



# Fairbridge Gazette

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VOLUME VIII

OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN ISSUE, 1947

NUMBER 1.



*The Trainee Club In Session*

Photo by Nicholas Morant.

#### MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor - - - K. J. Braunton  
School Editor - - - Leon Mendoza  
Sports Editor - - - Sam Hancock

The Editor wishes to express his thanks to Leon Mendoza, Mr. A. H. Plows, Mr. Don Morton, R. "Sam" Hancock, and Mr. W. J. Garnett for their help and contributions to the Gazette.

The Associate Editors join with me in wishing all our readers the very best in everything for the coming year.

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is clear that for Old Fairbridgians, Christmas and the coming of the New Year is as much a time for looking back as for looking forward.

From far and near, letters have poured in to the office, all echoing the same sentiments—"We wish we were back," "We never enjoyed a Christmas dinner so much as the one at Fairbridge," and so on. As usual, the Christmas cards made a grand display in our sitting-room and later in the dining-hall.

My wife and I, not to mention David, want to thank you one and all for your good wishes, and to wish you in return, happiness and contentment in 1947, wherever you may be.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find reference to the meeting of the Old Fairbridgians' Association, held in Vancouver on January 11. Nothing has pleased me more than the spirit of that meeting. Under the guidance of your newly elected executives and with the co-operation of every member of the Association, you can look forward with confidence to a banner year.

To you, and to the re-elected Editor of your paper, all at Fairbridge send their greeting with the hope that however distant you may be, you will be able at some time during the year to revisit us and renew acquaintances with your friends at the Farm School.

—W. J. Garnett, Principal.

#### SOME FAIRBRIDGE MILESTONES

- 1885—Birth of Kingsley Fairbridge.
- 1909—October 19. Founding of Fairbridge Farm Schools Society at Oxford, England.
- 1912—Founding of Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, Western Australia. The first party of boys arrived there in January, 1913.
- 1920—Rebuilding the Farm School on the new site near Pinjarra.
- 1924—Death of Kingsley Fairbridge.
- 1934—Raising of the Prince of Wales Fund in England.
- 1935—Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School founded. The first party of 41 children arrived in September of that year.
- 1936—The Farm School at Molong, New South Wales, founded.
- 1938—The Fintry Fairbridge Training School (near Vernon, B.C.) was presented to the Fairbridge Society by the late Captain J. C. Dun-Waters.
- Chief building erected at the Prince of Wales Farm School.
- 1935—Cottages: Edith Atwood, Silver Jubilee, Queen Mary and Lady Houston; the Main Kitchen.
- 1936—Cottages: Liverpool, St. George's, Richards, Lord Riddell; Kenilworth Dining Hall, Day School and Howard Mitchell Auditorium, Farm Manager's House.
- 1937—Cottages: Strathcona, Lumley, Douglas, Pennant; Principal's House, Office, Cow Barn, Piggery.
- 1938—Cottages: Dulverton, MacMillan, Hill, Molyneux; Second Wing of Day School; Manual Training Building.
- 1939—Cottages: Laybourne, Davidson; Laundry.
- 1940—Hospital, Arthur Hendry Horse Barn.
- 1941—Greenhouse.
- 1945—Cow Barn and Sheep Shed destroyed by fire.
- 1946—Cow Barn rebuilt.

Since September, 1935, fourteen parties of children have arrived at the Farm School, totalling 282, of which 196 were boys and 86 girls. As of date 198 Old Fairbridgians, 65 girls and 133 boys, have graduated from the school.

The acreage of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School is 1,028, of which approximately 300 are under cultivation. Cattle: 60 head of Ayrshires, 25 milking cows, Daily milk production, approximately 900 pounds.

#### NEWS OF OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS

Ben Alsop, now working for Matheson Bros., at Soda Creek, spent Christmas at the Farm School and has some very amusing stories to tell of the two Polish veterans who are his co-workers.

Johnny Robinson relieved Fred ("Tich") Harding at Mr. Connor's, Heffley Creek, in November. Fred is working here on the Farm-side, where our (milder?) weather is kinder to his hand which he injured at his job last summer.

Bob and Joe Fenton paid us a visit in October. They plan to start a commercial fishing venture in 1947, and with that in mind, Bob is on the S.S. Seaboard Pioneer, and Joe is reported to be working on a coaster. Ken Davies is a shipmate of Bob's.

Norman Richards is ashore and studying at a private establishment in Vancouver. He hopes to write his matric examinations in June. Bill Stoker is a fellow student with the same aspirations. He visited us last October on his return from overseas and was looking very fit.

Audrey Richards has gone into training as a children's nurse at the Infants' Hospital in Vancouver. We wish her every success in her work.

Joan Buchan writes to us from England that she hopes to be married soon. She finds that the rationing is not too bad and has made the acquaintance of dried eggs. One shell egg appears once each week, but says that food rationing is "not too hard to take."

Ted Carr has sailed as second cook on the S.S. Lake Winnipeg, bound for the United Kingdom. George Cummings, who visited the school last November, while the ship was loading at Chemainus, is a shipmate. Both George and his twin brother, Don, who is at sea on the S.S. Victoria Park, have kept in close touch with us.

