

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Fairbridge Canada Association



Spring 2012

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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>

Fairbridge Canada Association Membership
Fees are due January 2012—\$30.00 year
 Membership forms can be found with the mailout
 of this Gazette and on the FCA website at:
<http://fairbridgecanada.com>

Spring Time Joke

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. Camille, age 10

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. Martin, 10

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, wouldn't want to mess with that. Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? Kelvin, age 8

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. Ricky, age 10

Sent in by Joan (Vallentin) Martin

Committee Members—your new and returning executive:

President	Roddy Mackay	roddymc@comcast.net
Past President	John Hardy	(250-701-0447)
Vice President	Doreen Hagen	(250-751-2086)
2nd Vice President	Jean Conlon	
Treasurer/Memberships	Barry Hagen	(250-751-2086)
Minute Recorder, Correspondence Person &		
Fairbridge Gazette Editor:	Pat Skidmore	(778-888-6614)
FCA Directors:	Jock Bennett	
	Stan Blake	
	Chris Brookshaw	

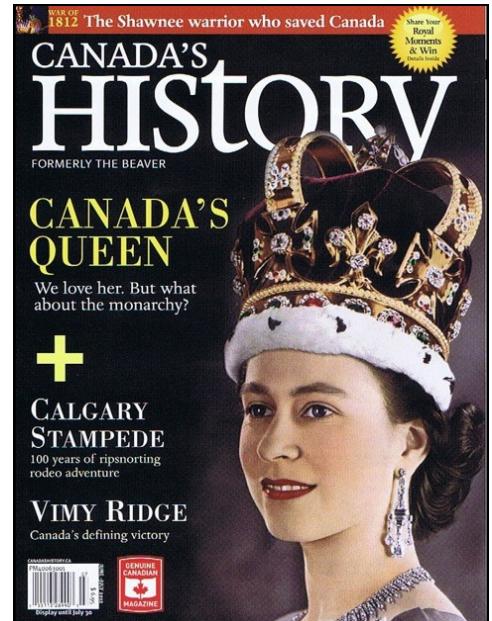


Let's Keep Current

*Send in your change of address
and/or change of email address.*

The June/July issue of *Canada's History* has a story about a Former Fairbridgian.

See top of page 11 for details on how to get Steve Turnbull's article on his father's early life.



NOTE: Barry Hagen is now the Treasurer of both the FCA and FABS accounts—but they have two separate accounting systems. If you are sending a donation to the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society, please clarify that and send them to Barry Hagen, addressed FABS Treasurer. If you are sending donations or FCA Membership fees, please send them to Barry Hagen, addressed FCA Treasurer.

Send material for the Fairbridge Gazette and correspondence to:

Pat Skidmore

1101 651 Nootka Way,
Port Moody, BC
Canada V3H 0A1
patskidmore@shaw.ca

Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Fees should be sent to:

Barry Hagen

FCA Treasurer

5549 Clipper Drive
Nanaimo, BC
V9T 5M7

dbhagen@shaw.ca

DONATIONS to the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society should be sent to:

Barry Hagen

FABS Treasurer

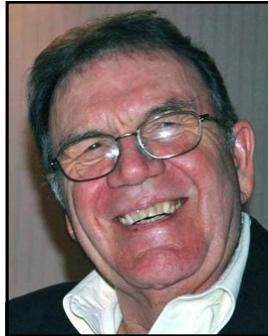
5549 Clipper Drive
Nanaimo, BC
V9T 5M7
dbhagen@shaw.ca

DONATIONS to the Fairbridge Chapel should be sent to:

Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society

4791 Fairbridge Dr
Duncan, BC
V9L 6N9

Please include a return address so we can send you an income tax receipt.



