



Fairbridge Gazette

SUBSCRIPTION:
ADULTS 10c — CHILDREN 5c

PUBLISHED AT:
PRINCE OF WALES FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL

VOLUME VII.

AUTUMN, 1946

NUMBER 2.



The Chapel

PRELIMINARY NOTE

This issue brings you up to date on local doings, and is the work of Leon Mendoza, School Editor. Next month we expect Ken Braunton, O.F. Editor, on a visit to the Farm, and will ask him to bring out an O.F. number, with letters from Old Fairbridgians and other material of interest to Fairbridgians, old and new.

—T. L. H.

Summary of Farm operations for the first nine months of 1946, reported to us for the Gazette by Mr. Brown for the Farm; Mr. Woods, Garden; Mr. Morton, Dairy, and Mr. Chap-pell, Poultry.

FIELD

January and February were rather wet and cold. There was very little frost: frost during both months being quite welcome to most farmers. March was quite a dry month, and we were able to do a lot of ploughing and other outside field work. April was also a good open month for field work, although rather on the cold side for grain seeding.

May is one of the most important months on a farm, and this year the weather was ideal for planting roots of any kind.

June was rather a backward month: there was too much rain, and the nights were cold, so that germination was slow, and the weeds got quite a hold owing to the wet weather holding up cultivation.

July came in very wet, setting back haying two weeks or more. The weather cleared up by the middle of the month and haying was completed in good shape. The crop was very heavy.

September is the month we really start to harvest all root crops: potatoes, mangels, beets, etc.

Pasture has been very good this year: the rain in June and July did a lot of good to grass land.

On the whole we have very good crops of everything, in spite of the weather causing a little worry sometimes.

GARDEN

The upper garden has produced two crops since February. It is now planted to cauliflower—Autumn Giant and Christmas White, and spring cabbage and broccoli. Cauliflower seed has been harvested from plants sown on the 15th of February, reproducing itself in seven months—a highly successful experiment.

The onion bed produced 50 sacks of onions, thanks to careful cultivation by (among others) the cheerful-looking gang of weeders pictured on the front cover of our summer issue of the Gazette.

The Lower Garden is cropping well; tomatoes are coming in freely at the time of going to press, but corn is late this year owing to several weeks of cool weather early in the growing season.

We have just received word that at the Victoria Horticultural Society's fall fair our Fairbridge garden produce gained 10 firsts (including almost all the staple vegetables: carrots, onions, beets, turnips, maincrop potatoes, cabbage, and celery) and four seconds—a highly gratifying result.



DAIRY

The two chief topics of interest in connection with the cow barn this year have been the Calf Club and the Red and White Show. These have already been reported elsewhere in this issue. So there is little left to cover but the normal routine notes.

In addition to the work described by Gordon, there was

a visit to Fairbridge by the Saanich Jersey Calf Club in August. The members received some practice in judging, and were given an explanation of the main characteristics of a good Ayrshire cow by E. Todd. Phillip Field gave the official placing of a class of four milk cows, for the visitors.

In connection with the show at Duncan, it is worthy of note that three of our winners: Buttercup, milking cow for over three years; Isa, junior yearling; and Imogene, heifer calf; are all direct descendants of our first foundation cow, Fintry Lily. Last year's grand champion, Ellen, was also grand-daughter of Lily. She was born in June, 1930, came to Fairbridge in May, 1935, and has had 105 direct descendants, including 18 milk cows now in the herd. The accompanying picture was taken in 1940, shortly before Empress was born on May 24. Leonard Smith, who was a trainee at that time, had just brought her in from pasture.

It has been somewhat of a shock to our good Ayrshire men to have had with us for a few days a Guernsey heifer belonging to Mr. Garnett, Sr., but she was discreetly kept in the horse barn, where the herdsman would not be reminded too often of his treason.

It has been rumoured that certain worthy members of the staff were picking blackberries in the same field as Fintry Wallace, and that they had to make a hasty and somewhat undignified retreat.

The herd remains at about 70 head, about 30 of which are usually milking cows. The rains in June improved the pastures this year and the milk production was above average. There have been 29 calves this year, up to September 1: 13 heifers and 16 bulls.

POULTRY

In a reorganization programme the hens were reduced to nil strength (as they say in the Army) in July. Meantime 550 pullets were on range in the orchard, most of which were transferred to laying quarters during August and September. They started to lay early in August, and were five months old on August 29, on which day a total of 97 eggs were laid. In August over 500 cockerels were purchased to range in the orchard.

Until new chicken houses can be built, the old houses remain in use, but have been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and white-washed and, as far as possible, brought up to modern standards of poultry-keeping.

