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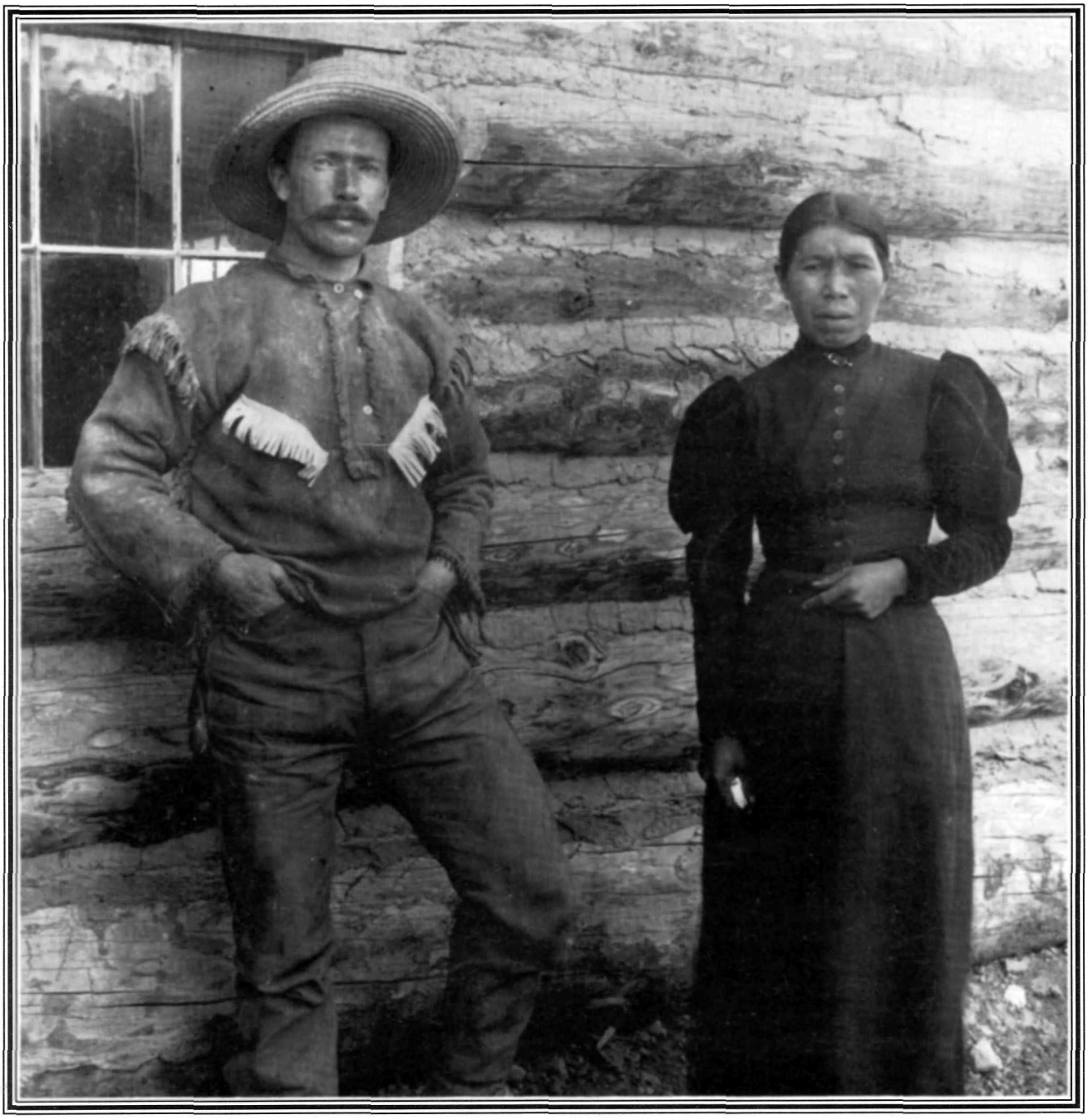
Journal of the B.C. Historical Federation



The Man Who Lived With Indians

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

MEMBERS' DUES for the current year were paid by the following Societies:

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Okanagan Historical Society	Box 313, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6M3

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British Columbia Historical News

Journal of the B.C. Historical Federation

Volume 28, No. 4 **Fall 1995**

EDITORIAL

Here beginneth the eighth year of preparing and printing the B.C. Historical News in the East Kootenay. We have endeavored to present writing from and about all areas in the province. I have been introduced to writers from Fort Nelson to Zeballos, Atlin to Fernie and points in between. In this issue we are proud to present the first of several articles by an established South Cariboo historian, Esther Darlington. We are including a sketch of a Skeena River pioneer by Phylis Bowman (who lives in Port Edward near the North Pacific Cannery which is now a museum to the fishing industry.) "Disappearing Highway" tells of a road link which is now largely underwater; this tale of our ghost highway was prepared by Tom Parkin prior to his retirement from the position of "Information Officer" for the Ministry of Transportation. And we have a Chemainus story researched by Else Kennedy who has been taking correspondence courses in history and Women's Studies from Athabasca University. It is a blessing to have regular contributors but we still seek out writers with research on hitherto unpublished topics. Please write, or prod a friend to write, that special story from your local history.

We also seek old pictures, letterheads or advertisements. Clear photocopies of these smallish items are valuable for filling spaces in the magazine. Please note the source, if known, and approximate date of the original appearance.

Last but not least, we invite notices of coming events (well in advance due to our quarterly timing) or a brief report about a heritage project. You will share them through the News & Notes columns.

Naomi Miller

COVER CREDIT

James Teit "The Man Who Lived With Indians" is shown here with his first wife Antko. The Picture was taken in 1897 by Harlan Smith, an anthropologist from the American Museum of Natural History. An original sepia copy of this picture was given to Audrey Ward, granddaughter of Jessie Ann Smith of Spences Bridge, by Vi Samaha of the Cook's Ferry Band. James Teit travelled to Canada on the same ship as John and Jessie Ann Smith in 1884 and all lived in Spences Bridge area for the rest of their lives.
Courtesy Audrey Ward,
American Museum of Natural History - D-11646

CONTENTS

FEATURES

The Cedarvale Postmistress 2
by Phylis Bowman

Ladner's Windsor Oak 5
by Gwen Szychter

The Fabulous Fanny Faucault 6
by Esther Hope Darlington

The Pioneer Bride of Chemainus 15
by Else M. Kennedy

The New Westminster Bar Association 1894 - 1994 18
by Robert Crawford

James H. Parkin: Portable Sawmill Pioneer 21
by Tom W. Parkin

Cecilia Douglas Helmcken 26
by Jennifer Iredale

Disappearing Highway 31
by Tom W. Parkin

The Man Who Lived With Indians 33
by Esther Darlington

The Hedley Entrance Beautification Project 34
by Helen Martens

NEWS and NOTES 35

BOOKSHELF

From Maps To Metaphors: The Pacific World Of George Vancouver 37
Review by Maurice Hodgson

Gold at Fortymile Creek: Early Days in the Yukon 37
Review by Lewis Green

The Good Company: An Affectionate History of the Union Steamships . . 38
Review by George Newell

Roaring Days: Rossland's Mines and the History of British Columbia 38
Review by Ron Welwood

Raincoast Chronicles Eleven Up 39
Review by Jim Bowman

Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia 1919-1994 39
Review by Laurenda Daniells

Manuscripts and correspondence to the editor are to be sent to P.O. Box 105, Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0.
Correspondence regarding subscriptions is to be directed to the Subscription Secretary (see inside back cover).

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The Cedarvale Postmistress

by Phylis Bowman

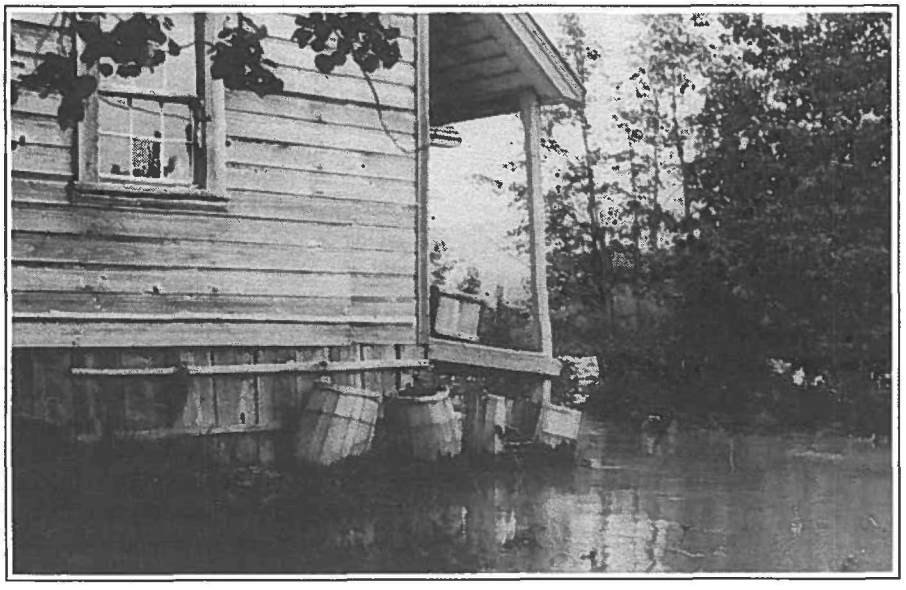
There's a spry little lady on the northern Canadian National Railway line who is well known and mighty well-liked by the members of the crews of the passenger and freight trains, and her name is Edith Mary Essex.

For Mrs. Essex, now an energetic 87, has been waving to passing trains from her little log general store and post office building for the past 70 plus years, and maintains a lively interest in all the news and residents of the area. She began working in that building in the little community of Cedarvale, 146 miles east of Prince Rupert on the northern coast, when just a teenager, clerking in the store and assisting her father, who was the postmaster. When he retired in 1942, she took over the job as postmistress, and has been there ever since. Her starting salary was $5.00 per month, paid quarterly.

Edith and her husband, CNR Conductor Bill Essex, pictured at the Smithers station 40 years ago.

All pictures courtesy the author

There were far more people living in that area when she was growing up, she recalls, and there were dozens more farms. As there was no road as yet into that part of the country, everyone depended on the trains for transportation and communication, and the residents and train crews became very good friends. She well remembers when everything came to an abrupt stop in the spring of 1936 when the mighty Skeena River overflowed its banks, flooding farms and buildings along its shores, and wiping out the rail line for miles and miles. But in order to keep the mail moving, her sister walked the 13 miles to the small village of Kitwanga at least once a week for the two months the rail line was out, until all repairs were made and the rail bed rebuilt. Tri-weekly passenger service was restored to part of the line first, but it took months for the tracks and ties to be repaired so regular freight and passenger runs could be established once more.

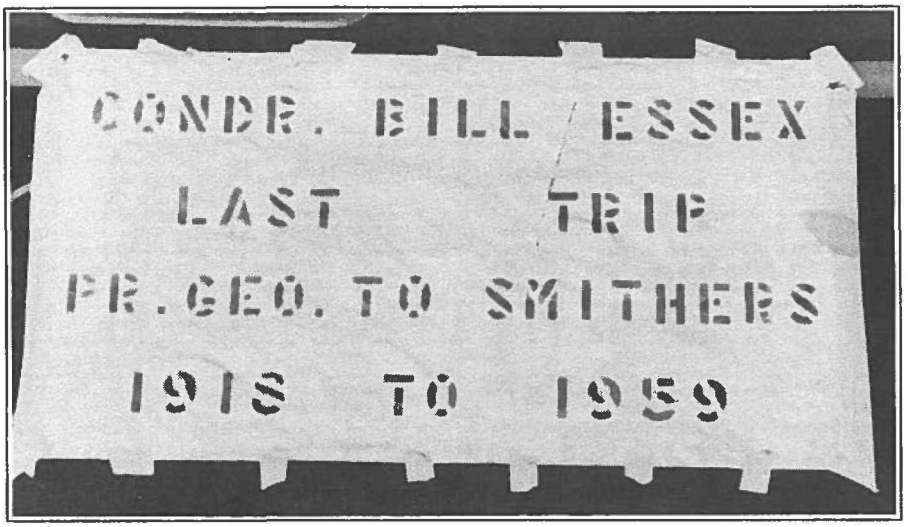


The store and post office building "trembled with fear when the murky waters of the Mighty Skeena lapped hungrily against its walls during the floods in the spring of 1936", Mrs. Essex says.

One intrepid tugboat operator, Jimmy Donaldson, who owned and operated Brown's Sawmill on the Ecstall River, a tributary of the Skeena River, tells of how he went through one of the CN snowsheds near Cedarvale on a dare - he took down the mast of his 48 foot tug **Bilmor** and sailed through the shed as there was seven feet of water on the tracks - so bad was the flooding.

The little community of Cedarvale was founded in 1887, then known as "Minskinish, the Holy City". Among the missionaries who brought the Gospel and the European way of life was Robert Tomlinson, who founded a strict, deeply religious sect. Versatile as he was strict, Tomlinson soon built up a prosperous community, with a church, sawmill, farms, vegetable gardens, windowed houses and a jail - a must in his disciplined society. The bell which once pealed in Tomlinson's church is mounted in the area. South of the majestic scenic Seven Sisters Mountains (so called because of the seven peaks in a row, with the highest one reaching 9,400 feet) Cedarvale was an important port of call when steamboats were the mode of transportation on the Skeena.

The first sternwheel river boats to attempt the Skeena were the **Union** in 1864 and the **Mumford** in 1866. The **Mumford** made it up as far as Terrace, 95 miles from the coast, but was unable to get through the tricky and treacherous Kitselas Canyon just east of there. After rock ridges and cliffs were blasted out of the canyon in the late 1880's more than 15 riverboats carried settlers and freight back and forth up and down the river when the railroad was being constructed. The highway was completed from the interior to Prince Rupert during the Second World War, but it is on the other side of the Skeena from Cedarvale and a small ferry, able to carry a car or two, travelled across the river at that



Edith Mary Essex's husband, Bill, was a very well-known and popular conductor on the CNR line from Prince Rupert to Smithers. This banner was on the passenger train on his last run in 1959.

point for many years, but has since been taken out of service. There is a rough road from Kitwanga westward back to Cedarvale, so cars can travel to Kitwanga to meet up with the highway going westward to Prince Rupert or eastward to Prince George, or northward to Stewart or the Nass Valley or to Alaska.

After Edith Mary married a CN conductor, Bill Essex, she used to make mouth-watering meals and cakes and pies for the crews, who worked with her husband, and became a well-known figure as she stood at the doorway of her store, waving to all as they passed by.

She enjoys listening to her radio, and several years ago was featured on the CBC noon television show "Midday" which all her friends up and down the rail line appreciated immensely.

When she heard on the radio one day that one of her favorite actors, Raymond Burr, would be passing through, she made up a large poster of welcome to hold up as the passenger train went by. It happened that Burr was sitting on the other side of the coach as they neared Cedarvale, so the conductor, who knew of Edith's sign, alerted him to cross over to the other side to be sure to see her and wave as they passed by. And a few days later, Edith received a basket of flowers from the appreciative actor.

Another highlight in her life was on her 83rd birthday when dignitaries of Canada Post and the Heritage Club held a ceremony in her honor to celebrate her dedication and years of service. Canada Post presented her with a plaque of appreciation and the Heritage Club gave her a gold watch. Although technically retired in 1971, she still works six days a week in the store and post office, walking the four kilometres back and forth to her home, and meeting the trains to carry the bags of mail to and from the store. She says things used to be so different when the mail was sorted in the baggage cars of the train - but then, she has seen many changes in her 87 years, both good and bad.

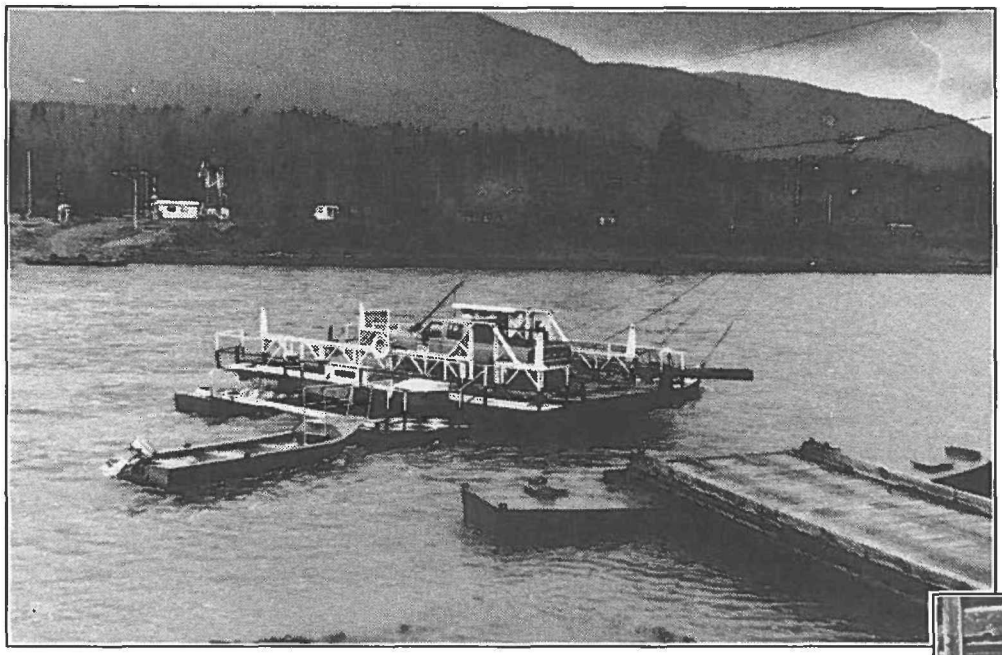
The original old station at Cedarvle - now long gone.

All pictures courtesy of Phylis Bowman.

And she has kept busy over the years, collecting stamps and postage labels, and writing. In fact, she has published two little books of poems, one called "Old Love Letters and other Poems" in 1968, and the other "Rhymes of a Country Postmistress" in 1986, in which she writes of her interesting - and often, humorous - experiences and observations during her long lifetime there, and also of the CN personnel who worked with Bill on the line.

Here is one of her writings telling of a joke played on her husband by a brakeman, Maurice Stokes. It's called "Betrayed, or never Trust a Brakeman":

So you have been playing jokes, Mr. Brakeman Stokes,
On my good friend, Conductor Bill.
Whom you once remarked 'Is not a bad old pill'.
I knew when I saw that small naughty grin
That some sort of mischief you had been in.
I bet you chuckled with a fiendish delight
As you clicked the camera beneath a so handy light.
They say the camera does not lie
But I wish it did, Oh me, Oh my.
Of all the ungraceful ways to pose
Conductor Bill in 'Sweet Repose'
With one hand in his pocket and the other on his chin
I know you boys did nothing but grin.
'We sure got a good one on Bill this time
And a snap like this should be worth more than a dime.
Evidence like this cannot be denied,
He would get nowhere if he even tried.
It is better than letting him sleep past his station
But what he is going to say we won't even mention.
The air will be blue. Our ears will burn.
Perhaps on us the table he'll turn'.
We will say no more of his ungainly pose
Our Conductor Bill in 'Sweet Repose'
This world would be dull without our small jokes
So you are quite forgiven Mr. Brakeman Stokes.
At least by me, sincerely E.E.
I won't answer though for Conductor Bill
But I have no doubt that in time he will
And then he will stand you up for all the 'Cokes',
A pleasant way to get even with you, Mr. Stokes.



The little ferry which crosses the Skeena River from the little community of Cedarvale over to the other shore to meet up with Highway 16, 146 miles east of Prince Rupert.

While below the swift waters of the Skeena
Rush onward the Pacific Ocean to meet,
A salute to all Nature lovers
May their efforts prevail
To save the Seven Sisters
In their locale at Cedarvale.

Always cognizant of the changing of the seasons around her country home, she has written several poems pertaining to the scenery and season which have impressed her. Here is one called "The Northern Lights" which she witnessed on Aug. 19, 1974:

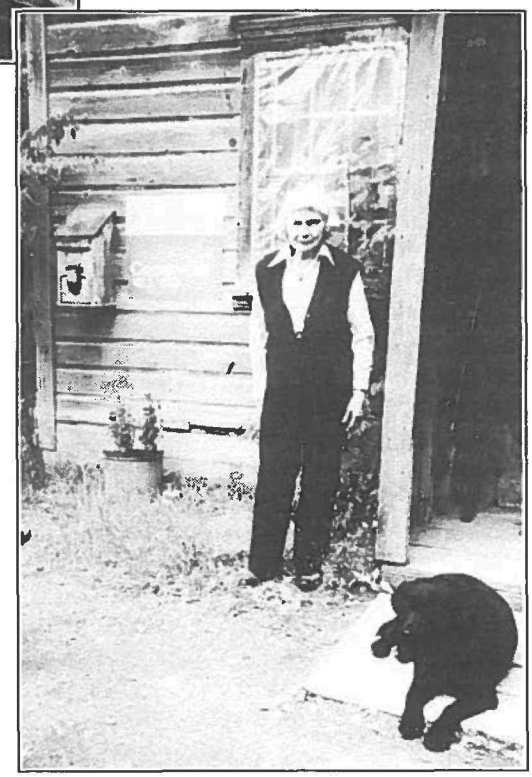
It was near the witching hour of midnight
When out of doors I happened to go
And witnessed Nature putting on
A most spectacular show.
Mysterious and awesome, the Heavens
were filled with lights.
Great beams of rainbow colors,
The beautiful Northern Lights.
Like giant searchlights
The rays swept across the sky
While I stood and gazed enchanted
At the glory up on high.
'It is the sunlight shining on distant ice fields'
The scientists explain.
But I like to feel the Master's hand
Is being shown to us again.
Familiar is the beauty of star lit
And moon lit nights.
But Nature's great phenomenon once seen
And never to be forgotten
Is the grandeur and the beauty
Of the wondrous Northern Lights.

And this one, called "The February Blahs" clearly shows her upbeat thoughts about downbeat subjects:

What does it mean the February Blahs?
I must be odd or queer you see
Because February Blahs never bothered me.
Blah, slang word for twaddle, silly or
Empty talk, insecure, deliberately wordy
Associate oneself with such a word
Oh, Lordy!
There are interesting and better things
To do than mope about and feel blue.
February brings greetings of love
On Valentine's Day.
Lengthening February days a sign
That Spring is on the way.
Banish the Blahs when you feel blue
Go find a useful task to do.
Smile a little, walk a mile,
And find that life is still worthwhile.

And about those magnificent Seven Sisters Mountains which she has entitled "Jewels of the Skeena":

Crown jewels of the Skeena Valley
The Seven Sisters Mountains rise
In all their majestic beauty
To the realm of the skies.
The Seven Sisters, a diadem supreme
For one of Canada's great provinces
Of which B.C. is queen.
Let not the whine or the scream
of the Scissors machine
Cause the Wildlife to panic in fear
Let the Seven Sisters remain the habitat
Of the goat and the deer.
May all the Forest creatures, large and small,
Hear only the sound of rippling creeks
And the roar of the waterfall.
Crown jewels of the Skeena
The world lies at your feet.



Edith Mary Essex, now 87, is still postmistress and storekeeper at Cedarvale.

Port Edward resident Phylis Bowman has hundreds of pictures of Prince Rupert and area through the years and has had them printed along with her stories in many newspapers and magazines.

Ladner's Windsor Oak

by Gwen Szychter

In 1992 the Delta Heritage Advisory Committee sponsored the first annual Heritage Tree Contest. First prize that year was awarded to the author for submitting a collection of historical tree specimens from Ladner and Tsawwassen.

Foremost among those trees was an oak, by then much pruned, in the south-east corner of the high school grounds on 50th Street in Ladner. A bronze plaque, resting on concrete, lies at the foot of this enormous tree. The inscription on the plaque reads:

"This Oak Of Windsor Forest
In Memory Of
Mrs. E.A. Sauerberg
First President, Delta Women's Institute
1933 - 1949"

At the time its history was obscure, no one seeming to remember how the tree had come to be there - or when.

The facts emerged - slowly. It turned out that the Heritage Advisory Committee should have also made an award to the tree, a birthday cake perhaps, for it was then 55 years old.

This Windsor oak had been a Coronation tree. In May 1937, when George VI was crowned King of England, Canadian communities celebrated the occasion in various ways. Many planted trees, and many of those trees were English oaks. This was one.

The oaks that remain in Memorial Park in Ladner were among those planted on Coronation Day, May 12, 1937. This particular oak, however, was planted the previous week by Irene Kirkland, Delta's May Queen for 1936-37, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Len Kirkland of Ladner. Under the auspices of the Delta Farmers' Institute, whose president at the time was Alex Davie, the ceremony was held on the school grounds. Speeches, of course, were part of the protocol and, no doubt, the students and teachers of Delta Central who attended were relieved when the event came to a close.

The hope was that this tree, described as "diminutive", would "grow into a lordly oak" over the years. As indeed it did. And it might have remained there, unknown and unremarked, but for the Delta Women's Institute.

This women's organization, originally founded to benefit farm women, had come into being in Ladner in 1933, an earlier attempt in 1909 having come to nothing. One of the driving forces behind its start-up, and its first president, was Elsa Henrietta Sauerberg, wife of Ernest A. Sauerberg. Mrs. Sauerberg remained active in the Delta Branch almost until her death in July 1949.

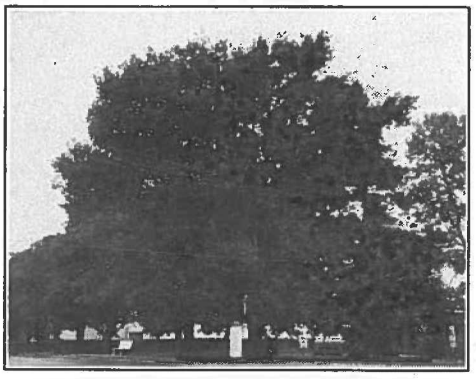
This photograph taken in late May 1937 records the crowning of the May Queen for 1937-38 on the left, Carola Remmem. On the right is Irene Kirkland, retiring May Queen from 1936-37. It is likely that the planting of the oak was one of Irene Kirkland's last official acts as May Queen.
Photograph courtesy Delta Museum and Archives.

By 1953 membership in the Women's Institute was decreasing, but there was still an active core of women. At the group's monthly meeting in February 1953, a woman named Mrs. Gummov inquired about the oak, "how it was doing". The minutes of the next monthly meeting reported that the sixteen-year-old was "25 ft. high (and) 10" thick. No mention was made of the state of its health.

At this same meeting, Mrs. Hemphill proposed that the women explore the feasibility of placing a bronze plaque in memory of Mrs. Sauerberg at the foot of the oak. Eventually a quote of $15.85 for a 4 x 10 plaque was obtained, but it was not until year's end that the members approved its order. The concrete base was made by W.B. Knickerbocker, a retired salesman and the husband of one of the members.

At its unveiling on April 26, 1954, the students of the high school were once again a captive audience. Presumably the speeches were shorter and fewer this time. Mrs. T. Wolfe, president of the local branch, dedicated the plaque and removed the cover, which was in the institute colours of gold, white and green.

Both tree and plaque remain in good health to this day. The young woman who planted it is also still with us; she married Ed Smith and currently makes her home on the Sunshine Coast. The wording on the plaque, as it turns out, is somewhat misleading. But the tree's history has turned out to be more accessible than originally thought, and for a historian that is comforting. This same historian is also cheered by the fact that one of this oak's many descendants is enjoying a healthy life at Parksville on Vancouver Island, continuing the family tradition of migration.



This is the oak as it appears today. Though much pruned over the years, it has indeed grown into a "lordly" tree.
Photograph by Gwen Szychter, 1995.

Mrs. Szychter graduated from Simon Fraser University and now works in the Ladner Municipal Office. She is a keen member of the Heritage Society of B.C.

Sources: Minutes of meetings of Delta Women's Institute, 1953; The Optimist, 03 May, 10 May, 17 May and 24 May 1937; The Optimist, 29 April 1954; Modern Pioneers, 1909-1959, British Columbia Women's Institute; Ocean View Memorial Park, Burnaby, B.C.

The Fabulous Fanny Faucault

by Esther Hope Darlington

It is not only the neurotic who lives by irrational impulses rooted deep in his experience, but everyone.
Anais Nin

There are two strong images of Fanny. One is projected in the photograph of a 15 year old girl posed in a Victoria, B.C. photographer's studio. The year is 1890. She is a replica of the Gibson Girl, voluptuous, rosy lipped, woman of the world. She wears a wide brimmed, ostrich plumed hat, and a fur trimmed suit. She is a poised young woman of solid, upper middle class parentage.

