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Courtesy Ronald Greene

ON 18 DECEMBER 1919 Colonel E.G Prior became eleventh Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. He died a year later after undergoing a major operation. In his regular contribution, "Token History," Ronald Greene describes E.G. Prior's career, his company E.G. Prior Ld. Ly., and the tokens the company issued.

Canneries and charcoal

Port Essington

Esquimalt's gigantic dock

Teaching in the Peace

Rose of Arrow Lakes

Vancouver in bronze alloy

Archivist W. Kaye Lamb

This issue contains a copy of the constitution, bylaws, and regulations of the British Columbia Historical Federation.

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

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We thank Selkirk College at Castlegar for generously continuing to host our Web site, launched by Ron Welwood some years ago. Recently the BCHF site changed its appearance. Thanks to the skills of Barbara Littlejohn of Cedarplace, Galiano Island, we have now again a well-designed presentation of the Federation's objectives and our activities.

More information is now available. For instance information about the BCHF conference and the registration information are available on our Web site. Some pages may remain unchanged for a longer time, but others show information that will be updated at least every three months: news items, and information about the winners of awards. Also the content of the most recent issue of *BC Historical News* will be shown.

This is a new beginning and we are still working on further development of the site. There are of course opportunities for improvement. Perhaps you have some ideas that may help us to promote BC history through our Web site. Please visit www.bchf.bc.ca. If you are happy with the site: tell others and spread the news. If you are not happy, or you have ideas or suggestions: let us know.—*the editor*

PS We have a Web master but would welcome an editor or a caretaker for the content of the Web site. Let me know if you are interested: braches@netcom.ca

Japanese Charcoal Pit Kilns on the Gulf Islands

An untold story of early BC and Japanese-Canadian history

by Stephen Nemtin

Stephen Nemtin is an educator, sculptor, and musician, with a passionate interest in the archaeology of Galiano Island.

OVERLOOKING Georgeson Bay on Active Pass on Galiano Island stand five large tear-shaped rock-walled structures. These Japanese charcoal pit kilns are a testimony in stone to the Japanese settlers that came to British Columbia in the 1890s. There are also known charcoal pit kilns on Mayne, Pender, and Salt Spring islands.

The existence of charcoal goes back to the dawn of time. Wherever there was fire, charcoal would have been produced as its by-product.[1] Prehistoric finds, dating back to 21,000 BC, have revealed fingerprints and small figures of hardened clay in a small pit-like structure.[2] About 15,000 years later, in different places around the world, people made a more conscious effort to use an earth pit as a kiln for the making of ceramics and charcoal.[3]

The key to making charcoal is carbonizing smouldering wood in an oxygen-limited environment without flame. Don't try this at home, but if you filled your oven with wood, turned the dial to 300 degrees and left it for a number of hours, eventually you would have an oven full of charcoal (and a house full of toxic smoke).

Once charcoal is made, it can be used as a source of intense heat. Charcoal burns at temperatures from 400 to 700 degrees or more, depending on the kind of wood used and how the pit kiln or furnace was built.[4]

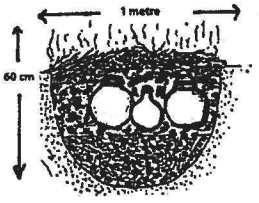
By about 3,000 BC it was realized that the high heat given off by burning charcoal could be used for melting copper, making bronze alloy, and, about 2,000 years later, for the evolutionary step of making steel.[5]

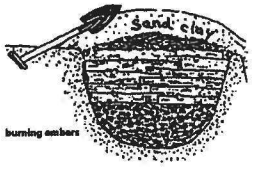
There has been a charcoal-making industry in Japan for thousands of years and it is this technology that has made the Japanese renowned worldwide for their ceramic and sword-making arts. The first Japanese settlers brought this technology with them to British Columbia.

Stories of good fortune that explorers and settlers sent back to Japan about their adventures in North America lured new settlers to Canada. The first documented immigration from Japan to Canada was in the late 1870s. Jobs available to the Japanese at this time were limited. Some immigrants came as fishermen and farmers but most found themselves involved in the logging industry as wood cutters and fallers. In the Galiano cemetery a gravestone states in Japanese that Yasomatsu Oka left Takui village in the Wakayama prefecture in 1897 at age 17 and died two years later pinned under a tree in a Galiano logging accident.[6] The Wakayama prefecture is well known for its charcoal production; many of the settlers that came to British Columbia, and particularly to Steveston and the Gulf Islands, were from that area.

To make a large charcoal pit, nothing is needed but a shovel and an axe. Two men can build an efficient pit in about a week. The pit is usually dug into a slope so the earth can be used to insulate the carbonizing wood.[7] The average size of a charcoal pit on Galiano Island is about 16 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 5 ½ feet deep. The pit is lined with a rock wall to absorb and radiate more heat; like a furnace. At the back, the wide end of the tear-shaped pit, is a small fireplace with a chimney. At about three feet on either side of this central chimney and halfway up the rock wall are two air holes that extend upward into flues allowing for more efficient adjustment of the heat. Opposite the chimney, at the front, the circular shape narrows to a three-foot passageway for loading the kiln.

To prepare the pit for firing about six large logs, the length of the pit, are laid parallel to one another and spaced so the air is drawn between them and toward the fireplace and the chimney and flues at the back. Across this log-base is placed a base of smaller, six to eight-inch diameter, logs. Onto this base or "crib" the pit is now packed with about two or three cords of logs of relatively the same diameter, stacked vertically side-by-side to fill the pit. Once filled, the pit is first covered with an approximately 20-centimetre-thick layer of branches and leaves and a final layer of soil or sand clay firmly patted down, sealing the wood into a large dome-shaped kiln.





[1] Johan Goudsblom, *Fire and Civilization* (New York: Penguin Press, 1992).

[2] Tom Prideaux, *Cro-Magnon Man.* (New York: Time Life Books, 1975).

[3] Daniel Rhodes, *Kilns: Design, Construction and Operation.* (Philadelphia: Chilton Book Co. 1968).

[4] *Fuel Wood and Charcoal Preparation* (International Labour Office, Geneva, 1985).

[5] *The Emergence of Iron Smelting and Blacksmithing :900 B.C. to Early Roman Empire* http://myron.sjsu.edu/romeweb/glossary/timein/t10.htm

[6] Mary Ohara interview, 1999, Stephen Nemtin.

[7] Walter Emrich, *Handbook of Charcoal Making* (New York: Kluwer Academic Publishing, 1985).

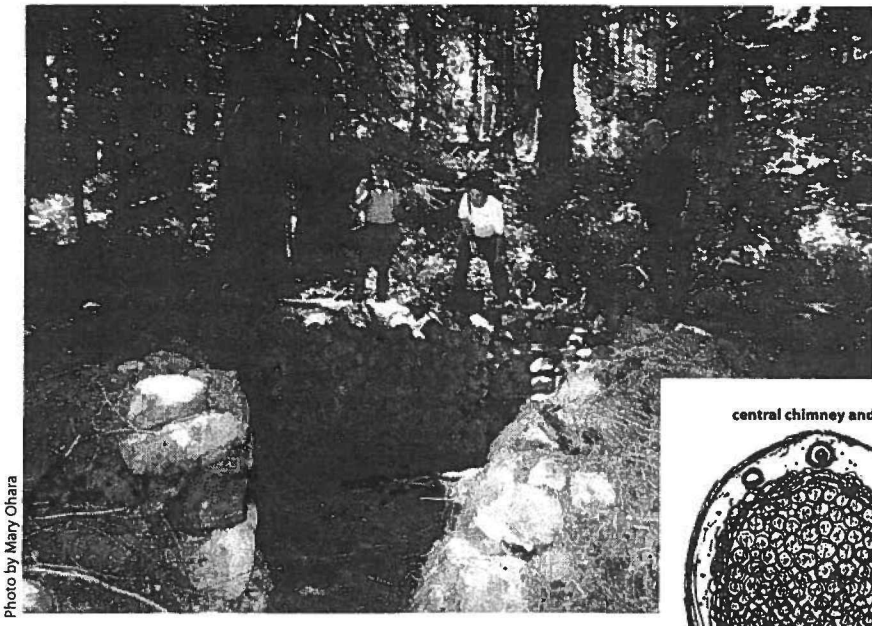
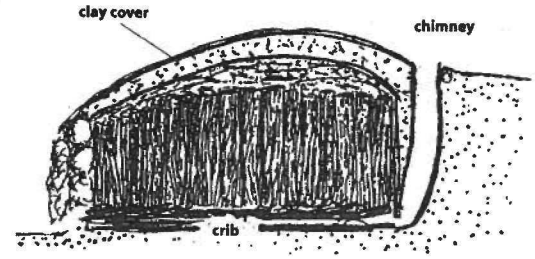
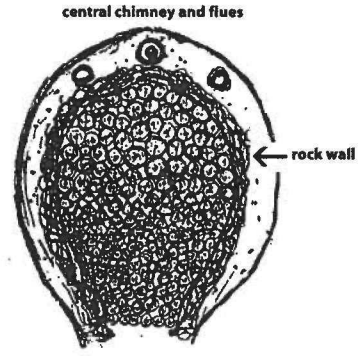


Photo by Mary Ohara





Left: *Photo showing Jim Tanaka, Sam Hirano, and Stephen Nemtin at the restored charcoal pit kiln on Galiano Island.*

Left and above: *Sketches of a charcoal pit kiln shown from the top and from the side.*

The fire is started at the narrow front end using easily flammable material, twigs and small branches, until there is a strong fire. Once the fire is well established, and smoke starts pouring out of the chimneys, the front end is sealed, save for a small air-intake hole, and the wood begins to smoulder. The smouldering process takes three to five days; the changing colours of smoke indicate the different stages of carbonization. Controlling the air and circulation of the gases is tricky. Too much air can cause the wood to burn or to be totally consumed. If the temperature gets too high, certain kinds of charcoal can break or crumble rendering it less useful as a fuel. A smouldering charcoal pit cannot be left alone. A large tub near the pit is kept filled with water in case it is necessary to cool down the smouldering process. When the smoke becomes a translucent purple it is time to end the smouldering by covering the flues and cutting off all the oxygen. The pit then needs to cool down before the kiln is opened to reveal about half a ton to a ton of charcoal. Alder was the main wood used for making charcoal in British Columbia.

The Japanese produced charcoal in British Columbia as a fuel for the salmon-canning industry and also for use in Gulf Islands' explosives industry. Farmlands were cleared using dynamite to blow up stumps and rocks. The gunpowder used in making dynamite is 15 percent charcoal.[8] Charcoal was also used as a fuel for soap making. Isaburo Tasaka had two charcoal pits just outside Ganges on Salt Spring Island. His son Ty remembers being ten years old in 1923 when he helped his father load 200 bags of charcoal onto their fishing boat. They took it to a soap factory in Victoria where they were paid 30 cents a bag. Ty's sister Omy (Angela), remembers being eight years old in 1918 and sewing the "ears" (corners) of rice sacks filled with newly made charcoal.[9]

There are as many as four known charcoal pit sites on Mayne Island, five on Galiano, two on Salt Spring, and at least two on Pender. Charcoal pits apparently existed on Saturna Island and Prevost island as well. I recently visited a charcoal pit on Mayne Island that was 7 feet high by 18 feet wide by 20 feet long. For the Skeena canneries, there were charcoal pits located at Port Essington and Port Edward.[10] Most people probably wouldn't recognize the remains of a charcoal pit, and it is likely there are others dotted around the islands and on the mainland. People have mistaken abandoned pits for Native pit houses, Scottish cairns, and garbage pits.

I've already restored one charcoal pit on private land on Galiano Island and I am in the process of restoring another one on the island, located in a public park. If you think you might know of a charcoal-pit site not mentioned here, please let me know by e-mail to jems@axion.net or write me at 2646 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2L6.

8 Peter Tooley, *Fuels, Explosives and Dyestuffs* (London: William Clowes and Sons, 1971).

9 Ty Tasaka, interview 1993, Angela Tasaka, interview 2000, Stephen Nemtin.

10 Gladys Young Blyth, *Salmon Canneries B.C. North Coast* (Lantzville: Oolichan Books, 1991).

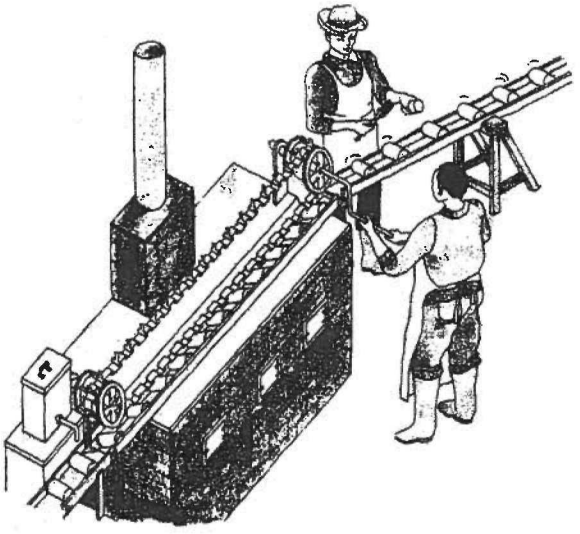
Acknowledgements: Mitsuo Yesaki, Mary Ohara, Angela Tasaka, Ty Tasaka, Bob and Joy Riddle, Eli Nemtin, Martha Miller, and Penny Street.

Charcoal Production for the Salmon Canning Industry in British Columbia

by Mitsuo Yesaki

Mitsuo Yesaki is a retired Fisheries biologist interested in Japanese Canadian history. Mr. Yesaki's recent books, *Steveston Cannery Row* (together with Harold and Kathy Stevens) and *Salmon Canning of the Fraser River in the 1890s* (together with Sakuya Nishimura), were reviewed by Arnold Ranneris in *BC Historical News*, 34/1.

The first salmon canneries on the Fraser River were built at Annieville and Sapperton in 1870. The early canneries were basically large wooden buildings constructed on pilings along the riverbank and with few machines. By the late 1880s, salmon canning had evolved into a manually operated, mass-production process manned by large numbers of Chinese men and Native women. A steam engine provided steam for cooking the cans and cleaning, as well as providing power for the fish elevator. Four-foot lengths of wood were burned in the steam engine. Chinese men powered the gang knife, crimping and soldering machines. Charcoal was used for fuel in the soldering machine to seal the bottoms and tops onto the cans (Fig. 1). Charcoal was also used in portable furnaces (Fig. 2) to heat the irons for soldering the sides of the cans and stopping the vents in the can tops.



Centre: *Figure 1. Soldering machine. Drawing by Duke Yesaki.*

Virgin forests blanketed the west coast of North America, providing abundant supplies of firewood for the salmon canning industry. Cannery managers contracted woodcutters to supply them with firewood. Henry Doyle[1] estimates from 10 to 15 cords of wood were required to make 1,000 cases of canned salmon. Woodcutters on the Skeena River in 1895 were paid $3 for each cord of wood.[2] Charcoal was probably imported during the initial years, but in the early 1890s, Japanese started making charcoal at various locations on the British Columbia coast. Doyle states 150 bushels of charcoal were needed for every 1,000 cases. He also quotes the price of charcoal ranging from 12 cents per pound in 1901 to 7 cents per pound in 1906. This compares with the price per pound for potatoes of 1.2 cents and rice of 4.8 cents. Fraser River canneries commonly packed 25,000 cases of canned salmon during the dominant sockeye-cycle year. A cannery's operating outlays during a dominant-cycle run would have been between $750 to $1,125 for cordwood and $5,250 to $9,000 for charcoal, assuming each bushel of charcoal weighed 20 pounds.

By 1888, there were 150 Japanese fishermen primarily on the Fraser River.[3] There were few employment opportunities for Japanese at the turn of the twentieth century other than fishing, so there was considerable incentive to make work for themselves. Most of the Japanese were from Wakayama and familiar with making charcoal, as this was an important industry in this prefecture. As the salmon fishing season extended only through July and August, Japanese started cutting wood and making charcoal during the off-season on the outer Gulf Islands. The 1891 Canada Census shows there were only 11 Japanese in the Gulf Islands. They were living on Saturna Island and involved in the coal-mining project on Tumbo Island. On the other hand, the 1901 census reports a total of 311 Japanese in this area, comprised of 306 men, 4 women and 1 child. The Japanese population of Steveston at this time was 396 men, 46 women and 23 children under 16 years of age. The high proportion of males on the Gulf Islands suggests a population of transient workers. The highest concentration of Japanese was on Mayne (includ-

[1] Henry Doyle, notebooks. University of British Columbia Library, Special Collections.
[2] S. Nishimura and M. Yesaki, *Nikkei Images*, vol. 4, no. 1, 1999.
[3] T. Gonami, *Canada and the Japanese* (Asian Library, University of British Columbia, 1999).
[4] M. Elliot, *Mayne Island and the Outer Gulf Islands: A History* (Gulf Islands Press, Mayne Island, BC 1991).
[5] Walter Wicks, *Memories of the Skeena* (Saanichton, BC : Hancock House, 1976).
[6] Nishimura, Sakuya, and Mitsuo Yesaki, "Sannosuke Ennyu's Diary," *Nikkei Images*, vol. 4, no. 1, 1999.
[7] Larry Maekawa, personal communication.

ing Saturna), followed by Pender (including Prevost) and Salt Spring islands.

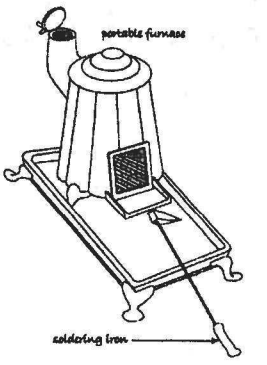
The highest concentration of charcoal kilns has been found on the outer Gulf Islands,[4] but they have also been reported from other locations on the British Columbia coast. Wicks[5] and Ennyu[6] wrote of charcoal kilns operated by Japanese in the Skeena River delta. Charcoal Bay in inner Rivers Inlet is apparently named after its charcoal-making operations. Japanese, having difficulty pronouncing charcoal, refer to this location as Sumi-yaki (charcoal-burning) Bay.[7] Charcoal kilns have apparently also been found on Bowen Island, but this has not been confirmed.

An immigration officer visited Mayne and Saturna Islands in 1901 to investigate the prevalence of illegal immigrants.[8] He found three camps of Japanese cutting cordwood on Mayne Island for Fraser River salmon canneries. M. Furukawa owned 150 acres and operated the largest camp of 55 woodcutters. He supplied cordwood to Victoria Canning Company canneries and had the use of their boats. Sam Matsunaga owned land to the west of Furukawa and employed 24 woodcutters. S. Suzuki had his camp of 10 woodcutters on Worge's ranch. The immigration officer ascertained their store-bought supplies consisted of rice, flour, and a few groceries. They essentially lived off the plentiful resources of the island, including fish, waterfowl, and deer. Furukawa, Matsunaga, and Suzuki were probably fishing bosses with contacts to cannery managers and the woodcutters most probably fished for them. No mention is made in this report of charcoal making, perhaps overlooked by the immigration officer unfamiliar with this trade.

These Japanese entrepreneurs probably negotiated amount and price for charcoal and cordwood with cannery managers. It's not known how the landless entrepreneur compensated the landowner for his trees. Did he pay a certain amount for each cord of wood or did he agree to clear a plot of land in exchange for the logs? Fishermen and boat pullers were most likely recruited to cut down trees for cordwood to fuel the steam engines and wood for the charcoal furnaces.

Sannosuke Ennyu's diary of his activities in the Skeena River area during 1894–1895 describes his venture with three colleagues into cutting trees for charcoal. In August 1895, they contracted with a charcoal furnace operator to supply 100 cords of wood. They started cutting wood on 29 August and continued to 2 October. During this 35-day period, they worked only 19 days with many days lost because of heavy rains. They laboured for three days loading the cut wood onto a scow and then moved the scow to the site of the charcoal furnace. They resumed logging on 11 October and worked for 16 days until 17 November. They cut 52 cords of wood in 35 days for which they earned $156. Their expenses included $95.35 for food and $69.35 for personal effects for a total of $164.70. The $8.70 shortfall was covered by sale of excess food and the assistance of acquaintances. The four men were engaged for 81 days in the wood cutting venture. Their daily food expense was $1.18 for the group and $0.29 for each person. They augmented their food supply by harvesting shellfish and seaweeds, fishing and hunting waterfowl and game. Ennyu records memorable meals of blue heron eaten with freshly made udon on one occasion and duck eaten with Chinese wine purchased for $1.00 on another occasion.

Charcoal making on the British Columbia coast was an important industry for the Japanese at the turn of the century. This industry flourished for approximately 15 years from the early 1890s to about 1908, when the canneries switched to coal instead of cordwood and charcoal. For the entrepreneurs, charcoal making afforded them an excellent opportunity to accumulate wealth, requiring virtually no capital outlays for material to build the kilns and only labour to dig the pits and to fashion local rocks and clay into kilns. For the loggers, charcoal making gave them employment during the off-fishing season and the possibility of earning a little extra cash. The charcoal industry in the outer Gulf Islands was also important in affording the Japanese an opportunity to observe the bountiful natural resources of the Gulf Islands. In the early Twentieth century, they started a two-boat seine fishery for herring, which was salted for export to Japan and China. With the mechanization of fishing boats in the 1910s, the Japanese developed the live-bait ling-cod fishery in the Gulf of Georgia. They also participated in the fledgling troll fishery in the Gulf of Georgia for springs, cohos, and bluebacks that developed in the late 1910s. They harvested nori (*Porphya sp.*) from the intertidal zone of the Gulf Islands initially for their own use and later for sale in the Japanese communities of British Columbia.



Above: *Figure 2, charcoal furnace. Drawing by Duke Yesaki.*

[8] *British Columbia. Report of Immigration Office,* (BC Sessional Papers, 1902).

The Chinese Canners in Port Essington

by Lily Chow

Lily Chow retired from high-school teaching in 1993 and from lecturing Mandarin at the University of Northern British Columbia in 1998. She is a researcher and a published author. Her books on the history of the Chinese in northern British Columbia include *Sojourners in the North*, which won her the Jeanne Clarke Memorial Local History Award in Prince George in 1997, and *Chasing Their Dream*, published last year. She has also found recognition for her poetry in Canada and the United States.

Port Essington is a ghost town located on a rugged peninsula west of Ecstall River, about 30 kilometres away from the mouth of the Skeena River. In 1883, Robert Cunningham, the founder of the village, established the first fish cannery. Subsequently other merchants went there to set up different kinds of businesses. During its heyday Port Essington had a bank, two hotels with bars and saloons, restaurants, meat and butcher shops, several general stores, a drug store, a dress shop, and a laundry shop, an employment office, and a medical clinic where a doctor and a dentist practiced their professions in the community. There were three newspapers, *The Port Essington Loyalist, The Port Essington Star* and *The Port Essington Sun*. However, it was a small village with narrow streets of wooden boardwalks, and 30 or more buildings that included two churches, two schools and a community hall. The chief industries consisted of sawmills and fish canneries. During the fishing season this village boasted a population of approximately 2,000 people, but only about 500 were year-round residents.[1]

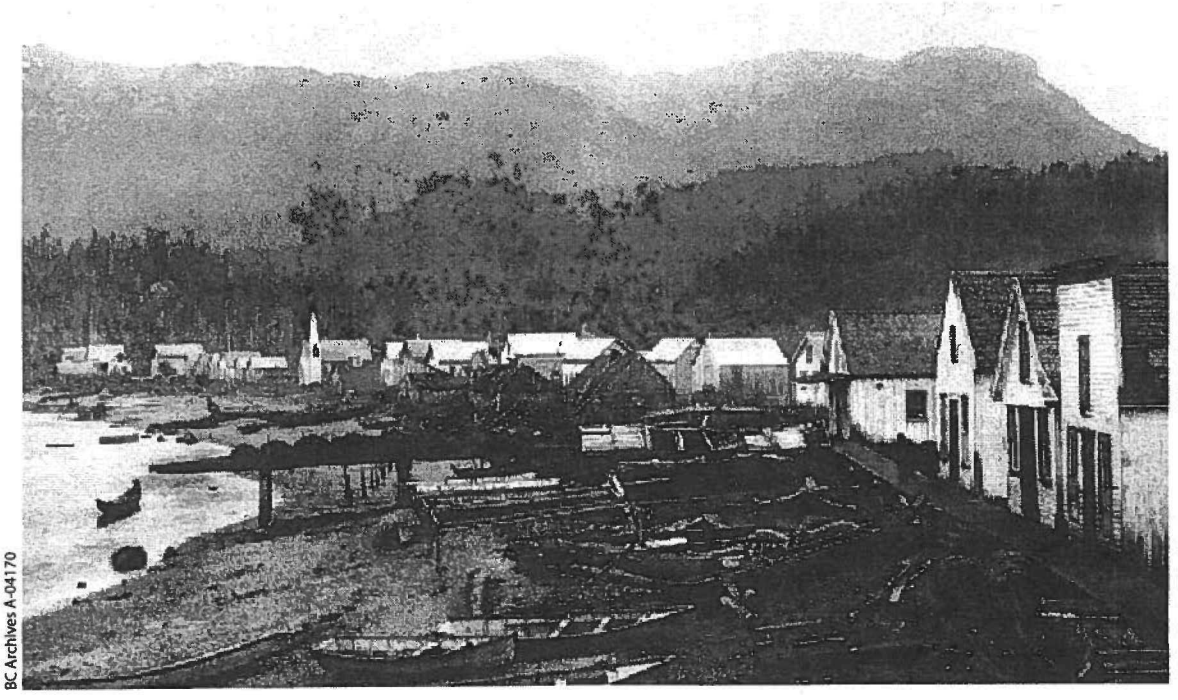
The Roles of the Chinese Workers

The Chinese workers formed the major labour-force in the fish canneries although each cannery also employed Europeans, Native people, and Japanese in their operations. The Europeans were the administrators, clerks, mechanics, engineers and fishermen. The Native men went out to fish in the rivers or in the open sea while the Native women made and mended nets, and then worked with the Chinese workers in the canning plant. The Japanese carried out maintenance work on the wharves as well as in the cannery plant. A great majority of the Chinese and the Native people were seasonal workers who went to canneries at the beginning of the salmon run.