Audrey ("Bunny") Arnison is our newest O.F. She went to work at the home of Mrs. Wheaton in Victoria in December, where her sister Marj. had spent three happy years. Bunny injured her knee last spring while she was playing basketball, and has been very plucky in her misfortune, which has now happily terminated.

Victor Hughes worked at a logging camp from last June to October at Toba Inlet. It is possible that he will join Dan Brayfield and Jim Dobbs in a logging enterprise this spring.

Peg Auton and Irene Lister are working in a hotel at Sechelt. Muriel and Doreen continue in their employment in Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Jarvis and son, Royston, reside at Victoria, where Sid is employed by Kelly Douglas Ltd. He recently suffered lime burns, but has now fully recovered. He 'phoned holiday greetings to all who were here at Christmas.

Gordon Tonks and Ernie Mein relieved Paul Conlon and Bobby Duncan at Fintry last autumn. Bobby is working in a dairy at Cadboro Bay, near Victoria, and Paul at the mill in Chemainus, where he eventually hopes to learn machine operation. Bill Dowler has been working at the same mill since last July.

Frank Danks has re-entered high school at North Saanich and makes his home at the farm of Miss G. Moses, at Deep Cove. Frank is doing well at his studies and captains the school basketball team, as well as playing for the "Brentwood Aces." His brother John recently underwent an appendix operation, which was wholly successful. He will continue to make his home with Miss Moses and is working with the Saanich Freight.

Marj Arnison, Nancy Scott, Olive Turner and Doreen Pleasant make their home at the Blue Triangle Centre in Vancouver. Helen Slaughter has part-time employment at Vernon, where she is taking a business course. She sees much of Miss Erica Hunter, who is doing social work in that town.

P.O. John Hunter has just completed a tour of duty on H.M.C.S. Uganda, which sailed to Mexico to meet the aircraft carrier Warrior.

Jessie (Newbold) Ulsh has moved from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Peoria, Illinois, and writes that she hopes to be able to visit us by Christmas.

Pat Hood is attending D.V.A. pre-matriculation course at the Seaview School in Vancouver, success in which will lead to university entrance. He follows Dick Speed, who completed the same course last year and is now doing well in first year Commerce at U.B.C.

Peter and Annie Forest and son, Robert, live at Barnet, B.C. Pete was discharged from the R.C.A.F. as corporal last

September. He hopes to enter some phase of forestry work. Catherine (Hood) Shea lives with them, and Dot, her sister, works at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

Ken Bennett has a berth on the S.S. Temagami Park as a wireless operator and is doing very well. He gets his chief operator's papers after six months sea duty. Albert Bettonie is a shipmate, and visited the Fairbridge office in London recently when his ship was docked at Rouen, France. He had lunch with Mr. H. T. Logan and they will be returning by way of the Panama late in January.

Eric Winchester paid us a brief visit in December. He worked for some time in a logging camp and claims that he can really bake a good loaf of bread any day of the week. He has proceeded to Regina, where he is to meet his partner and go to the winter quarters of the Conklin Shows in Ontario.

Alec and Ray Phillips are both working in a golf-club factory in Vancouver. Alec had spent the past summer with a diamond drill outfit at some hard-rock mine in the Interior.

Percy Millman is at sea again after a short tour ashore. He had a very rough trip on his return from China in October and now really has "salt in his socks." Other O.F.s in coastwise shipping are: Dennis Harmer, Eric Lewis, Jock Bennett, Victor Smith, Frank Merrison, Ken Turnbull and his brother Dennis.

Don Collins and brother Ted are now working on the farm of his sister and brother-in-law at North Bay, Ontario. They have 350 acres, with 145 under cultivation. Don runs his own trapline and reports a lot of rabbits and deer in his location.

Margaret Wylie, Margaret Caldwell and Agnes Duffy are at Kelowna, and write quite often and tell us of their social and athletic activities in that pleasant community.

John Newell is working at Victoria and may enter the fur department of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Trevor Stockbridge and Frank ("Cluny") Wallace both have met with accidents in Eastern Canada. Trev injured his foot when he was on the Oceanside, and was hospitalized in Quebec City. Frank wrote at Christmas that he had broken his arm on the S.S. Cartier Park and was ashore at Montreal. He hopes to go in a logging partnership this spring in New Brunswick.

A son, Clarke, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Warnock on December 29, 1946, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria. Mother, son (and daddy) are all doing well.

On November 9, 1946, Molly Pritchard was married to Mr. Emil Liska, of Victoria. Molly continues her employment with the Hudson's Bay Company until Christmas. The couple reside at the home of the groom's parents at Victoria.

Among the dozens of Christmas cards that were received from the pioneer O.F. girls who are now married and living in their own homes were: Jean (Morrison) Kent, Sally (Dillon) Hincks, Pearl (Daniel) Remillard, Joyce (Pritchard) Murdoch, and Florrie (Cowans) Vecquieray.

Mary Green writes and tells us that she is working as a cook in a logging camp and says "there is a lot of heavy work, and I love it."

Barbara Lukins has visited here twice in the last six months. She is at present working at Terry's in Victoria, where she will serve you a cup of coffee with pleasant dexterity. (I've had 'em—I know).