The other image of Fanny has moved through time. She is tall and thin to the point of gauntness. Her nose, aquiline in youth, is sharp, birdlike. Her thick, curly hair is dyed with henna. She smokes roll-your-owns with a long cigarette holder. She talks animatedly as she plays the piano, puffs on her cigarette, laughs and jokes simultaneously. Her visitors are dazzled by this eccentric "Bohemian" anomaly buried in the isolation of a Canadian backwater. She seems to be playing the piano like a genius. Of course, they are dazzled.[1]

This picture of Fanny Helen Leech was taken in Victoria in 1890.

All photos courtesy of Frances Kimpton

Fanny was an artist. She was also a chameleon. She could transmute into the character of any group as easily as breathing. She felt impelled to like everyone, and she wanted everyone to like her. People usually did. She would joke and swap yarns with the rough-talking teamsters as comfortably as she could sit down to tea and crumpets with the British aristocrats of Walhachin and talk about nothing at all. She was witty and well informed of the affairs of the world. And she possessed a fund of stories about the exciting exploits of her father in the wilds of British Columbia, and about the colorful Cariboo characters that peopled her life. She would mimic and act them out, and leave her listeners roaring with laughter.[2]

She was born Fanny Helen Leech in Esquimalt, B.C., in July, 1875. Her father was Peter John Leech, a soldier engineer who arrived in British Columbia in 1858 with Col. R. Moody's regiment. The engineers had the mandate to forge a transportation route through the wilds of an unexplored country so that ten thousand gold seekers, settlers and carpet baggers could find their way to the goldfields of Barkerville and Richfield in northeastern British Columbia. The regiment hacked a trail over wooded mountains, cleared bush, built bridges, and succeeded manfully well at what seemed at the outset, an impossible task. In the early 1860's many of the engineers returned to England, but Peter Leech stayed and adopted the colony as his home. He became an explorer, took surveys and meteorological readings, and found gold on the river that bears his name near Sooke, on Vancouver Island. The Leech River strike was a modest one by Barkerville standards, netting about $100,000, but even that amount was a tidy sum in those days.[3] Leech seems to have been a restless, driven sort of man, until his marriage at the age of 48. Once married, he settled down to a very comfortable, domestic life, though he never entirely lost his taste for adventure. He was over 70 when he undertook a government commission to survey a townsite for Bella Coola on the northwest coast. He and a couple of native Indian paddlers almost drowned in their fight against the river current to get to the site.[4]

Fanny's mother was Mary Macdonald before her marriage. She was the oldest daughter of Anglican missionaries who had lived for many years in India. Mary was a versatile musician. She was a master of the pump organ, played the piano and the violin with equal skill. She arrived in Victoria in 1862 aboard the brideship, **Tynemouth**, accom-

panied by her 55 year old widowed mother, and 4 younger sisters.[5] One can imagine the trepidation of these genteel, religious ladies whose fortunes must have been desperate for them to have made the decision to board a brideship bound for a colony about which they probably knew very little.

Victoria in 1862 was a singularly unimposing collection of shacks, tents and a sprinkling of brick buildings clustered around the harbour. The avenues were usually quagmires filled with the flotsam of humanity representing many races, Kanakas, Chinese, Lascars, Anglo-Europeans, Jews, and a few Negroes. Peddlers' carts, farm and freight wagons, stage coaches, horses and riders, competed with hapless pedestrians and an assortment of farm animals in the narrow arteries. Accommodation was virtually nonexistent, except in hotels, and these were expensive.

As the brideship's passengers disembarked, a crowd of gawking, ribald bachelors thronged the pier to catch sight of them.[6] The women were herded into the armory building on Wharf Street, where, with great dispatch, many of the women found husbands. Mary, her mother and sisters, did not. Louisa was the first to marry, in 1870. Ann Janet and Sydney were married in 1871, and Georgina married in 1882. We don't know how the women coped with the problems of accommodation and livelihood after their arrival. But we do know that Mary was offered the position of organist with the Episcopal Church. Peter Leech's proposal of marriage when Mary was 36, 11 years after her arrival in Victoria, undoubtedly heralded a more financially secure life for her. They were married at Christ Church in Victoria on October 23, 1873.

Leech was managing the Hudson's Bay Company store in Esquimalt at the time of the marriage.[7] The store was outfitter to the many ships that streamed in and out of the harbour from all over the world. In 1877, Leech seems to have accepted the post of engineer with the city of Victoria and the family moved back to the city into a new house on the edge of what is now Beacon Hill Park. The called the house Avalon Villa.[8] Fanny would recall that Avalon Villa, despite its romantic name, was an "ugly house", but it had a few redeeming features and these were the wide central staircase of oak, oak mantels in most of the rooms, and frescoed ceilings.

One of the Leech neighbours was a family named Carr. Richard Carr was a prosperous merchant with a large family. One of his daughters, Emily, would become a famous landscape painter.[9] Fanny was 4 years younger than Emily. In 1892, when Fanny was 16, she made a list on the flyleaf of her mother's diary of 1892 of All the Boys and Girls I Know. Several members of the Carr family are on the list, including Emily. Over 250 names are recorded.[10]

The paths of the women would not cross again until 1904. In the summer of that year, Fanny performed at 150 Mile House in the Cariboo. To her surprise, she learned that her former neighbour, Emily, was in the audience. It must have been an interesting meeting. Emily was 33 at the time, and a spinster. She had been studying art abroad for several years, first in the U.S., then in England and France. Fanny was 29, a widow, with two infant sons. Emily's sojourn in England had been marred by a prolonged bout of illness that might have been psychosomatic in origin, but it was severe enough to hospitalize her for a lengthy time.[11] When she returned to British Columbia, she received an invitation from a former schoolmate to convalesce at a ranch in the Cariboo managed by her friend's husband.[12] As far as is known, Fanny and Emily only met once that summer, and that was at the concert. In the early 1940's, Fanny heard Emily's short stories on the radio. The two women exchanged a couple of letters at that time.[13]

A brief comparison of the artistic development of the two women shows that Fanny had the head-start. Emily's formal training did not begin until she left home at 18 to attend an art school in San Francisco in 1891. Fanny was 4 years old when her mother introduced her to the piano.[14] She sat Fanny on her lap in front of the keyboard, pressed her little fingers to the keys, and pumped the piano pedals. From that time onward, Fanny's career as a musician was launched. Her talent flowered quickly, and Mary was convinced she had spawned a prodigy. She seems to have done everything possible to encourage Fanny's talent and instructed her in the violin as well as the piano. In January, 1892, she carefully records in her diary that Fanny has taken her first instruction from a Professor Strauss.[15]

Perhaps Mary was prompted to have Fanny take instruction from someone other than herself because of Emily's example. Perhaps she had taught Fanny everything she knew. We don't know if either mother or daughter ever considered the possibility of study abroad. It is an interesting paradox. There is every indication that Fanny was raised in a permissive, liberal milieu at Avalon Villa. For example, when most girls of 12 are in their beds after saying prayers at night, Fanny is in the orchestra pit of a Victoria opera house, pounding out the score of Verdi's Il Travatore for a travelling opera company whose accompanist had "fallen ill".[16] (This may have been a euphemism for being intoxicated, a common complaint of accompanists in the travelling circuits of yesteryear). And in the photograph of 1890, Fanny wears make up, dresses like an adult, and looks every inch the lady, yet she is only 15. Many girls in Victoria were still wearing pinafores at 15, and the use of make up was unthinkable for a well brought up young girl. Unlike the Carr family, who didn't attend concerts or theatre events,[17] Fanny and her parents were not only spectators in Victoria's busy entertainment scene, but participants. Fanny probably spent most of her time in adult company, which might account for her precocious style of dress. It would seem, then, that if anyone was more likely to seek training abroad, it would have been the "sophisticated" Fanny, not Emily.

Emily was raised in a strict, religious, authoritarian household dominated by a typical Victorian father. The fact that she was an orphan at 18, when she went away, and that she was cantankerous in the extreme when she couldn't get her own way, probably broke down the resistance of her guardian, an older sister. But it was an unheard of occurrence for a young woman to venture to a foreign country for training in any profession, particularly for training in art. And most professions were closed to women in those days, in any event.

In the spring of 1892, Mary became ill. When she did not seem to be recovering, they became alarmed and took her to the hospital. Two days later, she died of pneumonia. She was 55, not old by present day standards, but the early years of genteel poverty in England, and the difficult early years in Victoria when she had set herself an arduous schedule of performances to make ends meet, probably had taken their toll. Her musical schedule hadn't diminished after her marriage. In fact, it was said that she was in great demand, and that no major wedding or funeral was "complete" without her. She was an organist in several churches. Mary's funeral drew scores of mourners. The service was conducted by Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge, who had provided a livelihood for Mary in 1862, shortly after she had stepped off the

Tynemouth. The Colonist newspaper lovingly recorded every detail of the funeral, with a graphic tableau of the burial, "afterward, the earth closed over the remains of the woman whose loss to many will be irreparable."[18] Pallbearers represented some of the city's more notable citizens, including bureaucrats, and the manager of the Victoria Opera House.[19]

Sixteen year old Fanny was devastated by her mother's sudden death. Mary Leech had been an intimate friend, creative mentor. There wasn't a trace of the authoritarian mother about Mary. Her love for her daughter was boundless, unconditional. One suspects that Mary thought of Fanny as a kind of miracle, not only with regard to her extraordinary musical talent, but because she had been conceived relatively late in Mary's life. Mary's death was a loss from which Fanny never seems to have fully recovered. Friends many years later remarked that she always spoke of her mother's death as if it had happened only recently.

Fanny and her father continued to live at Avalon Villa for the next 7 years. One feels that Fanny would have continued to live with her father for many more years, if death had not intervened. Peter Leech died in his sleep in June, 1899, at the age of 74. Fanny always referred to herself as an "orphan" thereafter. She was 24 at the time of his death.

Fanny's unusually close relationship with her parents probably arrested emotional development. One suspects she remained a "little girl" long after it was usual. Outwardly adult, from an early age, one feels she was, in fact, not equipped to cope with the realities of life. Music dominated her activities, playing the piano was a daily necessity. Her unusual brilliance, precocity, - a characteristic of many gifted personalities, probably attracted her to adults, but probably intimidated her peers.

The list compiled on the flyleaf of her mother's diary supports the view that childhood was not normal. Several or more members of the Carr family listed are considerably older than Fanny. If E. Carr is Edith, and A. Carr is Alice, who were born in 1856 and 1869 respectively, they would have been 36 and 23 at the time Fanny compiled the list of All the Boys and Girls I Know! Emily Carr at that time of her life was called Milly, and used the initial M. A.B. Carr might have been Betty, or Elizabeth, who was born in 1867. Again, considerably older than Fanny in 1892 when the list was written. One wonders how many other names of the more than 250 were in a similar vein. If this is the case, The Boys and Girls I Know, might have been wishful thinking by a young woman, who, in listing the names of every one she knows, even casually, is actually fantasizing childhood relationships that didn't exist.

The use of the flyleaf of her mother's personal diary is another interesting item. Fanny feels quite free to make a long notation in a personal diary, and probably reads every entry. And she does so with the complete assurance that her mother had no objections.

At 24, a spinster, fulfilled emotionally by the love of parents who no longer exist, and probably without experience in the usual sequence of infatuations that dominate the life of every adolescent girl from 16 to 20, Fanny is truly alone, for the first time in her life. It is generally believed that she would have become a concert pianist if she hadn't lost her mother. Fanny may have turned to aunts, uncles and cousins when her father died; through later years she maintained close contact with her cousins William and James Lawson and their families. Fanny was a gifted child, with all the complex and contradictory factors that giftedness implies. She was "different" from birth. One has only to examine photographs of her taken when she was 2, to see that she was already a miniature adult in the creative sense. It is quite possible Fanny's talents set her apart from kith and kin to some degree.

If formal schooling succeeded to any degree in lending Fanny a veneer of conventionality, there is little evidence of it. Fanny said she attended Angela College in Victoria.[20] This institution, operated by the Anglican Church and funded by the British banking heiress, Angela Burdett-Coutts, after whom the College was named, provided a fairly well rounded education for girls. Lectures in natural science, geography, composition, moral philosophy, botany, French and Roman history were offered. Advertised more conspicuously on the prospectus were the subjects girls were supposed to excel in, drawing, music, and needlework. We do know that Mary inquired about the College, because there is a prospectus with her handwriting on it. But Fanny's name doesn't appear in College class lists published in the Colonist before 1899. If she did attend the College, she might have done so only briefly, just long enough to know she didn't like it. In any case, she always gave the impression of being "well educated".

But Fanny could invent a little story. She told a Kamloops journalist that her first husband, Will Felker, died as a result of a "fall from a horse".[21]

This is not true. Will Felker died of cancer. The fabrication might be forgiven in light of the facts surrounding his death which might have been a source of embarrassment to Fanny, and it is quite possible that that period of her life was a subject she would rather not have thought about, much less discussed with someone like a reporter. But Fanny was also incorrect when she reported that her mother was born in Calcutta.[22] Nesbitt may have misunderstood Fanny, but the facts are that Mary Macdonald was born in Campobello, Scotland. It was Fanny's grandmother, Jane Macdonald, who was born in India, and not Calcutta, but at Madras. It has been suggested that Fanny might have preferred Calcutta, because it seemed more romantic.[23]

A few months after her father's death, Fanny met two Cariboo cowboys. The Felker brothers, Henry and Will (William Philip) were musical. Henry played the fiddle, Will sang. Will was tall, broad shouldered, boyish, and at 34, still a bachelor. He was recovering from an operation for cancer of the rectum.[24] On December 26, 1899, Fanny and Will were married in Victoria. Shortly after, the three embarked on a lengthy and uncomfortable journey by boat, train, and stage coach for the Felker ranch at 144 Mile House, where they would face another kind of music, the ire of the formidable matriarch of the Felker clan, Antoinette Felker.

The Cariboo road in the 1880's had improved only slightly from the 1870's when a Catholic sister of St. Anne, writing to a relative in Victoria, recounted the torture of travelling the narrow, rutted, and often treacherous artery. "I hope I shall not see you again for a long time. I love you too much to have you undertake this terrible journey for my sake, and I don't love you enough to undertake it again for yours."[25]

The Felker family had arrived in the Cariboo in the wake of the Cariboo gold rush of 1858. They had immigrated to the U.S. from Germany in the early 1850's, settling first at St. Louis. Hearing of the gold strike in California, the family journeyed by covered wagon across the country, only to arrive in the gold fields too late. They went north to Washington and stayed there for a time. When they heard of gold strikes on the Fraser River and at Barkerville, they went to British Columbia. Possibly tiring of their prolonged nomadic existence, the family settled down at 127 Mile House, halfway to the

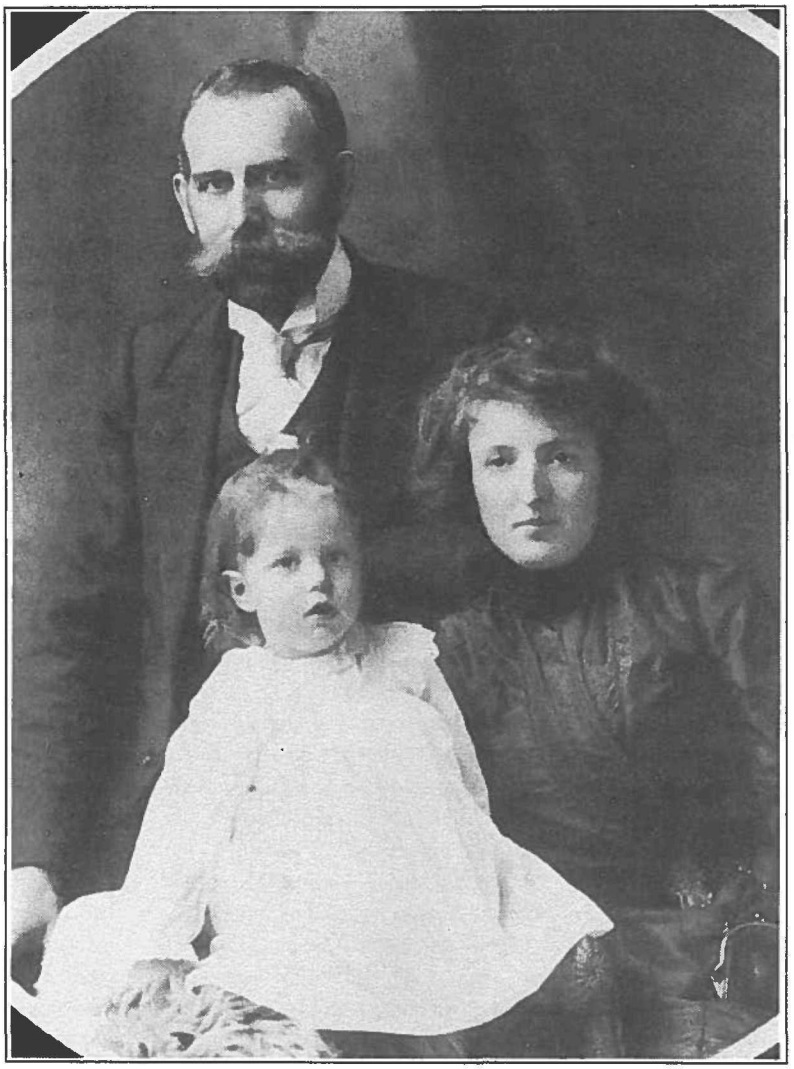
goldfields. While a large lot house that would serve as a hotel for travellers was being built for the family, they lived under a big blue tent on a nearby field. Teamsters on the Cariboo Road thereafter referred to the 127 Mile House as "the blue tent".[26] When property at 144 Mile House became available the Felker family moved there.

Described as "mean" and a "real old tartar", Antoinette Felker ruled the 144 Mile domain with an iron hand. Broad shouldered, square jawed, and probably humorless, the pioneer woman took one look at her new daughter-in-law, and disliked her intensely. From the outset, she treated Fanny as if she had taken advantage of her son in his moment of weakness. She defended herself against Fanny's formidable charms (a generous, out-going nature and an obvious need to be liked) by making herself believe that Fanny was the epitome of self indulgence, sinfulness. Fanny's nicotine habit, (at a time when few women smoked), and her admission that she "played on the stage", only confirmed Antoinette's suspicions. If Fanny's less practical attributes were condemned by the illiterate farm woman, they found an admirer in Fanny's sister-in-law, Emma, who became a lifelong friend. In the days ahead, it was Emma who came to Fanny's assistance.[27]

The atmosphere between the two women at 144 Mile House became sufficiently uncomfortable that Fanny and Will moved out of the house and into a cottage a couple of miles down the road.[28] In 1900, Fanny gave birth to her first child, a son. They named him Aubrey William Leech. He was thereafter called Will, after his father. In 1901, she bore him another son, George Richard. How she coped with these formidable responsibilities in singularly primitive surroundings can only be imagined. She had no experience with housework of any kind. Avalon Villa had servants. Her indifference to housework remained with her for life.

In the meantime, Will had become very ill. In a desperate attempt to save himself, he returned to Victoria for a second operation. But the disease had advanced too far. He returned to 144 Mile House and his mother's care, and died in December, 1902, almost 3 years after his marriage.[29]

Widowed, with two infants to care for and a hostile mother-in-law upon whose charity she might have been dependent, one wonders why Fanny did not return to Victoria where she had relatives. Maybe she lacked the money to do so, but it seems more plausible to assume psychological reasons. Quite possibly, the combination of isolation, primitive resources, hostility, and the horror of watching the deteriorating health of her husband, and finally, his agonizing death, had been too much for her. She could have been in a state of shock. Perhaps she remained in the Cariboo because there was nowhere else to go. She was a small boat on a stormy sea. However, a beacon of light would soon fall her way, and the source was a tall, manly teamster named Alphonse Faucault.



Alphonse Faucault, teamster and Fanny Helen Faucault, musician, with infant son, Lawrence. Taken in 1908.

Al Faucault was born in Quebec c.1860. He seems to have been guarded about revealing information. But there were stories that circulated about him concerning the years before he came to the Cariboo, and at least one of them paints a heroic kind of image of the man. He told rancher Harry Ferguson of Savona and Walhachin that he had been up the Nile with Lord Kitchener, and he had been sent back because of his youth. He also said he had worked on the building of Cordova Street in Vancouver, and in the redwoods of California as a logger. We know he arrived in Ashcroft in 1892 with a man named Dan McGillvray, and the two men went into the teamstering business together.[30] Al quickly earned the reputation of being a teamster who could haul any kind of load, anywhere. Difficult contracts such as the hauling of heavy machinery into the Bullion Mine near Likely, were rounded up by McGillvray, and Al did the reconnoitering, planning the route, hacking out the road, building makeshift bridges, finding and purchasing the horses, and so on. It is easy to see why Fanny was attracted to this bulwark of competence and resourcefulness. He reminded her of her father. Al was about 44 when he met Fanny, and she was 29. Another story about Al Faucault is worth repeating. He is said to have volunteered to take an important message across the Thompson River at Ashcroft after the bridge was washed away during the spring flood. Despite protests, he used a telegraph pole to help him get across the river. Considering the force, width and depth of the Thompson in full flood, the feat seems extraordinary, to say the least.[31]

Fanny began to accompany Al on his stage coach trips from Ashcroft to Soda Creek. She left her infants in the care of Emma (Felker) Bellmond. Until about 1917, Ashcroft was

the railroad freight depot for the Cariboo, and Soda Creek was the ferry and riverboat embarkation point for freight and passengers moving north to Fort George and Quesnel. The distance from Ashcroft to Soda Creek and return was about 300 miles, (480 km) and generally took a couple of days. Al taught Fanny how to handle a team, and she probably spelled him out on these trips. In later years, she liked to boast about her ability to handle a team, and she became an excellent horsewoman.

On December 17, 1904, Al and Fanny were married at the home of another legendary Cariboo character, Doc English. Relatively little is known about English, though the name pops up in regional museum archives. We know he was part of a posse that captured a thief named Rowlands, who had stolen a BX Express shipment of gold. Rowlands later concocted an elaborate ruse at Scotty Creek, not far from the English ranch, to convince everyone the gold had come from his claim on the Creek. But the yields were too munificent to be true, as far as other miners on the Creek were concerned. When suspicions were aroused, Rowlands confirmed them by running away. He was captured in Venables Valley, about 15 miles south of Scotty Creek.

The Faucault wedding reception at Doc's was said to have rivalled the teamster's annual ball in Ashcroft. Every teamster in the Cariboo showed up to celebrate the marriage of one of their heroes. The vandalism, donnybrooking, and sheer, wanton mayhem that characterized the Ashcroft event that required the urgent services of the Provincial Police from Kamloops every year, probably didn't take place at Doc's. But the relentless, hard-drinking, dancing and merry-making was undoubtedly in character. After several days of the marathon, the probably utterly exhausted Fanny and Al retired to domestic life in Ashcroft.

Ashcroft was 20 years old when Fanny went to live in the railroad town, but there were signs of progress everywhere. The town had a school, a doctor, a lawyer, a surveyor, community hall, theatre, Elk's lodge, railroad depots, freight sheds and stockyards, blacksmithies, churches, numerous hotels, saloons, cafes and general stores, and a growing Chinese community ghettoed behind a highboard fence. The town was wedged on either side of the C.P.R. and C.N.R. rail tracks, at the bottom of a river canyon, the walls of which are clay and gravel. On the river mesas, lakes of sand, sage and tumbleweed dotted the landscape. When the winds blew up and down the river, they lifted the sand like a curtain, depositing a layer of grit over everything. If dust and sand were commonplace in the hurly burly of the town's avenues, often clogged with cattle, horses, and freight wagons, the streets were at least wide, and well laid out, thanks to the efforts of a former sheep man from the U.S. and his half Indian, pregnant, 14 year old wife.

The couple had surveyed the townsite themselves just before the railroad came through.[32] Oliver and Ellen Evans (nee: Brink) built the town's first hotel and started one of the earliest ranches in the area, the Butte Ranch, just two miles from town on the Thompson River. Locals called the area around the Ranch, "the slough", because after the river flooded the rocky beach in the spring, it left pools of water that were ideal swimming holes. The kids from town frequented "the slough" all summer long. Evans sired 14 children, and the first one was born in the newly built hotel.

In 1906, Fanny gave birth to her third child, a son. They named him Lawrence Alphonse.

In 1907, Ashcroft was full of talk about an agricultural enterprise planned for a large area of the mesa country on both sides of the Thompson River about 10 miles northeast of Ashcroft. Al began hauling supplies into the new development, and he was also hired to help build a ditch that would hold a wooden flume ten miles long. The flume carried water from the Deadman's Valley to the site that would be named Walhachin.

In 1908, Dr. George Sanson, the South Cariboo's first long-time resident physician, visited Victoria and spoke with a reporter from the **Times**.[33] He said there were exciting economic developments happening around Ashcroft, and he mentioned the agricultural enterprise, 25 miles south of Ashcroft. Dr. Sanson was an ardent promoter of the South Cariboo. He had arrived in Ashcroft in 1886, 2 years after graduating from the University of Toronto medical school. In 1896, he married and settled his family in Clinton. He himself lived in all 3 major South Cariboo towns, Clinton, Ashcroft and Lillooet, where he had medical offices. He had preferred Clinton for his family, because he said Ashcroft was too hot and dusty. He once said that the only thing that separated Ashcroft from Hell was a piece of brown paper.[34] Sanson had invested some money in a mining venture in Highland Valley, and though the ore body could not be developed at that time, it would prove to be a bonanza 50 years later. Today, it is the site of the largest open pit copper mine in the world.

The Walhachin enterprise began to attract families from Britain and by 1909, a town had mushroomed on a mesa adjacent to the rail line.

Al Faucault began to think that Walhachin would be a good place for Fanny and the kids. When the enterprise hired him as a works foreman, the family moved from Ashcroft. One of their prize possessions was a Bechstein piano which Al had ordered from Germany. It would grace the alcove of the front room of the Faucault home in Walhachin for the next 40 years.

THE WALHACHIN YEARS

There are few towns in British Columbia that have as much written about them as Walhachin. It is an oft-told story that has been poetized, researched and analysed by graduate students and amateur historians alike. It isn't the intent of this paper to recapitulate well known details about Walhachin, but to better understand the function Fanny played in the town during its heyday, it will be necessary to replay some of the scenario of development.

The venture began as a dream of an American land surveyor named Charles Barnes, a gentleman singularly lacking in agricultural experience, but a terrific entrepreneur. He saw a small orchard on the ranch of Charles Pennie near the present site of Walhachin, and surmised that the whole surrounding area could be utilized for fruit growing. He went to England and sold the idea to a consortium known as the B.C. Development Association which already had holdings in B.C. of proven merit. The Association began to promote the scheme and a number of British families, some of them of aristocratic background, became attracted.

The latest book about Walhachin, Joan Weir's **Walhachin, Catastrophe or Camelot**, (Hancock House, 1984) is an excellent account of the venture, and why it failed. Her hypothesis, based largely on arguments in a thesis by MP Nelson Riis are sound. They contend that soil and climatic conditions are not suitable for fruit production at Walhachin and they postulate that eventual competition from American markets would have proven to be destructive to the Walhachin venture. It should be pointed out, however, that soil and growing conditions in the region have proven to be excellent for the production of feed crops. The area has been under produc-

tion in more recent times since 1980 and an irrigation system is used. The water is pumped from the Thompson River. This option was considered by the early Walhachin farmers but they rejected it because they thought it would be too expensive. Instead, they chose a wooden flume system which proved to be not only expensive, but clumsy. The circuitous route from Deadman's Valley and the precarious position of the flume along the slopes proved to be fraught with problems. Flash floods, poor quality lumber, and the need for continual maintenance, all proved to be disastrous. In the end, pumping the water from the Thompson would have been initially costly, but it would have been a permanent solution which might have saved the development. All these factors had a profound impact on the lives of Fanny and Al, as they did on the lives of everyone at Walhachin.