Before canning began the Chinese workers were the first to arrive as they were required to make cans. They cut out strips of tin metal, rolled them on a cylindrical mold and soldered the sides together to form a round cylinder. They punched off round discs from other metal sheets to fit the opening ends of the cylinder. Then they soldered a disc to one end of the hollow cylinder to form an open can. All the work was done by hand and required speed and precision in cutting the tin strips. In the early days a charcoal burner was used to heat up the soldering equipment, and to melt lead for sealing up the parts of a can. Around 1915 a sanitary can-making machine was intro-

[1] Agnes Harris, "The Ghosts Walk in this BC Town," *The Province*, May 1958, 19

[2] Imbert Orchard, "People in Landscape," CBC Interview Tapes, 1978, No. 2489 - 1



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Right: *Port Essington 1890s.*

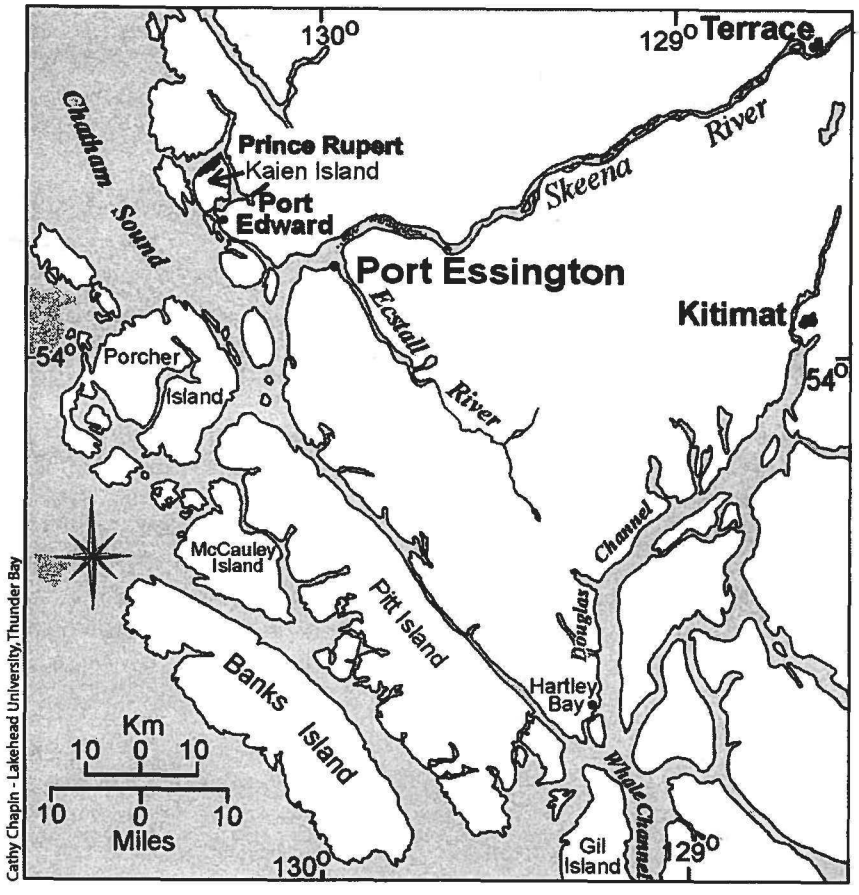
duced to the canneries to replace the manual can making.

When the fish arrived they were thrown into a sluice box that transferred them to a scow. One or two Chinese workers, clad in heavy waterproof capes, hats and pairs of long oilskin boots, would sort out the fish with a metal fork and toss them into boxes. The fish-sorting job not only required muscular strength but also the sorter's ability to maintain his equilibrium in the sorting process while standing on a wet and slimy surface. After sorting, the boxes of fish were taken manually to the canning plant. In later years the fish were delivered to the canning plants by escalator.

In the canning plant a group of Chinese workers cut off the heads and fins of the fish, slit open their bellies, removed the guts and sliced the large fish into halves lengthwise. Some of these Chinese "slitters" could butcher about 2,000 fish in a 10-hour day[2]. These butchered fish were then pushed to the opposite side of the bench where native women would scrub off the scales, carry out final trimming, and wash the fish with water. The remnants such as guts, fins, and scales were thrown back into the sea through a large hole in the bench, and were washed away by the rising tides. The sea gulls consumed the discarded fish parts floating on the water.

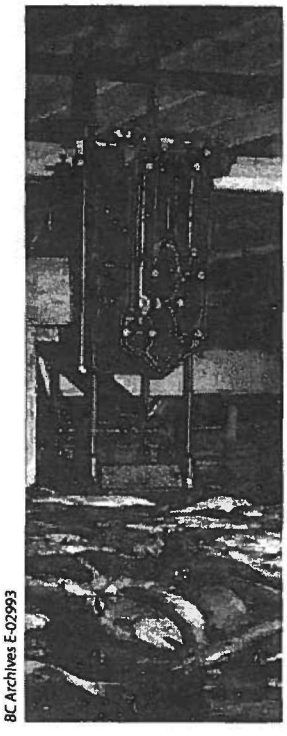
In 1905, a butchering machine, the "Iron Chink," was introduced by all fish canneries in an attempt to replace the Chinese workers. At that time anti-Chinese sentiment was simmering and the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council discouraged merchants from employing Chinese labourers. One of the by-laws of the Workingmen's Protective Association stated that its members should "solemnly pledge...neither [to] aid or...patronize or employ[ing] Chinamen..." The white people often labelled the Chinese with derogatory terms such as Chinamen, Celestials, Chinks, etc. The term "Iron Chink" certainly reflects the discriminatory attitude of the cannery management.

Before the introduction of the Iron Chink, the Chinese workers were responsible for cutting the fish into uniform pieces and the native women filled them in cans, which were placed on a tray. Some other Chinese workers would cap and seal the cans, and take them to a steam box to cook for 30 minutes. After cooking the Chinese workers pulled out each tray and punched a tiny hole in each can to release the steam. Immediately, they sealed up the hole with a drop of molten solder. Then another group of Chinese workers stacked the sealed cans in another tray and pushed them into a retort or boiler to cook for another 50 minutes. Afterward, each can was dipped into lye water to remove grease and put on the floor to cool. Finally, the Chinese workers would brush a layer of lacquer on each can to prevent rusting, and paste labels on the cans by hand before they packed them into boxes for shipment



Above: *Sketch map of Port Essington and surrounding areas.*

Below: *In 1905, a butchering machine, the "Iron Chink," was introduced.*



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At the end of the season the seasonal workers celebrated and gave thanks before they went home. The Native people usually had a dance festival while the Chinese workers held a feast and gave thanks to the Almighty or Tian Shen. In such thanksgiving event the Chinese workers always offered a roast pig as sacrifice for the occasion. The young piglets, which they had raised in the pigpen set up near their vegetable plot, would then be mature and ready for butchering and roasting.

The Chinese Bunkhouses

Living quarters were provided for staff and seasonal workers but each nationality was segregated from one another. Some experts asserted that housing for different nationalities was separated

for cultural and linguistic reasons as each group would feel more comfortable living with its own people. Others maintained that it was the management strategy in dealing with manpower. David Boyce, a writer and a guide in the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum, remarked that if the different racial groups did not have the opportunity to interact with each other socially, each group would not know about the wages of the other national groups. Anyway, the Chinese workers were put in bunkhouses at the rear of the canning plants.

These bunkhouses were barn-like wooden buildings with two storeys that could accommodate between 50 to 60 people in each building[3]. The downstairs usually consisted of a few rooms with bunk beds and a long hall furnished with rough wooden tables, stools, a wood stove, and two or three cupboards to keep dishes. The Chinese workers were not expected to cook in the bunkhouse for meals could be bought in the mess hall. But when they were tired of the cafeteria meal, they could boil water to make themselves a cup of tea or cook simple meals over the wood stove in the evening. Their home-made meals consisted of rice, salt fish, pickled vegetables, or fermented bean curds. The lower level was also the place where they played games and socialized with one another. The upstairs contained rows of bunk beds for sleeping. When workers arrived at the canneries they brought with them pillows, straw mats, thin blankets, and mosquito nets, which were needed as swarms of mosquitoes would be present in summer. Some bunkhouses had verandahs where the workers could sit around and smoke their pipes during their leisure hours.

The Chinese workers usually found a plot of land near their bunkhouse to plant vegetables and raise fowls and pigs nearby. This was to ensure a fresh supply of food while working in the canneries. As mentioned, roast pigs were essential for thanksgiving and it was cheaper to raise these animals than having them brought up from the south. Moreover, it did not cost much to raise the pigs as they were fed with slurps or leftovers from the mess hall.

Another feature was the bathing facilities for the workers. Behind each bunkhouse they enclosed an area for showers. Near the enclosure the men built a hot-water tank heated by wood over a clay stove. Since it was not easy to find fresh water in Port Essington, workers would go to the nearby spring to get water for the hot-water tank as well as for supplying cold water. When they took a shower they would mix the cold and hot water in a barrel before they scrubbed and rinsed themselves with scoops of warm water.

China Bosses

The contractors or "China Bosses," were employees or partners of some well-known employment agencies such as Chock On, Lew Bing, Yip Sang, and other companies in Vancouver. In Port Essington each cannery had at least one China Boss or a contractor who was knowledgeable about the canning procedures. In early May these contractors brought the Chinese workers to various assigned canneries and supervised the workers in their jobs. In most canneries the China Bosses also contracted and paid Native women to help out cleaning fish and stuffing the cut fish pieces into cans. The whole contract system relieved the cannery manager of personnel problems and placed the recruitment of labourers and the financial risk on the contractors.[4] However, there is no evidence that contractors suffered financial loss. The contract system was set up in such a way that the Chinese workers would absorb any loss if it occurred. To begin with, the contractors were given a certain sum of money to bring up the crew. This money was to pay for passages, food, and any overhead cost, but not on wages. The workers were paid at the end of the fishing season according to the number of cans they had made, the number of fish they slaughtered, and other piecework they performed in one season. In a good year they would be able to earn more as there would be plenty of fish for them to butcher and can. Thus the system was set up in such a way that it was almost loss-proof on the part of the contractors. In addition, these contractors operated some kind of business in the community. When they came to the canneries they brought with them some Chinese delicacies, tobacco leaves, rice wine, workman clothing, wooden clogs or flannel slippers, and daily articles such as tooth brushes, razors, and other things to sell to the Chinese workers. The contractors would make profits from retailing their merchandise too.

These contractors had to keep in touch with the employment agencies in Vancouver and send reports to them regularly. The Chock On collection contains numerous Chinese reports and cor-

[3] S. Mark & Associates, *Report: North Pacific China House Archaeology Project, 1992*, 3 and 92

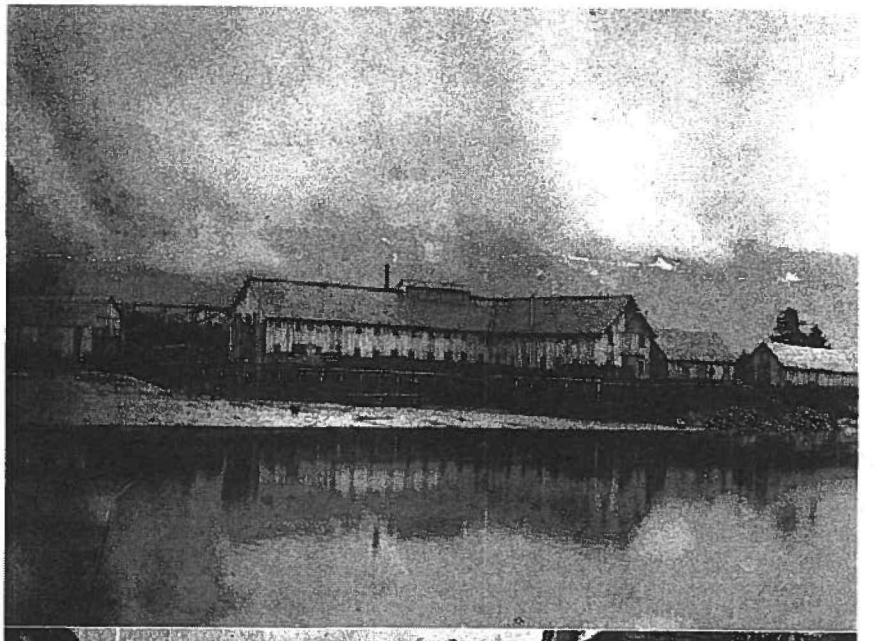
[4] G. Meggs, *Salmon: The Decline of BC Fishery* (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1991), 24

respondence about the production of canned fish, the well-being of the workers, and the working conditions in the canneries. One report mentions that the Chinese bunkhouse in one of the canneries was very large and contained bunk beds, two large tables, a good number of stools and benches, and two cooking stoves, but no place to put the garbage. Another letter informed Chock On Agency that little flat land was available to cultivate a vegetable garden at a certain cannery, and the crew requested to have produce and other food items sent up. In some dispatches contractors complained that certain newcomers were unfamiliar with the tasks; consequently, the production of that season was less than expected. A couple of letters asked the Chock On Agency to stop shipping groceries and other perishable goods up because the salmon run was poor and the crew would go back to Vancouver earlier. Other ledgers state the total number of boxes of canned fish that had been produced for export.

At the end of the season the contractors settled the wages for the crew members and closed the book for the year before heading south. Although the workers were housed in the bunkhouses they had to pay a small sum of money for rent. They ate in the mess hall on credit, which had to be deducted too. Thus, it is unclear how much money each worker could take home after each season. When the book was returned to the management individual names of the workers were not stated but just the number of persons hired was written down. Even at work every worker was given a number for identification. Usually the good and hard working ones were asked to return for work in the next fishing season but not the slow and poor ones.

The social and leisure activities

Although the Chinese workers lived and worked with other nationalities in the same area around the canneries, their social interactions with others were rather limited. The housing arrangement separated each nationality from the others, making each group keep to itself. The language barrier and cultural differences would have made it difficult anyway to socialize. Although the Chinese workers lived together as a group and provided companionship for each other, their bond of friendship could not replace the warmth and love of their families. A Chinese diary was found in a box containing the 1901 fishery reports. In this diary the writer described his feelings of lone-



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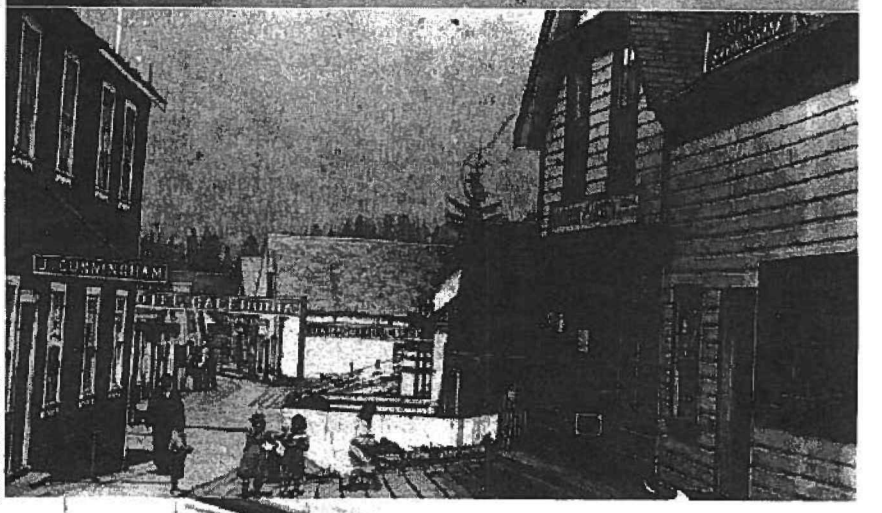

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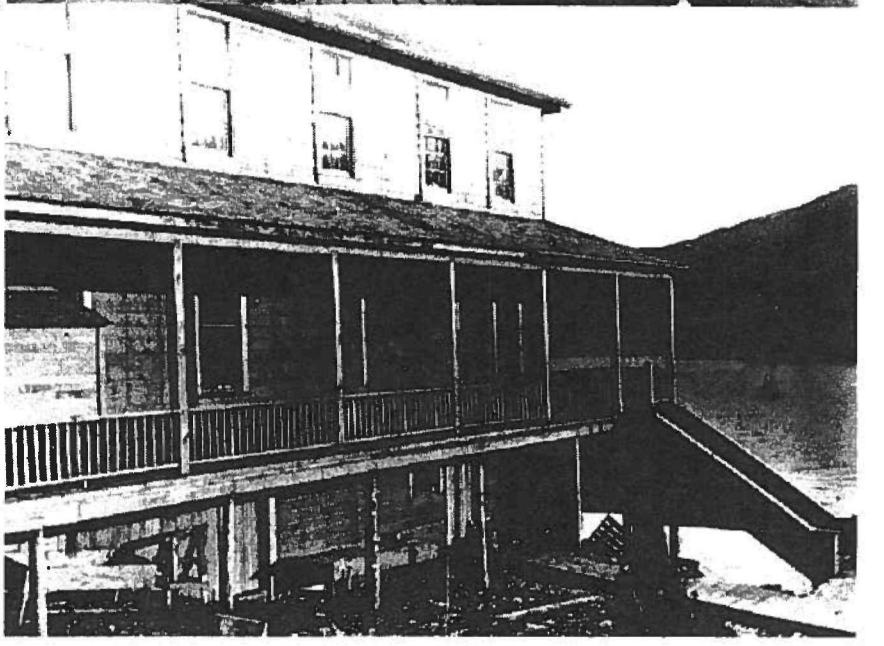

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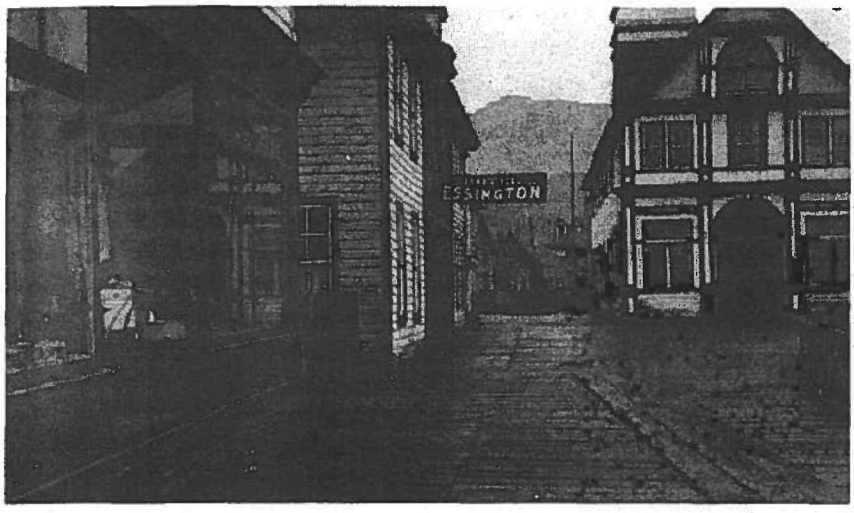
Top: *Port Essington Cannery. 1890s*
Middle: *Port Essington, Dufferin Street. ca. 1905.*
Bottom: *Bunkhouse at Seal Cove near Prince Rupert. 1907.*



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Above: *Port Essington.* Opposite page: *Port Essington. 1908.*

liness away from home. Apparently he left his wife shortly after their wedding. In the diary he wrote:

> ...I could never forget her silky skin and the fragrance given out by her youthful body. Although I met her only on the night of our wedding I fell in love with her at the very moment I saw her. She was so sweet and gentle... I hope she finds life comfortable living with my parents, and that she has carried out her duty as a good and respectful daughter-in-law. I pray that my parents do not enslave her but treat her like a daughter... So far I have not received any serious complaints from my parents about her except that she daydreamed a lot... In all her letters she reminded me to make lots of money and return home soon. Don't I wish to do that! I miss her and want to go home to be with her, but when?

This diary, written by one cannery worker, reflects the feelings of loneliness and isolation of all the men who came to pursue their dreams in the land of gold mountains.

Although the Chinese workers were prepared to work hard, there were days when the catch was small, and they finished their work earlier. During those long summer evenings they often created some activities for themselves. Some of their famous indoor activities included playing domino, mah-jong, Chinese paper cards (shiwuhu), and fan-tan. These games gave the gamblers some excitement and anticipation, but also regret and remorse when they lost. Some old-timers say that gambling helped to stimulate their minds. Games like domino and mah-jong require mental strategies and watchfulness in order to win.

When the weather was good, some seniors would sit on the verandah and smoke their favorite pipes while watching a beautiful sunset. Young people would go to Dufferin Street, the main street of the town, to sit or stand around and watch the whites having fun in the bars or saloons. Young people usually participated in some outdoor recreation.

One of their favorite pastimes was a game tossing a shuttle with their ankles.[5] This shuttle is a homemade toy consisting of three large feathers with their shafts inserted into the center of a spool or a stack of rubber washers. The shuttle is tossed into the air by an ankle until the player fails to catch it with the ankle. One person can play this game as a form of exercise, or it can be played by a group of people in competition to see who can sustain the longest time in tossing, or who can obtain the largest number of tosses within a limited time period.

Another favorite outdoor recreation was kite flying. The Chock On Fond collection contains a Chinese poem about kite flying written by a cannery worker. The poem is translated as follows:

> Though you are sailing
> high up in the sky,
> you are still held
> in my hand.
> Fly higher and float afar!
> My beloved one
> in distant land
> would know
> I am around
> thinking of her,
> when she sees
> your beautiful wings
> fluttering below the clouds.

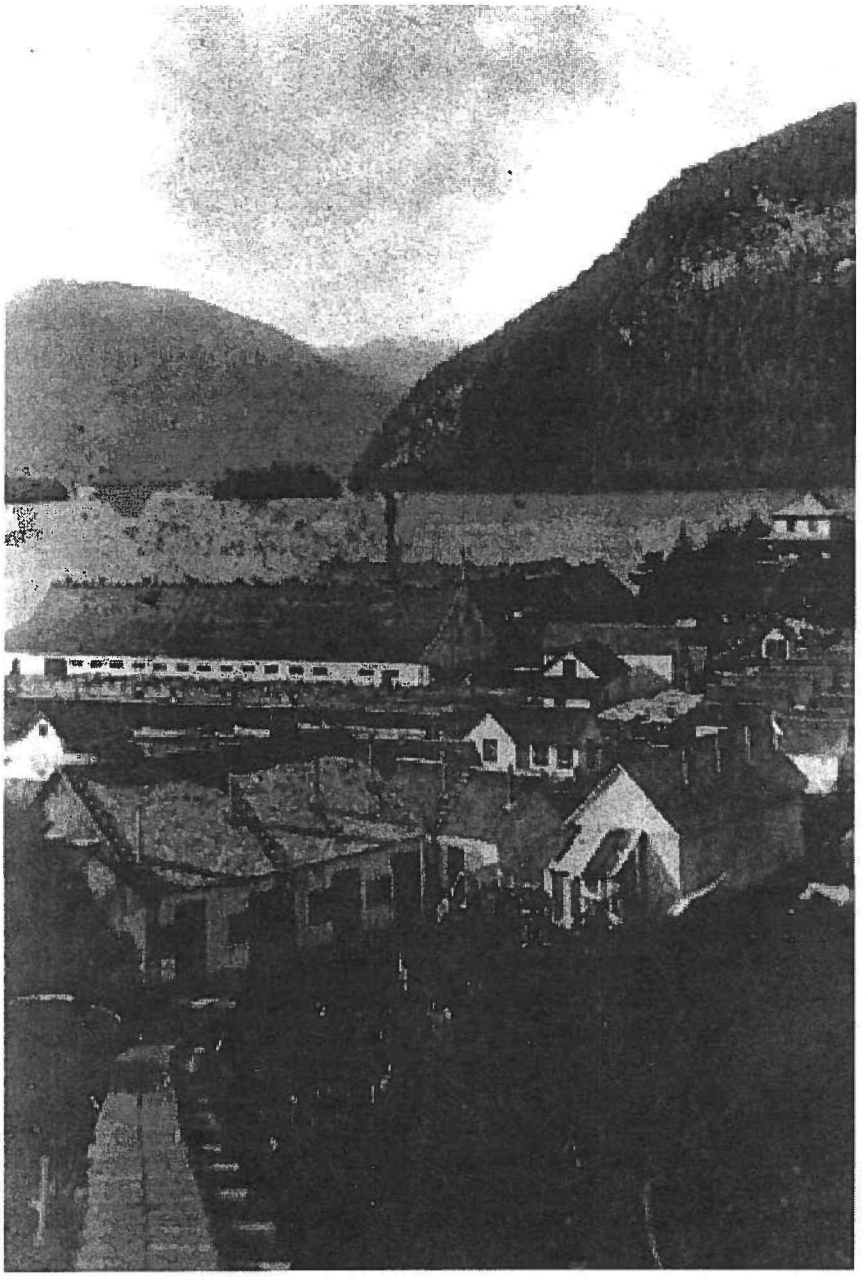
Indeed, Chinese people love to fly kites in early autumn when the wind blows. Their kites can be as simple as a piece of quadrangular rice paper pasted on a bamboo frame, or as elaborate as an eagle or butterfly, a real piece of art. It gives the kite maker a sense of great pride when he sees his creation flying high up in the sky. At the end of the kite-flying season, the kite is usually cut off from the string while still floating in the air. It is a symbol of letting go one's poor luck.

Decline of the Canneries

Unfortunately the fishing industry declined as time went on. By 1920 more than a hundred canneries had been established along the Pacific West Coast and at the mouth of the Skeena River. Consequently, the area was overfished and catches became small. The Fisheries Department also revised its policy in issuing fishing licenses and im-

[5] B. Appleyard, "Port Essington, BC: Whites and Indians," *The Mission Fields*, October 1, 1897, 364

[6] The *Vancouver Province*, July 5, 1961, 1



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posed restrictions on commercial fishing. The Department also advocated restoration and conservation programs to maintain the salmon runs in the Skeena region. When the fish cannery industry became fully unionized in the1940s, the contract system of recruiting Chinese people to work in the canneries gradually disappeared. As time went by the population of Port Essington became smaller and smaller. The development of Prince Rupert also attracted canneries to be established near the town on the Kaien Island and stimulated the cannery people to leave Port Essington and to live in an urban area. All these factors made it tough for the canneries to continue their operation there.

Fire was perhaps the main cause of the end of Port Essington. Throughout its 90-year history numerous fires took place; some of them were very destructive. For example in 1908, a fire destroyed the Cunningham Sawmill. A fire in 1909 burned down two large Chinese bunkhouses although no casualty was noted. Two fires in the 1960s truly snubbed out the life of Port Essington. On 4 July 1961, a fire, caused by the reflection of light and heat from a shining broken mirror in a warehouse, destroyed a great part of Port Essington. This fire destroyed more than twenty buildings leaving fifty people homeless. Women and children did not have time to save their belongings but just managed to escape.[6] In 1965 another big fire totally wiped out the remaining town site. These disasters and the limitation of fish supply gradually made the Chinese workers leave their jobs. Now, Port Essington is a piece of waste land with charred poles sticking out from the muddy shores while the tides rise and ebb quietly, or at times, dash ruthlessly against the rocky terrain.

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Esquimalt's First Graving Dock

Vancouver Island's Link to Canada and Empire

by Cyril E. Leonoff, FEIC, PEng

Cyril E. Leonoff is a professional engineer and a past president of the Vancouver Historical Society. He has authored books on the commercial and industrial photographers Leonard Frank and Otto Landauer.

On the beautiful spring morning of Saturday, 20 March 1999, with the Japanese cherry trees in full blossom, I joined 35 civil engineers, naval personnel, and guests at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt Naval Dockyard on southern Vancouver Island. We gathered to witness the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Esquimalt First Graving Dock as a National Historic Civil Engineering Site, a well-deserved designation owing to the historic role of this dry dock in building the Canadian nation from coast to coast.

Still in active duty, this gigantic structure was completed in 1887 at the then enormous cost of $1,171,664.74. It is more than 8 metres deep, 17 metres wide, and 139 metres long (equivalent to one and a quarter football fields) and has serviced 1,900 military and civilian vessels over a span of 112 years. While it is the oldest operating dry dock on the west coast of North America, yet it is still capable of handling any Canadian warship, except for two over-sized supply ships. The imposing walls of the dry dock and the pumphouse stack are lined with durable sandstone blocks quarried at Newcastle Island off Nanaimo, now a Provincial Marine Park. Similar stone can be seen in the BC Penitentiary (1875), New Westminster, and in Victoria at the Bank of Montreal, Douglas and Yates streets (1907), and Christ Church Cathedral (1926).

