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Photo James Marshall collection. Courtesy Ron Greene

Interior of the bar of the second Brooklyn Hotel, once the most prestigious hotel in Phoenix, BC. After a fire destroyed the previous Brooklyn Hotel in 1905, George Rumberger and James Marshall built this new Brooklyn Hotel. James Marshall, who managed the hotel until early 1918, is standing on the right.
More in Ron Greene's regular contribution on tokens on page 25.

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Any country worthy of a future should be interested in its past.
W. Kaye Lamb, 1937

Writing British Columbia History

I AM CONCERNED about the present upsurge of books being written and published about various aspects of British Columbia history. It is not that I think that there should be less of such publications but I believe that there are occasions when the books are not well enough researched or thought through to warrant publication.

It is enjoyable to see a book about one of our small communities that has not had its story told previously. Many of these stories are being written by individuals who have arrived in the area fairly recently and see that there is a need to record its history. This is wonderful! However, what I am concerned about is that too often the books are not well written and not even well researched. Those who know many of the stories and have lived in the area for years are not always consulted. Archival materials, such as newspapers and other records, are either not used or not identified properly. These omissions can lead to a somewhat slight publication and sometimes an inaccurate one.

Therefore my plea for those wishing to write about our British Columbia history is: please do so, but be aware of all the resources available and use them as efficiently and accurately as possible. If care is taken by our authors to produce as accurate and well-researched work as possible we shall not only have a wealth of literature on the history of our province, but also a wonderful source of information for present and future students and scholars.

Melva J. Dwyer
Bibliographer, *BC Studies*

The Life and Times of Robert Raglan Gosden: Anarchist, Saboteur, Mystic, and Labour Spy

by Mark Leier

Mark Leier, born in Ladner, BC, is a labour historian at Simon Fraser University. His book, *Rebel Life: The Life and Times of Robert Gosden, Revolutionary, Mystic, Labour Spy* (Vancouver: New Star Books, 1999) is his third one on BC labour history.

THE 18TH of April 1961 was much like any other spring day in Vancouver. It was overcast and damp; the temperature, measured on the Fahrenheit scale in those years before Canada adopted the metric system, was about 50 degrees. There were, of course, weightier concerns than the weather. Unemployment was high, with over 700,000 Canadians looking for work. The Cold War simmered and threatened to boil over. The Soviet Union had launched the first human into space six days before, and the United States was still reeling from the shock. More alarming, the US had launched the ill-fated invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs the day before. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev warned that Cuba would be defended from American aggression, and the world watched anxiously as the two nuclear superpowers faced off.

Unnoticed by a world worried with larger issues, a small group of mourners gathered at the T. Edwards Chapel on Granville Street in Vancouver to mark the passing of a 78-year old man. The death of Robert Raglan Gosden was just one of many, and it did not warrant a story in the metropolitan dailies, only a few short lines buried in the back page of the obituary column. No reporter bore witness, no crowd gathered to pay respects on that damp, grey day. To those few at the memorial service, Robert Raglan Gosden was a husband, a friend, and a relative, remembered warmly for his loyalty, his ideas, even his eccentricities, but nothing more.

But forty-five years before, he had shocked a province with his speeches and actions. He raised headlines in the BC daily newspapers, and even pushed the First World War from the front pages. His name was synonymous with radicalism, revolution, political scandal, and violence, and he inspired and outraged thousands. Robert Gosden had taken part in labour strikes from Prince Rupert to San Diego and in newspapers and public meetings and picket lines, preached sabotage and assassination. He had helped topple a BC Attorney-General, and claimed to have ridden with the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. He attacked the Socialist Party of Canada as cowardly and conservative, and boldly declared that capitalism was "a system based on theft" that should be "sabotaged at every conceivable opportunity."

Some at his funeral knew some of this, though the details were sparse and conflicting. None of them knew Gosden's final secret. Yes, he had been a fiery radical. He had been a revolutionary, an anarchist, even a saboteur. But the real secret of his past was that he had been a labour spy for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. However ordinary his death, there was nothing ordinary about Bob Gosden's life.

Who was this contradictory, shadowy man? In many ways, he was typical of the migrant workers who did much of the rough work on the industrial frontiers of North America. Robert Raglan Gosden was born in Surrey, England in 1882 and left England around 1896. He travelled throughout Canada and the United States. He worked at a variety of jobs: he was a miner, logger, painter, seaman, janitor, garbage man, labourer, mason, and gardener. In BC by 1906, he later told people that he befriended Jack London and Robert Service in the Canadian north.

By December 1910, Gosden was working in construction in Prince Rupert. There he joined the Prince Rupert Industrial Association (PRIA), a local organization of construction labourers that was affiliated with the radical union, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or the Wobblies. The men faced terrible conditions. Life in Prince Rupert was cold and wet, the food poor and the pay worse. In March 1911, the PRIA went on strike for higher wages. The employers responded by importing scabs, and called in the police to break the picket line. Several union members were arrested, including the local's secretary. Gosden was then appointed to take his place.

On 6 April, the angry strikers held a march through the city streets. Several hundred strong, the marchers urged others to down tools and join the strike. When they reached a section of roadway known as Kelly's Cut, a fight broke out between the strikers, scabs, and police. Several on

both sides were injured, and a number of unionists were arrested on charges ranging from attempted murder, to rioting and assault. Bob Gosden was among the arrested. Charged with counselling assault, he spent three months in prison.


Courtesy Mark Leier

Centre: *Robert Gosden. Photo taken in the 1950s.*

His sentence strengthened Gosden's belief that capitalism was a cruel and exploitative system. Many of the arrested were kept in a hastily-built bullpen until their trials, and prison fare was two servings of "shadow soup" a day. One man, it was said, was driven mad by the prison conditions.

After his release, Gosden made his way down to San Diego. In later years, he said he had ridden with Pancho Villa, and "expropriated" horses owned by newspaper baron William Hearst from his San Simeon ranch to aid the Mexican revolutionaries. He may well have. In 1912, he took part in the IWW's San Diego free speech fight. In several cities throughout North America, including Vancouver and Victoria, city officials banned the union from holding meetings and speaking in the streets. Since these meetings were a crucial tactic for organizing, the IWW fought back, usually by calling upon its members to flock to the city and get arrested for defying the ban. The resulting publicity, unruly demonstrations, and strain on the city's jails and coffers were designed to force the municipal authorities to relax their assault on the right to free speech and to allow the union to continue its organizing drives. This at least was the theory. In San Diego, however, it was proved tragically wrong.

In December 1911 the city council voted to ban street meetings from the entire downtown core, ostensibly to avoid the blocking of traffic. The IWW joined with socialists, civil libertarians, religious groups, and trade unions to maintain the right to free speech. In February 1912, police swooped down and arrested the speakers. In short time nearly three hundred were imprisoned in the city jail. Fire hoses were turned on crowds, and vigilante groups were organized to purge the city of the activists. At least two IWW members were killed by mobs during the several months of the free speech struggle; others were kidnapped, beaten, even burned with tar and cigar butts.

One of the Wobblies picked up in the police dragnets was Bob Gosden. Arrested and charged with violating the city ordinance forbidding gatherings, Gosden was held in county jail without trial for nine months. From his cell, he wrote to the *Industrial Worker,* the IWW newspaper. In his articles, he insisted that a proletarian revolution was necessary, and that the most effective tools for revolutionaries were direct action and sabotage. By destroying capitalist machinery and factories, the IWW could "tie up every industry at any time" and "by such action alone will we have the liberty to organize in the industries so that we can feed and clothe the world's workers when the class war has ceased."

In November 1912, Gosden and sixteen other defendants finally went to trial on charges of violating the street speaking ordinance and assault with a deadly weapon. He was found guilty but was released on probation and deported to BC.

Certainly his stay in jail had not dampened Gosden's enthusiasm for class war. On his return to British Columbia, he continued to agitate for the IWW and to advocate sabotage. At Steveston, a fishing village outside of Vancouver, Gosden addressed audiences of native Indian and Chinese cannery workers. Dressed in a black shirt, bare at the arms and open at the neck, he outlined the principles of the IWW, and while careful not to actually advocate violence, he asked the workers "what it mattered to them if the machinery was to fall to pieces or the roofs of the cannery were to fall in."

He took a stronger line among the striking miners of Vancouver Island's coalfields. In September 1912, the miners at Canadian Collieries, formerly Dunsmuir and Sons, began a strike and

Right: *BC Miners Liberation League Tag Day in Vancouver, 20 December 1913.*

Courtesy City of Vancouver Archives. CVA 259-1

lock-out that lasted two years. Led by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the strike centred on the demand for collective bargaining and union recognition. It was a fierce strike that saw miners thrown out of company housing and brought the bayonets and machine guns of the militia to bear on strikers. The Conservative government, headed by Sir Richard McBride, sided with the company. Beatings, sabotage, and charivaris were common; riots broke out to protest the use of troops to escort scabs, and miners and police exchanged gunfire in pitched battles at the mine heads. Over two hundred miners were arrested and charged with unlawful assembly and given harsh sentences of one to two years in prison.

Robert Gosden strode boldly into the fray. He headed to Vancouver Island and travelled up and down the strike region, giving speeches and counselling radical action, including sabotage and violence. When BC unionists and socialists formed the Miners' Liberation League (MLL) to work for the release of the arrested miners, Gosden joined in. Representing the IWW, he spoke at a mass meeting of the MLL at Hastings Park, Vancouver, along with prominent socialists and trade unionists. The last speaker at the meeting, his words were calculated to leave the crowd in a charged mood:

> By the end of this month every last peaceful appeal which is necessary or possible for us to make as citizens of this Dominion for the release of our brothers in prison will have been made. By the end of this year all peaceful measures will have been exhausted. If they are not released by the time the New Year is ushered in, if [Conservative provincial premier] Sir Richard McBride, Attorney-General Bowser, or any of the minions and politicians go hunting, they will be very foolish, for they will be shot dead. These men will also be well advised to employ some sucker to taste their coffee in the morning before drinking it if they value their lives.

His provocative speech, given to a crowd of at least one thousand, was greeted with "tremendous cheering" and outraged local newspapers and moderate labour leaders. Nonetheless, despite, or perhaps because of, his militancy, Gosden was elected to the vice-presidency and to the press committee of the MLL. Asked about his advocacy of violence later, he replied, "Tyrants should be handled a tyrannical way, the same as they handle others." Those "who tyrannized the poor should be removed," he continued. "If the Kaiser had been dealt with in that way thousands of men would have been saved from slaughter—slaughter caused by his insatiable thirst for power and desire for tyranny."

His work with the MLL marked the highpoint of Gosden's career as a labour organizer and IWW militant. Gosden may have been an extremist, but his views represented those of a significant number of North American workers in this period of class violence perpetrated by workers and bosses.

Gosden next surfaced during the First World War in a very different set of circumstances. By 1916, McBride's Tories had been in power for thirteen years. His government was tired and McBride himself was ill and preparing to retire from active politics. The opposition Liberals, led by Harlan C. Brewster, were positioning themselves as a progressive reform party with a platform that ranged from women's suffrage to workers' compensation. Their success seemed assured when before the September general election, Liberal candidates M.A. Macdonald and Brewster won by-elections in February and March.

But shortly after Macdonald's victory in Vancouver, rumours started to circulate, alleging that the Liberals had rigged his by-election by bringing in men from Seattle to vote for him. This was the famous "plugging scandal." Finally the government formed a commission to investigate. The investigation unravelled a complex story, complete with disappearing witnesses and suspects, bribery, private detectives, and perjury. It was clear that indeed several people had been paid to come to Vancouver to cast illegal ballots for Macdonald. The illegal voters were paid as much as ten dollars—nearly a week's wages for an unskilled labourer—and supplied with identification cards that listed their new names, addresses, occupations, and polling stations and instructed them how to vote.

Robert Gosden played a pivotal role in the scandal. In May 1916, he was called before the commission and shocked the province with his revelations. Gosden testified that Macdonald's campaign manager, John T. Scott, had hired him at twenty dollars a week plus expenses to compile lists of men who were not entitled to vote, who were absent, or even dead, so their identities could be assumed by the pluggers. Gosden also passed out money to prospective voters and made it clear that he would appreciate a vote for Macdonald in return for his largesse.

Much more damaging, however, was Gosden's claim Macdonald himself had paid directly for his deeds. This allegation rocked the province, for it was the only direct link from Macdonald to the illegal plugging. Macdonald immediately denied the charge and had Gosden arrested for perjury. Gosden stuck to his story and summoned a number of witnesses who corroborated parts of it.

Because the election scandal was fiercely partisan and hotly contested, the press followed every twist and development with zeal. Indeed, at times Gosden's revelations of political intrigue crowded the First World War off the front page of the daily newspapers. His perjury trial resulted in a hung jury; dissatisfied with the result, the crown prosecutor immediately re-tried him. Again the jury could not agree, and this time the case was dropped. Macdonald won his seat in the 1916 general election, but was forced to resign over another political scandal. He continued to be an important figure in BC politics and some years later was appointed to the province's court of appeal. His son, Alex Macdonald, would become a successful MLA for the BC NDP, and would serve as Attorney-General during Dave Barrett's government of 1972-1975.

Gosden refused to apologize for his part in the illegal activity. His parents, he claimed, both in their eighties, needed $100 to prevent the foreclosure of their mortgage. The money went to save the family home. As Gosden put it, "the end justifies the means in two ways. It was necessity for me as there was no other legitimate work in view."

The second way the end justified the means was political, for "there was some satisfaction in seeing the Liberals get in to beat the Conservatives for once. Do you think I don't remember the troubles up on the Island?" He was "against the government" on "general principles" and thus had "no moral conceptions on the question of party politics," especially since "politics is based on a rotten structure."

The work also gave Gosden a chance to apply talents unused in his labouring jobs. Since his arrival in Canada, he had worked at a variety of unskilled labouring jobs. In the winter of 1915, he worked as a scavenger, a snow remover, and a sewer excavator; in January 1916, he was hired to dig a well in the miserable wet and snow of the Victoria area. Engaging in the illegalities of the plugging scandal gave him the chance to make better money, in better conditions. Compiling the lists, cross-checking them, helping organize voting, all required a certain intelligence and personality. Gosden was proud of the quality and completeness of his work, if not of the purposes to which they were put. His performances at the commission hearings and his perjury trials even won him compliments of sorts: the prosecutor was forced to "give him this credit, that he is one of the most skillful witnesses I ever saw. He was the greatest fencer in the witness box I have come

Courtesy Mark Leier

Above: *Joe Hill, IWW songwriter and organizer, murdered for his radical activities in the 1910s.*

in contact with." The judge opined that Gosden was a "picturesque character," "a man of strong convictions and with lots of courage."

After the scandal, Gosden moved to Alberta where he was involved in union organizing. He later claimed to have aided workers who sought to avoid conscription during the First World War. This is possible, as many did take to the bush rather than fight in what they believed was an unjust and imperialist war. The most famous was Ginger Goodwin, the labour organizer who was shot and killed on Vancouver Island by a special constable sent out to arrest the conscientious objectors.

But something happened to Gosden. Sometime before 1919, he decided to use his radical past for a different end. Claiming to be an expert on labour politics and left-wing movements, Gosden went to work as a spy for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or the Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP), as it was known until 1920.

The police force was keen to have men like Gosden on its payroll. No longer a territorial paramilitary force, the RNWP was reorganized and given the responsibility of infiltrating labour unions and political parties. Inflation, the sacrifice of the war, and the desire to fight for democracy at home as well as abroad, inspired workers between 1918 and 1920 to strike in greater numbers and with greater frequency than at any time in Canadian history. The Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 was merely one part of this larger workers' revolt. Faced with the spectre of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the demand of Canadian workers for better wages and more control over how work was organized, business leaders and politicians sought to crush the labour movement. As a result, the RNWMP was reconstituted and ordered to target labour and radical groups.

Crucial to this work was the recruitment of informants. The rate of pay for these casual employees was as much as $5.00 per day—still an excellent wage for someone like Gosden, perhaps double what he might receive for manual labour. Gosden was in Blairmore, Alberta in January 1919, then in Fernie, BC in February, and in Macleod, Alberta at the end of February, working for the police in each town.

Probably his most significant work was his infiltration of the Western Labor Conference at Calgary in March 1919. This was the convention that launched the One Big Union (OBU), a new industrial union rather like the IWW in organization, though more moderate. Sporting a new moustache, Gosden had joined the miners' union at Hillcrest and had been elected as a delegate to the conference. But he was denounced by two members of the convention as a spy. With typical bravado, Gosden stood up and asked to take the floor to explain himself. He was refused and a motion was made to eject him. The motion failed, however, as several speakers maintained that since they had nothing to hide and their actions were legal, the spy might as well stay.

But his actions were more harmful than the OBU delegates imagined. For Gosden, known to the RNWMP as Secret Agent No. 10, did more than report on the convention. He claimed that the OBU was not just an industrial union that wanted to improve wages and conditions. With Socialist Party of Canada (SPC) stalwarts at its head, Gosden wrote, the OBU aimed at "social revolution of the Bolsheviki type."

Secret Agent No. 10 did not stop there. Gosden advocated kidnapping the most important SPC leaders and holding them incommunicado. The terror resulting from having the leaders "automatically disappear" would freeze the others, "because their ambitions towards leadership and power is [sic] greater than their willingness to suffer and sacrifice for revolution."

His chilling suggestion was not acted upon. Significantly, however, his memo was forwarded through the police hierarchy all the way up to the Prime Minister's office. Though regarded as an expert with inside information on the radical movement, Gosden's career as a spy for the RNWMP was a short one. Presumably his utility as a secret agent diminished quickly after his exposure at the OBU conference. Furthermore, his handlers were suspicious of him. Gosden often sold them the same information twice, and reported on meetings he had never attended. Nor were they always sure what side he was on. Even in his kidnapping memo he hoped that the kidnapping of the SPC leaders would "clear the way for those types of revolutionists who are sincere in their convictions and who may be willing, when the acid test of opposition comes, to lead the hesitating mass to revolution even though it may mean their own death." Presumably he included himself among those sincere revolutionists.

By 1920, Gosden was nearly forty years old, with no career, stable job, or home life. He turned

to spiritualism and became particularly interested in Theosophy. He was back in Vancouver around 1922, when he met the woman who would be his companion for the next sixteen years. Isabella Bunyan was widowed by the Great War and left with two young sons. She met Robert Gosden through another mystical group, the British Israelites, and they took up residence together. Gosden helped raise her sons John and Bill and continued to work as a labourer and cement worker. The couple pre-empted land at Gibson's Landing, a rural peninsula north of Vancouver accessible only by water, and Gosden worked to clear the plot and build on it. In 1932, he took up his spying trade again. This time, he contacted the BC Provincial Police, and infiltrated a relief camp in Deroche, BC, near Harrison Hot Springs. Probably hoping to find regular work with the police, he hinted darkly that "secret, dangerous, and irreconcilable" agitators were at work, and that only his efforts could reveal the men and their dastardly plots. If his help wasn't rewarded, he warned, "your camps will burn."

It has not been possible to determine if Gosden subsequently worked as an informer for the BC Provincial Police. But in 1936, he was singled out by the Communist writer William Bennett and attacked for his connection to local political and radio personality, Tom McInnes. McInnes was the son of Thomas R. McInnes, a former Lieutenant Governor of BC. Closely allied with the right-wing, virulently anti-labour Vancouver Shipping Federation, McInnes formed the reactionary Nationalist Party of Canada and devoted newspaper columns and radio broadcasts to attacking the left and the labour movements of the day. According to Bennett, Gosden was "bodyguard to the fascist radio-orator."

Isabella Bunyan died in 1938, and Gosden moved to West Vancouver, again residing with a widow, C. Mabel Smith, and giving his occupation as gardener. Around 1950, he began a relationship with Helena Hesson, a Vancouver school teacher keen on Theosophy and the supernatural. They moved to Gibsons around 1952. Gosden continued to be attracted to radicalism for the rest of his life, and often talked of the need for a workers' revolution. Among his possessions were photographs of IWW martyrs Joe Hill and Wesley Everett, who had been murdered for their radical activities in the 1910s. He remained a local character, noted for his strong views and eccentric behaviour. This ranged from nudism, to survivalism and a fascination with the occult. He died in Gibsons, on 11 April 1961, aged 78. He died in obscurity, loved by his widow and stepsons, well regarded by his friends. Though many knew of Gosden's love of intrigue, none knew of his violent past or of his secret life as a labour spy.

Courtesy Mark Leier

Above: *Photo taken in the 1950s showing Helena Gosden nee Hesson, sitting to the left and Robert Gosden, third from left, in dark clothing. It is not known who the other people are.*

What is the historical significance of Robert Raglan Gosden? His story gives us some insight into the world of the migrant male worker in the early years of the twentieth century. In sharp contrast to the romanticized notions of the hobo expressed in songs like "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum" his actions and speeches boil with rage and anger at a system that used up men and tossed them aside.

Gosden also gives us some insight into the shadowy world of the labour spy. Sometime between 1910 and 1919, Gosden turned full circle. How can we explain this? It may be that Gosden was a sociopath, devoid of the emotions and conscience that kept others from such behaviour. Surely there were other motives. Certainly the money was important: the pay was good for work that was considerably easier than railway construction or ditch-digging. But we must also consider Gosden's love of the limelight, evidenced by his pleasure in making front-page headlines during the plugging scandal. Being a spy certainly required the use of his native intelligence in ways that manual labour did not. Involvement in intricate plans, double-dealing, and conspiracy may have given some higher meaning to his rough life in much the way mysticism did later.

How should we judge him? Working class hero, militant, mystic, scoundrel, traitor—he was all these, and more. Perhaps we no longer need to judge his actions; perhaps the passage of time makes our moralizing useless. Perhaps it is enough to try to understand him and the conditions that made him. A man shaped by the brutal conditions of industrialization, his career reminds us of the struggles and events and moral dilemmas of an earlier time. If we are to judge him harshly, we must also judge harshly those who profited from his exploitation and forged a world in which radicalism, violence, and treachery could flourish.

Dr. Moss's Second Bear Hunt

by Paul C. Appleton

Paul Appleton is a retired teacher from Calgary, now living with his artist wife in Victoria. He is a keen student of nineteenth-century history and is researching the life of Dr. Moss and the story of the Old Royal Navy Hospital at Esquimalt in the 1870s.

In the spring of 1872 Assistant Surgeon Edward Lawton Moss, M.D., R.N. arrived at Esquimalt to take charge of the Naval Hospital at Constance Cove, site of present-day H.M.C.S. *Naden* at CFB Esquimalt, headquarters of the Pacific fleet. The Esquimalt Hospital had been closed since 1869 and it was Moss's task to carry out the repairs, renovations, and administrative changes deemed necessary to reopen the complex as a permanent naval hospital for the Pacific Station. Six run-down wooden buildings were on the 10-acre site, built fourteen years earlier as winter quarters and stores for the Royal Engineers, and used by them until 1862 when they finished surveying the western section of the US-Canadian boundary. The site was then taken over by the Navy and classified by the Admiralty as a "temporary" hospital, replacing the "Crimea Huts" at Duntz Head near the entrance to the Esquimalt Harbour.

