

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Fairbridge Canada Association



*The Very First Party of Children Arrive at the
Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School
in September 1935*

Photograph courtesy of the University of Liverpool Archives, Special Collections Branch, Fairbridge Archives, D296.F4.

Look for *September 2013 Reunion* News included in this issue.

Christmas 2012

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FCA 2013 Membership Form Included

Fairbridge Canada Association*****Temporary*****Membership Fees should be sent to
Jean Conlon:

303 Dogwood Street

Parksville, BC

Canada V9P 1E1

jconlon@hotmail.com**Donations to the Fairbridge Alumni*******Temporary*****

Bursary Society can be sent to: →

Pat Skidmore

See address next column.

Please note that the FCA and FABS
have separate accounting systems.**Committee Members**President: Roddy Mackay: roddymc@comcast.netVice President, Human Resources and **Temporary** Treasurer:Jean Conlon, jconlon@hotmail.comPast President: John Hardy: jkhardy@shaw.ca (250-701-0447)Secretary & Gazette Editor: Pat Skidmore: patskidmore@shaw.ca
(778-888-6614)**FCA Directors:**Jock Bennett: jockbennett@dccnet.com

Stan Blake

Chris Brookshaw: pcbroomky@tiscali.co.uk

Fairbridge Canada Association Membership
Fees are due in January each year—\$30.00 year
 Membership forms can be found on the FCA website
 at: <http://fairbridgecanada.com>

**Let's Keep Current*****Send in your change of address and/or email address.***See page 8 for where to send
DONATIONS for the
Fairbridge ChapelSend correspondence &
material for the Gazette to:
Pat Skidmore
1101 651 Nootka Way,
Port Moody, BC
Canada V3H 0A1
patskidmore@shaw.ca



Roddy Mackay: FCA President

In September 2012, the FCA Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Board Members Doreen & Barry Hagen. The Board recognizes and appreciates the dedication and personal time that Doreen & Barry contributed to our FCA organization. FCA Membership Dues and other financial matters can be addressed to interim Treasurer Vice President Jean Conlon. Questions regarding membership fees can be addressed to Jean Conlon.

*The FCA Board held a meeting Oct. 25th in Nanaimo; business conducted covered updating and amending (1) our FCA Bylaws and Constitution (2) Planning and organizing our 2013 F.C.A. Biannual Reunion. We presently have two hotel/motel sites under consideration; our decision will be announced in the Spring Gazette. We did decide on Sept 10, 11th & 12th 2013 for our Biannual Reunion dates. **See Pat's special notice with preliminary details below.** Please mark your calendar and plan on joining your former school mates for the Fairbridge Family Reunion. The 2013 Reunion Theme will be "WE ARE FAMILY."*

Many of us have lost a loved one recently and are bound to suffer some sadness during this holiday season. We are all different, so there is no right or wrong way to handle the day. If you need help talk to a good friend or a family member, don't be afraid to express your feelings. Allow people to comfort you. They need to feel they are helping in some way. This is advice I received and intend to follow. Enjoy the beautiful memories of the one you lost. May you all have a wonderful Christmas surrounded by those you love? If I can be of help to anyone of our Fairbridge family, please call me at 831 899 3864, I will be happy to return your call.

May the New Year 2013 bring happiness and kindness to all our Fairbridge Family.

Roddy

Please mark your calendars and make early plans to attend.

Come and enjoy visiting your childhood friends whom you grew up with. With our ageing factor, we may not have too many more of these gatherings. So come enjoy it while we can.



2013 Reunion News

2013 Reunion Dates Have Been Set: mark your calendars

September 10, 11 & 12

PLEASE NOTE: these dates are mid week. We are attempting to keep the 2013 Reunion costs down wherever possible. Mid week hotel costs will likely a little less than weekend costs and ferry passengers with a senior's gold card travel free from Tuesday to Thursday.

The reunion will be held in the Cowichan/Duncan area and the FCA Reunion Committee are currently negotiating between two lodging sites. Updates will be in the Spring Gazette and will be on the website: <http://fairbridgecanada.com/>

We are fairly certain we can keep the 2013 Reunion costs close to our 2011 Reunion costs.



If you have any reunion ideas please send them along.

For your information— the 'hidden' cost in your weekend Reunion Dues include room rental costs for the Meet and Greet and the Biannual General Meeting, as well as the Reunion 2013 administration costs—such as the name tags, etc.

Britain's Family Restoration Fund

For information and for the necessary forms see the CMT Website at:
<http://www.childmigrantstrust.com/services/family-restoration-fund>

PLEASE NOTE: this fund might have a deadline—if you are planning to apply, don't put it off.