CALF CLUB NEWS

In April, 1946, three of us boys joined the Cobble Hill Calf Club. We were each given a calf by the Farm, which we were to raise ourselves. We had club meetings at Cobble Hill, with a few judging trips before the fair.

In the Red and White Show in Duncan the Calf Club members had much success.

Ideal weather favoured the 37th fall fair at Cobble Hill on September 4, which the Calf Club members attended. The fair was opened by Dr. J. B. Munro, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for B.C.

With the aid of our herdsman, Mr. D. Morton, I think that the two other Fairbridge members, E. Todd and P. Field, and myself were very successful. I hope that next year's members will have as good success as we did this year.

—Gordon Tonks.

(Editor's Note: We would like to congratulate G. Tonks, E. Todd and P. Field on coming second, third and fourth respectively in their calf standing, being outdone by only one outsider.)

THE RED AND WHITE SHOW

(Ayrshire Breeders)

On August 29, approximately 90 head of cattle, 20 of them belonging to Fairbridge, arrived in the Agricultural Grounds, Duncan, for the second annual Red and White Show to be held on Vancouver Island. Fairbridge came second, with first place going to Haughland Ayrshire Farm, Cowichan Station.

The day dawned sunny and bright, and keen interest was shown by competitors and spectators alike. Fairbridge won the following ribbons and badges:—

(1) Yearling Bull (four entries), Fairbridge first with Fintry Jolly Scholar; (2) Bull over two years (six entries), second with Fintry Wallace; (3) Mature Cow, milking (eight

entries), first and second with Fairbridge Buttercup and Fairbridge Empress; (4) Mature Cow, dry (seven entries), second with Fairbridge Brownie; (5) Junior Yearling Heifer (nine entries), first with Fairbridge Isa; (6) Heifer Calf under one year (25 entries), first with Fairbridge Imogene; (8) and (9) Best pair of Dairy Cows, and Herd, Fairbridge second in each; (10) Junior Special: heifer calf born after January 1, 1946 (11 entries), second, third and fourth places to Michael Pownall, Gordon Tonks and Ernie Todd; (11) Senior Showmanship, 13-17 years (10 contestants), first, second and third places to Ernie Todd, Gordon Tonks and Michael Pownall. Junior Grand and Reserve Champion: Fintry Jolly Scholar.

We all hope that next year's Red and White Show will be as big a success as this year's. —P. Field.

CADET CAMP

On Thursday, July 4, the first party of five cadets left for a ten-day Cadet Camp at Chilliwack. We arrived at the camp at about 10:30 p.m., and, after being issued our bed clothes and fatigues from the Q.M. Store, we had something to eat, and then we hit the hay.

Our day's programme started at 6:30 a.m., with reveille, and continued until 5 p.m., during which time we had field-craft, small-arms training and range-firing, training films, fire-fighting demonstrations, and sports.

One night we all stayed to see a demonstration up at the range, where they had fired 3-inch and 2-inch mortars, using sand bombs, flares, Vickers, and Bren guns. They also showed us what a defence unit could do in action, and we thought the Vickers were best.

Each night after supper we were allowed to go to Chilliwack or Cultus Lake until 10:30 o'clock, but if you had a pass you could stay out till 1 a.m. At nights we would go bowling, roller-skating, swimming, or to the show.

We returned home on Saturday, July 13, having enjoyed our stay and through it made lots of friends.

—J. Cowans.

OUR INITIATION AT SCOUT CAMP

It was a scary night about 8:30 o'clock; our two Scout troops (Quamichan and Duncan) were sitting around a camp-fire singing songs. Around nine o'clock, while still singing merrily, we heard something groaning away down low; although some Scouts ran away, a few stayed and kept singing.

As we looked up the hill we saw five figures looking like ghosts, singing "Fifteen men on a dead man's chest, yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum." As they came nearer the fire, some of the more jittery type of Scouts got up and ran away. Most of the Scouts around the fire now were from the Duncan troop. The ghosts started by giving us one of the best with a thick paddle. They then picked out some Scouts and "clagged mush" over our bodies, put a lump of ice down our backs, and gave us a soapy sandwich to eat.

After all this we all had to be branded on the forehead with the sign of the leader, "The Hook"; we then had to kiss his sword and say, "I promise to be a good sport and play the game fairly."

To end the night's ceremonies we were all given a couple of whacks with the paddle.

—Tommy Meers.

GUIDES

In March, 12 Fairbridge girls joined the 1st South Cowichan Guide Company. We attend Guide meetings at Cowichan Station, and at these we learn such things as signalling, tracking, handicraft, knots, and wood-stacking and fire-fighting for our second-class badge.

We were very fortunate to see our Chief Guide, Lady Baden Powell, in Nanaimo in May.