Courtesy BC Archives G-07634

Edward Moss was a conscientious and diligent physician who took his new responsibilities seriously, and by the time he left Esquimalt early in 1875 the run-down buildings and grounds had been transformed into a well-managed and attractive facility. The hospital remained in use until the early 1890s when the wooden buildings were demolished and replaced by more permanent and modern brick structures. Four of the latter remain at "Museum Square," recently designated a national heritage site, and home to the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.

Prior to his appointment to Esquimalt, Moss served briefly on the West Indies Station, spent about four and one-half years aboard a troopship travelling all over the Empire, and two years ashore at Portland sick quarters in southern England. The diminutive (5' 4", 130 lbs.) doctor was a keen zoologist, painter, sportsman, and author, as well as a competent medical practitioner. He was hand-picked by the Admiralty for the medical and scientific team on the British Arctic Expedition of 1875-76, and upon his return to England authored a beautifully illustrated book, *To the Shores of the Polar Sea*. One of the few copies of this rare work is among the holdings of the British Columbia Archives, donated many years ago by Robie Louis Reid, one of the original members of the British Columbia Historical Association (now Federation) and who is said to have founded the *B.C. Historical Quarterly*.

Unfortunately Edward Lawton Moss met a tragic and untimely death at the age of 37 when he was lost, along with almost 280 men and boys, aboard the British training frigate H.M.S. *Atalanta*. His ship left Bermuda for England on 31 January 1880 and was never seen again. A few days earlier, after two men had been struck down with yellow fever, Moss had advised the ship's captain that the training cruise should be cut short, suggesting that it was necessary to sail north to a cooler climate to avoid a possible epidemic of the dreaded disease in the overcrowded forty-year old sailing ship. Around the middle of April, the *Atalanta* was officially listed as overdue and the Admiralty sent the Channel Fleet to do a wide search of her presumed path. No sign of the ship or her wreckage was ever found. It was concluded that she had foundered in one of the savage gales that swept the Atlantic in the winter and spring of 1880, but where, when, and how will likely always remain a mystery.

Centre: *Dr. Edward Lawton Moss, April 1872. (age 29)*

Opposite page: *Illustration from* The Graphic, *London, June 1876*

Edward Lawton Moss left his wife, Thomasina, and two daughters, six and three years of age. A namesake infant son, born within a month of his father's death, became a much decorated British Army medical officer. Thomasina never remarried and lived well to the age of 88 at Guildford, Surrey. In one of her letters to Robie Louis Reid, written sometime between 1927 and 1929, Thomasina Moss wrote: "...We hoped we might go back and settle in Vancouver [Island] sometime later in life—we loved it so much..." and in another letter "...The bush around Esquimalt was very thick, the pine [fir] trees grand, a great deal of the country was unexplored they said. My husband was a very keen sportsman. He shot two rather large bears, & several deer, & 14 racoons, not far the from the Hospital. They were making havoc with a farmer's turkeys—two kinds of quail [sic] were abundant..."

Edward Moss's periodic exploration and hunting trips were a pleasant break in his routine. While the number of patients at any one time was small, the surgeon in charge of a small hospital had plenty of administrative tasks to fill his time, to write replies to letters (called "returns"), food and other supplies to order, staff to oversee and always a plethora of Admiralty records to keep meticulously for the bureaucrats of the medical department.

His second bear hunt is the subject of the following letter written by Edward to his brother Richard on 29 September 1874. Edward had obviously enjoyed his very successful two-day expedition in spite of the rain and the flea-bitten night at Tugwell's cabin. Both Tugwell and Muir, mentioned in the letter, were among the earliest settlers and the latter family were pioneer loggers in the Sooke region, operating the first steam-driven sawmill in British Columbia. Edward's comments about the Indian taking the gallbladder of the bear suggests that this traditional Chinese medicinal remedy must have been much in demand in Victoria, for the price of three to five dollars was about two days' wages—at least $100 in today's terms—not an inconsiderable sum. Unfortunately the killing of bears just for their valuable gallbladders is today a real threat to the remaining bear population both in Asia, and increasingly in North America.

REST

Dear Richard,

We heard this morning about Grandpa shooting partridge and I resolved to send him an account of my last performance but came to the conclusion that my writing is not very clear. I had better send it to you to read to him—here it is.

My Second Bear Hunt

A week's hard rain early in September looked very like the setting in of an early winter and hunters say we are to have it both early and severe this year, [18]74, because all the game is fat about the entrails, berries are unusually numerous, and the duck are coming in already. Monday 14th [September] however turned out fine and counting on the chance of Indian Summer I made preparations and started on my mare to Sooke at 11 AM next morning reached Muir's farm at 4 PM, left "Miss Flirt" in a very snug stable and in order to reach Tugwell's hemlock bark post before dusk lost no time getting on the trail. Skupac—the Indian hunter—carried my little packsack containing 1 lb. biscuit, ½ lb. ham, 2 oz. preserved milk & a little tea, chocolate and sugar as well as a very small axe, a tin can & cup and a pencil & paper. He also carried his own rifle and blanket—I had my blanket strapped firmly so as not to interfere with my rifle. A belt carrying ammunition completed my outfit.

The first trace of game we saw was the track of a large panther in a swamp two miles beyond Muir's. He had evidently been after the mallards that were quacking in alarm at our intrusion. We did the six miles in fair time, and "put up" at Tugwell's but if I ever go there again I will keep to the bush for the fleas gave me no rest, never till then did I have any idea what they could do. I was glad to turn out at daylight to get a cup of coffee and take the trail for the hills. Once through the dark thick of the forest that lies between the sea and the hills there was no more trail, and no one who has not seen the west can form an idea of the roughness and wildness of the land. My object was to push on NW as far as we could in daylight and then camp by any water we could find. Passed numerous tracks both of deer and bear but our heavily laden tread gave plenty of notice and we saw no live things.

In the afternoon the sky became overcast, a few drops of rain warned us to be on the lookout for a dry bed before it came down heavily, and about

The three etchings shown here and the one on the previous page are from The Graphic, *London, June 1876. They illustrated Dr. E.L. Moss's article "Sports in British Columbia."*

CLOSE QUARTERS

3 PM we camped in the hollow of a huge fallen tree, so large that I could easily stand upright. We scarce had fern enough for beds pulled when down came the rain in a steady pour. The middle of our tree lay over a small stream, and we set our fire beside the water, on the rocks swept clear by winter torrents, and under the shelter of the tree. The Indian took the axe, and in a few moments came back with an armful of long broad strips of cedar bark, which he placed overlapping each other & resting against either side of the tree, so as to make a splendid wigwam round our fire and there we sat till dusk & and then got a slight supper ready and did the best we could to converse but as Scupac knew no English and I knew no Chinook we didn't get on very well, signs and rough pictures as the Indian could draw diagrams, helped us out however.

He told me he had shot 8 bears—gave excited descriptions, or rather acts, of the various encounters and by the way of making me more comfortable for the morrow told me that a bear had killed a friend of his close to where we were camped. We discoursed also about wolves— winter hunting, medicinal plants etc., etc., and finally retired to our hollow tree and slept soundly but then the fire went out & and it began to get cool below.

"Fido" came in and lay down beside me. It was quite dark then and still raining, but when I next woke up the tracery of the hemlocks was standing out against the pale light of morning and though the trees still dripped, the rain was gone. A small fire—so as not to warn the game—heated one cup of tea and off we marched regularly on the war trail. A high mountain rose to our NW and we agreed to separate and take opposite sides, he to the E and I to the W and meet on the other side in the forenoon. I would have felt that there was some risk in doing this if I had not had experience that the Indian could follow my track wherever I went. These Sooke mountains are risky to the white man, for they hold so much iron the compass is not to be trusted.

Of course we were wet through in 5 minutes but as long as one keeps going it makes no matter, indeed the wet was rather an advantage for the leaves did not rustle to the tread of the moccasin. It is no use trying to hunt in boots for they slip on the fallen trees and prevent you feeling your footing. With moccasins a man can keep his eyes on his game, and creep along silently as a cat. Fido is well accustomed to "still hunting" so we worked steadily along with the light growing stronger behind us, passing numerous bear tracks a day old and keeping in their line. Much to my surprise, for the country was good and we made no noise, I saw no game till I had got well round my side of the mountain. Then Fido set—I shot a blue grouse—and thinking he would make a good breakfast I sat down on some rocks commanding a good view with the "Winchester repeater" within easy reach commenced plucking my bird. I was about ½ mile NW of the top of the mountain and could see mile upon mile of rock and forest, stretching ridge beyond ridge away to both North and West. The bird was about half done when I saw a movement in the bushes on a ridge 150 yds on my right. Out trotted a fine large bear, exposing his whole left side. I wasn't long changing the grouse for the rifle, and fired for behind his shoulder. Before the round had time to reach him he started. I bounded off down the rocks into a ravine full of tangled timber that lay between us and the eastward. He was too active to be badly wounded, so active indeed that though several times I saw the dark mass bounding along I could not cover him with my rifle.

A LONG SHOT

I didn't half like the idea of facing a wounded bear in such a dense thicket but if I wanted him there was nothing else for it, so I ran down to get into the narrow part of the gully before he did. Fido didn't see the bear and thinking that a deer was in the question was very anxious to be off. When we got down the ravine however, he had heard the bear crunching towards us through the fallen trees he changed his mind and fidgeted a few yards ahead. I had a moment or two to get my breath and chose a steady standing place, when Fido howled and backed to my feet and bruin followed him with a roar and a rush. The dog seeing me stand, jumped to the right and made a show of attack. The bear at once struck at him and in doing so exposed his right shoulder and I put the third bullet in close behind the blade. He fell over but staggered to his feet whenever the dog or I came near him. At last he was unable to rise and I gave him "coup de Gras" [sic] with the hunting knife.

As I stood over him wondering if Skupac would find me I heard a distant shot and then another and felt confident he must have heard my four shots, but knew he would not fire merely to answer me. Thinking a few sign posts desirable I went to the highest point near and piled three sticks with the longest pointing down my way then set to work and skinned as much of him as I could reach for he was too heavy for me to move. Skupac appeared about 10 AM carrying the haunch, skin and head of a splendid fat buck. So our larder was comfortably stocked, though now that we had the bear we did not want more than a day's provisions for there was no use hunting anymore as it would give us all we could do to carry the bear's head paws and skin together with our traps [gear] out of the mountains.

When we had finished the skinning the Indian cut the carcase [sic] up and hung the pieces on trees in the shade, so that his messengers would get them in good order. He also stowed away the gallbladder as Chinamen give from 3 to 5$ for it to use as medicine. Then we started off for our camp making many a halt beside bushes like magnified brackens with the true wild flavour, and much more palatable than the "salal", a few berries of the (Berberis repens) or "oregon grape" quenched our thirst till we got breakfast ready.

Stewed grouse, boiled venison, & a can of chocolate made a respectable carte to which we both did justice, leaving Fido the remains of the deer's head from which I had cut the forehead & horns.

Reading the description it does not seem very hard work packing in a bear's skin and a bit of venison but the ground was everywhere covered with fallen timber and was a perfect labyrinth of rocks and ravines. I forgot to say that every one of my shots had gone through the bear, first through his stomach just six inches to right (side view) of his heart. 2nd through heart, liver, and haunch, and 3rd through lungs between heart and spine. Skupac had also seen a bear but did not get a shot until he was some way off—"sia"—and missed him "pootsepie"—my impression is that he would have been better pleased if I had been unlucky too.

Well, to make a long story short, we were too tired to leave our camp that day so we fed and slept in preparation for the morrow, and on Friday at daylight started to Tugwell's ranch, reached Muir's that night was very hospitably entertained, and saddling my mare at 10 next morning got home about 4 PM leaving Skupac to bring the trophies round by canoe.

Your affectionate brother,
Edward L. Moss

THE HOME TRAIL

Phoenix – The Vanished City

by N.L. Barlee

From the manuscript of N.L. (Bill) Barlee's upcoming book *Nuggets of Gold, Boulders of Silver and Mountains of Copper,* scheduled to be out in the fall of this year.

THERE will never be another place like it. Its name, Phoenix, was strangely prophetic. It died over three quarters of a century ago, but for decades it stood as one of the most fascinating ghost towns west of the Continental Divide. The memory of the town still haunts those few people who remember when Phoenix was an incorporated city.

It had a number of claims to fame, some of which were well known, others seldom related and half forgotten. The renowned "Willie" Williams, the string-bean judge in Phoenix, who called himself "The Highest Judge, in the Highest Court, in the Highest City in Canada," earned some lasting notoriety for his unusual decisions, his love of wine, stud poker, and women; although not necessarily in that order. His towering height entitled him to legitimately lay claim as the "highest" judge in Canada.

Volumes have been written about the Klondike, and although that was a glorious chapter in the history of the Canadian west, it has perhaps overshadowed other mining stampedes and other events that took place in the same era. Few people, even historians, are aware that although several hundred millions in gold came out of the Yukon, that amount, although impressive, was matched by the value of the copper and gold which was shipped out of Phoenix camp during its brief existence.

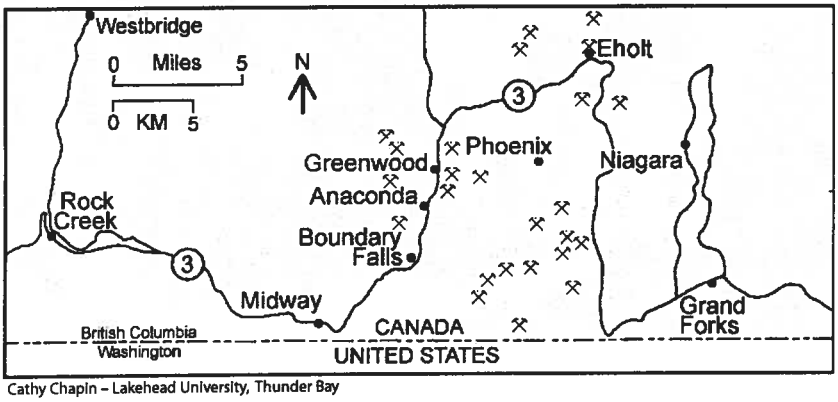
At its zenith empty ore trains crawled up the steep grade into Phoenix twenty-four hours every day, seven days a week, loaded up, and returned to Grand Forks with copper ore to be consumed by the insatiable blast furnaces of the Granby Company smelter.

Yet Phoenix, like so many other mining camps in the west, had an inauspicious beginning. Although placer miners had been active in the Boundary District since 1859, little lode prospecting had taken place. But when Red Mountain was discovered in 1890, the focus of the mining fraternity was shifted to the West Kootenay and Boundary Country. Within months, hundreds of prospectors were scouring the area, hoping to locate another Red Mountain. On 25 July 1891, Matthew Hotter and his partner, Henry White, came across a large outcrop of copper ore just off the historic Dewdney Trail, near the 4,500-foot level. They drove in their claim stakes on two locations and called them Old Ironsides and Knob Hill. Primarily concerned with gold and silver, they let their claims go for a pittance. Unknowingly, they had walked away from claims which ultimately yielded millions upon millions of dollars in profit for their new owners and eventually made the name Phoenix famous throughout North America as the greatest copper camp in Canada.

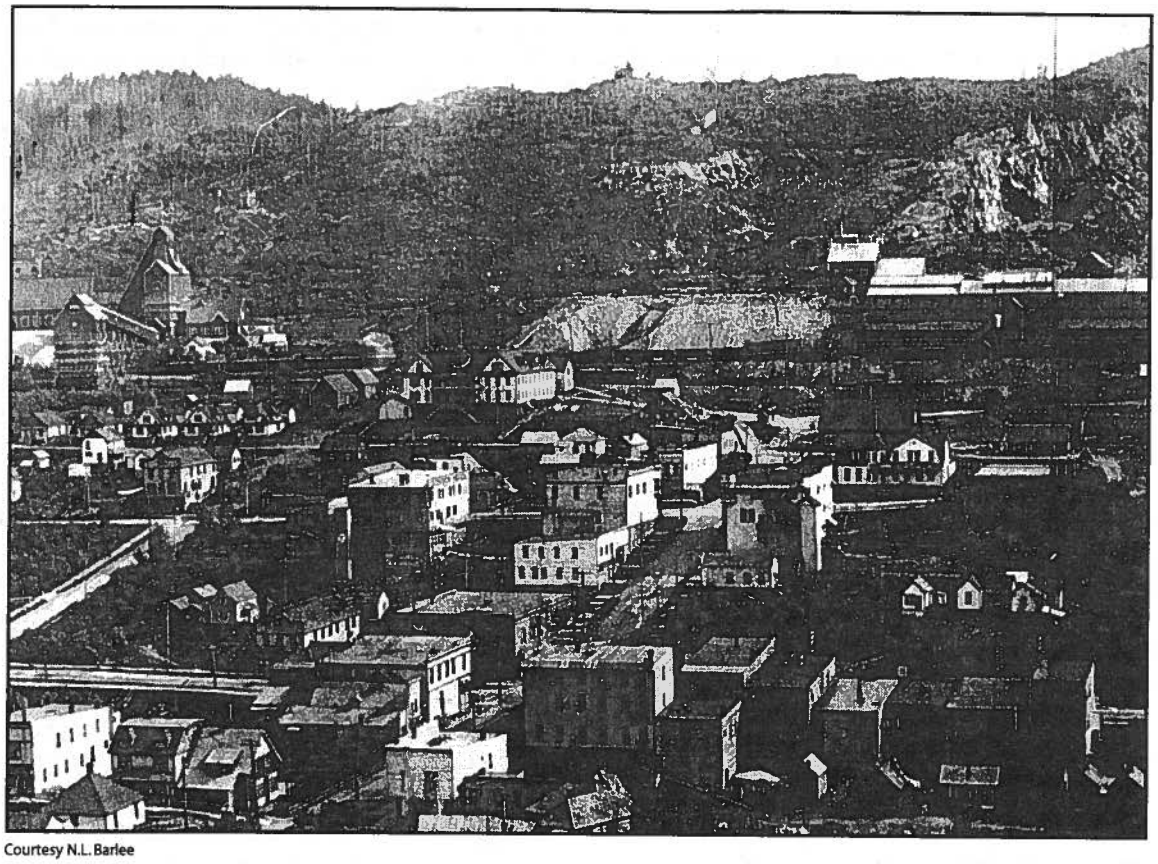
In the beginning, the crude camp was called "Greenwood Camp," after the town of Greenwood nearby. In quick succession a number of promising claims in the immediate vicinity, like the Montezuma, Brooklyn, Standard, Stemwinder, Idaho, Victoria, Skylark, Tamarack, Monarch, Rawhide, Grey Eagle, and dozens of others were recorded.

By the end of 1897, ten major mining camps had been established in the Boundary, Deadwood, Providence, Summit, Long Lake, Skylark, Copper, and Central. Well over 500 properties were staked, many with names which reflected their owners' past or preferences. Some, like Blue Eyed Jennie, Sue, Marjorie, Jenny May, and Little Maggie, told of girls remembered. Others like Uncle Sam, Washington, Yankee Girl, Fourth of July, Montana, and American Boy, mirrored the American influence in the region. Some, like High Kicker, Hidden Treasure, Bonanza Lode, Great Hopes, and Silver Cloud, conveyed optimism while few, with names like Pauper, Last Chance, Will-o'-the Wisp, and Blue Monday, in-

Below:
Boundary Country.



Cathy Chapin – Lakehead University, Thunder Bay



Courtesy N.L. Barlee

Left: *Undated photograph of a view of Phoenix*

dicated the opposite side of the prospectors' nature.

By the next year the Boundary Country was recognized far and wide as mining country. The south central interior was unique as far as geology was concerned. The Slocan, nearly seventy miles northeast, was rich in silver, Rossland, barely forty miles east, was primarily a gold camp while the Boundary was, with some exceptions, a copper zone.

That was the era when a number of million dollar properties were discovered in the Boundary. The Cariboo-Amelia at Camp McKinney, the Union on the North Fork River, and the Mother Lode at Deadwood were just a few of many. But the most illustrious of them all was the Old Ironsides-Knob Hill Group at Phoenix. It was this huge, low-grade property that made the camp. It was the hinge upon which the fortunes of the town would swing for more than two decades.

By the end of 1898, Greenwood Camp changed its name to Phoenix. Clustered around the main ore body, a number of crude log cabins, several makeshift stores and hotels sprung up. Finally it dawned on some of the promoters and mining men that Phoenix could become more than a lowly mining camp, it could become a town. In fact, it could become a city!

By 1899 a town site had been surveyed on the strength of two factors: First that the ore body was so massive that it would take years to mine it out and second, that the Columbia & Western Railway, a subsidiary of the powerful CPR, promised to run a spur line into Phoenix to tap the great copper ore reserves.

By 1900, the area was humming with activity and Phoenix was clearly on the move. For the first time the population edged past the 1,000 mark and everywhere there were indications that it would soon challenge nearby Greenwood for supremacy in the Boundary Country. On Old Ironsides Avenue, Knob Hill Avenue, and Dominion Street, stores and hotels were going up as fast as the lumber could be shipped in. The speculators and boomers had their choice, as almost a dozen hotels vied for their business. Between Greenwood and Phoenix, the Phoenix Stage Line made two round trips every day. The proprietors, Mandel and Murphy, prided themselves in their "good rigs, good stock and fast time." It was a statement that they made good even going down the winding mountain road to Greenwood, far below.

The embellishments of a city were being added

steadily. Two telephone companies and two telegraph firms were competing for trade. The *Phoenix Pioneer* supplied all the local and outside news that its enterprising editor, W.B. Wilcox, could scrape up. There were almost a hundred businesses in town, and more entrepreneurs arriving weekly. The Phoenix Brewery advertised lager beer but quickly realized that, with hundreds of thirsty miners in town, that was their last worry. Clarke & Binns, the furniture dealers, found nothing unusual in advertising their usual merchandise and then tagging on a rider "plus undertaking and embalming" for anyone needing their services for that particular requirement.

As spring wore on, the track-laying toward Phoenix continued. Finally, on 19 May 1900, foreman Kelly and his crew laid down the last rail—they had reached Phoenix. It was a red-letter day for the town, now nothing could hold her back. At last the mines could start shipping their stockpiled ore.

Optimism prevailed. On the Victoria Day holiday, the streets were jammed with celebrants. Down in Greenwood the highlight of the day was a much publicized middleweight contest between Jimmie Woods and a tough has-been named Ad McDonald, while in Midway, almost eight miles west, the Featherweight Championship of the Province was being staged between Danny Dean and Andy King. Most of the spectators at the fights later commented, somewhat ruefully, that they had seen better fights on their way to the championships than they had witnessed between the professional pugilists.

On the 13th of August, the Granby Company's huge smelter at Grand Forks blew in the first of their blast furnaces. The "copper era" had begun. Before the year was out, the company had shipped over 64,000 tons of ore to their smelter and from that they had extracted nearly 2 per cent copper with an additional bonus of nearly 30,000 troy ounces of gold and an additional 275,960 ounces of silver. Phoenix was soon being hailed as "another Butte." A Butte it wasn't, but a magnificent low-grade copper property, it was. And the rich Granby Company controlled both the mines and the smelter.

Two years later there were two more smelters in the area. One at Greenwood and the other, three miles to the west, at Boundary Falls. But the big operation was at Phoenix and as the annual output increased, so did the population of Phoenix. Finally, on 11 October 1900, Phoenix was officially incorporated as a city. Now it was on an even footing with both Greenwood and Grand Forks.