Pat Skidmore: FCA Gazette Editor

Christmas Greetings.
Please continue to send in
your Fairbridge News .
All the best for 2013.



Dick Speed, left and Bob Fenton—right—with their prize calves. A 4 page pamphlet in a local Duncan paper "I.E." March 14, 1946.

Correspondence News Highlights: **August—November 2012**

- Several pieces of correspondence from an Australian family looking for their 'Canadian' relatives.
 - Several wrote in with their thanks for the Gazette.
 - Had a nice talk with Cy Glentworth
 - Steve Turnbull—re his 1940 article
 - Ernie Hodge naming many faces in the 1940 photo
 - Pam Wilson, from Pinjarra Fairbridge Farm School
 - Mimi Nichols sent in her ideas for some of the children in the 1940 photo
 - Family members are looking for information or stories on Denys Beechey (passed away in the 1990s)
- If you can help please contact Su at:
 su.monkey@virgin.net (or write to Pat Skidmore)
- Dave Lorente—Home Children Canada—told me the Library and Archives Canada have 118,000 child migrants recorded from ship lists that start from 1865. (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>) and that there is a list of outgoing passengers at Kew Gardens that may contain earlier departures for Canada and other destinations.
 - Ken Armstrong keeps in touch via email
 - Mike Barnett—Pinjarra answered my email—I was looking for the actual date that the Fairbridge Farm

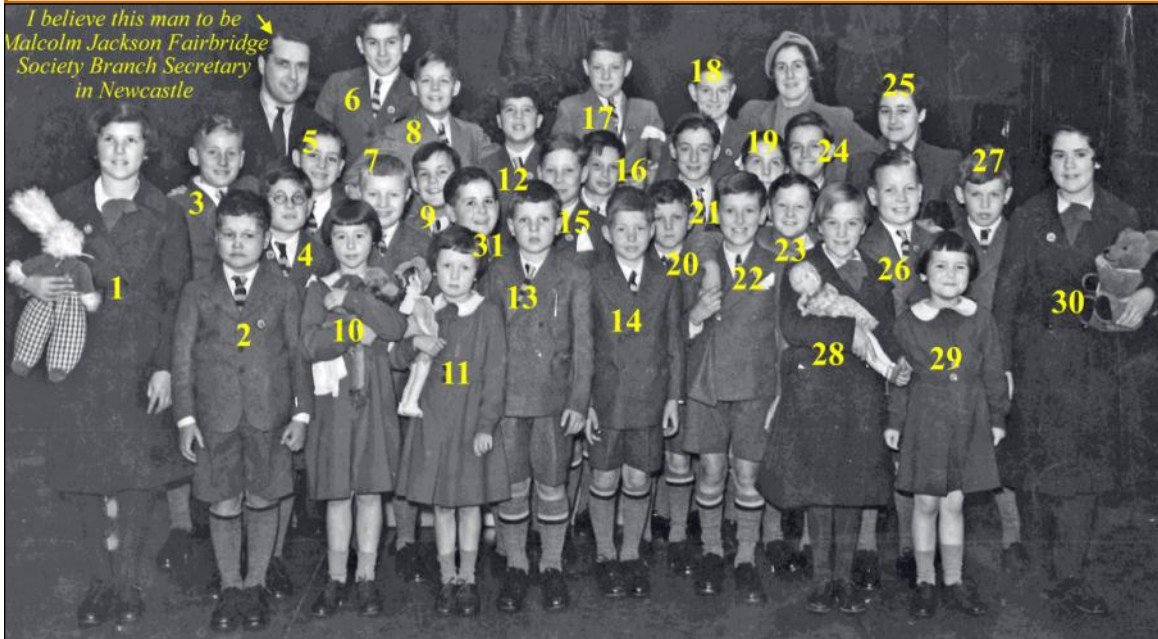
School opened there—it was in August of 1912, with the first party of 13 boys arriving in January 1913.



Mike Barnett sent a photo of the first group to Pinjarra.

- Berenice Speed with some of Dick Speed's early recollections at the Farm School. (see page 10)
- Phil Field with a photo of Eric Foster. (see page 9)
- John Hardy with news of Eric Foster's books and newspaper interview. (See page 6)
- Peter Gould from New Zealand (Rhodesian Fairbridgian) wanting news of how the coast fared the earthquake—luckily it didn't reach as far as Vancouver—this time! His house was destroyed in the Christchurch earthquakes.