In 1910, 56 settlers had arrived from England to take over their small acreages and share in the toil of creating the orchard that dominated the mesas on the opposite side of the river from the town. As mentioned, some of the settlers were of aristocratic birth. This was the unique characteristic of Walhachin. Other towns (notably in Eastern Canada) had been hewn out of the wilderness by British immigrants. But they had represented the working or lower middle classes generally, people who resented the iniquities of opportunity in the British class system. In Walhachin, the reverse was true. Privileged aristocrats saw Walhachin as a place to perpetuate the manners and mores of landed gentry in England. In Walhachin, everyone would know his place. And the British element had no desire whatever to mix socially with the folk of neighboring towns. What was created in Walhachin, in the words of Mrs. Kathleen Clarke, an early settler, was a "High class British suburb". The irony of such a creation in the heartland of a vast, empty, wilderness plateau in a classless society, failed to register with the British. When the Marquis of Angelsey went to the Government of British Columbia in 1919 to argue for funding for replacement of the flume which had been destroyed during the First World War, he was told by the Premier, John Oliver, that the government might be willing to help, but it would require the collateral of a mortgage. Incensed, the peer retorted, "It (Walhachin) can rot before a mortgage will be given to the common people."[35]

The homes built in Walhachin were, for the most part, superior to those built in neighboring towns. Walhachin residents enjoyed hot and cold running water, and the rooms were lit by carbide lamps. Woodstoves were used for heat and cooking, but there were luxury items such as bay windows, French doors, and elaborately carved veranda trim that added a touch of grace to the homes.[36]

In Ashcroft, houses usually had cold water, but kerosene lamps were used, and the outhouse was in the backyard. In fact, the absence of a sewer and water system produced problems for many years. The town had the dubious distinction of being one of the most malodorous in the region, especially in the hot summer months when temperatures soared to 110 degrees+F, (44 +C). Seepage from septic tanks and outhouses were commonplace problems in most Cariboo communities until well into the 50's.

The Faucault home in Walhachin was one of the town's most commodious. It was a two and a half storey affair near the head of the main street and overlooked the river and mesas beyond. The house was still standing until about 1980, when it was pulled down.

In 1910, the Walhachin Hotel was completed and quickly became the scene of much glamourous hustle and bustle. Until the community hall was built the year following, the hotel served as a sort of indoor recreation centre. There was a billiard room for the men, and a card playing room for the ladies and their escorts. The dining room was a haven of snow white linen covered tables, topped with bouquets of flowers, heavy gleaming silver, and the best chinaware.[37]

Not one to keep her light under a bushel, where did Fanny fit into this scene? She appears to have fit in everywhere. She attended card parties in the homes of Walhachin's best families, and probably held soirees of a similar nature in her own home. She frequently went riding with the ladies of Walhachin, hobnobbed with the aristocrats on the estate of the Marquis of Angelsey, and provided most of the musical entertainment in the town. Sometimes she was assisted by Mrs. Barnes, wife of the manager of the enterprise. Surprisingly, the class-conscious British seemed quite content to make an exception in Fanny's case. Here was a Canadian born woman who was beautiful, talented, socially graceful, and articulate. True, her husband was an unschooled workman, and true, a woman's position in society is determined by her husband's occupation, but Fanny was clearly unique. In fact, Fanny was an atypical Canadian hybrid, a species which the British at Walhachin had never encountered, nor would they again. So they treated her as an equal. After all, they required her special skills.

In the years before the First World War, the Canadian poetess Pauline Johnson toured the Cariboo. Of Mohawk birth, she had once been the darling of British society, but by the time she began touring the West, her reputation was in decline. Audiences in Savona and Kamloops were sparse. On one of her trips through the area, probably around 1909, she and her companion, Tom McRae, were guests at the Faucault home. Fanny reported that Miss Johnson "drank like a fish".[38] The poetess died in Vancouver in May, 1913.

Fanny had formed a small orchestra in the years before the First World War, and they toured the Cariboo frequently. One pioneer whose parents owned a stopping house at Two Springs, between Lillooet and Cache Creek, remembers regular visits from Fanny and other musicians who would stop at the house for refreshments en route to a concert, or a dance in Lillooet.[39] The musicians used the stage for transportation.

Before the War, Fanny read in the newspaper that a Weber grand piano was up for auction in Vancouver. The instrument was said to have been used by the famous Paderewski during his North American tour. She urged a group to go down to Vancouver and try to acquire the piano for the Walhachin community hall. The group was successful and the piano was installed, - so there were two grand pianos in the little town, at least for a while, the Weber, and Fanny's Bechstein.

If indoor entertainments such as balls, card parties, recitals, skits and talent shows flourished in Walhachin, so did outdoor sports activities. A hockey and curling team was formed and the Walhachin players even deigned to compete against the teams of neighboring towns. Soccer, polo, tennis, and golf rounded out the sports, but there were also foot drills and horse maneuvers. Fanny's son, George, recalled playing golf with the aristocrats, and having free run of the Angelsey estate which was out of bounds to the ordinary resident.[40] If it was Mayfair in the sagebrush, sand and gravel of Walhachin for the British, and they formed the major portion of the population, the rest of the populace, the railroad and farm workers and their families, lived like any other rural residents in the neighboring towns.

Fanny took to Mayfair like a duck to water. She would recall this period of her life

with intense nostalgia. She had enjoyed every minute of it.

In 1912, for reasons unknown, the B.C. Development Association decided to divest itself of its Walhachin holdings. They found a buyer in the Marquis of Angelsey. That year the peer made the lengthy voyage to his property. He remained in Walhachin for an extended period, supervising the building of his palatial estate, gardens, tennis courts, and a concrete swimming pool. He also worked in the orchards. In this respect, he differed from the average British resident. His manner was open and charming, unlike the arrogant posturing that characterized some of the British residents. He changed the rules of the Walhachin Hotel to allow entry to the public, providing that they were suitably dressed. But he was, after all, who he was, and as class conscious as the worst of them, limiting guests to his estate to the aristocrats only.[41] However, he did make one exception. Fanny. The peer's regard for her went beyond the bounds of mere patronage. He seems to have been a genuine admirer. He left her at least two valuable gifts, one a Wedgewood jug, said to have been owned by the Wedgewood family, and a tall, splendid, brass gas lamp.

Photographs and descriptions of Fanny's appearance through the years 1909 to 1940, reveal the quality of the changeling. Posed with Al, and their two year old son, Lawrence, about 1909, she is slender, modestly attired, elegant, serene, and bereft of make up. In a postcard photo, probably taken about 1914, she is dressed for riding, wears a full length leather coat, leather gloves, and a cloche hat. Though she is noticeably heavier, she is girlish, other worldly, vulnerable. Reports of her appearance and the impressions conveyed as she aged, range from "eccentric", "different", to "like a witch", depending upon whether one was struck by her charismatic qualities, or by the particulars of her face and features. She had a prominent nose, a small mouth with an over-bite, and a round, firm, chin. She also had freckles, and heavy lashes and eyebrows. Her best features were her eyes, a violet hazel color, and her hair. She was tall and carried herself well, and when she walked into a room she was immediately noticed. When she sat down at the piano and began to play, the total effect was electric.

The Walhachin bubble burst in 1914 when war was declared in Europe. The arrogant, strutting Kaiser Wilhelm had probably suffered some discomfort in the company of his bemused British cousins, and for this, and other reasons just as petty, the world was plunged into a war it would never forget. The British in Walhachin quickly mustered, packed hastily, and many of them left valuable household items behind, never to be retrieved. By August, 1914, all the available men had left to fight the Hun.[42] Ironically, that year, the community enjoyed its biggest crop ever and the few that were left had the chore to harvest it, box it, and ship it away to markets in the west.

In 1919, the Marquis's financial condition became precarious. He had to rid himself of his Walhachin property. With this in mind, he approached the most likely buyer he could find, the Provincial Government. Premier John Oliver listened to the plea and ordered a study done, but in the end, opted for property in the Okanagan to be cultivated by returned men. The decision was deeply disappointing to everyone concerned. The few original settlers who had returned to their farms at Walhachin after the War had pinned their hopes on a Government subsidy of some kind. When it didn't materialize, they left Walhachin forever. By the early 1920's, Walhachin was empty of settlers. The railroad workers and the farm laborers inherited the town. The balcony of the Walhachin Hotel, which had been the scene of gracious ladies and gentlemen dressed in their finest attire, became a sunning place for working class women and their kiddies, who would not have dared to venture near the place a year or two earlier.[43] But the hotel was soon dismantled, and the families contented themselves on their own verandas in homes formerly occupied by the British.

Fanny must have watched the closure of shops, the boarding of houses and the dismantling of the hotel and finally, the Marquis's estate, with more than a heavy heart. The pulsing heart of the community had been cut away. Without the British, Mayfair evaporated like so much dew on the bunch grass in the hills. It was undoubtedly, for Fanny, another great loss. However, it wasn't Fanny's nature to sit around and bitterly regret. She was a survivor, like her father. Nevertheless, the vacuum created by the loss of her patrons must have required an effort of will to try to fill, and it is significant that her appearance began to alter from this time onward. She became very gaunt, birdlike, which made her appear taller than she actually was. And her clothing took on a Bohemian touch without concessions to convention, as though, alone and isolated from the stimulation that is the life's blood to any artist and performer, she was "different", and be damned. Al Faucault, too, must have felt cause for concern. The community had been his employer. The years ahead would be financially difficult, as they would be for millions of North Americans.

It is interesting that Fanny doesn't seem to have travelled outside of the Cariboo to perform. Perhaps she had locked herself into the remote geography of a sparsely populated region as surely as she had been dependent upon her parents and the world they created around her in Victoria. Apparently, on at least one occasion, she was invited to perform at a concert in Vancouver, probably at the Orpheum, but she declined.[44] Money or lack of it has been suggested as the reason. The Faucaults were never well-to-do. But it seems more logical to assume psychological factors that limited the parameters of Fanny's ambition. The subject has been explored by numerous feminist writers. In some ways, Fanny seems a classic example of the fettered female psyche craving recognition, fame, yet encumbered by emotional conflicts and dependencies that confined her to a limited milieu. When one considers Fanny's formidable artistic gifts, which, in childhood, were more evident that Emily Carr's, the contrast is fascinating. Carr, through sheer force of will and tenacity, for which she paid the price of punishing psychosomatic illness and lifelong paranoia, managed to carve out a career for herself at a time when the barriers of convention, near poverty, monumental social indifference and ignorance would have been insurmountable to a less determined soul. But Emily had more that a little luck along the way. She had colleagues, friends, who were willing to take her in hand and help her to hone her talents to achieve her potential. The closest facsimile of that kind of support for Fanny were the British residents of Walhachin. But they were immigrants, and cloistered immigrants at that. To achieve recognition in Canada, an artist needs access to academic support. Emily had this in Ira Dilworth, but she also had the help of other artists like Mark Tobey, Jack Shadbolt, and others. Fanny was truly alone. She had to create her own support, audiences, and one feels that it was never quite enough. Her turning to the media near the end of her life to recount her experiences in Walhachin during its heyday, and her detailed descriptions of her parents' life, her communication with Emily Carr when the artist began to receive national recognition, even her dedication of a love song to the infamous Mrs. Rattenbury, are all indications of a hunger for a break-

through of the wall of anonymity which enclosed her throughout her lifetime. She knew she was gifted. Perhaps she was a genius. She often implied as much, and repeated many times that she had been a musical prodigy. There is something unfathomably wistful about it all.

In the aftermath of Walhachin, the land around the town was purchased by the rancher, Harry Ferguson for $40,000. Lumber and other building materials from the Angelsey estate was purchased by someone in Cache Creek for an auto camp, the precursor of the motel.[45]

Chinese market gardeners took over the lower mesas between the town and the river. During the 1930's tomatoes and potatoes were grown, most of which was shipped to Ashcroft for processing in the town's cannery. Some of the locals found work at harvest time in the Chinese market gardens. In the 30's, the Government established a work camp in Walhachin. The grim, gaunt faces of hundreds of unemployed men milled around the town. They were employed on work gangs on the rail line, on sheep and cattle ranches. A mine opened at Vidette Lake in Deadman's Valley, about 15 or 20 miles from Walhachin. Some of the men found work at the mine. The Walhachin dream faded into oblivion, replaced by the grim, grey spectre of poverty. War in 1939 was a blessed relief for some, for at least some of the younger men could join the armed forces and receive a wage.

Through the 20's and 30's, and until the mid 40's, Fanny toured relentlessly, from Lillooet to Williams Lake. Sometimes she performed in Kamloops. Naturally, her audiences were uncritical, country folk for the most part. They would have appreciated anything she played, especially in the days before radio and TV. But there were other, more discriminating listeners, too, and the highest praise she received came from the Marquis of Angelsey. After hearing her play at Walhachin, he exclaimed, "I have heard most of the world's great artists in London's famed Albert Hall, but none that played with such sympathy and understanding as yourself. You have, indeed, tears on your fingers."[46]

Touring, rehearsing for performances, and teaching music, took up most of her time during those years. One of her pupils, a middle aged, effeminate bachelor named Tom Belshaw, learned to play the piano quite competently under Fanny's tutelage. He purchased a piano and installed it in his ice cream shop in Ashcroft and gave lessons to children in the town. Tom and Fanny were good friends. When she died, he inherited her sheet music.[47]

Fanny began composing songs during the First World War. One from that period is a patriotic number with lyrics by C.H. Jackson whose identity is not known. The song is titled, **That's Why We're Answering** . It is dedicated to the soldiers of Canada and copyrighted in England.

The most interesting song, probably written during the 30's, and possibly about 1935, is a love song titled, **Someday**. It is dedicated, surprisingly, to Alma Victoria Rattenbury, (former married name Mrs. Caledon Dolling). The lyrics go, "every living loving thing must pass away some day"...[48] significant sentiments for Fanny. But the dedication seems odd in the lurid light of events around Mrs. Rattenbury.

Frank Mawson Rattenbury was a highly regarded architect. He lived in Victoria for some years, designed the legislative buildings, the Crystal Palace theatre, the Court House, Empress Hotel, and a few Victoria residences. He was a married man when he arrived in the province from England, but he fell in love with a married younger woman named Mrs. Alma Dolling. The architect divorced his wife and married Mrs. Dolling. The couple left Victoria to live in England. Eventually, the marriage soured, and the second Mrs. Rattenbury had an affair with her 19 year old chauffeur-gardener. Mr. Rattenbury was murdered one evening while seated in a chair in his home. His wife's lover was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life imprisonment. Mrs. Rattenbury was also charged, but she was acquitted. She later died of self inflicted stab wounds. Apparently the Rattenburys had been heavy drinkers.[49]

Someday's lyrics were written by a Scottish remittance man named Donald Scrimgeour. Scrimgeour lived in a shack by the river. He was an alcoholic who used to write dirty lyrics when he was in his cups. He probably arrived in Walhachin during the 20's, and seems to have lived there until the late 30's or early 40's. A Canadian soldier on leave in Scotland during the Second World War, looked Scrimgeour's brother up in Edinburgh and found that the Walhachin bard had come from a highly respectable family. Donald Scrimgeour's brother was a university professor.[50]

During the 30's, Fanny entertained scores of visitors in her home. She adored company, and she was a wonderful, "gracious" hostess, according to newspaper and other reports. Guests were often so numerous on a weekend evening, they had to sit on the floor. In the front room, window shades drawn and lights dimmed, Fanny might play for hours. Her repertoire was as broad as the cross-section of her audience. She played Rachmaninoff and Liszt, jazz and ragtime, the popular tunes of the day, Beethoven, Bach, and Brahms. Intermissions brought out young Will and young Al (Lawrence), who served tea and sandwiches. These two young men adored their mother. They never married. Al served in the R.C.A.M.C. in World War II and became a corporal.

In May, 1946, Al Faucault died at the age of 86. His funeral drew a large number of Cariboo residents, many of them, like himself, oldtimers who had helped open up the Province. Al had always been a popular figure and very much respected. His friends probably numbered in the hundreds. He could be very humorous, and treated his inability to read and write in English with characteristic terseness. When he was seen reading a newspaper upside down, and reminded that he was doing so, he said, "Any damn fool can read a newspaper right side up."[51]

A lengthy obituary about his life and times appeared in the Kamloops Sentinel in the May 15, 1946 issue. The funeral took place at Zion United Church, and he was buried in the Ashcroft cemetery, with dozens of other Cariboo pioneers. By 1946, many of the region's most outstanding oldtimers had passed to their reward. Former Provincial Premier, Charles Augustus Semlin, who had lived at his ranch at Cache Creek for many years, died in 1927 after a lengthy illness. Bill Bose, one of the founding fathers of Ashcroft, and a former sheep man from the U.S. died in 1935. Bose was a teamster, like Al. Both Semlin and Bose were probably good friends of Al.

Fanny and Al had been married for over 40 years. It was an unusual union, the teamster and the artist, but it was a marriage that turned out to be successful. The key to the success probably lay in Al's genuine regard for his wife's musical gifts. His purchase of a Bechstein piano for her in 1909, five years after their marriage, marks the quality of his support and encouragement throughout their lives together.

In 1947, a year following Al's death, Fanny fell and broke her hip. The hip didn't heal properly, and she was more or less confined to her home for the rest of her life. For some one as peripatetic and gregarious as Fanny, who needed "stage centre" as the breath of life, the injury must have come as a disaster.

Fanny Faucault taken at Walhachin about 1914.

She continued to take an interest in the Walhachin community hall, the scene of so many of her past performances before an audience of British aristocrats who had become her grateful and admiring patrons, and she had numerous visitors to her home. She was interviewed by several reporters between 1946-49. These interviews had provided invaluable information about Fanny's early life and the life and times of her illustrious parents. But on the whole, the last years, so isolated from even the mainstream of rural social life, must have been lonely for Fanny in the extreme, though she did have the company of her two sons, Al and Will, for a time.

In March, 1955, after a short illness, Fanny died in the Lady Minto Hospital in Ashcroft. She was 80. She was buried beside Al in the Ashcroft cemetery.

The Ashcroft Journal accorded her brief mention in its March 31, 1955 edition, but the Kamloops Sentinel printed a lengthy obituary, acknowledging her outstanding contribution to the Cariboo as an entertainment artist.[52]

Lawrence Faucault died in Vancouver only a year after his mother's death. Will, (Aubrey) Felker died in Vancouver in 1975. George Richard Felker, who married and had two children, died in Kimberley, B.C., in 1973.

Esther Darlington was owner/editor of the Ashcroft Pioneer newspaper from 1979-82. She is now retired and lives in Cache Creek.

FOOTNOTES

1. K. Corra, Interview, 1981, Mrs. Corra taught school in Walhachin in the early 30's and she was a guest in Fanny's house on numerous occasions. J. Stephenson, A. Webster, 1985. Mrs. Webster was a pupil of Fanny.
2. I. Leith, D. Leith, Ashcroft, 1981. Isobel (Tibby) Leith's dad, Tom Reid, was a worker on the Angelsey estate. A. Darough, Ashcroft. Mrs. Darough's mother came from England as a governess to Walhachin and stayed after the family left in 1914.
3. **A History of Victoria**, H. Gregson, J.J. Douglas, 1977.
4. Old Homes and Families, J.K. Nesbitt, The Daily Colonist, Victoria, April 24, 1949.
5. Ibid.
6. **A History of Victoria**, H. Gregson, J.J. Douglas, 1977.
7. Old Homes and Families, J.K. Nesbitt, The Daily Colonist, Victoria, April 24, 1949.
8. Ibid.
9. Emily Carr (Milly) born 1871, Victoria, died, March 2, 1945.
10. Diary of Mary Leech, 1892, Correspondence, F. Kimpton, Windermere, B.C., November 9, 1985.
11. The **Life of Emily Carr**, Paula Blanchard, Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver/Toronto, 1987.
12. Ibid.
13. Correspondence, F. Kimpton, November 9, 1985.
14. Cariboo Oldtimers Mourn Passing of Talented and Gracious Mrs. Faucault, Kamloops Sentinel, April 1, 1955.
15. Diary, Mary Leech, March 18, 1892. An H. Strauss, Clarendon Hotel, is listed in the B.C. Directory of 1899.
16. Cariboo Oldtimers Mourn Passing of Talented and Gracious Mrs. Faucault, Kamloops Sentinel, April 1, 1955.
17. **Emily Carr; A Biography**, Maria Tippett, Penguin Books, 1979.
18. Old Homes and Families, J.K. Nesbitt, The Daily Colonist, Victoria, April 24, 1949.
19. Pallbearers at Mary Leech's funeral were Messrs. J.J. Austin, Manager of the Victoria Theatre (Opera House), D.R. Harris, a C.P.R. surveyor who married Martha, youngest daughter of Sir. James Douglas, Jas. Burnes, Chas. P. Kent, Col. R. Wolfenden, Queen's Printer, E. White.
20. Cariboo Oldtimers Mourn Passing of Talented and Gracious Mrs. Faucault, **Kamloops Daily Sentinel** April 1, 1955.
21. Ibid.
22. Old Homes and Families, J.K. Nesbitt, The Colonist, Victoria, April 24, 1949.
23. Correspondence, F. Kimpton, November 9, 1985.
24. Correspondence, Dora LaBounty, Emma (Felker) Bellmond's daughter. Penticton, April 26, 1985.
25. **The Cariboo Mission, A History of the Oblates**, Margaret Whitehead, Sono Nis Press, Victoria, 1981.
26. Branwen Patenaude, Quesnel, August 1995.
27. Correspondence, D. LaBounty, Penticton, B.C. April 26, 1985.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Alphone Faucault, "Strong, Silent Pioneer of Walhachin Dist." (1954)? Kamloops Sentinel.
31. Ibid.
32. **Bittersweet Oasis**, B. Belton, Friesen Printers, 1986.
33. Victoria Times, December 5, 1908, page 1.
34. Ashcroft Museum Archives.
35. William Brennan to Kenna Cartwright, Kamloops Museum Archives.
36. **Walhachin, Catastrophe or Camelot**, J. Weir, Hancock House4, 1984.
37. Ibid.
38. Correspondence, F. Kimpton, Nov. 9, 1985.
39. Interview, Ellen (Nina) Roberston, Ashcroft, whose father owned a popular stopping house on Highway 12 between Cache Creek and Lillooet. 1988.
40. Correspondence, F. Kimpton, March 20, 1988.
41. **Walhachin, Catastrophe or Camelot**, J. Weir, Hancock House, 1984.
42. Ibid.
43. Interview, Bella MacAbee, Walhachin pioneer, 1981.
44. Correspondence, F. Kimpton, January 21, 1986.
45. Interview, I. Leith, Ashcroft, 1981.
46. Cariboo Oldtimers Mourn Passing of Talented and Gracious Mrs. Faucault, April 1, 1955. Kamloops Daily Sentinel.
47. Correspondence, F. Kimpton, Nov. 9, 1985.
48. Ibid.
49. **A History of Victoria**, H. Gregson, J.J. Douglas, 1977. **Rattenbury**, Terry Reksten, 1978.
50. Interview, D. Leith, Ashcroft, 1980.
51. Interview, A. Darough, Ashcroft, 1987.
52. Cariboo Oldtimers Mourn Passing of Talented and Gracious Mrs. Faucault, April 1, 1955, Kamloops Daily Sentinel.

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The Pioneer Bride of Chemainus

by Else M. Kennedy

Until recently, not too much was known about the pioneer woman and her day-to-day life on Vancouver Island. Quite a bit of history has been written about the Cowichan and Chemainus Valleys, but most books and records have chronicled the exploits of men, completely ignoring the contributions made by women. Even the official log of H.M. Ship **Hecate**, which brought the first organized band of settlers to the natural harbour at Cowichan Bay (1862), does not mention women in the group. Wives were not mentioned either in a census of the settlers sent to Mr. Pearce of the Department of Lands and Forests, Victoria in 1865. The census figures for Mr. T.G. Skinner, a settler in the Cowichan Valley, names his sons, but his wife isn't mentioned, and his daughters are catalogued along with the livestock. (e.g. 5 oxen, 30 pigs, 4 cows, 6 horses, 4 daughters.)[1] These omissions have now been rectified by the "Pioneer Researchers" of the Cowichan Valley Historical Society.[2] These dedicated people have painstakingly combed through long forgotten letters, diaries and pictures, to give us an accurate picture of women's life in the early settlement days. Women not only helped tame the frontier, they made it bearable.

Delving into the histories of the pioneer women, one is struck by the fact that story after story tells of the pioneer's "need for money". Most of the people who came to these valleys, as pioneers, were not wealthy. They had come to make new lives for themselves, armed with more hope than money. As E. Blanche Norcross says in her book, "The Warm Land": "The Cowichan settler rooted hard for a bare living in this period,..."

The schemes the women used to make ends meet are intriguing. There were the methods always used by rural women to make extra money. They sold surplus eggs, butter, vegetables and preserves. Running tearooms, boarding houses and doing laundry were also popular means of stretching income. When times were tough many women, who had training, fell back on the traditional occupations such as midwifery, nursing, millinery, dressmaking and teaching. However, there were quite a few women who supported themselves and their families in jobs that were considered to be very non-traditional, for this period of time in history. For this essay, three of these women, and the interesting occupations from which they earned an income, are briefly profiled. These women had one thing in common, concern for the survival of themselves and their children. Emphasizing yet again, that women are capable of any type of work, especially if the well-being of their families is at stake.

Another interesting point revealed that there was very little criticism concerning the action taken by these women, which is unusual considering the hide-bound ideas of women's role in society, at that time. In fact, as long as the work they undertook was not immoral, they were admired for their resourcefulness. This phenomenon of allowing women to trespass into areas usually controlled by men, was due to the "frontier mentality" which expected everyone, including children, to pull their own weight in these new communities. The frontier, with its day-to-day problems of survival, had no safety net such as welfare or child-care. People were responsible for themselves. It was "sink or swim" and the three women, whose stories follow - swam!

Note: the other two biographies, of Mary Skinner and Louisa Green, appeared in the Fall 1988 (Vol. 21:4) issue of this magazine.

Isabel Julia Askew (nee Curtis) 1849-1905

"They were mostly cleanly (sic), well built, pretty looking young women - ages varying from fourteen to an uncertain figure; a few are young widows who have seen better days. Most appear to have been well raised and generally they seem a superior lot to the women met with on immigrant vessels. Taken altogether, we are highly pleased with the appearance of the "invoice" and believe that they will give a good account of themselves in whatever station of life they may be called to fill."[3]

The above statement was written by a Colonist reporter, one of the first people to board the bride-ship, **Tynemouth** which arrived in Victoria on Isabel's thirteenth birthday, September 18, 1862.[4] Isabel's mother, Francis Curtis, widow, was one of the "respectable matrons"[5] who accompanied the "invoice of English girls"[6] sent out by the Female Middle-Class Emigrant Society[7] as wives and household help for the settlers on Vancouver Island.

The Colonist reporter had obviously not seen Isabel, when he classified the women as "well built pretty looking young women"[8] Isabel Julia Curtis was a beauty. Even at 13, she was so lovely, that she was advised to wear a veil to ensure her safety in the rough and ready, gold-mad town. Victoria was, at that time, the "jumping-off point" for the gold fields of the Fraser Valley and the Yukon. It was filled to overflowing with impatient men, living in tents and shacks, waiting for transport to the lands of instant wealth. Sleepy Fort Victoria had become an instant city overnight, but without police, fire protection or any other amenities.[9]

Mrs. Curtis had intended to return to Britain with Isabel when her duties on the **Tynemouth** were finished, as she had left her two older boys in England. However, this was not to be. Mrs. Curtis had a dream that the returning ship and its passengers would be lost at sea, and she took her dreams very seriously. (In this case, she was correct to heed her vision, as the homeward bound ship sank, with the loss of all passengers and crew.) Mrs. Curtis decided to stay in Victoria with her daughter Isabel, and subsequently married Jules Boucherat.[10] She never saw her sons again.

When Isabel was 18, her mother insisted that Isabel marry Thomas George Askew,[11] a solid, well-respected man who had founded a saw-mill in the Chemainus Valley.[12] Askew had been completely captivated by her beauty, but Isabel did not love this man. Her affections had been given to an officer of the Royal Navy. However, Isabel had no choice in the matter, as her mother felt that Askew would be an asset to the family, as he was already well established. She further coerced Isabel by reminding her of her promise to her dying father. A promise to "always obey her mother."[13]

The word "ambitious" described Askew to a tee. He dreamt of building a town, around his lumber empire, and worked constantly to this end.[14] He had many projects. He operated a saw-mill, prospected for precious metals, was involved with boat and bridge building, and was the post-master for the

area. The letters from Askew's mentor the Rev. Charles Seale, during this period warn Thomas about "spreading himself too thinly".[15] Taking care of his interests took Askew away from home for days on end. Leaving Isabel, his bride whom he claimed to adore, to cope as best she could, alone in their small house. Isabel hated the wilderness. Her life in Victoria had not prepared her for life in "The Indian Countries".[16] She found the silence and the loneliness unbearable. There were still quite a few Indians in the area, and they made her uneasy as they would creep up silently and stare at her through the cabin windows, for hours on end, fascinated by her pale skin and golden blond hair. Life was certainly not the happy domestic scene that Rev. Seale envisioned in his letters to the Askews.[17] Things did not improve after she returned from Victoria, where she gave birth to her first son. Thomas became even more determined to build his "empire", and now left Isabel alone for days on end. She was so desperate to hear the sound of a human voice, she used to wake the baby, just to hear him cry.