There appeared to be no end to the ore. Each year the Granby Company increased the output and yet the reserves also continued to increase. The first decade passed with the production exceeding 1,000,000 tons per annum. By the time the First World War started, Phoenix had arrived. It had most of the amenities of a much larger city. The three-storey opera house catered to the tastes of both the theatre clique and the management, and to the less refined miner and labourer. The elegant Brooklyn Hotel, reputed to be one of the finest hotels in the Interior, presented menus on festive occasions that were truly international. A 1,000 seat arena was usually packed to the rafters, especially when teams from Grand Forks or Greenwood played the Phoenix squad. The brand of hockey was so skilled that the Phoenix team, in 1917, challenged for the Stanley Cup.

By 1914, the population was close to 1,500 and business, although generally good, was more sporadic than in other years. In the summer of that year, several disquieting events occurred. On August 2nd the Maple Leaf Hotel burned to the ground, the result of a fire of unknown origin. Exactly one week later, the magnificent three-storey Miners Union Opera House was also destroyed in a raging inferno. And for the first time, the new Granby Company mine at Anyox, BC surpassed the production of the Granby operations at Phoenix. The city, unknown to any of its inhabitants, was slowly approaching the end. When, in 1917, the production slipped to 677,000 tons—a drop of over 400,000 tons from the year before—the writing was on the wall. The following year, the output decreased by another 200,000 tons. Although it was now obvious that the mine was rapidly becoming uneconomical, most of the townspeople clung on to the hope that somehow higher-grade ore would be encountered. But it was not to be. By 1919, the Phoenix operations had become untenable. The price of copper had plummeted by 30 per cent, the grade of the ore was diminishing with depth and the once vast reserves were decreasing. The Granby smelter at Grand Forks, which had cut costs to the bone under able management, was operating only four blast furnaces out of eight, and those only on a part-time basis. Another hit came when a prolonged strike at the Crow's Nest Pass coalfields near Femie, BC, cut off Granby's

Below:
Phoenix's Cenotaph.

Photo by Jim Glanville

supply of vital coke for smelting. That last blow simply hastened the final conclusion.

The announcement that all residents had been dreading finally came in 1919. The Granby Company declared that they were closing down all of their operations in Phoenix and in Grand Forks. Although many had steeled themselves, the end still came as a bitter shock. Some of the inhabitants had lived in the mountaintop city for two decades; it was almost unbelievable, but Phoenix was doomed.

The people who had lived there, and who remember that period, say that a quietness, almost a hush, seemed to settle over Phoenix. Then, slowly, the residents began to leave. Some went by special train, others left in small groups. The last abandonment of the city has few comparisons in the annals of the Canadian west, before or since. Most of the inhabitants just walked away, sometimes with only the clothes on their backs. The majority could not even afford to take their valued household furniture. A few, still uncomprehending, as they left looked back at the deserted town that was once home.

Several weeks later, the city lay virtually deserted; only one or two individuals, like old William Bambury, unable to understand the magnitude of the disaster, stayed on. The remainder of the town was eerily silent. Empty hotels waited in vain for patrons who would never return. Silent houses, still furnished and unlocked, stood forlornly in the autumn sun.

So Phoenix waited patiently. The months turned into years, and the years into decades, and still her inhabitants didn't return. But the town hadn't been completely forgotten. The scavengers, the human vultures, saw their chance and descended on the old city. Initially, the finest furniture was taken away, then other household goods and other items of value. Finally, many of the buildings were torn down for their lumber. By the mid-1940s, much of the Phoenix of old had vanished and a decade later, physically, little except the boardwalks remained. A thousand hands had dismantled the mining town,

Strangely, this was the period that the Granby Company, the original mining company, chose to return to Phoenix, to mine once more the great ore body, which it had abandoned so many years before. Today, at the site of historic Phoenix, only a yawning open pit greets the eye. Of the Phoenix of old, there is not a trace.

Phoenix Remembers

by Earl Kelly (Mr. *"Good Evening"*)

The Vancouver Province, 1927. Reprinted in *Boundary History* # 12, 1992, Editor Jim Glanville

THERE were a great many Memorial celebrations of Armistice Day this year, in a great many places, but there was surely none which could match that of Phoenix. In all the cities in all the nations who had their part in the Great War, in many a quiet village of Europe, in many a lonely settlement of the five continents, men and women and children met together to keep a silence and to hear a word of remembrance. There was a bond and a communion between these celebrants, from the King at the foot of the great Cenotaph in Whitehall to the little group of neighbors and friends who stood beside a cairn of stones in some remote place. But they made a pilgrimage to keep the memory of Armistice Day in Phoenix, and they stood in a silent city to keep the memorial silence.

The grass is growing in the streets of the Boundary country. The young pines are creeping up on the weather-beaten shacks of the old mining camp. The topgear of the copper workings stands dismantled and gaunt and ghostly above the shafts, where once the morning and afternoon and graveyard shifts of hardrock men relieved each other three times in every double round of the clock. The glass is broken in the deserted saloons, where hard workers drank hard and gambled hard. There is a silence in the place where the mountain locomotives came and went between the mines of the mountain and the smelters in the valley below, where the hard panting of the exhaust and the shriek of the whistle woke the echoes among the steep hills. And in this deserted place, keeping company with the ghosts of Phoenix, stands the granite cenotaph, to keep the memory of miners who went from Phoenix to a grave in the marl of Flanders or the chalk of France.

They made a pilgrimage from Grand Forks on Armistice Day. The mayor and a handful of his neighbors climbed the mountain from the valley and stood beside the lonely monument, standing sentinel-like in the ghostly camp. They stood in the name of the hundred thousand men who had plied the miner's pick and shovel in the time of Phoenix, and in their own. They stood to remember the lively, bustling camp, which had last seen such days and nights in its time, which had dug a hundred million tons of ore from the deep workings and the "glory holes", and which, in its declining but still cheerful days, had sent its last men to fight in the Kootenay battalion. They kept the silence in memory of the men who had not come back. And they sounded the Last Post, saluting the brave ghosts of Phoenix, who tread so softly on the broken and mouldering board walks, and who stand at attention before the granite memorial, where it looks down upon the place that was Phoenix.

Only the graveyard and the cenotaph remain in Phoenix.
The list of lost veterans on the cenotaph shows the names of:
James Cochrane, Joseph Fleming, Elmo R. Geddes, Oscar Gustafson, Sidney Jennings, Anton Johnson, James C. Kempston, John Lindsay, Roy A. MacDonald, Dudley MacMillan, Thomas Monahan, John A. Parry, O.M. Pittendrich, James Pitpladdy and Fred Wilkinson.

William Bambury: Phoenix's Last Resident

by Alice Glanville

Alice Glanville, a former president of the British Columbia Historical Federation, and her husband Jim Glanville have published numerous books and articles on the history of the Boundary country. This story is a summary of three articles published in *Boundary History*, 13th Report, 1995.

FOR 23 years, from 1896 to 1919, Phoenix was a bustling city with 1,500 inhabitants,[1] but by 1920 Phoenix had become a ghost town with vacant buildings and untrodden streets.

It is one of the characteristics of ghost towns that a few old-timers hang on, living on their memories or on their hopes for the future. In Phoenix we had three such people: Robert Denzler, Adolf Sercu ("Forepaw" was the name by which he was known), and the last resident, William H. Bambury.

Bob Denzler came to Phoenix in 1891 and is considered one of the founders of the city. He took over the Silver King Mine and renamed it Phoenix, after which the city was named. He was also involved in the Rawhide and Gold Drop Mines. After the closure of Phoenix in 1919, Denzler spent the winters in Spokane and the summers in Phoenix until his death on 21 March 1944. Money from his will made possible the Robert Denzler Outpost Hospital which opened in Greenwood just after World War Two.

Courtesy M. Maclean

Bambury, a great admirer of Bob Denzler, wrote in 1933:

Bob Denzler (now 82) can take credit for the first discovery and subsequent development of this copper bonanza.[2] His arrival in the summer of 1891 was about two hours after the first white man ever known to reach here and to his dogged faith and perseverance was due the subsequent prosperity of Phoenix. And unlike the huge percentage of prospectors, he became wealthy in the process. His abiding faith brings him here every spring from Spokane to work some of the properties he owns. He is everywhere liked and respected.[3]

Bambury had very different feelings about Forepaw. Although Forepaw and Bambury were the only permanent residents in Phoenix for many years, they never spoke to one another. Bambury writes, "He is a peasant born Belgian of limited literacy...who possesses vaulting ambition and high executive ideals."[4]

After the closure of Phoenix in 1919, a fund was established to appoint a town watchman for one year and Forepaw was chosen for that duty. He moved from his cabin to the steepled city hall where he made his home. He took his role seriously. Carrying a 30-30 rifle and wearing his sheriff's star made from a tin can, he would challenge visitors to the city. Every visitor to Phoenix has a story to tell about Forepaw, the man with the iron hook replacing the hand he lost while pulling a 12-gauge shotgun out of a wagon by the barrel. It accidentally discharged and his hand was blown off. The iron hook he then wore was fashioned by a local blacksmith. Forepaw was the self-acclaimed mayor and constable of Phoenix and zealously guarded the ghost city for 23 years. This Belgian caretaker died in August 1942 and was buried in the Phoenix cemetery beside his friend Eugene Shea.

That left William Bambury as the sole resident of Phoenix. Not too much is known of his life in the heydays of Phoenix. His solitary existence in Phoenix for over 30 years has given him more recognition then he ever experienced during his working years. We can find stories of business people, mine managers, politicians, and professionals, but little mention of union carpenters.

Born in Portsmouth, England, in 1867 and educated at Portsea Diocesan School, Bambury left for Canada on 17 March 1887 on the SS *Parisian*. He was apprenticed to the building trade as a carpenter. He made his way across Canada by rail to Donald, BC, at the head of Arrow Lakes. After doing some contract work around Donald, he became attracted by the excitement at Nelson. He built a boat and came down the Columbia and then on to Nelson in 1891. It was early in April, yet the boat was nearly cut to pieces by the ice. He did carpentry work around Nelson constructing several buildings, including additions to the Kootenay Hotel. He bought out Stevenson's Kemphill Boat House, but boat building barely made enough to pay his grocery bill.

[1] The population figures vary considerably.

[2] Henry White and Mat Hotter are considered the discoverers of Phoenix.

[3] *The Vancouver Sun*, 4 November 1933. Letter by Bambury titled "The Three Bachelors."

[4] *ibid.* The nickname of Adolf Sercu is spelled in many different ways. "Forepaw" is the most commonly used. The name may have had a circus connection. He had it before he severed his hand.

[5] H.H.E. Bright of Metaline Falls, Wash., the owner of the letters giving details of this prospecting trip through southern BC intends to have the letters published.

[6] *Grand Forks Gazette*, 30 July 1904.

[7] Bob Forshaw was born in Phoenix and spent his childhood on a farm between Greenwood and Phoenix. He has retired in Grand Forks from his professorship in Guelph. He is an interesting source of history because of his very good memory.

[8] The diary from 10 December 1949 to 31 May 1950 is now in the Greenwood Museum.

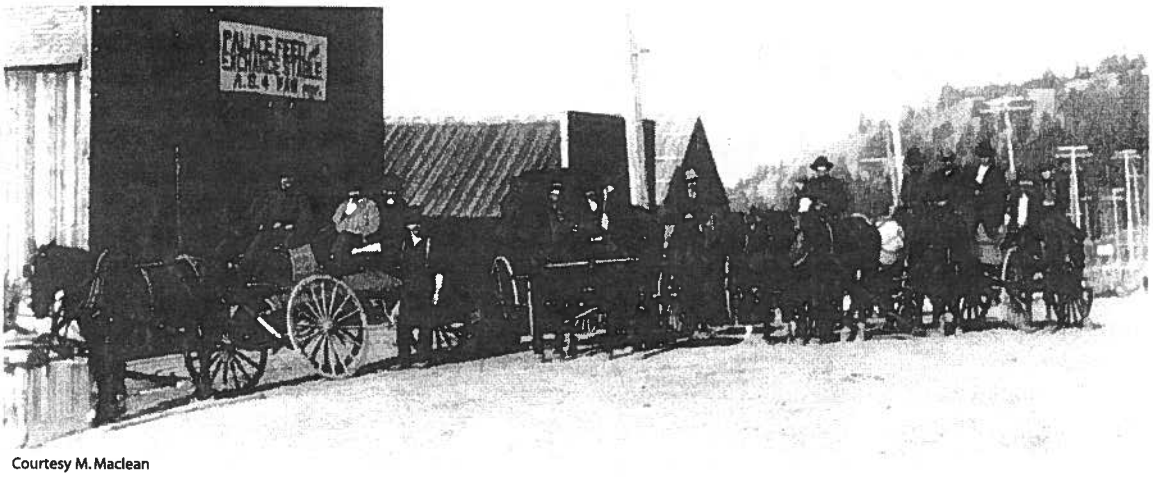
[9] *Grand Forks Gazette*, 1 November 1951.

Centre: *William H. Bambury*

Opposite page: *Adolph Sercu's (Forpaw's) stage and stable.*

He was carpenter foreman at the Silver King Mine, but quit in July 1894, and went prospecting that fall.[5]

His diary indicates that Bambury came to Greenwood from Nelson in 1899. He located in Phoenix probably in 1902, and that was his home until his death in 1951. He came to Phoenix to build spiral staircases for risers in the mines—a very specialized trade. Bambury was recognized as "a man of polished education and widely read" and "...a delegate for the Socialist Party for the purpose of nominating someone to represent the Socialist Party for the federal House."[6]



Courtesy M. Maclean

Bambury lived for a short time at what he called Middlegarth, a few miles south and west of Phoenix. There he lived with a prospector, Jim Cordy. As Bambury was into spiritualism and seances, he would have the dream as to where the mineral was located, and Jim Cordy did the work. It seemed that once again he had little money and would work a few days on the road to earn some money. He then took up residence in one of the finer homes in Phoenix, Dr. Boucher's home, and lived there rent- and tax-free and would send the repair and tax bills to Mrs. Boucher. That is the place where most of us remember him with all his newspapers and magazines piled to the ceiling, with only a small passageway through to the kitchen. On his home he nailed a card with "Phoenix, BC" written on it. The yard was stacked with old lumber, rusty nails, and other salvage that the residents of Phoenix had left behind.

Bob Forshaw[7] tells of mailing many letters for Bambury to Member of Parliament, Agnes McPhail, MLA Rupert Haggen, C.M. Campbell, the former mine manager at Phoenix and others. An eccentric and opinionated person, Bambury would put on the stamp of King George VI upside down out of loyalty to whom he considered the true King of England, Edward VIII. He would often visit the Forshaw household on his way to or from Greenwood. They would feed him, visit for a while, and then leave him reading and making notes and corrections on the articles he read. Then, around 2 A.M., he would continue the four-mile walk to Phoenix.

He was living this solitary existence in Phoenix from the time the city was closed in 1919 to the early 1940s. At that time it was becoming increasingly more difficult for him to remain in Phoenix during the severe winters. In his diary of 1949 he describes very vividly one of his trips to Greenwood to spend the winter in Room 28 of the Windsor Hotel:

> December 10, 1949. Kept a fire in the bedroom all night with no entirely satisfactory results altho' no ice formed in the room. It was different in the other bedroom where I had to use an axe in the bathtub before I could take my bath. By this time I decided that remaining in Phoenix any longer was futile. I cut two lengths of plank 2" by 10' and selected all the indispensable items, most of which I packed in my leather grip and the rest in two cotton sacks which I linked together over my shoulder and set out for Greenwood at 15:20, arrived in Greenwood at 17:20.

At the age of 82 he walked the five miles down the hill. Some of the indispensable items he took with him were ABS&C tablets, *sal hepatica*, dictionary, hymns, ear picker, Roget's Thesaurus, Bible, map, correspondence, Mining Act and *McLean's Magazine*.[8]

The mines at Phoenix were reworked at that time and Fred Mahoney would help Bambury with the move to Greenwood. After the winter, when it was time to return to Phoenix, Fred Mahoney was there again to help him out. In spring Bambury happily went back to Phoenix because, as he said: "After all it is my home." He lived on his Old Age Pension of $50 a month and that paid for his room, his meals, his cigarettes, and his reading material. A careful accounting of his expenditures is given for each day. For most days the total was under $1 but it would be over when he bought cigarettes, reading material, and stamps.

In the spring of 1950, after the winter in Greenwood, Fred Mahoney, and Albert Lucerne drove him back to Phoenix. Mahoney told Bambury that they were going right back and didn't know when they would be seeing him again. They were not going to pump the mine before leaving. Bambury realized that it meant a permanent shutdown; however, he felt he was lucky to have his goods brought up. He died the next year, 1951, and was buried in the Phoenix cemetery at his request.[9]

On 11 July 1999, a cavalcade of cars drove the winding, steep road from Greenwood to Phoenix for the dedication of the headstone for William Bambury almost 50 years after his death. The mournful tones of a lone piper could be heard from the deep valley below in recognition of the last resident of Phoenix.

A Token History: The Hotel Brooklyn of Phoenix, BC

by Ronald Greene

The Boundary Tourism Action Committee is hosting a celebration fron 4 to 6 August 2000 on the occasion of the Centennial of Phoenix, BC. As Phoenix is one of the better known ghost towns in this province the occasion should prove interesting. The city was incorporated on 11 October 1900.

Above: *The Hotel Brooklyn token is made of aluminum, 28½ mm in diameter.*

It was exploration for gold that brought people to the Greenwood area in the late 1880s, and by 1891 there was activity on the mountain above and to the east of Greenwood, at what was called Greenwood Camp. But it was copper that paid the rent—so to speak. Matthew Hotter and Henry White staked the Old Ironsides and Knob Hill claims in 1891 and John Stevens located the Victoria claim in 1894. In 1895 these claims came into the hands of promoter Jay P. Graves of Spokane. Graves interested S.H.C. Miner of the Granby Rubber Company of Granby, Quebec in backing the venture. The resultant company became the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company, Limited. A small town sprang up as a mine was developed from the claims. Because of confusion between the names Greenwood and Greenwood Camp there was an application to change the name to Brooklyn, which was rejected since there was a short-lived railway boom town with that name. The next application asked for either Knob Hill or Phoenix and the post office selected the latter name in 1898. The city, located at an altitude of almost one mile, was sometimes referred to as the Highest City in Canada. Its population peaked in 1908 at about 1,700 persons but the boundaries used by various population reports varied, and as a result the figures are often quite at odds from one census or population report to the next and difficult to compare. Two railways came into Phoenix, the C.P.R. arriving in May 1900, and the Great Northern in February 1905. There were other mines in and around Phoenix, but Granby was the dominant company. They chose to build their smelter at Grand Forks and it was blown in in August 1900.

The town grew into a "city" to be incorporated on 11 October 1900. At the beginning of the same year W.T. Kaake had opened the Columbia Hotel, but when he leased it out the name was changed to the Metropolitan Hotel. The hotel was located in the Lower Town section, directly in front of what later became the site of the Great Northern station. By the end of 1900, the hotel was being operated by Hugh McGuire as the Hotel Brooklyn. The name was taken from the Brooklyn Mine which was located a short distance above the hotel. In May 1903 James Marshall and Eugene P. Shea leased the hotel, and it was not long before it developed a solid reputation as the pre-eminent hotel in the Boundary Country.

On the morning of 14 February 1905 the Hotel Brooklyn and the Phoenix Hotel next door were destroyed by fire. Following this, George Rumberger, who owned the Phoenix Hotel, and James Marshall built a new Brooklyn Hotel on the site previously occupied by the two hotels. Eugene Shea moved over to the Bellevue Hotel. The new Brooklyn Hotel maintained its reputation as the most prestigious hotel in the city. James Marshall managed it until early 1918, with a short absence around 1914 when he ran the Strathcona Hotel in Nelson. Rumberger, who had been absent from Phoenix for a number of years, following his other interests in a prairie brewery, returned to operate the hotel when Marshall left for Vancouver in January 1918. The hotel closed in April 1918, probably greatly affected by prohibition.

Following the end of the First World War conditions conspired against Phoenix. The price of copper dropped sharply; a strike in the Crows Nest coal mines, which provided the coke for smelting the ore, and the fact that the Phoenix mines were high-cost mines due to the relatively low-grade ore, led the company to close the mine. The lack of work created an exodus, and by mid 1919 the city was deserted by all but two residents. The buildings were to serve as a source of windows, doors, and lumber for Boundary area residents for many years after.

Granby returned to Phoenix in the mid 1950s and, using open-pit methods, which were better suited than tunnelling to the low-grade ores, removed many thousands of tons of ore until 1978, when the ore was depleted and the mine closed once again. As the ore body was directly underneath the town site all signs of the city have long since vanished. The cenotaph memorial to those Phoenicians who fell in First World War was moved to a new site overlooking the open pit. The cemetery remains on the road down to Greenwood. In the upper part is the stone monument to Eugene Shea, who died in 1911. The Boundary Historical Society has recently taken significant steps to repair some of the natural deterioration and results of vandalism in the cemetery. Marshall Lake is named after James Marshall.

The Hotel Brooklyn token is made of aluminum, 28½ mm in diameter. Its attractive design and the ghost-town origin make it one of the more desirable British Columbia tokens, even though it is not rare.

See the photograph on front cover showing the interior of the bar of the second Hotel Brooklyn with James Marshall standing behind the bar on the right.

The Gold Rush Pack Trail of 1861

by Marie Elliott

Born of necessity in the spring of 1861, the gold rush pack trail to Antler Creek and beyond remained a lifeline for the residents of East Cariboo for over half a century. A joint effort between the merchants and packers in East Cariboo and the colonial government, it was also the first recorded instance of government funding for public works in the region.

DURING the first exciting years of the Cariboo gold rush, 1859 and 1860, volunteer labour quickly opened up the route from the Hudson's Bay brigade trail to mining sites at Quesnel Forks, Horsefly River, and Keithley Creek. The colonial government, hard-pressed to keep up with the ever-lengthening mining frontier, encouraged private enterprise to build bridges and ferries. It granted the right to charge tolls for two or three years in return for an annual rent.

In September 1860, four Keithley Creek miners followed their hunches and found gold on Antler Creek, on the north side of the Snowshoe Plateau. When word of the discoveries leaked out in mid-winter, the few dozen miners wintering at Quesnel Forks and Keithley Creek immediately set out on snowshoes for the new Eldorado. They climbed two thousand feet out of Negro Valley (now Pine Valley) in order to cross the 6,000-foot summit of the plateau. The snow reached depths of ten feet or more. Assistant gold commissioner Philip Henry Nind arrived at Antler Creek in early March 1861 to find only one cabin, built by the discoverers John Rose, S.M. Bowen, Benjamin MacDonald, and James May. The rest of the miners were living in caves dug out of the snow banks.

As the Antler Creek excitement grew, Governor James Douglas worried that the miners would starve if provisions did not reach them soon enough. Few packers risked taking their horses over the difficult mountain route covered in fallen trees, and the mud was too deep for mule trains. In order to earn money and fill in time until spring break-up, miners and Native packers (men and women) backpacked loads of one hundred pounds each from Quesnel Forks, a distance of fifty miles.