*I believe this man to be
 Malcolm Jackson Fairbridge
 Society Branch Secretary
 in Newcastle*



- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Averil Ingram | 22) Ken |
| 2) Ken Turner | Turnbull |
| 3) Ed Meers | 23) Frank Collins |
| 4) Rudy Smith | 24) Alec Phillips |
| 5) | 25) Bernard |
| 6) Ken Braunton | Kynaston |
| 7) Fred | 26) Mike Pownell |
| Henderson | 27) Dennis |
| 8) Gordon Neale | Turnbull |
| 9) Leon Mendoza | 28) Irene Dobbs |
| 10) June Harding | 29) Eileen Ryan |
| 11) Ethel Riley | 30) Jean Ryan |
| 12) Douglas | 31) Ken Ryan |
| Townsley | Mimi Nichols |
| 13) | thinks that # 13 is |
| 14) Tom Richards | Mike Pownell |
| 15) Harry Sharp | (Nevard) any |
| 16) Ray Phillips | thoughts? |
| 17) Bob Bennett | Thanks Ernie |
| 18) John Bennett | Hodge for your |
| 19) | email. |
| 20) | |
| 21) Al Bettonie | |

The 1940 Group to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

—see the Summer 2012 Gazette for more information.

September 25, 1935 **THE TIMES** FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13 1935

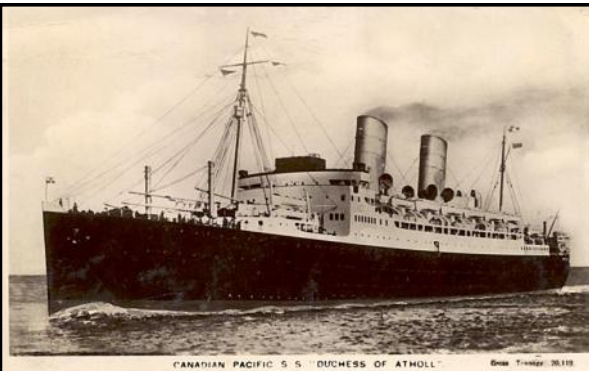
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Alsop, Benjamin | 23. Todd, Ernest |
| 2. Alsop, James | 24. Todd, Francis |
| 3. Alsop, Norman | 25. Todd, Richard |
| 4. Auton, Ronald | 26. Walton, Edmund |
| 5. Brayfield, Henry | 27. Warnock, Robert |
| 6. Brayfield, Daniel | 28. Auton, Peggy |
| 7. Buglass, Andrew | 29. Buchan, Joan |
| 8. Dowler, William | 30. Cowans, Florence |
| 9. Drake, Lawrence | 31. Dillon, Ellen |
| 10. Forest, Peter | 32. Dillon, Sarah |
| 11. Hunter, John | 33. Lister, Doreen |
| 12. Lally, James | 34. Lister, Irene |
| 13. Lister, Henry | 35. Lister, Muriel |
| 14. MacDonald, Mathew | 36. Morrison, Olive |
| 15. Morris, Frank | 37. Morrison, Mary Jane |
| 16. Monnington, John | 38. Phelps, Edith |
| 17. Pritchard, Keith | 39. Pritchard, Joyce |
| 18. Snaith, Leslie | 40. Pritchard, Mary |
| 19. Speed, Richard | 41. White, Molly |
| 20. Speed, Thomas | |
| 21. Spencer, Edward | |
| 22. Skelton, Hal | |

Note: there were 41 children in this party—some as young as 4 years old.



FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL.—Some of the first contingent of pupils of the new Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island photographed on their arrival at Vancouver from this country.

London Times October 19, 1935, p. 16



ENGLISH CHILDREN FOR CANADA

FIRST PARTY FOR NEW FARM SCHOOL

A party of 44 children, the first to leave England for the new Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island—which is being modelled on the lines of the original school in Western Australia—sail to-day in the Canadian Pacific liner *Duchess of Atholl* for Montreal and British Columbia. The farm, of 1,000 acres in the beautiful Cowichan Valley, was acquired by the Child Emigration Society early this year as a result of the appeal opened by the Prince of Wales in June, 1934, and it is now known as the Prince of Wales' Fairbridge Farm School. It is under the charge of Major M. F. Trew, who described it in *The Times* of April 22.

The 44 children, who are from six to 13 years of age, have been drawn from the Tyneside, Birmingham, and London areas, rather more than half of them coming from the first-named district. Since they assembled in London they have been fitted out with clothing and other necessities by a generous friend of the Child Emigration Society. Yesterday, on the eve of their departure, they attended a farewell tea party at the office of the Agent-General for British Columbia, Mr. W. A. McAdam.