In July we went to Guide Camp at Wilson Creek for a week. When we arrived at Vancouver, after a pleasant trip, we went on the tram-car to Burnaby, where we stayed over night with some friends.

The next morning we boarded a Union Steamship Co. boat to go up to Wilson Creek, and arrived there at about 1 p.m.

At camp we had Colours at 7:30 a.m., breakfast at 8 a.m., after which we had to work and have hut inspection. To

finish off the morning we could go swimming in the sea. After dinner at 12 noon we could go hiking, swimming or exploring; at 5.30 we had supper, then campfire.

While we were at camp some of us passed our fire-lighting, woodworking, and swimming tests.

After having a good time we came home on August 3.

—E. Riley.

SPORTS NOTES

R. Hancock, Sports Editor

THE LOCAL AQUATIC MEET

On August 15 we held our annual swimming meet down in the river pool. It was a very successful gathering and some keen competition was shown. There were open-style and breast-stroke races for both boys and girls, also some good diving was displayed in that competition.

Besides the usual community group of spectators, there were some visitors from outside points, among whom was Mr. Cresswell of the C.P.R., who donated a trophy to be given to the contestant making the highest aggregate points. This was won by Billy Emmerson. Also on this occasion Mrs. Willis received a presentation from the Old Fairbridgian girls as a token of their gratitude for her efforts on their behalf.

Highest scores were:—

Girls		Boys	
Dorothy Harding	13	B. Emmerson	17
Doreen Bryan	9	C. Gray	10
Mary Redshaw	6	E. Foster	8

LABOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was an ideal day for the track and aquatic sports. When we arrived at Lake Cowichan, a 20-mile bike race from Duncan to the Lake was in progress, so we were able to see the finish of it.

Although the sun was almost uncomfortably hot, all the events were run off smoothly. First the three-mile road race was held. This was a blistering grind. A representative of Fairbridge (K. Dobbs) took a close second, after running a splendid race. Then track and field sports were held for the rest of the morning. There were 100-yard dashes, three-legged races, wheelbarrow races, and relays, and high jump. All these took place for age classes from six to anywhere over 50. Good money prizes were donated for the occasion. Fairbridge walked off with a fair share of these prizes.

In the afternoon the swimming sports and contests took place. There were also excellent money prizes for these. The water was deliciously warm. In spite of keen competition, we must have won nine-tenths of the open races, back-strokes, breast-strokes, diving and relays. One or two individuals put forth so much effort as to pass out in the water, but luckily there were no casualties.

There were also tight-rope walking and loggers' sports.

The milling crowd was kept amused by gambling booths in the form of chuck-a-luck, darts, ring-the-coin, and potshots (or whatever you call it). Around the field were miniature stores where one could quench a thirst or subdue an appetite.

To wind up the day a fastball game was held at the school grounds.

I think it was agreed by all that we had an extremely enjoyable day, and we were somewhat richer at its close.

—R. Hancock.

FARMING

Farming makes the world go 'round,
 Feeds the city, feeds the town.
 And you can worry, work and strive,
 Yet farming keeps the folks alive.
 Raising corn and raising wheat
 So the folk have 'nough to eat.
 'Cause farming isn't any fun,
 Keeps a fellow on the run.
 Ploughing and sowing to be done,
 And faith in the weather to be won.
 Tending calves and milking cows,
 Putting up and filling mows,
 There's more work than you'll allow—
 Doggone farming, anyhow!

—Leon Mendoza.

MY HOLIDAY AT KAMLOOPS

I started out on my holidays to Kamloops one June morning at 10:30, when I was taken to Duncan to board a train for Nanaimo. When I arrived at Nanaimo I was taken to the Vancouver-bound boat and across to Vancouver with Miss Hunter.

My brother George met me at the Vancouver dock, and we ate supper together and slept at the Y.M.C.A.

Next morning we started out on the weary trip to Kamloops, arriving late in the afternoon. We were then picked up and taken to the ranch. When we arrived we were given a good supper and then went to bed.

The next day I was up at six to help my brother Tom milk the cows, feed the pigs, and collect the eggs.

On the ranch there were eight saddle horses, on which I enjoyed riding, and eight work horses; there were also 320 head of Hereford and Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

Later in the summer we started haying on two of the three ranches which are used for hay. While haying I was allowed to drive the tractor and rake.

My sister Olive came to the ranch later in the summer to stay for a few weeks. This was the first time that we had all been together for some time.

I went out rounding up cattle that were to be sold for beef; the second time I went out with Tom up China Mountain and brought down 20 head for fattening up before being shipped to Vancouver.

On Sundays we would go out riding to the ranches and over the hills or go shooting gophers or ground-hogs.