In order to extend its commercial empire across northwestern British America to the Pacific Ocean, the Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Vancouver on the north bank of the lower Columbia River in 1825, the first permanent trade depot and ocean port on the Northwest Coast. This locale was particularly advantageous because of its fertile agricultural lands, used to supply posts as far north as Alaska. By 1842 the first American settlers crossed the mountains in their "covered wagons" and settled in Oregon Territory on the south bank of the river. Thus the Oregon boundary dispute flared between the Americans and British and it became apparent that the compromise boundary would be set at the 49th parallel. That year Dr. John McLoughlin, head of the Pacific Department, dispatched his young Chief Factor James Douglas to search for a replacement site for the Company's operations, safely within British territory.

Douglas, who had known the coast from personal experience, rejected the westerly coast as too exposed. His reconnaissance concentrated on three ports of southeastern Vancouver Island: Sooke, Esquimalt, and "Camosack" (Victoria). On 12 July 1842 he reported to Dr. McLoughlin (quoted in Scholefield, 1914): "Is-whoy-malth...is one of the best harbours on the coast, being perfectly safe and of easy access, but in other respects it possesses no attractions. Its appearance is strikingly unprepossessing, the outline of the country exhibiting a confused assemblage of rock and wood....The shores of the harbour are rugged and precipitous, and I did not see one level spot clear of trees of sufficient extent to build a large fort upon....Another serious objection to this place is the scarcity of fresh water."

Douglas, from his viewpoint as a fur trader and colonizer, went on to report favourably of "the next harbour, about one mile and a half east,...the port and canal of Camosack, which...I think the most advantageous place for the new establishment [where] there is a pleasant and convenient site for the [fort] within fifty yards of the anchorage, on the border of a large tract of clear land...being the most picturesque and decidedly the most valuable [for agricultural settlement] part of the island that we had the fortune to discover."

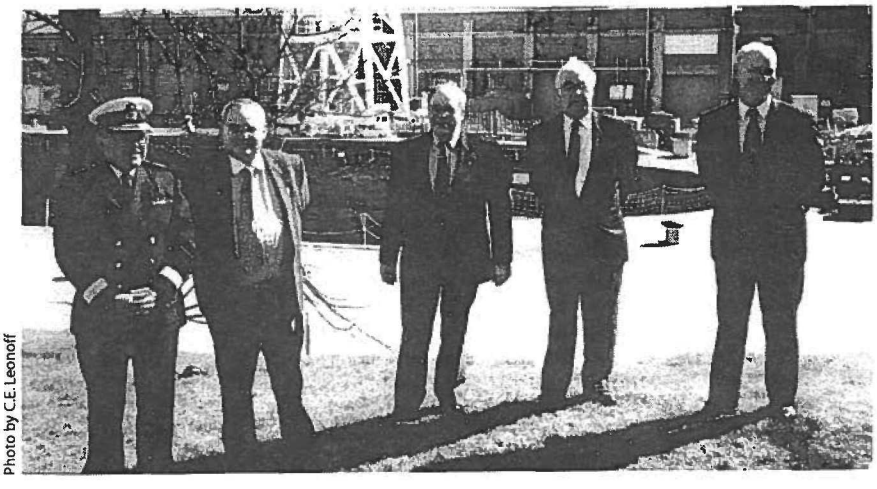
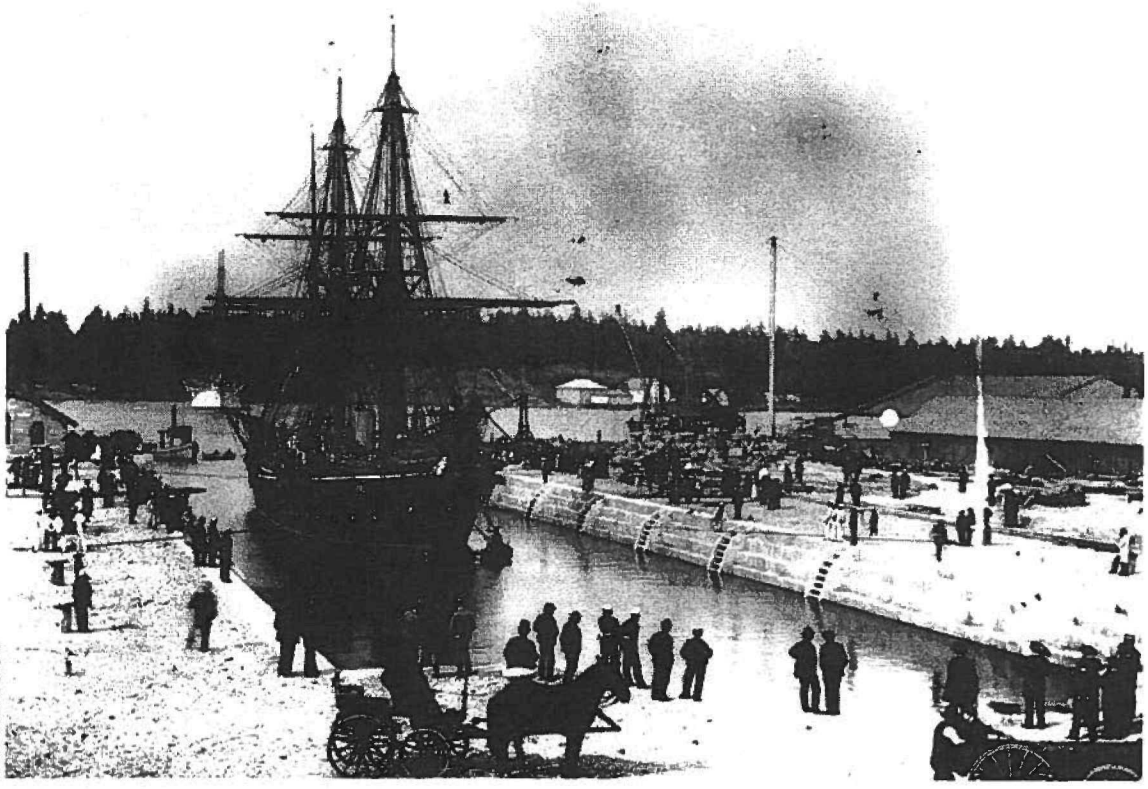


Photo by C.E. Leonoff

Below: *The official party, commemorating the Esquimalt First Graving Dock as a National Historic Civil Engineering Site, 20 March 1999. From left: Rear Admiral Ron Buck, commander Maritime Forces Pacific; Raymond Rice, mayor of Esquimalt; Peter Hart and Ralph Crysler, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, Montreal; Thor Tandy, chair, CSCE, Vancouver Island.*



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Left: *HM sloop* Cormorant *entering the Esquimalt First Graving Dock, 20 July 1887.*

Following this recommendation, the Hudson's Bay Company established its Fort Victoria at Camosack in 1843. Nevertheless the narrow and twisting Victoria harbour was no match for the deep-sea harbour of Esquimalt, which would be used by ocean-going vessels.

Years later, after Victoria had become the chief entrepôt of the province, a historian (Bancroft, 1887) revisited the topic of assessing the merits of the two proximate harbours, this time from the viewpoint of a mariner:

"At the extreme south-eastern end of Vancouver Island is a large open bay called Royal Bay, directly back of which is Esquimalt Harbor.... That part of Royal Bay leading more directly into Esquimalt Harbor, and beginning at Albert Head, is called Royal Roads. Vessels may there anchor in ten or twelve fathoms, safe from all winds save those from the east or south-east. Esquimalt Harbor may be entered at all times, and there vessels of any size may find safe anchorage. Victoria Harbor, entered between points McLoughlin and Ogden, by reason of the sunken rocks which extend a mile in either direction from the bare, flat projection situated midway between the two harbors, and known as...Macaulay point, is regarded as dangerous of entrance in bad weather. The channel is so tortuous that long vessels often run aground. 'It appears not a little remarkable...that with the excellent harbor of Esquimalt within two miles, Victoria should have been continued as the commercial port of a rising colony.'"

While commercial interests had bypassed the natural advantages offered by the harbour at Esquimalt, British naval interests would prove more prudent. Great Britain's first military connection with the Pacific Coast of the New World began in 1837 with establishment of the South American station at Valparaiso, Chile. From this port frigates, corvettes, and line-of-battle ships made periodic cruises north to give their crews the benefit of a change of climate. Thus after the border dispute broke out, in 1844 the Navy began sending warships north to the Columbia River and Juan de Fuca Strait to make contact with Hudson's Bay Company officials and British settlers. However, when the frigate *Fisgard* arrived at Juan de Fuca in 1846, it could not dock there as the harbours had not yet been surveyed, but her boats took the officers to visit Fort Victoria. That summer the hydrographic survey brig *Pandora,* under Lieutenant James Wood, started charting Esquimalt and Victoria harbours; Wood's charts were published in London in 1848. That year the first British war vessel. the frigate

Constance, entered Esquimalt harbour.

The war Britain and France fought against Russia in 1854 to assert territorial and fur-trading rights in the North Pacific, resulted in the first shore establishment at Esquimalt; a joint British-French squadron sailed against Petropavlovsk on the coast of Kamchatka and, on the return of the expedition, their sick and wounded were cared for in three hospital buildings erected at Esquimalt. This war and the subsequent great population influx, much of it American, with the British Columbia gold rush of 1858, made the government and citizens of the British Crown Colony of Vancouver Island (which would join with mainland British Columbia in 1866) nervous about foreign annexation.

The cry for an adequate defence of its Pacific colonies was heightened in 1861, when three British Pacific warships, the *Plumper, Termagant,* and *Hecate,* required repair and overhaul. The nearest British repair facility was in Australia; instead costly and embarrassing repairs were undertaken at the United States Mare Island Naval Dockyard in San Francisco Bay. (This dry dock was filled in during the 1950s). Amor De Cosmos, editor of the Victoria *British Colonist,* led the call for a dry dock and repair facility at Esquimalt, to ensure that maritime security could be maintained through local resources. The call was heeded, and in 1865 the Royal Navy Pacific Base at Esquimalt was officially created by an Order-in-Council passed in London. In 1867 a board of officers was set up to report on the best site for a dry dock. Although Burrard Inlet and Nanaimo were also considered, the board recommended its location in Esquimalt harbour, "should borings prove satisfactory." The building of the dry dock figures in the 1871 entry of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada. Among the terms of Confederation was the well-known promise of a railway line to connect the seaboard of British Columbia with the existing railway system of Canada. Not so well known was a negotiated guarantee by the Canadian Government on a loan of £100,000 for a graving dock at Esquimalt. While the projected rail link to Vancouver Island through the impractical route of Bute Inlet and Seymour Narrows was never achieved, the graving dock was, although it took more than twenty years of political wrangling through a succession of Imperial, Dominion, and Provincial governments, and enormous cost overruns, to achieve.

The initial estimated cost of the Esquimalt dry dock was $500,000, a very costly project for the fledgling Provincial Government. In 1873 De Cosmos, now Premier, went to England in search of additional funding and he was promised the contribution of a British grant of £30,000 upon completion of the facility. That year the Dominion agreement was renegotiated, instead of a loan, to a grant of $250,000 to be advanced as the work progressed. In 1874 the succeeding Walkem government, on appeal to Her Majesty, got the Imperial grant increased to £50,000. Thus the combined grants equalled the estimated cost. In 1875 contracts for the cofferdam and pumping machinery were let to two British firms, a site selected, engineers engaged, and a contract for the cement concluded. The designers were civil engineers Kinipple and Morris of London, England, with J.W. McKenzie, Royal Naval Engineer. However, before construction commenced, in 1876 the Walkem administration fell, partly on complaint that the government was spending money on a "luxury" for the Island, while refusing to do necessary public works on the Mainland.

Another decade of government bungling and contractual ineptitude followed. With return to power of the Walkem/Beaven administration, in 1880 a contract of $350,000 was entered into with F.B. McNamee & Co. of Montreal for the main portion of the dock. Adding the cost of "incidentals" to be provided by the Provincial Government, such as the caisson (a watertight chamber used in construction work under water) and the cement, the total estimated cost had risen to $620,000. But the cement, estimated at 100 tons costing $3,500, would then balloon up to 5,000 tons costing $150,000 (eventually nearly 7,000 tons were required). This fed the flame of the Island vs. Mainland controversy, the government took fright, and the contract was terminated in April 1882. The Provincial Government took possession of the site from the contractor and in June decided to carry on construction by day labour, pending new arrangements; a force of 160 men was engaged at a cost to the Province of $500 a day. This continued for some months, then the government fell by a vote of the House in January 1883.

The subsequent Smithe administration then joined into negotiation with the Dominion Government and on 24 August 1883 the graving dock was formally taken over by Canada, repaying the Province the money already expended ($182,000)

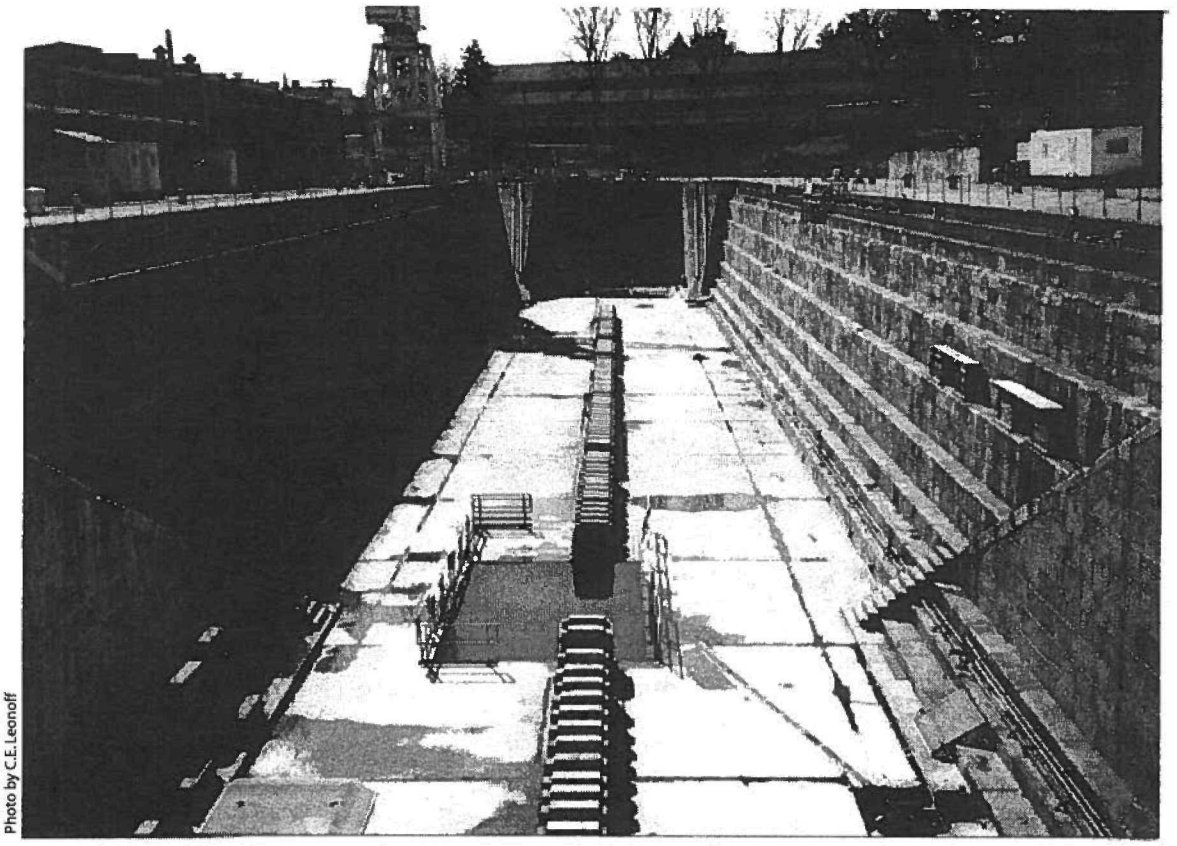

Photo by C.E. Leonoff

Left: *The Esquimalt First Graving Dock, 20 March 1999.*

and a further sum of $250,000. The contract for its completion was awarded to Larkin, Connolly & Co. of St. Catharines, Ontario. Less than 3 years later, built with sandstone blocks embedded in cement, the last block was laid on 26 June 1886. And with state-of-the art gates, valves, and steam pumps, it was regarded as the best and most modern dry dock on the Pacific coast. Before the end of that summer, Prime Minister of Canada Sir John A. Macdonald drove the last spike of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway at Shawnigan Lake on 13 August 1886. Now Canada's link from sea to sea was complete.

The official opening of the Naval Dry dock on 20 July 1887 was attended by "members of the Dominion senate and parliament, the Provincial government and assembly, the civic council, a large number of leading citizens, together with a sprinkling of the fair sex." Honoured guests included Rear Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, whose flagship HM battleship *Triumph* was at anchor in the harbour, awaiting repairs, Lieutenant-Governor the Hon. Hugh Nelson, and his predecessor the Hon. Joseph W. Trutch, who had been the first Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and was a civil engineer by profession. A blue ribbon stretched across the entrance to the dry dock was cut by Miss Kathleen O'Reilly, the daughter of Judge Peter O'Reilly, a colleague of Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie. The highlight of the ceremony was the entry and docking of HM sloop of war *Cormorant*, the first ship to enter the dry dock, for hull repair. With a complement of 138 officers and men, she was a 170-foot barque-rigged vessel of 1,130 tons, having a 950-h.p. steam engine, equipped for sail or steam power. Mrs. Julia Elizabeth Trutch, with her "gentle hands," switched on the "ponderous" pumps, driven by a 600-h.p. steam engine, and "the immense volume of water ejected by the pumps" emptied the dry dock. The Honourable Trutch "said it was but just that he should commend one who had grown gray during construction of the great work ...[Mr. Bennett, the resident engineer]...who throughout the many changes...from the beginning of the work until the present happy conclusion had always...a marked ability and unflagging zeal." The contractor, P. Connolly, "entertained in his generous style a number of the gentlemen... particularly connected with the progress of the work."

At the beginning of the 20th century, Great Britain was relinquishing to its Dominions control of their military defences. On 9 November 1910, the operation of the Esquimalt Naval Yard was formally transferred to Canada. The second-

class cruiser *Rainbow* arrived as a training ship, but the attempt to form an effective Canadian naval service was slow; just 56 men joined up the first year. Only limited active service was provided during the First World War. However, a fresh start was made in 1922; the Canadian military acquired destroyers and a nation-wide Naval Volunteer Reserve was established. In 1927 a second Dominion Graving Dock went into service in Skinner's Cove. During the Second World War, the Royal Canadian Navy was a potent force in the war at sea. In the Korean War, 1950-1953, three Esquimalt-based destroyers *Athabaskan*, *Cayuga*, and *Sioux* and the relief ship *Crusader* were in the forefront of the action by United Nations forces, aimed at thwarting Soviet Union expansionism during the Cold War.

At the end of the Second World War in 1945, the First Graving Dock at Esquimalt was modernized and refitted with diesel pumps, and along with adjacent electronic, plastic, and machine shops, it still functions as Ship Repair Unit Pacific. By the time of the commemorative service in 1999, the role of the Canadian Navy had greatly changed from war service to coastal surveillance and international peacekeeping. The modern Navy, under the title Maritime Forces Pacific, equipped with five ultramodern computerized patrol frigates, monitors 84,000 square miles of ocean (equivalent to the combined area of BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan). At the time of the unveiling, three vessels were in port and one was on service in The (Persian) Gulf. Testament to the modernization of the Navy, each ship, with a complement of 125 personnel, has quarters for 40 women.

As a National Historic Civil Engineering site, the Esquimalt First Graving Dock is recognized by a professional society, which also had its origin in 1887. The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering is a national non-profit organization, promoting civil engineering education and awareness to its members and the public. The National History Program was commenced by the Society in 1983, to commemorate the work of civil engineers in the building of the country. Since that time, 33 National/International Historic Sites have been recognized from coast to coast. To be commemorated, a site must be at least 50 years old and its history must be suitably documented. The Esquimalt First Graving Dock joins such other notable British Columbia projects as the Last Spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Craigellachie, the Kettle Valley Railway at Midway, Vancouver's Lions' Gate Bridge, and the Alaska Highway, Dawson Creek to Delta Junction, Alaska.

Photo by C.E. Leonoff

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Left: *Ultramodern patrol frigate in Naval Dockyard, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, 20 March 1999.*

Letters from Montney

An insight to the rural teaching experience in early twentieth century BC

by Julie Stevens

Julie Stevens is the winner of the 2000/2001 BCHF Scholarship Competition. Her essay was recommended to the Scholarship Commitee by Dr. Susan Neyland, University of British Columbia, who said of Julie Stevens's submission: "a thoroughly engaging and exceptional essay."

In the early twentieth century, British Columbia witnessed vast discrepancies between urban and rural schooling throughout the province. Until the 1940s, these two regions offered markedly different teaching experiences. Rural teachers faced challenges particular to rural BC, and their relationship to land and community was a unique one, not played out in the classrooms and streets of urban BC. Edgar Covert Latimer was a teacher at Crystal Springs school in the Peace River Country between 1933 and 1936. During this time, he diligently wrote letters home to his parents, providing details about life in an isolated district. In one such letter he commented: "some day we may have these frontier schools running like those in more settled districts."(24 September 1935)[1] Edgar's letters serve as a reference point to exemplify and illustrate the experience of rural teachers in contrast to their urban counterparts.

In order for a rural school to open, ten students were required, with an average regular attendance of eight. When attendance exceeded forty pupils, a second teacher could be hired.[2] In remote areas of the province, where families were few and scattered, it was often difficult to achieve the minimum attendance. In their desire to provide education for their children, parents and teachers were often resourceful in convincing the government of their valid, young learning community. Children as young as four years old were brought to school, and youngsters were "borrowed" and boarded in town. In 1927, the school of Argenta had only eight pupils and was in danger of closing. Teacher Kathleen Elder brought her two younger brothers to school, thus raising enrolment to the minimum, keeping the school open, and retaining her teaching position.[3]

When the need for a school had been determined, the government provided a small sum of money to build a school. This amount usually covered a bare minimum of costs and materials; land was most often donated by a local resident or farmer, and the community constructed and assembled the school themselves. Once a school was established, government allotted a percentage of local taxes for a three-person school board, locally elected, to be in charge of the school.[4]

Left: *Edgar Latimer in his riding chaps. He rode his horse to school each day.*

[1] Edgar Covert Latimer, letters from Montney, BC, to his parents in Burnaby, BC, 1933–1936, describing his teaching years in the Peace River Block,

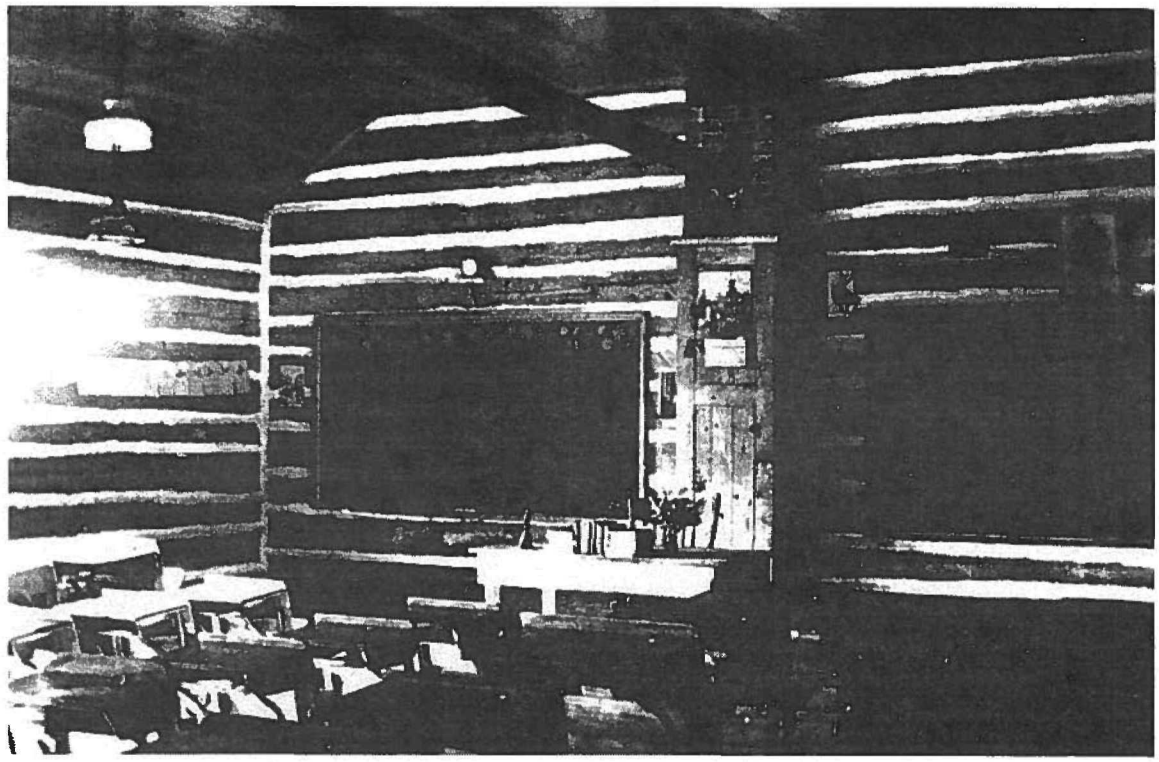
[2] Francis Henry Johnson, *History of Public Education in British Columbia* (Vancouver: UBC Press Columbia, 1964), 96

[3] *Kindling the Spark: the Era of One-room Schools:an Anthology of Teachers' Experiences.* (Richmond: British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association, 1996), 33

[4] In 1919, local school boards began in some areas to dissolve in favour of one official trustee who assumed the responsibility of several small rural schools (Johnson, 1964, 97). This change reached Edgar's district in 1934, and he viewed this transition with hopefulness: "I think the change should be of advantage to me, for I should have less trouble getting the supplies I need. It also throws a greater responsibility on me, for I have to keep Mr Morrell [the new Official Trustee] informed on conditions here, and do certain business. Gordon [a neighbouring teacher friend] has had an Official Trustee for two years, so I know it will not be a bad change for me." (27 October 1934)

Right: *Crystal Springs school classroom. It is a largely log building with the places between the logs filled with plaster... There is a good floor and the ceiling is high. There are six good windows on the sunny south side and one window on the north side looking towards the barn."*

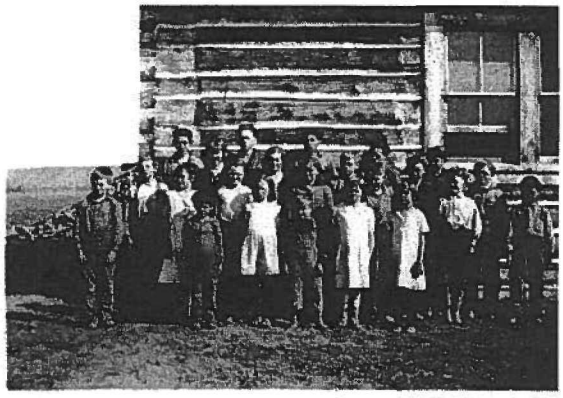
Opposite page: *The 1933 class of Crystal Springs school and the schoolhouse.*