In reminding the children that it was because of the generosity and interest of the Prince of Wales that their new school had been established, Mr. McADAM stated that he had received a message from the Prince, who had sent his best wishes for a good journey to Canada and for their success in the future. With the enthusiastic approval of the children, he sent a reply conveying their appreciation of the Prince's kindness and their loyal greetings.

SIR GEORGE McLAREN BROWN, European general manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, recalled that he and Lady McLaren Brown knew the site of the school in their young days, and told the children that they were going to one of the best places in Canada that he knew. They were going out to a school founded by a great man, and they would be given every opportunity to develop into useful men and women.

Among those present were:—

Mr. L. R. Lumley, M.P. (chairman, Fairbridge Farm Schools) and Mrs. Lumley; Sir Hal Colebatch (Agent-General for Western Australia) and Lady Colebatch; Mr. P. A. Clews, Sir John Davidson, Admiral Sir William Goodenough, Mr. C. F. Plant (Overseas Settlement Department), Mr. H. C. P. Cresswell, Brigadier-General E. Herbert, Colonel O'Kelly (Assistant Director European Emigration, Dominion of Canada), Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Mouat, and Mr. W. J. O. Newton (Assistant Education Officer, L.C.C.).

The children sailed from Liverpool on September 13, 1935, aboard the *Duchess of Atholl*.

Duchess of Atholl
Pat Skidmore Postcard

Extract from the Officer's Report, Sept 20, 1935—Quebec: The Fairbridge Farm School Party...were a fine lot of children all in good health and all very keen to be on their way. These children will remain on board the ship on its arrival in Montreal until about 5pm on Saturday September 21 when they will be taken to the C.P.R. Station and go forward on No. 7.

Extract from Miss Leamy's Report, Sept. 21, 1935, Montreal: The party of English children destined to Fairbridge Farm, B.C. Went forward on No. 7 at 7:05 pm train in two special tourist coaches...A very merry healthy group of children.

(both from National Archives of Canada, Imm Br. RG 76, Vol 375, File 510340, Pt. 2)

Children for Canada:

Mr. W.A. McAdam, Agent General for B.C., reminded the children that it was because of the generosity and interest of the Prince of Wales that their school had been established.

(London Times, Sept 13, 1935, page 9.)

First Contingent of British Children for Vancouver Island Arrive: Forty-one children arrive in Quebec heading for the Farm School on Vancouver Island.

(Vancouver Province Sept 20, 1935, p. 1)

Victoria Times Sept. 26, 1935, p. 1

**Children Cheered
As Farm Reached**

Party of Forty-one Boys and Girls Forming Nucleus of Fairbridge Farm School Near Duncan Settle Down to Duties in Happy Contemplation of New Life

Book News

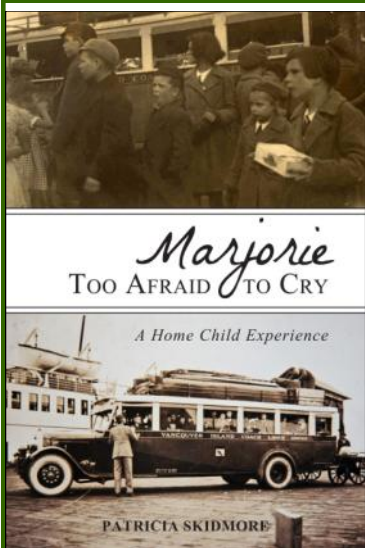
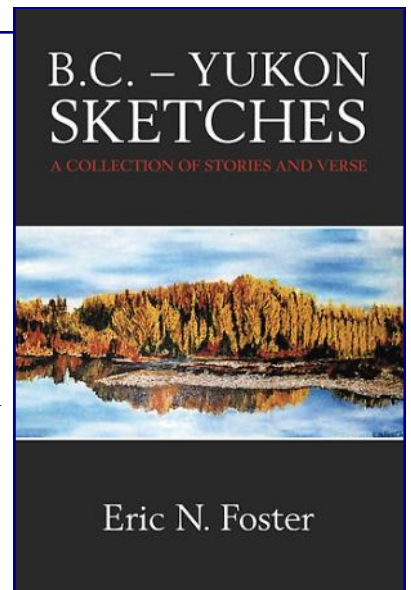
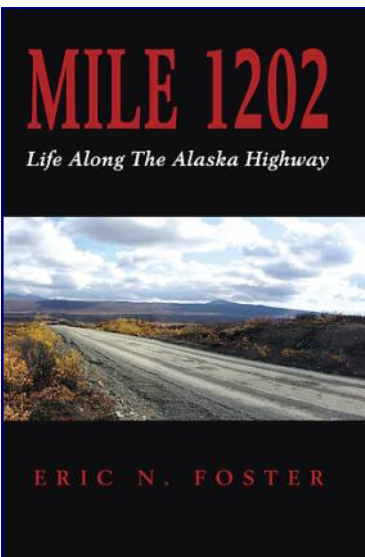
Two books by Eric Foster:

Mile 1202: Life in a small isolated town set in the spectacular panorama of the Yukon, delivered with detailed, factual incisiveness.