The emergency situation created by the extension of the mining frontier to Antler Creek forced Governor James Douglas to use some of his limited financial resources. Douglas approved a grant of $2,000 for improving the trail, in June 1861. The merchants at Quesnel Forks and Keithley Creek subscribed a further $800. They also improved the existing pack trail from Beaver Lake to Little Lake and Quesnel Forks at their own expense. Samuel Adler, Frederick Black, Thomas Davidson, Thomas Spence, and David Kelley supervised construction of the trail, which was completed by the end of July. Quesnel Forks merchants Frederick Black and Thomas Carlyle took responsibility for provisioning and paying the labourers, because gold commisioner Nind did not have enough money on hand. As more strikes were made on Grouse, Williams, Lightning, and other creeks that summer, the miners and packers extended the trail from Antler on their own initiative.

The pack trail was well used during the Cariboo gold rush years, from 1861 to 1865. Thousands of miners, pack animals, cattle, and

Marie Elliott, a former editor of *BC Historical News*, has published two books on Gulf Island history. Her history of Cariboo gold mining (working title *Cariboo East*) will be released this fall by Horsdal and Schubart. See also Marie Elliott's article on Quesnel Forks in *British Columbia Historical News*, Volume 25 No. 3.

Below: *The two people most responsible for retracing the original gold rush trail are Gary and Lana Fox of Quesnel. For the past six years they have spent every possible summer weekend trudging through mud, battling thickets of wild rhododendrons and climbing over and under deadfalls.*

Photo by Marie Elliott

sheep created ruts more than a foot deep on the mountainsides. For the same reasons, where animals could spread out on the gentle slopes, the ground has an uneven, washboard feeling underfoot. Even when the Cariboo Road was completed to Soda Creek, and a less strenuous pack trail established from Quesnellemouth to Richfield in 1862, packers still preferred the plateau route. There was usually an abundance of grass and water in late summer, whereas all the pasture on the Quesnellemouth-to-Richfield trail was consumed by that time of the year. A number of stopping houses soon sprung up along the way. For $1.50 a night a miner could obtain a meal, a place on the floor to sleep, with an alpine meadow nearby for his mule or horse to graze.

Over the next fifty years the colonial and provincial governments maintained major portions of the pack trail because it was the vital link between residents of East Cariboo and Williams Creek. Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie used the trail to hear cases of larceny and murder at Antler in the fall of 1861, and to reach Williams Creek in 1862. Assistant gold commissioners Philip Nind, Peter O'Reilly, and Thomas Elwyn depended on the route also to help maintain law and order. Between 1863 and 1892 all mail delivery came from Barkerville via the trail. And until medical facilities were introduced at the Bullion Pit mine near Quesnel Forks in 1895, medical emergencies were handled by the Royal Cariboo Hospital at Marysville, near Barkerville.

Below: *James Jasper May, native of Missouri, was one of the first miners to reach Antler Creek in September 1860. He spent the rest of his life mining in British Columbia and died in Hazelton in 1917, aged 85.*

Courtesy BC Archives – G-04489

When it was time to have some fun, miners working on upper Keithley Creek found it just as easy to trek the 25 miles to Richfield to register their claims and spend a night on the town, than to travel a similar distance to visit the government agent at Quesnel Forks—where the choice of saloons was limited.

In an effort to develop the hard rock (quartz) mining possibilities of the region, Amos Bowman and James McEvoy conducted a joint geological survey of the Cariboo for the provincial and federal governments in 1886 and 1887. They were fortunate to find many of the pioneer miners still working claims on Keithley Creek, Little Snowshoe Creek, and at Barkerville. The old-timers pointed out the sites of the discovery claims and the route of the original pack trail. Portions of the trail had fallen into disuse by this time. Their information was carefully recorded with the topographical surveys. Bowman and McEvoy's maps were some of the important sources used when restoration of the pack trail began.

The two people most responsible for reltracing the original trail are Gary and Lana Fox of Quesnel. For the past six years they have spent every possible summer weekend trudging through mud, battling thickets of wild rhododendrons and climbing over and under deadfalls. Gary insisted that the trail follow the original route exactly—no shortcuts using new logging access roads. Robin and Loretta Grady, executive members of the Trail Committee, Friends of Barkerville, have enthusiastically helped with new mapping and trail marking. Dave Falconer shared his extensive knowledge of Snowshoe Plateau trails, archaeology, and site preservation.

The result is a challenging trail for hikers, established, as was the original route, with volunteer effort and a financial contribution from the provincial government—the Forest Renewal fund. Additional support came from West Fraser Mills, Quesnel, and the BC Forest Service.

The inaugural hike to officially open the trail took place on Labour Day weekend, 1999. It started from the trailhead at Weaver Creek. (Logging has damaged the section from Quesnel Forks to Weaver Creek). We began our trek back in time with a tough, one hour climb out of Pine Valley—originally called Negro Valley because two coloured men ran a stopping house here. One feels sorry for the pack horses that struggled to gain a footing in the thick, damp moss, and the utmost admiration for the Native men and women who carried one hundred pounds of merchandise (for only $10 a trip) on snowshoes. From the 6,000 foot summit of Base Mountain the view of distant mountains and sweeping valleys is breathtaking. During the gold rush the sight of snow-clad peaks and vast meadows of wildflowers may have comforted many homesick young men.

According to his map, Judge Begbie camped at the edge of the Snowshoe meadows in early September 1861, before attempting the fifteen-mile section of the trail to Antler Creek. Once

he had climbed Horseshoe Nail Ridge he would have enjoyed the view of Breakneck Ridge to the west and noted the importance of Roundtop Mountain to the east. Its unique shape is a distinctive marker for travellers at any location on the Plateau. Begbie could have rested at Leon's Stopping House before making the two-mile descent to Antler Creek valley. The ruins of the rock chimney are all that remains of Leon's isolated place. His rustic cabin must have been a welcome sight for packers who had toiled their way up the mountain from Antler, returning in the opposite direction to Quesnel Forks.

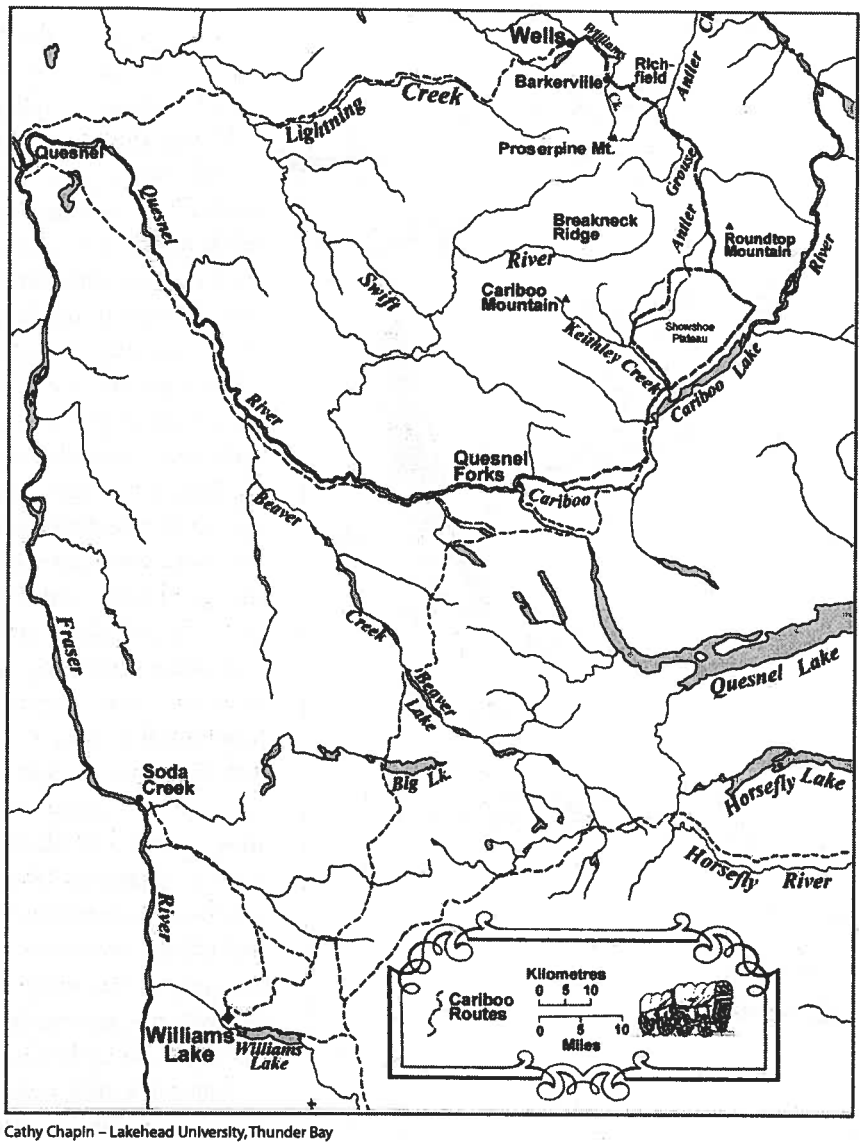
Antler Creek is deserted now, but when Begbie arrived in September 1861 there were sixty to seventy houses. He was so impressed with the miners' conduct that on his return to Quesnel Forks he wrote to the Colonial Secretary:

"I was very glad to see the men so quiet and orderly; old Downie looked really almost aghast, he said they told me it was like California in '49. Why you would have seen all those fellows roaring drunk, and pistols and knives in every hand. I never saw a Mining Town like this. There were some hundreds in Antler, all sober and quiet. It was Sunday afternoon—only a few claims were worked that day. It was as quiet as Victoria."

Besides Begbie, there are other ghosts we might encounter on the trail. Pioneer Horsefly River miner Dennis Cain, for one. "You can do better up here," he wrote to his friend John McLellan, "No less than 10 of our Horsefly boys are doing well....You know how I was dead broke last fall; now I have a claim paying from $75 to $100 a day to the hand, a store on the creek, and a pack train carrying goods from Quesnelle City here."

Thomas Glennon was not so lucky. Like Cain, Glennon had arrived on Antler Creek in the spring of 1861. But unfortunately his partner, Jeremiah Bulger was a terrible bully. After enduring four months of abuse, Glennon fatally stabbed Bulger in the abdomen. The sympathetic miners allowed Glennon to escape. Begbie issued a writ for his arrest when he reached Antler in September, but by that time Glennon was safely out of the country. Although 1,500 to 2,000 men and a few Native women travelled over the pack trail during the summer of 1861, the only death recorded on Antler Creek was that of Bulger.

The last section of the pack trail, extended by miners and packers from Sawmill Flat on Antler Creek to Williams Creek, crosses Racetrack Flat before ascending the south flank of Bald Mountain. The flat was obviously named because a few of the miners who owned horses raced them here.

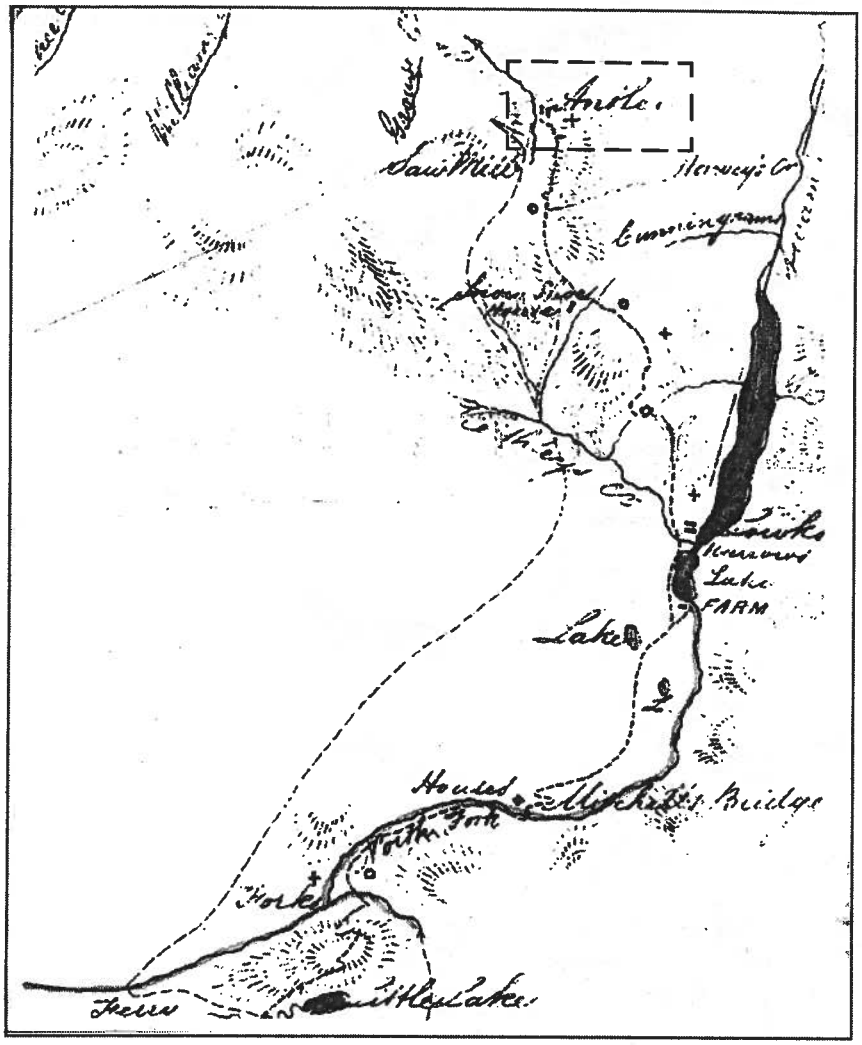


Cathy Chapin – Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

Left: *Map of the Cariboo routes showing the 1861 gold rush pack trial.*

Hiking Notes

The trail is well marked. Day hikes from the trailheads at Weaver Creek and Richfield are easily made. Hikers should dress for the vagaries of mountain weather and bring mosquito repellent and bear spray. If you plan to backpack the entire 40-kilometre route you must be physically fit. For trail information send a large, self-addressed envelope to: R. Grady, Trail Committee, Friends of Barkerville, Airport Site, P.O. Box 28, Quesnel, B.C. V2J SF6.



Above: *A section of Matthew Baillie Begbie's map of East Cariboo. Antler is marked.*

Nearby are the ruins of Tom Maloney's stopping house that boasted the first wall clock in the country. A gravel bench behind Maloney's was chosen as the final resting place for Jack Emmory and John Ross in 1862. Ross was one of the earliest mailmen, employed by Dan Braley's Pony Express. He died of exhaustion in May, after delivering the mail to Williams Creek. When Jack Emmory died at Camerontown in August, his last wish was to be buried at Maloney's also. The funeral cortège would have left Williams Creek at daybreak in order to reach the burial site by afternoon. No less than three ministers waited to conduct the service: George Hills, John Sheepshanks and R.J. Dundas. Hills wrote in his diary:

"It was pleasing to see the procession of some 40 miners who had given up their valuable time and who had borne the corpse 8 miles over the rough trail, up precipices and over swamp and bogs, over the bald mountain 500 feet to do a kindness and show respect to a departed comrade."

At the end of the service, the words of the familiar hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," echoed across the valley.

Using the same route taken by Emmory's friends, we ascend Bald Mountain from Racetrack Flat. The climb is steep, but once the summit is reached the rest of the journey to Williams Creek is not difficult. There are interesting features to note along the way. More ruins are passed on Proserpine Mountain, perhaps a shepherd's cabin. The alpine meadows near Williams Creek were used to pasture sheep and cattle during the gold rush years. Quartz outcrops similar to those on Base Mountain and Horseshoe Nail Ridge beg to be checked for signs of gold. All the various outcrops near the pack trail are located in the "gold belt", which ranges from Cariboo Lake to Wells, just north of Barkerville. The quartz is part of the formation originally mapped by Bowman, but more recently by Bert Struik of the Geological Survey of Canada. Millions of years ago, glaciers eroded the various mother lodes, ensuring most creeks on both sides of the Snowshoe Plateau had placer gold. Quartz mining was touted as early as 1863 as a way to improve the Cariboo mining industry, but lack of wagon roads and railway connections to foundries in California hampered development. Hard-rock gold mining was not successful until Fred Wells opened the Cariboo Gold Quartz mine in the 1930s.

The pack trail ends at Williams Creek. After the quiet isolation of the mountains, the hustle and bustle of Barkerville reminds us that here was the miner's idea of civilization in the 1860s: meeting up with old friends, sharing a drink of whiskey, and perhaps dancing with a hurdy-gurdy girl. The reading room and library offered the latest in newspapers and a good selection of popular books. If court was in session at Richfield, Judge Begbie could always be relied upon to conduct a formal, but entertaining event.

Because of the distance involved and the pressure of responsibilities, Governor James Douglas never visited the Cariboo during the gold rush. He relied on Begbie and others to assure him that the first government grant for the region was money well spent. He also learned that the miners, merchants, and packers were willing to match any government assistance with personal subscriptions and physical labour. Their initiative, cooperation, and generosity were carried forward beyond the mining boom, bringing stability to the settlement period.

Archives & Archivists

Edited by Frances Gundry

MAKING THE PAST ACCESSIBLE: THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHIVAL NETWORK

Since 1993, the archival community in BC, under the auspices of the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC), has been working towards providing researchers with the ability to use the Internet to gather information about archival material and archival institutions throughout the province. The resulting on-line BC ARCHIVAL NETWORK, accessible on the World Wide Web at http://aabc.bc.ca, has become a model for the developing nationwide project, the Canadian Archival Information Network, and has raised the profile of archives in BC and the value of archival records as the documentary evidence of the past. The Network enables researchers from every corner of the province and from around the world to discover what archival material in the province is publicly available and how it may be accessed.

The BC Network was designed to be inclusive of archival institutions across the province, large and small, and now includes information about the availability of archives in 185 different repositories in all regions of BC. The work of the Archives Association of BC has been funded by the provincial government through the British Columbia Archives and its Community Archives Advisory and Training program and by the federal government through the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

The BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHIVAL UNION LIST (BCAUL), available on the web at: http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html, is the cornerstone of the BC Archival Network and provides researchers with the ability to search general descriptions of archival material in 163 archives in BC. The BCAUL acts as a registry of archival records and from these descriptions, researchers are able to determine where these records are held, how they can find more detailed information about them, and how to contact the archives in which they are presently situated. In some cases, links from the BCAUL descriptions can be made to entire archival finding aids associated with the records being described, including online file lists and item descriptions of material.

The BCAUL was also designed to help archives large and small in the province adapt to new national standards for describing archival material and to show how these standards could be used as the basis for information exchange across the province. Since that initial design, the BCAUL system has developed to provide information exchange among provinces and territories, through the Canadian North West Archival Network (http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/icaul.html). Researchers can now search general descriptions of archives in BC, Alberta and the Yukon in an integrated fashion in order to locate information about archival material in the three westernmost provinces/territories of Canada.

The AABC's GUIDE TO ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA is another on-line resource created and maintained to provide current information to researchers about archival institutions in BC. Easy-to-use indexes allow users of archives to find out which repositories in the province might be of interest for their particular research needs. The guide provides entries for 183 archival institutions in BC, with contact information and a summary of the kinds of records each archives acquires and makes accessible to the public. The guide is regularly maintained and is available at http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html .

The WEB SITES OF ARCHIVES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA Web page of the AABC site provides annotated links to Web sites established by individual archival institutions in the province. Over 45 archives in the province now have their own Web sites, providing researchers with comprehensive information about their activities and holdings.

The BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS ONLINE page of the AABC Web site provides links to searchable historical photograph databases created by individual archives in BC, along with links to various galleries of photographs mounted on various archival Web sites in the province.

OTHER ON-LINE RESOURCES: The AABC also maintains on its Web site a variety of other resources to serve researchers and archivists in the province. A VIRTUAL EXHIBITS section provides information and links to sites where archival material has been displayed and interpreted on-line. The ARCHIVES IN THE NEWS section of the site provides information about the activities of archives in the province as published in newspapers and press releases. The OTHER RESOURCES section provides links to a variety of other information of interest to researchers and historians in the province.

The Archives Association of BC has also actively worked to create on-line resources for the use of people working with archival material for historical societies, museums, and small community archives. These educational resources have received international acclaim, and include the on-line ARCHIVIST'S TOOLKIT (http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/toolkit.html), a hands-on resource which provides examples of policies, procedures, forms, case studies, and published material useful for the person working as a volunteer in a small archives setting. The Toolkit also provides appropriate links to the AABC's on-line MANUAL FOR SMALL ARCHIVES.

AABC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: From the *AABC HOMEPAGE* at http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/, Web surfers can also find comprehensive information about the many programs and services of the Archives Association of British Columbia, as well as read the quarterly issues of the AABC NEWSLETTER. For more information on the many programs, services and activities of the Association, people are asked to consult with the appropriate officers of the AABC as listed on the ORGANIZATION PAGE of the site (http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/org.html).

BILL PURVER

Bill Purver is coordinator of the BC Archival Network Services Program.
For more information about the Web resources created by the AABC and future, Internet-based projects envisioned by the Association contact him by e-mail at bpurver@aabc.bc.ca, or by telephone at (604) 876-9150 .

Report

Pynelogs

By Winnifred Ariel Weir

Courtesy Winnifred A. Weir

PYNELOGS is one of two heritage buildings in Invermere. Last year a rumour started to circulate that Pynelogs, owned and operated by the Village of Invermere since 1977, was to be demolished. I was aghast! The district council had a problem. The building needed repairs beyond the scope of district funds. One councillor had said: "We'd do better to burn it down." His words had started the rumour.

The Columbia Valley Arts Council used the building as a cultural centre for art displays, small drama and musical performances. The tearoom was a major fundraiser. The Public Health Inspector declared the bathrooms needed renovations and the tearoom could not be opened unless the kitchen linoleum and counter tops were replaced. The Arts Council faced eviction with nowhere else to go.

Pynelogs was built for Robert Randolph Bruce as the intended home for his bride, Lady Elizabeth Northcote (See *BC Historical News* 30:3 "Robert Randolf Bruce: 1861-1942"). The home was to have electric light, indoor plumbing, an extensive garden, a sewer system, and every convenience available. Pynelogs rose above a bay near the north end of Lake Windermere with tiny Lake Dorothy beside it. Bruce and Lady Elizabeth were married at the church on her parents' estate at Upton Pynes in England on 6 January 1914. The newlyweds honeymooned in Algeria and arrived in Invermere on 14 May 1914. Their home was far from completed so they lived on a houseboat, the *Isabella*, moored in the bay in front of Pynelogs. By September 1915 the home was still unfinished, when Lady Elizabeth fell ill and died of a ruptured appendix. The only doctor in the district was overseas, serving troops in WW I. Her grieving husband arranged for his wife of only twenty months to be buried in a handsome rock enclosure within sight of Pynelogs.

When Robert Bruce moved into his new house he only had his Chinese houseboy for company. He devoted himself to his Paradise mine near Wilmer, the promotion of the interests of the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruitlands Ltd., and to community concerns. He was very generous to his church, the schools, the hospital, and any activity spelling progress in what he called "Happy Valley." In 1926 Robert Bruce was appointed lieutenant governor of British Columbia. He held that post until 1931. That year he married Edith Bagley Molson, widow of R.B. Van Horne of the railway family. In 1937 Bruce was appointed as Canada's minister to Japan. Most of those years Pynelogs lay empty.

