY, B.C.  
V5G 1M2

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The W.I. will mark its centennial in 1997. Historical Societies and Museums are urged to commence recording the history of their local Women's Institute while older members are still here to flesh out information available in min-

ute books and records. There was a time when the Women's Institute was the only meeting place for women, other than their church. The W.I., valuable to both urban and rural members, was supported by the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture from 1911 onward. Organizations with aural history programs should be aware of the potential for commemoration of the W.I. in 1997.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN VICTORIA

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association will be held May 27-29, 1990 in Victoria. For details contact Chairperson, Dr. Patricia Roy, Department of History, University of Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2

\*\*\*\*\*

Treat yourself or a friend. Buy a Subscription to the B.C. HISTORICAL NEWS for only \$8 per year in Canada, \$12 per year outside Canada. Mail your cheque today to:

Subscription Secretary  
5928 Baffin Place,  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5H 3S8

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOMINATIONS FOR ORDER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Do you know a British Columbian who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, excellence or distinction in any field of endeavor benefiting the people of the Province or elsewhere? Here's your opportunity to do something about it. You can nominate that person to the Order of British Columbia. Nominations will be considered by an Advisory Council. Honorary Chairperson is the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C. To nominate someone, simply write for a brochure and nomination form to:

Order of British Columbia  
Honors and Awards Secretariat  
c/o Deputy Provincial Secretary  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

or

Contact your nearest Government  
Agent's Office

\*\*\*\*\*

## LIKELY CEMETERY INFORMATION WANTED

The Likely Cemetery (Restoration) Society would like to receive ANY information pertaining to the identity of graves; or names of persons buried at Quesnel Forks, Keithly Creek, Snowshoe Creek, or other gravesites in this area. Also sought are xerox copies of any pre-1975 photos of cemeteries or graves in this area. (14 graves have been restored at three sites in 1989.) Write to: Secretary Lucy Robinson, Box 1952, Likely, B.C. V0L 1N0 (604) 790-2468.

\*\*\*\*\*

## GRAND FORKS - MAY 10-13, 1990

The Boundary Historical Society has planned a full program for delegates at the B.C. Historical Federation Conference. There will be talks on Doukhobour history, mining, smelting, agriculture, and the Cascade power project. There will be a Doukhobour dinner and an awards banquet. Guest speaker at the banquet is Bill Barlee, M.L.A. and historian. Deadline for registration is May 1, 1990. All members and friends of historical societies are invited. Registration forms are available from Branch Secretaries or from Boundary Historical Society. Phone 442-3865 or 442-3283 for further information.

\*\*\*\*\*

## UNSUNG HEROES AND HEROINES

A proposal has been made that the B.C.H.F. compile and publish a book on lesser known "characters" and benefactors in B.C. history. This sounds like a fascinating project. Can we assemble a production team? Anyone interested in participating in the selecting and editing please contact Naomi Miller in Wasa. (Phone 422-3594)

\*\*\*\*\*

## A HISTORY OF B.C. AGRICULTURE

Help is needed to compile a history of agriculture in this province prior to 1920. The researcher seeks prepared articles on horticultural activities, plus wishing to prepare a bibliography of material available for future researchers. Please notify:

Sharon Rempel  
R.R. 1  
Keremeos, B.C. V0X 1N0  
Phone: (604) 499-5172

if you have any books, journals, diaries, photos, brochures or details of crops, varieties grown, garden designs, or other references.

\*\*\*\*\*



# 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.

## **Stein; The Way of the River.**

Michael M'Gonigle and Wendy Wickwire. Vancouver, B.C. Talonbooks, 1988. Pp. 192, Illustrated, Maps, Notes. \$39.95

The Stein river valley has in recent years become a focus for public debate in British Columbia and **Stein; The Way of the River** is a contribution to that debate. The valley, tributary to the Fraser and a few miles to the north and west of the village of Lytton, is well defined, a distinct watershed cut off by mountains and ridges and is, the authors argue, "a unique North American ecological and cultural treasure." Its proximity to the major population centres of the Lower Mainland and the fact that the valley is essentially untouched by agriculture, mining, or forestry have combined to make its protection a cause for conservationists.

This book is a compilation of writings, photographs, drawings and paintings, and maps, and a narrative by the authors which serves as a connective and provides the background for the other materials. There are four main sections to the book. The first deals with the human history, both native and non-native; the second with the geology and the natural life; the third with developments since about 1900; and

the final section, "The Journey Ahead", with some thoughts on the future of the valley and its surrounding area. In addition there are a foreword by David Suzuki of T.V. fame, a preface by Chief Ruby Dunstan of the Lytton Indian Band, an introduction by the authors, and an epilogue by John McCandless the "Stein Coordinator" for the Lytton and Mount Currie Indian Bands.