The following O.F.s gathered at the home of Miss G. Moses, Deep Cove, on Christmas Day: Bill ("Ginger") Meern, Art Fewings, Frank and John Danks.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Turner held a family reunion at their home, 1315 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver. Olive and George, who live in Vancouver, were joined by their brother Kenny from the school.

—A. H. Plows.

A man bought a house close to the railway station. Soon afterwards he wrote the railway company: "Gentlemen, I was prepared for a little noise and was willing to put up with it, but why must your locomotives ding and dong and bang and fizz and spit and pant and grate and grind and puff and bump and chug and hoot and toot and whistle and wheeze and jar and jerk and snort and snarl and slam and throb and roar and rattle and smell and smoke and shriek and scream all night long?"

#### O.F. STATISTICS

The following facts may prove interesting to Old Fairbridgians and our other numerous subscribers:—

Number of O.F.s who served in World War II 74;  
 WRCNS 2; CWAC 4; RCAF (WD) 2; RCNVR 13;  
 Army 30; RCAF 9; Merchant Navy 14.

Jim Lally was taken prisoner of war; Gnr. Tom Kemp and Sgt. Norman Alsop, RCAF, were killed in action. All others have returned from overseas.

As of January 1, 1947, there are 198 O.F.s in Canada, of whom 85 are girls and 133 are boys, ranging in age from 16 to 24 (paging grey-beard Walton). O.F.s married total 18 girls and 11 boys, and number over 21 years of age are 21 girls and 46 boys.

The latest survey showed the following percentages according to occupations:—

Boys	
Agriculture and Allied Occupations.....	27%
Merchant Service (including coastal).....	25%
Commercial and Service (including light and building trades) .....	18%
Heavy Industry .....	13%
Students .....	5%
Armed Forces .....	5%
Unclassified or Unknown .....	7%
Girls	
Applied Home Economics .....	50%
Commercial and Light Industry .....	17%
Housewives .....	13%
General or Unclassified .....	2%

#### THE VARIOUS FORMS OF GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED

Socialism—You have two cows—you give one to your neighbour.

Communism—You have two cows—you give both to the Government, and the Government gives you some of the milk.

Fascism—You have two cows—you keep them both and give the milk to the Government and the Government sells the milk back to you.

Nazism—You have two cows—the Government shoots you and takes the cows.

New Deal—You have two cows—the Government shoots one, milks the other and pours the milk down the drain.

Capitalist Democracy—You have two cows—you shoot one and buy a bull.



The above cut shows Ted Spencer on his saddle horse, Tiny, at Fairfield Ranch

## SPORTS NOTES

Sam Hancock - Sports Editor

### FOOTBALL

We have played more soccer lately than we have for numerous years. This year we have Mr. W. Chappell, duties master, as our coach and he has selected and formed three teams, the first, second and third elevens of different age groups.

The first eleven have played against Heaney's and Empire Sawdust, of Victoria; the Legion and Elks, from Duncan; the Native Sons, Qualicum; and Cobble Hill.

Our scores have been low this season, mainly due to the fact that this is our first year of real playing.

### BASKETBALL

The basketball season is in full swing. But our four teams have not played so very many games to date.

Our Junior Girls have played several games against Duncan and Victoria, which they won with a fair margin. The Junior Boys have played a game against Duncan and one against Cowichan Lake, winning the game against Duncan and losing with one and a half points against Cowichan Lake. The Midget teams have not played in the way of outside competition as of yet.

Mr. J. A. Gillatt has taken in all the necessary league entry files to allow us to take part in the annual basketball play-offs.

### OTHER SPORTS

Besides the usual seasonal sports already mention, we have a turn at Hockey (for the girls) and Badminton. Although Field Hockey is more or less a universal sport, it is only played by the girls, who, with the Rev. T. Hipp as their coach, have played one or two games with the girls' team from Queen Margaret's School from Duncan.

The children, all ages, some of the staff and O.F.s, have all been making the best of the heavy frosts that we have been having early in the New Year. Spending many an hour on the Carvell-Jackson ice pond, skating, sliding and sleighing, and some I think even went in for a swim (not to their liking!).

### THE SPIRIT OF BRITAIN

We shall go on to the end . . . we shall fight in France . . . we shall fight on the seas and in the oceans, shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air . . . we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing-grounds, we shall fight in the fields and streets and in the hills . . . We shall never surrender, and even if, which for one moment I do not believe, this Island, or even part of it, is subjugated and starving, then our Empire across the seas, armed and guarded by the British fleet, will carry on the struggle until, in God's good time, the New World, in all its strength and might, sets forth to the rescue and liberation of the old. Britain will fight the menace of tyranny for years and, if necessary, alone.

—Winston Churchill, 1940.

Editor's Note—The above was printed at the special request of one of our many readers. Also to commemorate the Battle of Britain. If there is anything you would like to see us print, please drop me a line in care of Fairbridge, and we'll do our best to oblige.

### FISHING

I have a fishing rod and line  
And I have lots of bait.  
I'm fishing when it's morning  
And fishing when it's late.

For bait I use a happy smile,  
Or else a pleasant word.  
The fish are just the strangest  
Of which you've ever heard.

For every day I fish for friends;  
I like to catch them too.  
Now help me fish for friends to-day;  
I like new friends, don't you?

