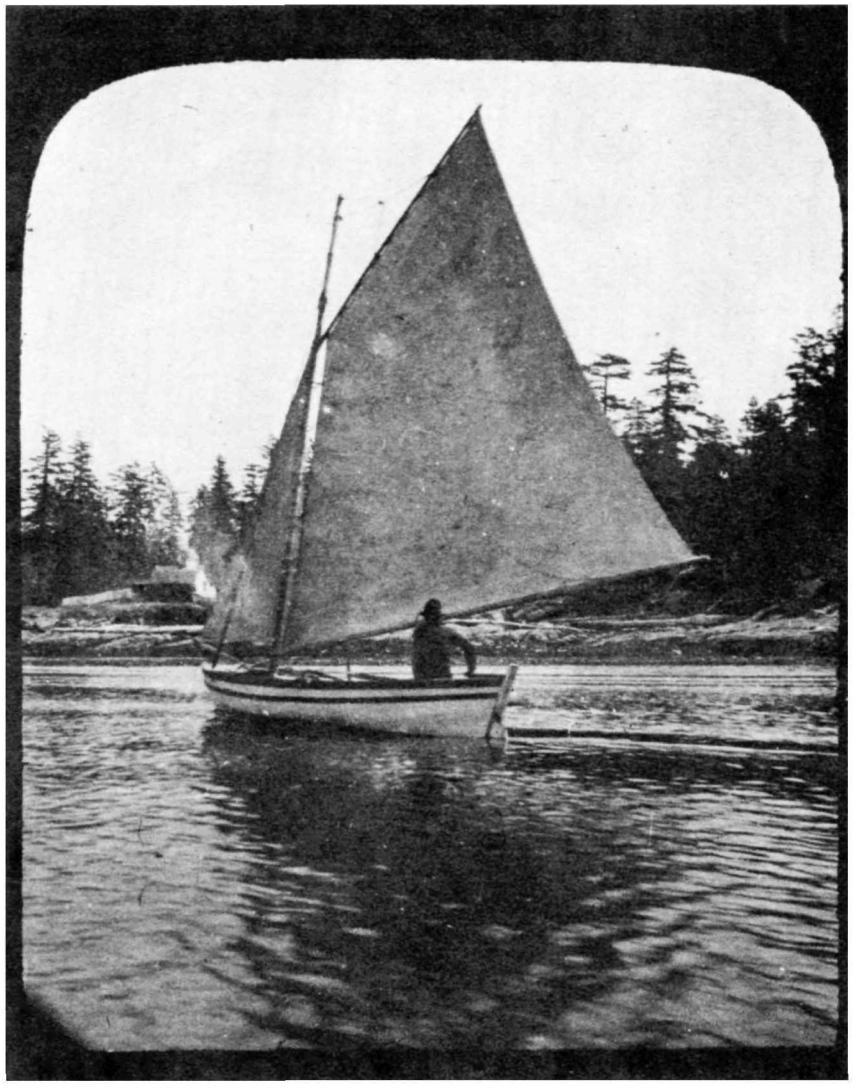
BRITISH COLUMBIA

HISTORICAL NEWS

February 1978



BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Vol. 11 No. 2 ISSN 0045-2963 February, 1978

Published November, February, April and June each year by the British Columbia Historical Association, and distributed free to members of all affiliated societies by the secretaries of their respective societies. Subscription rate to non-members: $5.00 (Canadian) per year. Refer all correspondence in connection with this publication to the Secretary: Mrs. Ruth Barnett, 680 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, British Columbia V9W 3P3

EXECUTIVE 1977-78

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Cover Photograph:

Boating near Vancouver, c. 1905. Photograph by Charles E. Bloomfield from collection of Vancouver Centennial Museum. Copied from original glass plate negative loaned by Betty Sewell, Mission, British Columbia.

B.C.H.A. NEWS

Search for New Editors

At a recent meeting of the table officers of the Association, discussion was heard on the future of the News. Dr. Patricia Roy and Dr. Kent Haworth of Victoria have offered their services to the Association as editors with the proviso that the business end of producing the News (typing, publishing and distribution of the final product) be handled by a business manager. The Association table officers have agreed with this suggestion, and the new editors are starting to get together material for their first issue. We wish them every success, and offer our thanks that they have considered taking on this task.