To bring together such a wide variety of materials requires that most careful design controls and the publishers and their designers have, on the whole, succeeded admirably. The cumulative impression is good. The various items are well integrated so that the reader ends with a strong and vivid impression of both the human and the natural history of the valley. However, as is usually the case, the merits of the elements differ greatly. Some quotations are of the very highest quality, for example a section selected from the presentation of Roy Mason of the Federation of Mountain Clubs, to the provincial government in 1973 (p. 124). Others have little literary or other value, and repeat only the most mundane of observations. The gobbledegook of government bureaucracy approaches the ridiculous in a quotation (p. 126) from a 1976 report on the valley.

There are a few shortcomings which appear to be unnecessary. The maps are not listed in a table of contents and one must search the pages in order to find them. They are often difficult to read, most especially the historical ones. There are minor design problems; for example, a photograph featuring Harlan Smith appears on page 39 with the major text for Smith on page 36, while a photograph of James Teit on page 37 is separated from the text on Teit on page 39 - since the photos are much the same size, I wonder at the arrangement. Reading the "Stein Declaration" of the Lytton and Mount Currie Bands, an interesting and illuminating document, requires a magnifying glass.

Primarily **Stein; The Way of the River** is a political document produced to promote the preservation of the valley, and its language and its presentation reflect that. The preservationists' and the authors' opposition, the enemy, is "The Global Intruder", modern industrial development. "At issue", the authors argue, "from the Stein watershed to the Amazon basin is not just how we manage the land base, but who ultimately controls it."

George Newell.  
B.C.H.F., Victoria

The British Columbia Historical Federation was traditionally comprised of local historical societies. In 1988 the constitution was amended to create Associate Members. Associates are persons who wish to support the provincial organization and participate in the fun of the Annual Conference BUT do not have access to a branch society.

We invite new readers to become Associate Members for \$10 per year. This is \$2 for Membership and \$8 for a subscription to the **B.C. Historical News** quarterly magazine.

## APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form (or a photocopy thereof) with a cheque for \$10 to:

Membership Chairman, Mrs. M. Haslam  
Box 10, Cowichan Bay, B.C. V0R 1N0

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### *A Progression of Judges;*

a history of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

David R. Verchere. University of British Columbia Press, 1988.

\$31.95

This book focuses on the Supreme Court's colorful and sometimes controversial judges. At the same time it chronicles the metamorphosis of the two young colonies - the Colony of Vancouver Island and the Colony of British Columbia - from a rough frontier to a sophisticated province, as it is reflected in the maturing of the judicial system and growth of the legal profession.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Itinerant Canadian*

William F. Duthie. Victoria, Orca Book Publishers, 1989. Pp. 193, Illustrated \$13.95

William F. Duthie recalls his family's journeys - from the frontier mining communities in the Kootenays to the historical towns of New Brunswick. Beginning with his great grandparents' world of the late 1800's, Duthie writes from a personal perspective of the turn of the century and the 1920's, the Great Depression and World War II, and the turbulent years that followed.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Heritage Landscapes in British Columbia;* a Guide to their identification, documentation and preservation.

Douglas Paterson. Vancouver, Landscape Architecture Program, University of British Columbia, 1989 Pp. 78, Illustrated

This publication is intended to serve as a general guide to the identification, documentation and preservation of heritage landscapes throughout British Columbia. It is hoped that it will not only increase the general awareness of the importance of heritage landscape preservation but will give various communities and interest groups a sense of how to begin the process of preserving heritage landscapes.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Shared Memories; The Old School Inspector.*

Dorothy M. Marryatt. Victoria, B.C., 1989. (1616 Agnew Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8V 5M6.) Pp. 60.

Stories of the area from McBride in the east to Vanderhoof in the west - milltown and farming communities.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Shuswap Chronicles*, 1989, Vol. 2.