—Leon Mendoza.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

On December 20 the children of the Day School presented Washington Irving's immortal operetta, "Rip Van Winkle."

Clement Gray and Phillip Field shared the leading role, Phillip as Rip a "n'er-do-well" and friend of the villagers' children, and Clement as Rip after waking from his 20 years' sleep in the Catskills.

Most of the school children took part in the play, and school trainees Sam Hancock, Jim Harris and John Cowans were prop' men and made an excellent job of scenery of the village and the Catskill Mountains.

A midnight communion took place at the Farm School Chapel on Christmas Eve, followed on Christmas morning with a well-attended service of the nine lessons, which is generally held on the Sunday following the 25th of December.

Lessons were read between the singing of carols by a representative from each cottage: Tommy Blackmore for Dultverton cottage; James Winthrop for Leybourne; Ada Thain for Hill; D. Clarke for Molyneaux; Brian Tibbles for Strathcona; Alfred Hughes for Lumley; Sylvia Cowans for the choir; Ken Braunton for Old Fairbridgians; and Mr. W. J. Garnett for the staff.

At the usual time, 5:30, all the children and staff, totaling about 120, sat down to the Christmas dinner at the dining-hall. As plum pudding was being served a telegram came from Santa saying he had left the North Pole (or whatever Pole he comes from) by jet plane and was expecting to land at Winnipeg any time.

Later after the tables were cleared, another message arrived saying he had left Vancouver in the fog and was expecting to find his way to Fairbridge by 7 o'clock.

Christmas stockings had been found at the bottom of beds that morning but the younger children were wanting a look at Santa in person.

No sooner had the excitement subsided, when in the doorway appeared Kris Kringie in full dress himself (Mr. Garnett (sen.) and, after much cheering, hugging and shaking hands, he was able to make his way to the tree, where Ken Braunton and Dennis Crawte assisted him in finding the right person for the right present.

After all, Santa couldn't call out the names, as there were quite a few new arrivals since his last visit, and besides, he had a cold!

—The Editor.

### AYRSHIRE NOTES

Since the winter weather has set in, the cattle have returned to their winter quarters in the new cow barn, and the calves to their pens in the same area.

Our herd of sixty head is slightly smaller than we have been keeping for the last five or six years, but it includes a larger milking proportion, of which we have thirty-four.

We have reverted to milking by hand as nearly all the trainees are accustomed to the milking machines now. This proves satisfactory, though inclined to be hard on the milk production.

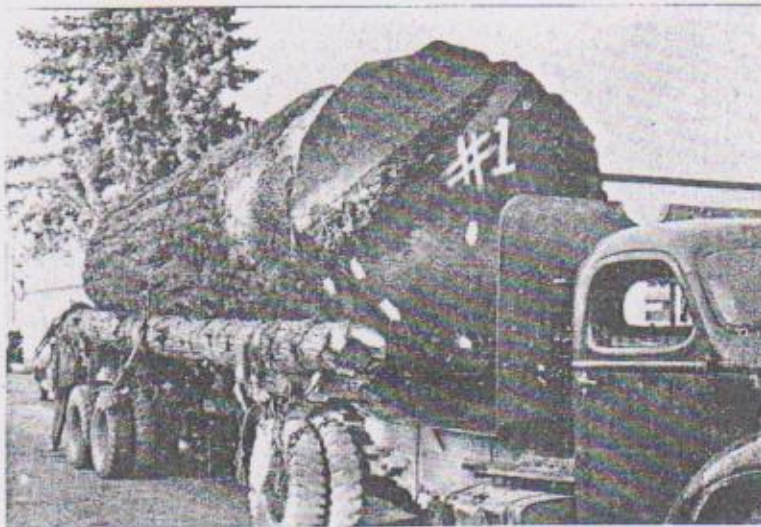
At present we have two bulls on the farm, Fintry Scholar (known as "Reddy") and our senior sire, Fintry Wallace. He is three years old and some of his progeny are developing into high-production cows.

It is of interest to all Fairbridgians to know that at the annual meeting of the B.C. Ayrshire Breeders' Association held at New Westminster on January 4, Mr. J. Brown and Mr. Don Morton were elected as directors, and Mr. Andy Macfarlane as vice-president.

Bob Stephenson was presented with the Hulme Prize a wrist watch, for being the highest boy or girl in the province for calf club work. He got 95.4 marks out of a possible 100 in the year's work on his calf club project.

Mr. John R. Paton, Bob's employer, writes to us: "Bob did well in the calf club. At our affair he received a nice cup for having the best calf in Langley. Besides the wrist watch he also won the Shannon prize for a new beginner for highest points. Our club also won the Ayrshire Breeders' Trophy for the five best calves. Three of the calves were from here. Bob also get a halter as one of the winning team —so you see he is right in there on top . . ."

—Leon Mendoza.



To the left is a picture of the large log, felled by Mr. Harry Mattin's loggers, who have been logging at the Farm School. Containing 21,000 board feet of lumber, it was cut down at the slashing beyond the cow pastures.

#### LETTERS FROM OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS

Barry Brown writes from Australia, saying, in part:—

It's good to hear of things going on over there. Just now I am driving a bulldozer type of tractor with a contracting outfit. We go around all over the country ploughing or doing anything that requires a bulldozer. It's a seven-ton affair that formerly belonged to the American Army, but was never used, and sold as surplus war goods. When the going is good and it is not too dusty to do ploughing at night, we can do about 140 acres a day. When travelling from place to place we live in a caravan.