Financing the News

(extract from letter from Michael F.H. Halleran, Treasurer, dated 1st December, 1977)

> "The Publication Committee is in the process of obtaining exact figures as to the future production costs for the "B.C. Historical News" under the new editors. While these costs are not yet to hand, I feel that it is safe to say that they will probably exceed 25 cts the copy. The Association should be able to make up the difference between the actual costs and the per capita dues through the current fiscal year, but the Annual General Meeting in April, 1978 will most assuredly be faced with the choice of obtaining additional revenue for the Association or increasing the per capita dues. Thus, I would like all member Societies to seriously think about possible and practical ways out of this situation. I would especially ask those Societies who are unable to send delegates to Council meetings to submit, in writing, any ideas they may have. I hope in this way to encourage the widest possible discussion of a matter that is of great importance to the future of the Association."

Resolution to be considered at A.G.M.:

At the recent table officers meeting, it was agreed that the following motion would be considered at the A.G.M. in April, 1978:

> That the B.C.H.A. create two additional classes of membership:
>
> Members-at-large and Institutional members. Members-at-large shall be all those persons desirous of membership in the association or wishing to subscribe to the B.C.H. News, being either non-resident in Canada or such Canadian residents unaffiliated with member societies. Institutional membership shall be open to all institutions and public bodies desirous of membership. Neither members-at-large nor institutional members shall be voting members of the B.C.H.A. The fees for such members to be set at each annual general meeting.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETIES

Windermere: The Windermere District Historical Society, based in Invermere has undertaken a major project in an effort to rehabilitate the former Lake Windermere Station at Athalmer to make it serve as an historical museum.

In October 1975 ten cars of a 105 car north-bound train were derailed at Athalmer station. One car smashed into the unique log station in the resulting pile up. The Society contacted the Canadian Pacific Railway and after much negotiation the railway agreed to give the remains of the building to the Historical Society for a nominal sum. The Society was to move the building by a specified time. This was easier said than done. Getting the building up the steep hill from Athalmer to Invermere without having it fall apart completely was a major problem. It was also expensive. By means of a grant, much volunteer labour and many local donations and money raising efforts, the feat was accomplished. On a memorable day, watched by a hundred or more interested people, the building was loaded on a lowboy and crawled up the half-mile hill, getting stuck only a couple of times. It now rests in a small park on the outskirts of Invermere.

Some renovation has been done to the exterior. The interior awaits the raising of more funds. But another grant arrived in November 1977 and now plans are being made for its renovation.

Golden: Golden and District Historical Society was formed in 1968 with three objectives in mind. One was to seek out and record local history. The second was to collect, house and dispaly artifacts for the public. The third was to protect and restore Donald Cemetary.

In the fall of 1976 a series of programs on local history were presented under the sponsorship of East Kootenay Community College night school classes. One session on "the Building of the Big Bend Highway", and another on "Early Education in One Roomed Schools in the Valley" were panel discussions taped for the aural history library. Histories of various families, both present and former residents, have been typed and/or taped thanks to the diligent efforts of a dedicated member.

The museum has had several visitors over the past while. A researcher from the planned railway museum in Winnipeg dropped in. He was researching information on an old steam engine "the Countess of Dufferin", which was used for many years. Immediately following him came a Washington gentleman studying the history of the riverboats on the Columbia. The zealous new editor of "The Golden Star" weekly newspaper consulted the archives for the history of the fire department, and the newspaper. The Society's photo collection shows that the first newspaper was printed in a log cabin proudly displaying the sign "The Golden Era". A few years later a new editor took over the paper but soon changed the name to "The Golden Star", because he did not enjoy the teasing about "The Error".

The Society obtains information from old timers in the district and are challenged repeatedly to fill in large gaps in the recorded history of the Columbia Valley.

Campbell River and District: The Society reports three field trips of interest held in recent months.