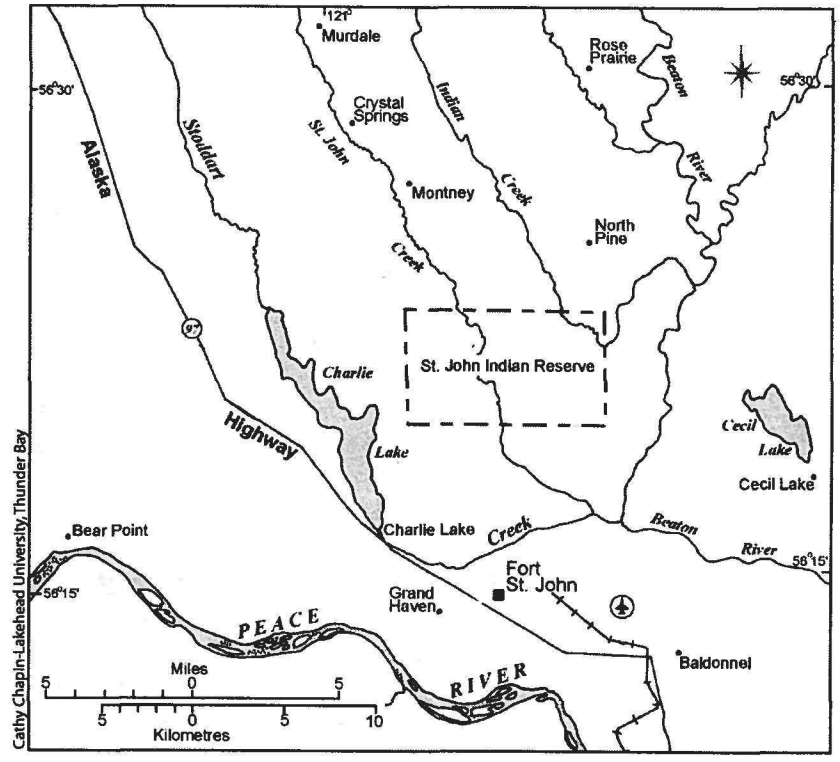


[5] *Kindling the Spark*, 50
[6] Ibid., 78
[7] Ibid., 17

Rural school buildings varied across the province, but were alike in distinction from their urban brothers. Schools of Vancouver were typically multi-roomed brick buildings, with plumbing, pot-bellied stoves, and coal furnaces. The typical rural school was a one-room building made of wooden boards or logs. Sometimes a community would make do with buildings that already existed, such as barns or old bunkhouses. Eric Woodman taught at Pender Harbour in 1929 out of an abandoned logging bunkhouse that had been converted into a school building. The entire room was 15 by 20 feet and rested on two logs, which functioned as sleigh runners to push the bunkhouse where needed![5] The school building, as student instruction, operated to suit the rhythms of the community. In logging camps that consisted of buildings on rafts, class continued as the community moved along the coast from one work site to the next. Eleanor Anderson was a teacher for one such transient community and taught up to sixteen students in a one-room raft as the camp floated along.[6] Of the school in Crystal Springs where he taught, Edgar wrote: "It is a largely log building with the places between the logs filled with plaster... There is a good floor and the ceiling is high. There are six good windows on the sunny south side and one window on the north side looking towards the barn." (27 September 1934)

The Crystal Springs example demonstrates that, in addition to less-than-adequate school buildings, there were other rural conditions facing teachers and students on a daily basis. All rural schools had a wood stove that provided heating for the classroom and was also used for cooking lunches and melting ice and snow for water. In the cold of winter, it took a while for a stove to warm up a school to a temperature at which the teacher and students could work. Edgar mentions in his letter of 12 November 1935, that "Mr. Smith banks the fire at night, so the school is warm in the morning." In such cold conditions, inkwells could freeze, thus delaying studies even after fingers and toes had been thawed out near the stove. Compounded by the cold, the already lengthy trek that many students took to school every day was even more arduous. Attendance was lower at these times, and school would sometimes be cancelled on account of weather conditions. In northern areas school hours were also affected by the limited daylight in the winter. In outlying regions, the rural setting and the quality of rural school buildings caused Mother Nature to be a more disruptive visitor than in urban centres. Encounters with wildlife were not rare on the way to school. Lillian Clare, the teacher at Newton in 1919, reported that porcupines ate the seats in the outhouses.[7] Edgar Latimer wrote of having to dismiss his students early because





Above: *Map of a part of the "Peace Block" based on a 1933 map. The Crystal Springs school is closest to the settlement of Montney. The Reserve, exchanged for other lands, was after the Second World War subdivided for returning veterans.*

the mosquitos were so bad. (11 June 1935)

For the teachers who worked in these schools, the end of the school day brought little escape from the trials and uncertainties of rural life. A teacher's dwelling place was often as remarkable as the school in which he or she taught. Most often, when a teacher left town for a rural teaching post, they arrived with no idea of where they would spend the night, let alone the entire year. Teachers might board with a family, "batch it", or live at a local hotel. Edgar's boarding situation was ideal. He lived with a family named the Parises, and their daughter was one of his students. The family had boarded off one corner of their house into a private bedroom for Edgar, while they themselves shared a common room for kitchen, bedroom, and dining room. Edgar's letters frequently mention the Parises, and give every indication of a mutually amiable, supportive and respectful relationship.

It could have been otherwise, however. When a teacher boarded, it was most often with the family of a student, and this created obvious problems: loss of privacy, and conflict of interest. Some teachers even had to share a bedroom with a pupil! Some boarding situations presented undesirable living conditions, such as the family that Winnie Keevil stayed with at Craigellachie in the 1920s. Their house was below ground—because of cold winters—and two of Miss Keevil's pupils slept on the ground while pigs and chickens lived in the kitchen.[8] Boarding arrangements could also be uncomfortable because of disagreements or an incompatibility between host and teacher.

Teachers that lived on their own might reside in a teacherage, a room specially created for the resident teacher, and often built onto the back of the school. Edgar described the living space of a teacher friend in North Pine, twelve miles from Crystal Springs:

> She has a little place in one corner of the school grounds. It is fenced off with a high fence, inside which she keeps her horse... The house itself is the most interesting thing! She had it made a year ago. It is made on wheels, and can be moved from place to place. (24 September 1935)

Stories abound of other bizarre living arrangements. The teacher at Soda Creek in the 1920s, for instance, lived in the government jail while waiting for proper accommodation.[9] The female teacher at Alert Bay lived at the hotel and was constantly harassed by bar patrons calling her name through the walls at night and offering to keep her company in bed.[10] Teachers may not have had the most comfortable living arrangements, but was it unreasonable of them to expect that their schools would be adequately outfitted?

One of the biggest problems ailing the rural school was a lack of supplies. Urban schools were located at the source of teaching materials, or at

[8] Joan Adams, *Floating Schools and Frozen Inkwells: the one-room schools of British Columbia.* (Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Publishing Co., 1985), 56

[9] Ibid., 60

[10] *Kindling the Spark*, 209

least had readier access to materials through proximity to major transportation routes. However, it was costly and inconvenient to transport supplies to outlying regions of the province. Furthermore, these communities were seldom in a financial position to pay for supplies. Parents could not afford materials that students were expected to individually provide, and a local school board was only as wealthy as the community it served.[11] The scarcity of supplies was endemic in rural schools. Edgar told his inspector "how handicapped we were for books, and he said it was the case all over the district, and it was only expected that we should do the best we could under the circumstances." (11 December 1933)

"Doing the best" usually meant resourcefulness and improvisation on the part of the teacher. The teacher could usually depend on desks being provided, and when proper furniture was not possible, overturned fruit boxes or packing crates would suffice. Blackboards were a necessity, and sometimes took the form of tar-paper, or boards painted black or green. The Nielson Chocolate Bar Company generously supplied rural schools with maps—a less-than-subtle advertising ploy that featured the world's geography bordered by pictures of chocolate bars. When schools had books, they were frequently few and out of date. When Edmund Edgar arrived to teach in the Cariboo in 1929, the entire supplies in the school consisted of a box of chalk, a three-volume copy of the history of World War One, and a copy of *BC Trees and Shrubs*. For $7.50, Edmund bought a six-month subscription of the Vancouver Province from a travelling salesman, and this provided reading material for his class.[12] Edgar Latimer often requested his parents to mail books to him from the city, some of which were his old texts, others were new ones that he bought with his own money. Supplies were also ordered by catalogue. Catalogues were used by consumers in urban areas as well, but were just part of the variety that city folk had at hand. In isolated areas of BC, the Eaton's catalogue was a prized item, providing reading material and visual and paper supplies for students, while offering a welcome glimpse of the 'outside world' for rural folk. Teachers sent orders to Eaton's for children's presents that would arrive in time for the annual Christmas concert. Edgar spoke of fundraising for the purpose of purchasing such gifts:

> Besides giving a dance, I am going to raffle off a fruit cake which Mrs. Paris will bake for me. The cake will be 5 or 6 pounds. The tickets will sell for 10 cents or three for 25 cents. If we can sell a hundred, the school Christmas treats will not be such a burden on my own purse. (24 November 1935)

When lucky, only half of these expenses came from his own pocket.

It was not at all unusual for rural teachers to provide school supplies out of their own salaries. Edgar's letters alone emphasize this trend. When visiting the Rose Prairie School, Edgar remarked "It is vastly superior to all the rest of our schools. Miss Meade herself has spent a lot of time and money on its improvement." In December 1935, Edgar wrote of his friend George: "[He] spent a great deal of his own money for the children's Christmas treats—more than was justifiable, I believe (when one considers how the same people will turn around and condemn a teacher in a few weeks)." This last comment also gives telling insight into the relationship between teacher and community, as will be discussed later.

A scarcity of supplies only added to the difficulty of teaching in a rural school. Training at Normal School was geared towards the management of one grade, as would be the case in an urban school, and did not prepare teachers for the challenge of instructing in a one-room school. Rural teachers had the monumental task of teaching multiple grades, all in the same room, and in the same amount of time that would be allotted one grade in an urban school. As such, teacher's talents were spread thin:

> It surely is hard to take up a lesson with every grade in nearly every subject during the day, and to keep those who aren't reciting profitably employed in the meanwhile... I am sufficiently bewildered with grades one and two. They need so much personal attention, and yet so does grade eight. (7 September 1933)

Each grade had a particular curricular standard to meet, and this demanded considerable energy and organization from the teacher, especially if he or she attempted to follow the course and curriculum outlines as laid out by the Department of Education.[13] Most rural teachers quickly realized that this was a superhuman task, and devised their own systems. Edgar's discouragement is evident in his letter of 27 January 1934:

> I could spend every bit of my time preparing schoolwork. These 7 grades surely tax my abilities. I wish I was brilliant enough to go ahead and teach without any preparation. I don't seem to be getting anywhere as it is. Work is far behind in all subjects, in

[11] This poverty in rural areas was exacerbated by the Depression during the 1930s. In September of 1933, Edgar wrote: "Most of the people living here are on government relief... They [the students] are expected to buy their own geographies, histories, grammars, composition and literature books, but their parents haven't any money, so there's no use asking them to buy them. We'll just have to wiggle through as best we can."

[12] *Kindling the Spark*, 49

[13] In 1940, the Rural Teachers' Associations (est. 1938) and the BCTF Executive "asked for either a) a separate Rural Schools Programme of Studies, or b) a revised Programme, so that teachers might better arrange their work in accordance with the programs of ungraded schools." (*The BC Teacher: Official Organ of the BC Teachers' Federation*, February 1940), 289)

all grades.

As Mr. Latimer's letters indicate, while the teacher was occupied with one grade level, the remaining students did seat work. Older students helped the younger students with lessons. Children shared books and copied exercises from the limited blackboard space that the teacher used thriftily. The combination of grades in one room was a source of disruption; the lesson of one grade level would capture the attention of all the children. Sometimes students rivalled the teacher in age and size, making it difficult for the teacher to maintain discipline and authority.

The actual lessons taught in ungraded rural schools often did not resemble those of cities and towns. Some subjects were not taught, fewer materials were available, texts were possibly above the level of students, and standards differed from one district to the next.[14] A wider range of courses were available in urban centres, including commerce, domestic science and manual training. In 1906, vocational training emerged in the commercial centres of Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster, offering such subjects as bookkeeping, typing, stenography, and business.[15] Rural students desiring such an education would have to move to the urban centres of the province. Grade-eight students wrote high-school entrance exams, usually travelling into a larger town for this purpose. When a student failed, they had the choice of leaving school or repeating grade eight. Teachers were expected to prepare their students for these exams, and Edgar expressed anxiety over his students' performance in the upcoming exams:

> I've done about all I can for them. Their government exams start a week from tomorrow. The four pupils have to go to Fort St. John to write them. I've been having them try the Entrance papers of the last 4 years, and the results are very discouraging. They can't even pass in some subjects. I don't know what will happen when they get down to St. John in strange surroundings. (18 June 1935)

Beginning in May, Edgar spent two and a half hours each Saturday with his four grade eight pupils, helping them to prepare for government exams. This responsibility illustrates how the role of a teacher in a rural community extended far beyond classroom instruction five days a week.

The rural schoolteacher wore many hats around school and in the community. They performed numerous tasks that would have been shared amongst staff in an urban school, and occupied a distinct social space in the community. Rural teachers had professional, social, and moral expectations to live up to. In short, "a huge gulf existed between what was expected of them and what in reality they could achieve given the circumstances in which they were required to perform."[16] In addition to educating children, most rural teachers performed the janitorial work of the school: chopping wood, fetching water, scrubbing and oiling floors, washing windows, cleaning toilets.... In 1933, Norval Brown cleared a section of forest around his Alexandria schoolhouse to provide a playing field for the children.[17] The teacher was responsible for planning and directing the celebrated annual Christmas concert. This, the biggest social event of the year, needed to include the participation of every student, and it was a difficult task to incorporate the pupils' varied abilities into a performance with which everyone would be pleased. Provincial Department of Health regulations required rural teachers to perform general health care checks, and inspect children for contagious diseases.[18] Rural teachers were expected to deliver night school classes for adults, where there was an interest. Night school did not materialize in Crystal Springs because attendance did not reach the requisite ten. However, Edgar was obligated to help another teacher run her night school, and this involved leaving immediately after school on Friday to ride twelve miles in sub-zero weather.

Furthermore, and perhaps most significantly, the rural teacher was expected to behave in a "teacherly" manner. The school was usually the centre of the community, so while the urban teacher could seek relative anonymity after school hours, the rural teacher was constantly in the public eye. He or she was, like the minister, held apart from the rest of society, and expected to provide a moral example. They had to guard their reputation and be mindful of their conduct in every situation. The teacher was expected to attend church, to make visits to families, and to fulfil social obligations. Edgar discusses the rural teacher's role with a tone of exasperation:

> There are so many things to think of! The combination of plans for the play, Christmas concert, together with school work, and exams just concluded, has made my poor head pretty muddled. In this country there is no limit to the amount of work, visiting etc. that the teacher is supposed to do. I'm rushed all the while. The minister is in the same

[14] *Schooling and Society in Twentieth Century British Columbia* (Calgary: Detselig Enterprises Limited, 1980) 31

[15] Ibid., 45

[16] Penelope Stephenson, "'Mrs. Gibson looked as if she was ready for the end of term': The Professional Trials and Tribulations of Rural Teachers in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley in the 1920s." *Children, Teachers and Schools in the History of British Columbia* (Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 1995), 247

[17] *Kindling the Spark*, 4

[18] Penelope Stephenson, 246

Above: *Cover of Christmas Concert program, 1934 of Crystal Spring [sic] school.*

> position. Yet people think we have very little to do. (2 December 1933)

As educational caretaker of the schoolchildren, and physical caretaker of the school building, the teacher necessarily occupied a central role in rural society.

In rural areas that lacked the amenities of the city, the one-room school was usually the centre of the community. Urban centres presented a variety of locations that could be utilized for or represented social organization, such as churches, libraries, community halls, police stations, government offices, theatres, parks etc. For many rural residents, a schoolhouse was the only public building the community could boast, and was the logical physical and social centre of community life. The school was used for church services, weddings, and funerals. The community hosted dances and concerts, and held spelling bees, fundraising and box socials. Gatherings of a more serious nature, such as temperance meetings, men's and women's clubs, and political events (elections, community meetings and speakers) were likewise held at the school.

The schoolchildren and their activities constituted a vital contribution to community life. As mentioned before, the school Christmas concert was the biggest event of the year, anticipated by all, and attended even by people who had travelled miles from neighbouring communities. Ernie and Phyllis Hatch, who taught in the Peace River country in 1940, took pleasure in the many events put on by the school: pie socials, turkey shoot (i.e. hit a bull's-eye with a gun and win a chicken), a Red Cross concert, fireworks at Halloween, a Hard Times dance, and a Valentine's party. There were three schools around Cecil Lake where Ernie and Phyllis taught, and these schools collaborated to organize badminton tournaments and joint Sports Days.[19] Crystal Springs likewise had Sports Days with neighbouring communities. To underline the community involvement in this event: when Edgar's students won the Sports Day, they were awarded a green and gold felt pendant that read "1935 Champions," and which was made by the local Ladies' Aid. (11 June 1935) The school dance, another event attended by multiple communities, was a popular affair in Crystal Springs and nearby districts. Edgar frequently mentions dances that did not end until four in the morning, posing an even later evening for those that had several miles to ride before they reached home.

This marriage of school and community had immense repercussions for the teacher. The rural teacher could not function autonomously or independently of the rhythms of community:

> In isolated districts, schools were so closely adapted to the communities of which they were a product that the level of education children both required and received represented no more than the needs of rural society. It was a reflection of what rural parents expected.[20]

As explained earlier, the community's expectations of the teacher were many and high. The expectations, practices, and values of the community could work against the teacher, making life difficult for them. Conversely, the teacher might express beliefs that caused contention in the community. The teacher walked a precarious balancing line between the varied interests in the community, striving to maintain neutrality. BC's rural teachers would have agreed with Edgar when he wrote to his parents: "You will readily perceive how careful I must be constantly so as not to give anyone any chance to find fault with my work" (8 March 1936)

Community politics wove a complex web that would inevitably snare the teacher sooner or later. Sometimes the school was directly tied to these issues. For instance, the $25 or so that a teacher paid for board was a welcome monthly income to any homesteader. Particularly during the Depression years when no other income could be had, rivalries and bitterness ensued over which family the teacher would stay with. A teacher needed to exercise diplomacy when dealing with the people of the community. A hot-tempered teacher in Salmon Arm, who was "meddling" in School Board affairs and was not mindful enough of his conduct, was faced with the wrath of the community:

> There were petitions for the dismissal of Mr. Irwin, and counter-petitions. There were accusations that a parent had assaulted Mr. Irwin on the street, and that he had unjustly and brutally strapped one of the school children...There was the offer of ten dollars to any gentleman who would thrash the schoolteacher...Parents withdrew their children from school, and the children all lined up on the side of their parents.[21]

While Irwin reportedly got what he deserved, there were many situations in which the community's abuse of the teacher had been unprovoked. In isolated regions where people were

[19] *Kindling the Spark*, 146
[20] Stephenson, Penelope, 242
[21] Joan Adams, 19

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION

Organized October 12, 1922, as
"The British Columbia Historical Association", and registered under the Societies Act, March 2, 1927.
Change of name Registered under the Society Act, July 29,1983.

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the society is THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION.

2. The purposes of the Federation are:
   (l) to stimulate public interest, and to encourage historical research, in British Columbia History;
   (2) to promote the preservation and marking of historical sites, relics, natural features, and other objects and places of historical interest; and
   (3) to publish historical sketches, studies, and documents.

3. The operations of the Federation are to be carried on chiefly within the Province of British Columbia.

4. The purposes of the Federation shall be carried out without purpose of gain for its members and any profits and other accretions to the Federation shall be used for promoting its purposes. This article is unalterable.

5. In the event of winding up or dissolution of the Federation, any funds of the Federation remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities, shall be given or transferred to such organizations promoting the same object of this Federation as may be determined by the members of the Federation at the time of winding up or dissolution, and if effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provisions, then such funds shall be given or transferred to some other organization, provided that such organization referred to in this paragraph shall be a registered charity recognized by the Department of National Revenue, Taxation, as qualified as such under the provisions of the Income Tax Act of Canada from time to time in effect. This article is unalterable.

BYLAWS

Part 1 - Interpretation

1. (1) In these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires,
   (a) "councillors" means the councillors of the Federation for the time being;
   (b) "Society Act" means the Society Act of the Province of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it.
   (2) The definitions in the Society Act on the date these Bylaws become effective apply to these Bylaws.
   (3) Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa; and words importing a male person include a female person and a corporation or institution.

Part 2 - Membership

2. There shall be three classes of membership:
   (1) Member Societies: Local historical societies are entitled to become Member Societies of The British Columbia Historical Federation:
      (a) They may use such local designation as they choose;
      (b) their objects shall not be inconsistent with those of the Federation;
      (C) their powers shall not exceed those of the Federation;
      (d) they may choose words to the effect that the Member Historical Society is a member society of The British Columbia Historical Federation; and
      (e) all members of the local Society shall ipso facto be members of the Federation and shall pay dues to the Federation as hereinafter provided.
   (2) Affiliated Groups: Organizations with specialized interests or objects of a historical nature may participate in the activities of the Federation, and may send observers to its meetings, but without voting privileges. Dues, if any, for such groups shall be set by Council.
   (3) Honourary Members: Such persons shall be specially distinguished for their attainments in history and historical research, or otherwise deemed worthy of the honour. They shall be elected unanimously by Council on the nomination of a President of a Member Society on theinstructions of that Society. They shall be nominated from the members of the Federation and shall be elected at the Council meeting immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting. Not more than one Honourary Member may be elected in any one year, and the maximum shall be ten Honourary Members. Honourary Members shall have full privileges of the Federation for life and will be exempt the payment of annual dues.

3. Application for Membership:
   (1) Member Society or Affiliated Group - upon submission of the prescribed Application Form by the Officers of an organization for either Membership or Affiliation, Council shall decide whether the organization should be more appropriate as a Member Society or Affiliated Group, and may authorize membership or affiliation by a 75 per cent majority vote of Council Members in attendance.
   (2) Member Societies and Affiliated Groups determine their own membership criteria.

4. A Member Society or an Affiliated Group shall cease to be a member of the Federation:
   (1) by sending written notice of withdrawal, signed by the President and the Secretary of the organization, to the Secretary of the Federation; or
   (2) by failing to forward dues of the members of a Member Society for a period of more than two Annual General Meetings of the Federation; or
   (3) for cause that is detrimental to the Federation, specified by special resolution of Council by a 75 per cent majority vote of Coun~ members present. Two month's notice in writing of the special resolution for expulsion must be given to such organization and such organization shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting of council before the special resolution is put to the vote. An appeal for reconsideration may be made to the next succeeding general meeting of the Federation.

5. (1) Every member of a Member Society shall uphold the Constitution and comply with these Bylaws.
   (2) Council may, by special resolution passed by a 75 per cent majority vote of the members of Council present, expel a member of a member Society from membership in the Federation because of behaviour that is detrimental to the Federation. Such person shall be given the opportunity to be heard at the meeting of Council before the special resolution is put to the vote. The Member Society to which such person belongs must be advised of the decision of Council.

6. Honourary Patron:
The Federation may invite His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, during his term of office, to be Honourary Patron of the Federation.

7. Honourary President:
The Federation may have an Honourary President nominated and elected by Council annually at its meeting immediately following the annual General Meeting.

Part 3 - Meetings of Members

8. General meetings of the Federation shall be held at such time and place, in accordance with the Society Act, as the Council shall decide.

9. Notice of a general meeting shall specify the place, the day and the hour of meeting and shall state the nature of the business of that meeting.

10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the holding of the last preceding Annual General Meeting. The place of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed by the previous Annual General Meeting at any place in British Columbia. Should this not be possible, Council shall decide the place of the succeeding Annual General Meeting.

11. The Executive Committee, or any five members of the Executive Committee, or no less than 10 per cent of the members of the Federation, may requisition an extraordinary general meeting of the Federation for any purpose.

12. Any persons calling a general meeting of the membership of the Federation pursuant of clause 11 immediately preceding shall be responsible for the administration and preparation of the meeting.

13. All members of the Federation are entitled to attend and take part in discussions at general meetings. Voting at any general meeting of the Federation shall be by: (a) each member of Council in attendance; and (b) voting delegates accredited by Member Societies — one (1) delegate for each ten (10), or part thereof, paid-up members.

14. Any resolution or motion shall be deemed passed if a majority of the voting members present vote in favour of such resolution or motion unless otherwise stipulated in. the Bylaws. The Chairman does not have a second vote, and proxies will not be accepted.

15. A quorum at all general meetings shall be 25 members of Council and/or voting delegates.

16. The rules of procedure at any general meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee, or, if any member objects, by a late edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

17. Notice of any general meeting shall be given to each Member Society at least fourteen days before such meeting, and seven days should be allowed for delivery.

18. Ten days before any general meeting of the Federation, the Secretaries of Member Societies shall forward to the Federation Secretary a list of voting delegates.

Part 4 – Officers

19. The Officers of the Federation shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, immediate Past President (ex officio), Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor.

20. The President may not serve more than three consecutive years, and shall not be eligible for re-election for at least three years.

21. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into one office — that of Secretary-Treasurer.

22. The offices of Secretary and Recording Secretary may be combined into the one office of Secretary.

23. (1) The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer for the ensuing year shall be elected at a properly constituted election at the Annual General Meeting, at which meeting they may be re-elected subject to the limitation in Bylaw 20 relating to the length of service of the President.
(2) These positions may be filled by suitably qualified members of the Federation who need not be members elected to Council for the ensuing year.
(3) Separate elections shall be held for each office to be filled.
(4) An election may be by acclamation, otherwise it shall be by ballot.
(5) If no successor is elected, the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office, except for the President as provided in Bylaw 20.

24. Council may, by special resolution passed by 75 per cent majority vote of Council members present, remove an Officer before the expiration of his term of office because of behaviour that is detrimental to the Federation. The remaining members of Council may appoint a member to take the place of the former Officer.

Part 5 - Duties of Officers

25. The President:
(1) shall preside at all meetings of the Federation and of the Council, unless the members or Councillors otherwise decide;
(2) is the chief executive officer of the Federation and shall supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties.

26. The First (or Second) Vice-President shall carry out the duties of the President should he be absent.

27. The Secretary shall:
(1) conduct the correspondence of the Federation;
(2) issue notice of meetings of the Federation and the Council;

(3) have custody of all records and documents of the Federation except those required to be kept by the Treasurer; and
(4) see that a register of Member Societies and Affiliated Groups is maintained.

28. The Recording Secretary shall:
(1) keep Minutes of all meetings of the Federation and the Council; and
(2) present such Minutes to the succeeding meeting of the Federation or Council respectively.

29. The Treasurer shall:
(1) keep the financial records, including books of account, necessary to comply with the Society Act;
(2) render financial statements to the Council, members, and others when required;
(3) have custody of the common seal of the Federation.

30. Other Officers shall perform such duties as Council may decide.

Part 6 - Council

31. The affairs of the Federation shall be administered by a Council consisting of the Officers of the Federation and the following members:
(1) the Presidents of the Member Societies, or such other member of a Member Society as that Society may elect;
(2) one Councillor for each one hundred members or fraction thereof in excess of the first one hundred members of each Member Society; and
(3) two members-at-large to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

32. All Councillors shall hold office from the time of the first Council meeting after the Federation Annual General Meeting until the end of the following Annual General Meeting.

33. Prior to the termination of the Federation Annual Convention and following the Annual General Meeting, the incoming Councillors, including the Table Officers, shall meet for the purpose of dealing with such business as may come before them. They shall appoint the Editor, and the co-Editor or Assistant Editor, if required.

34. The Councillors for Member Societies shall be those elected by each Member Society each year prior to the Federation Annual General Meeting.