A farm out here is considered small if it has only 1,000 acres, and most of them have only sheep and grain. It's becoming very hot and dry out here now, and one has to be very careful with fire, as there is a water shortage, hence other means have to be found to put out the fires. This place seems to be alive with rabbits, and at nights you can see them by the hundreds out in fields feeding.

Hoping all is going well over there. With best regards,  
Barry Brown.

And a letter from Trevor Stockbridge, who, as most of you know, is with the Merchant Navy, writes:—

I am now having a few days of rest here in Quebec, with a sore foot, much to my dislike, as I hate being cooped up in this hospital, but it gives me a chance to catch up with my letter writing.

I had an accident on the Oceanside coming from Montreal to here, and had to sign off the ship as I could hardly walk. I have been in here three days and expect to be out within the next three, and will I be glad?

From here the ship has left for Newfoundland, where I expect to meet her, and if there is not a place open for me, I will have to get another ship, and hope it will be to the U.K., as I would like to go and see my folks.

At least I have some company while I am here. There are four seamen from England and am I glad, as all the rest here are French, mostly returned veterans, as the place is run by the D.V.A. They put on two shows a week, which helps to break the monotony.

I do not remember if I told you that the Oceanside will be going to India on her next trip, which should be quite interesting and also quite miserable at times, what with the hot climate and malaria and that. So I really am not fussy if I make the trip or not, but I will let you know where I am as soon as I make my next move.

I wish you all the best and hope that the school is at its tops.

Next an account (very brief) of Phil Tipler's "Operation Interior":—

May 11. Four days previous to the I.W.A. strike I left and headed north, namely Stewart. Loafed around Stewart for a while. Worked in the mines. Tramped the hills. Led

the life of Riley for the better part of the time. Also lined up a prospect which naturally fizzed. Low finances. Loaded plane for a while.

Flew from Stewart to Prince Rupert. Stayed there the better part of a day. Hopped over to Burns Lake early in the evening. Slept at the lake that night. I say, quote, Burns Lake is an up-and-coming little community, worth while seeing, unquote.

Took off from Burns Lake. Terminating voyage at Fort St. James. There I was treated like a long-lost brother by all. I have never received such wonderful hospitality and friendship in all my travels put together as I had at Fort St. James. They invited me to their houses for meals. The local law asked me to a dance with himself and his wife. I resided there for three days and didn't have to spend a plugged sou. (I had it, too!).

Left "Shangri-la," going next to Vanderhoof. Stayed there one day. No comments.

Proceeded next to the great Prince George. Stayed four days. Encountered a small mill and worked there for two blistering hot days. Retired on the second. I, quote, do not like P.G. Unquote.

P.G. in my dust. Staying at Quesnel one day. I like Quesnel. Left Quesnel, stopping next at the W. J. Matheson ranch. Stayed there a day and a half, during which time I overheard conversation about being short-handed for harvesting. So big-hearted me offered my services, which were promptly refused.

This completed this summer's trip, but will be raring to go again next summer.

(Editor's Note: Barry Brown may be reached at the following address: 262 Rutland Ave., Carlisle, Perth, Western Australia. Tip at Holberg P.O., Vancouver Island, B.C., and Trevor in care of F.P.S.)

#### HOSTEL FUND DONATIONS

From May 1 to December 31, 1946

Arthur Newbery	\$ 2.00	Frank Wallace	2.00
Miss Bostock	10.00	Percy Millman	.75
Hal Skelton	25.00		
Ken Braunton	2.00		
John Dee	5.00		\$46.75
Receipts from sale of tickets (May 1 to December 31)			78.00
Balance, April 30, 1946			343.45
Grand Total			468.20
A Hostel Fund savings account was opened at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Duncan, with a deposit of			
Cash on Hand			440.55
			27.65
			—468.20



*Our New Cow Barn, 1946*

MINUTES OF THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS'  
ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Old Fairbridgian meeting was held at Spencer's dining-room, January 11, 1947, in Vancouver, B.C.

This was the first time a dinner was held and the meeting taken place away from the Farm School. Fifty people attended, including: Paul Conlon, Pat Webb, Christina Smith, John Danks, Pat Hood, Mary Duffy, Olive Turner, George Turner, Tom Turner, Math MacDonald, Tom Speed, Dick Speed, Vic Hughes, Lily Kemp, Molly Preece, Jim Dobbs, Jean Ryan, Fred Harding, Norman Richards, Audrey Richards, Mrs. Jeannie (Morrison) Kent, Pam Morrison, Enid Nicklin, Isobel Wylie, Ray Phillips, Alec Phillips, Molly White, Stanley Blake, Marj Arnison, Brian Strawbridge, Eunice Cockburn, Bill Cockburn, Bill Stoker, Catherine Stoker, George Pagden, Peter Wilkes, Dan Brayfield, Phyllis Gay, Peter Forest, Annie (Usher) Forest, Ken Braunton, Joe Jessop, Ian Cormie, Sarah Falcus, Mr. A. H. Flows, Mr. P. Schofield, Mr. W. J. Garnett, Miss W. Armitage, Mrs. Willis and Miss de Wolfe.