Eric Foster's book is full of the flavor of the Yukon in 1970. He went there along with his wife and family to teach school. He shows the hopeful spirit of the people who lived, worked and played in Beaver Creek. They held curling bonspiels, holiday dances, hunted moose and mountain sheep, and cavorted on snowmobiles as they enjoyed the cold for eight months each year. The four months of summer allowed them to grow vegetables, go fishing and enjoy the school picnic. Foster's story tells about tough people making their way with courage and

spirit. (Caroline H. Davidson Writer - Poet)

BC Yukon Sketches: Eric N. Foster explores two landscapes: the outer landscape of the small working towns of lumbering, mining, and farming as they were fifty to sixty years ago; and the inner landscape of a young man searching for a meaningful maturity for himself through working and talking with others as he meets them.



MARJORIE TOO AFRAID TO CRY

by Patricia Skidmore

Patricia Skidmore began exploring the story of child migration to Canada in the late 1990s.

This is Marjorie's account as told by her daughter. It is a story of fear, loss, courage, survival, and finding one's way home.

"This is a story of not just loss but of engagement between a mother and daughter trying to recover and record a personal journey that affected three generations. It will stand as a testimony to understanding the effect of separation from home and family on thousands of British child migrants sent to Canada and Australia."

—Geoffrey Sherington, Emeritus Professor University of Sydney and co-author of *Fairbridge, Empire and Child Migration*.

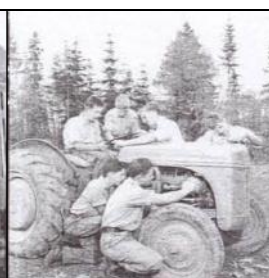
AVAILABLE FROM YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK-SELLER IN JANUARY 2013



DUNDURN
www.dundurn.com



Nicolas Morant photos CPR Archives 3571; 3572; 3273; 3574



Nicolas Morant photos CPR Archives 3576; 3578; 3606; 3613; 3614

Nicholas Morant: Part 2

This is Part 2 of the article Ron Smith put together on the photographer, Nicolas Morant.

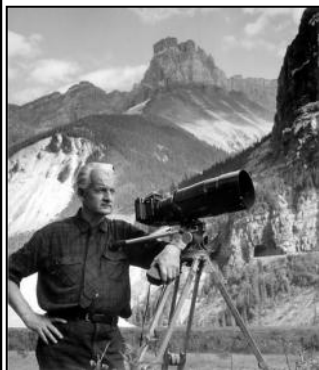
Visits to Fairbridge

Starting in 1937 the CPR asked Morant to travel throughout the country during the winter months giving special photographic presentations to audiences ranging from small groups of 50 to as many as 3,000. Two of his most popular engagements being, "A Talk Without Words" and "The World At Your Feet". At the same time as visiting the many communities he of course took more photos of not just the local railway operations but of every day life. One of the places he visited often during the winter and spring was Vancouver Island since by now his mother was residing in Victoria. He took many pictures of the city, and of course the Empress Hotel, steamship activity in the inner harbour and logging at various locations on the Island. Once the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School was established the Morants also came and presented shows for the children and staff. They were always well received.

The Fairbridge News column in the *Cowichan Leader* of April 4, 1940 reported "Mr. Nicholas Morant, Montreal, well known C.P.R. photographer and Mrs. Morant visited the school for four days last week and were able to get several good 'shots' of the cross-country run as well as pictures depicting school life, interior views of the new chapel and a group of all the school children.

On Thursday evening the children and members of the staff gathered in Lord Kenilworth Hall. Mr. Morant was asked to present the Cora Hind trophy to James Lally for winning the annual cross-country run; and also to present bronze badges to the four house leaders in the inter-house competition for points given for work for school, for sports and for discipline. The four boys were William Renwick (Blue House) Kenneth Bennett (Maroon), John Newell (Black), and Arthur Worsnop (Green)." In late October the Morants along with Mrs. Morant senior again made a brief visit to the school.