In the year 1870, life improved for Isabel, when her husband started selling lumber to the Esquimalt navy yard. Ships picking up lumber anchored in Chemainus Bay. The enlarged Askew home became a gathering point for the officers of the Royal Navy. More women arrived as the settlement grew, and although they were busy, Isabel could now find the companionship she desperately needed. Isabel enjoyed the outside contacts and claimed that these were some of the best years of her life.

The good times did not last too long. Askew was having problems with his neighbours over land and water rights. His schemes for selling lumber to South Africa collapsed, and his creditors clamoured for payment. In order to get cash, Askew sold his mill to Jules Boucherat (his father-in-law) in a complicated lease-back deal.[18] This was both fortunate and unfortunate for Isabel. The deal would leave her a share in the saw-mill, but it would be controlled by Boucherat. Askew continued to have bad luck with his investments and used up all his capital launching new schemes and paying off the failures. He died in 1880,[19] leaving Isabel and eight children penniless and badgered by creditors. Her plight was so desperate that on December 18, 1880, the North Cowichan Council Minutes reveal that:

"RESOLVED: That in consideration of the death of Mr. T.G. Askew of Chemainus leaving a large family dependant on his Widow, the Municipal Council of North Cowichan do remit the Municipal taxes on the Property of the said late T.G. Askew for the year 1880."[20]

Isabel, knowing that she would have to support her family, started operating the mill. Her courage was applauded by the members of the small community and her children, who helped her in every way they could. The stumbling block was Jules Boucherat, (or "Bush Rat" as the Askew children called him), who made things intolerable for her. Boucherat knew nothing about running a saw-mill, but insisted on making all of the decisions. He would not listen to advice from a "mere woman". He was too cowardly to face Isabel with his criticisms directly, but made his wishes known through his wife. Isabel's mother (Mrs. Boucherat) did not miss an opportunity to point out her daughter's misdeeds towards her family.[21] The situation became unendurable and, as money was in short supply, she tried to rent the wharf at Horse Shoe Bay to the Municipality, but the proposal was not accepted.[22] Isabel then decided to turn part of her home into a tavern.[23] This, an old friend suggested, would not be ladylike, and she would lose the respect of the community, should she dispense spirits. The better choice would be to open a small store and post-office. Isabel took the advice, opened the store, and took on the job as postmistress for the community. During this time, she became concerned that there was no school for her children in the area, and was instrumental in persuading the government to build a small school for the growing community.[24]

However, Isabel's mother demanded that she continue to look after Boucherat's interests. To keep peace in the family she continued to run the mill, until Boucherat sold it in 1885.[25] Isabel never received a penny from Jules Boucherat, but she was able to sell her tavern licence to Messers Croft and Severn, the new mill owners, for their new hotel, "The Horse Shoe."[26] This, along with the money she saved was enough to purchase a house on Pemberton Street, Victoria, where she and her children would live frugally but happy until her death in 1905.

Mrs. Kennedy of Chemainus prepared this in 1988 for a history course offered by Athabasca University. She continues to do research with special emphasis on Women's History.

FOOTNOTES

1. Department of Lands and Forests, B.C. - Letters to Chief Surveyor, H. Pearse Esq., listing the number of settlers in the Cowichan Valley, their land, family and livestock. July 1865., Colonial Letters, Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
2. The Pioneer Researchers Group are dedicated people who compiled **Memories Never Lost** - Stories of the Pioneer Women of the Cowichan Valley and a brief history of the Valley 1850-1920. The editor, Jan Gould, is noted as a journalist and is the author of **The Boat-house Question** and **Women of British Columbia.** Mrs. Gould won the Rosalind Hulet Petch Memorial Prize for creative writing at the University of Victoria.
3. The Colonist Newspaper, Victoria B.C. September 19, 1862, page 3. (Microfilm) Article entitled "Wives For Our Bachelors". Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
4. Passenger List, The Colonist Newspaper, Victoria, B.C. September 19, 1862, page 3. (Microfilm) Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
5. The Colonist Newspaper, Victoria, B.C., June 4, 1862, page 3. (Microfilm) Article entitled "Wives for our Bachelors." Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
The "British Female Emigrant Society" taking pity on the forlorn conditions of our bachelor residents, are about sending them an invoice of English girls on the screw ship **Tynemouth**, which at last account was on berth at London for Victoria, V.I. The ship will be provided with respectable matrons, who will instruct the girls while on voyage in needlework, reading, writing etc., - and, we hope, (to those who never learned the art ashore), cooking, ironing, washing, taking care of babies, and other useful household duties, thorough knowledge of which will be found indispensable before they can pass muster as wives here. The expectation of the Society sending them out is that they will find husbands immediately on their arrival in this port. Maybe they won't, but we sincerely hope that if in everyway deserving of good husbands they will not have to remain single an hour after setting foot ashore. There are any number of young and old bachelors in the two Colonies whose forlorn appearance seems like a standing advertisement in a daily newspaper of "a wife wanted". Such persons, if they don't embrace the opportunity that will be held out to them when the **Tynemouth** gets in should be taxed heavily for the luxury of leading a life of single blessedness. The fortunate consignee of the precious freight is not stated; but it is presumed that Bellin Franklin Esq.M.P.P. the well known advocate of female immigration (himself a bachelor) will be selected to do the agreeable towards the ladies for at least the first few days after their arrival. When the **Tynemouth** is reported as coming around Race Rocks, what a rush there will be for good clothes."
6. Ibid.
7. There were two emigration societies. One was the Female Middle Class Emigration Society formed in May 1862. This group felt that educated women would benefit the colony as teachers, midwives, etc. - James A. Hammerton **Emigrant Gentlewoman** (London, Croom Helm Ltd. 1979.) The second society, The Columbian Emigration Society, was concerned mainly with destitute girls. On the **Tynemouth**, 20 women were members of the Female Middle Class Emigration Society, and 40 women were sponsored by the Columbian Emigration Society. - Jackie Lay "The Tynemouth" - **In Her Own Right - Selected Essays on Women's History in B.C.** Edited by Barbara Latham and Cathy Kess. (Camosun College Victoria B.C. 1980) The "Colonist" in the abovementioned article of June 4, 1862, lumped the two societies together as the "British Female Emigrant Society". The Colonist Newspaper, Victoria B.C. June 4, 1862, page 3. (Microfilm) Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
8. The Colonist Newspaper, Victoria B.C. September 19, 1862. (Microfilm) Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
9. - **A Century of Adventure - History of the Daily Colonist** The Colonist Press.
- Patenaude, Branwen - "Gateway To Gold" in **Horizons Canada Magazine** - No. 44.
10. - Forbes Elizabeth. - "Beautiful Isabel" in **Wild Roses At Their Feet.**
- The Colonist Newspaper, Victoria B.C. March 17, 1888 - Obituary of Francis (Curtis) Boucherat. Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
11. MacMillan-Bloedel Corporate History - Provincial Archives, Victoria B.C.
"A small water-powered mill built in Chemainus by Thomas

Askew, the first of four sawmills to occupy the same site that have been producing lumber continuously for more than a century."
12. - Olsen W.H. - "The Dream of Thomas Askew" in **Water Over The Wheel**
- Wedding Announcement, cut from a newspaper (probably the Colonist) and included with letters from the Rev. Charles E. Seale, Thomas Askew's mentor. The letters from the Rev. Seale to Thomas and Isabel are a treasure trove of information about the Askews' life in Chemainus. In the letter, dated January 19, 1869 congratulating Thomas on his marriage, the Reverend writes:- "...I suspect you are only at the beginning of great happiness: for I feel sure from what you say, your wife is a good woman."
Hulbert Family Letters and Letter Books, Vol 1, Letters to T.G. Askew. Provincial Archives, Victoria B.C.
(Note: Wedding announcement and one of Rev. Seale's letters appears in the illustrations.)
13. Forbes, Elizabeth. - "Beautiful Isabel" in **Wild Roses At Their Feet**
14. - Hulbert Family Letters and Letter Books, Vol 1, Letters to T.G. Askew family from Rev. C.E. Seale. Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
- Municipality of North Cowichan Minute Books. Vols I and II, 1843-1890.
15. Ibid.
16. de Bertrand Lugrin, N. - **The Pioneer Women of Vancouver Island** - Women's Canadian Club, Victoria, B.C.
17. Hulbert Family Letters and Letter Books, Vol 1, Letters to T.G. Askew family from Rev. C.E. Seale. January 19, 1869 (?)
(Note: - dates on some of the letters are missing or illegible)
Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
"How altered too will be the house at Horse Shoe Bay. I can conceive the pleasant meals and happy evenings..."
18. Unfortunately a copy of the lease between T.G. Askew and Jules Boucherat is not available, as this was a private agreement, and not registered. The information about the lease is from secondary sources.
Olsen, W.H. - "The End of an Era" in **Water Over The Wheel**
Forbes, Elizabeth. - "Beautiful Isabel" in **Wild Roses At Their Feet.**
19. - The Hulbert Family Letters and Letter Books, Vol. 1. Letters to T.G. Askew Family from the Rev. C.E. Seale. Letter of sympathy dated November 16, 1880.(?) Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
- Municipality of North Cowichan Minute Books, Vol II. December 18, 1880.
20. Municipality of North Cowichan Minute Books, Vol II. December 18, 1880.
21. The collection of Askew/Boucherat letters which Mr. Olsen was fortunate to see, are no longer available since his death. However, the letters appear in his book, **Water Over the Wheel.** The following letter is a good example of the type of letter Mrs. (Curtis) Boucherat sent to Isabel. I felt it should be included as it gives an insight into the characters of both the Boucherats and the type of stress to which Isabel was subjected.
"January 1882
My husband will go down early in the Spring to change the saw. The new expenses will change the direction of the mill. Chemainus cost him to date over 12000 dollars and not given us one cent for rent. My dear husband did not tell you anything for the management of Chemanius Mill and let you employ logs you had on hand for your expenses and paid some debts of your husband.
But new expenses to put the mill in order and money required for logs will force him to take a new disposition, and he will not let the creditors of your husband, who have no right, put their hands against the logs purchased by you and payed (sic) for by him.
After the change at the Mill and new purchase of logs, all will have to go under his raine (sic). They are my husband's and you have no right to give anything to your creditors. We wished to leave here next year, but the expenses of Chemainus mill force us to work here agin (sic). The great part of OUR PROFIT goes to YOUR SIDE. (Writer's emphasis).
Try to find a man to get logs and fix the best bargain possible. IT IS FOR BOUCHERAT YOU CHARGE.
REMEMBER THAT. You do not wish the creditors to come down after all our money is laid out. Tell all you have not anything to do with it, only manage it for a time. You want a good man who could manage, if you take up land for logs. It must be under Mr. Boucherat's name. Bear all this in mind OR YOU WILL GET INTO TROUBLE.
Wishing you all a Happy New Year.
Your devoted loving Mammah. (sic)
22. Municipality of North Cowichan Minute Books, July 9, 1881.
"The council then went into Committee on Mrs. Askew's proposal to rent her Wharf at Chemainus.
RESOLVED Mrs. Askew's proposition be not entertained..."
"August 6, 1881... a suggestion was made to ask whether the Mrs. Askew's) Wharf could be bought."
There is no further mention of the Wharf until August of 1883, when the minutes refer to the Wharf as being under the jurisdiction of the Town Council.
23. Municipality of North Cowichan Minute Books Vol. II June 15, 1883.
"Licensing Court... An application was made by Mrs. Askew for a liquor license and also presented a Petition signed by the majority of the settlers at Chemainus.
The Magistrates taking into consideration there being no house of entertainment between Nanaimo and Maple Bay and pending the absence of the Reeve thought it advisable to grant the application from 1st July. Signed - Milton Edgson C.M.C."
24. Olsen W.H. - "The End of An Era" in **Water Over The Wheel.**

Exploring History with Modern Tool

by John Roberts

William Pinchbeck "Lord of Williams Lake" was introduced to our readers in the Spring 1994 B.C. Historical News (Vol.27:2). Recently the author, John Roberts obtained, through the "miracle" of Internet, a history of the Michael Pinchbeck family of Geelong in Victoria State, Australia. The following is reprinted with permission from the Williams Lake Advocate:

During a great part of the 1800s, it was common practice in England, in Yorkshire and in Scotland for the landowners to force their tenants off the land in order to provide greater pasture for the very lucrative raising of sheep for the production of wool.

Many migrated to the colonies and to North America. A Michael Pinchbeck left for Australia and was married at Geelong in the state of Victoria in 1854.

Of his eight children, one was named William born in 1862 in Geelong. All the eight children were christened at the Church of England in Bellerine, Victoria, a village near Geelong.

William Pinchbeck married a Caroline Jeffrey who was also born in Geelong. William Pinchbeck worked a farm for many years and he became a councillor of the Shepparton area. He retired from council at age 57.

William and Caroline had five children, one son being named William. They retired to Geelong in the 1920s on approximately £50,000, which was considered wealth in those days. They both had very sober habits and lived to a great age.

Geelong lies 60 miles west of Melbourne. It now boasts the largest indoor covered wool auction in the world.

The huge bales of wool each have a corner left open so the purchasers can classify the quality within a matter of seconds.

The Pinchbeck family were at one time the largest landowners in the Bunbartha district, having almost 2,000 acres. Survey maps show lot sizes of 640, 320, 160 and 80 acres with Pinchbecks of several different given names.

Much of the land at a later date came within the scope of migration and was sold for sub division under closer settlement.

A survey from the parish map of Mundoona in 1882 shows Pinchbeck's estate. In Cariboo District lot #71 there is a large Pinchbeck estate in the 1890s. It is now subdivided into lots and streets within our city.

This information plus other details was obtained through the modern miracle of the Internet - a tool for genealogical research.

A Pinchbeck relative, now living in Canberra, Australia, sent a computer note to a Pinchbeck in Edmonton, advising this long distant relative that another Pinchbeck relative living in Germany had compiled the details.

I was pleased to receive a copy of all this correspondence for a number of reasons. It ties in with our own Cariboo William Pinchbeck.

I also know all the areas well - Geelong, Shepparton and Canberra, having lived in each area in 1941, 1942 and 1947.

My long distance relative left Scotland in 1823 as a Presbyterian minister and after conducting numerous religious services in sheep sheds, eventually built the first church in the state of Victoria, in Geelong.

Among the congregation was Sir John Franklin, then the governor of Tasmania.

The New Westminster Bar Association 1894 - 1994

by Robert Crawford

The Daily Columbian in its Thursday evening edition dated March 15, 1894 carried the following announcement under the heading "Local and Provincial".

Bar Association Formed

"The New Westminster Bar Association was formed on Tuesday, at a meeting of the members of the legal profession practising in this city. The object of the association is to deal with the numerous questions which are constantly arising of interest to the profession. This step has been under consideration for two years. Every member of the fraternity in the city has become a regularly enrolled member. The following officers have been elected: President, A.J. McColl, Q.C.; vice-president, W. Meyers Gray; hon. secretary-treasurer, E.M.N. Woods, executive committee, Messrs, E.A. Jenns, Aulay Morrison, L.P. Eckstein, J.W. McColl and A. Henderson."

On the 12th of April 1994 the New Westminster Bar Association marked that centenary with a special dinner. As well, the Courthouse library had an open house from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The dinner program focused on some of the highlights of these past 100 years.

I want to pen for you a small picture of those times, of the city, of some of the bench and bar of that time, and some of the family connections that link us to the 1890s.

The City

In 1894 the City of New Westminster was still home to some of the sappers that had been sent out with Colonel Moody in 1858 to select, plan and create a site for the capital of the newly proclaimed Crown colony of British Columbia.

The present site of the city had seen the huge trees on the north side of the Fraser River felled and, from its initial small beginnings among the stumps, the city quickly grew in response to the influx of gold miners pouring into the province up the Fraser River and into the Cariboo.

By 1890 the streets carefully planned by the Royal Engineers had been transformed from muddy strips to sealed roads, the stumps on the hill had been largely removed and fine houses had been built by captains of commerce. The government buildings had grown from the small, square, wooden buildings of 1860. The courthouse was rebuilt in 1873 and then in the late 1880s G.W. Grant was commissioned to design the magnificent edifice that was completed in 1891, rebuilt after the 1898 fire, and still stands with various additions across the road from the present Law Courts on Begbie Square.

New Westminster had seen electric light illuminate Columbia Street for the first time on the evening of January 2, 1891. Telephone service began in New Westminster in 1882, and in 1892 there were 128 telephone subscribers in the New Westminster exchange.

In 1891 New Westminster city was described as having a population of 8,000, with four lines of river steamers finding constant employment between the city and the agricultural settlements; already New Westminster's position as a hub of the Fraser Valley was well established. In 1887 the rail spur from Port Moody was completed. The New Westminster & Southern Railway opened a line from South Westminster to Blaine, the 22 miles of railway being distinctive in Canadian history as being the only Canadian railway to be built without a government subsidy.

By October 1891 the interurban tram was running from Vancouver through Central Park direct to Queen's Park. The rail link was noted by Judge Bole on the first sitting of the Vancouver Assizes at which he and the Honourable Mr. Justice McCreight presided on November 17, 1892.

Judge Bole was reported as saying: "...he was especially pleased that Vancouver had been created into a judicial district whereby saying so he did not infer that New Westminster was going back. Such was not the case. She was showing steady progress. The Twin Cities as they had been aptly called were now joined by two bands of steel and he hoped their relations would always remain friendly and that both would aim at forwarding the welfare of every part of the Province... he was so much in Vancouver he hardly knew which of the cities he belonged to and he hoped that between the two cities would be put down jealousy, envy and all uncharitableness."

After a photograph of the courtroom was taken and the grand jury dismissed, the court adjourned and members of the bench were invited by the Vancouver Bar to a lunch at Meakins.

The judge's words reflected the economic reality created by the transcontinental railway reaching Vancouver in 1887 and the rapid development of that small community on Burrard Inlet into the primary port for coastal transport as well as the transcontinental railway terminus.

In the early 1890s Victoria and New Westminster doubtless regarded themselves as the more settled communities while Vancouver was simply a burgeoning hamlet, but one in which young lawyers educated in eastern Canada were arriving by the day to start up their practice, as did Mr. Joe Russell in 1888. In the pre-tram days, the founder of Russell & DuMoulin was known to run the 14 miles to New Westminster without shoes, preferring his running ability to the C.P.R. rail route through Port Moody or the daily stage to the "Royal City".

As with other British colonies, cricket, tennis, rugby, soccer and shooting were all enthusiastically pursued in the 1890s. New Westminster's famous lacrosse team, the Salmonbellies, was organized in 1889 and pioneer players in 1890 included one W. McQuarrie. The interurban trams brought large crowds to New Westminster for May Day, agricultural festivals and lacrosse games, which might be attended by 15,000 or 20,000 people in the 1890s at the open field at Queen's Park. Sometimes the visitors from Vancouver were uncharitably met with the welcoming taunt "Crab eaters, crab eaters", that being the name ascribed to the Vancouver lacrosse team.

The Bench

In November 1858 Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie had arrived and been sworn in at Fort Langley. He lived in New Westminster until 1870. Thereafter he regularly visited New Westminster, although residing in Victoria.

By 1894 Begbie, C.J. presided over a Supreme Court bench comprised of himself, H.P.P. Crease, McCreight, Walkem and Drake, J.J.

Crease (who was attorney general for the colony) had lived in New Westminster from 1861 to 1868 and in 1894 McCreight was the sitting Supreme Court judge in New Westminster.

Norman Bole was one of the first resident lawyers in New Westminster. He was called to the bar in 1877, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1887, sat as the first police magistrate 1884-1889, and ascended to the County Court Bench in 1889 where he sat until 1907.

The Bar Association

In 1883 a list of 25 practising lawyers in the province included four located in New Westminster. By 1890 the New Westminster lawyers' list had grown to 12.

Alfred Watts in his *History of the Legal Profession in British Columbia 1968-1984* at page 153 noted "... the earliest record of a Bar Association other than the Law Society itself... is found in a letter of February 5, 1890, to L.P. Eckstein, Esq., a lawyer of New Westminster from the Secretary:

"Your letter of the first instance containing a copy of Resolution in re the establishment of a Law Library in the mainland (New Westminster) came to hand this morning."

Mr. Watts assumed that the resolution emanating from the members in New Westminster reflected their association as an already effective collegial group, but one also intent on furbishing the proposed courthouse.

The Law Society in fact only had one library, in Victoria, at that time and Mr. Eckstein's letter did not receive a favourable welcome. At the Benchers meeting it was moved by Mr. Richards "That it being desirable that there should be one perfect Library in the Province until the same is complete the benchers do not think it right to contribute funds towards forming another Library."

However, an amendment was proposed by Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Fowl and carried namely: "That in view of the erection of the New Court House in New Westminster the sum of $1,000.00 be appropriated for the purchase of Law Books to be placed in the New Court House."

Mr. Watts notes that this was the commencement of the branch library system, and necessitated an amendment to the Legal Professions Act in 1891. Vancouver and Nanaimo were soon to follow.

By 1894 the British Columbia bar was almost 100 in membership, of which approximately 20 would have resided in the city of New Westminster.

The Lawyers

The first president of the New Westminster Bar Association, A.J. McColl, Q.C. had been called to the Bar of Ontario in 1875 at some 21 years of age. In 1878 he went to Winnipeg where soon after he practised for four years and in 1882 came to British Columbia where he formed a partnership with Gordon E. Corbould in New Westminster. He left for Rossland in 1896 but that same year was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and on the 23rd of August 1898 he succeeded the Honourable Theodore Davie as Chief Justice of British Columbia. He continued to reside in New Westminster, and died suddenly in 1902 while in Victoria.

Gordon Corbould was born in Toronto in 1847 and admitted to practice in Ontario in 1872. He practised there until May 1880 when he came to British Columbia and opened his office in New Westminster and in 1884 he and Angus John McColl entered into a partnership. Mr. Corbould served as a bencher 1886-89, 1894-96, and 1899-1920, being treasurer for the period 1912 to 1920. The other New Westminster bencher at that time was Eustace A. Jenns, another partner of Mr. Corbould's and a bencher 1891-98. Many other New Westminster lawyers were to article at Mr. Corbould's firm. In 1894, a future premier of British Columbia, Sir Richard McBride, was an associate of Mr. Corbould. Mr. Corbould was noted to be a calm, dignified, self-controlled barrister. He also represented New Westminster in the House of Commons in 1890, being re-elected in 1891.

Today, Brian Corbould, Q.C. of Milne Selkirk, a bencher 1979-84, carries on his grandfather's proud mantle in the city. His energetic contribution to legal bodies is matched only by his contribution civically.

Another chief justice was to come from the first executive committee of the New Westminster Bar Association, namely Auley MacAuley Morrison. Auley Morrison was born in Nova Scotia and came to British Columbia in 1890. He settled in New Westminster and won elective office in several civic organizations. In 1896 he was elected to the House of Commons on the government side in Laurier's first administration, and re-elected in 1900. He became King's Counsel in 1902 and a year later was appointed to the Supreme Court. He moved to Vancouver shortly after his appointment to the Supreme Court bench, the burgeoning hamlet having by then grown to 35,000 population. In 1929 he became the Chief Justice of British Columbia and he died while still in office in February 1942. He had been considered a brilliant scholar at Dalhousie, from which he graduated in 1888 and received an honorary L.L.D. in 1929. He was active with the Canadian Bar Association, being vice-president for British Columbia 1896-97 and 1925-29. A fine footballer in his time, he regularly attended at Brockton Point to watch the games.

Another firm in New Westminster in 1894 comprised Messrs. Howay and Reid, both of whom were to become famous historians of this province, each contributing volumes of written material to the archives of British Columbia. They had been law school friends at Dalhousie in the late 1880s.

Howay, on completing his studies, returned to New Westminster where he initially practised with W.J. Whiteside.

Mr. Reid had gone to Michigan to complete an L.L.D. in 1890 and then was called to the state bars of Michigan and Washington. It would appear that his friend was successful in entreating him to join him in practice, which partnership began in 1893 and did not end until 1907, when Howay succeeded Norman Bole as the county court judge. Howay in turn was to hold that seat on the bench for 30 years until 1937.

Dr. Reid left New Westminster in 1907 and took up his practice in Vancouver. He was a bencher of the Law Society 1927-1942 and retired from active practice at that time. He was granted an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by UBC in May 1936.

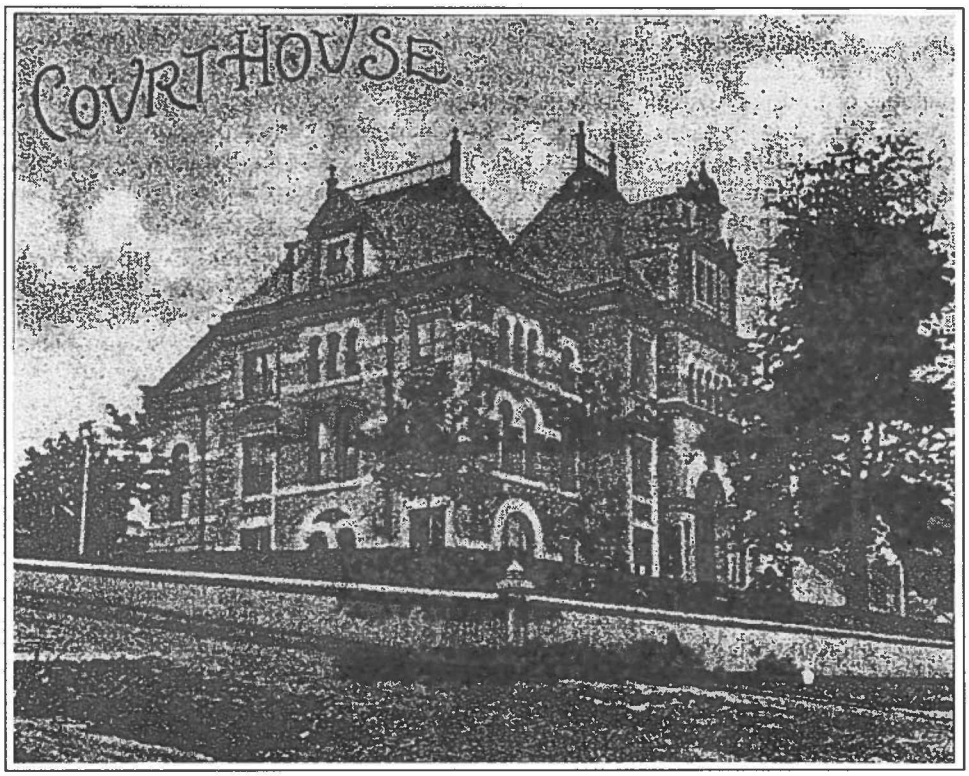
William James Whiteside was associated with Corbould McColl in 1894. He came from Ontario to New Westminster in 1886 and was called to the bar in 1890. He practised as a sole practitioner for a year, was in partnership with F.W. Howay for two years, and then spent the next two years with Mr. Corbould. The following year he practised

with Richard McBride. In 1896 he moved to Rossland but in 1902 returned to New Westminster and helped to organize the firm of Morrison Whiteside & McQuarrie. In 1905 Mr. Whiteside took as his partner H.L. Edmonds who was to become the long-time police magistrate. Mr. Whiteside was appointed King's Counsel, served as a bencher from 1920-21 and 1923-38. Only when stricken with illness did he retire in 1938. The partnership was later to include T.R. Selkirk, K.C.

By then the partnership included T.R. Selkirk, K.C. who was elected president of the Board of Trade in 1944, served as a bencher 1948-52 and sees his family name carried on by the firm Milne Selkirk. That Selkirk refers to his son Robert, whose services to the profession were recently recognized with his appointment as Queen's Counsel.