Roddy Mackay: FCA President

March 24, 2012

Greetings to all, hope you have stored the winter coats in the closet and are ready to welcome in a warm beautiful spring followed by a summer of sunshine. It has come to our attention that some members did not receive the Christmas Gazette. If you are one who did not receive the Gazette please let Pat or myself know, so we can put one in the mail. Following our recent board meeting March 27th 2012 it was decided to send a special mail out notice, reminding members to send in their annual dues. There was also a questionnaire to complete and return the form to our FCA treasurer Barry Hagen. To better serve you, we ask your cooperation in returning that questionnaire. In spite of a bout with the seasonal flu, my trip up from California for the FCA & FABS meetings in Nanaimo was productive. We owe special thanks to Past President Phil Field for his many hours dedicated to the production of procedural manual for FABS. I can assure you that the 2012 board members of the FCA are hardworking dedicated volunteers, and I am proud to serve as your President. I would really appreciate hearing comments, questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you and our FCA organization.

Cheers to all

Roddy Email roddymc@comcast.net

"The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes." Winston Churchill.

IN ORDER TO REDUCE OUR MAILING COSTS FOR THE F.C.A. GAZETTE WE WOULD APPRECIATE THOSE MEMBERS WHO CAN AND ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE THE GAZETTE FROM OUR FAIRBRIDGE CANADA WEB SITE PLEASE LET PAT & DOREEN KNOW.

PAT'S EMAIL: patskidmore@shaw.ca

DOREEN'S EMAIL: dbhagen@shaw.ca

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

**The following motion was passed at the biannual meeting on September 17, 2011.
"Members should no longer receive the Gazette if in arrears for two or more years."**

YOUR GAZETTE'S FUTURE

This past year has been a struggle to maintain the Gazette in the same manner as it has been for the past few years. The cost of printing and mailing is constantly going up, and the number of memberships are going down.

The FCA set up the Fairbridge website (<http://fairbridgecanada.com>) with the hopes that some would be able to print their Gazette from there, but for many, this is not an option. The Survey sent out by the FCA shows that most prefer to have a copy mailed to them.

See page 9 for Doreen and Barry Hagen's Survey Results and for the list of paid members.

We are working on how to produce a Gazette that is within the FCA's budget. I am looking at other layout options for the Summer Gazette, along with the possibility of posting a regular sized Gazette on the website and mailing out a smaller version. I will try to be creative and still stay within the budget.

I did not mail out any Gazettes in 2011—if you were unable to access the Gazettes and wish back copies, please contact me: patskidmore@shaw.ca or at 778-888-6614

Pat Skidmore



Pat Skidmore: FCA Gazette Editor

I would like to take this time to honour Dr. Ronald Hancock: November 2, 1930—December 31, 2011.

Ron arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School in August 1938. He was not yet 8 years old.

I attended Ron's Celebration of Life on February 11, 2012, as did over 400 other people, and among them were many Former Fairbridgians.

His wife, Chinami asked me to speak. First I expressed condolences from the Fairbridge Canada Association along with the entire Fairbridge Family. Then, in part, I said: *I didn't really get to know Ron until I became involved with the Fairbridge Canada Association in 2001. In 2004, Ron was among those who encouraged me to come on board and be more involved in the Association. Ron was President at that time and continued to be so for the next several years.*

I have come to realize that when I find myself in a working environment – be it paid or volunteer work, and everything just run smoothly - rather than question it, I simply accept it 'as is.' It was not until after Ron stepped down as the Fairbridge Canada Association President in 2009 that I realized what a gem he was to work with.. It was while working with Ron on Fairbridge issues, where I caught a glimpse of the type of teacher that he must have been.

He had a quiet way of letting things be. He showed, without saying a word, his trust that you would get the job done. He never belittled or berated your efforts. He didn't need to. Ron's style of leadership encouraged those around him to give their all, to do their best. He exuded a quiet confidence that rubbed off on those around him. That was the Ron I got to know and love.

Ron was President of the Fairbridge Canada Association from 2004—2009. I do not have the complete list—but Ron was also President of the Old Fairbridgian Association during the 1950s—some of the early Gazettes from this time when Ron was President can be found on the Fairbridge website at <http://fairbridgecanada.com/gazette.html>.

At the end of his President's message in June 1950, Ron suggested: "...what mankind needs most in this unsure age is comradeship and all it entails. Comradeship is, or should be, the basis and essence of our [Old Fairbridgian] Association."