It would not be until October 1946 that the Morants would once again visit the school for a few days and take



more pictures but mentioned "Mr. Morant is a great favourite with the children and has a happy knack of catching them with his camera in natural poses." (*Cowichan Leader*, Oct. 24, 1946) It was during this visit that he took the picture of Ron Hancock 'doctoring' the patient.



Over the years many of his photographs of Fairbridge have been printed in the Gazette, both during the 1940's and in more recent editions, in publications of the Fairbridge Society as well as on web sites. He took some of the very first pictures of the inside of the new chapel in 1940 and of course life around the school. A number of his Fairbridge photos are with the Canadian Pacific Railway archives in Montreal and a few (11 photos and some black and white negatives) are in the Nicholas Morant fonds at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff, Alberta.

A 50 Year Career

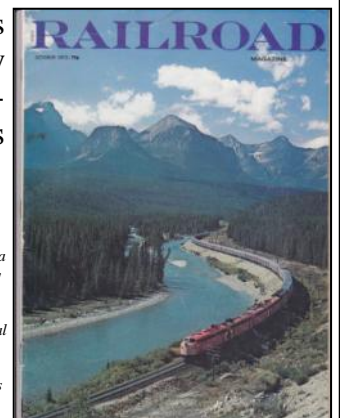
While working for the CPR for 44 years and living in Banff Nick and Willie crisscrossed Canada on passenger trains, to and from assignments photographing all aspect of the company from trucks to trains, ships, hotels and the airline, their mines, logging operations and of course many, many people, places and events. His work appeared in numerous books, national and international magazines, including two CPR publications, *The Spanner* and *Rail News* as well as on postcards, Canadian postage stamps and on former \$1, \$10, \$50 and \$100 Canadian bank notes, on railway timetables and brochures. Two books by John Garden; Nicholas Morant's Canada (1998) and Nicholas Morant's Canadian Pacific (2002) present some of his finest images. Before he retired in 1981 he had taken thousands of photos. Many are catalogued and preserved and at the CP Archives, in the Whyte Museum and Archives Canada in Ottawa.

In 1990 he was awarded the Order of Canada and in 2007 was made a member of the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame, posthumously as he had died in Banff in 1999. There is one section of Canadian Pacific Railway mainline that he made world famous and will forever be known as Morant's Curve. It is located just east of Lake Louise off the Trans-Canada highway on what is now highway 1A (Bow Valley Parkway). He took some his most iconic photographs at this spot; of freight and the streamlined CP passenger trains as they snaked around a curve beside the Bow River with the beautiful Rockies framed in the distance, in every season, for many years. A fitting tribute to one of Canada's great photographers.

Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King and Hon. Louis St. Laurent



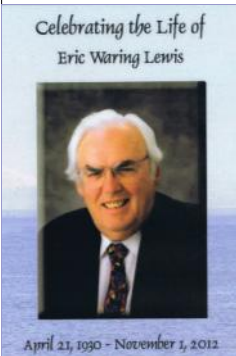
broadcasting a message to Canada on VE-Day, 8 May 1945 from San Francisco when attending the initial meeting of the United Nations. (photo by Nicholas Morant) Archives Canada c22716



Morant's Curve
photo by Nicholas Morant



CARVER, Jessie Craft (Newbold) May 3, 1925 Oct 12, 2012 It is with great sadness I announce my Mum's passing after an extended illness. Jessie was a Fairbridge farm school kid, arriving on Vancouver Island in 1937 from Scotland, the 3rd group to do so. She loved life at the school. From there she joined the Canadian Army. Several years later she married, moved to Illinois and had 1 daughter, Heather. She retired after many years from Caterpillar Tractor Company in 1987, then returned to the Duncan/Crofton area where she resided upon her death. Scottie, as she was known by close friends, was a great friend, an animal lover, honest and very hard working. She was quick witted with a very dry sense of humour that friends always enjoyed over a cup of coffee. She is survived by her daughter Heather Phillips, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren of Florida, two brothers, Norman and Vic Jackson and one sister, Beth Newell all residing in Great Britain. She will be truly missed and fondly remembered. As per Jessie's wishes, no service will be held.