On my arrival back in Vancouver, on the way home, I went to Stanley Park, where I saw six bears, a lot of monkeys and birds, including canaries and talking parrots.

After a tiresome trip on the train, I was glad to be back on the old road to the School.

—Kenny Turner.

OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS NOTES

The O.F. girls have had so little mention in the past issues of the Gazette that we now apologize and try to even things up.

Eunice Cockburn is now on Clivy Street and making a home for brother Bill in Vancouver. Winnie Hardy, ex-corporal RCAF (WD), is in Winnipeg taking a year's business course. Joan Buchan leaves soon for England to be married and all best wishes go with her. Lavinia Anderson has just completed a holiday in the U.S. and intends to return to B.C. soon. Marjorie Arnison has joined Irene Robinson near Edmonton. Irene will marry soon and Marjorie is moving East with the same intention.

Helen Slaughter, after a summer's work at Qualicum Beach, has gone to work on a ranch near Falkland, B.C. Jo Lough is a nursing aide at Tranquille Sanatorium. Mary Batt hopes to stay in the Penticton area for the fourth season. Agnes Duffy, Margaret Caldwell and Margaret Wylie are all "Ogopogo" Boosters. They live, work and have fun in the Okanagan Valley's Kelowna. Jean Ryan is enjoying ranch life near Merritt.

Enough of the ladies! If we didn't Winchellize you in this issue, just wait until the next!

Sgt. Tom Speed spent a great part of his debarkation leave at the Farm School in September. Tom intends to stay in the Army for the present. Denys Beechey, after taking his discharge in the East, is moving with the harvest across Canada to B.C. Wedding bells rang out early in October for John Dee and a charming young Vancouver girl. Bill Renwick has taken his discharge but has recently injured his arm and is an out-patient of Shaughnessy Hospital. Hal Shelton is established in a floor-sanding business in Vancouver area. Dan Brayfield and Andy Anderson are partners in a power-saw outfit; Jim Dobbs is working with them at Shownigan Lake, cutting cordwood. Fred Bishop is holidaying at the Farm School after three years' farming in Sooke.

Andy Buglass has been farming near Duncan for some months. Another Merchant Seaman ashore is Ian Cormie, who is harvesting on the prairies. Fred Harding has suffered an unfortunate accident and has been laid up with a cut hand. Harry Sharp tangled with the "prop" of a trainer plane at Sea Island and suffered a fractured arm. Harry's hobby is flying and he has some airborne hours to his credit. Eric Winchester, after a year in Great Britain, arrived in

Canada early in September. It is possible that he will continue on his ship to Shanghai.

Rudolph Smith is now dairying at Hillbank, near the Farm School. Arthur Fewings and Billie Meers are farming in Saanich. Eric Lewis works with a rabbit breeder at Sidney, V.I., carrying on the work he started at the Farm School. Ronnie (Scotty) Milne is working at the golf course near Chilliwack. Victor Redman is successfully engaged in forestry in the Cowichan area under the B.C. Forest Service. Frank Wallace is ashore from Merchant Navy and is logging in New Brunswick. Bob Stephenson continues to pick up prizes in his work with Ayrshires. His latest success is a first for a calf exhibited at Langley fair. Derek Garside, injured at his work at Circle Bar Ranch, near Kamloops, is now resting at the Farm School.

Laurie Drape, married in April, is residing in Vancouver. Leonard and Joyce (Dean) Smith live at Sooke, although Leonard works daily in Victoria. Peter Wilkes works in a saw-mill near Duncan. Jack McNally has worked for Mr. "Andy" McFarlane, next door to us, for the past three months. It is a very long time since we heard from Alfred White, Ted Carr, Bob Fenton and Eric Wheeler, and we would be pleased to receive news of them from other O.F.'s. Don Collins has returned to his native city of Toronto and resides with his aunt and uncle. Henry White is in the same city and is working in the shipping department of T. Eaton Co.

—A. H. P.



"WOOLIE"

Although many dogs have come and gone from Fairbridge, none has stayed as long, or has been liked as much by children and staff alike, as "Woolie."

"Woolie," who is a combination of English sheepdog and wire-haired terrier, has been at Fairbridge here for a year and a half, and has been through most phases of a canine's life.

As he is made quite a bit of fuss of by the children, "Woolie" soon gets lonely at meal times, school hours or night time, so he cocks his head in the air and howls until somebody comes to stop him or play with him. He has his accustomed place by the Chapel door on Sunday mornings, and on one occasion he thought the service had lasted long enough, and expressed his feelings in his usual manner.

He enters so thoroughly into all our activities and is so much a part of the place, that we thought the readers of the Gazette would be interested in the picture we reproduce.

—Leon Mendoza.