Published by the North Shuswap Historical Society, Celista, B.C. V0E 1L0 Pp. 44

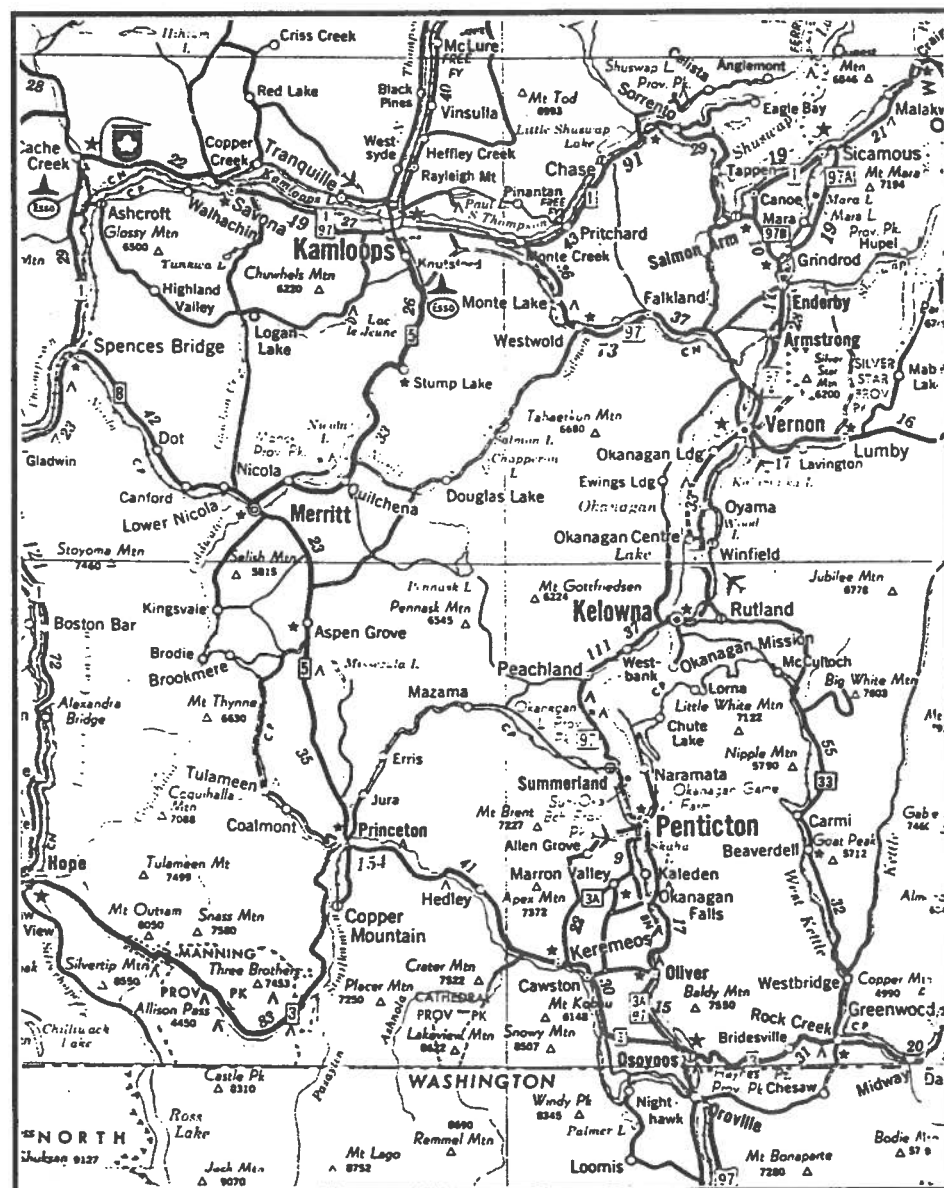
This second volume contains articles on Adams Lake, early schools of North Shuswap, post offices, homesteads of the north Shuswap, and a variety of reminiscences of early days.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *100 Anniversary; Vancouver District Labour Council*, 1889-1989,

Adele Perry. Vancouver 1989. Pp. 71.

Pictorial history of the Vancouver District Labour Council and its members



# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION

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**Honorary President:** Mrs. Clare McAllister

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442-3865

**Past President** Naomi Miller

**Editor** Naomi Miller, Box 105, Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0  
422-3594

## Chairmen of Committees

**Archivist** Margaret Stoneburg

**Publications Assistance Committee** Helen Akrigg, 8-2575 Tolmie Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4M1  
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*(not involved with B.C. Historical News)* Loans are available for publications, Please contact Helen Akrigg prior to submitting manuscript.

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**British Columbia Historical Federation**  
**WRITING COMPETITION**

Any book dealing with any facet of British Columbia history, published in 1990, is eligible. The work may be a community history, a biography, a record of a project or an organization, or personal recollections giving glimpses of the past. Name, dates, and places with relevant maps or pictures turn a story into "history".

1) Best History Book by an individual writer (*Lieutenant - Governor's Medal for Historical Writing*).

2) Best History as prepared by a group (Eg. **Bunch Grass to Barbed Wire** was published by Rose Hill Farmers Institute)

### 3) Best History for Junior Readers.

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

Winners will receive a monetary award, a Certificate of Merit, considerable publicity, and an invitation to the Annual B.C. Historical Federation Conference in Cowichan in May 1991. Deadline for 1990 books is January 31, 1991, BUT submissions are requested as soon as possible after publication. Those submitting books should include name, address, telephone number, selling price of the book, and an address from which the book may be ordered if a reader has to shop by mail. Send to: B.C. Historical Writing Competition

A horizontal line of 18 small, solid black diamonds arranged in a single row, used as a section separator.

There will also be an award for Best article published in the **British Columbia Historical News**. This prize is reserved for amateur historians and/or undergraduate or graduate students.

Articles should be no more than 2,500 words, substantiated with footnotes if possible, accompanied by photographs if available, and typed double spaced. (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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