LEWIS, Eric Waring Eric was born in Suffolk, England on April 21, 1930. He passed away in Victoria, BC on November 1, 2012. He was sent to Canada in 1938, where he attended Fairbridge Farm School in Duncan, BC. At age 16, he worked on a rabbit farm and then was employed by CPR Steamships Co. He worked as a steward on the Victoria - Vancouver route in 1947. After working his way to New Zealand, he jumped ship the day the boat left New Zealand for return to England in March 1949. While in New Zealand he owned and operated a barber shop in Huntly, North Islands. He left New Zealand for Canada in 1953. Eric worked for National Motors selling Fords and in 1957 opened Ensign Motors. He became a Chrysler dealer with Peter Dixon and sold out to Dixon in 1967. He bought nine acres at Mount Newton Cross Road and Patricia Bay Highway. He built Big Louie's Drive In and opened it in 1968. The business was rebuilt into Voyager Restaurant in 1972 and rebuilt again in 1978 to the Waddling Dog Inn. The business was sold in 1991. Eric married Doris Lewis (nee Elander) in 1954. They had six children, Tony, Cindy (Ron), Michelle, Michael (Barb), Douglas and Gregory (Marissa). The marriage ended in divorce in 1989. Eric married Audrey Lewis (nee Duncan) in 1992, gaining a second family of five children, Susan, Julie, Heather (Darren), John and Bob (Patti). Many grandchildren and extended family and friends. Eric was President of the Union Club from 1992 to 1994.

The Fairbridge Chapel News: Fall 2012

<http://fairbridgechapel.com>

The last of the three weddings was held on September 29th and so far we have only had a single inquiry for 2013. We have 75 weddings listed in the Chapel Registry since 2000. (Plus one or two who did not use the registry)

In July we had a donation of another organ from Nancy and Don Merry. It was originally owned by Verna Benjamin, the first President of the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society. We have put a small plaque on the organ which at present is in the front storage area and will be used as a back-up for the present larger one now in use.

There was only some minor work done at the chapel this summer and fall along with the painting of the east side of the school house and cleaning some sections of the eve troughs.

The clock is keeping good time although we still need to work on the minute hand so the hour strike shows them at the top instead of 5 minutes to the hour.

We were just notified that we did not get the grant from Farm Credit Canada We have put in applications three years in a row without any luck. We are going to have to go slow with future improvements at the historic site. There seem to be very few other grants now from senior levels of government.

We will have to raise funds in other ways and postpone large projects until we can build up the *piggy bank*.

Should any Fairbridgians wish to donate anything it will be much appreciated and I will get the tax receipts out to everyone – because I am out of the country at the moment – it will be towards the end of January. Some of the 2013 projects that will likely have to be put on hold are: painting the trim around all the chapel windows, re-pointing the cement entrance at the rear, cleaning up the garden areas, and upgrading the irrigation system.

Ron Smith

**The Fairbridge Carol Event will be held on
Sunday December 9, at 2:00 pm.
Everyone is Welcome.**

The Fairbridge Canada Association Board is encouraging members to support the Fairbridge Chapel Society. For instance, you could consider the Chapel in your estate planning.

**Send Fairbridge Chapel
DONATIONS to:**
Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society
4791 Fairbridge Drive,
Duncan, BC V9L 6N9
*Include a return address for your
income tax receipt.*



We had four successful Bursary Applications for this year.

Donations help to ensure that the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society has a future.

Thank you

Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society
Registered Charity Number
89079 2047 RR0001
Incorporated October 17, 1989

2011 Executive Members:

Pat Skidmore President

Treasurer NEEDED

Directors:

Doreen Hagen

John Hardy

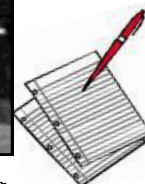
Roddy Mackay

Theresa Shelley

Joan Skidmore



Photo courtesy of Ken Armstrong



AROUND TOWN

From the Ladysmith and Chemainus Chronicle: "Saltair resident publishes two books about the Great White North. Eric told the reporter that: "I have always had a flair for writing. But it wasn't until I got to the Yukon that I figured I had something to write about."

Eric arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the November 8, 1941 party.