The first was held in April, 1977 when the Society, with guests from Courtenay, made a field trip by bus to visit the new galleries at the Provincial Museum and the historic areas of Victoria.

In October, 1977 a field trip was held on Quadra Island, which included a hike on the beach, viewing petroglyphs, and a visit to the former village site on Cape Mudge. This was the location of Vancouver's landing in 1792.

A visit to nine historic hotels between Fanny Bay and Campbell River was held in November.

The Campbell River and District Museum engaged the services of a new curator in September 1977, Ms. Jay Stewart.

Vancouver: The Society has been treated to two excellent lectures in the continuation of the winter series of speakers. In November, Dr. Martin Segger, Curator of the Maltwood Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Victoria, gave an illustrated talk on the talents of the architects, Rattenbury and Maclure. In January, members were treated to some insights into the personalities of early Vancouver lumbermen, by Dr. James Morton, the author of the recently published book, The Enterprising Mr. Moody, the Bumptious Captain Stamp.

* * * * * *

B.C. HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Planning, policy and programming for the care of the Province's heritage, both pre-historic and historic has been combined. The new Heritage Advisory Board, which reports to the Minister of Recreation and Conservation, the Hon. Sam Bawlf, is an amalgamation of responsibilities previously given to the Archaeological Sites Board and the Historic Sites Board. Members of the new Board are:

Dr. Willard Ireland, Chairman
Dr. Roy Carlson, Simon Fraser University, archaeologist
Ms. Ardyth L. Cooper, Vancouver
Mrs. Gloria Cranmer-Webster, Alert Bay, anthropologist
Dr. Edward Gibson, Simon Fraser University, urban geographer
Dr. James Hendrickson, University of Victoria, historian
Mr. William T. Lougher-Goodey, Victoria, architect
Dr. Donald Mitchell, University of Victoria, anthropologist
Dr. Margaret Ormsby, Vernon
Dr. Margaret Prang, University of B.C., Head, History Dept.
Mr. Ronald Sutherland, North Vancouver
Professor Martin Segger, University of Victoria, art and architectural historian.

Of particular note for Association members is the absence of designated membership for the Association. Members will recall that Mrs. Stevenson sat on the Historic Sites Board as the BCHA representative. It is essential that member societies keep in contact with these newly appointed Board members, so that the BCHA as a whole can keep in touch with Board decisions.

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Amendment: In material distributed earlier concerning the arrangements for the AGM, mention was made of accommodation being available at the "Y" in New Westminster. According to up-to-date information, all block bookings have been pre-empted for this period by the Government of B.C. and accommodation will therefore not be available there.

1978 Annual Meeting
The British Columbia Historical Association

The B.C.H.A. is co-ordinating the 1978 Annual Meeting with Simon Fraser University Conference on Captain James Cook and His Times. This is a rare opportunity for our members to participate in an international historical conference.

The B.C.H.A. Annual Meeting will take place SATURDAY, April 29, 1978 at 2:00 pm at Simon Fraser University.

In addition the B.C.H.A. is sponsoring a Buffet Supper for the speakers and chairmen of the Captain Cook Conference on Friday evening, April 28, 1978.

All delegates will be responsible for their own hotel booking. Accommodation will be provided at a discount for all applicants who specify that they are members of the B.C.H.A. at the Royal Towers Hotel, 6th Street and Royal, New Westminster. Similarly, those registering for the Cook Conference may procure rooms at a discount at the Century Plaza Travelodge, 1015 Burrard Street, Vancouver.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete form, cut along dotted line above, and send to:

B.C.H.A. Annual Meeting Committee,
6349 Canada Way,
Burnaby, British Columbia V5E 3P3

Name ..... Telephone .....

Address .....

..... Postal Code .....

Address while at conference .....

.....

I am attending S.F.U. Conference Yes .... No ....

I am attending B.C.H.A. Buffet Supper Yes .... No ....

I am attending the A.G.M. Yes .... No ....

B.C.H.A. Buffet Supper $7.00 .....

B.C.H.A. Registration Fee $3.00 .....

Total amount enclosed .....

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