The lacrosse player earlier mentioned, William Garland McQuarrie, was called to the bar in 1900. He was soon to become a leader of the New Westminster bar, being particularly noted as a prosecutor on the Assizes, and as a municipal adviser to New Westminster and a number of the surrounding municipalities. He was elected a member of Parliament sitting for a number of terms, was appointed King's Counsel, and in 1933 elevated to the British Columbia Court of Appeal, a position he still held on his death in 1943. In 1936 he saw his son Colin called to the bar (at a special call), and then Colin practised with Harry J. Sullivan, K.C. until the Second World War intervened, when he served his country with honour, returning to become the pre-eminent barrister in the country. He served as a bencher from 1955 through 1967, as president of the New Westminster Bar Association 1955-56, was appointed Q.C. in 1956, and was treasurer of the Law Society in 1967-1968. The family name is proudly carried on in the firm name McQuarrie Hunter where his elder son Owen practises, while his younger son "Sandy" was president of the New Westminster Bar Association in 1990.

George Livingstone Cassady was a partner of W.G. McQuarrie from 1912 to 1925. Both literally and figuratively a towering figure in the city of New Westminster, with a legal career stretching from 1904 (as an office boy in short pants) to his death in 1970, he served as a bencher 1933-1947 and 1953-54 and sat as a local magistrate and as a judge in admiralty. His firm carries on his name today under the leadership of his son "Skip" Cassady, and both father and son have contributed significantly to the legal life of the city, respectively being awarded King's Counsel and Queen's Counsel, and have given unstintingly of their time to civic organizations.



The New Westminster Courthouse, circa 1891

BCARS 21862, F-5600

Some Concluding Thoughts

One hundred years on, the Royal City now numbers some 40,000, the New Westminster Bar Association lists its paid-up members 150 persons, the river still runs by it, the port, the lumber mills, and the salmon are still strong economic factors. The 1891 Courthouse sits across from the new Law Courts, and biased as I am I think it is the best courthouse in the province thanks to the work of the Honourable Stuart McMorran.

I trust I have given you a glimpse of the strong roots the New Westminster Bar Association has, both familial and otherwise, in the city of New Westminster.

As a group the Association has been able to present its views to the Law Society and the Canadian Bar Association, and, when necessary, directly to the courts, court administration and the attorney general. That such representations are fairly received and discussed is yet a reflection of the recognition the original executive sought and obtained.

It is the advantage of a relatively small bar association that one has the opportunity of meeting the other members of the bar on a social basis. The regular monthly meeting (still the second Tuesday of the month as it was 100 years ago) is the cornerstone to fostering a collegiality for which the New Westminster Bar Association is rightly renowned. That collegiality is further fostered by other regular events such as the Christmas party, the judges' dinner, and the golf matches with the Fraser Valley bar and other professions. That collegiality in turn provides the knowledge, understanding and respect for one's peers at the bar that has by and large allowed the lawyers of this area to represent their clients on a formal, proper but convivial basis and in the best interests of their clients.

I do not doubt that the original executive enjoyed the wit, repartee and exchanges that still characterize the monthly meetings, and that warmth, cheerfulness and good humour was present and fostered at the Centennial Dinner of the New Westminster Bar Association.

Robert Crawford is a Barrister and Solicitor in the McQuarrie Hunter office in New Westminster. He enjoys history as a hobby.

James H. Parkin: Portable Sawmill Pioneer

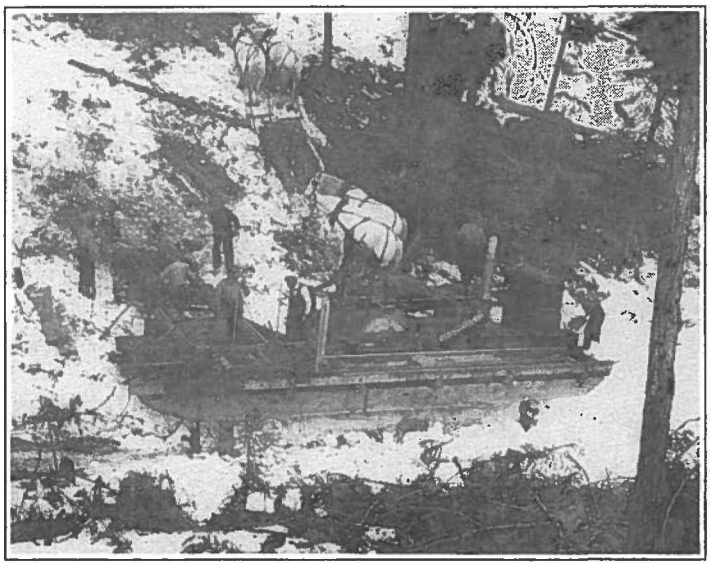
by Tom W. Parkin

Recent discovery of a collection of negatives showing a family logging operation in the Columbia Valley of the East Kootenay region prompted this author to investigate the history of the business. Research revealed not only an innovative ancestor, but an industry about which little seems to have been written.

The City of Cranbrook (incorporated 1905) has long been the primary distribution centre for the East Kootenay, and lumber was its earliest raison d'être. The heyday of logging was the mid-1920s when its population is estimated to have reached 3,200, but decreasing accessibility to timber and frequent forest fires soon reduced the annual cut. In the surrounding region, large mills, often with their own satellite communities - even their own railroads - began to close.[1] And what local economics didn't change, the Depression soon did.

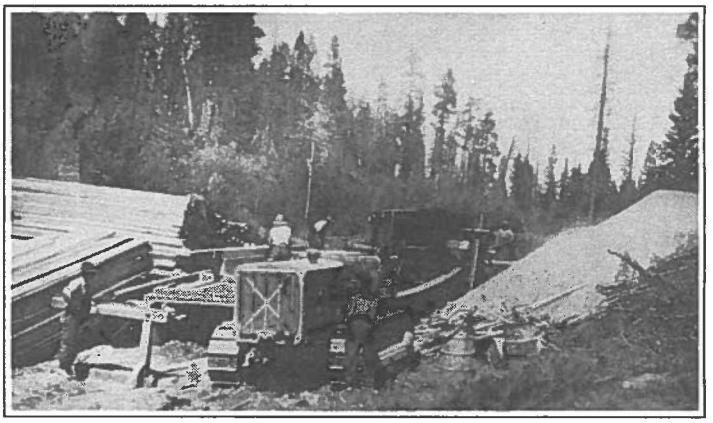
Most such mills produced finished lumber, but a parallel market existed, often consisting of seasonal workers who worked in bush mills producing railroad ties, and rough lumber. The ties were sold green to the railway and the lumber was shipped to larger planer mills for finishing. Such small mills added strength to the economy in that a larger proportion of their cash flow was distributed as wages than was the case for any other wood product.[2]

The heyday of the tie business in British Columbia extended from 1920 to 1929, with production usually over 3 million, and peaking at 3.8 million in 1921. In 1933 it had dropped to less than half a million.



Sash & Door mill on Mt. Baker near Cranbrook, B.C. Mill has just been repositioned (no sawdust pile) and the lower side jacked up to level it on a slope. Three men are positioning logs over which the 8' logs for milling will roll onto the carriage. Horse teams have brought in several loads.

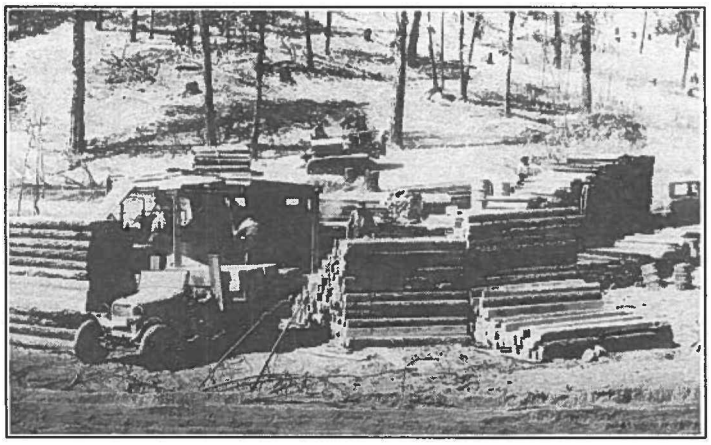
All pictures from the Parkin family collection



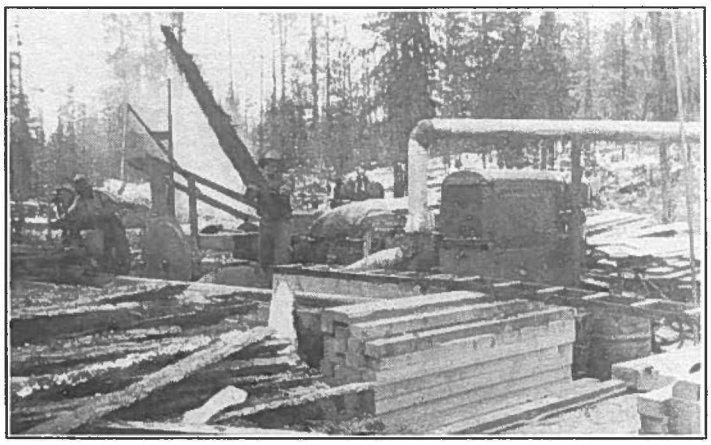
Parkin portable mill in 1937-1939 period at Mud Creek, B.C. near Canal Flats. RD8 Caterpillar is providing power via endless belt. The mill is cutting lumber not ties, in this scene. The lumber would be loaded onto the trucks like this: "We used to put the lumber on jacks (a sort of narrow horse, seen to left of cat). One part would be piled on the platform; the other end of the load over the jack. When you backed your truck in, you knocked the jack down, and that end of the load came down on the back end of the truck. There were rollers on the deck of the truck, so you could just back it on like that. Handled none of it by hand." "This one over here (see extreme left), they had an accident with it. The leg didn't work out, heh? So they had to pick that all up by hand."

Bill Parkin interview, November 11, 1993, Vernon.

Bill Parkin on Cat 60 hauling Athey wagons loaded with snow fence up ramp beside C.P.R. siding for loading into boxcars near Fairmont Springs, B.C. Men are worried about wagon tongue. This is because an accident on a steep slope on the way in saw the front truck on the lead wagon overturn, and the kingpin dropped out. The load was taken up by chaining directly to the rear of the Cat.
Athey wagons could carry 10 tons. They had a dual tracked rear wheel set.

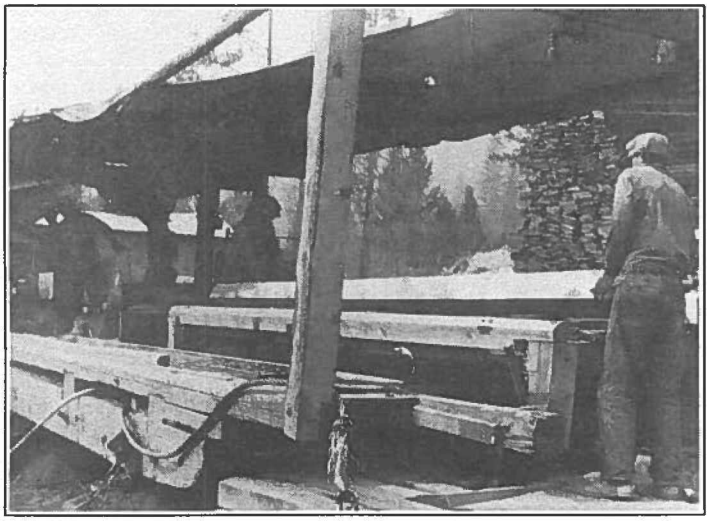


Jim Parkin portable mill, possibly at Mud Creek camp. Possibly photographed by a travelling photographer. Man on truck is Bill or Harold White. Bill (Wm. M.) Parkin rests on Cat 60. The packer Olie Elverstad stands on tie pile.

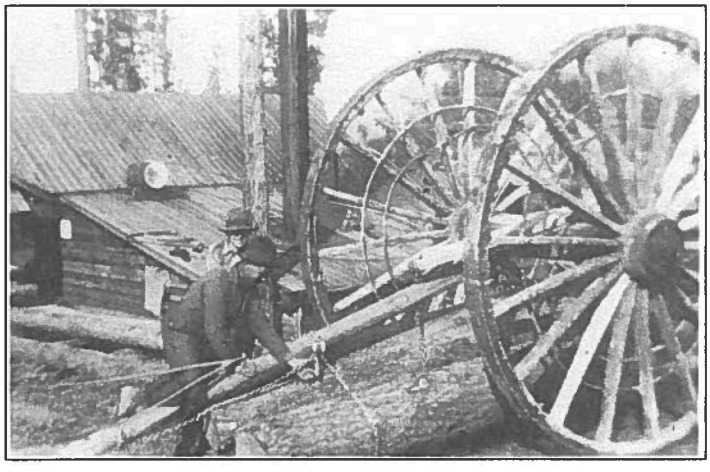


Cranbrook Sash & Door Co. portable mill on Baker Mountain, B.C. Angus McClelland is heaving snow fence. Sawyer is Bill Spence. This is from an original print - the photographer was likely Stan Heise.

Gas Cat 60 picking up bundles in pine forest for hauling to Parkin portable mill. Operator may be Don Burns, who later owned a large mill at Creston.



Parkin portable tie mill showing main saw, which has just cut a 16' #1 tie. Two tail-sawyers are running it through three cut-off saws, which will trim the ends and cut it in half to 8' lengths. All circular saws are exposed (one on right not shown in this print).
The cable on the side was used to loop around bark slabs removed from logs. They would be piled on top of the cable. The Cat operator would come along, throw the cable around the bundle, and tighten it up, before dragging it away. John R. Parkin on the right.



These "Big Wheels" are at Jim Parkin's Ta Ta Creek camp, B.C., mid-1920s. Note the steam mill behind. Man in front is Sam Moore. Note that the logs are suspended under the axle and the tongue of this unusual wagon.

In 1929, tie output for the B.C. southern interior was 1.2 million pieces, comprising 10.3 per cent of the dollar value of that region's total timber operations.[3] The **B.C. Lumberman** lamented the state of the market, but maintained its perennial expression of hope for improving prices and production by 1930.[4] Better times didn't come, of course.

Railroad ties awaiting shipment from the Parkin mill in the Columbia Valley. C.P.R. crews would come around once a year to load them from sidings. The ties were loaded by hand, one at a time, the men carrying them on their shoulders and walking up inclined planks such as the one in the foreground, into boxcars.

But despite low demand and low commodity prices, there was money to be made. Producers began to experiment with ways to maintain profits despite low commodity prices. The 1930s became a decade of paid-by-the-piece operators, usually cutting ties for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The C.P.R. had ongoing need for replacement wood for trestles and ties, so formed a Tie & Timber Branch to run its logging and milling operations. Under the management of Edgar S. Home, it also let contracts to independent lumbermen.

One of these was James (Jim) Herbert Parkin, an owner/operator from Cranbrook. He and his extended family were employed continuously in this industry from 1927 to 1942 using a portable sawmill. Such mills played an important transitory role between the end of the logging railroads (in the southern interior, at least,) and the use of trucks as movers of logs to large central sawmills.

The idea was that the product could be produced more cheaply near the logging site, by moving the mill about, than by hauling longer distances to a larger mill. This ability was brought about by the adaptation of crawler tractors to both pull and power such portable mills.

Jim Parkin owned or managed several stationary mills in East Kootenay, beginning about 1907 when he logged land today owned by the Cranbrook Golf Club. By 1923, he owned a steam-driven mill at Ta Ta Creek, northeast of Kimberley. Horses pulling vehicles called "Big Wheels" were the primary method such small mills brought timber to their saws. The hauled logs suspended below their axles, and could be used on slopes as steep as 25 per cent[5] - far beyond the agility of railway locomotives.

Big Wheels were remarkable devices, and well-suited to the 'gyppo' logger. Simple, functional and inexpensive, they raised logs so grit was kept out of bark crevices (which could dull or damage saws), and they reduced friction when dragging.

There was no braking system for some styles of Big Wheels. The teamster walked alongside his horses, and if the team had to run to keep ahead of their load on a slope, he did likewise. Jim's brother, John Thomas Parkin, was a teamster known for his good treatment of animals. Elsewhere however, horses were not infrequently killed in runaways.

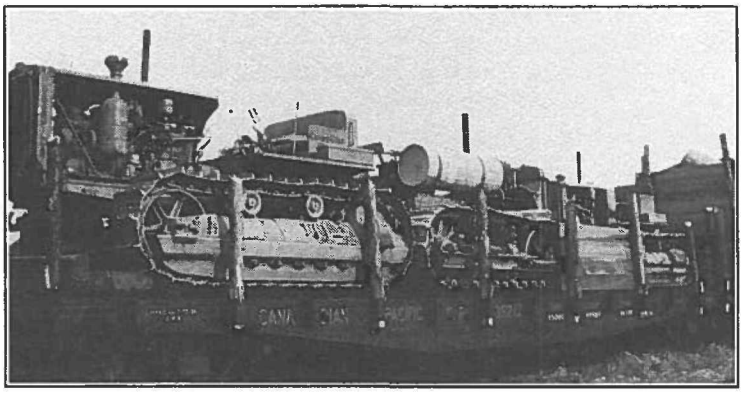
During the 30s, the use of animals was largely superseded. Crawling tractors had been in use for decades by this time, and competing in the growing market for logging business, the Caterpillar Tractor Company offered machines equipped with power take-off.

Jim Parkin's first purchase was a 10-ton Caterpillar in 1926. Later he also bought new gas Cat models 60[6] and 30. The iron horsepower displaced the animals and the wheels they drew, and coincidentally seemed to precipitate Jim's thinking about how to work other timber limits. By this time, the power of such 'portable' engines had become sufficient to drive small saws, and soon they outmanoeuvred their steam-driven predecessors in the woods.

Toward the end of 1926 Parkin's crew tore apart the Big Wheels and used the wide iron tires as runners on the bottom of log skids. These logs formed a foundation for an Oxford mill[7] which was alternately belt-driven by his 10-ton 70-H.P. gasoline Cat, or pulled by it to new locations.

Though portable mills were in use elsewhere in B.C., Parkin's idea predates by several years any references or descriptions in the province's primary trade publication.[8] A number of manufacturers were advertising portables in the 1920s (E. Long of Orillia, ON[9]; Weir Machinery of Vancouver, B.C.), and Cranbrook Foundry was producing custom mills for local customers by 1930. However, Parkin's design is credited as being the basis for virtually every portable mill subsequently operating in the East Kootenay.[10]

Bill Parkin worked for his uncle Jim for 22 years as cat-skinner, mechanic and foreman: "Years ago, you skidded everything you could reach with horses. Well, then you moved the mill. With the Cat. It was on runners 55-feet long. Shod with half by six-inch (iron) shoeing. And that was the first lumber mill. He had everything on it; head gear, and tie trimmers and all this kind of stuff."[11]



C.P.R. flatcars loaded with Parkin mill equipment at Fairmont Hot Springs, 1939. Bound for Donald, B.C. In front is D8, the largest diesel Cat. In middle is gas Cat, model 60. Behind is D6, a smaller diesel Cat, bought at the same time as the D8. This illegally overloaded the railway car.

'Stuff' included an edger, necessary to make smooth sides on boards.

Flexibility to meet the variety of uses to which the mill was applied was the keynote of the design, with the carriage constructed for cutting ties, lumber, or a combination. Operators followed the same basis, and in cases where lum-

Chevrolet 'Maple Leaf' circa 1941 (Jimmy Crowe's truck). Otto Anderson on left. Raft is constructed of dry logs for better buoyancy. Rafting was necessary to retrieve 3,000 ties, equipment including a Cat, etc. on the far side of the river after the floating bridge gave way.

ber was being cut, the mill was designed as a single unit with edger and cut-off saw. In a second case, it was found advantageous in moving through timber to build the mill and edger in separate units. The Sash and Door applied this in their operations and departed from the established precedent of moving their mill with tractors, when they installed a hoist on the frame of the mill and used snatch-blocks for moving with power supplied by the mill unit.[12]

Jim Parkin didn't conceal his experiment from competitors. Nephew and employee John R. Parkin remembers the Cranbrook Sash and Door examining the family operation. The Sash and Door subsequently adapted two units for lumber production on Baker Mountain at Cranbrook (where John later worked). The C.P.R. Tie and Timber Branch soon had six portables of their own, and the Cranbrook Foundry eventually marketed their own design, called a 'Standard', having done many adaptations for inventive operators.

Indeed, friend, fellow bachelor and business competitor Pat A. McGrath built a portable mill right in Parkin's mill yard at Fairmont Hot Springs, B.C. Perhaps Parkin's confidence came from knowing he had the largest mill (able to take 38-inch logs as opposed to the standard 32 inches), and possibly from his efficiency. Bill Parkin recalls: "We got contracts for a hundred thousand ties a year. And then, we would finish our contract, lots of times, and help somebody else finish up theirs."

"One time, the Crow's Nest (Pass Lumber Company) - they were loggin' same locality we were. They were 40,000 ties short on their hundred (thousand), when the time was pret'near up. So we took that contract from them - 25,000 ties. Those 25,000 ties, the average, I think, is 520 ties a day."

To minimize production costs, a plant is operated by a sawyer and his helper, who manually move logs along the infeed deck, onto the carriage, and through the saw, and the tail-sawyer and his helper, who move and stack the ties and discard the slabs cut from their sides.[13]

Overall, such an operation would employ up to 15 additional men on logging and hauling operations, and sometimes their families, who needed accommodation. Parkin first set up his portable to cut Douglas-fir in the Columbia Valley across from Fairmont Hot Springs. He took over nearby abandoned ranch buildings for housing, an office and shops in the spring of 1927. Bill Parkin recalls those years of labour: "Oh yeah, it all hadda go out by rail. There was no big trucks them days, you know. When we first started at Fairmont, we went back into the bush about - well three miles I guess, was the furthest. There was no way of gittin' your ties out of the bush, only usin' the Cat that you were usin' to power your mill."

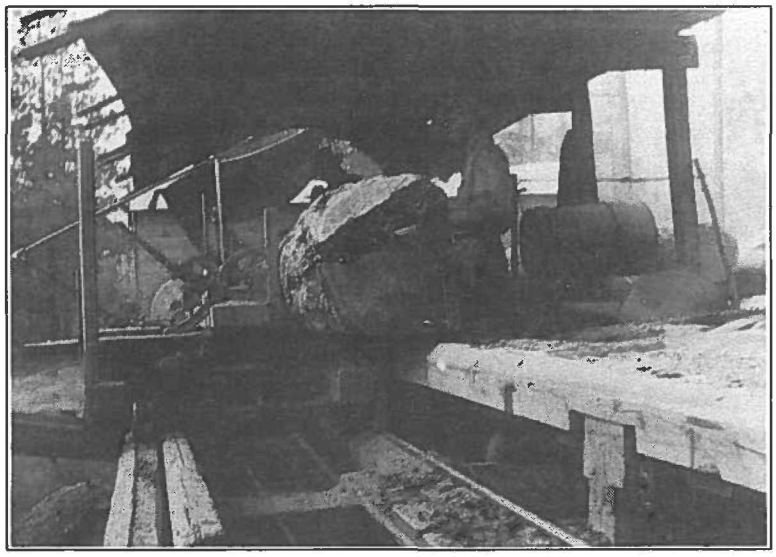
"So we bought three Athey wagons. They've a track on the back, and wheels on front, you see. They're supposed to be 10-ton wagons. I spent all my Saturdays and Sundays haulin' ties out of the bush! I never got a Sunday or a Saturday off. It was all just straight time, you know."

In July 1931, a large forest fire burned down 14,800 hectares up the west side of the Rocky Mountain Trench - it started near the present-day airport near Kimberley and went north to Dutch Creek. Canal Flats was evacuated, but the wind changed at the last hour, and only a few homes on the outskirts of town were lost. Parkin's crew helped fight it, but the fire didn't burn out until fall. The Forest Service wanted to get that timber out "before the bugs got it." Thus the mill crew moved to the so-called 'Black Camp', above what is now locally called 'Thunder Hill'.

In 1933, the mill was moved again, to a third timber limit at Mud Creek, south of Canal Flats. Bill Parkin recalls: "We put up just a rough camp. You could build a bunkhouse in a day. We built it outta what we used to called a snow fence - the side lumber off the ties? Maybe 15, 20 per cent of it would be edged, you see. It would be square, but most of it still had the bark on it. And we put up a frame, and stood that all on end, and with two ply of (tar) paper in-between it, that was a bunkhouse.

"Heck, I always built a shack for myself, too. Oh, I say for myself - after I got that foreman job, the crew built my house. It'd only take a coupla days to build one of them things. The only dressed lumber in them was the floor! And the doors. The rest was all rough lumber. They weren't too bad. We didn't notice the cold so much, you know."

Here the crew cut Ponderosa (also known as



Jim Parkin's portable mill. Doug Finnis, foreground, is tail-sawing (secondary, or cut-off saw, on right). Logs this big needed an above/below main saw arrangement. This is the same saw carriage used on the mill at Monroe Lake, B.C. Logs ready for cutting on the right.

Bull) Pine, fir and tamarack (Western Larch). Bill Parkin: "When we first moved onto that limit, they (the C.P.R.) wouldn't take pine for ties, so we left all of them. Then they changed their mind as long as you pickled (creosoted) them. But they changed their mind after a year-and-a-half. They would use pine in sidings, but not on curves, as the wood was so soft the spikes would pull out."

Nothing was wasted. Even the slabs cut from the logs were hand-loaded into boxcars and shipped to the Prairies for use as snow fence along the C.P.R.'s rights-of-way. Payment was $100/boxcar loaded.

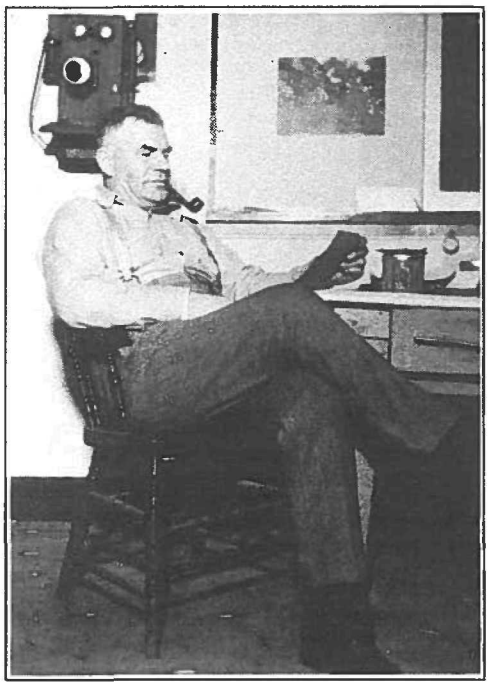
"With them little mills that Jim had, it was all contract work," says Bill Parkin. "It had to be. We were puttin' them in the car for that! Plus payin' expenses. You had to know where you were standin', you see. So we run all through the Hungry Thirties, and never missed any time at all,"

Despite narrow profit margins, Parkin managed to stay in business and attract good workers. Success in part depended on retaining men by having a good cook. Nephew Dave Parkin was 16 or 17, and a flunky at that time: "We had the best food money could buy. We couldn't pay much, but old 'Monk' (Albert Urbanks) was one of the best in that country. He used to cook for Otis Staples."[14] Staples Lumber Company was formerly a large operation at Wycliffe, where Jim Parkin likely met Urbanks while managing their sash and door factory. It was abandoned in 1927.

By the late '30s, J.H. Parkin was prospering. Earlier in the decade, diesel engines had been added to tracked tractors and were shown to be cheaper to operate than their gasoline contemporaries. In 1937, Parkin bought two new diesel Cats: a D-8 to power the mill and a D-6 for skidding. The D-8 became internationally synonymous with power - it weighed 53,665 pounds and developed 113 horsepower.

In 1939, their timber limit exhausted, the Parkins moved to Donald, an abandoned divisional point of the C.P.R. mainline. They ordered two flatcars. On one they raised high sides and loaded all the equipment, including the mill, minus its runners. On the second, they loaded three Caterpillars. The latter car was known to be overloaded, but they hoped to avoid the expense of a third.

Hearing that a C.P.R. inspector was due the next morning, they rose early to take one machine off and hide it in the bush... then loaded it again after he left. Fortunately, the journey to Donald was without incident.



James Herbert Parkin in camp at Mud Creek, B.C. circa 1935. Note matches around his chair.

Donald lies on the Columbia River, and the ingenuity shown by the mill men to solve two problems at this site demonstrates the ingenuity, risk-taking and resolve which made their enterprise successful.