The dinner started at six with vegetable soup, green peas, diced carrots, mashed potatoes, roast chicken and country gravy. For dessert, sponge cake with vanilla ice cream, and pineapple sauce. Tea and coffee.

President Tom Turner called the meeting to order at seven sharp and asked Ken Braunton, secretary, to read the minutes of the last meeting.

Tom Speed asked if any special date had been set for an O.F. day (as was suggested at the previous meeting, December 26, 1945, by Alec Phillips). Later in the meeting it was decided that the second Saturday in January of each year (or the day the annual meeting was held) would be known as the O.F. day.

Alec Phillips followed up the business of the previous meeting by asking if Mr. Garnett had written to the prin-

cipal or chairman of the O.F. Association at Pinjarra, Western Australia, asking for advice and ideas that might be of value to us in establishing a clubhouse or a hostel. In reply Mr. Garnett said he had done the latter, and the chairman, Mr. A. E. Joyner, had written back sending his views of the situation and a plan of their hostel. These are now on the O.F. Association files in the office at the Farm School.

Tom Speed then requested an explanation of the meal ticket situation, which had been on trial for the past twelve months. It was passed that it should now become official and the proceeds to be turned over to the Hostel Fund as always.

Tom Turner gave his views concerning the election of officers and suggested that they be elected at the end or close of each meeting, rather than at the beginning, as has been the custom. The minutes were adopted as read.

Tom Turner suggested, and later it was passed, that we should elect a vice-president, and that the office be held by a girl. Alec Phillips followed up with his opinion that the girl would not only be able to take the place of president when he was unable to attend the meetings, but that she would also be needed to look after the girls' interest in the association.

The president then took the floor to hold an open discussion on the annual association dues. After much questioning, both pro and con, it was decided and passed that the fee remain at two dollars per head per annum and that the money would be put in a newly formed and separate bank account in Vancouver. This money would be used to supply O.F.s with their Gazettes, social activities, and towards the annual dinner. Alec Phillips asked if the money could be taken out of their savings account held at the Farm School office, but was informed that it should be sent by cash to the secretary-treasurer on or before May 1 of each year.

At their own bidding, T. Speed, P. Wilkes, V. Hughes,

K. Braunton, Joe Jessop, Paul Conlon, Olive Turner, G. Turner, T. Turner, D. Brayfield, F. Harding, G. Pagden, M. Arnison, M. MacDonald, Pat Hood, P. Webb, A. Richards and Norman Richards came forward and paid their dues. Tom Speed asked the secretary to make it his or her business to remind members who have not paid before May 1.

Mr. A. H. Plows, after-care officer, was elected as an honorary member, and very kindly gave a donation of two dollars to the Old Fairbridgian hostel fund, with the pledge that it would be forthcoming this time every year. (N.B. When the association was first formed in October, 1942, it was motioned and passed that the Farm School principal, in this case Mr. W. J. Garnett, would automatically become an honorary member and advisor of the association.)

Tom Speed moved and Pat Webb seconded and it was passed that the two dollar fee not only cover Old Fairbridgians, but also their wives or husbands, whichever the case may be.

Discussion on the location of the officers was opened by Tom Turner who felt that all the officers should live in Vancouver. Ken Braunton asked the members if it would not be better to have some from Vancouver Island as well so that in the case of a meeting he or she could inform the members on that side of the water, whereas the other members that are living on the Mainland could be informed by their Vancouver officers. After much debate it was proposed by Tom Speed, seconded by Dick Speed and passed that two of the officers should be from the Island and the other two, president and the secretary-treasurer should be from Vancouver.

At Eunice Cockburn's suggestion, the president asked for members' views as to holding a dance with our future meetings. Dick Speed thought it would not be possible because of out-of-town members who have limited travelling time. Eunice Cockburn continued by saying the meeting could be held while the tables were being cleared, and the dance at which outside friends could be invited may be held after the meeting. At this time Ken Braunton took the floor to ask members, that although the inviting of friends was a friendly gesture, that we should concentrate our efforts on the building up of our Memorial Hostel fund and other important Old Fairbridgian business. He felt that a dance at the time of the meeting would tend to cause distraction, but that arrangements could be made for Old Fairbridgians to hold a dance at a later date. Dick Speed seconded this suggestion, saying that by holding a dance at the same time we would have to spend more money than we could afford.

Tom Speed moved that Old Fairbridgian gatherings apart from the annual dinner and meeting would be at the decision of the officers. Eunice Cockburn seconded it, and the motion was passed.

In the interest of Old Fairbridgians receiving at least one Old Fairbridgian issue of The Fairbridge Gazette a year, Tom Turner asked that we form an office of Old Fairbridge editor whose duties it will be to edit and see that Old Fairbridgians get their annual issue. Alec Phillips made note that he would be willing to take on the post, but asked Ken Braunton, who had been performing those duties since November, 1944, if he would accept that position. Upon his acceptance, Alec Phillips then nominated him, seconded by Norman Richards and passed unanimously. Norman Richards then asked Ken Braunton if he would train someone (trainee) now at the Farm, so that in future years other persons would be available to carry out the duties of Old Fairbridgian editor. The Old Fairbridge editor replied that he would fulfil Norman's request to the best of his ability.