35. The Council shall have the custody and disposal of all the property of the Federation.

36. Five Councillors shall constitute a quorum, and in case of equality of votes, the Chairman does not have a second vote. Council shall hold at least one meeting each year other than the ones immediately preceding and following the Annual General Meeting.

37. A Councillor may send another member of his Society in his place to a Council meeting which he cannot attend. Such a representative may vote at the meeting upon production of credential from the Councillor authorizing him to do so.

38. The Council shall have the power to make REGULATIONS, providing they are in accordance with these Bylaws and are approved by a two-thirds majority vote of Council members present.

Part 7 - Executive Committee

39. (1) The Executive Committee shall consist of the regularly elected Table Officers: President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer; the immediate Past President; and two Councillors elected by Council from its members at the meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum.
(2) The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or of three of its members. It shall have no power to originate policies independent of Council, and it shall report any activities to the succeeding meeting of Council for appropriate action.
(3) No member of the Executive Committee shall receive remuneration for his services.

Part 8 - Miscellaneous

40. Resolutions: A resolution signed, or approved by telephone, by 75 per cent of the members of the Council or Executive Committee respectively, and placed with the Minutes of Council, shall be as valid and effectual as if passed at a meeting of the Council or Executive Committee duly called and properly constituted.

41. Financial Year: The Financial Year of the Federation shall be from April 1st to March 31st of the following year.

42. Auditor: The financial records of the Federation shall be audited as prescribed in the Society Act.

43. Annual Dues: The annual Federation Dues for all members shall be set at the Annual General Meeting for the succeeding financial year.

44. Borrowing Powers: The Federation shall exercise no borrowing powers.

45. Inspection of Books: The books, papers, records, and other property of the Federation shall he open to inspection by any member, at any reasonable time, upon due notice.

46. Seal: The Seal of the Federation shall not be affixed to any instrument except by authority of a resolution of Council, or of the Executive Committee, and in the presence of such officers as may be prescribed in and by such resolution.

47. Amendments to the Bylaws: Bylaws shall be amended only by special resolution at a general meeting of the Federation. Motions to amend the Bylaws may be proposed by Council, or by a Member Society transmitting the proposed amending motion through its Secretary to the Federation Secretary. Such motions, together with reasons therefore, will be distributed to all Member Societies of the Federation at least one month before the meeting. A 75 per cent majority vote of Council members and of accredited delegates in attendance will be required to pass the amendment(s).

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION
REGULATIONS under BYLAW 38

1. OFFICERS
The Federation President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President should, if possible, be members of different Member Societies.

2. HONOURARY PRESIDENT
The position of Honourary President shall be offered to any one person for not more than three consecutive years.

3. MEMBERSHIP
(1) The application Form (Bylaw 3(1)) is to be completed in duplicate - one copy to be returned to the applicant society.
(2) All members of the Federation must be members of a Member Society.
(3) Persons resident within or without British Columbia may belong to any Member Society of their choice.
(4) An Honourary Member of a Member Society is not an Honourary Member of the Federation, and, therefore, the local society is responsible for any dues owing to the Federation.
(5) Life Membership may be awarded by the Council with privileges similar to those granted Honourary Members (Bylaw 2(3)).
(6) Dues for an Affiliated Group are set by the Federation.

4. MINUTES
The Recording Secretary shall forward to all members of Council, or of the Executive Committee, as appropriate, copies of all Minutes of meetings as soon as possible after the meeting.

5. FINANCIAL RECORDS
The Financial Records of the Federation shall be kept at the address of the Treasurer for the time being.

6. SIGNING AUTHORITY
Any two of the Treasurer, the President, and one other member of Council shall be signing authority for cheques. Should the Treasurer be unable to sign, the other two must keep a separate record of all income and disbursements so that the Treasurer may write up a permanent record later.

7. ANNUAL RETURN
At the end of September the Federation Treasurer must send to the Treasurer of each Member Society an "Annual Return" Form to report information as at October 31st of that year. The Form, together with any monies owed to the Federation, is to be sent to the Federation Treasurer by the next, succeeding, December 31st.

8. THE MAGAZINE
The publication of a quarterly magazine shall be a continuing effort of the Federation.
(1) The Editor (and, if necessary, a co-Editor or Assistant Editor) shall be appointed by the Council (Bylaw33), and shall have the responsibility of preparing each issue through to the completion of the printing.
(2) A Publishing Committee may be appointed by the Federation to assist the Editor.
(3) The Subscription Secretary: (a) shall be appointed by Council; (b) shall be responsible for the maintenance of the list of subscribers; and (c) shall invoice and collect subscription payments from individuals and/or member societies. Close liaison must be maintained between the Subscription Manager and the Treasurer.
(4) Member Societies and members of Council shall make every effort to increase subscriptions and sales at commercial sales outlets.

9. SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS
(1) Convention Fund: Any Member Society that acts as host for the Convention and Annual General Meeting of the Federation may apply for an advance of up to $400 to make preliminary arrangements and reservations. Written application for financial assistance from the Member Society, duly counter-signed by the Federation President, shall authorize the Federation Treasurer to make such an advance. The loan, together with 50 per cent of any profit in excess of $20, is to be repaid to the Federation Treasurer, to be credited to the Convention Fund, within six months of the date of the loan.
(2) Council Travel Fund: Member of Council who must travel over 600 miles to attend Council Meetings will be refunded the cheapest method of public transportation, on application to the Federation Treasurer.
(3) Publications Assistance Fund: A member of the Federation, or a Member Society who/which wishes to publish works of local historical value may apply for an advance towards publication costs by submitting the prescribed Application Form, through the Federation Secretary, to the Publications Assistance Committee of Council. The recipient of such assistance will submit a progress report at six-month intervals. After publication, the loan is an early charge on the receipts from sales, and 10 per cent of any profits over $20 or such other recompense to the Federation as may be agreed upon, should be donated to the Publications Assistance Fund of the Federation.
(4) Seminar Fund: Any Member Society that wishes to organize a Seminar on a topic of historical value may apply for an advance towards the preliminary expenses of such a seminar. The application should give full details of the proposed Seminar and the anticipated expenses, and should be directed to the Executive of the Federation. The repayment of the loan is an early charge on the receipts of the Seminar, and 10 per cent of any profit over $20 should be donated should be donated to the Seminar Fund of the Federation.

10. DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS
Current documents and papers of the Federation shall be kept by the respective Table Officer for three years. The Treasurer shall retain the financial papers for the period required by the Income Tax Act. Thereafter, following each Annual General Meeting, the appropriate documents and papers shall be transferred to the Provincial Archives with two provisos (Letter from the Provincial Archivist, March 8, 1983):
"(a) That the records deposited will be non-current ones which, in the judgement of our staff, are of permanent archival value;
"(b) That the initial sorting of the records will be done by the Federation and that the Provincial Archives reserves the right to decide what it will accept. This agreement could be terminated by either party on one year's notice."
Documents and papers not accepted by the Provincial Archives may be disposed of or destroyed by authority of the Federation Council.

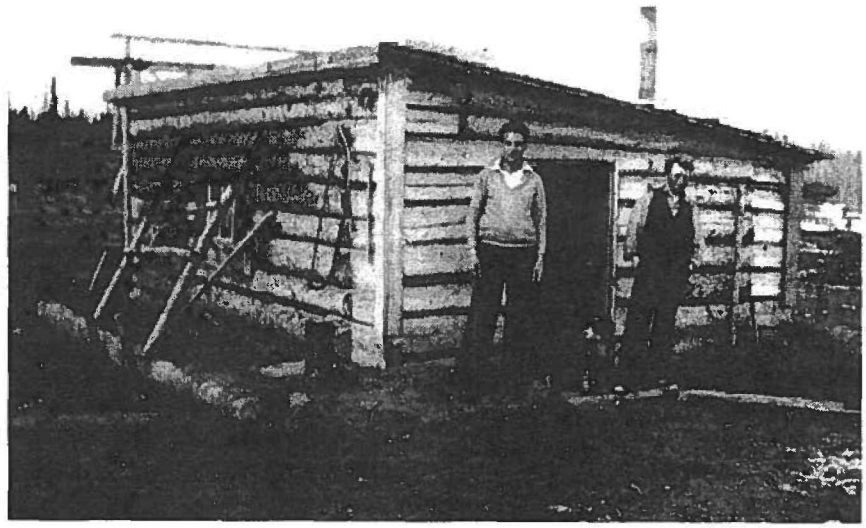
March 2000

hard-pressed for communication and entertainment, the gossip mill, or "moccasin telegraph", as it was called in Crystal Springs, ran overtime. Mary Williams, who taught in Mud Creek near Prince George between 1922 and 1924, was one victim of this vicious phenomenon:

> By the end of the first school year, this young woman, now 19 years old, had been regaled in all quarters with tales of the valley's darker side—allegations of cuckolding, incest, infidelity, greed, bootlegging, drunkenness, treachery, temporary insanity and failure.[22]

When certain members of the community disapproved of a teacher's behaviour, the teacher could be out of luck. Such was the case with Miss Beechy of Ootsa Lake: she was dismissed because of her engagement to a man not well liked in the community, who spent too much time at the young teacher's house.[23]

Tensions also resulted from a difference in philosophy between parent and teacher. At times, parents and local boards wielded tyranny over the teacher. Social pressure and ostracism as techniques of manipulation had more influence in a rural district where social options were limited. Events in the classroom found an audience in the larger context of the settlement, just as the issues of the community were transferred to the smaller stage of the classroom. Children brought their parents' attitudes with them into class—be it a grudge against a particular family, indifference or enthusiasm towards education. The teacher could not dismiss these values. In rural areas, teachers were not always supported by parents who had an agrarian background and who therefore did not place value on education to the same degree that parents in a metropolitan area might have. Parents who required their children's labour pulled them out of classes. Parents also resisted education by refusing to pay school taxes, or by withdrawing their children in hopes that the school would be forced to close.[24] In the southern Okanagan, teachers had to be aware of and sensitive to the values of the Doukhobor community. Parents of Doukhobor children were often wary of education as a state institution and a threat to their beliefs. They frequently pulled their children out of school, and the more radical elements of the community burned and bombed schools as a form of protest. Most BC teachers in the early twentieth century had either been trained in, or had living experience in an urbanized region of the province. Just as rural parents often had an agrarian bias, teachers also had their biases. Edgar's bias is apparent in his letter of 2 December 1933:



Above: *This shack was the home of the teacher at Murdale, north of Montney.*

> The homesteaders, on the other hand, are a pretty lazy bunch. They wouldn't be much good working eight hours a day at a job...I wouldn't mind so much, but their whole attitude is reflected in the behavior of the children at school, who have no ambition whatsoever, and no sense of the value of time.

Following are excerpts from a heated correspondence between Mr. Latimer and the mother of five of his students. (June, 1936) Their remarks illustrate respective urban and agrarian biases of teacher and parent, as well as the tensions that could develop between the teacher and the community:

> MRS. W. —...the insults you have thrown at the parents at different times through the children, which you must know gets repeated, I have neither respect or sympathy for such a person. We backwoods people may be pretty ignorant and may not amount to much, through the eyes of city people, but it does not help matters any to be always throwing insults at the parents and farmers through the children...
>
> EDGAR—...If these remarks about the colds could have been twisted about in such a wrong way, what assurance have I that other things I am reported to have said have really been so objectionable as you claim? ...I am sorry if your children have given the impression that I despise farmers and consider "city People" as the only persons who amount to anything. I who have spent at least half my life in rural districts would be very foolish to make such an assertion. In my opinion, however, an educated farmer is better able to make a successful living, to find more enjoyment in life,

[22] Thomas Fleming and Carolyn Smyly, "The Diary of Mary Williams: A Cameo of Rural Schooling in British Columbia, 1922-1924." *Children, Teachers and Schools in the History of British Columbia.* (Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 1995), 271

[23] Ibid., 295

[24] *Schooling and Society in Twentieth Century British Columbia.* (Calgary: Detselig Enterprises Limited, 1980), 30

and to help his country more than an uneducated farmer.

> Mrs. W.—If it had been just my own children that I heard speak of the remarks passed by the teacher previous to this you would never have had the note. It happened that I heard other children's parents discussing and laughing about it and not lately either. But they are folks who talk behind one's back, and are afraid to come forward and have it out with the person himself...

Nevertheless, this intense connection to the community had its positive points as well. Some teachers found living in a rural district to be a fulfilling and unique social experience.

The dynamics of the rural community afforded the teacher a closer relationship to his or her students than was common in the urban society that drew a sharper distinction between child and adult worlds. For others, however, their teaching experience in an isolated district was one of loneliness and depression. While rural areas did not offer the cinemas, theatres, parades, technology, and shopping options of the city, they had their own brand of entertainment. Edgar's comments on Peace River life certainly do not portray the country in a dull light:

> Well, it certainly is a strange country. There's always something happening here to keep the tongues wagging. People trading one thing for another—the minister the most eager trader of them all. Fights at dances. Fires—a home in the Murdall was destroyed this week. Marriages—half a dozen since I've been here, some of them by necessity. Men being tried for horse-stealing. A man from Clayton spending his time in the Fort St. John jail for attacking the only girl in the Clayton district. Dog teams. Indians. Extremes of weather. And so on and so on. You know how handicapped we are for means of communication, yet anything which happens here is known all over north of the Reserve in a day's time or so. (20 January 1934)

Pauline Romaine, teacher at Brilliant in 1931, enjoyed the extracurricular interaction with students that was possible in the rural setting. Her students visited her in the teacherage to listen to the phonograph, and invited her along on skating and bobsledding parties.[25] Because of the community politics described earlier, a teacher had to use wise judgement about just how much he or she became involved in the social circles of the community. More often than not, the social possibilities that a rural district offered were undesirable, particularly for the teacher who was accustomed to the variety, excitement, and comforts of urban life. While some schoolteachers did marry someone from their rural teaching district, the unsolicited attention of a community's bachelors was a grievance for many a young female teacher.

Teachers found themselves without peers or friends they could confide in. There was usually no one they could turn to for professional advice or emotional solace. Their physical isolation made communication with family and friends difficult. Telephones were non-existent (many parts of rural BC did not receive electricity until the 1960s), and radios were rare. Mail service was unpredictable, dependent on weather and road conditions. Teachers often relied on their neighbours to transport them to town, and so if no locals would be going into town for several weeks, the teacher was not able to send or receive letters. Because of this isolation, the rural school inspector was often a welcome visitor. His brief (and frequently unpredictable) visits were regarded with trepidation, because he was an authority whose criticism could greatly impact a teacher's position. But he was a new face that brought news of the "outside" world, and frequently provided the only professional feedback that a teacher would receive in ten months.

Edgar Latimer was fortunate in that there were five other teachers in nearby settlements. Even if there was a twelve-mile horse ride between one school and the next, these young people sought each other out when time and conditions allowed. It was reassuring even to know that this social outlet was there, regardless of how seldom it was tapped. These teachers held the same position in their respective communities, dealt with the same conditions, and were of similar age. Thus, in each other's company, they expressed themselves more freely than their daily role within the community permitted. In September 1935 Edgar wrote about several teachers gathering at Miss Meade's "house on wheels:" "We talked about the pupils and our schools, the parents and the other inhabitants, the inspector and the other officials, and everything in general, and quite enjoyed the evening." And again in May of the same year, all six teachers from schools north of the Indian Reserve met to collaborate on the annual Sports Day: "Besides settling the athletic question, we did considerable talking of a nature we cannot indulge among the homesteaders."

Other teachers were not as fortunate as Edgar. On 16 November 1928, a twenty-year-old

[25] *Kindling the Spark*, 93

teacher named Mabel Jones was found dead in her Cowichan Lake shack. This young teacher had been depressed in the isolated logging camp school, and had been harshly and unjustly criticized by the elected school board trustee. With no friends to talk to, she was driven to take her own life.[26] Mabel's tragic death awakened authorities to the challenges facing rural schoolteachers, and to the psychological impact of such a posting. The Department of Education acted quickly, and in December of 1928 appointed Lottie Bowron as Rural Teachers' Welfare Officer. This new position would be concerned primarily with female teachers, and specifically, with those in particularly rough and remote districts. Lottie travelled around the province inspecting rural schools, talking to teachers, and compiling a report. She listened to teachers explain their difficulties, offered advice on how to approach these problems, and spoke directly to troublesome and quarrelsome parents. When the conflict appeared to be too deep or difficult to solve, she recommended that the post be designated "a man's school". Bowron was not the first to suggest this; letters from teachers to Victoria frequently stated that the rough and rugged conditions of rural teaching posts were not suitable for female teachers.[27] While Bowron provided immediate consolation for the teachers she visited, the creation of the Rural Teachers' Welfare Officer was never intended to confront the inherent problems of rural schooling. When Bowron's position was terminated in 1934 with a change of government, little had been done to ameliorate the rural school situation.

Not until the late 1940s was there a considerable change in the discrepancies between urban and rural schooling. Improved roads lessened the distance between settlements, and between settlements and cities. The Cameron Report of 1946 truly turned the page on the traditional one-room school. The Report called for the consolidation of rural schools into larger districts, to which children would travel a farther distance and attend classes in multiple-room and multiple-teacher schools. Conditions began to more closely resemble those of urban areas. While the one-room school was phased out and relegated to the halls of history, rural teaching conditions today still leave much to be desired. As recently as March 2000, an article in *BC Teacher* entitled "Rural Teachers Resent Rent Hikes for Substandard Housing" discussed the poor living conditions and disparities suffered by teachers instructing in outlying areas of British Columbia Such grievances are not too dissimilar from the challenges that faced rural teachers in the early twentieth-century, and which have been illuminated by a study of Edgar Latimer's letters.

[26] J. Donald Wilson, "'I am ready to be of assistance when I can': Lottie Bowron and Rural Women Teachers in British Columbia." *Children, Teachers and Schools in the History of British Columbia* (Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 1995), 285

[27] Ibid., 293

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The Rose Murder Trial

by Rosemarie Parent

Rosemarie Parent is vice president of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society.

In the fall of 1902, a notorious murder trial in Nelson captivated the population of the Kootenays. Earlier that year John Cole, a rancher, had been found killed by blows to his head and neck. All the evidence seemed to point to Henry Rose as his murderer, but there was sufficient doubt in people's mind to divide public opinion on the outcome of the trial. The author has pieced together the story from 1902 newspaper articles from the archives of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, and their book *Port of Nakusp.*

One of the three men involved in the incident leading to the murder, Nels Demars, was the first known white man in the Nakusp area. He had been involved with the Columbia Gold Rush of 1865 which lasted only two years. Nels had also prospected in the Caribou Creeks (Burton) as early as 1884, and in 1894, due to rumours concerning his finds, many well-known men of Nakusp and the district had also placed stakes there.

The victim, John Cole, was the heir to a wealthy eastern family. He had taken up land about five miles from Nakusp which was later bought by Bert Herridge, MP for West Kootenay, who named it Shoreholme. Cole built a small house that is still there and Herridge used it as a library, study and storage area.

Henry Rose, the accused, came from Ottawa and had at one time worked for the Genelle Lumber Co. He was a quarrelsome man and was generally disliked on the Arrow Lakes where he trapped and prospected and cut poles with old Nels Demars. Rose was a husky man of 180 lbs., a competent woodsman, but he was prone to bouts of excessive drinking and known for his cruelty when intoxicated. This fact would weigh heavily against him later in the trial.

Lyle McDougald was in charge of the bar in the Grand Hotel, across from the Leland Hotel. The Grand Hotel burned down in 1925 and the land is still vacant today. A Mr. Hudson leased the bar business from McDougald and established an "all you can drink" attitude although this was contrary to the laws of the province that stipulated that no liquor was to be served to anyone who was already intoxicated. This also became a factor in the most notorious crime in the history of Nakusp.

Cole joined Demars and Rose in a contract to take out poles. There was some disagreement about the handling of the money received and this may have been another factor in what happened. The three men met at Nakusp and Rose asked Demars and Cole to go to his home with him. Cole did not like Rose too well and would only consent to accompany him if old Demars would go along. They loaded four bottles of liquor in Rose's rowboat and all were fairly intoxicated by this time. It was very windy, and shortly after starting out Demars turned the boat to shore because of the storm. Rose and Cole had started to argue.

The story of what happened that night gets a little confusing after this but the abnormal death of John Cole near Nakusp brought about a trial in Nelson that fall. A condensed version dealing with the famous court case was printed in the *Nelson Daily News.*

> The Rose Murder Case on Trial 3 October 1902.
> "The murder case of Rex vs. Rose reached the trial stage yesterday afternoon at the Nelson assize court. There is always more or less interest attached to cases in which the prisoner is playing in a game in which his life is the stake and the case of Rex vs. Rose is no exception to the rule...
> This is in no small measure due to the fact that the principal witness in the case for the Crown is old Nels Demars, a man who has passed the allotted span of life by almost ten years, and who for forty years has followed every mining excitement in the province that secured more than local notice. There is not a prospector in the interior who is better known to the old timers than old Nels and there is none who is held in higher esteem....
> The crime of which Henry Rose stands accused is the killing which took place in June last, a short distance from Nakusp by which John Cole, a rancher living along the Columbia river, lost his life, and in connection with which old Demars was frightfully beaten, having one eye knocked out, and so badly used up that it was considered doubtful at the time whether the old man could pull through to give his evidence at the trial... The case for the crown was conducted by W.A. Macdonald, K.C., and the interests of the prisoner, Rose, were looked after by J.A. Macdonald of Rossland... In his opening of the case for the crown, W.A. Macdonald gave the outline of the frightful tragedy... Cole, Rose and

Opposite page: *John Cole's cabin survived on Bert Herridge's "Shoreholme."*

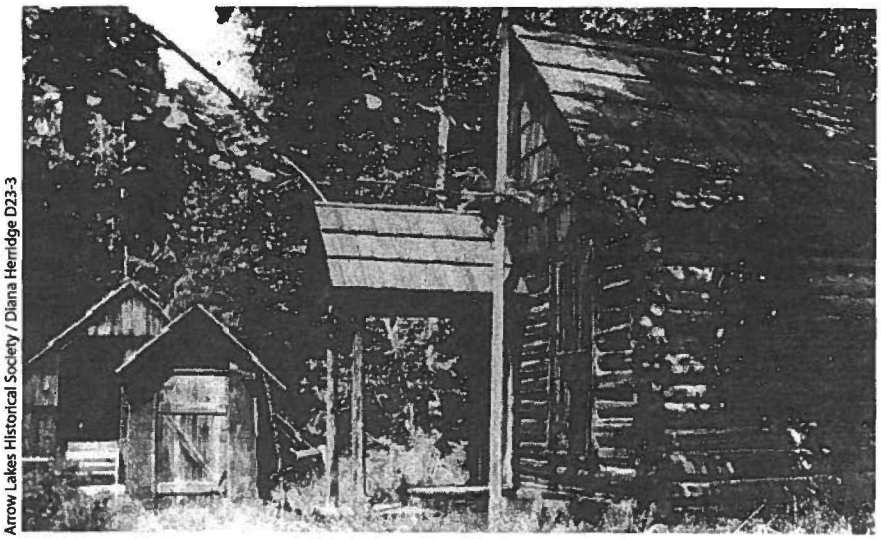
Demars—the three actors in the drama—were more or less acquainted [and] left Nakusp together on the afternoon of June 4 to go down the lake on a visit to the Rose ranch. They had considerable whiskey aboard the boat on which they started out to make the journey, and the lake was rough....After they had travelled some two miles they decided to land. Cole and Rose got out of the boat first and Demars followed them...That Demars saw Rose and Cole squabbling; that he called out to them with the result that Rose rushed at him and struck him a blow which rendered him unconscious. When he recovered his senses Demars' story was that he saw Cole's body on the ground. He then tried to light a fire, but Rose made some further remark, put out the fire, and struck him again. That same evening Rose returned to Nakusp and told a story which resulted in a party being organized to go to the scene of the fatality, where the body of Cole was found with old Demars in an unconscious condition with his head and face covered with blood. At the coroners' inquest later, it was found that Cole had received blows on the face and neck, and that his jaw had been broken, but the wound on the neck was considered sufficient to have caused his death...."

The trial continued the next day as reported in the *Nelson Daily News* of the 4 October 1902. Leo E. Simmons, customs officer of Nakusp, who had gone to the scene of the crime after Rose had come back to Nakusp for assistance, was questioned. This is his version of what Rose told him:

"I left them here (using charts and diagrams of the murder scene) and was rowing down the lake when about a quarter of a mile out, I heard cries of murder, I came back as fast as I could and found Cole dead and Demars badly knocked up. I said to him, "For God's sake, what's happened, Nels?" He said, "Two men came out of the bush and beat us with clubs." Simmons, on reaching the scene said to Rose, "That man has been choked," but Rose said, "No, I don't think so..."

Jim Christie, Frank Bourne, Constable Walter Scott, as well as Leo Simmons had accompanied Rose back to pick up Demars that night, because Rose said that he was in such bad shape that if they waited, he might be dead by morning. Scott decided that Rose's story was a fabrication and promptly arrested him on a charge of murder.

Witnesses were called and stories were heard. Rose tried to make it appear that Cole and Demars, who had both been drinking heavily, had quarrelled and that Cole had punched



Arrow Lakes Historical Society / Diana Herridge D23-3

Demars in the eye. After that injury, Demars had retaliated with a club to Cole, breaking his jaw and crushing his windpipe. Dr. Carruthers gave his opinion of both men's injuries. He stated that Cole had the broken jaw before he died and that death was from the condition of the windpipe, which would have caused suffocation. He also stated that the severe blow to Demars' eye would have knocked him unconscious for several hours—not minutes as Rose was saying. Demars was an old man of 78 and, with the eye injury he had sustained, the doctor did not think that he could have killed Cole, who was 35.

The jury heard the evidence and returned at 2:30 in the morning of 9 October 1902, to give a verdict of guilty. Rose was sentenced to death and was hung on November 21 from a scaffold built in the Nelson jail yard. He claimed his innocence right to the end.

What really happened that day would always remain a mystery. Many felt Rose did not do the deed; however, the evidence seemed to point to Rose as the culprit. He was the last to be hung in Nelson and was to be remembered for this fact.

Colonel Lowery of the *Denver Ledge* best summed up the last moments of Rose's life:

A life shortened by liquor, insensitivity and the law of the land...Henry Rose was hung in Nelson last Friday for the murder of John Cole last summer. He exhibited nerve to the last, and died game protesting his innocence. He has probably gone to heaven, as his spiritual adviser kissed him and said prayers over him just as the hangman dropped him to Jesus. It seems like refined cruelty to give a man a good breakfast, with a side dish of prayers, and then push him out on the air with a tightened necktie. But law is law, even it if has several traces of barbarism.

Nels Demars never really recovered from the terrible beating he took at the hands of Henry Rose in 1902. His brother and sister came out from Quebec in 1908 to assist and comfort him. He was quite ill and finally died 2 December 1908, at the age of 83. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Catholic cemetery. Demars never made a large sum of money during his prospecting days. There is a story though of a map he carried to his dying day, and a place on Saddleback mountain which yielded a little sack of nuggets each time Nels and his little dog disappeared from the trail leading up the mountain. He would not reveal the exact spot of this bonanza and the map has never been found.