In the July 1951 Gazette, Ron talks about **Hope**. "Without Hope, human life becomes meaningless. We must have Hope; we hope for a better job, higher pay, lower living costs. We hope for success, security, and the admiration of our fellows... No philosopher or thinker has fully explained life and its endless complications—nor is this feasible. It would seem however that Hope constitutes a large and definite phase of human existence. Hope that is coloured by our past, makes our present bearable, and has its 'substance' in the future. Hopes that are positive or negative (fears), emotionally intense or weak, justifiable or illogical, specific or vaguely indefinable, form a constant maize of human experience. If bread is the physical 'staff of life', it would seem that Hope is the 'intellectual and emotional staff of life.' Yet Hope, whether centered upon an increase in pay, occupational success, or the strengthening of an organization such as the Old Fairbridgian Association (now the Fairbridge Canada Association) will ultimately lose its effectiveness as a motivator if it is not externally fed.

Ronald J. Hancock, May 12, 1951

What struck me the most from President Ron's messages from the 1950s, is that his words are as relevant today as they were in the nineteen fifties.

We miss you Ron!



Ron Hancock, 1938.

Chinami told me that: "...this photo was in Ron's wallet for so many years (until 1980). When he showed it to me it was almost broken into pieces. I asked him if this was so important for him I will take it to the photo studio and ask them to restore & to enlarge it. His answer was "Can you do that? This is the only photo of my childhood that shows my face clearly. That would be great!" This is how the photo exists today. Photo courtesy of Chinami Hancock.

See page 13 for Ron's Obituary

Pat Skidmore



Correspondence News Highlights: December 2011 to February 2012

This term has been quieter than normal. I received about 180 emails between December 1, 2011 and February 29, 2012. The highlights are below.

February 2012

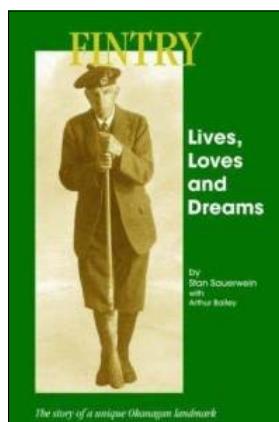
- Ron Smith—Fairbridge Basketball Story and Weather Balloons Article attached for Spring Gazette as well as mention of a small brochure—“A short Guide to The Fairbridge Chapel” that will be posted on the Chapel Website and available at the Chapel.
- Steve Turnbull: telling he was given a copy of the photo that was taken of the Fairbridge party bound for Quebec and Montreal in April of 1940 from the Liverpool University Archives. See page 11 for details of his article just published in the Canada’s History magazine.

January 2012

- Cynthia Mellor: I hope you do not mind me contacting you but I have been researching my uncle Les who went to Cowichan Station in 1935 when he was nine years old. He sailed on the *Duchess of Atholl*. We have managed to find a few photos of him just prior to boarding the ship and the ship itself but wonder if there were any day to day photos taken which have survived. I live in Somerset, England and would like to learn all I can of Les's early life. Thank you for your time. Look forward to hearing from you. Cynthia cynt.mellor@googlemail.com
- Arthur Joyce: Historian and journalist Sean Arthur Joyce, grandson of a child migrant sent to Canada in 1926 by the Church of England, is seeking life stories from Fairbridge alumni. Due to the fact that so many child migrants were shamed because of their poor origins when they came to Canada, most of the stories he has received from 'home child' descendants are badly fragmented. Their stories often were simply not passed on to their families. This makes it very difficult to piece together a complete story, since most Canadian 'home children' have died, with the exception of some Fairbridge child migrants. Joyce is seeking those who are willing to speak openly and candidly about their experience at Fairbridge—both good AND bad—and have excellent recall of their time at Prince of Wales or Fintry. He is particularly interested in how those experiences influenced the rest of their lives and their children or grandchildren. In other words, not just the facts, but the emotional consequences. Naturally he will not have room for everyone's story in the book he is preparing but it would be most helpful to interview those with a complete story. Contact Mr. Joyce at ajoyce@uniserve.com or Box 449, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 PH: 250-358-2666
- Mary Munk: This was in reply to my e-mail inquiry of 12 January. I wish to advise you that we are working on a major revision and expansion to the Home Children pages on our website, which will include information about groups of other juvenile immigrants. There will be a separate page for the major organizations, including one for Fairbridge. There will be sources and links provided, including a link to the Fairbridge Canada Association. There will also be some information about the Children's Friend Society. We will also look into the issue of changing the dates in the title page. We hope to have the new pages uploaded to our website sometime in the spring. Sincerely, Mary Munk Genealogical Consultant, Genealogy Services, Information and Research Services Division, Library and Archives Canada. 395 Wellington St., Ottawa ON Canada K1A 0N4
- John Stocker re the Molong Class Action Suit against the Fairbridge Society and the Australian Government. John commented that “It was odd that he could not find his concentration camp tattoo and that it is also odd that a plaque “To A Great Man” was put on the Mitchell Highway and a stained glass memorial window for the Woods (former Fairbridge Molong Principal) in St. John’s Molong.
- John Sugars: mentioned the book: “... *Fintry LIVES, LOVES and DREAMS*. There is an account of the Fairbridge Estate at Fintry when Dun-Waters willed the farm to Fairbridge School on Vancouver Island.