Mr. W. J. Garnett took the floor and told members that some arrangements were being made to collect and print monthly, the Fairbridge News columns that appear weekly in The Cowichan Leader. As of the present a decision had not been made, but Old Fairbridgians would be informed later if the above arrangements were to be made possible. At the same time he requested Old Fairbridgians to take note that he was not able to give personal attention to the wants and problems of the Old Fairbridgians as his duties as principal were to such an extent that he found it impossible. But informed members that Mr. A. H. Plows was after-care officer for the boys and Miss de Wolfe for the girls.

Tom Turner made mention of a gun club he had plans of forming and although nothing definite had been set as of the present, that he would contact all those who were interested.

Ken Braunton requested that the trainees who are about to become Old Fairbridgians could be fully informed of the association, its business and obligations. Mr. Plows guaranteed the members that he would fulfil the request before the trainees left for employment.

It was then motioned by Ken Braunton, seconded by Pat Webb, and passed that they pay only a one dollar fee for their first year.

While on the subject of trainees, Mr. Garnett mentioned the activities of the Trainee Club at the Farm School, news of which appear in each issue of the Gazette, and gave an open invitation for a few Old Fairbridgians to come over to the school at an appointed time, to take part in their debates and games, etc.

After there was no further business to bring up, the election of officers for 1947 took place. Tom Turner was re-elected as president by Tom Speed, seconded by Alec Phillips. Jeannie (Morrison) Kent was elected vice-president by Dan Brayfield and seconded by Dick Speed, and Eunice Cockburn was elected as secretary-treasurer by Pam Morrison, seconded by Pat Webb. All members were in favour and the elections passed.

Tom Turner then asked for a hand of thanks to Miss de Wolfe for her participation in the arrangements of the dinner and meeting.

Pat Webb moved that the meeting then adjourn, seconded by Joe Jessop and all were in favour.

#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader:

"The coming of the New Year is as much a time for looking back as for looking forward." Taking my cue from those words I give you in this 25th issue of the gazette, and my third letter, a survey of all the past gazettes and an outlook of the future.

Starting with our very first issue which appeared in February, 1939, under the editorship of Jim Lally, with Joan Buchan as associate editor and Frank Todd, Laurie Drape, Annie Usher, Eric Wheeler, Art Cain, Les. Snaith and Joyce Fritchard as reporters, Jimmy wrote an editorial saying he hoped the future gazettes contained sports news, boys' and girls' councils, farm, day school, visitors, editorials and cartoons.

I feel that Jim's hopes have been fulfilled, with one exception, the cartoon end of it. We have had the drawings of the Christmas cards and later ran cuts of scenes and activities at Fairbridge, but (and my face is turning red) we have not had any cartoons. Personally I can't draw. So how about some of our readers, both home and away taking a crack at it?

Jim, with the aid of his reporters and a mimeographing machine, printed another three issues that year covering various important events, including the visit to the Farm School of their Excellencies Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir, Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's visit to Victoria, the laying of the chapel corner-stone by Lieutenant-Governor Hon. Eric Hamber, and continued editorship until August, 1940, when Frank Todd took over the post.

After Frank's bout with a couple of issues, the trainee girls, who at that time were Olive Turner, Jessie Newbold, Edie, Phelps, Mary Green and Mary Ann Wilkinson took over the task until November, 1942. Following their series of popular and well-written (feminine) articles, Norman Alsop took over and prepared the first Old Fairbridgians' number. At that time the cadets were in full swing at the day school under the direction of Maj. Mel. Wilson.

Then in February, 1943, Joe Fenton ran the second O.F. number; and I see he must have had quite a "hungry" time writing up the Christmas feasting that year.

July of '43 saw the gazette take a most important stride. Casting aside the mimeographing machine, and for the first time, The Cowichan Leader took over the setting up type and printing of the paper. Yes, the gazette had really come into its own and became recognized as the official news informer for Old Fairbridgians, godparents and Fairbridge committees.

With Ronnie Auton at the typewriter the summer of 1944 issue was dedicated to O.F.s both home and overseas. This was the first time we ran our centre page feature containing the picture of all Fairbridgians who were in the armed forces at that time.

Seeing we have had quite a lot of numbers, facts and statistics elsewhere in this issue, I feel (and no doubt you do) that

\* From the Principal's message.

I should lay off for now and as I said in the first paragraph, put in a few words for the future.

Webster says the future is "of, or relating to, time to come." Take for instance the Old Fairbridgians' Association. If we quibble, lack co-operation, fail to pay our fees or show too little interest in it, then in time to come it will no longer be an association, but just an idea, something that had come and gone and was no longer to be. Yet if we do otherwise, play our role, take an active interest and pay our dues promptly and willingly, then in time to come our association will become a recognized society, our hostel will be a reality not just a hope. Funds will build up and there should be absolutely no limit to our program and activities.

Of course let's be sensible about the thing, we can't change overnight and 'waken in Shangrila, but, now that all O.F.s are back from overseas (the day we said we were always waiting for) and things are back to normal, I fail to see any reason whatsoever why we should not have something to show at the end of the year.