Token History:

E.G. Prior & Co. Limited Liability and the Company's tokens

by Ronald Greene

EDWARD Gawler Prior was born 21 May 1853 at Dallowgill, in Yorkshire. He articled to a mining engineer and came out to British Columbia in 1873, becoming the engineer and surveyor of the Vancouver Coal Mining & Land Company at Nanaimo. In 1878 he left the company when he was appointed Government Inspector of Mines for the province. He subsequently resigned as Inspector in May 1880 to buy into the Victoria iron and hardware firm of Alfred Fellows.[1]

Alfred Fellows had founded his firm in June 1859.[2] In later years the E.G. Prior Ld Ly dated its existence from then. Fellows took in his brother Arthur as a partner the following year, but the partnership was short-lived and ended in February 1862. Six months later Fellows took another partner, Francis J. Roscoe. That partnership lasted until December 1878 when Roscoe, suffering from depression, committed suicide. While a partner, Roscoe had served one term as the Member of Parliament for Victoria. After Roscoe died the business reverted once more to Alfred Fellows. Fellows' next and last partner was E.G. Prior. The firm carried on as Fellows & Prior until Fellows retired in October 1883 and returned to England. At that point E.G. Prior purchased Fellows' interests and the company became E.G. Prior & Co. At the end of 1891 it was incorporated and assumed the name E.G. Prior & Co. Limited Liability.[3] The company prospered and Prior became a wealthy man.

In 1878 E.G. Prior married Suzette Work, the youngest daughter of John Work, of Hillside Farm. She died in December 1897, aged 42, after a long illness, leaving a son and three daughters. In February 1899 Prior remarried, this time to Genevieve Baushter Wright Kennedy, a widow from San Francisco and formerly of Victoria. She was the eldest daughter of the late Capt. Thomas Wright.

Prior's public life commenced when he joined the militia in Nanaimo in 1874. When he removed to Victoria he joined the B.C. Garrison Artillery. He was gazetted as Colonel in command of the 5th Regiment, Canadian Artillery in 1888, a command he relinquished in 1896. While in command he led the Canadian rifle team to Bisley in 1890. Prior had many other interests and played the lead in a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* at the opening of the Victoria Theatre in 1885.[4] In 1890 he also acted as manager of the Canadian tennis team at Wimbledon.

The political field also attracted Prior. He was first elected to the provincial legislature in July 1886. He switched to Federal politics in 1888 when Noah Shakespeare resigned his House of Commons seat to become postmaster. Prior won the seat by acclamation. He served as a Cabinet Minister in several governments and remained a member in Ottawa until 1902 when he returned to provincial politics. Winning a by-election on 10 March 1902, he served briefly in the Dunsmuir government, and then as Premier from 21 November 1902. On 31 May 1903 he was asked to resign over the award of a government contract for wire rope awarded to E.G. Prior & Co. Ld. Ly. He took the position that he had not influenced the bid and that the company was an incorporated company of which he was only a shareholder. However, the Legislative Assembly refused his request to pass supply and the Lieutenant-Governor refused his request for dissolution. He did not contest the next general election which was the first provincial election contested under party lines. In the next few years he travelled extensively and became active in local affairs such as the Victoria Board of Trade.

On 18 December 1919 Colonel Prior became the eleventh Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. In early November 1920, while attending a tennis exhibition, he took ill with a recurrence of an old intestinal problem. His condition quickly worsened and he entered the Royal Jubilee Hospital. In December he suffered a relapse and underwent a major operation from which he did not recover. E.G. Prior died on 12 December 1920,[5] survived by his second wife and his four children. A state funeral was held on 15 December with burial following in Ross Bay Cemetery beside his first wife, Suzette.

[1] J.B. Kerr, *Biographical Dictionary of Well-Known British Columbians*, 1890.
[2] *Victoria Gazette*, 21 June 1859.
[3] *Colonist*, 5 Jan. 1892.
[4] *Colonist*, 1 Oct. 1885.
[5] *Victoria Times*, 13 Dec. 1920.

Returning to the company, we find that in its 1909 catalogue there were a head office and two outlets in Victoria, a store in Kamloops, another in Vancouver, and offices in London, England, and New York. Another hardware firm founded in Victoria was McLennan and McFeely. The two partners, Robert Purves McLennan and Edward John McFeely, were from Nova Scotia and Ontario respectively. They met in Winnipeg and when McLennan arrived in Victoria in 1884 he asked McFeely to join him. Two years later the firm moved to Vancouver. This firm incorporated in 1896 as McLennan, McFeely & Co. Limited. The year 1898 saw McLennan take a load of merchandise into Dawson. Intending to stay only a few weeks, he ended up staying there for five years.

By 1928 all three principals of the two firms had passed away and that year E.G. Prior & Co. Ld. Ly. amalgamated with McLennan, McFeely & Co. Limited to become McLennan, McFeely & Prior Ltd. which became known universally as "Mc & Mc" until its demise. The amalgamated firm undoubtedly is still remembered by many readers. In time the company was sold to Acklands Ltd and in 1961 dropped out of the retail field. In 1967 various affiliated companies were consolidated and the use of the name, Mc & Mc, was discontinued.

Prior's house, built for him in 1885, survives to this day at 729 Pemberton Road in Victoria. Roscoe's house on Fairfield Road, which is somewhat older, was saved from demolition last year as a result of a campaign by some dedicated heritage supporters.

The tokens are made of aluminum. The 25 cent denomination measures 25 ½ mm and the $1.00 denomination measures 31 mm in diameter. The exact use of the tokens, which read "Cartage Check," is uncertain, but probably they were used as a discount on delivery c. 1900. As the tokens read Victoria they may have been issued before the company expanded to Vancouver and Kamloops, but that is speculation. There is no mention of the tokens in the company's 1909 catalogue.

Reports

Trail Celebrating its Centenary

by F.E. (Buddy) DeVito

TRAIL STARTED LIFE as a landing place for the sternwheeler *Lytton* running on the Columbia River between Northport, Washington and Sproats Landing to pick up ore from the mines in Rossland, 6 miles up the mountain. Trail's first Mayor, Colonel Eugene Sayer Topping, had arrived at what was to become the Trail townsite from the United States, and had followed the chase for fortune to the Kootenays, finally being drawn to the then emerging gold town of Rossland in 1890.

From this humble beginning and because of the need for a better method of exploiting the increasing production of the mine in Rossland, Augustus Heinz, also an American from Butte, Montana, constructed a copper smelter in Topping's townsite in 1895. This smelter eventually became the largest non-ferrous smelter in the world.

By 1897 Trail had a population of 2,500. Rossland and Nelson had been incorporated so some 40 of Trail's leading citizens, claiming that Trail was "the geographical and business centre of the Trail Creek mining subdivision," petitioned the then Provincial Government in Victoria to recognize Trail as the site for various official offices. In 14 June 1901 Letters Patent were granted establishing the Corporation of the City of Trail. On July 6 in the same year, the first Trail City Council was elected with Colonel Topping as its Mayor.

The Trail smelter was one of six that were built in the heady days of mining development of that time in Nelson, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Pilot Bay and Northport, Washington. Trail's smelter was the only one to survive the turbulent years before the First World War. Once a city of 9,000 and the fifth largest city in British Columbia, Trail is now the home of 7,000 residents, with first-class medical, education and recreational facilities, and is known to the thousands who have, at one time or another worked or visited here.

Preparations for a first class observation of the Centenary have been going on for over a year. An enthusiastic group of volunteers are determined to ensure that, while Homecoming Weekend June 29, 30 and July 1 will be the highlight of the celebration, there will be plenty going on all through the year to recognize and acknowledge the foresight of the pioneers and citizens who have made Trail a great place to live in 2001.

Archives and Archivists

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"Keeping the Past Up to Date"

by Normand Laplante

AT THE REQUEST of then Dominion Archivist, Wilfred I. Smith, W. Kaye Lamb agreed in 1984 to write his recollections of a career as an archivist. In the foreword to the document, Dr. Lamb does not define it as a memoir but "in less grand terms as a sustained memorandum, intended to provide the information on innumerable topics that Dr. Smith was anxious to have available in the years to come."[1] The 650-page "memo" found in his fonds at the National Archives of Canada constitutes an interesting account filled with personal observations on his formative years and his later career as a well-known historian, librarian, archivist and administrator. In memories from his student days and his years as the Provincial Archivist and Librarian of British Columbia and as Librarian of the University of British Columbia, Lamb describes some of the influences and events in his life that led to his appointment as Dominion Archivist.

Born in New Westminster, British Columbia, on 11 May 1904, Lamb was sent to Vancouver to attend high school and University. As a youth, he had no interest in history, especially as he found Canadian history textbooks boring. His passion for history was ignited in his freshman year at the University of British Columbia with a course on modern European history taught by F.H. Soward. In his memoirs, Lamb says that Soward "made history immediate and relevant, expected us to follow current events, and devoted a good part of the weekly tutorial periods to a discussion of them."[2] Nevertheless, the study of Canadian history still did not appeal to him because of its heavy emphasis at that time ("virtual obsession" according to Lamb) on pre-Confederation constitutional history.

However, new historical trends were taking hold within the academic community. Defending his graduating essay in 1926 on the causes and effects of the execution of Charles I, Lamb was taken to task by a new history professor at UBC, Hugh Keenleyside, for neglecting the economic and social implications involved in his work. He remembers becoming "conscious of a whole new dimension to history,"[3] a dimension which would greatly influence his views on historical research and the importance of archival records.

The year 1928 was a self-described "turning point" in Lamb's life. He was awarded the Nicol scholarship, a three-year bursary given to a UBC student to study at a French University. In the fall, he registered as a candidate for a *Doctorat de l'Université de Paris* in humanities. Reminiscing about his studies in Paris, Lamb described his encounters with well-known French historians such as André Siegfried, Charles de Seignobos, and Albert Mathiez, the foremost authority on the French Revolution at the time.

Forced to return to Vancouver for health reasons in the spring of 1929, Lamb decided to work on completing his MA at UBC. In the spring of 1930, his thesis on the origins of the British Labour Party was submitted and approved. In consultation with departmental authorities at UBC, Lamb decided to abandon the idea of obtaining a doctorate in Paris. Instead, he registered at the London School of Economics in the hope of doing further work on the emergence of Labour's political independence in Great Britain. However, to retain the funding of the Nicol scholarship, he did most of his research in published materials and newspapers at the *Bibliothèque nationale* in Paris. His thesis supervisor at the University of London was the renowned socialist, Harold Laski. Lamb's thesis was completed and defended in November 1933.

In the fall of 1934, Lamb was approached by the Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education of British Columbia, Dr. George M. Weir, about a possible appointment as the Provincial Librarian and Archivist in Victoria. He accepted the offer and took command of a staff of five housed in a wing of the Parliament buildings. In evaluating his archival experience at that time, Lamb conceded that his involvement with archival holdings to that point had been limited, almost exclusively, to research on non-governmental material in manuscript repositories in the United Kingdom. Help from the Canadian archival community could not be expected as the profession was still in the early stages of development. Turning to the Manual of Archives Administration by Hilary Jenkinson, he found little

[1] Dr. Kaye Lamb fonds, MG 31 D 8, vol. 18, file 6, Foreword
[2] Dr. Kaye Lamb fonds, MG 31 D 8, vol. 18, file 6, p. 5
[3] *ibid.*

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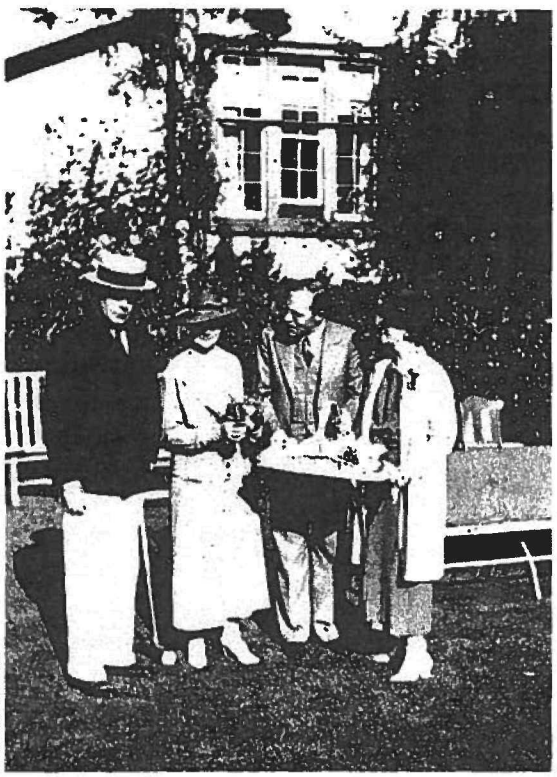
assistance as "in Jenkinson's view, only official documents that had been continuously in official custody were entitled to be designated as archives". He added that Jenkinson "would have looked upon the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, with its small collection of official records and its much larger accumulation of historical manuscripts, transcripts, etc., as being little better than an archival dog's breakfast."[4]


BC Archives F-05699

Centre: *Dr. Lamb (second from right) at a garden party of the BC Historical Association in Victoria in 1937. The exact date and the occasion are not known. The people who are with Dr. Lamb also need identification.*

Lamb's approach to archival administration was a simple one: "look for practical solutions to practical problems."[5] His first priority at the Provincial Archives was to improve the management of space to give better access to the existing archival holdings. Next on his list was to activate the acquisition of post-confederation provincial records. Despite his best efforts, Lamb did not succeed in obtaining legislation which would have regulated the disposal of government records and assured the transfer of historical records to his institution. He attributes his failure to two factors: the "lack of accommodation to which records in volume could be transferred" and an old nemesis of his, which Lamb calls the "1871 fixation—the widespread impression that the Archives should be concerned only with the early days of exploration and the Colonial period that ended in 1871, when British Columbia joined Canada."[6]

Years later, as Dominion Archivist, Lamb would face similar challenges on the federal scene, trying to persuade the government of the need for physical expansion of the Public Archives and the implementation of a records management program for official records. In a kinder context, as a result of an extraordinary increase in the production of governmcnt documents after the Second World War and with the resources to bring about change at hand, his initiatives were successful. They were considered some of his greatest contributions to archival practice.[7]

To promote historical research and writing on British Columbia, Lamb launched the British Columbia Historical Quarterly in 1936 and presided over successful efforts to expand the membership of the British Columbia Historical Association that same year. He details in his memoirs his efforts to bring the publishing project to fruition and sustain it during his ten years as editor. Lamb would later be recognized for his impressive work in historical editing, especially with works on exploration, such as the journals of Sir Alexander Mackenzie and George Vancouver.

In his dual position as Provincial Librarian and Archivist of British Columbia, he renewed his involvement with libraries which had started with part-time work at the UBC library during his graduate days. When appointed Superintendent and Secretary of the Public Library Commission in 1936, the largest extension service in Canada was added to his duties. New challenges awaited Lamb with his appointment as Librarian at the University of British Columbia in September of 1940. At UBC, he was returning to an institution which would see radical changes with post-war expansion. Lamb remembers the years 1945 to 1948 as "a time of great stress and strain, as veterans arrived in droves and we found ourselves trying to meet the needs of 9,300 students with facilities that had been designed to serve 1,800 at the most."[8] He succeeded in obtaining funding for additional quarters and worked closely with architects in planning the building, completed in 1948.

While at UBC, Lamb was asked to take on the cause of creating a National Library as President of the Canadian Library Association. In this capacity, Lamb met with Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King in June 1948. The Prime Minister was so impressed with him, that after the meeting he told J. W. Pickersgill, on his staff at that time, "that man should become head of the Archives right away."[9] Three months later, Lamb was appointed Dominion Archivist, and 5 years after, National Librarian.

[4] *ibid.* p 67.
[5] *ibid.*
[6] *ibid.*, pp. 70-71
[7] See Ian Wilson's article. "A Noble Dream: The Origins of the Public Archives of Canada," in *Archivaria*, No. 15, Winter 1982-83, p 35; Danielle Lacasse at Antonio Lechasseur, *The National Archives of Canada, 1872-1997*, The Canadian Historical Association, Historical Booklet No. 58, p 16.
[8] Dr. Kaye Lamb fonds, MG 31 D 8, vol. 18, file 7, p 127.
[9] J.W. Pickergill, "Kaye Lamb in Ottawa," in *Archivaria*, no. 15, Winter 1982-83, p 5.

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William Kaye Lamb (1904–1999)

by Glyndwr Williams

THE DEATH OF DR. KAYE LAMB on 24 August 1999 brought to an end one of the longest and most productive careers in Canadian academic life. He was in turn Provincial Archivist and Librarian of British Columbia (1934–1940), Librarian of the University of British Columbia (1940–1948), Dominion Archivist of Canada (1948–1968), and National Librarian of Canada (1953–1967). In the latter post he was responsible for the creation of the National Library, and before his retirement saw the opening of a new building to house both the National Library and the National Archives. By training Kaye Lamb was a historian, not a librarian, and despite the heavy weight of administrative duties his working life involved, he continued to pursue his researches into the history of the Pacific Northwest and the fur trade. Soon after taking up his first major post he founded (in 1936) the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* and edited it for the first ten years of its existence. He also served as President of the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Historical Association, and the Champlain Society.

Retirement to Vancouver in the late 1960s allowed Kaye Lamb to spend more time on his scholarly projects, although his output of meticulously edited journals of the fur-trade explorers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century was already in full flow. His *Sixteen Years in the Indian Country: The Journal of Daniel William Harmon* was published in 1957, to be followed by *Simon Fraser: Letters and Journals* in 1966. It was while still in Ottawa that Kaye Lamb did most of the editorial work for the first of his Hakluyt Society editions, *The Journals and Letters of Sir Alexander Mackenzie*, published in the Society's Extra Series in 1970. For Kaye Lamb the 1970s were dominated in scholarly terms by work on his edition of Captain George Vancouver's voyage of 1791–1795 to the Northwest Coast. This grew with the years, for its editor was determined to make it more than simply a reprint of Vancouver's own journal. He drew on a further twenty-three logs and journals kept on the expedition, and the footnotes and appendices began to take on a Beagleholean splendour and length. The Society's President at the time remembers that as the manuscript was being prepared for the press, most weeks his post included a letter from Kaye Lamb— suggesting this, enquiring about that, occasionally speculating whether he would live long enough to see the great enterprise in print. In 1984, when Kaye was eighty years of age, the Society published *The Voyage of George Vancouver 1791–1795*—four volumes, 1752 pages. It was, in the words of Kaye Lamb's obituary in the *Vancouver Sun* (7 September 1999), "his masterwork ...edited and furnished with a 256-page introduction, in itself the definitive biography of the explorer."

As the years went by Kaye Lamb became first housebound and then bed-bound in his apartment on Pendrell Street overlooking the waters of English Bay. There he held court in the afternoons, welcoming a stream of visitors, including many from Britain and from the ranks of the Hakluyt Society. However frail the body, the mind was as alert as ever. More than one visitor has a memory of groping for the name of an author or the title of a book, only to find Kaye Lamb quietly supplying it. In 1992 the bicentennial of George Vancouver's arrival on the Northwest Coast was marked by a conference at the downtown campus in Vancouver of Simon Fraser University. Kaye Lamb was unable to attend in person, but presented a paper to the conference that showed that the journal kept on Vancouver's voyage by the naturalist Archibald Menzies was intended as a rival record to the official journal kept by Vancouver—a discovery that threw new light on the tense relationships between Vancouver, Menzies and Sir Joseph Banks. It was characteristic of Kaye Lamb's relentless pursuit of the last detail that at his request two members of the Council of the Hakluyt Society found themselves spending time in the inadequate light of the old Manuscripts Room of the British Library, struggling to read the dates of the watermarks on all 420 folios of Menzies's original journal.

For some of Kaye's British friends, the conference year of 1992 was the last occasion on which they saw him. Among Kaye's many regular visitors in his last twelve months, which were spent in the University of British Columbia Hospital, was an old friend who, one day only two weeks before Kaye's death, found him asleep in bed, "but with a book firmly clenched in an open position in his hands."

Archives and Archivists
Editor Frances Gundry

Candidates for the 18th Competition for Writers of BC History

ANDERSON, Ian: *Sitting Bull's Boss: Above the Medicine Line With James Morrow Walsh* (Heritage)
ANDERSON, Margaret, and Marjorie Halpin, editors: *Potlatch at Gitsegukia: William Beynon's 1945 Field Notebooks.* (UBC)
BAREFOOT, Kevin, and the editors of Monday Magazine: *Victoria: Secrets of the City.* (Arsenal)
BATE, Geoff, *The Places of the Kettle Valley.* (1)
BENNETT, Norma V., Dr. R.E.M. Lee Hospital Foundation: *Pioneer Legacy: Chronicles of the Lower Skeena River - Volume II.* (Harbour)
BRAID, Kate: *Emily Carr: Rebel Artist.* (XYZ)
CHALMERS, William: *George Mercer Dawson: Geologist, Scientist, Explorer.* (XYZ)
CLAYTON, Daniel W.: *Islands of Truth: The Imperial Fashioning of Vancouver Island.* (UBC)
CRAWFORD, Scott: *The Diary and Letters of a Seagoing Man: April 1942-October 1945.* (2)
DAVIS, Chuck: *Where Rails Meet Rivers: The Story of Port Coquitlam.* (Harbour)
DUNFORD, Muriel Poulton: *North River: The Story of British Columbia 's North Thompson Valley & Yellowhead Highway 5.* (Sono)
ELLIOTT, Marie: *Gold and Grand Dreams: Cariboo East in the Early Years.* (Horsdal)
FISKE, JoAnne with the assistance of Betty Patrick: *Cis dideen kat (When the Plumes Rise): The Way of the Lake Babine Nation.* (UBC)
FORSYTHE, Mark: *British Columbia Almanac,* (Arsenal)
FRANCIS, Daniel, editor: *Encyclopedia of British Columbia,* (Harbour)
GREEN, Lewis: *The Great Years: Gold Mining in the Bridge River Valley.* (Soules)
GREEN, Valerie: *Upstarts and Outcasts: Victoria's Not-So-Proper Past.* (Horsdal)
HOLLEY, D.A.: *Don't Shoot from the Saddle: Chronicles of a Frontier Surgeon.* (Heritage)
HOLMES, W. Leslie with Bruce Northrop: *Where Shadows Linger: The Untold Story of the RCMP's Olson Murders Investigation.* (Heritage)
HORWOOD, Dennis, and Tom Parkin: *Haida Gwaii: The Queen Charlotte Islands.* (Heritage)
HUMPHREYS, Danda: *On the Street Where You Live, Volume II: Victoria's Early Roads and Railways.* (Heritage)
IRVINE, Thelma: *Where the River Ran: The Story of the Peace,* (Horsdal)

JOYCE, Art: *Hanging Fire and Heavy Horses: A History of Public Transit in Nelson.* (3)
KELLER, Betty C.: *Pender (Harbour) Cowboy: The Many Lives of Bertrand Sinclair.* (Horsdal)
LAMBERT, Barbara Ann: *Chalkdust and Outhouses: West Coast Schools, 1893-1950.* (Heritage)
MACDONALD, Ian, and Betty O'Keefe: *Canadian Holy War: A Story of Clans, Tongs, Murder, and Bigotry.* (Heritage)
MACKIE, Richard Somerset: *Island Timber: A Social History of the Comox Logging Company, Vancouver Island.* (Sono)
MCGILLIVRAY, Brett: *Geography of British Columbia: People and Landscapes in Transition.* (UBC)
MCLAREN, T.A., and Vickie Jensen: *Ships of Steel.* (Harbour)
MCLENNAN, Bill, and Karen Duffek: *The Transforming Image: Painted Arts of Northwest Coast First Nations.* (UBC)
NEUFELD, Andrew, and Andrew Parnaby: *The IWA in Canada: The Life and Times of an Industrial Union.* (New Star)
PHILLIPS, Sallie: *You're On The Air.* (Sono)
PIFFKO, Karen: *The Life and Times of Texas Fosbery: The Cariboo and Beyond.* (Heritage)
PIGOTT, Peter: *Flying Canucks III: Famous Canadian Aviators.* (Harbour)
PRINCETON History Book Committee: *Princeton Our Valley: A History of Princeton, Allison Pass, Tulameen, Sterling Creek, Aspen Grove, Osprey Lake, Copper Mtn., Darcy Mtn., Allenby, Blakeburn, Coalmont.* (4)
PROVINCE, THE: The Way We Were. (Harbour)
RAYNER, William: *British Columbia's Premiers in Profile: the Good, the Bad and the Transient.* (Heritage)
STANGOE, Irene: *History and Happenings in the Cariboo-Chilcotin: Pioneer Memories.* (Heritage)
THIRKELL, Fred, and Bob Scullion: *Vancouver and Beyond: Pictures and Stories from the Postcard Era 1900-1914.* (Heritage)
THOMPSON, Margaret: *Eyewitness (5)*
WATT, K. Jane: *Milk Stories: A History of the Dairy Industry in British Columbia 1827-2000.* (6)
YESAKI, Mitsuo, and Sakuya Nishimura: *Salmon Canning on the Fraser River in the 1890s.* (7)
YORATH, C.J.: *A Measure of Value: the Story of the D'Arcy Island Leper Colony.* (Horsdal)
ZYTARUK, Tom: *Millennium Milestones: A History of Surrey, White Rock and North Delta.* (8)

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Book Reviews

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Anne Yandle, Book Review Editor BC Historical News, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6S 1E4

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Music of the Alaska-Klondike Gold Rush: Songs & History, reviewed by Philip J. Thomas.

Daniel Frances, ed.
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A Century of Paddlewheelers in the Pacific Northwest, the Yukon and Alaska, reviewed by Tom Lymbery.

Muriel Poulton Dunford
North River: The Story of BC's Thompson Valley & Yellowhead Highway, reviewed by Melva Dwyer.

Andrea Lebowitz and Gillian Milton
Gilean Douglas, Writing Nature, Finding Home, reviewed by Marie Elliott.

William J. Wheeler, ed.
Skippers of the Sky: The Early Years of Bush Flying, reviewed by Robert Allen.

Eldon Lee
They Were Giants in Those Days: Stories from the Heart of the Cariboo, reviewed by Esther Darlington.

Stephen Hume
Bush Telegraph: Discovering the Pacific Province, reviewed by Kelsey McLeod.

K. McTaggart
Golden Fleece: Mine-finding and Adventure in the Pacific Northwest, reviewed by Ted Affleck.

William Chalmers
George Mercer Dawson, Geologist, Scientist, Explorer, reviewed by Ken McTaggart.

Valerie Green
Upstarts and Outcasts: Vicoria's Not-so-Proper Past, reviewed by Arnold Ranneris

Music of the Alaska-Klondike Gold Rush: Songs & History

Jean A. Murray. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1999. 440 pp. Illus., map US$54.95 hardcover; US$35.95 spiral bound.
REVIEWED BY PHILIP J. THOMAS.

In the Preface to *Music of the Alaska-Klondike Gold Rush*, Jean Murray tells us that in 1989 she back-packed the 33-mile trail that led her over the Chilkoot Pass, the famed access to the Klondike gold fields. Covering the same ground that tested the commitment and endurance of the gold seekers of 1897-1898, she was symbolically beginning her trek into the past, into the gold-rush communities in the Yukon and to the adjacent gold-bearing diggings in Alaska. She undertook this journey not for gold, but for evidence of the place of music in the lives of those who took part in the gold rushes of that period.

At the time of her Chilkoot trek Jean Murray had been in Alaska for over twenty years. In 1966, she and her husband Bob, both university graduates, left Michigan with an infant in arms to teach, first in Nome, Alaska, and then in Fairbanks where Bob held the principalship of a K-12 school till his retirement in 1989. In the following ten years, with Bob's active support, Jean uncovered masses of material relating to music both in the lives of individual people and in the gold-mining communities, finally bringing this book to publication.