Some of the timber limit was on the opposite side of the wide river. To reach it, they waited until winter, when they built a bridge of logs and four-inch planks on top of the ice, held in place by two cables fastened in either embankment. For some reason, their departure in the spring of 1940 was delayed, and the ice began to break up, threatening to take the bridge with it.

Bill Parkin: "Jimmy Crowe was driving the Chev 'Maple Leaf' across with the D-8 motor on the back when the deadman (a buried log to which the cables were attached) pulled out behind him. He opened the door, but kept on comin'." The bridge drifted downstream, still attached to the side he was headed to. Crowe made it safely with his truck, but the incident left 3,000 ties, the mill and the D-6 on the far side of the river.

So they tried to pull the bridge back with the winch of the Cat, but at a certain point the current caught the bridge and began pulling the Cat backward to the river. Dave Parkin was forced to hurriedly cut the cable with an axe.

Then bushman Gilbert St. Amant had an idea. He had recently worked on the Big Bend Highway, and had constructed reaction ferries on that route. These are cable-stayed, non-motorized ferries which use the power of the river current to propel themselves. They agreed to try the idea.

Cable was obtained from an oil well in Alberta, and strung across in the air. A trolley was hung from it, with two lines hanging down to a raft which they built of dry logs. In this manner, they floated the remaining equipment back to the railroad side of the river, though admittedly, the raft was submerged under the weight of the D-6. The mill itself was "swum" across, floated by its log runners.

Ownership of this family operation passed when Jim Parkin died in 1942, though the era of the portable mill persisted into the 50s & 60s. By then, the trend was back to plants centralized near larger communities, and a reliance on trucking of logs. This change was largely facilitated by new vehicle technology, and the allowance of log transport costs as a factor in stumpage charged by the Forest Service.[15]

Jim Parkin is buried at Golden, and most who worked with him are gone too. But the portable mill operators of the East Kootenay may claim some credit for the survival of their industry during the lean years of the Depression and the invigorated position which lumbering occupies in that region today.

Jim Parkin was a great-uncle to the author, who never knew him. Tom Parkin is currently constructing his family genealogy and history.

FOOTNOTES

1. W.M. Mercer, **Growth of Ghost Towns: The Decline of Forest Activity in the East Kootenay District and the Effect of the Growth of Ghost Towns on the Distributing Centres of Cranbrook and Fernie**, Royal Commission on Forestry, February 1944.
2. Gorman Brothers Lumber and Box Ltd., Submission to the Royal Commission on Forest Resources, November 1975, page 9.
3. Province of British Columbia, Department of Lands, **Report of the Forest Branch**, 1937.
4. I.R. Poole, **British Columbia Lumberman**, Vol. 14, #2, February 1930.
5. James A. Young and Jerry Budy, **Endless Tracks in the Woods**, (Sarasota, FL, Crestline Publishing, 1989), p. 308.
6. "B.C. Operators Buying Caterpillars", **British Columbia Lumberman**, June 1929, p. 74.
7. Nancy P. Miles, "Lumbering is Principal Industry," **Cranbrook Courier, Pioneers Reunion supplement**, Fall 1938.
8. **British Columbia Lumberman**, Vol. 14, #7, July 1930, page 72.
9. **British Columbia Lumberman**, October 1925, page 54.
10. **British Columbia Lumberman**, Vol. 26, #6, June 1942, p. 40
11. Wm. M. Parkin, interview with author, 16 February 1992.
12. Miles, **Cranbrook Courier**.
13. Rodney Wm. Beaumont, **The Economics of Small Scale Sawmilling in the Peace River Region of B.C.**, M.S.F. thesis, University of British Columbia, April 1978.
14. Dave Parkin, interview with author, December 1993.
15. Rodney Wm. Beaumont, **The Economics of Small Scale Sawmilling in the Peace River Region of B.C.**

Cecilia Douglas Helmcken

by Jennifer Iredale

My research on Cecilia Helmcken began with a question from a visitor to Helmcken House, one of the historic sites for which I am the Curator. The visitor asked - "where was the original kitchen?" None of our existing references contained evidence as to the original kitchen, so the question became - "Where did Cecilia Helmcken cook her family meals?" This led to research about Cecilia's life.

Facts and documentary evidence on the life of Cecilia Douglas, eldest daughter of Sir James and Lady Amelia Douglas, and wife of Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken is scanty and difficult to find. Much of my research on Cecilia has been by deduction from what is known of her more famous parents or husband, or through the eyes of visitors to her home. The documentary record she has left consists of one letter written to her friend Mrs. Tolmie, a pocket diary from 1862, and 4-5 photographs. There are also a number of letters written to her, her obituary in the Times Colonist, and Helmcken's and Douglas' few references to her in their writings and a very few objects in the collection at Helmcken House that are known to have been Cecilia's.

Cecilia was born in 1834 in Fort Vancouver and died in 1865 in Victoria. She spent her childhood years in Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River and her adult years in Fort Victoria and as mistress of a small log house known as "Arbutus Lodge".

She was part Cree Indian, descended through her mother, Amelia, herself daughter of Suzanne Conolly, a full Cree Indian. Her father, James Douglas was part Scot, part West Indian and full fur trader. She was the eldest in a family of 5 girls and 1 boy, and one of 13 children born to her parents, of whom 7 died young.[1]

At Fort Vancouver the Douglas family shared the Chief Factor's Residence or "Governor's Mansion" as it was locally known with Chief Factor McLoughlin's family.

Eloisa Harvey, John McLoughlin's daughter commented about her life and childhood at Fort Vancouver:

The families lived separate and private entirely. Gentlemen who came trading to the Fort never saw the family. We never saw anybody.[2]

When Cecilia was two years old and her mother nursing baby Ellen a young woman, Narcissa Whitman stayed at Fort Vancouver for six weeks (Sept. 12 - Nov. 1, 1836). Narcissa kept a journal which she sent back to her family in New York. In this journal is a description of Fort life from the highly unusual perspective of a woman. As a woman, Narcissa had a privileged glimpse of the family life of the Governor's Mansion. A few excerpts will provide a sketch:[3]

Cecilia Helmcken (nee Douglas).

BCARS #3912

Sept. 12, 1836... before we reached the house of the Chief Factor Doct. McLaughlin, were met by several gentlemen, who came to give us a welcome. Mr. Douglas, Doct. Tolmie and Doct. McLaughlin of the Hudson Bay Company who invited us in and seated us on the sofa. Soon after we were introduced to Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Douglas, both natives of the country (half breed). After chatting a little we were invited to walk in the garden... here we find fruit of every description. Apples, peaches, grapes, pear, plum and fig trees in abundance. Cucumbers, melons, beans, peas, beets, cabbage, tomatoes and every kind of vegetable... Every part is very neat and tastefully arranged fine walks, each side lined with strawberry vines. On the opposite end of the garden is a good Summer house covered with grape vines.

A further idea of the domestic furnishings of the Fort, such as the child Cecilia would have been accustomed to is provided by Narcissa.

Sept. 14... You will ask what kind of beds are used here... The bedstead is in the form of a bunk with rough board bottoms, upon which were laid about one dozen of the Indians blankets. These with a pair of pillows covered with calico cases constitute our bed & covering. There are several feather beds in the place, but they are made of the feathers of wild game, such as ducks, cranes, wild geese, etc.... There is nothing here suitable for ticking, the best and only material is brown linen sheeting. The Indian Ladies make theirs of deer skin...

And on the Fort diet:

Sept. 23... For breakfast we have coffee or cocoa, Salt Salmon & roast duck, wild & potatoes. When we have eaten our supply of them our plates are changed & we made a finish on bread & butter. For dinner we have a greater variety. First we are always treated to a dish of soup, which is very good. Every kind of vegetable in use is taken & chopped fine & put into water with a little rice & boiled to a soup. The tomatoes are a prominent article. Usually some fowl meat, duck or any kind, is cut fine & added if it has been roasted once it is just as good, (so the cook says) then spiced to the taste. After our soup dishes are removed, then comes a variety of meats, to prove our tastes. After selecting & tasting, change plates & try another if we choose, so at every new dish, have a clean plate. Roast duck is an everyday dish, boiled pork, tripe & sometimes trotters, fresh Salmon or Sturgeon, yet too numerous to mention. When these are set aside a rice pudding or an apple pie is next introduced. After this the melons next make their appearance, sometimes grapes & last of all cheese, bread or biscuit & butter is produced to complete the whole... That is wine. The gentlemen frequently drink toasts to each other... Our tea is very plain, bread & butter, good tea, plenty of milk & sugar. Oct. 25 I thought I would tell what kind of a dish we had set before us this morning. It is called black pudding... It is made of blood & the fat of hogs, well spiced & filled into a gut. The grapes are just ripe & I am feasting on them finely. There is a bunch now on the table before me, they are very fine.

Up until the visit of Narcissa Whitman in 1836, the women and children in the Big House at Fort Vancouver lived and ate in their own quarters, not in the banquet hall in which their husbands and fathers dined. It was through Narcissa's intervention that it became more common for the McLaughlin and

Douglas women to eat with their husbands and occasional visitors.

A final comment by Narcissa on the women in the Big House:

Mrs. McLauglin has a fine ear for music & is greatly delighted. She is one of the kindest women in the world. Speaks a little French but mostly Cree, her native tongue. She wishes to go & live with me; her Daughter & Mrs. Douglas also...

This is probably a comment on the bonding between the women, more the norm in native groups rather than a comment on any dissatisfaction with Fort life.

Later Cecilia boarded at school in Oregon City. James Douglas writing to Ross in March of 1849 says:

My family consists of four Daughters, yet of tender age - the three eldest attend school at Oregon City, where they board with a very respectable American Lady - who is remarkably kind and attentive. Considering all things the charges for board and tuition are moderate and the system of education is sound and practical. They also enjoy the advantage of having in Church a most estimable Clergyman, Sabbath schools, temperance and Juvenile Societies for the relief of the poor - and other aids which have an important influence in forming the character and training children to virtue and usefulness.[4]

Cecilia spoke and wrote English, certainly knew French, and probably spoke Cree, as the latter two languages were her mother's first languages.

On her 11th birthday, Cecilia was privileged to celebrate her 'birthday with a card party and supper upstairs in the Chief Factors House.'[5]

Cecilia was 15 when the family was moved to Fort Victoria in 1849 where James Douglas had been appointed "Governor of Vancouver's Island pro tempore", also Agent of the H.B. Company in the colony of Vancouver Island, and also as Agent of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company on Vancouver's Island and within the United States Territory.[6] Of the family's journey from Fort Vancouver to Fort Victoria, the Fort Nisqually Journal provides a glimpse:

About 2 p.m., Mr. C.F. Douglas arrived on horseback accompanied by his three eldest daughters and followed in the course of the afternoon by five waggons containing cases of gold dust, bales of Furs and Mr. Ds private property. Mrs. Douglas and the two younger children arrived in the last waggon. (p. 218 Fort Nisqually Journal 1849-1859)

Narcissa Whitman had commented on how the women of the Fort rode "gentleman fashion... as was universal custom of Indian women having saddles with high backs and fronts.," It seems likely Cecilia, Jane and Agnes were riding astride when they came into Fort Nisqually with their father.

Cecilia, as daughter of the Governor of Vancouver's Island was of the leading family in the colony. John Sebastian Helmcken, a young doctor newly arrived from England writes of meeting the Douglas girls:[7]

The Fort has been described, but at the windows stood a number of young ladies, hidden behind the curtains, looking at the late important arrivals, for visitors were scarce here, but we were not introduced... there I saw Cecilia flitting about, active as a little squirrel, and one of the prettiest objects I had ever seen; rather short but with a very pretty, graceful figure - of dark complexion and lovely black eyes, petite and nice. (p. 81, ***Reminiscences****)*

He mentions that Cecilia was Douglas' private secretary doing clerical work and that "she had a beautiful voice tho uneducated". Although raised entirely in a Hudson's Bay Fort, the Douglas girls had been trained in the 'womanly arts' of the 19th century, - music, penmanship, drawing etc. Cecilia, as Douglas' private secretary, if she had been a son, would have been employed by the Company as a clerk, with every expectation of rising through the ranks as her father had done. However, as a daughter, her expectations were to marry and raise a family.

Helmcken further describes the girls as he came to know them during his courtship of Cecilia:

The young Douglas's were very shy and very pretty - Mrs. Dallas and Mrs. Bushby particularly so but were small and looked after by their mother with sharpness... they were properly and neatly dressed - carried themselves properly and paid much attention to deportment... the ladies slept upstairs over our heads (Bachelors Hall), and the little mischief's used to play pranks, occasionally pouring water upon us through cracks or holes in the flooring, for our ceiling was not ceiled... I had soon fallen in love with Cecilia... so I spent much of my time courting... Miss Cameron, Mr.. Douglas' niece... played propriety. The courtship was a very simple affair - generally in the evening, when we had chocolate and singing and whatnot - early hours kept. (p. 120)

And about their wedding he writes...

About Xmas, 1852, a wedding in high life took place... A couple of feet of snow lay on the ground... the bridegroom goes to the church. The bride and her maidens at home, waiting for the carriage, the cart... had travelled a hundred yards... (and)... there was a dead stop. The charioteer, a lively... French-Canadian got an idea. He sent to the store for a drygoods box, cut off the top and one side, put in a seat and threw some scarlet cloth overall... the box is fixed upon willow runners, the horse harnessed; the sleigh hastens for the bride and maids... The... party hurry into the church... the clock strikes 12; just as the ring is put on the finger.. the bride and bridegroom leave the church to return to their parents house for a good time... The guns roar from the bastions... all hurrah, Grog is served all round, there is feasting, revelry, jollity. (p. 296)

In his **Reminiscences** Helmcken describes the planning and building of their new home, named Arbutus Lodge by Cecilia:

Of course I had to build a house. Mr. Douglas gave me a piece of land, an acre... it pleased Cecilia - she was near her mother and relatives... How we studied over the design, ie interior divisions of the building 30 x 25!!... it had to be built of logs squared on two sides and six inches thick... the logs had to be let into grooves in the uprights... (p. 127)

In the collection at Helmcken House there is the bed that was built by the Hudson's Bay Company for the young couple, along with one handmade chair and six Windsor chairs that Dr. Helmcken notes he purchased for their new house. We also have the sewing machine reputed to have been Cecilia's, a dressing case and a small pocket diary. In the diary, Cecilia has listed items needed for the household.

J.S. Helmcken provides more information about the early years of Cecilia's married life:

Anyhow my first born came along, before the doors had been hung. We had only 3 rooms and a kitchen altogether. Of course the baby was a wonder, a light haired, blue-eyed fair little fellow. When he was about a month or two old we found him dead in the bed one morning! The anguish felt at this is indescribable. The poor little fellow was buried in the garden where the holly now grows - close by our bedroom window. (p.133)

He mentions that 'Cecilia used to do most of the work;'... *"When I look back now, domestic affairs seemed to have carried on pretty roughly and Cecilia had more work and less comfort than she ought to have had and would have were it now... Nevertheless we managed to have little dinner parties occasionally... (p. 213)*

Other domestic aspects of Cecilia's life in colonial Victoria are provided through a study of the Helmcken account books and various receipts for goods purchased. In 1855 Helmcken purchased a large outfit of supplies from the Fort Nisqually shop, includ-

ing a bridle, iron spurs, clay pipes, 20 yds muslin Laine, 1 rowing shirt, 2 yds green baize, 8 yds printed cotton, 3 yds in grey cotton, corduroy trowsers (sic), ribbon, etc. The 1860's receipts include Samuel Nesbitt, Cracker Baker; Scotch House; Wm. B. Smith, English grocer from whom they purchased English pickles, lime juice; 'Tom' ketchup, mushroom ketchup and currants in Jan of 1862; then there is T. Wilson, Dry Goods merchant for corsets, & childs hose; John Gerritsen, Baker and Grocer for bread and molasses; M. Winkler & Co. for 10 yds check fabric, a hoop and 3 yards of flannel. Of Florence Wilson Mrs. Helmcken purchases a Garibaldi jacket in 1863.[8]

In the spring of 1861 when Cecilia was 27 and mother of 3 children living (of 5 born), the Douglas family entertained Lady Franklin on her search for her husband in the Arctic. Lady Franklin's niece, Miss Sophia Cracroft wrote down her perceptions of the Douglas women:[9]

"We were engaged today to take luncheon with the Governor's wife Mrs. Douglas, in place of paying her a formal visit. Have I explained that her mother was an Indian woman and that she keeps very much (far too much) in the background; indeed it is only lately that she has been persuaded to see visitors, partly because she speaks English with some difficulty; the usual language being either the Indian, or Canadian French which is a corrupt dialect. At the appointed time, Mrs. Dallas came to introduce a younger sister Agnes, who was to take us to their house. She is a very fine girl, with far less of the Indian complexion and features than Mrs. Dallas. Considering the little training of any kind these girls can have had, it is more wonderful they should be what they are, than that they should have defects of manner. They have never left Northern America, nor known any society but such as they now have... Mrs. Douglas is not at all bad looking with hardly as much of the Indian type in her face, as Mrs. Dallas and she looks young to have a daughter so old as Mrs. Helmckin (Helmcken) the eldest, who is 26. Her figure is wholly without shape, as is already Mrs. Helmckin's we hear, and even Mrs. Dallas'.

Letters to Cecilia from her sister Jane Dallas[10] written from 1861 - 1865 during the time Jane lived in England and then at Fort Garry also provided information about the lives, values and perceptions of these 'Daughters of the Country'. A few excerpts will suffice:

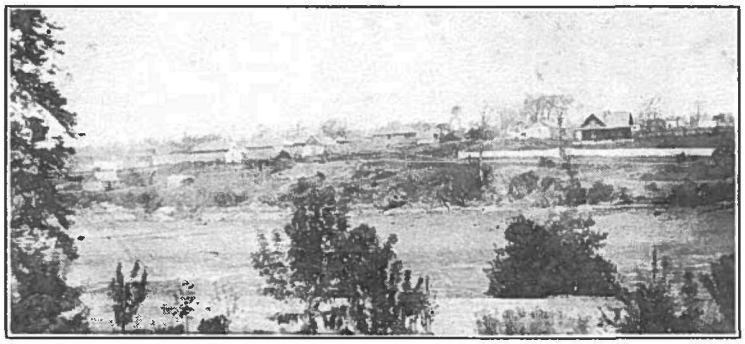
On her arrival in England, June, 1861:

You ought to see the women here with their dark blue stockings, stuff dresses, frilled caps. They don't wear hoops or artificial flowers as they do in our country... in the house the old nurse has been 40 years and the chambermaid 20!... It is quite dreadful to sit at a window in town to see the miserable beggars and deformed people that pass by...

In this excerpt, Jane highlights the cultural differences she perceives between England and British Columbia.

and a letter written October 19th, 1861:

Both my mother and sister in law are as kind as they can be to me. Nothing is too good for me and so proud of dear Baby. The old lady is so glad she has blue eyes like her father... Tell Charlie Good (with whom Alice Douglas has just eloped) that I would enjoy nothing more than having a chat with him, Alice... and Agnes, as we used to have in my drawing room at home... oh those were happy happy days. They'll never come back again I am afraid. I suppose he is as great a swell as ever with his peg tops etc.



This photo taken from the Douglas house overlooking their garden shows the Hudson's Bay Fort and surrounds in Victoria in 1858.

BCARS #HP93855

and on a teasing note about Agnes' fiance Arthur Bushby:

Tell Bushby he ought to wear his knickerbockers for up country work. All the gentlemen here wear them when they are shooting. Such tame shooting they have a couple of dogs perhaps and then they walk over turnip fields and popping away at everything that has wings. So different to the shooting at home where they go into thick woods and into swamps for their game...

In another letter she advises Cecilia on caring for her children:

One thing I want to impress upon you is that you must never attempt to suck Harry's nose again as it is apt to injure the brain. When you are cleaning it use a wet sponge and all will come out nicely. ...I wish you would give poor Amy a substantial dinner in the middle of the day as you don't give her any meat for breakfast no wonder she gets weak poor thing having to wait til evening. Why my young Missey gets her food three times a day and milk between times, milky hot water and sugar it must be boiling or else the child will get a stomache ache.

This is followed by a recipe for a kind of flour pudding to feed infants if the mother is unable to nurse the child herself.

Other references to food cast an entirely unexpected light on the foods the Douglas family ate - very different from the items noted by Narcissa Whitman at Fort Vancouver:

Mary (Graham, nee Work) and I have been longing for dry salmon, fishroe, seaweed etc and labroo. If I could get a piece the size of my hand I would be contented...

We often long for salmon, crabs and fruit. Neither of us like the white fish (of Fort Garry), it seems so insipid after the delicious salmon we used to get in Victoria. I do not care for the buffalo...

Alick says you can send him a "fresh oolichan".

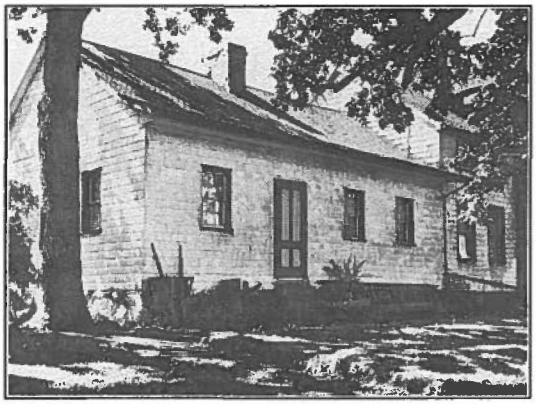
These references are interesting as they reveal the use of native foodstuffs and the influence of aboriginal culture that may have been part of the Douglas Family life through Amelia's Cree ancestry and background. This influence is also mentioned by Martha Harris who was the author of **History and Folklore of the Cowichan Indians**:

As a little girl I used to listen to these legends with the greatest delight... They need the quaint songs and the sweet voice that told them, the winter gloaming and the bright fire as the only light - then were these legends beautiful.[11]

In August of 1862 Jane's letters are full of her sister Agnes' marriage to Arthur Bushby. This had been a two year courtship with high romance and passion. Arthur Bushby's diary[12] records the romance and provides an insider's view of the Douglas household of which Cecilia was still a part.

Thursday went and presented my letters to the Governor... he invited me to dine... I went almost in full dress and met there Mr. and Mrs. Dallas, two Miss Douglas's, Begbie and Capt. Gossett - a most pleasant evening, we had a good dinner - music and cards...

On Sunday went to church and then lunched with the Douglas's, nursed Mrs. Dallas' baby and tried to catch a parrot which had flown away and took a long walk with them... getting tired we 3 sat down to wait for the others... eating nuts and raisins and I tried to get an orange from A.D. and she gave my hand a tremendous



Helmcken House in Victoria. This was known as Arbutus Lodge when it ws built for Cecilia as a bride. The herb garden adjacent to the house has been restored in the summer of 1995.
BCARS #3878

bite... and afterwards said she would kiss it well!!... (later) I played some duets with AD sitting in my wet clothes...

...off I started to the Governors and found the two girls at the Helmckens busy ironing - so I insisted against their will, ironed some of their shifts - ah ah - good spree - strawberries and oranges made the work pleasant to say nothing of the company... (Bushby Journal Transcript)

Agnes is passionately in love with Bushby and encourages him to visit the Douglas house, to meet her at sister Jane Dallas' home then in Victoria, to walk with her every day and to embrace and 'fondle' her. Bushby mentions 'he has never been in such close contact with girls in his life' - this after a diary passage writing about tickle fights with Agnes and Alice rolling in the fields of Beacon Hill Park. Douglas however smiles kindly on the couple, and agrees to let them marry after a year's engagement and then sends Bushby off to work on the mainland goldrush colony. However in 1862, sister Jane writes from Fort Garry:

And so Agnes is married at last poor dear girl I know they will be very very happy if dear Arthur is not too exacting. He is such a good creature and a perfect gentleman and I could not wish her to marry anyone better...

No doubt Cecilia attended this wedding which Martha Douglas tells us about:

The next wedding was that of my sister Agnes, who was married to Arthur Bushby in the month of May. Eight bridesmaids were in attendance, I being one of them. In those days the wedding had to be performed before 12 o'clock and a breakfast was held after the service in the Church. A most gorgeous banquet was held... My father did not allow my sister to accept any wedding presents. Her trousseau came from England.[13]

So far you have heard about Cecilia but not from her. There is only one letter written by Cecilia., sent to her friend Mrs. Tolmie (Jane Work) on March 17, 1857. It is at BCARS in the Helmcken Collection.[14]

My Dearest Mrs Tolmie

To begin my beautiful epistle. Mr. McDonald and Miss CB Reid were joined in holy matrimony by the Rev'd. Father Cridge,... and I tell you what I should like to see next spring a little Mc, I sincerely hope two at once, for she is always turning us all into ridicule for having little brats so soon... My poor little May is very poorly indeed her head is all broken out into small pimples which break and form larger ones. As for Amy she is as lively as ever, full of talk and mischief. ...Mrs. Ella is as round as a puncheon of Ale so is Mrs. Cridge... Many thanks for the very nice trees you and the doctor have been so kind as to send. We have had them planted in front of our house. We have now about 50 apple trees... we will also have a great number of beautiful flowers. Thursday will be my darling little Amy's birthday. She will be two years old. How I wish you would pay us a visit when everything is in its prime. I am sure I should be delighted to see you... Mama sends you her best love and begs you would be so good as to send that beautiful witch of hers that is Pauline for she needs her very much. There are so many rooms that require a servant, it is quite impossible for one person to attend to all the basons (sic). ...Mrs. Blenkinsop is going to the interior to dig gold. I only hope they will send us all a bucket full. ...Kiss the little boy and say for me kind regards to the doctor.

Cecilia died in 1865 of pneumonia, after giving birth to a baby boy who died a month later. Helmcken writes about her death in **Reminiscences.**[15]

In 1865, Cecilia and Lady Douglas went to the opening of something on Church hill... the weather turned out bad, both Lady Douglas and Cecilia took cold. Very little notice was taken of this, and my wife kept about as well as she was able, but soon pneumonia resulted and in a few days the end unhappily came, after having given birth to a boy. Mrs. Finlayson kindly took charge of this poor little thing for a few days, but on returning home he died... Cecilia had been a good mother and wife - but hardly used by the absence of servants. Indeed in looking back I am almost led to believe that under more favourable conditions she might have lived... Dr. Powell attended her... I was but little at home and probably underrated the extent of the disease - for I never attended any of my own family when ill. (p.214)

On Monday, Feb. 6, 1865, the Colonist newspaper reported that the House of Assembly resolved 'That the members of the House... convey... to the Honorable Speaker their... earnest condolences in the bereavement he has sustained in the loss of his most estimable wife and request... that this House be permitted to render the last tribute of their respect to the memory of his deceased wife, by following her remains to the grave."[16]

Martha Douglas also comments on her sister's death:

One of these occasions was the death of my dear sister, Mrs. Helmcken. Mrs. Work came and comforted my Mother and remained with her until the end. My Father was away at the time... No strange hands touched our dead.[17]

Cecilia's married life differed from her childhood and from the married life of her mother quite substantially. She lived through the years when the far west changed from wilderness Hudson's Bay and First Nations society to colonization by European, primarily British settlers. The Company life in the Fort provided for meals prepared for the women and their families, and servants to attend to the basins. Fifteen years later at Arbutus Lodge, Cecilia did the housekeeping herself as well as childrearing. Her own writing, and references to her by others indicate she was a woman with a sense of humor and a happy, although perhaps retiring nature, very fond of her home and her own family. That family values were high for all the Douglas's was clearly stated by Sir James' well known reference to 'the many tender ties.' Cecilia lived her life accordingly. She had been "a good mother and wife."

She left very little behind, even her children being so young when she died had little memory of her. In a historical context, she is interesting because her life was spent entirely in the far west as the helpmate of two of British Columbia's founders. How much her support assisted Sir James Douglas and Dr. J.S. Helmcken in undertaking their work that shaped B.C. is impossible to measure or document. Therefore I wish to leave Cecilia's story with quotations about her from each of these men. Of her Dr. Helmcken said:

'Cecilia had been a good mother and wife'

Her father, Sir James Douglas wrote in his diary: *'she was the light of my life and I will miss her sorely.*[18]

Jennifer Iredale is curator of Helmcken House and several other heritage properties on Vancouver Island. She worked at Barkerville for a few years before moving to Victoria. These challenging positions are within the Heritage Properties Branch.