Citizens of Invermere approached Robert Bruce to ask if he would donate Pynelogs so it could become a hospital. He agreed, paid for renovations, and renamed the building the Lady Bruce Memorial Hospital. It was officially opened on Coronation Day in May 1937. The hospital served well until a larger one was needed. Then Pynelogs lay empty again.

In 1958 a meeting of the hospital board, Chamber of Commerce and concerned citizens heard the recommendations of Dr. F.E. Coy that Pynelogs was to become a home for elderly citizens. The Windermere District Social Services was formed and it took over the property in February 1960. Valley organizations were asked to furnish rooms at about $200 each. The Women's Institute, Kinnette Club, Masonic Lodge and other groups assisted. The home was opened in January 1961 with five—and shortly after that eight—guests comfortably housed. However, more space was needed soon and in due course the government built a larger facility for senior retirees. Pynelogs was again vacant for some time.

The Columbia Valley Arts Council recognized Pynelogs' potential as a cultural centre and applied to village council for a lease. The house soon proved invaluable as the venue for art displays, small concerts, plays and community events. Displays were changed weekly to give exposure to a growing number of local artists. The community acknowledged the value of the cultural centre. Under dedicated volunteer administration the cultural centre thrived, although under financial stress. The tearoom functioned in summer.

The threat from the Health Board and the thought that Pynelogs could be demolished moved cultural devotees in the Windermere Valley to lobby for funds. The community clucked and argued and pleaded for help to restore the building to usefulness. The Rotary Club upgraded the kitchen, the tearoom reopened, and other renovations and repairs were completed. Refurbished, and graced by pleasant gardens and lakeside scenery, the heritage building is standing firmly on beams brought from a Thunder Hill concentrator almost a hundred years ago. Pynelogs attracts hundreds of tourists each summer. It is an example of preservation and adaptation of a heritage home. Community spirit in a small town can work minor miracles. ~

Letters to the Editor

Best Article in *BC Historical News*

As recommended by the judges, this year's annual award for the article, published in British Columbia Historical News, *that best enhances knowledge of BC's history was conferred to Dr. Joyce Clearihue for her article "Fort Victoria and H.B.Co. Doctors," published in Volume 32 No. 1. Dr. Clearihue, who received the award in person in Port Alberni, wrote to the editor:*

Through you may I thank the British Columbia Historical Federation for the wonderful honour of receiving your "Certificate of Merit" plus the cheque and two dinner tickets at the recent annual meeting. I felt quite humble at this "unexpected triumph!"

JOYCE CLEARIHUE, VICTORIA BC

BC Historical News, Volume 33 No. 2

I write to you about the review of my book, *Carving the Western Path by River, Rail, and Road Through B.C.'s Southern Mountains,* in your Spring 2000 issue.

The reviewer praises my book as a whole, but complains of mostly unspecified "inaccuracies," suggesting that the employment of a "technical editor" would have remedied that. My comment is that, as the reviewer must know by experience, technical writers mostly sink or swim by their own technical concepts, and rarely find acceptable assistance or adequate technical expertise in their specialty. As all other authors they rely on as challenging and first-class editing of a general nauture as I received. As far as the alleged inaccuracies are concerned I would prefer to personally discuss those with the reviewer, but I would like to respond to the only criticisms of substance in the review.

The reviewer suggests that I failed miserably by not sufficiently emphasizing the "tremendous technological upheaval in highway construction methods" and a nascent long-distance trucking challenge to the railroad hegemony that existed already in the decade prior to the First World War but "gained great momentum in the post-war years." For those unfamiliar with the timing of the arrival of trucks suitable to use a trunk highway system in the interior of BC, I recommend an excellent book, *The Golden Years of Trucking,* published by the Ontario Trucking Association. As this book suggests, prior to the First World War heavy duty internal combustion transport vehicles were few even in Ontario. Adequate trucks did not arrive in any number until the war years. Even as late as 1922 heavy-duty trucks were described as "heavy metal monsters with 14-inch solid tires." They were so cumbersome and unsafe that in 1924 the Ontario Government announced that in 1926 they would introduce legislation limiting them to eight tons in weight and a speed limit of 15 miles per hour. The operating speed of the trucks was actually about nine miles per hour, and less on hills because of the inefficiency in traction and braking power of the solid tires. These were hardly the kind of vehicles challenging the railways for long-distance transport in the interior of BC.

Given the incapability of these vehicles to operate over long distances I am at a loss to understand how the reviewer can talk about failure to create all-weather trunk highways in the interior of BC before the last war. In these years prior to the last war, longer and lightly settled trunk highway-sections through the mountains were closed throughout the winter. This included the Fraser Canyon road and the road through Monashee Pass between Vernon and Edgewood. The trucks and graders of that period were just not capable of plowing snow at speed over a distance. In such areas as the Kootenays and the Cariboo an effort was made to keep the roads open through heavy snow areas. The beloved Cat 60 tractor was a willing workhorse (as described in my book *The Coast Connection),* but it was too small and underpowered, and it was often weeks before access was restored between centres after a heavy snowstorm. The suggestion that in the first quarter of the twentieth-century internal combustion vehicles could be used on any imaginary all-weather highways in BC is ridiculous for one more reason. It was not until 1926 that the first anti-freeze was introduced—a wood alcohol solution that occasionally blew off the radiator caps.

The trucking industry in Canada took off in 1926, just in time for the restoration of access between the lower mainland of BC and its interior by the re-opening in 1927 of the Fraser Canyon road from Yale to Spences Bridge, which had been destroyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Unfortunately the Great Depression and the war put an end to this initial burst in road transportation and highway construction, and it was not until after the Second World War that the golden years of highway building and trucking took off, as described in my book *The Coast Connection.* It was then that the railway went into decline. However, one can hardly blame the politicians for not pushing road transportation before then, as the reviewer suggests.

R.G. HARVEY, VICTORIA BC

BC Historical News, Volume 33 No. 2

A comment on Ron Welwood's article "Big Little Cherry."

Ron Welwood's report of the Little Cherry disease doesn't mention that Kootenay Lake's mild climate had much to do with the arrival of this virus. The 500-foot deep lake that never freezes (except the west arm) produces warmer winter overnight lows than anywhere else in the interior of BC.

The Japanese flowering cherries were readily available from coast nurseries. My father, Arthur Lymbery, the owner of Gray Creek Store, was an agent for Layritz Nursery of Victoria from approximately 1920 to 1968. In 1931 he planted one of the Hisakura variety and grafted it to several more seedling cherries, however these were not close to his cherry orchard.

BC government horticulturist Dr. Wilkes, stationed in Creston, spent many years researching the disease, and it was he who set up William Fraser's Kootenay Bay orchard as a test plot. Wilkes would come to our orchard to collect buds from trees that were still producing good-sized fruit. He propagated a "Kootenay Bay Lambert" that he found was resistant to the virus.

The Gray Creek area was not affected until about 1943. Soon more and more trees were producing the small, almost tasteless. cherries. What to do with this fruit? We did ship some to the processing plant at Harrop, where they were put into barrels of brine, then shipped to the coast to be made into maraschino cherries, but it didn't pay well. I can remember Robert Foxall, manager of Associated Growers in Nelson, explaining the situation to a Little Cherry meeting at Gray Creek Hall, about 1947. He explained that in Italy for instance, large families would sit around a table and de-stone the fruit with small spoons, producing a much superior maraschino than BC's machines.

This discussion brought to an end commercial production on Kootenay Lake, though we did ship a few crates in 1948. We continued to produce and ship Italian Prune, Jonathan and Wagner apples until 1968 but these only gave us a tiny revenue, compared to the heydays of the big cherries. In the 1930s and early 1940s, through two weeks in July, we would pick cherries in the morning, pack in the early afternoon, and load the wooden crates on Nelson Creston Transport's daily "Cherry Special" truck. This would catch the 4.30 P.M. sailing of the S.S. *Nasookin*, and if the fruit passed weighing and inspection by Foxall's staff, it would be loaded on a reefer car of the eastbound Medicine Hat and Nelson CPR passenger train that left Nelson at midnight. Those super cherries could then be on sale in Prairie cities the next day.

It was a surprise to all of us when Dr. Wilkes established that Little Cherry was a virus brought by the Japanese flowering varieties. He made a trip to Japan, in the hope of finding a resistant species. However, he told me that the Japanese fruiting cherries were of the "Royal Anne" type, a tight coloured fruit of good size, but too soft for commercial shipment in Canada. He also explained that the Japanese industry was most labour intensive. Large families would wrap the fruit in newspaper, after the cherries had "set," in order to keep off flies and birds.

When Dr. Wilkes was transferred to Vernon from Creston, he gave me some of the flowering trees he had been experimenting with saying "they won't survive winters in Creston."

TOM LYMBERY, GRAY CREEK, BC

RON WELWOOD'S RESPONSE: I find that Mr. Lymberg's comments complement the article. While [Tom Lymberg's] personal experiences are very interesting he did not seem to accurately address the main theme of the article.... Perhaps the mild climate assisted in the spread of the virus, but the climate had nothing to do with its "arrival" in the Kootenays. This invasive disease was introduced to the Lakewood estate by infected Japanese ornamental flowering cherries in the 1930s.... No claim was made about where they were grown, other than the fact that the ornamental cherry trees planted at the Lakewood estate carried the Little Cherry disease in symptomless or masked form. It seems likely that these trees were not obtained from legitimate nursery stock approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. Thus the disease was introduced to the Willow Point area and it rapidly spread from there.

Winners of the British Columbia Historical Federation writing competition for books on BC history published in 1999

Lions Gate
Lilia D'Acres and Donald Luxton
Talon Books
Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing
First Place in BCHF Writing Competition

Historical Atlas of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest
Derek Hayes
Cavendish Books: (604) 515-8835
Runner-up
Second Prize in BCHF Writing Competition

Cougar Annie's Garden
Margaret Horsfield (for the Boat Basin Foundation)
Salal Books (250) 753-9666
Runner-up
Second Prize in BCHF Writing Competition

Journeys: Down the Alberni Canal to Barkley Sound
Jan Peterson.
Oolichan Books: (250) 390-4839
Honourable mention

A Story as Sharp as a Knife
Robert Bringhurst
Douglas & McIntyre Publishing Group: (604) 254-7191
Honourable mention

Robert Dunsmuir: Laird of the Mines
Lynne Bowen
XYZ Publishing: (514) 525-2170
Honourable mention

Book Reviews

Books for review and book reviews should be sent to:
Anne Yandle, Book Review Editor BC Historical News, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6S 1E4

Haa Aani, *Our Land. Tlingit and Haida Land Rights and Use.*

Walter R. Goldschmidt and Theodore H. Haas. Edited and introduced by Thomas E. Thornton. Selaska Heritage Foundation, Juneau. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press. 1998. 219 pp. Illus. maps. $52.95 paperback.
REVIEWED BY JOY INGLIS

This work is a republication of a traditional land use study (TUS) by anthropologist Walter Goldschmidt and his associate Theodore H. Haas in 1947. Walter Goldschmidt is one of the greats of twentieth-century anthropology and professor emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles. The quality of documentation contained in this cultural land use and occupancy study made it an important resource in settling the land claims of the Tlingit and Haida of southeastern Alaska in 1971.

At that time, American policy was moving from assimilation and missionary endeavour toward preservation and revitalization of traditions of First Peoples. Natives in southeast Alaska though threatened by white intrusion, spoke their own language and were able to give place names, and indicate how their parents and grandparents moved through their territories from the winter villages to hunt and fish, build traps and caches, and gather bark, roots, and berries. They were aware of historic sites and gravesites, and awesome places where spirit power was sought. They were still part of a tradition that had been underway for thousands of years.

Maps and reports in *Haa Aani* concern the traditional territories of the Klukwan, the Chilkat (Haines), Taku, Hoonah, Sitka, Angoon, Kake, Klawock, Wrangell or Stickine, Ketchikan, Saxman, Tongas, Cape Hox or Sanya, and the Haida on Prince of Wales Archipelago. It is a precious document not only for aboriginal descendants of the Tlingit and Haida of Alaska, but for all who want to have knowledge of the past beyond the thin lens of time represented by Russian and American occupation.

An excellent introduction by Thomas F. Thornton, "Who owned southeast Alaska?" sets the scene for the struggle to compensate the Native people of southeastern Alaska for the intrusion of their lands for non-Native settlement, road building, communication networks, and national and international giant projects. In 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement based on a court case, in which Dr. Goldschmidt was called to testify, was hailed in the press as the most generous of any settlements with aboriginal peoples anywhere in the world. It was not a record hard to beat. Like similar treaties signed by the United States with Native tribes in the lower forty-eight states, which were cast in language of self-determination, it was a treaty designed to accomplish assimilation and termination.

This is the rub in treaty negotiations today with the bands of British Columbia. While negotiators for the government are focused upon positive economic development, reconciliation, certainty, and finality, the bands are concerned with protection of their status as First Nations, compensation and Aboriginal title to their land, and a continuing open process.

It was only in 1999 that the first land claim treaty in BC, negotiated with the Nisga'a of the Nass Valley by the Provincial Government went to the House of Commons in Ottawa for ratification. The claim by the Nisga'a represents the longest ongoing fight for a treaty by any band in BC history. It was in recent years bolstered by a legal decision of the Supreme Court that "equal weight shall be given to oral traditions" in determining claims to aboriginal territory. (Delgamuukw decision). Of the 200 bands in BC, some 70 percent have engaged in TUS (Traditional Use Study) mapping their own territories on the evidence of their elders. This technique has been usefully employed all over the world, and the computer has become an indispensable tool.

Some reasons for difficulties in data collection here: coastal bands have a young population compared to the general population. Most are educated and acculturated, and have been engaged in business in the fishing industry that has been the focus of family life for over fifty years. There is a re-

luctance to give information outside the lineage, and persons with knowledge are generally high-ranking and their position requires discretion with regard to guarding traditional knowledge. The information and mapping are considered absolutely confidential.

Will the TUS reports of BC bands become public property in fifty years, to the benefit of descendants and all who are interested in history? Will access to the maps and dreams of the Native people of BC be a consequence of all the intense work that has gone into preparation for treaties, as is the case in the southeastern Alaska report in *Haa Aani*?

The maps in *Haa Aani* are disappointing, especially for one unfamiliar with the landscape of southeastern Alaska. For examples of marvellous map-making in TUS studies, see *Sami Potatoes. Living with Reindeer and Perestroika* (1998) by Michael Robinson and Karim-Aly S. Kassam, based on a Russian-Sami co-management project, initiated in 1955 by the Arctic Institute of North America, University of Calgary, and published by Bayeux Arts Inc. Calgary.

Reviewer Joy Inglis, formerly of the Vancouver Museum, is now a resident of Quadra Island. She was head mapper and researcher for the Kwakiutl Territorial Fisheries Commission while their land use study was underway.

Alejandro Malaspina: Portrait of a Visionary.

John Kendrick. Montreal & Kingston: McGill University Press, 1999. 206 pp. Illus. Map. $34.95 hardcover.

REVIEWED BY DR. BARRY GOUGH

Alejandro or Alessandro Malaspina, who was born in Malazzo, Parma, 2 November 1754 and died in Pontremoli, Parma, 9 April 1810, is best remembered for his global circumnavigation, for his explorations of the Pacific Ocean, and for his discoveries, for Spain, in North and South America.

In 1789 Spain launched an ambitious expedition, the intent of which was twofold: (1) to survey in a comprehensive fashion South America and to develop comprehensive hydrographical charts to aid in navigation "for the remote regions of America," and (2) to assess the political and economic climate of the far-flung Spanish Empire. Two vessels were detailed for this discovery, the *Descubierta* and the *Atrevida*, with Malaspina in the former and Bustamante y Guerra in command of the latter. The first port of call was Rio de Janeiro, and then the ships coasted south, visiting and surveying Montevideo, Buenos Aires and the Falklands (Malvinas). They rounded Cape Horn, and then sailed along the Chilean coast to Peru, Guayaquil, the Galapagos, Panama, and Acapulco. In 1791 Malaspina sailed to southeastern Alaska, returning southwards via Nootka Sound and Monterey, Alta California. The year 1792 found him crossing the Pacific to the Philippines, spending the following year in the southwest Pacific, principally at New South Wales, New Zealand, and Tonga. He returned to Spain on 21 September 1794. Such are the basic details of his five-year mammoth voyage to the Pacific, one of scientific discovery and political inquiry. The achievements were notable, particularly on the scientific side.

But there was a darker, more dangerous side to this voyage of discovery. Malaspina was unhappy with what he found in the Spanish empire. He returned to Spain with the earnest conviction that Spain should free her colonies in the New World. A strong liberalism burned in this nobleman's heart, and his ideas and writings failed to attract any sympathy. Indeed, the executive council deemed his views revolutionary and thus dangerous. Malaspina was arrested, jailed and stripped of his titles. He was six years in confinement, and released on condition that he not remain in Spain. It was for these political reasons that Malaspina fell from grace in his time. He was largely forgotten until, in 1992, Spanish scholars and others interested in the history of Pacific exploration took up the challenge of giving Malaspina a new lease on life, one long overdue.

John Kendrick has been in the Canadian lead in the Malaspina resuscitation, and has been aiding Spanish *compadres* and English editors preparing the forthcoming Hakluyt Society edition (in English) in reviving this notable voyager and leader of a strong scientific team. Spanish research over many years has been led by Mercedes Palau Banquero. From her sound foundation of scholarship, and that of others, Kendrick has built a larger understanding. His book is a straightforward and logical narrative which draws together the vital details from the larger literature (all noted in his useful bibliography). Kendrick's treatment is the first scholarly book-length biography, and is a most welcome addition to the literature. Kendrick does not shy away from examining the undoubted vanity of Malaspina. Nor does he dodge a good analysis of the revolutionary tendencies of his hero. For all its enlightening instincts the Spanish crown of Malaspina's time was dreadfully worried that what had happened at the Bastille would soon be seen in the streets of Madrid. Malaspina had no friends at court, and the royalist service, in which he was a distinguished naval captain and brigadier, held little sympathy for his dangerous enthusiasms. For all these reasons John Kendrick's book opens new vistas on the philosophical disposition and the political reasoning of one of Spain's greatest navigators and discoverers.

Reviewer Barry Gough teaches Canadian history at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON.

Westcoasters: Boats that Built British Columbia.

Tom Henry. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 1998. 192 pp. Illus. $34.95 hardcover.

REVIEWED BY GORDON MILLER.

Tom Henry is one of British Columbia's best-known historical writers. An earlier book, *The Good Company: an Affectionate History of the Union Steamships*, won the 1995 British Columbia Historical Federation's Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing. This time, he presents us with a book of stories about fourteen notable BC boats. Henry has chosen his subjects well. Each of his choices represents a unique type of vessel at a unique period within the last two hundred years.

The fourteen vessels are the *Discovery*, Captain George Vancouver's ship during his exploration of the BC coast during the late eighteenth century; the *Beaver*, the Hudson's Bay Company steamer, which on its introduction in 1836, became the first steamer on the BC coast; the *William Irving*, a sternwheeler which operated on the lower Fraser River between 1800 and 1894; the *Lorne*, a sea-going tug built by the Dunsmuirs in 1889; the *Thermopylae*, an aging tea clipper, which operated out of Victoria during the 1890s; the *Beatrice*, built as a sealer in 1891, which over the next hundred years became a towboat, freighter, fish packer, and research vessel; the *Columbia*, a mission boat during the first decades of the twentieth century; the *Princess Maquinna*, one of the Canadian Pacific Railway's coastal steamships; the *Malahat*, a rum-runner of the 1920s, converted to a log carrier in the 1930s; the *Lady Alexandra*, one of the Union Steamship ferries and excursion boats; the *BCP no. 45*, a

seiner active from 1927 to 1995; the *Sudbury*, a post-Second World War deep-sea tug; the *Pices I*, a submersible designed and built in the 1960s; and the *Lootaas*, a replica of an ocean-going Haida dugout canoe.

Each vessel is treated in a separate chapter. Henry presents details about the construction, appearance, operational characteristics, and career of each vessel. The material is interesting, and is presented in an easy, conversational style. The text is accompanied by good illustrations, which are enhanced by the book's coffee table format.

Nevertheless, I was disappointed with the book. I had expected to learn about the boats that built British Columbia, as stated on the title page. Instead, I read only about the fourteen boats chosen by the author. I wanted to learn about the conditions that prompted the design and construction of each differing types of boats which Henry's selection represents. I wanted to learn about the role each of these types of vessels played in British Columbia economic and social life. I wanted to learn about the development of maritime industries in British Columbia.

Regrettably, Henry did not attempt to provide this type of background information and analysis. In addition, most of the information presented on each vessel will be familiar to knowledgeable readers. Only the section on the *Pisces I* contained substantial amounts of new, unfamiliar material.

In conclusion, this is a well-written, well-illustrated collection of well-known stories about some of BC best-known ships. And that's all.

Reviewer Gordon Miller is librarian at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo.

Helicopters: The British Columbia Story.
Peter Corley-Smith and David N. Parker. Victoria, BC: Sono Nis Press, 1998. 226 pp., Illus. $24.95 paperback.
REVIEWED BY KIRK SALLOUM

The province's story of helicopters begins in 1947 when these machines proved themselves well suited to the BC terrain. They were versatile and extremely valuable for serving lighthouses, as pathfinders for icebreakers, for transporting passengers to their destinations, for logging and surveying operations, and as part of the air ambulance service, to name a few of their multiple applications.

The authors acknowledge that their work falls short of being definitive history. As an example, they point to the lack of detail on the recreational use of helicopters. However, Corley-Smith and Parker's well-researched book contains a variety of documentation. Historical data and references are available for readers requiring them. A treasure of information, accompanied by colour and black-and-white photographs, is presented.

Outlined are the fundamentals of helicopter maintenance and piloting. The early helicopters were high-maintenance machines. The first helicopter pilots had to learn a completely different set of reflexes from those they developed while flying fixed-wing aircraft. Informative and fascinating, helicopter incidents keep readers entertained. They learn about the character of individual pilots and the unique experiences each encountered. Excerpts from interviews of people involved in BC's early helicopter history are incorporated to enrich the text. These recollections are from individuals "who were clearly pioneers in a new technology."

Commercial companies were the main players who introduced the helicopter into the province; particularly, Okanagan Helicopters Limited. Two individuals discussed extensively in the book are Carl Agar and Alf Stringer. Their importance to the development of the helicopter industry is acknowledged in the book's dedication.

Helicopter crews that flew for commercial companies solved many of the problems associated with flying in the mountains. The military and other government agencies turned to these crews to learn about this new knowledge that the authors associated with "a second era of bush flying." Like the first era of bush pilots who flew fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter pilots had to carry out manoeuvres that no one else had previously done. They learned to handle these through trial and error, sometimes in death-threatening situations. Highlighted are stories linked to the development of BC. As examples, Corley-Smith and Parker chronicle the use of helicopters in the Aluminum Company of Canada's Kitimat-Kemano venture and in the BC Power Commission project on the Homathko River (interwoven with anecdotes on the" indestructible" Ted Henson). Other events described revolve around a host of forestry, mining, survey, and search-and-rescue operations throughout the province.

There is little need to shy away from this book if readers think they lack an understanding of the evolution of helicopter technology. An appendix helps to fill many gaps. The value of this work is in understanding how a relatively modern aviation machine, and key individuals surrounding that technology, assisted with establishing industries and people throughout BC's diverse terrain.