Although music had been part of their lives with Jean's skills as a pianist and their taking part in such social activities as informal singalongs, it had not been for the Murrays a primary area of scholarship. Yet once she set herself the task of reconstructing that musical past, Jean was fortunate that much information, as with the placer gold itself, waited to be unearthed in libraries, in archival collections of songs and sheet music, in letters and diaries, in books of recollections, in contemporary newspapers, and in a few cases in the living memory of a few aging people who could still help bridge the century.

Jean Murray lists 21 libraries and archives whose holdings she used. Many were in Alaska, one-third of them in Canada, and many to the south across the United States. In the book, her bibliography of printed sources fills six pages. As Murray's research progressed, her aim became the full documentation of song and music both in the Klondike, and in the rush to Nome, which began with the gold strike in 1900.

Through her researches Jean Murray amassed nearly a hundred musical items, all of which she presents with full piano accompaniment. While most of the music replicates the original printed sheet music, Murray did arrange sixteen of the pieces herself. Throughout the book each song or small grouping is preceded on a separate page with an introduction generally of one or two paragraphs. These introductions place the songs or piano solos in a context, and are often anecdotal, both interesting and amusing. Occasionally the reader is provided with sidebars or other "framed" items highlighting persons or social aspects of life at the time.

The body of the book presents the songs and piano solos in three main groupings. The first part comprises songs homemade in the gold rush communities by the miners or their associates. The first, titled "The Carmack Song," appeared soon after George Carmack made in 1896 the gold discovery that led to the Klondike rush. Titled "Songs and Parodies by Gold Seekers" this section contains twelve songs and two piano solos. Murray says the section includes "every song and parody written by a gold seeker that [she] found". Even at this late date, further search may uncover others.

The book's second section, titled "Songs about the Gold Rush by Professional Musicians" contains contemporary sheet music, twenty-one of the thirty titles using the word "Klondike" (with "i" or "y"). Only half are songs, the bulk (on sixty pages) being piano solos.

The final section, "Popular Music Recalled in Diaries and Other Accounts of the Gold Rush", which takes up half the book, is almost entirely given to songs and their backgrounds. Most of them came from the nineteenth century body of popular song, including some hymns, and are still familiar.

To complement the social history encompassed by the songs and their introductions, the book has many large well-produced photographs, most showing gold-rush musicians. A double-page map makes it easy to locate the references in the text.

Access to the book is aided by its table of contents and by its indexes. For the songs and music there are both a title and a first line index. The book's "Name & Subject Index" is double columned and fills over ten pages. One inconvenience in the table of contents is the lack of distinction between song and piano-solo items, all listed in a column headed "songs."

One regret is that the book has no colour, especially for the covers of the sheet music. This lack is compensated in part by three reproductions on the handsome dust jacket. Under the jacket are strong boards, covered substantially in white with title on spine and the front in bright gilt lettering. The volume is printed in Canada by the University of Toronto Press Inc.

Finally, it is noted that the University of Alaska Press have produced a musical resource on CD and cassette containing fifteen songs, on one of which the accompaniment is provided by Jean Murray.

Reviewer Philip J. Thomas is Honorary Library Associate, Special Collections, The Library, UBC

The Encyclopedia of British Columbia

Daniel Francis Editorial Director. Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Publishing, 2000. 850 pp. Illus. $99.99 hardcover. (companion CD-ROM edition.)

REVIEWED BY DAVE PARKER

"Concise, accessible information" is an excellent statement of an encyclopedia's purpose. While seemingly straightforward it is an extremely difficult task even if the subject is limited in its scope by geography. This convenient single volume with its interactive CD-ROM is a long awaited, remarkable, work.

In his foreword, Howard White, the publisher, refers to some of the reactions he encountered when announcing his intention to undertake the project. Probably the most frequent of these were "what a wonderful idea", and another, "what will be in it?" A cynical reaction to that same question might have been "sure, but it'll be BC as seen through the mists of Burrard Inlet!" That would have been unfair: the *Encyclopedia of British Columbia* is far from being that.

Daniel Francis, the editorial director, has shown considerable courage in undertaking a project, which includes every reasonable aspect of British Columbia's natural and human history. It wasn't a commitment he could have made easily, even with considerable experience as a writer and historian who is very knowledgeable about his subject. He even had involvement in producing large-scale reference projects. That he undertook the *Encyclopedia* at all is impressive.

The inclusion of overviews on a variety of subjects such as "BC History" generally, and more specialized subjects, such as "Military History," "First Nations," and various industries and activities is a very useful feature of the *Encyclopedia*. Information from well-chosen subject consultants adds greatly to the quality and accuracy of the publication. I found that the "Additional References" section, however, left me wondering why some sources had been included and others not, but that is probably due, once again, to individual experience.

Inevitably anyone, and possibly, everyone, reading the *Encyclopedia of British Columbia* with knowledge of BC will find what they consider omissions, and inclusions that may concern them. This is a given in this sort of publication where so much is being covered. A case in point is under "Disasters-fires." While Barkerville, Fernie, Armstrong, Nanaimo, New Westminster, and even Victoria, had equally destructive fires, it is necessary to look them up individually. The "Disaster" category, like others, is intended as a guide, a brief and superficial chronology. If you take the time to look, you will find some information on almost any topic.

Conversely, there may be some disappointments in the sense that a topic may not have received what is felt to be adequate coverage. An example relates to shipbuilding, a major industry in Victoria and Esquimalt. While the overview provided is excellent as a survey of the history, it might have been appropriate to have lengthier information on companies important in shipbuilding such as Bullen's and Yarrows. The latter is cross-referenced to Burrard.

Another example, for me at least, relates to Fire Department history. The fact that Victoria had what was likely the first department west of Toronto, and possibly north of San Francisco in 1858, was not addressed. Fire departments and their members were, especially in the nineteenth century, important to the basic survival of a settlement no matter what its size.

These are minor concerns in the nature of any encyclopedia: Diderot probably heard complaints. But it is possible for readers to redress the situation by contacting the publisher with additional information.

Statistical information in the *Encyclopedia* is wide ranging in subject and of a length that is informative while not being burdensome. Graphs and maps also are well thought out both as to subjects and what is included by way of information. Execution is flawless and very appealing. Photography is appropriate and very well reproduced with colour photos for most modern subjects, many of which were taken especially for the *Encyclopedia*. Layout and other features such as selection of typeface and quality of printing are excellent.

The CD-ROM, which is an interactive multi-media version of the *Encyclopedia*, is a very appealing aspect of the project and one that will certainly attract the school age audience—hopefully they'll use both the book and the CD-ROM.

The *Encyclopedia* is very definitely "convenient, concise information," but it is more, much more—it's also enriching, and even entertaining. The publisher and editorial directors as well as the contributors involved deserve tremendous credit for undertaking a project of this scope. Much more could be said, but my feeling, as one who has worked with British Columbia history for almost thirty years is: "Well done, in fact, very well done! Thank you!"

Reviewer Dave Parker is Esquimalt Municipal Archivist

A Century of Paddlewheelers in the Pacific Northwest, the Yukon and Alaska.

Edward L. Affleck, comp. Vancouver: 2000. The Alexander Nicholls Press. 104 pp. Illus. $25 paperback.

REVIEWED BY TOM LYMBERY

Affleck records a thousand sternwheelers that were built and worked waterways throughout the northwestern United States, British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, and North West Territories from the 1860s to about 1960. Some lasted only a few months until they were wrecked or burned, or, at the other end of the scale, consider the *Moyie,* that served Kootenay Lake for 59 years.

The author firmly resists insidious metrification, since this was never used in the period covered. His classification system clearly shows the length, width, and depth of

each boat in feet, its gross and registered tonnages, the cylinder sizes in inches, and the nominal horsepower that each steam engine produced. After listing all these, the result of his lifetime's research, he still asks: "Do you know of any sternwheeler that I may have missed?"

The cover photo shows the steamers *Trail*, *Minto*, and *Rossland*— three of the boats that worked the more than 100-mile route from Robson west to Arrowhead. Nice, clear full-page maps show the key to forty different steamer routes from Portland, Oregon, the Peace River, to the Yukon and everything in between.

The abbreviation SS for Steam Ship, does not appear anywhere in the descriptions or text. As these boats were not built to classify with ocean-going vessels Affleck sticks to Str. (Steamer). However, I would nominate an honorary SS to the *Nasookin*—the largest of the thousand, and the only boat with steel hull and steel deck, strong enough to carry a daily Greyhound bus carefully balanced across the bow.

Fascinating information from our foremost paddlewheeler historian. How did the *Moyie* last 59 years, when so many wooden hulls deteriorated in eight or nine years? The *Moyie*, *Minto*, and *Tyrell* were designed for the Stikine River; so they had wood and steel-framed construction. Only the *Australian*, *Bonnington*, *Beaver*, and *Nasookin* had steel hulls. Wood was actually more suitable, with more flexibility for river use. The hulls might not last too long, but the durability of those steam engines was something else. You could spend hours tracing what engines were moved to what boats—and how many years they survived.

This book is an epic work compiled from records Affleck has researched ever since he first travelled on a boat pushed by thrashing paddles. Sad to say there are few of us left who, at perhaps 12 years of age, were allowed to take hold of that large wooden wheel, away up in the pilot house, and feel the control of that big boat.

Visit Kaslo, climb up to the wheelhouse of the *Moyie*, take hold of the wheel, and when you look down and across the lake, begin to feel the magic of the sternwheeler.

Tom Lymbery, a long-time resident of the Kootenays, runs the Gray Creek Store.

North River: The Story of BC's Thompson Valley & Yellowhead Highway

Muriel Poulton Dunford. Merritt, BC: Sonotek Publishing Ltd., 2000. 384pp. Illus., maps. $19.95. paperback.

REVIEWED BY MELVA DWYER

This is one of the first books written about the North Thompson Valley, its river and the Yellowhead Highway. The North Thompson River joins the South Thompson at Kamloops to form the Thompson River that in turn joins the Fraser at Lytton. Prior to this publication, there has been some mention of the area immediately adjacent to Kamloops but nothing has been written about the entire valley with the wealth of historical information to be found here.

This is a very scholarly approach to the history of the region and includes much new information. Particularly important is the material obtained through interviews with individuals living in the area.

The author has covered the time period from pre-European occupation to the Second World War. She has traced the development of the valley from the beginning when the river was the only means of transport, to the completion of the Canadian National Railway and finally to the building of the highway through to the Yellowhead Pass. All developments led to a variety of change and settlement along the way.

At times, the detail included seems almost overwhelming. The author obviously did not wish to leave anything out when telling the story. The very comprehensive table of contents, listing 41 short chapters, assists the reader to locate the sections of interest. There is also an alphabetical index that includes both geographical and personal names. This too is very comprehensive. The eight maps located at the beginning of the text make it easy to pinpoint the locations that are mentioned in the text. The maps are extremely clear. The references and quotations used in the text are listed at the end of each chapter. There are also 117 numbered illustrations with the sources acknowledged. The bibliography is divided by type of materials used: Journals, books, newspapers, periodical articles, government reports, unpublished documents, and interviews. My only criticism is that the quality of the illustrations does not equal that of the text. There is at least one interesting picture in each chapter, often more, but they are not as sharp or as clear as they could be. This is most likely due to the method used in the printing process on non-gloss paper.

This book should have had better editing and proofreading. In spite of that, it is one of the most scholarly books written to date on any aspect of British Columbia's local history. The author is to be congratulated for her research and attention to detail that has resulted in this history of a unique area of the province.

Reviewer Melva Dwyer, 2nd Vice President of the British Columbia Historical Federation, was born and raised in Kamloops.

Gilean Douglas, Writing Nature, Finding Home

Andrea Lebowitz & Gillian Milton.
Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1999. 227 pp. Illus.
$21.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY MARIE ELLIOTT

Gilean Douglas lived from 1900 to 1993— truly a woman of a new century. She discovered her love of writing at an early age, and published her first poem at age seven. Over the following decades her prolific articles were featured in such diverse periodicals as Reader's Digest and the Canadian Mining Journal. Her monographs include eight books of poetry and four books of prose.

Douglas meticulously saved copies of her writing, as well as her diaries and personal letters, which are now deposited with the University of British Columbia Library, Special Collections Division. These papers have been lovingly handled by Gillian Milton, literary executor for Douglas's estate, and Andrea Lebowitz, a professor in the Women's Studies Department, Simon Fraser University. Milton and Lebowitz use a chronological framework for the biography, interspersing appropriate samples of poetry and prose, and personal photographs.

Douglas was an only child, born to wealthy, alcoholic parents. She lost her mother at age seven, and her father at age 15. We follow her adjustments to life as she matures, falls in love, copes with a chronic illness and the major social changes of the century. Sociable and fiercely independent, Douglas tried to mesh writing with her need for companionship and adventure. She took four husbands but each marriage failed the test of close companionship. Writing was her first love, and she eventually accepted the fact that she needed to live by herself. For most of her writing career a strong gender bias against female authors caused Douglas to be inventive. She used various pseudonyms, includ-

ing a male name, in order to try different writing styles and broaden her choice of publishers. Gilean is an adaptation of her legal name Gillian.

The major portion of the book is devoted to the last half of Douglas's life, which she spent in British Columbia. She first lived in a rustic cabin near the Coquihalla River, eight miles out of Hope. Rather than rebuild after the cabin burned down, she purchased the large Poole homestead on Cortes Island, 100 miles north of Vancouver. The semi-isolation of both places gave her control of her space; being "one with nature" brought her spiritual peace. Although she could write on diverse topics, many of them introspective, Douglas's poetry and prose derived considerable inspiration from her natural surroundings. Two manuscripts, *Silence is My Homeland* and *River for My Sidewalk*, describe her experiences in the mountains near Hope. *The Protected Place* is based on a reworked collection of her "Nature Rambles" columns written on Cortes, and published in the *Victoria Daily Colonist* (later *Times Colonist*) between 1961 and 1992.

Douglas was an environmentalist ahead of her time. Still vital and energetic in her 70s, she used her organizational and futurist skills by getting involved in land use planning for Cortes. In order to attend meetings she had to travel two miles by trail or boat to the community centre of the island. Her written reports were circulated to all islanders. The authors shy away from an in-depth analysis of Douglas's writing, pointing out only that her prose reflects her interests in nature, and that her poetry is written in the romantic style. It would be interesting to know how Douglas dealt with her manuscripts. Were they hand-written or typed? And how did she manage deadlines in the wilderness? Since computers were just coming into their own in the early 1990s, Douglas possibly never enjoyed the greatest invention of the century for journalists. We are brought to the conclusion that Gilean Douglas handled her career and her personal life with grace and gratitude. This book would have pleased her and it should be required reading for any young woman who aspires to be a writer in our new century.

Reviewer Marie Elliott's latest book is Gold and Grand Dreams: Cariboo east in the early years.

Skippers of the Sky: The Early Years of Bush Flying

William J. Wheeler, ed. Calgary: Fifth House, 2000. 248.pp. Illus. $29.95 hardcover.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT ALLEN

Skippers of the Sky is a collection of previously published papers from the *Canadian Aviation Historical Society Journal* or papers that were the basis of talks given to various chapters of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society. The editor, William J. Wheeler, has selected them to reflect the changes in the nature of both bush flying over the years as well as the diverse flying conditions found across Canada.

C.G. (Gord) Ballantine had a quotable quote in his chapter, "West Coast Fisheries Patrol." He describes flying by saying, "... it can be quite safe; after all, it's just the penultimate stage of a landing." Geoffrey (Jeff) Wyborn in his chapter, "Hudson Bay on Skis and Floats," describes the strenuous work the pilots and air engineers would have to go through in minus 40-degree weather in order to ensure they could fly the next day and he says: "Situations like this made the glamour of bush flying more myth than fact." Given the type of work, the weather conditions they had to endure, and difficult situations they would often find themselves in, the pilots and their air engineers had to have a sense of humour.

The first bush planes appeared in Canada in 1919 after the First World War. A number of pilots who were fortunate enough to have survived the war returned home to Canada and became the first bush pilots. They became experts world-wide in bush and mountain flying in the harsh conditions found only in Canada. The first chapter titled: "The Earliest Days of Bush Flying" by Colin S. (Jack) Caldwell starts off the book with his experiences beginning in 1922. Editor Wheeler then does an excellent job of "flying" us back and forth across Canada from 1922 to the 1990s with the last Chapter by Robert S. (Bob) Grant on "Water Bombing: A Demanding Job".

Wheeler precedes each chapter with a short synopsis, a brief biography of each author, and the types of airplanes they flew. This all helps to bring each chapter together.

Wheeler has some of his own excellent illustrations near the beginning of the book and he nicely places numerous photographs throughout the chapters. The two maps in the book are well done but it would have been better to have more maps in order to give a better perspective of the areas flown.

At the end of the book, there is a "Brief Chronology of Bush Flying in Canada," a glossary, and a list of books as suggested reading. These are all very helpful.

My experience with bush and mountain flying has only been since the late 1960s and has been limited mainly to Cessnas, Beavers, Single and Twin Otters, and helicopters. There is a sense of adventure once you have been in a bush plane, even for someone like me who has only ever been a passenger. It is like gold fever where you always want to go back looking for more gold, but in this case, you always want to step into a bush plane and go on another adventure. This book has the same effect on me.

Reviewer Robert Allen is a land surveyor living in Sechelt.

They Were Giants in Those Days: Stories from the Heart of the Cariboo

Eldon Lee. Surrey: Heritage House, 1999. 158 pp. Illus., map. $16.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY ESTHER DARLINGTON

Once again Dr. Eldon Lee has given us a homespun glimpse into the back roads of our famous Cariboo Country history in his latest book, *They Were Giants In Those Days*. This time the locale is the author's home turf, the Knife Creek Road, where he grew up and met some of the fascinating characters he writes about.

Dr. Lee could not have chosen a more appropriate subject for the first chapter, Annie Basil of Sugar Cane Reserve near Williams Lake. This old Native Salish woman was in many ways typical of her time. Uniquely able to survive, she could trap, fish, live off the native roots and berries. Annie would camp for months at a time at Knife Creek and was befriended by all. Her midwifery skills were called upon by both Native and non-Native families including the Murphy family. Annie delivered Denis Murphy who went on to become a supreme court judge of British Columbia.

Dr. Lee's book is full of biographical nuggets, replete with unforgettable, even haunting personalities, from the eerily dispossessed Lillian, the night walker, who was deaf and ultimately went mad, to the bizarre promiscuity of Hazel Rowan whose lust for life seemed whetted by marriage rather than being repressed by it. Other notable person-

alities were Patricia Jeanette Herber whose late September marriage to a near stranger shocked her children and his, and makes for delightful reading.

A hunting tragedy, foolhardy bravery with a bear, romance, adventure, alcoholism, poverty, and deprivation, the whole gamut we call "the human condition," are treated deftly and with a great deal of heart by Dr. Lee. The book is not only a very good read, it is a must for the professional and amateur historian alike. Though the biographies of individual families are necessarily brief in the genre of popular history paperbacks, *They Were Giants in Those Days* gives just enough colour and information to whet the appetite of researchers.

There are famous persons in Dr. Lee's latest Cariboo history, their names legends in regional archive files. But Dr. Lee's attention to personal details excites the dust from these gone but not forgotten persons. More contemporary families, such as the Mayfields, who gave us Philip Mayfield, our present Cariboo Chilcotin Canadian Alliance MP; the ice skaters, the McKinnon twins; John Dodd, the Second World War hero of Knife Creek Road; and Orville and Marie Fletcher, all mingle with Dr. Lee's selection of "worthy mentionables."

The book contains a good clear map of the Knife Creek Road territory, many snapshots of families of yesteryear, an index and biographical sources. I heartily recommend *They Were Giants in Those Days* for every kind of read, and predict it will sell like hotcakes.

Reviewer Esther Darlington is a resident of Cache Creek.

Bush Telegraph; Discovering the Pacific Province

Stephen Hume. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 1999. 283 pp. $28.95 hardcover.

REVIEWED BY KELSEY MCLEOD

This has to be the most informative and enjoyable book written about our province. It should be a must for every schoolchild. The range of subjects covered is as vast as the province itself. From our northern border to the 49th, from the Rockies to the western shores of Vancouver Island, to the Queen Charlottes—few, if any, areas are missed.

There are legends, there is a wealth of history, ecology, botany, you name it, it is included. We are transported from the Dry Belt to the West Coast, and all points between.

The prose often verges on the poetic. The descriptions of places, flora, and fauna could only have been written by someone with intimate knowledge of British Columbia—and not only knowledge, but also a love of Canada's most western province. There is little more to say about the book in general.

To be more specific I will give snippets of some chapters. "The Reef Where Time Began" is about the Queen Charlottes, "an archipelago of 1,884 islands." This is one of the poetic chapters. As you read it you feel you are there: seeing, hearing, feeling, "the Galapagos of the North." Coverage ranges from Indian legends to the geological origins of the islands.

"Ocean Plunder" tells us that the BC coast is home to more than 6,000 marine species, including 400 fish, 161 marine birds, 29 mammals. This essay, while containing information unlimited—insight into present-day fishing methods, bottom trolling and dragging—is an impassioned plea for conservation of our marine heritage.

In the chapter "Huckleberries" the author waxes poetical and of course, with cause. We learn about related varieties, a huckleberry pie recipe and one for huckleberry bannock. You can, it seems, also enhance salmon with huckleberries during cooking.

Reading the chapter "Skunk Cabbage," I realized that I had no idea that skunk cabbage was useful to the Natives as wax paper, drinking utensil, sun shade, and as a treatment for ringworm, bronchitis, and asthma. Only the uninformed seem to look down on it. Information on varieties around the world is included.

For a history buff like myself the chapter "A Dry Wind in Eden" is high on the list. This history of Walhachin gives many poignant insights into the past of the entire area—16,000 fruit trees were once planted there. This "reinvention of the lost biblical garden" had a short life that was "murdered by the First World War." Much of the tale is told by reciting the memories of survivors of that war. Included is a discussion of the mighty impact that war had on the entire province.

"Grey Shepherd of the Long Booms" is the story of the *K444*, her romance and history. Many of us remember this hulk, aground on the mud flats near Oyster Bay. She was launched as HMCS *Matane*, and lived but three years, but what a life she had seen, when she died in 1946.

These are but a few of the essays contained in *Bush Telegraph*, but it is hoped that enough interest has been raised to lead to the reading of an excellent book.

Reviewer Kelsey McLeod, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is a free-lance writer.

Golden Fleece: Mine-Finding and Adventure in the Pacific Northwest

K. McTaggart. Vancouver: Elton-Wolf Publishing, 2000. 261 pp. $19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY TED AFFLECK

Golden Fleece is an unabashed adventure novel about characters involved in the mining life in British Columbia. Readers seeking to savour the latest stylistic advances in novel writing may look elsewhere, as the mission of this author, a UBC Emeritus Professor of Geological Sciences, is to provide the reader with vicarious experiences of the British Columbia mining scene. In lucid prose, McTaggart paints a reasonably authentic picture of the lives of prospectors, muckers, mining engineers, stock promoters, and others bitten by the mining bug. A formidable amount of information about mining in British Columbia's past and present can be found in this work.

I won't undermine any of the suspense elements in the novel by relating a capsule version of the plot, but the fact that the protagonist is a young mining engineer getting his footing in the mining business and that the plot takes him from the inside of a mining exploration company's office to the depths of a mining tunnel makes this book a suitable gift for any teenager who is hungry for verisimilar information on vocations, as it should provide him with a "feel" for the mining life.

Ken McTaggart is a very good raconteur. Some of his own life experiences have probably been woven into the plot of *Golden Fleece*, but it is to be hoped that some day his own life story may find its way into print.

Reviewer Ted Affleck is author of A Century of Paddlewheelers.

CORRECTION AND APOLOGY

In Mr. Paul Yee's review of *The Chinese in Vancouver* (34/1) the first sentence should read: "...I remember confronting the available historical works and complaining that studies of white racism often masked as histories of the Chinese in Canada." The editor apologizes for altering this sentence and for any upset it may have caused Mr. Yee.

George Mercer Dawson, Geologist, Scientist, Explorer

William Chalmers. Lantzville: XYZ Publishing, 2000. 178 pp. $15.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY KEN MCTAGGART

In 1875 British Columbia and the Yukon were largely unexplored. In that year, George M. Dawson (1849-1901), newly appointed to the Geological Survey of Canada, arrived by ship in Victoria. He was to spend most of the rest of his life exploring, mapping, and studying the geology of British Columbia and the Yukon, the ethnology and languages of the Indians he encountered and the flora and fauna of the region. His epic expedition, in 1887, from the Stikine River across northern British Columbia to the Yukon River and back to civilization by way of the Chilkoot Pass, was a remarkable feat of endurance and skill. It was all the more amazing because Dawson was a hunch-backed dwarf, standing about four feet tall. At the age of 11 he had contracted tuberculosis of the spine and would spend several years bedridden in a truss designed to stabilize his curving backbone. On recovering his strength, his geologist father, Principal of McGill College, sent him to London where he studied at the Royal School of Mines.

Canadians should be proud of this scientist who, in spite of a terrible physical handicap, travelled with packhorse and riverboat through the almost impenetrable western wilderness, mapping the country and laying a solid foundation for future geological studies. He finished his career as the third Director of the Geological Survey (Sir William Logan was the first). He was awarded many honours and attained high office in several scientific societies. Dawson City in the Yukon was named after him.

William Chalmers's brief biography, based largely on Dawson's diaries, is a breezy story told largely through imagined conversations between Dawson and his family, his fellow surveyors, his Indian packers, guides, hunters and others. The book includes interesting photographs of Dawson and his working parties. It will probably find a place in many school libraries.

This reviewer would have liked to see a few maps showing the routes of Dawson's explorations. It is unfortunate that the author did not have a geologist edit his manuscript.

Reviewer Ken McTaggart is Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, UBC.

Upstarts and Outcasts: Victoria's Not-so-proper Past

Valerie Green. Victoria: Touchwood Editions (Horsdal & Schubart), 2000. 192 pp. Illus. $18.95 paperback.

REVIEWED BY ARNOLD RANNERIS

This is a fascinating book. The subtitle gives the essence of its approach, describing an aspect of Victoria's society little covered by other books, from the days of its establishment as Fort Victoria until the Second World War. It is actually many stories, about people who came from many places and lived here as labourers, domestic servants, tradesmen, actors and actresses, to name only a few. Some were from the Orient, others from the United States or Britain or Europe; some were upright citizens and some were of the "criminal" group. The author notes in her introduction that "the common thread linking these people was...being born in the wrong place, the wrong time, or in poverty." Yet this did not mean that they were destined to remain in that situation, and those who had hope—and in some cases good luck—might well see their fortunes improve.

The book is divided into four parts: "In Service," "East in the West," "On the Other Side of the Tracks," and "In Trade." Each part begins with a general introduction of the setting or situation, and is then followed by short biographical sketches of men and women who could be found in that category. These are often very touching. For example in the part "East in the West," devoted largely to the Chinese, we are told how and why the Chinese arrived (for example between 1881 and 1884 over 14,000 Chinese arrived from China or via the United States), and about their living situation in Chinatown or as servants of the wealthy.

This is a well-researched book, often having accompanying photographs or portraits, and well-selected verbatim reports from *The Colonist* (newspaper). There are good endnotes giving the sources of information. The stories of ordinary people, often neglected by historians, has been brought to light. It is complementary to Terry Reksten's book *More English than the English* (Orca, 1986), which deals with the "upper classes". It is also an amplification of Victoria's society, introduced by Valerie Green in her earlier book *No Ordinary People; Victoria's Mayors Since 1862.* (Beach Holme, 1992).