FOOTNOTES

1. *Amelia Douglas (nee Connolly) bore 13 babies, of which 5* daughters and one son survived past infancy. They were Cecilia (1834), Jane (1839), Agnes (1841), Alice (1844), James (1851), and Martha (1854).
2. Harvey, Eloisa; P.A.C., MG29/C15, Bancroft Papers, folio B-12, Mrs. Harvey, "Life of John McLoughlin, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Possessions", p. 9 as cited in Morton, J., **Fort Langley: An Overview of the Operations of a Diversified Fur Trade Post 1848 to 1858 and the Physical Context in 1858.**
3. Whitman, Narcissa, Prentiss. **My Journal 1836**, ed. Lawrence Dodd, Ye Galleon Press, Washington, 1982.
4. Ross, D.; BCARS, AE R73D74
5. Hussey, John, 'The Fort Vancouver Farm', Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, probably original reference from Thomas Lowe's journal.
6. On June 6, 1849, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Chief Factor James Douglas, Senior Member of the Hudson's Bay Company's Board of Management of the Columbia District, now provisional Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island, landed at Fort Victoria from the 'Cadboro'". (p. XIVII **Fort Victoria Letters**).
7. Blakey Smith, D. **The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken**, University of B.C. Press, 1975, p. 81, 120, 121.
8. Helmcken Family Papers, BCARS, Add Mss. 505 Folder 51.
9. Blakey Smith, D. "Lady Franklin visits the Pacific Northwest" in **PABC Memoir No. XI, 1974**.
10. Dallas, Jane; letters contained in the Helmcken Collection, BCARS, Add Mss. 505.
11. Harris, Martha Douglas, **History and Folklore of the Cowichan Indians (Folklore of the Cree Indians)**, Colonist Printing and Publishing Company, 1901 p.57.
12. Bushby, A; diary held at the BCARS.
13. Martha Harris, BCARS Add Mss 2789, file 12.
14. Helmcken Family Papers, Add Mss 505.
15. Blakey Smith, D. **The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken**, University of B.C. Press, 1975, p. 81, 120, 121.
16. Colonist Newspaper, February 9, 1865, p. 3 'Funeral of Mrs. Helmcken'.
17. Martha Harris, BCARS Add Mss 2789, file 12.
18. Douglas, Sir James Papers, BCARS.

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These books are available at many bookstores. Readers requiring information on a special book should contact the Editor (604) 422-3594 or Contest Chair, Pixie McGeachie at (604) 522-2062.

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by Alf Bayne; Camp Homewood, Heriot Bay, B.C. V0P 1H0

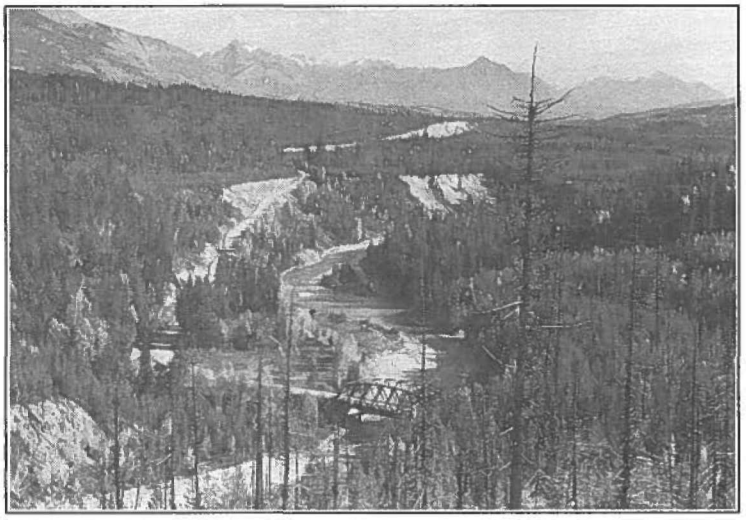
** Winning Book; # Review has been published in this magazine.

BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION
WRITING COMPETITION

Disappearing Highway

by Tom W. Parkin

Discovery of a 1930 Provincial Government *Highway and Travel Map* showing an un-named road as "among the scenic highways of B.C." piqued this writer's historical interest. The road was a trans-provincial route, yet couldn't have been driven at the time. In reality, the highway hadn't been built, and wouldn't be - for another ten years!



Old Blue Water Bridge on the Big Bend Highway - Black Water Creek flows into Blue Water just below this bridge - to the right. The photographer stood on an upper loop of road - a very steep, twisty road which was later replaced to make log hauling easier.
BCARS #HP63618

Bridge at Boat Encampment, Big Bend. June 1956.
Selkirk District Archives - MOTH

It was 1923 when the Province of B.C. and the Dominion Government signed a cost-sharing agreement to construct a road between Revelstoke and Golden around the northerly bend of the Columbia River.[1] This "Big Bend" was a hairpin curve in the watercourse, which flowed north past Golden to meet the Canoe River, then bent south past Revelstoke. The road was to follow the river 'round the inside of its turn.

Growing up in Revelstoke, I travelled that road annually to visit the East Kootenays. Few parts were scenic - its roadside evergreens hung pale with dust. No more pleasant was my back seat monotony and force-feedings of green Gravol® for the five to six hour trip. Yes, the Big Bend Highway did exist, but oddly, you won't find it on modern road maps either.

Over 140 kilometres of the Big Bend river and road were submerged when the reservoir of Mica Creek dam rose in 1973. But by then, the highway had fallen into disuse. It had been replaced by a truly spectacular short-cut across the Selkirk Mountains which separate the parallel portions of the Columbia Valley.

This faster route, the Trans-Canada Highway over Roger's Pass, officially opened in 1962. Those wanting to visit points East no longer needed to grit their teeth over 300 kilometres of gravel, washboard, and S-curves.

In that hinterland, the best way to mark progress was by creek crossings and mile posts. Not far out of Revelstoke was Silvertip Creek, a double-drop falls through a rocky notch above the road. The perspective from a wooden bridge near its spray-soaked foot emphasized the cascade.

Near 17-mile, the highway passed a subsistence farm belonging to family friends. The Grants began homesteading there in 1941, but the original lease dated to 1887, at a time when a packtrail was the transportation connection around the Columbia River. Meadows at this location provided sustenance for the animals. More recently, widely-spaced lodges provided travellers with food, fuel and lodging. Northernmost was Boat Encampment, once a camping place for voyageurs paddling the Canoe River.

The 1929/30 annual report of B.C.'s Department of Public Works tells how provincial crews were working up the old trail from Revelstoke to Boat Encampment, and of the Feds building toward them from Golden. The senior government was participating through crews of the National Park Service because the road was viewed as a way to enhance development of the Rocky Mountain

Camp at 46-Mile, Big Bend Highway, B.C., October, 1936.
Selkirk District - W.V. Ring, photographer

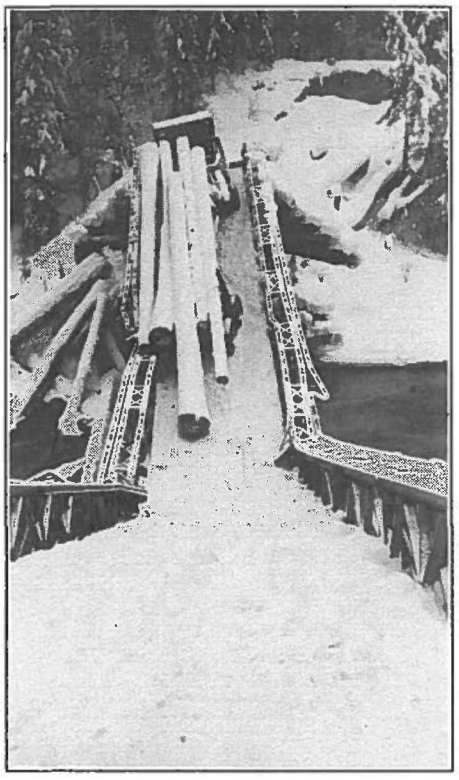
parks.

B.C. wanted to increase tourist traffic from that direction into the central interior. Work was expected to be finished in a year or two, and that was probably why the route was shown on the early road map before it was complete.

Suddenly, the Depression came. Construction continued, but was now done by relief funding; a sort of work-to-survive effort provided for "single homeless men". Public works camps were seen as a way to keep unemployed drifters out of urban areas where they might cause problems. Progress on the road slowed. After several years the Province bowed out, allowing the Department of National Defense to supervise the camps. Then, a diplomatic notation in the 1936 annual report:

After some six years' experience of carrying out work purely as a relief measure, though considerable progress was made, naturally from the point of view of "getting results," this method is not so satisfactory as the normal way of letting the work by contract or by using day-labour experienced in highway construction.[2]

Though continuing to provide 50 percent funding, the Federal Government allowed B.C. to resume normal administration of the job. The Big Bend Highway was wrapped up four years later, primarily with professional contractors.



Collapsed Bailey bridge, Waitabit Creek, Mile 18 of the Big Bend. December 1959.

Selkirk District

This is a picture of Wooden Head taken at Boat Encampment on the old Big Bend Highway. Peter Fuoco, an employee of what was then called the Department of Public Works, carved this in 1940 out of a cedar stump. it was a notable landmark for those driving between Golden and Revelstoke. It was moved to Revelstoke in the early 1960's and may still be viewed today close to the bridge on Trans-Canada Highway #1.

BCARS #HP27277

Boat Encampment was site of the highway opening ceremony on June 29, 1940. Peter Fuoco was there at the time. He retired in 1975 as office manager with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways in Penticton. In 1940, he was timekeeper/first aid man on the Bend, and started an interesting person project:

"I was working at 80-mile, when returning to my tent one evening, this cedar stump on the edge of the right-of-way seemed to have facial features. As a youth, I liked to horse around with Plasticine®, making figures. So, I got this idea of emphasizing what I saw in the wood with an axe. It wasn't meant to be classic art, just a pass-time. It took me a day to make each ear. The hat was built of a sawed-off hollow log, with a brim of 1-inch lumber. The whole thing stood close to 10 feet high."

"When the brass came over from Banff for a pre-opening inspection, I thought they'd tell me to get rid of it, but instead this Mr. Walker gave instructions to cut it off and move it to Boat Encampment for the opening ceremony."

C.M. Walker was a Banff engineer who represented the Federal Government. Also in attendance were a great number of MLAs. C.S. Leary, Minister of Public Works, handed the scissors to Premier Pattullo to cut the ribbon. Mrs. Fred Fraser, first "respectable" white woman to come to Revelstoke, was also on the dais.[3]

Thus 'Wooden head' became a roadside attraction, and possibly B.C.'s earliest reminder to drive defensively. When the Mica Creek flooding began, it was trucked to Revelstoke. Wooden head now sits on the bank of the Columbia beside the Trans-Canada Highway - one of the oddest pieces of highway heritage in B.C.

Boat Encampment, and other scenes of my childhood now lie under many metres of water. Mica Dam, and later, Revelstoke Dam, flooded virtually all of the valley between Revelstoke and Donald. This activity under the Columbia River Treaty required re-construction of the current Nakusp-Mica Creek Highway 23 on higher ground.

Today, a concrete span zips vehicles past Silvertip Falls at a higher level, and this pretty piece of nature is lost to most drivers. Few realize they're following a route previously followed by canoes, pack trains and a highway which disappeared.

Tom Parkin is an information officer with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways. He frequently writes about B.C. transportation history.

FOOTNOTES

1. Harvey, R.G. **The Coast Connection: A History of the Building of Trails and Roads Between British Columbia's Interior and its Lower Mainland From the Cariboo Road to the Coquihalla Highway**. Lantzville: Oolichan Books, 1994.
2. **Report of the Minister of Public Works of the Province of British Columbia for the Fiscal Year 1936-37**. Victoria, King's Printer.
3. Nobbs Ruby. 'Relief camp workers help build Big Bend Highway', **Revelstoke Review**, July 17, 1992.

The Man Who Lived With Indians

by Esther Darlington

Many a young man set sail from "the old country" with the high hope of adventure in his heart. Many also had the hope for fortune, and if not a fortune, at least a prosperous new life in a new land that seemed there for the taking. A few came because they were romantics, intent on experiencing and learning as much from the new life as was humanly possible for them. Once arriving, they were captivated by the untamed beauty of the land, the endless plateaus of forest and meadows, distant mountains, where few men had walked, except the native Indians. Such a romantic was James Alexander Teit.

The fair haired Scot with eyes the colour of clouds arrived in British Columbia in 1884. He was bound for the tiny hamlet of Spences Bridge, a collection of rough wooden buildings buried deep in the clay and gravel mountains at the head of the Fraser River Canyon. He was 17.

Teit's uncle, John Murray, had left Scotland some years before, and had prospered in Spences Bridge. He owned land, a farm, and a general store. Teit came to help his uncle run the store. Teit's own family were prosperous merchants in Scotland, but the boy did not wish to settle down into the middle class lifestyle of his family. Before leaving Scotland, he signed over his birth right to his brothers.

In Liverpool, waiting for the sailing ship that would take him to a new life, Teit met a young, newly married, Scottish couple, John and Jessie Smith. Remarkably, they too, were bound for British Columbia, and even more remarkably coincidental, their destination too, was Spences Bridge. Thus began a friendship that lasted for many years between the man destined to become one of the world's foremost anthropologists, and the couple that would produce some of the finest fruit that ever competed in British Commonwealth competitions. Jessie Smith's Golden Grimes apple became world famous.

Teit's fascination for the native Indians was immediate and compelling. Indeed, he became obsessed with knowing all that he could about the Thompson Indians of Spences Bridge. In the years that followed, he became so intrinsically part of their culture, learning their language and meticulously recording the details of every aspect of it, that he all but became Indian. He championed their cause for land claims, and was appointed by them to be their spokesman in Ottawa.

This portrait of anthropologist James Teit was taken in his later years. The picture was copied from a family album by his son Sigurd Teit.
Photo courtesy of Ashcroft Museum.

As traditional hunting and fishing grounds, water sources, became alienated from the native Indians with the influx of new settlers and farmers, native communities became alarmed. In 1910, 24 chiefs from the Thompson, Okanagan and Shuswap tribes, met to discuss their concerns. Meetings were ongoing into 1911, assemblies gathering in both Spences Bridge and Kamloops. Teit attended every meeting, and was probably instrumental in calling the meetings together. These meetings culminated in a lengthy list of grievances that was presented to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Ottawa. But as early as 1900, Teit had been writing about the plight of the Thompson Indians. He sent a monograph outlining their extreme difficulties to Ottawa, in which he noted with alarm the decline in the native population. Diseases such as measles, diphtheria and whooping cough, as well as tuberculosis had decimated Indian communities for decades. Native chiefs lamented the barrenness (infertility) of their women, as food sources diminished along with the traditional hunting and fishing areas. For example, the Indian community at Spences Bridge had been attempting to farm traditional land, using age old springs and creeks flowing into the Thompson, but as these water sources diminished, with the filing of water rights by white and Chinese farmers, farming sizeable crops became extremely difficult for native people. Nevertheless, a number of native families farmed on benches along the Thompson River from Pokhaist to Spences Bridge with great success.

Though Teit's translation of the Thompson language has given rise to dispute in recent years and Teit's linguistic abilities have come under criticism by some natives, the fact that he preserved their language and records of their customs cannot be contested. Much of the material presently used by various tribes such as the Thompson and Shuswap, to educate their people to the old way of life and return pride in native culture, was the product of James Alexander Teit's scholarly pen and dedication. Unfortunately, the source of the material is sometimes not noted when sections of it are reprinted by native communities for their people.

Famous anthropologists such as Franz Boas and Diamond Jenness, who used Teit's work freely in publishing their own papers on native cultures always meticulously noted their source. Indeed, Teit became a respected colleague and friend of these great scholars.

But why Teit's work, remarkable and far-reaching as it has become, was unknown to the Canadian people, and forgotten in the decades following his death in 1922, remains a mystery. He had captured the character and dignity of Thompson Indians in scores of photographs which he took himself, and which, together with voluminous books and

papers, form the basis of a massive bibliography in Ottawa.

Teit's lifestyle in those early years in Spences Bridge, - accompanying native Indians on hunting and fishing trips, living with them for months at a time, raised suspicion in the nearby white communities. When a stage coach was robbed north of Cache Creek, Teit was considered a suspect, merely because he spent so much time with the Indians. In her personal journal, orchardist Jessie Smith noted, "People could not understand his (Teit's) great interest in the Indians".

Teit married a Thompson Indian woman, Antko, in 1892. She was several years older than Teit. She undoubtedly gave him priceless information about her people and their culture and marriage to her must have greatly aided him to establish the bonds of trust that were essential in researching her people. But she died in 1899, and the couple were childless. Antko is buried in the graveyard at Spences Bridge, in full view of spectacular Murray Falls as it descends a rocky escarpment across the Thompson from the town.

In 1904, Teit remarried. His bride was Josephine Morens whose parents had a livestock farm near Spences Bridge. The family was related to the Guichon family of Nicola Valley. The couple had five children, all given Nordic names. Sigurd, now the only living offspring who resides in Merritt, B.C., Eric, Inga, Magnus and Thorvald.

According to Sigurd Teit, who was only 7 when his father died, James Teit spent a good deal of time away from the family home. He would be gone for 3, 4 or 5 months at a stretch, travelling with hunting parties, some from Norway and Germany, in the northern wilds of British Columbia. Teit never missed an opportunity to continue collecting data among the native peoples he met en route.

Teit's interests were not limited to anthropology. His library was vast and included books on history, poetry and botany. After his death, Josephine stored many of her husband's books and documents at the General Store in Spences Bridge. They were destroyed in a fire. Sigurd Teit remembers that a good part of the charred and damaged material was "thrown into the Thompson River"!

The family moved from Spences Bridge to Merritt during James Teit's illness. He died at the age of 55 on October 30, 1922. Upon hearing of his death, his widow was deluged with a flood of letters and telegrams from all over the world. Josephine Teit seems to have had only a little realization of the extent and importance of her husband's anthropologist career.

Recognition of this great Canadian has been formally sought through requests for a memorial postage stamp honouring Teit and his invaluable contribution to the preservation and promotion of the cultures of several native tribes of British Columbia.

The author attended the opening of the Teit Gallery in Merritt on July 31, 1995. She had done extensive research at Spences Bridge.

SOURCES

The Jesup North Pacific Expeditions (edited by Franz Brag) Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History, New York - vol. 1. by James A. Teit, 1900.

Various documents on Specific Claims from Cook's Ferry Band files.

Nicola Valley Historical Quarterly Vol. 2, No. 2. J.A. Teit - April 1979.

Interview with Sigurd Teit in Merritt, 1992.

The Hedley Entrance Beautification Project

Last summer, 1994, the Department of Highways did repaving in and around Hedley. For safety reasons new pylons were placed along the highway and the entrance roads to Hedley. The Museum Society had a small triangle of flowers planted with a sign advertising our Museum. When the pylons were in place, we had a large semi-circle and no way of seeing our sign. Bill Coates, our contact person for the Department of Highways in Penticton gave us permission to create a garden.

Workers at the Hedley Entrance Beautification Project are Bob Holtz, Helen Marten, Joe Either, Chuck Caspersen, Sam Hofer, Curtis Hofer in the Ore Car, Nicole Mock, Helen Moore and Paul Van Halst.

Photo courtesy Wayne Desrochers

This spring we began planning and fundraising. Every time we looked at the site it grew bigger! Our original triangle had three sides about 6 feet each and now we had 100 feet by 50 feet to plant! We have a small town with probably 15 active volunteers in our Museum and the task was mind-boggling.

We contacted a local contractor, Benny Nendick, and he gave us a cost estimate for materials and equipment of $1,500.00. A terrific price but he may as well have asked for a million! We had no idea of where to get this kind of money! We contacted the Department of Highways and they were able to give us a maintenance work order for $1,500.00. We couldn't believe our good fortune!

We held a flea market at our Museum in March and we sold lots of items and made over $500.00! Paul Van Halst came to our flea market - he had just moved into our area and he was a landscaper by trade. We couldn't believe it! He volunteered to help us!

Bill Coates came to look over the site and told us where things should be for drainage, visibility, etc. Chuck Caspersen and his crew cemented in a large sign post and Bennie and his crew started hauling gravel and soil. They also brought in huge rocks to build a wall around our garden and put our ore car in place.

On May 20th we were ready to begin. The men built "the Wall" and the rest of us constructed the pathway and began planting. Paul said it will take 3 or 4 years to get everything established but it looks great already! The garden probably measures about 80 feet by 30 feet (I asked my husband for help with those figures) and we have a beautiful rock wall around it about 2 feet high.

We'd like to thank the people who helped us with this project. The Community Club gave us a very generous donation for hoses, sprinklers, peat moss, etc. Candorado Mines saw what we were doing and gave generously. Linda Anderson did a wonderful watercolour painting depicting the site so we were able to promote it. Many individuals gave money, plants and especially their time for planting, wall building, weeding and watering. We thank them all so very, very much!

Helen Martens, President of The Hedley Heritage Arts & Crafts Society.

NEWS & NOTES

Librarian Honored

Ron Welwood of Nelson has been awarded the 1995 Micromedia Award of Merit for his work as a librarian who has made a significant contribution to the design or delivery of library service or to the profile of library issues in a college. He has worked not only as librarian at Selkirk College in Castlegar but has been very active with many community projects such as saving the library of Notre Dame/David Thompson College when it was disbanded. Welwood, a BCHF Vice-President, has published books, prepared the pamphlets for self-guided tours of Nelson's heritage buildings, and has started planning for our 1997 conference in Nelson. Ron also received City Council's nomination for a Certificate of Merit from Heritage Trust.

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Museum Management Programs

The University of Victoria is offering a series of courses in their "Cultural Resource Management Program" within the Division of Continuing Studies. The Fall series will be almost finished when you read this but there are sessions in January 1996 on Preserving Natural History Collections; Jan/Feb. Maritime Heritage etc. For further details contact Joy Davis at the University of Victoria phone (604) 721-8462 or fax (604) 721-8774.

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Canada's National History Society

The Beaver was founded in 1920 by the Hudson's Bay Company. Recently this magazine was acquired by Canada's National History Society, an organization formed to promote interest in and knowledge about Canadian history. Subscribers to **The Beaver** will now automatically become members of this new society with full membership privileges ranging from special entry discounts at major Canadian museums (including our own RBC Museum) and the opportunity to buy books on Canadian history at discounts through The Beaver Book Club.

Rolph Huband of Toronto continues as publisher as well as becoming the first President of the new society. Other members of the Board of Directors include Joseph E. Martin, a senior partner of Delitte & Touche, Toronto; Michael Bliss, Professor of History, University of Toronto; Joseph A. Ghiz, Dean of the Law Faculty, Dalhousie University, Halifax; Paul-Andre Linteau, Professor of History, University of Quebec, Montreal; Tina Loo, Associate Professor of History, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.; Desmond Morton, Director, Institute for the Study of Canada, McGill University, Montreal; Shirlee A. Smith, historical consultant and former Keeper, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Winnipeg; and William Nobleman, a magazine publishing consultant of Toronto. Laird Rankin is General Manager and Secretary of the Society, responsible for non-magazine activities. Christopher Dafoe is a Society Vice-President and Editor of The Beaver. Carol Preston continues as Managing Editor of **The Beaver.**

The Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation was established by the company to support Canada's National History Society with funds received as tax savings when the Corporate archives and museum collection were given to the Province of Manitoba. The Society has authorized funding to be given to the PRIMARY Historical Society in each province. President Alice Glanville and a subcommittee planning workshops to be held in conjunction with the 1996 Annual Conference have been promised $5000 to implement the new program.

If you are interested in subscribing to **The Beaver** and becoming a member of Canada's National History Society mail your cheque to: The Beaver, #478 - 167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0T6. Cost 1 year (six issues) $25; 2 years $45; 3 years (18 issues) $60.

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Funding Provincial Historical Societies

In a study done in late 1994 information was gathered from the four western provinces. The Historical Society of Alberta receives $51,000 annually from the government Alberta Community Development Branch.

Manitoba Historical Society receives $25,200 from the provincial government Ministry of Culture, Heritage & Citizenship.

The Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society derived $118,200 from lotteries licensed under the Saskatchewan government.

The British Columbia Historical Federation serves a larger number of members/subscribers with a grant of $5000 from B.C. Heritage Trust (previously $3000). Other organizations have an office with paid staff and membership dues of $24, $25, and $33 per person. Your BCHF operates with volunteer effort and gives members their subscription virtually at cost. Dues for members of member societies are still $1 per person per year. Think about the contrast, folks, and pass your opinions and/or appreciation along to the nearest member of the BCHF executive. (See addresses and phone numbers inside the back cover.)

N.B. The British Columbia Historical Federation issues a receipt for tax purposes for donations to either their Scholarship fund or the Writing Competition. These are projects which foster preservation of B.C. history. Increasing the reserve for each will enable us to give more financial assistance to a student and/or larger prizes to authors.

Restoration of St. Ann's Academy

St. Ann's Academy in Victoria contains buildings that were constructed between 1856 and 1910. Now the decision to retain this complex and rehabilitate the buildings for another 100 years of safe occupancy has been made and funding promised, an advisory board has been appointed. One of the directors on this new board is Dr. Lloyd Bailey, historian and teacher. Persons with information on, memories of, or family pictures or memorabilia please contact Bailey at 303A - 2250 Manor Place, Comox, B.C. V9N 7T2 or phone: (604) 339-5082.

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Women's History Month

1995 marks the fourth time that October has been designated/celebrated as Women's History Month. Researchers will quickly realize that only a small percentage of archival records refer to pioneer women. The earliest European explorers, prospectors and ranchers were male. When camps became settlements records acknowledge the presence of "families" but rarely specify who and how many females participated in the life of the new community. A release from the Status of Women in Ottawa states, "The goal of Women's History Month is to write women back into Canadian history." And, "the theme for this year is Leaders, Scholars, Mentors: the History of Women and Education."

This magazine aims to present stories from B.C. history of all pioneers. There is hopefully enough female content in this Fall 1995 issue to emphasize women's achievements at this season.

We point out to local program planners that Women's History Month can be tied in with projected museum displays or guest speakers during October.

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Index 1988-1992

There are a few copies of the Index for B.C. Historical News still available for $5 each. Mail your order with a cheque to: B.C. Historical News, (Index) Box 105, Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0. Vancouver members contact Melva Dwyer.

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Great Cattle Drive 1995

This annual Trail Ride attracted 209 guest riders and 100 wranglers. Registration and preparation were made at Historic Hat Creek Ranch on Sunday, July 16. Hostesses in historical dresses added colour to the scene. A Cowboy Olympic was staged for entertainment and local families honored those with pioneer roots in the South Cariboo. Riders left Hat Creek at 8 am sharp on July 17 and rode for a day and a half before commencing to herd the cattle to Kamloops. A farrier, Tony Smith,

travelled with the group to tend to the feet of horses which shed a shoe during the day. Louis Saur of Kamloops drove a replica of a BX stagecoach to give visitors a sample of old fashioned transportation on the Cariboo Road. Every horse registered was examined by a veterinarian to ensure that each was in good condition to face the six day procession to Kamloops. Great meals were served along the way and many riders predict they will be back again next year.

A special thanks goes to Dwane Scott, manager of Hat Creek Historic Ranch, and the many volunteers who staged the send off or serviced riders enroute.

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RBCM Ghengis Khan School Competition

The Royal British Columbia Museum enlisted corporate sponsorship for a province-wide competition to publicize the very special exhibit **Empires Beyond the Great Wall: The Heritage of Ghengis Khan**. Guidelines were distributed for four age/class groups. Grades K-3 and Grades 4-6 were challenged to draw and colour a dragon. Each contest participant was issued a button saying "I drew the Dragon"; the winning class entry won a CD-ROM equipped Macintosh computer for their school; the winning class plus teacher and one chaperone were to be transported to Victoria and accommodated in the Empress Hotel where there would be a luncheon, photo session and awards ceremony plus, of course, a special tour of the exhibit. The K-3 winners were Bella Yu's class at St. Patrick's Elementary School in Maple Ridge. Keating Elementary on Central Saanich Road, Victoria took the Grades 4-6 prize for Louise Jovanich's class. The Grade 7-9 winner was Greg Dingle of Bayside Middle School in Brentwood Bay. There were so many good essays that 17 runners-up received a certificate of merit. Grade 7 student Haley Merkeley of Cranbrook was among those honored for her story of Ghengis Khan and the green vase. The Grade 10-12 contest requested an essay, approximately 1200 words, on the contributions of Chinese immigrants to British Columbia. The five judges have impressive credentials. The winner, Nicole Cardinal a Grade 12 student at Belmont Senior Secondary School in Victoria, receives a $2500 scholarship plus a special tour of the exhibit. Minister of Culture & Heritage, Bill Barlee was very impressed with the response (19,000 entries from across the province). This challenge to explore another culture, and promote awareness of the **Empires Beyond the Great Wall** exhibit which was shown in Victoria from March 31 to September 10, 1995, shows that our provincial museum is keeping in touch with the rest of the province.