Reviewer Kirk Salloum is an educational consultant living in Vancouver, BC.

Fraser Gold 1858! The Founding of British Columbia.
Netta Sterne. Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press, 1998. 187 pp. Illus., $29.95 paperback.
REVIEWED BY LEWIS GREEN.

The book deals with events in 1858 when James Douglas, then Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island but without any authority on the mainland, seized the initiative and moved swiftly to control the Fraser River gold rush.

The gold rush, predicted by Douglas in late 1857, reached Victoria on Sunday, 25 April 1858, with the arrival of the steamer *Commodore* from San Francisco. The stampeders aboard, 450 in all, outnumbered the population of Victoria. It was just the beginning. By June 1st an estimated 10,000 men had started up the Fraser River, and before the year was out the total would be close to 25,000.

Douglas was on his own. Requests to the Colonial Office for assistance or direction could involve waits of up to six months for a reply. Already in late 1857 he had issued an ordinance declaring that all mines of gold in the Fraser and Thompson districts belonged to the Crown, and soon after he announced a system of compulsory miners' licences. Initially, Douglas, still a Hudson's Bay Company employee as well as governor, had attempted to protect the company's interests but the numbers of miners involved soon made this impossible. There were still controls inasmuch as licences had to be purchased in Victoria, and two Royal Navy survey vessels were stationed off the mouth of the Fraser to prevent smuggling and licence evasion. For the miners a system of claims for "bar diggings" was established and sub-commissioners were appointed to mark out the claims and collect the duty payable. The potential for conflict between Natives and miners was reduced by the appointment of Native magistrates.

The most innovative move was a road construction project begun in midsummer when high water on the Fraser flooded many of the bars and halted mining operations. A

corps of 500 men was enrolled to open a trail and water route from Port Douglas, at the north end of Harrison Lake, that would bypass the Fraser Canyon and return to the river at today's Lillooet. The men would not be paid but rather posted a bond of $25 as security for good conduct which, on completion of the project, would be repaid to them at Port Douglas in the form of provisions at Victoria prices. The route with its many bridges and portages was completed in mid-October.

On 19 November 1858, on his third visit to the mainland, Douglas was sworn in as governor of the Colony of British Columbia by Judge Matthew Begbie who had arrived in Victoria a few days before. Working with the resources and people available, Douglas had overseen the transformation from fur trading days to the beginning of a new resource-based economy. In the years that followed the new arrivals, Begbie, Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers, Chartres Brew, and others would build on the foundation Douglas had prepared in 1858, that incredible year in British Columbia's history.

The author's approach to the events in 1858 differs in that coverage of the year is drawn from contemporary accounts in local, American and British newspapers in addition to official correspondence. The approach works extremely well in that it captures the excitement of a time when would-be miners were bombarded with a mixture of truth, hearsay, and sheer fantasy.

Reviewer Lewis Green, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is a retired mining engineer.

Destination Cortez Island, A Sailor's Life Along the BC Coast.

June Cameron. Surrey BC: Heritage House, 1999. 224 pp. Illus. 17.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY KELSEY MCLEOD

This has to be one of the most informative books about life up our coast in the past I have read. While it is the story of the author's family making yearly trips by small boat from their home in Vancouver to visit grandparents on Cortez Island, that is but one facet. The others are varied, not the least of which is giving a vivid picture of the daily life early on of children up the coast, their interests, activities, and chores.

When I finished reading, I decided that the reason I felt it was like old-home week for me was not only because I grew up on that coast and knew many of the people mentioned, but because the author, not having spent the entire year up coast, had a distant vision of life on Cortez, and because of the distancing, had written much of the essence of that life. This is the strength of the account, its charm, and its value to the reader.

But the history of the early coastal settlement is there as well, giving insight into the challenges, the dangers, and disappointments early pioneers faced. The time period is from 1930 till the present day. Cameron's maternal grandparents came to Cortez in 1917, lured by the prospect of freedom, opportunity, and land.

However, it is not only the story of her own family, for she interviewed many people, and their stories; their pictures are included. I was amazed at the extent of the knowledge of small-boat engines Cameron displays. I first decided that she must have had help in her account from some master boat mechanic, but after talking to a friend, who sailed the coast with her husband in a small boat, I discovered that women wizards with engines were common.

It is all between these pages, the dropping in on neighbours, dances, details like the number of students needed for a school, to how a homestead house was built and digging and preserving clams.

I highly recommend this book. I can't imagine anyone not getting something worthwhile from it. It should be a must for all immigrants to this coast, whether they come from another continent, or from other provinces. We hear about Newfoundland life till it is coming out of our ears. Maybe *Destination Cortez Island* will make Canadians realize there is also an up-the-West-Coast lifestyle. Buy it, read it, enjoy.

Reviewer Kelsey McLeod is a member of the Vancouver Historical Society.

Companions of the Peace: Diaries and Letters of Monica Storrs, 1931-1939.

Vera K. Fast, Ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999. 246 pp. Illus. $19.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY PETER J. MITHAM

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of *Companions of the Peace*, an edition of the letters and diaries of Monica Storrs, an Anglican lay worker in the Peace River Block from 1929 to 1950, is its distinct difference from *God's Galloping Girl* (Vancouver, 1979). Edited by the renowned western Canadian historian W. L. Morton, the earlier volume predated the significant shift that has since occurred in our attitudes to history and its telling. Social history and its various manifestations—working class and women's history among them—have profoundly altered how we interpret the past, and shape it for contemporary consumption.

This is clear from the outset of *Companions of the Peace*, which begins in 1931, the year Morton's volume ends. For Morton, Storrs left a rich record of the conflict between "Christian spirituality" and "North American frontier materialism at its most barren and its worst." The diaries offered a compelling account of the political and physical geography of contemporary British Columbia. Today, gender is an equally significant element of the geography and the introduction to Fast's book makes this clear.

Fast, who assisted Morton during preparation of the first volume, and Mary Kinnear, a collaborator on the introduction to the new volume, cast Storrs as a quiet feminist serving the needs of women in the vicinity of Fort St. John during the dark days of the 1930s. And truly, Storrs and her community of female lay workers—the Companions of the Peace—were a vital support to other women isolated in a predominantly masculine world. By highlighting this aspect, and focusing on the opportunities the Peace offered female missionaries, Fast brings a fresh perspective to Morton's analysis of Storrs's writings. The introduction makes the reader conscious of a feminism that Storrs, herself "no self-conscious feminist" (p.10), downplayed.

The variety of detail Storrs records has left a vivid narrative that quickly moves the reader beyond a limited reading of the diaries as mere records of women's history, however. Far more than religious workers, Storrs and her Companions enjoyed a position of privilege that gave them access to every facet of pioneer life. They filled the interstices of local society with clothing, food, and companionship, and through these experiences and a sense of purpose, left a record filled with humane feeling and acute criticism. They underline the spiritual element that was part of the frontier experience—an aspect amply evident throughout Fast's book.

Unfortunately, the principles guiding the selection of material for this edition are not as firm as those Morton followed. While the first volume, covering 1929–1931, was a complete text, the ambitions of the editor and the substantial text of the diaries were

compromised in the present volume by restrictions that limited the amount of material published to a quarter of what was available. We never read, for instance, of the events leading to Storrs's decision to head home in 1939. It is a tantalizing omission, but the reader is at a loss to know whether it was made by Storrs or Fast. Readers must trust the editors to have been as even-handed in selection as they profess, but inclusion or exclusion ultimately rested on subjective decisions. Time will prove the wisdom of these, but only consulting the original texts in Victoria or Fort St. John will reveal which quarter of the diaries Fast selected.

Nevertheless, Fast has rendered scholars—and other readers—a valuable service in annotating and making available this selection from the Storrs diaries. She has woven a fascinating narrative that will delight casual and serious readers alike. Storrs emerges, seventy years after entering the Peace River Block, a strong, independent woman. A feminist, yes, but more generally—and for Christ's sake—a humanist keenly alive and sympathetic to the plight of the settlers among whom she ministered.

Reviewer Peter Mitham is a freelance writer living in Vancouver. His bibliography of Peter Service will be published this spring.

Historical Atlas of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

Derek Hayes. Cavendish Books Inc., Unit 23, 1610 Derwent Way, Delta B.C., Canada, V3M 6W1, 1999. 208 pp. 320 map reprints. $ 48.95 hardcover. Published in the USA as *Historical Atlas of the Pacific Northwest* by Sasquatch Books, Seattle, Wash.

REVIEWED BY J.E. ROBERTS.

My first reaction on picking up this magnificent book was one of disappointment, albeit only concerning its cover with an artist's rendition of Vancouver's *Discovery*. It is regrettable that a reference was not made to one of the standards on eighteenth-century sailing ships before paint hit the canvas, since the result is the portrayal of a ship that could never have left harbour. David R. MacGregor's *Merchant Sailing Ships 1775-1815, their Design and Construction*, would have filled in many of the blanks in the artist's knowledge of Vancouver's stout little vessel.

The subject matter has dictated the size of the book (25 by 33 centimetres) which comes in at a hefty one and a half kilograms and could be a bit awkward to hold for anyone with small hands and arms. The time frame covered is over 400 years and much that occurred, cartographically, during that period is recorded in detail. This is a work that will not be read in one go and it is suggested that it be digested, a bit at a time, to maintain the chronology of the history of map-making by the early Russian, Spanish, and English explorers on our coast. With the book placed in a comfortable reading position and a magnifying glass at hand, many enjoyable hours could be spent absorbing knowledge that for many will be in a new and exciting field.

The author has assembled the finest collection of maps and charts relating to the Pacific Northwest and has woven their place in our history. In addition to nautical charts of the seas and coastline, he has included many maps which bring alive the history of the hinterland in a way that makes one wish that such information were available, in this form, when one was struggling with history at school or college. The sections dealing with the Alaska boundary dispute and the finalizing of the international boundary are well presented. This volume will have interest for readers miles from the sea and the smell of salt air, thanks to the inclusion of the maps covering the fur trade and the various gold rushes that were part of the development of BC.

The author has drawn from thousands of charts and maps in repositories all over the world and some are included "... simply because I found them interesting." The reader would be well advised not to skip reading the introduction, as often happens, for the author's comments on "native maps" and on "exploration and discovery" are most refreshing.

The reproductions are first class and Midas Printing in Hong Kong is to be congratulated. The reviewer would have liked to know the actual size of the original map or chart, which would be of value when comparing similar plans. The only serious error noted is that of map 143, on page 87, which has been inadvertently printed upside down. This was not an easy error to spot, since on the original, the numbering title had been put on upside down which would cause anyone looking at the chart to turn it over. The numbering of latitude and longitude that could have correctly oriented the chart is very small, requiring a most careful reading. This particular chart shows one of the very few errors in the cartography of the Vancouver expedition and was the subject of special attention on pp. 214-216 of my book, *A Discovery Journal*. For this reason, the error jumped out at your reviewer.

There are a few errors in the text dealing with Vancouver's survey, and these will be corrected in a second printing; typically, Alexander Bell, on p. 88, is confused with Edward Bell, clerk of the *Chatham*, and Joseph Whidbey was master of the *Discovery*, not the *Chatham*.

The sections of the book dealing with the growth of the metropolitan areas of the northwest illustrate the then state of the cartographer's art with a number of birds-eye views of major ports and cities. The addition of a few remarks on the later developments in map-making, such as aerial photography and satellite imaging, would possibly make the work more complete.

Cavendish Books are to be congratulated for producing a first class publication at a reasonable price and it is to be hoped that we see more works on the history of British Columbia from their presses.

Reviewer John E. (Ted) Roberts, a Victoria resident, is an enthusiastic scholar in the field of Pacific Northwest exploration.

A Whole Little City by Itself: Tranquille and Tuberculosis.

Wayne Norton. Kamloops: Plateau Press, 1999. 192 pp. $21.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY NAOMI MILLER.

The subtitle, "Tranquille and Tuberculosis," gives the focus of this well researched book. The author takes Tranquille, and the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society, through the years of establishing this western sanatorium, through the First World War when a veterans' hospital had to be created temporarily in Balfour, through the disputes with soldier patients, to provincial takeover, to needed and welcome expansions and modernization of facilities (especially the operating room), to impending closure.

The citizens of Kamloops alternated between acceptance and rejection of this institution housing patients with an infectious disease. There were many changes in public perception, politics, and patient care over the years. The fears of locals, added to the isolation of the Fortune farm, forced the sponsors operating the site to create "a whole little city by itself."

The community of Tranquille had its own farm to supply meat, milk, fruit, eggs, and

vegetables. There was staff housing, a school for employees' children. In early years access was by boat but when the Canadian National Railway pushed a line on the north side of Kamloops Lake, a station was built with a spur for Tranquille deliveries. Later, as labour regulations necessitated extra personnel, a bus ran between Kamloops and the sanatorium. Some staff commuted regularly. Recovering patients used the bus for an exciting taste of civilization with a rare half-day pass.

Initially the patients were working-class white males. Gradually space was created for female sufferers. No Natives and no Asians were accepted as patients or hired as staff until after the Second World War. Also noted was the fact that none on staff became infected with the tubercle bacillus. The nurses or physicians that became patients at Tranquille were infected in a general hospital or private home setting when working with patients with illnesses or injury unrelated to TB.

When the Government knew Tranquille was about to be abandoned by TB patients, an advisory committee dithered for two years before finding a new use for the lovely buildings. The period of vacancy hastened the deterioration of the buildings. From 1958 to 1984 mentally disabled citizens were cared for here, then one scheme after another failed. What was once a peaceful, beautiful hospital complex is an unsafe jungle of weeds and falling structures. The book is a thought-provoking report on a British Columbia institution which served its clientele so well that it became superfluous.~

Reviewer Naomi Miller is a former editor of BC Historical News

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Dog Creek: A Place in the Cariboo.
Hilary Place. Surrey BC: Heritage House Publishing Company, 1999. 266 pp. Illus. $18.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY SHERYL SALLOUM

The pun in the title is the first indication that this book, part history, part memoir, is an entertaining read. The grandson of a Cariboo pioneer who settled in Dog Creek in the early 1880s, Hilary Place has taken on the role of raconteur and details the history of the remote settlement, his family's life in the area, and his personal experiences in the region up to the 1970s. Place's recollections of surviving bitterly cold winters and a world without "telephones, radios, automobiles, refrigerators, indoor plumbing, electricity, and so many other things we take for granted today," transport us to a bygone era. Reminiscences of the people he encountered vividly capture and convey the hardships and realities of life in the Cariboo. Some of those individuals "were heroic beyond belief," a few are now famous, and others "were hoboes with packs on their backs."

The book's chapters include discussions of the area's settlement and early days, the Dog Creek Indian Reserve, the Dog Creek hockey team, hotel, Mountain Airbase, school, stage, and store. Interspersed with intriguing facts about the locale and its inhabitants are anecdotes of courage and survival. In one, Place tells of a nine-year-old boy who was being beaten by his father. One day this child packed a bag and, in spite of his clubfeet, walked many kilometres from the Gang Ranch to the Place farm where he asked for lodgings and a job. The youngster was told that he could stay as long as he went to school and fed the chickens. He lived with the Place family for 21 years.

Stories of the First Nations people of the area are particularly intriguing. For example, Place relates that the Alkali Lake team was made up of young men living on the Alkali Lake Reserve. To participate in matches, the team would often travel great distances: this meant spending 10 to 12 hours in horse-drawn sleighs in below-zero temperatures. In towns such as Williams Lake, aboriginal people were not allowed in the hotels or restaurants. The team would have to "pitch their tents....Supper was some deer meat and boiled frozen potatoes....A campfire was the only source of heat." Not having any extra players, the men had to play non-stop, but "they made a team few could beat."

The book's illustrations include maps and many photographs of interest. Included is one of historian Marius Barbeau dressed like a cowboy, one of writer Sheila (Doherty) Watson, who taught school in Dog Creek for a year in the 1930s, and one of A.Y. Jackson, who visited Dog Creek in the mid-1940s—the book's jacket is a Jackson canvas that was sent to Place's mother.

Without a concluding chapter, the book ends rather abruptly. The last line, however, which discusses Place's love of music, seems also to sum up the author's life in the Cariboo: "It's part of me and it probably will be until the end." Hilary Place's recollections are a delightful and fascinating glimpse of a far-flung region of BC and another era.~

Reviewer Sheryl Salloum, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is a freelance writer.

FEDERATION NEWS

PRINCE GEORGE HONOURED AT PORT ALBERNI CONFERENCE

A panel of five judges selected the PRINCE GEORGE ORAL HISTORY GROUP (Web site http:/www.pgohg.dynds.org) as the winners of the first BC HISTORY WEB SITE PRIZE. The judges particularly noted that the Prince George Oral History Group explained the purpose of their Web site and placed the information in the context of their activities.

The $250 prize, an idea of David Mattison, is sponsored by the British Columbia Historical Federation and David Mattison.

The award is intended to recognize a Web site contributing to an understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past. The prize honours individual initiative. Institutional sites are not eligible.

RICHMOND HOST BCHF CONFERENCE 2001

In May 2001, the RICHMOND MUSEUM SOCIETY will host the British Columbia Historical Federation conference. Tentatively themed "The Land You Pass Through," the conference will focus on ideas of change in the landscape, of the role of individuals in history, and of stewardship and conservancy.

With its focus on the land, this theme naturally invokes the agricultural and fishing history of Richmond, and it also provides an opening to consider the changing uses of that land and, for Richmond at least, the evolution into a suburb of Vancouver. Used metaphorically, the theme leads us to think about the footprints each person leaves on the place that they live. From there we can look at the individuals who shaped and are shaping the history of our places, but we can also explore questions about what we are doing to preserve our history, the stories, the documents, the artifacts, the buildings, and the landscapes.

The Friday morning plenary session, the workshops, and the tours of Richmond and Steveston that we have planned will all take up some aspect of this theme. We're also planning a book fair, an optional Chinese dinner and a visit to the Asian malls in Richmond, and, of course, the awards banquet on Saturday evening.

The RICHMOND MUSEUM SOCIETY look forward to hosting the conference and to having the Federation delegates visit our city.

News and Notes

Please send information to be published in News and Notes to the editor in Whonnock before 15 August, 15 November, 15 February and 15 May.

From the Branches

Mostly extracted from the reports presented at the AGM. For more see the minutes of the AGM starting on page 41.

Alberni District Historical Society

The Alberni District Historical Archives, which is affiliated with the Alberni District Historical Society, is the repository of the McLean Mill papers; as such, the opening of the McLean Mill as a National Historic Site is the culmination of ten years of focussed endeavour by diverse community groups and representatives who believe in preserving and presenting local history to the public at large.

The Society was fortunate to receive books and a significant cash donation bequeathed to it by the late Helen Ford. The funds were invested in the Alberni Valley Foundation, which handles local charitable investments.

Arrow Lakes Historical Society

Their next publication will be on the Lardeau region featuring Trout lake, Ferguson, and Camborne. The most notable archive items given to the society was an estate including 400 historical slides.

Burnaby Historical Society

The society's $1,000 scholarship honouring Evelyn Salisbury was presented to Benjamin Bradley of Simon Fraser University. A second Special Bursary Award of $1,000 was given to Carolyn Webb of Okanagan University College.

Chemainus Valley Historical Society

At the April meeting of the Chemainus Valley Historical Society, Ray Knight and Len Platt were made honorary members and given a presentation in recognition for their contributions over the years. Knight, a well-known historian, and Platt, the unofficial "mayor" of Saltair, have restored and donated a water-ram pump to the Chemainus Valley Museum. This unique pump, salvaged from Stocking Creek, in Saltair, was used to provide Saltair's first water system.

Life members Edith Stephenson and Audrey Ginn were also special guests at the April meeting. Ginn gave fascinating background information regarding the Anglican Cemetery at Lamalchi Bay on Kuper Island. In 1964 Ginn donated the cemetery that had been part of her family estate to the Society.

Cowichan Historical Society

The society is working on the production of a CD-ROM on the history of Cowichan.

Gulf Island Branch, BCHF

Volume 1 of the local history *Gulf Islands Patchwork* has been reprinted, forming a companion to volume 2, *More Tales from the Outer Gulf Islands.*

Kamloops Museum Association

After the Art Gallery moved out of the building, the KMA finds itself with a lot of space and the support of the city to make major renovations. A new exhibit space is planned for the museum.

London Heritage Farm

The society has improved accomplishments by splitting into committees, each committee having co-chairs. Committees meet on a regular basis and report in writing to the directors. The executive and board of directors are much more effective and can concentrate on the larger aspects of the operation.

Nanaimo Historical Society

The winner of the Ethel Barraclough history award for 1999 was Barbara Pond for her research paper on the coverage of the 1953 polio epidemic in the Nanaimo Free Press.
The Nanaimo Historical Society continues to support the Nanaimo Community Archives through donations of money and an active volunteer program.

Nelson Museum

The former Kootenay Museum and Historical Society wished to be known simply as Nelson Museum. The society is planning for a new museum, archives, and art gallery. Nelson Museum received a Community Archives Assistance Grant to organize the Kootenay School of Arts records. Volunteers continue work organizing the records of the *Nelson Daily News*, including many photographs and historic files.

North Shore Historical Society

North Vancouver Museum and Archives continues providing space for the monthly meetings. The society donated funds to the North Vancouver Archives to cover the cost of processing photographs of buildings taken in the mid 1970s by Don Bourdon, North Vancouver's first achivist.

Salt Spring Island Historical Society

Different from the usual pattern of guest speakers, two of their meetings united panels of old-timers talking about life on the island in earlier days. Sales of the book *Saltspring: The Story of an Island* are going well. Much of the energy is directed to the operation of the archives.

Silvery Slocan Historical Society

Directors continued with reviewing the accessioning, archives, and photographs.

Surrey Historical Society

The $750 district historical essay contest was won last year by Meghan Pritchard, a grade 11 student at Elgin Park Secondary for her essay that examined the early history of Crescent Beach. Other work includes the Surrey historical map project and the W.W. Hastings' manuscript.

Vancouver Historical Society

The society continues sponsoring regular speakers' series and providing assistance to individuals publishing original historical research. The society had to resort to professional assistance to produce its newsletter and book keeping services.

Other News

Regular contributor dies

Noami Miller reports that Dr. Adam C. Waldie passed away on the 29th of May, just short of his 80th birthday. Dr. Waldie practiced medicine in Castlegar and Vancouver. After his semi-retirement he devoted his spare time to history and gardening. He contributed articles and book reviews to *BC Historical News* and medical journals.

Fur Trade

Among the names of awardees recognized for outstanding voluntary contributions to Washington and Northwest history by the Washington State Historical Society are two well-known BC historians, Jean Barman and Bruce Watson, who received the Charles Gate Award for "outstanding contribution to *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* magazine; for their collaboration on the article entitled 'Fort Colville's Fur Trade Families'."