Reviewer Arnold Ranneris is Secretary of the British Columbia Historical Federation.

Newsworthy

Commencing with this issue, the "Bc Reviews" section will include under the title "Newsworthy" names of books received by Book Review Editor, Anne Yandle, which may be reviewed in a later issue.

A Measure of Value; the story of the d'Arcy Island leper colony. Chris Yorath. Victoria, Touchwood Editions, 2000. $17.95 paperback.

A Place for Gold. Walter Guppy. Tofino, Grassroots Publications, 2000.

A Rich and Fruitful Land; the history of the valleys of the Okanagan, Similkameen and Shuswap. Jean Webber. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 1999. $36.95 hard cover.

Don't Shoot from the Saddle; chronicles of a frontier surgeon. D.A. Holley. Surrey, Heritage House, 2000. $16.95 paperback

Gold and Grand Dreams; Cariboo East in the early years. Marie Elliott. Victoria, Horsdal & Schubart, 2000. $17.95 paperback

Islands of Truth; the imperial fashioning of Vancouver Island. Daniel W. Clayton. Vancouver, University of B.C. Press, 2000. $85 hard cover.

On the Street where You Live. Vol. 2. Victoria's early roads and railways. Danda Humphrey. Surrey, Heritage House, 2000. $34.95 hard cover.

Pioneer Legacy; chronicles of the Lower Skeena River, Vol. II. Norma V. Bennett. Terrace, Dr R.E.M. Lee Hospital Foundation, 2000. $35 paperback; $45 hard cover.

Port Coquitlam; where rails meet rivers. Chuck Davis. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 2000. $39.95 hard cover.

Rebel Life: the life and times of Robert Gosden, revolutionary, mystic, labour spy. Mark Leier. Vancouver, New Star Books, 1999. $19 paperback.

Spirited Women; a history of Catholic sisters in British Columbia. Deborah Rink. Vancouver, The Sisters Association Archdiocese of Vancouver, 2000. $27.95 paperback.

The IWA in Canada; the life and times of an industrial union. Andrew Neufeld and Andrew Parnaby. Vancouver, New Star Books, 2000. $50 hard cover.

Where Shadows Linger; the untold story of the RCMP's Olson murders investigation. W. Leslie Holmes with Bruce Northorp. Vancouver, Heritage House, 2000. $27.95 hard cover.

Where the Echo Began, and other oral traditions from Southwestern Alaska, recorded by Hans Himmelheber. Edited by Ann Fienup-Riordan. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press, 2000. Price $39.95 US

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.

John Spittle

LEFT: *This year's winner of the British Columbia Heritage Award is Garry Anderson of Cranbrook, executive director of the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel. He is seen here on 19 February receiving the award in Vancouver. On the right stands the Hon. Gerard Janssen, Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, who arrived on a motorcycle, fittingly dressed to highlight the theme of this year's BC Heritage Week: Transportation. Roy Pallant and John Spittle of the BCHF were there. Anderson is devoted to his projects. He is a tireless crusader for railway heritage, accomplishing small miracles in finding cars and engines, having them brought to Cranbrook, and restoring each piece lovingly. He had a rural rail station brought into town for use as office and archives. Another building is being upgraded for displays and community art gallery. Now he is reinstalling the beautiful Edwardian style café room, once part of the 1906 Royal Alexandra Hotel in Winnipeg, at the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel in Cranbrook.* Source: Naomi Miller

FROM THE MEMBERS

GALIANO MUSEUM

Over fifteen hundred people visited the museum since it opened its doors to the public in June of last year. Membership totals more than one hundred. The Galiano Museum is looking for a more spacious location where also farm, fishing, and logging equipment could find a place. President Alistair Ross reports that they are studying fishing over the years and the resulting report will be the basis of an exhibit this summer.

Source: Galiano Museum

CONGRATULATIONS JOANNE SAVORY!

Since Adrian Clark retired as president of the Vancouver Historical Society last summer, Joanne Savory has taken on the duties of both acting president and vice-president. On 24 January, the VHS membership unanimously elected her as their president.

Source: VHS Newsletter

NANAIMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Princess Royal Day was well attended. The society thanked Dorothy Bentley, a dedicated member since 1954, retiring after twenty years organizing the phoning committee. As part of their December celebrations, the Old City Quarters called on Anne Royle and Pamela Mar to guide Saturday tours of the area. The society is considering a similar tour as a field trip for their members. Negotiations concerning new premises for the Nanaimo Community Archives are continuing. The most recent City of Nanaimo plaque was unveiled in January, commemorating Nanaimo's Chinese community.

Source: Nanaimo Historical Society's newsletter

ARROW LAKES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Milton Parent's *Circle of Silver* is the next book of the Centennial series of the society. It will tell the story of the Lardeau including the towns of Trout Lake, Ferguson, and Camborne, starting in the first days of mining until the present day. The book's prepublication price is $46 including shipping and handling. The book will be available early this summer. To order books call (250) 265-3323 on any day, or the ALHS archives office at (250) 265-0111 on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10:00 and 3:00.

OTHER NEWS

BC STUDIES IN KAMLOOPS

"Beyond Hope, Constructing British Columbia in Practice and Theory." 10–12 May 2001. This year's "BC Studies" conference will take place at the University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops. For further information visit http://www.cariboo.bc.ca/ae/beyond_hope/. For registration call (250) 828-5116 or e-mail Lorna Obrien, conference secretary, at: lobrien@cariboo.bc.ca

DELTA OBITUARIES DATABASE

www.ladnerslanding.com, Gwen Szychter's Web site, recently celebrated its first anniversary with the addition of a database of obituaries of former Delta residents gleaned from newspapers. The database contains the obituaries exactly as they appeared in the newspapers. There are 200 surnames in the list and over 300 entries. The database can be downloaded for a small fee.

Gwen Szychter's newsletter

NANAIMO CONCERT BAND

Garry Gaudet is looking for moving picture films of the Nanaimo Concert Band for a TV project. Ample written and photographic material seems to be available on the band that started its existence in 1872, but the oldest film so far discovered is one from 1960. Garry needs at least some scratchy, grainy bits of early film for his project. If you think you can help Garry on his quest please write to 736 Lantzville Road, Lantzville BC, V0R 2H0. Phone: (250) 390-1926, e-mail: ggaudet@nisa.net

ARCHIVES IN THE NEWS

Community archives are encouraged to submit press releases and stories published in the local media relating to their activities for posting in the "Archives in the News" section of the AABC Web site. Contact bpurver@aabc.bc.ca for more information.

Source: AABC Newsletter

AABC COURSE AND CONFERENCE

A new AABC course: "Getting Started: An Introduction for Small Archives" will be presented in Victoria on 25 and 26 April. Registration deadline for the course is 4 April 2001. For further information check the Web site of the Archives Association of BC, aabc.bc.ca/aabc, or contact Deidre Simmons by phone (520) 595-2932 or e-mail: dsimmons@aabc.bc.ca. For information on the AABC conference on 27 and 28 April e-mail Jennifer.Mohan@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Source: AABC Newsletter

LANGLEY

The Langley Centennial Museum has recently established an impressive online historical photograph database on its Web site at www.langleymuseum.org.

Source: AABC Newsletter

Friends of the BC Archives

If you use the services of BC Archives in any way, the best way to say "thank you" is by joining "The Friends of BC Archives," a young and energetic organization that supports the British Columbia Archives. Contact their (and our) treasurer Ronald Greene for membership information. Phone (250) 598-1835 or e-mail ragreene@coastnet.com

Heritage Society of BC Conference

The annual conference of the Heritage Society of British Columbia will be hosted this year by the City of Surrey. The conference will be held at Ashton Pacific Hotel in Surrey from 31 May until 2 June. For more information contact the Heritage Society of BC Conference office by phone (604) 582-1332 or e-mail hsbcjan@bc-alter.net.

Cassiar...do you remember?

Herb Daum of Powell River is looking for ways to preserve at least the memories and history of Cassiar now that the townsite was bulldozed away a few years ago. Cassiar's isolation formed a close-knit community now dispersed all over the country. To allow residents to reconnect, a Web site has been created: www.armourtech.com/~cassiar and a July reunion is planned at the Silver Star Ski Resort in Vernon, BC, where hundreds of participants are expected. Herb Daum can be reached by phone (604) 485-5504, e-mail cassiar@datapower.ca, or via Canada Post: Herb Daum, 7304 Huntingdon Street, Powell River, BC V8A 1P4.

Source: Heritage Branch/Dorothea Haeussler

VolNet—An offer you can't refuse

VolNet is a government initiative administered by Industry Canada. Their goal is to make Internet connections affordable for volunteer organizations: to get them all on the Web. Volunteer organizations struggling with narrow budgets and needing computer equipment to access the Web and more: here is your chance. To learn more about eligibility and application call Leslie Adams of BC Museums Association 1-800-263-3787; BC Connects in Kelowna (877) 717-2567; or Vancouver Community Net (604) 257-3806. Please mention *BC Historical News* when you call them and visit our Web site www.bchf.bc.ca as soon as you are connected.

Books on the Horizon

James Douglas is the subject of John Adams's new book published by Horsdal & Schubart. It is expected for sale in October.

Remember Robert C. Belyk's well-written and well-researched book *John Tod, Rebel in the Ranks?* In August, his new book *And the Sea Shall Claim Them: Great Tragedies of the Pacific Coast,* (John Wiley & Sons, New York) will be available. Belyk published an article titled "Victoria and the Loss of the Pacific" in *BC Historical News* (32/3).

Documenting Dunbar

Dunbar, a westside community of Vancouver, is preparing a history of the area through interviews with pioneers' descendants. The Dunbar Residents' Association is asking former (or present) residents of Dunbar for photos and input. Contact: Peggy Schofield, coordinator, Documenting Dunbar, (604) 263-5590. E-mail wilfs@interchange.ubc.ca Canada Post: Dunbar Residents' Association, PO Box 172, 3456 Dunbar Street, Vancouver BC, V6S 2C2.

Memorial Notes

Bernard George Webber 1914–2000.

Bernard George Webber died on 5 December 2000. He was born in Winnipeg and attended the University of Manitoba until lack of money during the depression forced his withdrawal. He served as secretary to J.S. Woodsworth, who later became first leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), forerunner of the NDP.

In 1935 Bernard Webber moved to Vancouver Island and started teaching in 1938. He married Jean Browne in 1941. Between 1941 and 1945 he served as the representative for Similkameen to the BC Legislature. He returned in 1945 to teaching and, while raising his family with Jean, earned his BA and MA from UBC. By then, he was principal of Richmond High School. Subsequently he served as director in Vernon, and thereafter as district superintendent in Kitimat, South Okanagan, and Keremeos School districts. He was seconded to the Ministry of Education in Victoria as superintendent of special services in 1977, and retired in 1979.

Throughout he was active in community affairs, taking leading roles in a large number of organizations, including the Okanagan Historical Society. With his life-long interest in learning, he understood the importance of books, particularly literature. While in Kitimat, and later in Victoria, he actively encouraged the development of courses in First Nations' languages and cultures. His interest in education was matched, if not surpassed, by his dedication to the preservation of history. After retirement, he served on the executive of various historical societies, conducted research in federal and provincial archives, authored numerous articles, self-published "Silk Trains" and, until well into his eighties, served on the British Columbia Historical Federation selection committee charged each year with choosing the best new books on BC history.

Martin Lynch 1924–2000.

Martin Lynch worked for the *Vancouver Sun, Macleans,* and the *Globe and Mail.* He retired to Shutty Bench near Kaslo in 1982 after serving as editor of the *Globe and Mail* for 25 years. From his West Kootenay home he responded to questions phoned or faxed in by historians and others. Lynch had an encyclopedic mind plus an extensive library and 48 filing cabinets full of facts and documents. Among the many authors he assisted were Peter C. Newman (10 books), Peter Corley-Smith, and Robert D. Turner. Martin and his wife Jane coordinated much of the fundraising for the restoration of SS *Moyie,* and researched many details to assist Turner when he was loaned to the Moyie project by the Royal BC Museum.

Lynch proofread faxed copy for *BC Report, Alberta Report* and *Beautiful British Columbia.* He frequently supplied information to CBC announcer Neil Gillon. This remarkable gentleman died in his sleep at home on 10 December 2000 without ever meeting the hundreds of researchers depending depending on him. He never learned to drive and was content to limit his travels to the occasional trip to Kaslo, 12 km away. *(Naomi Miller)*

Philip Akrigg 1913–2001.

We are saddened to hear of the death in February of member Dr. G.P.V. Akrigg, at the age of 87. Dr. Akrigg, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of British Columbia, taught Shakespeare to generations of students and published widely in this field. Turning to British Columbia history, Phil and his wife Helen, set up their own press, Discovery Press, to publish their *1001 Place Names,* which came out in many editions, eventually superseded by *British Columbia Place Names,* required companion on any trip through the province. Their next major undertaking was the two volumes of *British Columbia Chronicle,* a lively and readable introduction to our history. Their final publication together was *H.M.S. Virago in the Pacific,* published in 1992. We extend our sympathy to Helen and family in their loss.

(Anne Yandle)

Reports

Remembering George Vancouver by J.E. (Ted) Roberts

ARTICLES appearing in the *BC Historical News* are as a rule based on historic fact, or a reasonable interpretation of events. For the moment I am asking the reader to indulge in a bit of fantasy and imagine that, as a contestant on the popular TV program "Who wants to be a Millionaire," you have reached the final plateau and that with an answer to the final question you will be the $1,000,000 winner. The house lights dim, the drum roll begins and you are given the ultimate question: "What is the significance of the date of May 12th to the citizens of the province of British Columbia, Canada."

How did you make out? Are those tears of joy or despair? Of course the topic gave it away, but sadly, few among us are aware that our government has declared that May 12th, in perpetuity, be observed as "Captain George Vancouver Day". Many are unaware of the significance of the date or of what Vancouver did to deserve such recognition. The date is the anniversary of his death in 1798 and his accomplishments, which played such a large part in determining the final shape of the political map of North America, are detailed in the story of his life.

The Government's declaration was the result of the actions of a small group of dedicated and indomitable history-minded members of The Friends of Vancouver who prevailed upon the authorities to issue a formal proclamation on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As noted, the raison d'être for "The Friends" is to make one and all more aware of the work of Captain George Vancouver and the important part that he played in the ultimate formation of the Dominion of Canada. The body of the Proclamation declares that:

Whereas Captain George Vancouver was the foremost explorer of the coast of British Columbia in the eighteenth century, and

Whereas his reputation has been unjustly maligned, and

Whereas his meticulous surveys for the first time clearly delineated our coast and were instrumental in determining the final boundaries of Western Canada, and

Whereas he treated the aboriginal inhabitants of these waters with respect and dignity:

Few of our citizens understand the contribution that Captain Vancouver played in our history. Some of the citizens of Victoria know that his statue sits atop the Parliament Buildings, but the scale of the representation is such that one could tell a visitor that it was Ronald McDonald and they would not be challenged. We have little around us to remind us of this important part of our heritage and it is the hope of The Friends of Vancouver that more of us will take it upon ourselves to increase our knowledge of Vancouver's work and in the process better understand how we became "Canadian." For our part, on May 12th, we of "The Friends" will quietly raise a glass (or two) and give our thanks that it was Vancouver who put the "British" in British Columbia.

Captain Vancouver aboard "Lady Washington"

In other parts of the world that Vancouver knew celebrations will be more formal. Recent events in Vancouver's hometown, King's Lynn, and in Vancouver, Wash., have acknowledged George Vancouver as one of history's great seamen.

For the first time, the people of his place of birth have a statue to his honour, placed prominently near the old Customs House where Vancouver's father worked. This came about from the actions of a few civic-minded citizens of King's Lynn who felt strongly over the neglect exhibited by the populace in general over the due recognition of George Vancouver. In January of 1997, Mr. Bryan Howling, former Mayor of King's Lynn, called a public town meeting from which a steering committee was formed to explore the feasibility of raising funds to erect a life-size statue in memory of Vancouver in his birthplace, King's Lynn. Out of this meeting, the George Vancouver Commemorative Project was born. A mailing appeal to business and commerce in the local area was extended to possible interested participants around the world and funds in support were received from the City of Vancouver who donated £5,000 and from the City of Vancouver, Wash. who gave US$1,100. In August of 1999 their funding was given a spectacular boost with an anonymous contribution of £10,000 from a Norfolk resident.

The commission for sculpting the statue was awarded to Mrs. Penelope Reeve of Sussex. The statue, cast in bronze alloy, stands about two metres high on a one-metre tall plinth. On a rather wintry October day last year, the statue, facing west, and standing about 30 metres west of the Customs House, was unveiled by His Highness, Prince Philip, to the delight of the assembled dignitaries. An interesting sidelight to the project was the delayed arrival of a slab of granite for the statue's plinth procured from Garibaldi Granite of Squamish, BC, quarried in an area visited by Captain Vancouver in 1792. For the unveiling ceremonies a sturdy metal base in the form of the final plinth was fabricated as a stand-in. The finished granite piece has meanwhile arrived and the statue was repositioned.

When word of the activities of the group in King's Lynn was received in America, an expatriate Englishwoman, Avril Massey of Vancouver, Wash., was stirred to undertake a similar project. An active "Friends of Vancouver" group was formed and fundraising started. This had a successful result, thanks in large part to a financial boost given by Elie Kassab, a local entrepreneur, which enabled the project to proceed. The finished product, cast in a bronze alloy, arrived in Vancouver on 29 April 2000, in a most spectacular fashion, carried up the Columbia River on the deck of the replica brigantine, *Lady Washington*, Robert Gray's ship of 1792.

When the little ship docked at the Quay, Captain George Vancouver, solidly bolted to her deck, was received with the pomp and

Captain Vancouver in King's Lynn

ceremony of a colour guard and brass band. "The Solid Brass Ensemble" played a selection of appropriate music, including a portion of a symphony especially commissioned for the occasion. The festivities concluded that evening with a Captain George Vancouver Memorial Victory Celebration and a dinner held in the ballroom of the Red Lion Inn with speeches by Mayor Royce Pollard and Mr. David Broom, HM British Consul. A final site for the statue is still to be determined.

As a dedicated fan of George Vancouver, I was interested in the artists' interpretation of their subject. I must admit to a bias in favour of the work illustrated in the King's Lynn statue that shows a more rugged individual with an in-your-face demeanour in the manner of a Jimmy Cagney, compared to the more handsome countenance in the Vancouver, Wash. representation with the finer features of an Errol Flynn, or Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

What is important is that more people have learned details of Vancouver's life and work than otherwise would have been possible. The statues, though static, draw an audience and with that, the possibility that an interest to learn more of the subject will be piqued in the viewer. In Western Canada we do not need another statue of Captain George Vancouver. What we require is more and better books and articles, written with an open mind, that examine all facets of the work that Vancouver did and how that resulted in the formation of our Province of British Columbia and the country we call Canada.

Conference 2001

Richmond Museum

Program

Thursday, 3 May 2001

5:00 – 7:00 pm *Richmond Cultural Centre:* Registration
7:00 – 9:00 pm *Richmond Museum, Richmond Cultural Centre*
Welcome Reception (Wine and Cheese)
– Opening Remarks
– Welcome from Mayor Halsey–Brandt

Friday, 4 May 2001

9:00 –10:30 am *Lecture Hall, Richmond Cultural Centre*
Plenary Session: "The Land You Pass Through"
– Panel Discussion
10:30 –11:00 am Coffee Break
11:00 –12:00 am Session: The History of Richmond. Presenter: Harold Steeves
12:00 –12:30 pm Short Break and Board Buses
12:30 – 4:00 pm Tours, including Lunch: choose one:

Tour A: Steveston
Lunch at Dave's (best fish and chips in town!) followed by a walking tour of Steveston and a tour of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

Tour B: The Dyke (this tour involves a fair bit of walking)
Lunch at Yokohama followed by a tour of Britannia Heritage Shipyard, a walk along the dyke, and a tour of London Farm (will include afternoon tea and therefore may go a bit longer than the 4:00 pm scheduled end).

Tour C: YVR (Vancouver International Airport)
Lunch at The Flying Beaver Pub followed by a behind–the–scenes look at the operations of the airport.

6:30 pm Chinese dinner and visit to Asian malls. This is an optional, pay-your–own–way event. For those not interested in the above event, Friday dinner and evening is on your own.

Saturday 5 May 2001

8:30 – 9:00 am *Richmond City Hall:* Continental Breakfast
9:00 –12:30 am *Richmond City Hall:* British Columbia Historical Federation AGM
12:30 – 1:30 pm *Richmond Cultural Centre, Lecture Hall:* Lunch
1:30 – 2:00 pm Short break and board buses
2:00 – 4:00 pm Tours (choose one). Two of Friday's choices have been repeated in order to accommodate the many people we think will be interested in the various sites in Steveston.

Tour A: Repeat of Steveston Tour
Tour B: Repeat of Dyke Tour
Tour C: "Uses of the Land" Walking tour of Finn Slough, followed by a bus tour of agricultural Richmond.

6:00 – 6:30 pm *Richmond Inn:* No Host Bar
6:30 pm *Richmond Inn:* Banquet and Awards Presentation
Guest Speaker: Michael Kluckner, Past President and BC Governor, Heritage Canada

A registration form is available on our Web site: www.bchf.bc.ca and is included in the winter issue (34/1) of *BC Historical News.* To receive a form by mail and for information contact: Eileen Mak. (604) 875-8023, emak@interchange.ubc.ca or Pat Gudlaugson, (604) 274-2808, dpj_gudlaugson@paralynx.com. The Richmond Museum can be reached by phone: (604) 231-6457 or by e-mail: museum@city.richmond.bc.ca

Federation News

BCHF Council Meeting, Victoria, BC, 24 February 2001

Hosted by the Royal BC Museum and Victoria Historical Society

Some Highlights:

Three new members were nominated and accepted. Council welcomed as new members the Jewish Historical Society, Finn Slough Heritage & Wetland Society, and the Langley Centennial Museum. The British Columbia Genealogical Society joined the Federation as an affiliated group. We appreciate their interest in the BCHF.

The people of the Richmond Museum Society are to be congratulated for the preparation of the 2001 BCHF conference in May. For particulars see previous page. After Richmond (2001) conferences are scheduled for Revelstoke (2002) and Prince George (2003). Nanaimo and Victoria are considering hosting the 2004 conference. In 2005 the conference will be held at Kelowna in conjunction with the Okanagan Historical Society.

Not less than 43 books are considered as candidates for the yearly competition for writers of BC history. See page 33 for a list of books submitted to the jury.

A genealogy column will be a regular feature of *BC Historical News* beginning with the summer issue.

In September 2000 we mailed a survey regarding subscriptions to *BC Historical News* to 38 members: 30 members replied. A subscription to the journal is part of the membership of the Alberni Historical Society, the Nanaimo Historical Society, and the Vancouver Historical Society.*) Fourteen other members give their members a choice to subscribe and arrange payment for their members. These two groups represent 61 percent of our subscriptions. Other subscriptions fall mainly in two categories: individual subscriptions (32 percent) and institutional subscriptions (7 percent). An appeal to all members to promote subscriptions to *BC Historical News*. There are still many out there who have never seen the journal. Ask for promotional copies.

The BCHF Web: see editorial on page 1.

Delegates reporting:

Boundary Historical Society:	Alice Glanville, in writing
North Vancouver Historical Society:	Roy Pallant
Richmond Museum Society:	Eileen Mak
Vancouver Historical Society:	Alida Kulash
Victoria Historical Society:	Arnold Ranneris

Next Meeting: Thursday, 3 May 2001 in Richmond BC.

*) On 27 February 2001 the Victoria Historical Society decided to include a subscription to *BC Historical News* as a part of the membership to their society.

Publications Assistance

With many books on local history ready for printing, a reminder that the BCHF provides member societies and their members with loans to assist in publishing work of historical value. These loans apply to printing costs only, are interest-free for six months, and are subject to approval by the publication aasistance committee, British Columbia Historical Federation, PO Box 5254, Station B, Victoria, BC, V8R 6N4.

BCHF Endowment Fund

The BCHF Endowment Fund helps promoting a wider interest in the history of this province. There are many ways by which you could help: small annual donations, occasional gifts, or bequests. The purchase of an insurance policy with the British Columbia Historical Federation named as beneficiary is another option. The Federation can provide receipts for Income Tax purposes. Contact Ron Greene. (250) 598-3035.

British Columbia Historical Federation
2000-2001 SCHOLARSHIP
Deadline 15 May 2001

The British Columbia Historical Federation awards two $500 scholarships annually for essays written by students at BC colleges or universities on a topic relating to British Columbia history. One scholarship is for an essay written by a student in a first- or second-year course; the other is for an essay written by a student in a third- or fourth-year course.

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; (3) a letter of recommendation from the professor for whom the essay was written.

Applications should be submitted before 15 May 2001 to: Frances Gundry, Chair BC Historical Federation Scholarship Committee, PO Box 5254, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6N4.

The winning essay submitted by a third- or fourth-year student will be published in *BC Historical News*. Other submissions may be published at the editor's discretion.

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 that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past. The award honours individual initiative in writing and presentation.

Nominations for the BC History Web Site Prize for 2001 must be made to the British Columbia Historical Federation, Web Site Prize Committee, prior to 31 December 2001. Web site creators and authors may nominate their own sites.

Prize rules and the online nomination form can be found on The British Columbia History Web site: 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 a feature article in the *British Columbia Historical News* will receive a one-year complimentary subscription to the journal.

British Columbia Historical Federation

ORGANIZED 31 OCTOBER 1922

AFFILIATED GROUPS

Archives Association of British Columbia
British Columbia Genealogical Society

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 1A0
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
Finn Slough Heritage & Wetland Society
9480 Dyke Road, Richmond BC V7A 2L5
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
Jewish Historical Society of BC
206-950 West 41st Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 2N7
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
Langley Centennial Museum
PO Box 800, Fort Langley BC V1M 2S2
Lantzville Historical Society
c/o Box 274, Lantzville BC V0R 2H0
London Heritage Farm Society
6511 Dyke Road, Richmond BC V7E 3R3
Maple Ridge Historical Society
22520 116th Ave., Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0S4
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 281, 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.
9281 Ardmore Drive,
North Saanich BC V8L 5G4
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
Union Bay Historical Society
Box 448, Union Bay, BC V0R 3B0
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

Please keep the editor of *BC Historical News* informed about corrections to be made to this list.

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
Phone: (250) 754-5697
terryroy@nanaimo.ark.com

Return Address:
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561 Woodland Drive
Cranbrook, BC V1C 6V2

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CONTACT US:

BC Historical News welcomes your letters and manuscripts on subjects 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, *BC Historical News*, Anne Yandle, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6S 1E4,
Phone: (604) 733-6484
E-mail: yandle@interchange.ubc.ca

News items for publication in *BC Historical News* should be send to the editor in Whonnock.

PLEASE SEND CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SUBSCRIPTION SECRETARY, JOEL VINGE
561 WOODLAND DRIVE
CRANBROOK BC V1C 6V2
PHONE/FAX: (250) 489-2490
E-MAIL: NISSE@TELUS.NET

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Individual	$15.00 per year
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2001

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION INVITES SUBMISSIONS OF BOOKS FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL COMPETITION FOR WRITERS OF BC HISTORY.

Any book presenting any facet of BC history, published in 2001, 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 Revelstoke May 2002.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: All books must have been published in 2001 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 2001