Nanaimo's Volunteer of the Year

We in the B.C. Historical Federation thank Pamela Mar for the efficient managing of all the duties involved with the Competition for Writers of B.C. History. It should also be known that Pamela works at diverse tasks for the Nanaimo Museum plus conducting walking tours for locals or visitors plus lobbying for place names plus assisting her husband to research and record the Chinese presence. Pamela received the Mayor's nomination for "Heritage Volunteer" to receive a Certificate of Merit from Heritage Trust in April. Later Mrs. Mar was recognized at a Community Awards event, was named "Volunteer of the Year." Congratulations!!

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Canadian Historical Association

Certificates of Merit for Regional History

Every year the Regional History Committee of the Canadian Historical Association solicits nominations for its "Certificate of Merit" Awards. The British Columbia and Yukon Region will issue two awards: (1) for an outstanding publication or video on some aspect of regional history; (2) one for individuals, societies, or institutions who have demonstrated excellence in regional history.

Nominations, accompanied by supporting material, must be submitted by 15 December to John Douglas Belshaw, Department of Philosophy, History & Politics, University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3.

The 1994 Certificates of Merit were awarded to:

Tina Loo, **Making Law, Order, and Authority in British Columbia, 1821-1871** (University of Toronto Press, 1994). and Naomi Miller, Wasa, British Columbia

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Penticton/Keremeos Exhibit

Art, literature and artifacts are being combined to create a unique and timely exhibit this Fall at the Art Gallery at the South Okanagan in Penticton. Featured will be three dozen original water-colour paintings created in Keremeos during 1894 and 1895 by Julia Bullock-Webster. For two years, while this Victorian gentlewoman visited her sons who were homesteading in the Similkameen, she recorded the native wildflowers in exquisite botanical illustrations and celebrated the seasons in landscape paintings. A keen observer, she also meticulously noted daily events in a journal, providing well phrased and picturesque commentaries on the pioneer life of that time. Her Keremeos diary, now in the collection of the Provincial Archives, amounts to 100,000 words; and for several summers, staff and volunteers at the Grist Mill at Keremeos have worked to accurately tran-

Julia Bullock-Webster left paintings of scenery, beautifully executed illustrations of wild flowers and at least one portrait. She signed these JBW 1895 with the month when each was completed.

scribe the diary into computerised form, making it more accessible for research.

The Art Gallery of the South Okanagan and The Grist Mill have been collaborating to create the current exhibit celebrating the creation of these works exactly a century ago, and attempting to illustrate the life and art of this Victorian lady during the pioneer settlement days of the Province. Diary references to specific paintings have been discovered, providing provocative text material to accompany the water-colours. Artifacts mentioned in the text have been located in museums, and will add authentic three dimensional elements to the display. An example is a scorpion, the first ever discovered in B.C., which was sent to the Provincial Museum by the Bullock-Webster boys in 1894.

To accompany the exhibit, Roger Boulet, Director and Curator of the Art Gallery has prepared World Wide Web pages about the paintings for the Internet. For a first hand experience, visit the Penticton Gallery between September 9 and November 5, 1995.

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Alberni District Archives

Due to budget constraints hours of opening for the Alberni Valley Museum have been cut. The archives within the Museum at Echo Centre are manned by volunteers from the Alberni District Historical Society on Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (or by appointment).

BOOKSHELF

Books for review and book reviews should be sent directly to the Book Review Editor:
Anne Yandle, 3450 West 20th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1E4

From Maps To Metaphors; The Pacific World Of George Vancouver.
Robin Fisher and Hugh Johnston, eds. Vancouver, U.B.C. Press, 1993. 365 p., illus. $39.95.

In Robin Fisher's and Hugh Johnston's introduction to their earlier volume **Captain James Cook and His Times** which included some of the papers given at the Cook Conference at Simon Fraser University in 1978, they touch on a subject that would strongly influence the choice of papers for the Vancouver conference of 1992. The editors state optimistically that two points of view on Cook's presence in the Pacific, that of the European and the Indigenous Peoples, were manifested but that it was a 'reciprocal relationship, which neither group dominated and both benefited from...' Then, fifteen years later that somewhat naive hope is more cautiously expressed: 'Today the impact of European explorers on the Pacific and its people is a matter of conflicting interpretation, with more negative views gaining currency.' In view of the latter, it's not surprising to see much more emphasis given in **From Maps to Metaphors** to papers discussing contact with natives than in the Cook Volume, not to mention the refreshing metaphorical account of the Squamish's first encounter with Vancouver that prefaces the Vancouver text. The balance between papers on European and Indigenous Peoples at the conference and those chosen for publication seems to be a healthy approach to the problem that was acknowledged but hardly addressed in 1978.

If the approach to native peoples at the two conferences differed in emphasis, there was agreement in another area: the debt all researchers of either Cook or Vancouver owe to J.C. Beaglehole and Kaye Lamb. There is scarcely a paper in either publication that does not acknowledge the seminal work done by these two exceptional scholars. The name that came into discussion almost as frequently as Cook was Beaglehole, wrote the editors in 1979, and, in 1993, "Like Vancouver, Lamb set out detailed directions for others to sail by."

We are indebted to the editors and UBC Press for publishing these excellent papers from the Vancouver conference for the conference brought together superlative scholars on Vancouver which attracted conference participants from all over the world. It must have been difficult to choose the papers that make up this volume. Though they adequately represent the range of papers at the conference, one realizes in reading them that it is not only the Indigenous Peoples who underrate the value of Vancouver's work. Perhaps it is unfortunate that Vancouver's surveys came so soon after those of his famous predecessor. How can Vancouver compete with the scope of Cook, the sweep of his explorations? Cook is the progenitor of all 19th century maritime exploration; it is he who opened the Pacific to generations of European naval surveyors and Vancouver was just the first to fall into Cook's shadow.

Vancouver's achievements though not as spectacular as Cook's, not as well known in his time or in ours, need to be acknowledged, need the same kind of focus as Cook's, for Vancouver is the true mentor for generations of nautical surveyors who followed; he is the one who discovered what Cook had missed, who separated, for instance, Vancouver Island from the mainland, who painstakingly surveyed countless bays and inlets, to finally disprove some of the mythic theories of speculative geographers. **From Maps to Metaphors** does focus on Vancouver but not as comprehensively as the earlier volume did on Cook.

For those who attended the Vancouver conference, and other readers, there are many rewards in **From Maps to Metaphors**. There are a number of chapters written by scholars who appeared in the Cook text, sometimes examining the subject anew from the perspective of the last decade in the 18th century: Glyndwr Williams extends his examination of Cook and the theoretical geographers to Vancouver's surveys; Alan Frost moves from his earlier study of the Romantic poets and their fascination with Cook and other explorers' journals to a close examination of the Nootka Sound crisis and its relation to British Imperial policy; David Mackay, biographer of Banks in the Cook volume, here speculates on the impact of Terra Australia on the European imagination and Christon Archer focuses again on Spain, this time noting Spain's reduced activity on the west coast compared to Cook's time.

Perhaps the evolution of the two conferences is demonstrated in the titles of the two volumes: in the first Cook is featured while the second more ambiguous title seems to relegate Vancouver to a subsidiary role. Indeed, the chapters in **From Maps to Metaphors** seem to refer as much to Cook as Vancouver, and the world that the book examines is as much that of 1770's as the 1790's. Also, by the nature of the book there is a fair amount of overlapping which is irritating, for each paper has to establish its historical perspective; consequently, it's a book to be dipped into, chapter by chapter, not to be read at one sitting. The gems seem to be - as they were in the earlier volume - the thoroughly researched and finely written chapters and those that provide the reader with focused new information. For instance, Kaye Lamb's fascinating and lively look at three personalities in conflict, Vancouver, Banks and Menzies. This is not new material, most of it appears in his Hakluyt edition of Vancouver, but in this chapter he isolates the protagonists and demonstrates that he is a historian with a novelist's intuition for narrative and conflict. Then, just as Sir James Watt produced one of the most informed papers at the Cook conference by focusing his medical expertise on Cook's supposed success in combating scurvy, so chapters in **From Maps to Metaphors** by Andrew David and Alun Davies provide the reader with solid technical information with which to make informed judgments about Vancouver's surveys. These papers, like Admiral Ritchie's 1978 paper on Cook's hydrographic surveying methods, illuminate Vancouver's exploration, make the voyages and the men on the ships more real; the reading becomes almost tactile, not at all cerebral or distancing. One feels in reading these chapters that one is in touch with what mattered to these explorers: lunar distances, running surveys, accurate timepieces, all the skills and technology needed to produce Vancouver's superlative charts.

Maurice Hodgson
Maurice Hodgson is a member of the English Department at Douglas College

Gold at Fortymile Creek: Early Days in the Yukon
Michael Gates. Vancouver, UBC Press, 1994. 200 p., illus. $39.95 cloth; $19.95 paper.

The quest for gold in the Yukon basin began years before 17 August 1896, the day George Carmack staked his claim on what is now Bonanza Creek. The argonauts, unlike fur traders and explorers, were there to stay, certain a new Eldorado must lie somewhere in the vast wilderness round them. Their story rates brief mentions in the many books on the Klondike Rush but they deserve much more, and this book fills the gap. The author, Michael Gates, is Curator of Collections for Klondike National Historic Sites in Dawson, Yukon.

In 1873, Arthur Harper, Frederick Hart, Jack McQuesten and Al Mayo, all major players in what would follow, entered the Yukon drainage travelling by way of Mackenzie River, the pass to the Porcupine River and down that river to Fort Yukon. The following year McQuesten built Fort Reliance, the main trading centre until abandoned in 1886, at a site some six miles downstream from today's Dawson. Travel to and from the Yukon basin increased slowly after 1880

when an accord with the Chilkat Indians opened the Chilkoot Pass route from Lynn Canal to the headwaters of the Yukon River. Joe Ladue, staker of the Dawson townsite, was one of fifty arriving by this route in 1882. In addition, small steamers were operating from St. Michael to locations on the lower Yukon River and, in 1883 Harper, McQuesten and Mayo acquired the **New Racket**, from an unsuccessful prospecting venture.

Prospectors spread throughout the Yukon drainage and in the summer of 1886, when about 100 men were testing and mining the bars along the Stewart River, Fort Nelson, built at the mouth of the Stewart became the trading post. In turn this was abandoned when coarse gold was found on the bars of Fortymile River and the new settlement of Forty Mile built at its mouth.

Until now the miners had been ignored by both Canadian and United States governments although the Hudson's Bay Company's trespass into Russian and later American territory at Fort Yukon had been dealt with in 1869 and the miners must have been aware that the boundary lay a few miles to the west of Forty Mile. Government, such as it was, depended on the miners' committee to set mining rules, appoint a mining recorder and to deal with both criminal and civil matters. Change came in 1888 when surveyor William Ogilvie marked the boundary on Fortymile River and on the Canadian side again in 1894 with the arrival of the North-West Mounted Police and the establishment of a permanent post the following year.

Bar placers are the indicators but most of the North's placer gold has been won from bedrock paystreaks lying beneath permanently frozen creek gravels and by the 1890s underground mining was employed in the search for these deposits. Working in winter, shafts were sunk using fires to thaw a few feet, excavating and repeating the process. On reaching bedrock drifts were run beneath the creek and, if the paystreak was there, the gravels mined in galleries, hoisted to surface and stockpiled in dumps for sluicing in the summer months.

Forty Mile, entry point for the Fortymile and later the Sixtymile goldfields, became the main centre, at its peak serving a population of about six hundred, although numbers could change quickly with a new rush such as the one to the Birch Creek diggings and Circle that began in 1892. By now the area was becoming better known and writings by government officials, ministers, priests and venturesome travellers record life in the river communities.

By 1896 McQuesten, formerly based at Forty Mile and now Circle, Ladue at Ogilvie, Harper at Fort Selkirk and Mayo on the riverboats had spent years encouraging and grubstaking prospectors but as yet no one had made the great discovery they anticipated. Ironically, that would be made by George Carmack, Skookum Jim and Tagish Charlie, not one of them considered a bona fide prospector, on a creek so close at hand that it must have been written off as worthless years before. The trio, invited by prospector Robert Henderson to visit his ground on Gold Bottom Creek, had left from their fish camp at the mouth of the Klondike River and on the return journey Skookum Jim or perhaps one of the others had spotted gold while taking a drink from Rabbit Creek, today's Bonanza. What seems unique is that gold was in surface gravels rather than at depth in a frozen paystreak on bedrock. Possibly the gold they found had been transported by erosion from the gold-bearing White Channel gravels found higher on the Bonanza hillsides.

For the old-timers the Klondike, probably bigger than even their dreams, turned the Yukon they knew on its end. McQuesten, Harper and Ladue, all well to do, left the Yukon, the latter two dying of tuberculosis soon after. Hart died in Dawson in 1897 and only Al Mayo remained in the north.

Lewis Green
Lew Green is a member of the Vancouver Historical Society

The Good Company: an Affectionate History of the Union Steamships
Tom Henry. Madeira Park, Harbour Publishing, 1994. 152 p., illus. $32.95

For seventy years, from 1889 until 1959, the Union Steamship Company of BC. served the communities of British Columbia's coast. During those years the company became something more than an impersonal business enterprise - the commercial needs were cared for, they were the 'raison d'etre', but as Henry writes, the company "was such an integral part of the coast that its black hulls, its imported Scottish pound cake and its signature whistle - one long, two short, one long - became viscerally embedded in those who rode and worked aboard the ships." For the communities along the coast, "boat day was the seminal event in their weekly calendar."

Since the demise of the company in 1959, its history has elicited several books. Gerald Rushton, a manager with the company, wrote **Whistle Up the Inlet** (Vancouver, 1974) and **Echoes of the Whistle** (Vancouver, 1980), and, in the Provincial Archives' Sound Heritage series, there is **Navigating the Coast** (ed. Peter Chapman, Victoria, 1977). With its extensive use of photographs, **The Good Company** somewhat duplicates the approach of Rushton's **Echoes**. Yet Henry has brought a fresh view which complements rather than competes. Rushton, Henry notes, gives "primarily a business history", - he "was not intimately versed in life aboard Union ships." For his part Henry has depended extensively on the materials of Art Twigg who provided "an insider's position in the company... from the vantage of the ships."

Clearly, in large part, thanks to the efforts of people such as Rushton and Twigg, considerable written and photographic records for the company have been preserved. These have been consulted thoroughly for this book; the selected material has been chosen well and is presented to good effect. One appendix lists the personnel who served in the company from 1920 until 1958 (compiled from ships' registers and oral history sources) and a second provides some details for 53 of the Union ships. A reproduction of the company's "Sailing Guide to Ports of Call", issued in 1933, lists a total of 159 places, in addition to Vancouver, at which the ships stopped. The price for calling at so many places, often with inadequate docking facilities, or none at all, was that the company found it impossible to keep to a strict schedule.

The Good Company bears the hall marks of Harbour Publishing. It is a beautifully designed and produced book. The photographs are clear, the captions meaningful. I do wish Mr. Henry, or his editors, could have settled on whether the ships were "shes" or "its". However. One comes from the book feeling that this was a "good" company for the inhabitants of the coast, deserving of an "affectionate" history.

George Newell
George Newell is a member of the Victoria Historical Society

Roaring Days: Rossland's Mines and the History of British Columbia
Jerry Mouat. Vancouver, UBC Press, 1995. 236 p., illus. $39.95

In British Columbia the flurry of mineral exploration and extraction around the turn of the century had a significant impact on the fortunes of many individuals. At that time, mining was on the leading edge of applied science and technology, and it dictated the rhythm of development in southeastern British Columbia. Thus the history of this industry is one that reflects the history of the entire province.

The rich copper-gold deposits of Rossland, staked in 1890 were quickly exploited. However, the events that unfolded in Rossland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were not isolated. The development of railway networks both in Canada and the United States, the impact of American and British investment, the evolution of industrial rela-

tions and unionism, the struggle over the eight hour workday, the growth of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited (Cominco) are all interwoven into the fabric of Kootenay history.

Jeremy Mouat, formerly from British Columbia, teaches history at Athabasca University in Alberta. This book grew out of a dissertation he completed at the University of British Columbia in 1988. Although it is a scholarly work that tackles a very complicated topic, the text, which is only 166 pages in length, is so well written that the complexities of the subject are clearly presented and, more importantly, interconnected. To this reviewer, the extensive use of annotated endnotes is the academic thread that binds this masterpiece together (a total of 600 citations in 49 pages). Mouat's expertise as a B.C. mining historian is well documented in a thorough list of bibliographic references (13 pages) that includes an extensive variety of primary and secondary sources. The book also has a five page index.

As Mouat so correctly points out... "the working people, the politicians, the managers, and the engineers played meaningful roles in the history of British Columbia, yet major historical works on the province contain almost no discussion of Rossland or the broader Kootenay region, a curious omission... My emphasis on the mining industry of Rossland seeks to redress the imbalance in the province's historiography." **Roaring Days** certainly does that.

Ron Welwood

Ron Welwood, resident in Nelson, is First Vice-President of the B.C.H.F.

Raincoast Chronicles Eleven Up

Howard White, ed. Madeira Park, B.C.: Harbour Publishing, 1994. 408 p., illus., $39.95

Back in the sixties when Keynesianism was still alive I'd gotten an Opportunities for Youth grant to employ seven young people taping oldtimers, and since then had turned that fledgling effort into a pretty respectable little book publishing company. (Howard White, **Raincoast Chronicles Eleven Up**, p. 179).

Most readers of **British Columbia Historical News** are familiar with award-winning author Howard White, and his successful enterprise, Harbour Publishing. **Raincoast Chronicles**, an irregular journal published since 1972, is the heart and soul of Harbour Publishing.

The volume under review here is a reprinted compilation of **Raincoast Chronicles**, no. 11 through no. 15, originally published from 1987 to 1993. The previous compilations, **Raincoast Chronicles First Five** and **Raincoast Chronicles Six/Ten**, are also still available from Harbour Publishing.

The west coast of B.C. has long been a source of romantic fascination to city slickers and landlubbers. We are intrigued by the cultural richness and exoticism of the west coast first nations people. We are attracted to the virility and ruggedness of west coast loggers (even as we decry the dwindling of the forests). We admire the risk-taking and heroism of west coast fishers and other seafarers. We envy the independence and resourcefulness of the west coast's independent ("gyppo") loggers and other entrepreneurs.

The romantic appeal of the west coast was well-known to writers and publishers, even prior to the publication of M. Allerdale Grainger's **Woodsmen of the West** (1908). It has taken on a life of its own, and has become a major motif of the tourist industry that is beginning to replace the declining forest, fishing, and marine transportation industries. A romantic approach, of course, neglects the less pleasant aspects of the coast's history: the deliberate suppression of native cultures, for example; or the boredom, isolation, and ceaseless toil experienced by many forestry and fishery workers.

To his credit, Howard White is not some romantic ex-urbanite yuppie. He grew up in the isolated floating logging camps of the coast and in Pender Harbour, where his father was employed in gyppo logging operations. He is old enough to remember Pender Harbour when it was known as the "Venice of the North", before there was a highway connecting it to Vancouver and before there was TV reception.

White believes that the west coast of B.C. has its own distinctive culture, and he founded **Raincoast Chronicles** to celebrate and perpetuate it. He wanted his magazine to reach an audience of west coast residents, and he was very gratified when circulation figures and reader response indicated that this goal was achieved.

Now that it is over twenty years old, **Raincoast Chronicles** has reached a certain level of maturity. Its book design is not as distinctive as it used to be, but it still features artistic layout and dramatic illustrations. The writing continues to be of outstanding quality, emphasizing the personalities, the life experiences, and the landscapes of the coast.

There were several items I particularly enjoyed. "Minstrel Island" is Howard White's account of his visit to a legendary beer parlour in the remote maze of islands and fjords east of Alert Bay. "They Don't Make 'Em Anymore Department: Frank Osbourne" is Jim Spilsbury's appreciative portrait of his boyhood mentor, an inventive and laconic machine-shop proprietor in Lund. Howard White's "**Turning Our Backs on the Sea**" is an essay lamenting a declining way of life. "Mexican Standoff" is one of Peter Trower's no-nonsense poems about one day at work in the woods. "**The Sinking of the Arlene P.**" is lighthouse keeper Julia Moe's gripping account of a marine mishap. Alan Haig-Brown's "**The By-Pass Valve**" is an instructive tale of human folly, derived from one of his experiences as a ship's engineer. The entire Issue No. 14 consists of Florence Tickner's reminiscences of life in the float camps of the mid-coast, valuable as a depiction of the 1930s gyppo world from the perspective of women and children.

The 99 articles, essays, reminiscences, stories, and poems in **Raincoast Chronicles Eleven Up** provide more than a dozen evenings of rich, exciting reading. It's the kind of book you pick up again and again, always discovering fascinating things you'd missed in previous readings.

Jim Bowman

Jim Bowman is a Calgary archivist.

Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia, 1919-1994

Glennis Ziln and Ethel Warbinek. University of British Columbia School of Nursing. 1994. 314p., illus. $29.95 (distributed by UBC Press).

"In May 1919 the Senate of the University of British Columbia proposed to the Board of Governors that a Department of Nursing be established in connection with the Faculty of Science, leading to a degree of B. Sc. The Board accepted this recommendation at its May 26th meeting and the stage was set for the first baccalaureate nursing degree in Canada to open in the fall of 1919." **Legacy** p.22.

From today's standpoint the creation of a baccalaureate degree in nursing may not appear to be a momentous occurrence, but in its time and place the proposal for such a degree by the UBC Senate was a bold one.

The wheels of University curriculum committees usually go round with the maddening pace of slow snails, but, happily for the prospective Department of Nursing in 1919, the wheels of their committees had been lubricated by a fortunate confluence of people and events. The UBC president, Frank Wesbrook, a physician, had helped develop the first full university nursing program in the United States, at the University of Minnesota; the Chancellor of the University, Robert E. McKechnie, also a physician who supported the program, presided over the UBC Board; and Dr. Henry Esson Young who was Minister of Education and responsible for the provincial board of health, held key purse strings, and had made it clear that he wanted better educated nurses who could provide improved public health care.

Furthermore, the times were ripe. British Colombians had been deeply shaken by the influ-

enza epidemic of 1918-19 and impressed by the heroic actions of nurses both at that time and during World War I. A growing feminism in British Columbia had given women the vote and many women's organisations had formed to demand better conditions for women. The University Women's Club was particularly determined that there should be equality of opportunity for women at UBC and one of their members, the formidable Evlyn Farris, was an elected member of Senate and the first woman named to the Board of Governors in 1917. And finally, there was an increasing professionalism in nursing. Leaders of the profession felt strongly that nursing education should not be controlled by hospitals which often exploited students, but that it should be controlled by educational institutions, preferably universities.

With the support therefore of a few powerful physicians, a strong economy and favourable social conditions, UBC was able to put a creative and progressive program into place - the first of its kind in the British Empire.

Legacy chronicles events surrounding the UBC School of Nursing from the time when it was first proposed until 1994, when the School celebrated its 75th anniversary. The achievements have been quite spectacular. Starting with only four women students in 1919 the program presently has more than 500 men and women students and now offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Many of its graduates have distinguished themselves in nursing, both in British Columbia and elsewhere. But all this has not been without a struggle. Budgets have frequently been restrained. Political agendas have occasionally caused frictions. In the early years support from the College of Physicians and Surgeons was almost non-existent and the nursing directors, because they did not have academic degrees, were faced with carrying the responsibilities but not the title or salary of Head of the Department. Then, as now, the University did not recognize the Department of Nursing (later the School) as a Faculty.

The book is organized chronologically according to the terms of the six women who were directors of the UBC nursing program from its inception to the present day. It is clear from the narrative that these remarkable, dedicated women faced many obstacles. They and their students rejoiced in their successes with grace and modesty and faced the many challenges with great determination. The authors have drawn their information from a variety of sources, the most charming of them being the memories of graduates and the vivid stories of student life. A wealth of interesting illustrations accompany the text.

Retrieving the information from primary sources must have been, as the authors point out in their preface, a daunting task, for UBC lacked an Archives until 1970 and many original records were destroyed before that date. This reviewer spent some time in the eighties examining with mounting dismay the enormous collection of records, files, photographs, tapes etc. which had been lovingly gathered for this history of nursing education project by Elizabeth McCann. The collection was, at that time, unorganized, lacking in provenance and coherence of any kind. That the authors have brought order out of the chaos of sources they have faced is quite an achievement.

Legacy, in spite of the many charming anecdotes and its background of social history is not exactly an easy read. In some ways, its very ambitious scope has made it less accessible to the ordinary reader. The attempt to cover the social, political, economic and scientific issues of each period, in addition to the educational and cultural aspects of the School has somewhat overshadowed the stories of the Directors and students. Like **Tuum Est**, the 1958 history of UBC, it is crammed with facts which sometimes obscure the clarity of the narrative. It is, however, an admirable reference book. It is full of interesting information and has an excellent bibliography and index. Minor slips (Frank Wesbrook died of a kidney disease, not the Spanish flu, Walter Gage was Dean of Interfaculty Affairs, not Dean of Arts) seem to be few in number and relatively insignificant. In general the research has been extremely careful and painstakingly verified.

A shift in attitudes toward health care is occurring right now in Canada making many citizens uneasy about what the future will bring. The profession of nursing is evolving in many ways. **Legacy** provides an overview of the position of women, nursing as a profession, and our beliefs about health care during this century. By contributing to the knowledge and understanding of the history of nursing education it may well be of assistance to those who are planning its future.

The University of British Columbia has recently been under fire for its attitudes towards women, both faculty members and students. **Legacy** makes it clear that UBC once showed leadership and vision in this area. Ethel Johns, the first director of the program, said "We are building here for the future... we earnestly hope the foundation will be well and truly laid". All who read **Legacy** will agree that the foundation has indeed been well and truly laid and that the School of Nursing has a proud heritage.

Laurenda Daniells
Archivist Emerita,
University of British Columbia

Conference Plus Seminars 1996

The 1996 B.C. Historical Federation Conference will start in Williams Lake on Friday, April 26 with two seminars: "Researching and Writing Local History" with a panel of presenters and "Managing Gifts to Museums and Historical Societies" by the Education Officer of the B.C. Museums Association.

The annual conference of the BCHF will commence on the Friday evening, April 26 and go through to Sunday, April 28. A tour to B.C.'s newest designated historic site, Quesnel Forks, and the village of Likely will be a highlight of this conference. A warm welcome awaits members and non-members alike. Registration forms will be available by March 1st from:

The Cariboo - Chilcotin
Museum Society
113 North 4th Avenue,
Williams Lake, B.C.
V2G 2C8
or phone Lori Hudson-Fish at
(604) 398-5825.

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BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION
WRITING COMPETITION

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

Any book presenting any facet of B.C. history, published in 1995, is eligible. This may be a community history, biography, record of a project or an organization, or personal recollections giving a glimpse of the past. Names, dates and places, with relevant maps or pictures, turn a story into "history."

The judges are looking for 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.

NOTE: Reprints or revisions of books are not eligible.

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.

All entries receive considerable publicity. Winners will receive a Certificate of Merit, a monetary award and an invitation to the BCHF annual conference to be held in Williams Lake in April 1996.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: All books must have been published in 1995 and should be submitted as soon as possible after publication. **Two copies** of each book should be submitted. Books entered become property of the B.C. Historical Federation. Please state name, address and telephone number of sender, the selling price of all editions of the book, and the address from which it may be purchased, if the reader has to shop by mail. If by mail, please include shipping and handling costs if applicable.

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There is also an award for the Best Article published each year in the *B.C. Historical News* magazine. This is directed to amateur historians or students. Articles should be no more than 3,000 words, typed double spaced, accompanied by photographs if available, and substantiated with footnotes where applicable. (Photographs should be accompanied with information re: the source, permission to publish, archival number if applicable, and a brief caption. Photos will be returned to the writer.) Word-processed manuscripts may also be submitted on 3.5″ disk (DOS or Macintosh) but please include a hard copy as well.

Please send articles directly to: The Editor, B.C. Historical News, P.O. Box 105, Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0