Heaven knows that we have enough people interested in us, not only people in England, but those right here in Canada. We must show them that we believe in them and have not failed the faith they have in us. I don't have to tell you that men and women are giving their time and constantly donating to our cause. We can't let them down, besides we owe it to ourselves, with our training and the chance we have been given. We, the Old Fairbridgians can, through our association show that the Fairbridge way is right.

We have elected our officers for the year, we chose the people we wanted, the ones we knew would toe the line. Then let's get behind them and let them know we have confidence in them. If you can't see "eye to eye" with them, then take the floor, so to speak, and tell them so. That is their job, to get out and carry through what you believe should be done.

If anything should arise and the president feels that you should be informed, then rest assured that you will hear from him and here, for those who might wish to contact him here is his address:—

1315 West 8th Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Closing, I would wish to remind you that the gazette and my services as editor are at your disposal. You elected me, therefore if there is something you would like to see, something you have in mind about the layout, then please don't hesitate to write. In the meantime I hope that our increasing number of readers have enjoyed this number as much as previous issues. And as a last word to O.F.s—How about doubling our Hostel Fund this year?

Truly and editorially yours,  
Ken Braunton.

#### WOOD FIRES

Beechwood fires are bright and clear,  
If the logs are kept a year.  
Oakens burn steadily  
If the wood is old and dry.  
Chestnut's only good they say,  
If for long it's laid away.  
But ash new, or ash old,  
Is fit for a queen with a crown of gold.

Birch and fire logs burn too fast:—  
Blaze up bright, but does not last;  
Make a fire of elder tree,  
Death within your house you'll see.  
It is by the Irish said,  
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.  
But ash green or ash brown,  
Is fit for a queen with a golden crown.

Elmwood burns like churchyard mould,  
Elm's dark sparkling flames are cold,  
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,  
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.  
Applewood will scent your room  
With an incense-like perfume,  
But ash wet or ash dry,  
For a queen to warm her slippers by.

Celia Cosgrove.

In September the trainee boys and girls called a meeting at the Principal's house to elect officers for their new Trainee Club. Sam Hancock was elected president, Leon Mendoza secretary, and Clem Gray treasurer. Committees for sports, entertainment and refreshments were also formed.

The first affair to be put on by the club was a corn and weiner roast which was held at Cedar Bridge. Next came the annual Hallowe'en party at which a dinner of sausages and pumpkin pie a la mode was served to all members of the staff at the Home Ec. After dinner the guests moved up to the gym, where the Duncan High School Boys' Band put on a concert. This was followed with our regular costume parade, the winners of which were:—

First, for boys, Peter Mein as Ichabod Crane.  
First, for girls, Christina Smith as a washer woman,  
First, for staff, the Rev. T. L. Hipp as a totem pole.

The party continued with games, such as "pin the tail on the donkey," blind man's buff" and "lucky dips." The event was brought to a close with a grand fireworks display and a bonfire on the playing-fields.

Meetings are held every fortnight at the Principal's house, where various subjects are brought to light. Debates are held. One very interesting one was "Brains vs. Brawn."

At present we are rehearsing a play, "Weather, Clearing," under the direction of Mr. Chappell, duties master. We hope and expect to present it in the gym near the end of March.

\* Of course, brains won.

—Leon Mendoza.

#### THE PASSING YEAR

Perhaps I should have said "The Year Gone By." Anyway the following is a collection of odds and ends having occurred here during the passing year, or as I said before, the year gone by.

Miss Sinclair's cottage, Laybourne, won the annual cottage garden competition this year, having best flower and vegetable gardens on the home-site. I hear that the onions were running three to the pound.

Gold badges were awarded by Mr. W. J. Garnett to Frank Danks for the highest marks in cottage, farm and school life for 1945-46. Agnes Taylor, Sylvia Cowans, Phillip Field and Ernie Mein were awarded silver badges at the same time.

The Ashley Cooper, Governor's award, which is presented by the Hudson's Bay Company, went to Agnes Taylor and Bobby Duncan. Bobby at the time was working at Fintry, and is now on a dairy at Cadboro Bay.

Sir Patrick Ashley Cooper was last at the school in October, 1945, when he was shown around the farm by Mr. J. Brown, farm manager.

Mick Pownall and Mike Hipp have really got a "fix it" radio repair company in full operation. If they can't mend it, it's a safe bet that you may as well throw it away.

Whereas poor Woolly the dog must have gotten at the least eight companions to trot around with now, and I'm sure if he could talk, or if I could understand dog lingo he would want me to mention, Penny, Flicker, Jet, Joey, Micky, Laddie, Paddy and Matty, who are apparently at liberty to howl in the moonlight with him.

A lengthy article appeared in the March issue of "LE" (Island Events) of Fairbridge with seven cuts showing some scenes of the kids (most are Old Fairbridgians now) working at their various chores here at the school. Later, in August, they carried a picture of Jeff Bulcock and Arthur McGee enjoying a slice of watermelon. Island Events is published weekly in Victoria.

And here's good news for 1947. Malcolm Macdonald has just informed me that the junior boys' basketball team are going to be Provincial champs, if not, then the Island championship or bust.

—K. J. Braunton.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ernie Todd, who won first place in calf showmanship in the Cobble Hill Calf Club.

Also to Phillip Field and Gordon Tonks, who have won awards in the same club.