Photo by Helmi Braches

Photo by John Spittle

Photo by John Spittle

Photo by Helmi Braches

Reward and Prize Winners Celebrated in Port Alberni

(see next page for captions)

Photo by Helmi Braches

Photo by Helmi Braches

Port Alberni 2000

Notes on the BCHF Gonference 2000 at Port Alberni hosted by the Alberni District Historical Society, Thursday 4 May – Saturday 6 May 2000.

by Roy J. V. Pallant
and (*in italics*) by Irene Alexander

THE GATHERING OF THE CLANS—The gathering of the delegates (clans) was one of the most exciting parts of what must have been one of our most successful annual conferences. We met as good friends and acquaintances on ferries and buses, at service stations, and in cafés en-route to our mutual destination: PORT ALBERNI. A great feeling of shared memories and expectations.

EARLY HISTORY— In 1790 the Spanish captain DON PEDRO DE ALBERNI and his company of 76 men came to the west coast of Vancouver Island, with Lieutenant DON FRANCISCO ELIZA assuming command of Nootka. It is Don Francisco Eliza who gave Alberni Canal (now Alberni Inlet) its name.

On the previous page:

Top Left: *Ron Welwood and Shirley Cuthbertson congratulate Lynne Bowen, author of* Robert Dunsmuir: Laird of the Mines.

Top right: *Ron Welwood and Derek Hayes, author of the* Historical Atlas of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

Centre left: *Lilia D'Acres proudly shows the 1999 Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historial Writing she and co-author Donald Luxton reeceived for their book* Lions Gate.

Centre right: *Three award-winning Nanaimo authors. From left to right: Margaret Horsfield* (Cougar Annie's Garden), *Lynne Bowen* (Robert Dunsmuir: Laird of the Mines), and *Jan Peterson* (Journeys: Down the Alberni Canal to Barkley Sound).

Bottom left: *Dr. Joyce Clearihue, shown here with editor Fred Braches, won the 1999 prize for the best article published in Volume 32 of* British Columbia Historical News *with her contribution: "Fort Victoria and H.B. Co. Doctors." (Volume 32 No. 1)*

Bottom Right: *Author Margaret Horsfield at the book fair offering autographed copies of her book* Cougar Annie's Garden.

Don Pedro de Alberni left the reputation as being the first agriculturist in BC. His rank and file cultivated fields, excavated wells, constructed aqueducts, and raised poultry, making the Spanish garrison at Nootka less vulnerable to famine. Alberni's wisdom in attracting the goodwill of the Natives is also recorded. The Spaniards never reached the head of the inlet, but in 1860 a sawmill was established there and a year later the settlement was given its Spanish name: Alberni.

In the fall of 1859 William Eddy Banfield (correct spelling), an independent trader, and the colonial government agent on the west coast, wrote to the Colonial Secretary at Victoria the following prophetic words: "The timber will cause Barkley Sound to be noticed and must eventually become an article of export, an important item in the prosperity and peopling of the southern end of the Island." In 1860 the Anderson Company of London sent Captain Edward Stamp, an English shipmaster, and G.M. Sproat to locate a suitable site and to build a sawmill to provide spars and lumber for the fleet of clipper ships owned by the Anderson Company. As from that first sawmill the rich history of Alberni goes on; the Alberni District Historical Society and the Alberni Valley Museum should be envied for the great abundance of British Columbia history around them to preserve and enjoy.

THE ODOUR IS GONE—It is not clear why they kept it a secret, but the bad smell for which Port Alberni was infamous for years has now gone. The pulp mill is idle and the kraft mill has been closed since November of 1993. That's great news for many who appreciate Port Alberni even better this way.

On Thursday and Friday the focus of CONFERENCE 2000 was at the Echo Community Centre, built in 1967 to celebrate Canada's centenary. It houses the archives, museum, public library, and conference rooms. A sports and fitness centre and indoor pool were added in 1971 when British Columbia celebrated its Centennial.

At registration the participants in Conference 2000 received plenty of information and little gifts. Included were two books, Place Names of the Alberni Valley *and* Saw Logs on Steel Rails *written by GEORGE MCKNIGHT, compliments of the author. Thank you Mr. McKnight!*

A great adjunct to the Conference was a book fair held at the Echo Community Centre, mainly featuring books on BC history. One was able to browse through publishers' displays and to purchase new as well as used books and we had the pleasure of meeting authors in person.

Spotlight speakers galore. At the centre Ron Blair of Friesen's presented a video on preparing history books for printing. In her writing workshop, MARGARET CADWALADR of the Federation of BC Writers reviewed interviewing skills. SHIRLEY CUTHBERTSON spoke about the BCHF's annual writing competition. T(om) W. PATERSON, best known for his series of books on ghost towns, talked about self-publishing. Alberni District Historical Society's BOB GRAY talked about the 1964 Tsunami, and KEN HUTCHESON, president of the Maritime Heritage Society, reviewed the building of a maritime presence. There was also a reading by JAN PETERSON, author of four books pertaining to the history of Alberni Valley.

On Thursday evening our hosts offered Conference 2000 participants and visitors a wonderful reception in the Alberni Valley Museum. The museum staff catered the reception beautifully. Mayor GILLIAN TRUMPER welcomed us to the City of Port Alberni, and we were also welcomed by JEAN MCINTOSH, director of the museum, and SIMO NURME, president of Alberni District Historical Society It was most enjoyable to walk around, glass and delicacies in hand, to view the current exhibit: "A Century of Celebration." Meeting old and new friends gave one a real sense of community. During the expansion of the museum in the 1980s then curator JOHN MITCHELL laid out the exhibits on the open storage concept. This has to be one of the best museums in BC.

PLENARY SESSION—On Friday 112 people sat down to face five well-chosen panellists with wide-ranging views and occupations within the discipline of history, convening around the conference theme, REFLECTIONS AND RENEWAL OF THE HERITAGE VISION. The panel was moderated by JEAN MCINTOSH. Each panellist was given the usual ten minutes to share experiences and to explore connections between their institutions or organizations.

BOB GRIFFIN, curator in the history section of the Royal BC Museum told of his work on history projects in the regions away from the museum in Victoria, in partnership

Photo by John Spittle

Above: *The panellists at the plenary session. From left to right: Patrick Dunae, Jane Turner, Roy Pallant, Bob Griffin, and Elaine Price. Not shown: moderator Jean McIntosh.*

with the local people in the community. JANE TURNER, archivist at the University of Victoria and president of the Archives Association of British Columbia, spoke of the need of guidelines for electronic storage of archival data. ELAINE PRICE, who teaches English and social studies at Timberline Secondary School in Campbell River, is of Lekwiltok ancestry, a branch of Kwagiulth. Her views were particularly interesting because Elaine works in both cultures. In her presentation, Elaine used a sculpture to show that balance was part of her people's culture. PATRICK DUNAE, member of the history department at Malaspina College, is working in partnership with Nanaimo Community Archives Society, collecting heritage information and data at the college. ROY PALLANT of the North Shore Historical Society and a representative of BCHF, presented the role of community volunteers in working partnerships with various civic councils, encouraging the return of past history in the retention and development of heritage sites, and fish enhancement in populated areas.

There appeared to be a consensus among the panellists that the partnerships being fostered between community volunteers, societies, and colleges are providing a good, solid foundation for reflection on and renewal of the heritage vision. Interesting questions were presented by the audience, but an additional 30 minutes of informal discussion with the panellists over a cup of coffee after the session might have been beneficial for the panellists and the audience.

INDUSTRIAL TOUR—On Friday afternoon we started out on an Industrial Tour. The bus took us to the Flying Tanker base on Sproat Lake. The fleet stationed there includes two Martin Mars, a Grumman Goose, and four Bell Long Ranger helicopters. The incredible Martin Mars water bombers—they have a wingspan the length of a city block and the tip of the tail is four to five stories above the ground—were purchased in 1959 from the US Navy at a bargain price to fight forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. There were five originally. The remaining two, the Philippine Mars *and the* Hawaii Mars, *are maintained and treasured—they don't make them anymore. The pilot of the Grumman Goose was awaiting our arrival to give us an air show. This amphibian is nicknamed "Bird Dog" as it acts as a spotter plane, radioing back information about fire sites to the base leading each loaded water bomber directly over the fire site for its drop. The helicopters are used for timber cruising, seeding, fertilizing, medical evacuations as well as fire detection.*

At another part of Sproat Lake we were shown petroglyphs depicting mythical figures going back many generations. Then the bus took us back to town to go through Pacifica Papers where newsprint and coated papers are produced from pulp brought in from northern parts of BC and Alaska. No pulp is produced in Alberni, that is why it doesn't smell any more. It is fascinating to see paper being made: from the time the pulp slurry is poured on the screens, the excess water being squeezed out by felt blankets on rollers, steam-dried, then air-dried and finally going on rollers through infrared drying and coming out in huge rolls over 20 feet wide and approximately 7 to 8 feet in diameter. The "soup kitchen" is equally interesting. Imagine a huge closed vessel, approximately eight or nine feet in diameter, with about eight to ten pipes feeding in from the top. This is where the clay is prepared for the coated stock used for magazines. The kettle is also used for mixing the dyes for colour runs ordered by clients. A brief walk around the waterfront ended the tour.

FORESTRY TOUR—Friday afternoon. The Forestry tour, with a sturdy school bus, a great tour guide (NEIL MALBON of Weyerhaeuser's Alberni Forestry Information Centre) and FRED, our skilful driver, was both highly educational and supremely exciting. We picked up well-marked lunch boxes with tasty content at the Echo Centre and collected our orange safety hats and marker jackets just prior to boarding the bus. Equally important were the red folders containing a carefully chosen and copious set of written information.

Even though the public address system in the bus was immediately found to be out of action, Neil Malbon's strong voice, good humour and detailed technical knowledge and experience set aside the problems. The first stop on the often rough and steep logging route was close by Sproat Lake at a fine example of a dry land log-sort. A very interesting display of trailer unloading and log sorting was put on before us. Not long ago and since the end of the nineteenth century, examining logs and identification stamping was done in the water within the booms.

Next we were driven to a helicopter-logging site where trees were harvested on a steep incline which would have been inaccessible without the employment of a Sikorsky Flying Crane. This helicopter type, used by the US military to transport items such as field hospitals and Bailey bridges, has been adapted here to logging operations. It is manned by two and sometimes three pilots and usually refuels every hour and changes pilots. At the rate this aircraft operates, no logging crew could keep up. So the logging crews walk into the area, log the trees as required and leave them in place. Later the helicopter picks up the logs singly. The hydraulic hook is operated from the helicopter and requires no loaders on the ground. The helicopter, looking like a monster grasshopper, drops the logs close to a crane that loads them onto a waiting truck. The helicopter moves as much as a thousand cubic metres of timber per eight-hours shift. It climbs at a rate of 12,000 feet in two and a half minutes with log loads up to 25,000 lbs. It was thrilling and fascinating and indeed a privilege to watch. The forestry road crew blowing up rocks nearby added to the excitement.

During our tour on the bus we were further entertained by draws for chainsaw-crafted miniature chairs, books, and jars of honey. To show where the honey came from we stopped at a large clearing in the forest containing well-secured beehives, fenced-in

against the encroachment of bears. As a very thoughtful end for a great afternoon the ADHS volunteers shared a large tin of homemade cookies. Thanks to Fred, our driver, who must be the fastest changer from second to first gear on any hill, we remained safe and in great spirits to tell the tale.

COUGAR ANNIE'S GARDEN—On Friday evening Margaret Horsfield presented a free slide show and talk of her book *Cougar Annie's Garden*. It was difficult to judge which was the best entertainment, the story of Cougar Annie (Ada Annie Rae-Arthur, a colourful west coast character) or the humorous manner with which Margaret related the story. This was a most enjoyable evening in an ideal setting at the 1930s Capitol Theatre.

THE AGM—Saturday morning. Providing a continental breakfast next to the layout for the Annual General Meeting was a good idea; we lost less delegates and fewer than usual were late for the start of the meeting at 8:30 A.M. The meeting was as usual managed well by President Ron Welwood. We shall cherish his presence as past president at future committee meetings. Sincere congratulations and good wishes to our newly elected officers.

THE ROLLIN CENTRE—On Saturday afternoon we enjoyed a lovely buffet-lunch at the Rollin Art Centre. The Rollin centre is a heritage house left to the city by the owners. It is now the home of the Community Arts Council of the Alberni Valley. The centre is used for art exhibitions and functions and it is rented out for weddings and other occasions. We had the pleasure of meeting Karen Poirier there, who is currently holding her exhibition "Community Spirit" in the gallery. Everyone enjoyed her lovely watercolours of interesting houses, agricultural details, and gardens in Port Alberni.

Our enthusiastic ADHS guides then took us for a tour around the city, showing us houses, gardens, murals and other points of notice. The mural that caught everyone's attention was the Tenth Avenue Automotive Parts and Repairs built by the owner's grandfather in the late 1940s. It shows the business's small beginnings complete with the owner's father's cars in front of the old gas pumps. Of particular appeal were the two oldest remaining houses on Tenth Avenue, one built for Judge Hannah in 1905 and another for Dr. A.D. Morgan in 1906. A house that caught our interest was shown on a drawing by Karen Poirier. It is a house designed by Samuel Maclure and built in 1914 under the well-known architect's supervision for Captain Hodgson, then Port Alberni's harbour master. Unfortunately this private residence can't be seen from the road, but we were told that it has been saved from years of neglect and is now kept in excellent condition by its proud owners.

Our tour ended with a stop at Harbour Quay for refreshments and a look around. Here were the packet freighters Lady Rose *and* Frances Barkley, *still serving Barkley Sound, and the Banfield Coast Guard boat, now out of the water and under cover.*

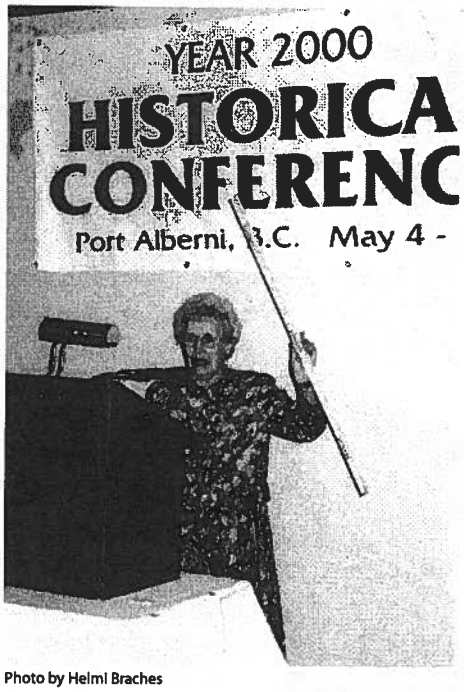


Photo by Helmi Braches

Above: *Port Alberni's Anne Holt proudly passes on "The Measure" to the 2001 hosts: the Richmond Museum Society.*

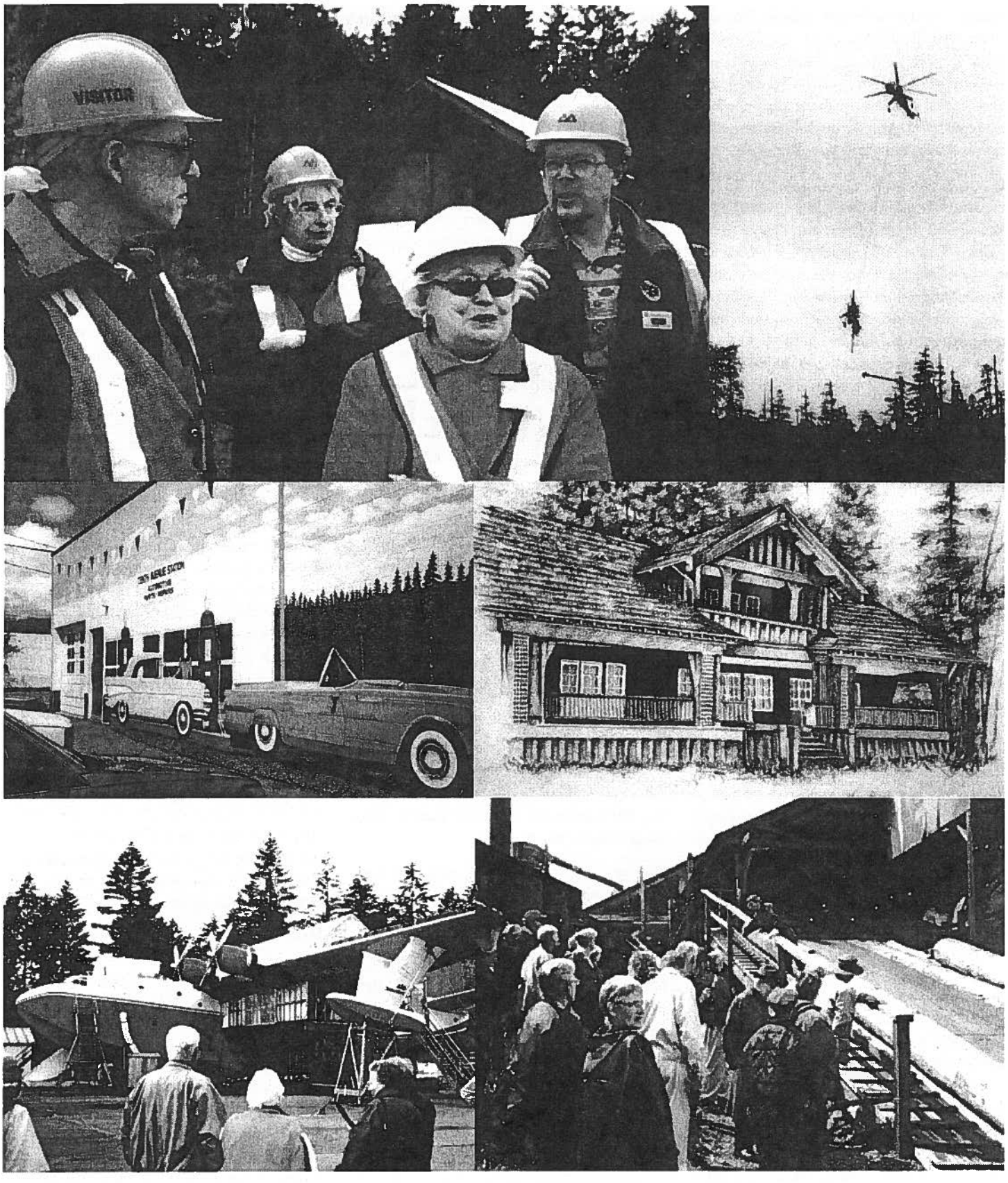
THE MCLEAN MILL—From 1926 till 1965 the R.B. McLean Lumber Company was a small family-run business. Located on 13 hectares of forested land, the steam sawmill, just outside Port Alberni, was designated a National Historic Site in 1989. The mill is now owned and operated by the City of Port Alberni through the Alberni Valley Museum. Machinery was donated to the city for the restoration of the mill. There was much work to do, but now the mill has been restored and it is in operation. The official opening for visitors is on 1 July 2000, but participants in the Conference 2000 were greeted by mill manager DAVE MACDONALD, for a preview. When we arrived we had the privilege of being entertained by a hundred-year old daughter of the McLean family, MURIEL MCLEAN, playing the piano.

We ate an excellent lunch prepared by students of the NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE in full chef's regalia. The lunch was neatly arranged in one of the four new replica buildings which are readied as museum space, gift shop, and restaurant. The McLean Mill visit was most interesting. Being the older type of mill with most of the machinery manufactured and installed by on-site blacksmiths, the process of moving and cutting the logs is a straightforward process, easily understood, yet well guarded to be safe for visitors. We looked around the operating steam sawmill and asked questions. We were able to visit workers' homes and other buildings and talk to fellow visitors and ADHS volunteers, always ready to give information. A return visit to the mill is certainly to be considered. At this time a rail track is being built connecting Port Alberni station to McLean Mill. This summer, the 1929 locomotive that currently pulls rides along the Port Alberni industrial waterfront will extend its runs to the mill.

GALA AWARD BANQUET—Shortly after six o'clock the conference participants, organizers and guests started gathering in the Barclay Hotel ballroom for the Gala Award Banquet. PATRICIA MILLER directed Port Alberni's renowned community choir TIMBRE (pronounce "timber!") assisted by accompanist DAVID POON. The music included Canadian composers which made it particularly interesting and enjoyable. After dinner the BCHF awards were presented, the highlight being the awarding of the Lieutenant Governor's medal of the 1999 Writing Competition to LILIA D'ACRES and DONALD LUXTON for their book Lions Gate. *All present had a wonderful time—the best part was renewing old acquaintances from other historical societies, some of whom we met last year, some many years before.*

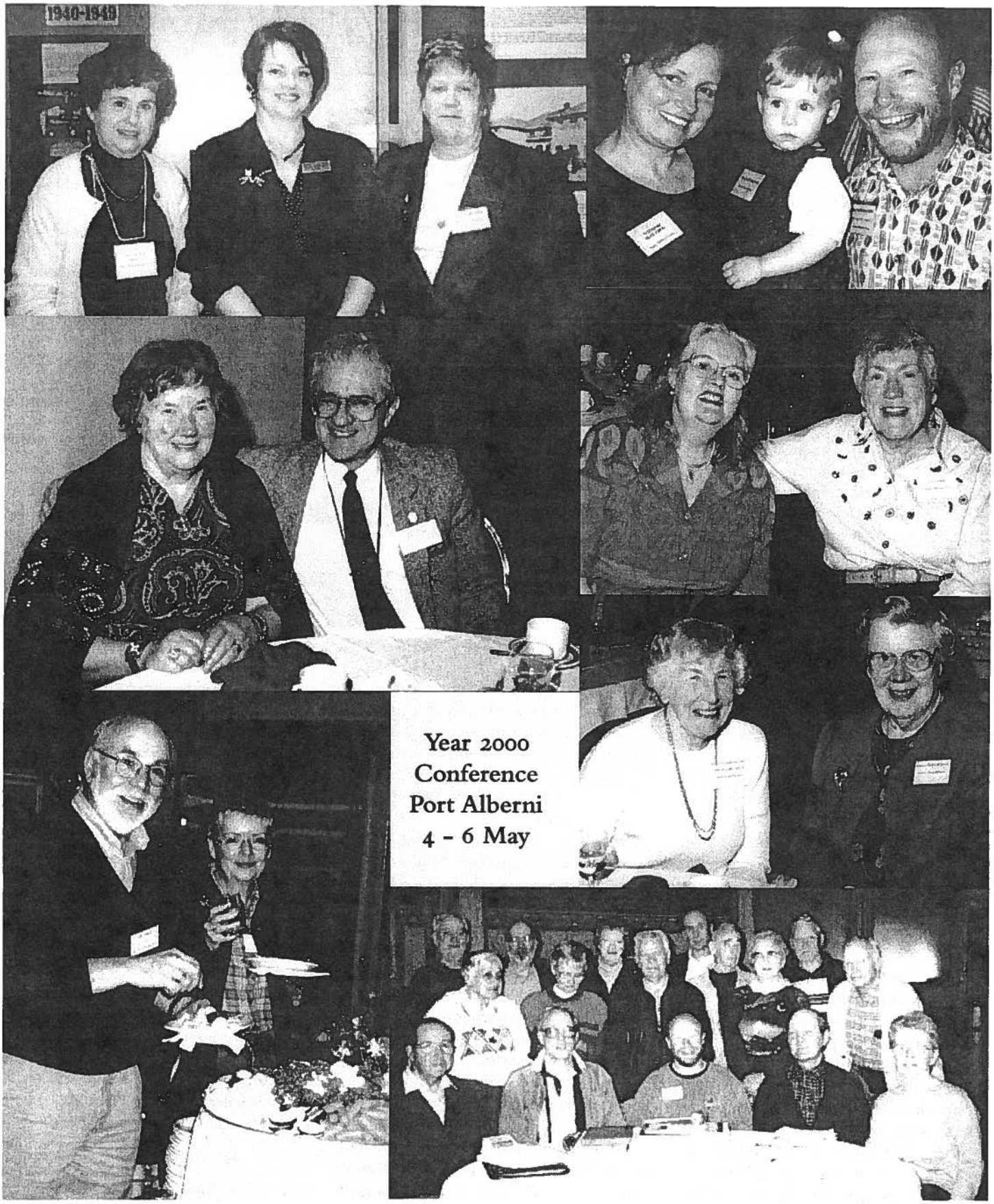
We said our goodbyes on Sunday morning in gorgeous sunshine. Situated in a truly beautiful part of BC, Port Alberni is a great community. It is the people who make it that. They have overcome great obstacles. When something needs doing they roll up their sleeves and do it. They make the most of what they have. That is the spirit of Alberni.