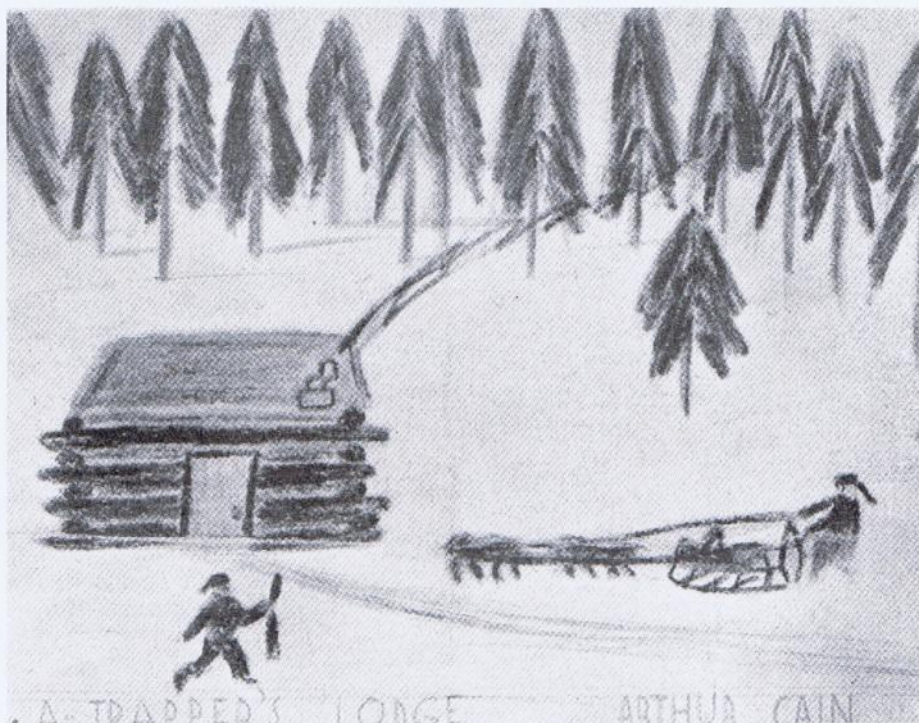
See page 6 for information on Eric Foster's books.



Eric Foster enjoying his dessert served in a former Fairbridge Farm School metal dish. *Photo sent in by Phil Field.*



A little bit of snow that winter at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School—does anyone recognize any of the girls? Irene Robinson, Dorothy Hood—facing each other, and perhaps one of the Duffy girls?



All the older children submitted cards of their own drawing in a Christmas Card Competition. This of Arthur Cain's was judged best. It is entirely original.

Arthur Cain—A Trapper's Lodge—his card won this Christmas card drawing competition.

Fairbridge Gazette

First published in 1939.



Look for your

**Next Gazette:
Spring 2013**

Berenice sent in Dick Speed's Recollections of Being Part of the First Group.

The Boat journey: Dick recalls being sea sick for 3 days and lying in his bunk. He remembers waking up and seeing ice-bergs. He remembers disembarking at Quebec City but not how long they spent there. They got on the train in Quebec City. [Note this party stopped in Quebec City—but went on to Montreal where they caught the train to Vancouver.] Dick recalls commenting to the official CPR photographer assigned to the journey, Nicholas Morant, about "glaciers" and his response was "We've got them and we call them what we like-- "glaciers".

There were 41 in the first group and upon arrival at the farm school there was no school, no church and no flagpole. He recalls the First Nations Logger from Cowichan Bay who carved the flagpole and placed it on site.

There were 4 cottages already built. One for the nurse and hospital, 2 boys cottages and one girls cottage. There was also a small cottage for the cook, Joe Lewis. The dining hall was built and there were some extra rooms attached to it used for the school until the school was built. He recalls there being lots of hummingbirds. The principal was Major Trew who had been a Major in the British Army and he had a rifle. The Board of Governors basically from Victoria were not too enamoured of Major Trew and his rifle so he was only there for about 1 yr. Some of the older boys liked him because he would take them out to shoot birds which did not go down well with the Canadians!!

The Farm Manager was Jack Brown and Bill Reid was the senior teamster. Both men were Scots.

Don Morton was the herdsman, "a well educated Englishman."

Alf Lincoln also an Englishman was in charge of the market garden.



Fairbridge Farm School Cottage

Photo courtesy of Dick Speed.



More Morant Fairbridge Farm School Photos



Mimi Nichols wrote in to say that she believes the boy on the left to be Tommy Blackmore

Do you have a story or a photo that you would like to share?
How about a story of *spring planting at the Fairbridge Farm School*? Send it in for the Spring Gazette.

The deadline for submission for the next issue is:

March 15, 2013

WANTED COLUMN

Are you looking for a long lost friend?
Confirmation of a Fairbridge Memory?

Send in your requests to our
WANTED COLUMN.

We will do our best to help.



Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Form 2013 Membership fee: \$30.00

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please forward to: Jean Conlon, 303 Dogwood Street, Parksville, BC, V9P 1E12

Fairbridge Canada Association 2013 Membership Form



Your FCA Membership entitles you to voting privileges at the
2013 BGM.

Come out and have your say at the 2013 BGM
Look for September 2013 Reunion Details in the Christmas Gazette

Please forward to the FCA Temporary Treasurer:
Jean Conlon, 303 Dogwood Street, Parksville, BC, V9P 1E12