Two outstanding points must be mentioned on which all delegates must agree. The literature provided for all events was excellent with an important part being the lists of people we would meet and the titles and affiliations of volunteers. Secondly the charming presence of MEG SCOFFIELD who was everywhere, surely made this most enjoyable visit possible. THANKS TO MEG AND THANK YOU TO PORT ALBERNI.



Afternoon tours: somehow it always kept dry when we needed it.

Top row: *Forestry Tour: Left: Ron Greene, Frances Gundry, and Kelsey McLeod listening to guide Neil Malbon as they get a close-up to helicopter-logging (Photos by Helmi Braches / John Spittle).*
Middle row: *Tenth Avenue Station, Automotive Parts and Repair, and the Maclure house as drawn by Karen Poirier. (Photos by Irene Alexander).*
Bottom Row: *The mighty Martin Mars water bomber (under repair), and McLean Mill. (Photos by Leonard McCann / Helmi Braches).*



Clockwise from top left: *(1) Meg Scoffield (Alberni District Historical Society), Jean McIntosh (Alberni Valley Museum) and Mayor Gillian Trumper; (2) First family: Wayne and Stephanie Desrochers and daughter Emilie; (3) Patricia Brammal and Ann Dodd; (4) Johnina Macaulay and Morag Maclachlan; (5) BCHF Council meeting early on Sunday morning, 7 May; (6) Joel and Sheila Vinge; (7) Peggy Imredy and Robin Brammal. (Photos 1,2, 5 and 6 by Helmi Braches. Photos 3, 4 and 7 by John Spittle).*

Federation News

President's Annual Report

How time flies. This is my third and final report as President of BC Historical Federation (and just think, only one week ago I retired as Librarian at Selkirk College!). Also, in a way, this is like a homecoming since I grew up in Port Alberni and I have seldom returned since I left at the age of 18.

I am grateful for the dedicated work and commitment of the Table Officers and other members of the Council. By now you should know who they are: Len McCann, Honorary President; Alice Glanville, Past President; Wayne Desrochers, First Vice President and President-elect; Melva Dwyer, Second Vice President; Arnold Ranneris, Corresponding Secretary; Betty Brown, Recording Secretary; Member at Large, Roy Pallant; and Ron Greene, Treasurer (who managed to retrieve almost $2,000 from the Federal Government by claiming GST refunds from the past four years and has made suggestions to establish a BCHF Endowment Trust Fund).

Photo by Helmi Braches

Our gratitude should also be extended to Committee Officers: Shirley Cuthbertson, Writing Competition; Frances Gundry, Scholarship (Essay) Committee as well as the British Columbia History Web Site Prize Committee; Terry Simpson, Membership Secretary; John Spittle, Historical Trails and Markers; Margaret Stoneberg, Archivist; and Nancy Stuart-Stubbs, Publications Assistance.

Our editor, Fred Braches, continues to prod and probe the Federation into change. He has also applied this philosophy to the *British Columbia Historical News* by adding an "Archives" column and modifying the look of the publication. Tony Farr and the Book Review Editor, Anne Yandle, complete his team to make the *News* a very professional publication. To top it off our vigilant Subscription Secretary, Joel Vinge, has kept the subscription list up to date and cancelled the magazine to delinquent subscribers. No more freebies.

The British Columbia History Web Site Prize was the result of a proposal made by David Mattison of the Provincial Archives. As far as we know, this is the first annual, adjudicated cash award honouring individual initiative in the design and content of a Web site devoted to history. Not even the Canadian Historical Association can make that claim! The Council felt this was such an innovative and worthwhile suggestion that both the British Columbia Historical Federation and David Mattison sponsor the contest.

Several weeks ago I applied to Industry Canada for a simpler, more recognizable Federation web address. Although our web page is still hosted at Selkirk College in Castlegar, our new domain address will now be www.bchf.bc.ca.

In February, Canada's National History Society sponsored the First National Conference of Provincial Historical Societies in Toronto. Both of your delegates (the two Ronnies—Ron Greene and myself) were very impressed with the content, organization and single-mindedness of the various dedicated historical volunteers and professionals. The participants resolved to promote and seek nominations for the Governor General's Medal for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. Also, the following resolution was unanimously passed by all ten provinces and two territorial representatives:

"Whereas the provincial and territorial historical societies and associations of Canada consider the teaching and understanding of history vital to Canadian society. Be it resolved, therefore, that we, the undersigned, call on the provincial and territorial governments of Canada to recognize the value of history in education, and to develop and implement dedicated history courses in their curriculum requirements for both public and private schools."

Both the Premier of BC and the Minister of Education were informed of this resolution. Fortunately, the teaching of history (or social studies) in British Columbia has recently undergone a major revision and the new curriculum was implemented in all grades as of September 1999. The Ministry of Education has also begun implementation of the recommendations of a recent Social Studies Task Force.

The British Columbia Historical Federation presently has 29 member societies representing almost 3,800 individual members. This is an impressive number but each one of us should try to convince those organizations that do not presently belong to join our historic fold. The greater the number, the greater our impact with the decision makers.

The British Columbia Historical Federation has not yet developed a unique logo—any suggestions?

We are grateful to our hosts from the Alberni District Historical Society and, particularly, Meg Scoffield and all her committee workers. I know these people have spent many hours planning appropriate venues to educate us about the history and sites located in the beautiful Alberni Valley. We thank and applaud them all for this conference.

It has been an honour as well as a wonderful and rewarding experience to have served the Federation over the past three years. Although we have grown into a respectable organization, we should never forget our developing pioneers. Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, who died in 1999, left the country a massive legacy of scholarly publications as well as this inspiring statement: *"Any country worthy of a future should be interested in its past."*

R.J. (Ron) Welwood, President

Above: *Simo Nurme, president of Alberni District Historical Society, presenting his society's report at the AGM. Seated to his left are from left to right: Ron Welwood, Arnold Ranneris, Betty Brown, and Ron Greene.*

Federation News

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1999/2000

Port Alberni 5 May 2000.
President Ron Welwood called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and welcomed delegates and guests. Present were 55 registered delegates representing 18 societies. Regrets received from Alice Glanville, Margaret Stoneberg, and Jack Roff.

Minutes of 1999 AGM in Merritt – moved by Terry Simpson and seconded by Shirley Cuthbertson for acceptance. Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Ron Greene
— Financial Statement was circulated. Highlights: Year ended with a very substantial surplus due mainly to GST refunds, postal subsidy reinstalled, extra income accrued from the consolidation of the BCHN accounts with the Federation's administration accounts.
— The Executive approved the establishment of an Endowment Fund. The proposal is to build up a fund that will produce revenue that can be used to increase our support for BC history.
— KPMG Chartered Accountants once again provided their services without charge. Moved by Myrtle Haslam and seconded by Shirley Cuthbertson that the secretary write a letter of thanks to them. Carried.
We thank Ron Greene for his excellent service as Treasurer.

Committee Reports
News Publishing
Tony Farr – encourage more sales of *BC Historical News.* Fred Braches – welcomes ideas and suggestions for the *News* and especially would like to see more stories about women and minorities submitted.

Historical Writing Competition – Shirley Cuthbertson
Forty-two books were submitted, two returned (one with a copyright date of 2000 and one was a book of poetry). Last year's book sale brought in over $1,000.
Shirley displayed the new medal (gold wreath surrounding silk screened logo mounted on a small black marble slab). A number of medals were ordered for the future. Other costs associated with the competition included: cash awards, banquet dinner for winners/guests, framed certificates and mail-out costs. Shirley thanked the three judges and in particular Peter Beckley, who is stepping down and will need to be replaced.

Scholarship Committee – Fran Gundry
This year, letters were sent to a number of professors of BC history. The deadline for entry is May 15. To date five have been received. The scholarship is for $500.


Detail of McLean Mill: Drawing by Karen Poirier

Historical Trails & Markers – John Spittle
Anderson Brigade Trail – Charles Hou has been advised by Culture Minister Ian Waddell that the application for designating this as a "historic trail" is now going "through the process."
Trans Canada Trail – not actively promoting it because, for the most part, it is a twentieth-century trail created for recreational use.

Membership – Terry Simpson
Reported 1999 membership: 12 affiliates, 31 members; 2000 membership: 9 affiliates, 30 members.
Dues for member Societies and Affiliated Groups: Moved by Ron Greene and seconded by Terry Simpson "that the dues for member societies and affiliated groups be 1^{00} per member of a member society or affiliated group with a minimum contribution of $25 and a maximum of $75 per member society or affiliated group." Carried.

Canada's National History Society
Two delegates (Ron Welwood and Ron Greene) attended the first annual conference of provincial historical societies in February 2000. A resolution was unanimously passed to call on all provincial and territorial governments to recognize the value of history in Canada and to develop and implement history courses in their curriculum requirements for both public and private schools. Ron Welwood has written the BC Premier and our Minister of Education.

President's Report – Ron Welwood
As outgoing president, Ron Welwood expressed his gratitude to all who assisted him over the past three years. Our new Web address is: www.bchf.bc.ca. Also reminded members that we have not yet developed a unique logo for the Federation. Extended special thanks to the Alberni District Historical Society for hosting this Conference.

BC History Web site Prize – Fran Gundry
This year's winner was the Prince George Oral History Group. Treasurer requested to forward cheque ($250) to the recipients.

Member Committee Reports:
Alberni District Historical Society – this year's Conference hosts. One of this year's highlights will be the opening of the McLean Mill.
Arrow Lakes Historical Society – now have a permanent downtown office and are busy bringing archive items, publications etc. to the new premises.
Gulf Islands Branch BCHF – serving the islands of Pender, Mayne, Saturna and Galiano. Lectures were held throughout the year among the different islands.
Burnaby Historical Society – various speakers throughout the year as well as a Christmas dinner. Their quarterly newsletter keeps their 97 members up to date.
Chemainus Valley Historical Society – forty members to date with daytime luncheon meetings. Quilters will be holding a raffle to raise money.
Cowichan Historical Society – celebrated 25 years of service to the Cowichan Valley in July 1999. An active society with its area of service and responsibility taking in a museum, archives, maintaining a heritage building with speakers at monthly meetings. House Tour planned on Mother's Day.
East Kootenay Historical Association – Association supplies maps for the historic trails at the Wildhorse and Fisherville area. Has offered support to the Wasa Historical Society for publication of their book.

Kamloops – museum attendance was up by almost 5.5% and archives by 70% over 1998. Garden and house tours are planned. A major expansion of their museum is underway.
Koksilah School Historical Society –school is now a designated heritage site. Tom Henry was chosen to write the history of Duncan.
London Heritage Farm (Richmond) - has been successful in adding to or improving buildings at the farm. Millennium project is a restoration of the old London Farm pond.
Nanaimo Historical Society – Society received a certificate of recognition for dedicated service to the citizens of Nanaimo. Pamela Mar was named Citizen of the Year. The Society lobbied successfully to keep Pioneer Cemetery.
Nelson Museum – new name "Nelson Museum, Art Gallery, Archives and Historical Society." The first five of eight historical interpretive panels along Nelson's Centennial Pathway have been installed.
North Shore Historical Society – has enjoyed well-attended monthly meetings. Have undertaken community and school heritage walks and given several slide and talk presentations.
District 69 Historical Society Parksville - fundraising projects in 1999 included annual bridge luncheon, a raffle, and garage and flea market sales. Millennium project was the publication of Marjory Leffler's *Parksville and Then Some*.
Richmond Museum Society – a new society that has spent the last year learning how to function in its new role. This year will be spent preparing and organizing next year's BCHF Conference.
Salt Spring Island Historical Society – under direction of a new president, attendance and membership has increased. Historical map of Salt Spring Island will be available this summer.
Silvery Slocan Historical Society – restoration of the museum building has allowed for more space for exhibits. Award received from BC Heritage for this restoration.
Surrey Historical Society – sponsors an annual essay contest. Will be actively engaged in reminding the decision makers of the importance of Surrey's history in the planning of the new Surrey Museum.
Vancouver Historical Society – sponsored a regular speakers' series, and assistance was provided to individuals publishing original historical research.
Victoria Historical Society – has had a satisfactory year with excellent speakers at monthly meetings. Members enjoyed several day trips in 1999.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS/COUNCIL

Melva Dwyer standing in for *Alice Glanville*, chair of Nominating Committee.

President	*Wayne Desrochers*
1st Vice President	*Roy Pallant*
2nd Vice President	*Melva Dwyer*
Members at large	*Jacqueline Gresko*
Member at large	*Ron Hyde*

Other officers: Treasurer (*Ron Greene*), Corresponding Secretary (*Arnold Ranneris*), Recording Secretary (*Betty Brown*) remain unchanged.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. J. Mar reminded us of the importance of May 13 when Captain Meares's ship *Nootka* landed on our shores, 215 years ago. His crew included 50 Chinese. He was pleased that delegate name tags were in larger print this year and suggested that a printed list of delegates and locations would be helpful for future conferences .

Our new president, Wayne Desrochers thanked our outgoing president, Ron Welwood, for his three years of outstanding service. Thanks once again were expressed to the *Alberni District Historical Society* for hosting this conference. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

BETTY BROWN, Recording Secretary

LOOKING FOR A NEW JUDGE

I would like to thank all past judges, in particular Peter Beckley, our most recent "retiree."

The Writing Competition needs a new judge. If you are willing to devote part of your year to reading newly published books on British Columbia history please contact Shirley Cuthbertson. It is a great advantage to be familiar with BC history, and useful to have written and published articles or books. It is a rewarding volunteer job, one for people with a real mind for history.

Contact: Shirley Cuthbertson, #306-255 Belleville Street, Victoria BC V8V 4T9 (250) 382-0288

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION
2000 - 2001 SCHOLARSHIP
Applications should be submitted before 15 May 2001

The British Columbia Historical Federation annually awards a $500 scholarship to a student completing third or fourth year at a British Columbia college or university.
To apply for the scholarship, candidates must submit:

1. *A letter of application.*
2. *An essay of 1500-3000 words on a topic relating to the history of British Columbia. The essay must be suitable for publication in* British Columbia Historical News.
3. *A professor's letter of recommendation.*

Send submissions before to 15 May 2001 to:
Scholarship Committee,
British Columbia Historical Federation
PO Box 5254, Station B.
Victoria BC V8R 1N4

The winning essay will, and other selected submissions *may*, be published in *British Columbia Historical News*.

BC History Web Site Prize

The British Columbia Historical Federation and David Mattison are jointly sponsoring a yearly cash award of $250 to recognize Web sites, longer than one page, that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past.

Judgement will be based on historical content, layout, design, and ease of use. The award honors individual initiative in writing and presentation.

Nominations for the BC History Web Site Prize for 2000 must be made to the British Columbia Federation, Web Site Prize Committee, prior to 31 December 2000. Web site creators and authors may nominate their own sites.

Prize rules and the online nomitation form can be found on The British Columbia History Website: http://www.victoria.tc.ca/resources/bchistory-announcements.htlm.

A Certificate of Merit and fifty dollars will be awarded annually to the author of the article, published in *BC Historical News*, that best enhances knowledge of British Columbia's history and provides reading enjoyment. Judging will be based on subject development, writing skill, freshness of material, and appeal to a general readership interested in all aspects of BC History.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION should be sent to the Editor, *BC Historical News*, PO Box 130, Whonnock BC V2W 1V9. Submission by e-mail of text and illustrations is welcome. Otherwise please send a hard copy and if possible a disk copy of the manuscript by ordinary mail. Illustrations should be accompanied by captions and source information. Submissions should not be more than 3,500 words. Authors publishing for the first time in the *British Columbia Historical News* will receive a one-year complimentary subscription to the journal.

Index Volume 32

From 32:1 (winter 1998-1999) to 31:4 (fall 1999)

by Melva Dwyer, Librarian Emerita

The general index is arranged in three sections for authors, titles, and subjects. Book reviews appear after the general index. There are just four articles in this volume without illustrations. These are identified with an asterisk. Illustrations having appeared on covers are listed under the subject ILLUSTRATIONS, COVER. No attempts have been made to identify the numerous other illustrations. The information included in each entry is as follows: 32:4 (1999): 15-16.* This may be interpreted as meaning voulume 32, issue number 4, year 1999, pages 15 and 16, an article without illustrations.

AUTHORS

TITLES

SUBJECTS

BOOK REVIEWS

British Columbia Historical Federation

ORGANIZED 31 OCTOBER 1922

MEMBER SOCIETIES

Alberni District Historical Society
PO Box 284, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M7
Anderson Lake Historical Society
PO Box 40, D'Arcy BC V0N 1L0
Arrow Lakes Historical Society
PO Box 819, Nakusp BC V0G 1R0
Atlin Historical Society
PO Box 111, Atlin BC V0W lA0
Boundary Historical Society
PO Box 1687, Grand Forks BC V0H 1H0
Bowen Island Historians
PO Box 97. Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0
Burnaby Historical Society
6501 Deer Lake Avenue,
Burnaby BC V5G 3T6
Chemainus Valley Historical Society
PO Box 172, Chemainus BC V0R 1K0
Cowichan Historical Society
PO Box 1014, Duncan BC V9L 3Y2
District 69 Historical Society
PO Box 1452, Parksville BC V9P 2H4
East Kootenay Historical Association
PO Box 74, Cranbrook BC V1C 4H6
Gulf Islands Branch BCHF
c/o A. Loveridge S22, C11, RR # 1
Galiano Island BC V0N 1P0
Hedley Heritage Society
PO Box 218, Hedley BC V0X 1K0
Kamloops Museum Association
207 Seymour Street
Kamloops BC V2C 2E7
Koksilah School Historical Society
5213 Trans Canada Highway,
Koksilah, BC V0R 2C0
Kootenay Lake Historical Society
PO Box 1262, Kaslo BC V0G 1M0
Lantzville Historical Society
c/o Box 274, Lantzville BC V0R 2H0
London Heritage Farm Society
6511 Dyke Road, Richmond BC V7E 3R3
Nanaimo & District Museum Society
100 Cameron Road
Nanaimo BC V9R 2X1
Nanaimo Historical Society
PO Box 933, Nanaimo BC V9R 5N2
Nelson Museum
402 Anderson Street, Nelson BC V1L 3Y3
Nicola Valley Museum Archives Association
PO Box 1262, Merritt BC V1K 1B8
North Shore Historical Society
c/o 1541 Merlynn Crescent,
North Vancouver BC V7J 2X9
North Shuswap Historical Society
Box 317, Celista BC V0E 1L0
Okanagan Historical Society
PO Box 313, Vernon BC V1T 6M3
Princeton & District Museum & Archives
Box 687, Princeton BC V0X 1W0
Qualicum Beach Historical Society
587 Beach Road
Qualicum Beach BC V9K 1K7
Richmond Museum Society
Minoru Park Plaza, 7700 Minoru Gate,
Richmond BC V6Y 7M7
Salt Spring Island Historical Society
129 McPhillips Avenue
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2T6
Sidney & North Saanich Historical Soc.
10840 Ardmore Drive
North Saanich BC V8L 3S1
Silvery Slocan Historical Society
Box 301, New Denver BC V0G 1S0
Surrey Historical Society
Box 34003 17790 #10 Hwy.
Surrey BC V3S 8C4
Terrace Regional Historical Society
PO Box 246, Terrace BC V8G 4A6
Texada Island Heritage Society
Box 122, Van Anda BC V0N 3K0
Trail Historical Society
PO Box 405, Trail BC V1R 4L7
Vancouver Historical Society
PO Box 3071, Vancouver BC V6B 3X6
Victoria Historical Society
PO Box 43035, Victoria North
Victoria BC V8X 3G2
Yellowhead Museum
Box 1778, RR# 1
Clearwater BC V0E 1N0

AFFILIATED GROUPS

Union of Indian Chiefs

The British Columbia Historical Federation is an umbrella organization embracing regional societies.

Local historical societies are entitled to become Member Societies of the BC Historical Federation. All members of these local historical societies shall by that very fact be members of the Federation.

Affiliated Groups are organizations with specialized interests or objects of a historical nature.

Membership fees for both classes of membership are one dollar per member of a Member Society or Affiliated Group with a minimum membership fee of $25 and a maximum of $75.

Questions about membership should be directed to:
Terry Simpson,
Membership Secretary,
BC Historical Federation,
193 Bird Sanctuary,
Nanaimo BC V9R 6G8

Please write to the Editor, *BC Historical News* for any changes to be made to this list.

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BC HISTORICAL NEWS

welcomes manuscripts dealing with the history of British Columbia and British Columbians. Please send stories or essays on any aspect of the rich past of our province to:

The Editor, BC Historical News
Fred Braches, PO Box 130
Whonnock BC V2W 1V9
Phone: (604) 462-8942
E-mail: braches@netcom.ca

Send books for review and book reviews directly to the Book Review Editor, Anne Yandle
3450 West 20th Avenue
Vancouver BC V6S 1E4
Phone: (604) 733-6484
E-mail:
yandle@interchange.ubc.ca

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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION INVITES SUBMISSIONS OF BOOKS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL COMPETITION FOR WRITERS OF BC HISTORY.

Any book presenting any facet of BC history, published in 2000, is eligible. This may be a community history, biography, record of a project or an organization, or personal recollections giving a glimpse of the past. Names, dates and places, with relevant maps or pictures, turn a story into "history." Note that reprints or revisions of books are not eligible.

The judges are looking for quality presentations, especially if fresh material is included, with appropriate illustrations, careful proofreading, an adequate index, table of contents and bibliography, from first-time writers as well as established authors.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing will be awarded to an individual writer whose book contributes significantly to the recorded history of British Columbia. Other awards will be made as recommended by the judges to valuable books prepared by groups or individuals.

Winners will receive a Certificate of Merit, a monetary award and an invitation to the BCHF annual conference to be held in Richmond in May 2001.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: All books must have been published in 2000 and should be submitted as soon as possible after publication. Two copies of each book should be submitted. Books entered become property of the BC Historical Federation. Please state name, address and telephone number of sender, the selling price of all editions of the book, and, if the reader has to shop by mail, the address from which it may be purchased, including applicable shipping and handling costs.

SEND TO: BC Historical Federation Writing Competition
c/o Shirley Cuthbertson
#306-225 Belleville Street Victoria BC V8V 4T9

DEADLINE: 31 December 2000