December 2011

- Rose McCormick Brandon: Stories of British Home Children see page 8 and the website at: <http://littleimmigrants.wordpress.com>



SURVEY REPORT

Summary

Because of the high cost of printing

and mailing the Gazette, a decision

was made not to mail out the Christmas Gazette, but make it available on Fairbridge Canada's website.

As of March 16, 2012, only 16 FCA members had paid their membership dues. The assumption was made that not many FCA members are accessing the FCA website and also didn't realize their membership dues were payable on January 1, 2012.

At an executive meeting, on March 27, 2012, the Board decided to mail out a survey to FCA members to remind them to pay their 2012 FCA membership dues, and to determine if they wanted the Gazette mailed, or if they would access the Gazette on their computer.

A list of 114 members was mailed with the survey to be returned by May 31, 2012. Fifty-four surveys were returned. This is a high rate of return, and it gives a high confidence level that the sample represents the population of Fairbridge.

- 40 to receive the Gazette by mail.
- 14 to receive the Gazette via the FCA website.

Note: 5 of the responses were unidentifiable, as there was no name on the form or envelope.

Fairbridge Canada Association ACTIVE MEMBERS: Dues paid for 2012

1. Armstrong, Ken	23. Field, Ray	45. Nichols, Mary
2. Ayer, John	24. Ford, Irene (Robinson)	46. Phillips, Raymond
3. Bennett, Jock	25. Frazer, Kerry	47. Price, Philippa
4. Bishop, Fred	26. Friends of Fintry	48. Reynolds, Pamela
5. Brookshaw, Christine	27. Garnett, Will	49. Roberts, John
6. Brown, Pam (Morrison)	28. Goldie, May (Bean)	50. Robinson, Corinne
7. Bulcock, Fred	29. Gray, Clement	51. Sherlock, Irene (Dobbs)
8. Bulcock, Jeff	30. Hagen, Barry (Sutton)	52. Skidmore, Joan
9. Carver, Jessie (Newbold)	31. Hagen, Doreen	53. Skidmore, Marjorie
10. Cockburn, William	32. Hancock, Chinami	54. Skidmore, Patricia
11. Collins, Frank	33. Hanson, Alfred (Ian)	55. Smith, Ron (Chapel)
12. Conlon, Jean (Hanson)	34. Hardy, John	56. Speed, Maureen
13. Conlon, Margaret	35. Harris, Molly (White)	57. Speed, Richard
14. Conlon, Shirley	36. Hodge, Ernie	58. Stoker, William
15. Crellin, Brenda (Clarke)	37. Hughes, Alfred	59. Taylor, Hugh
16. Darrell, Michael	38. Kent, Cheryl	60. Timbrell, Peter
17. Davies, Betty	39. Mackay, Roddy	61. Toms, Evelyn (Donelly)
18. Dean, Lily (Clabby)	40. Martin, Joan (Vallentin)	62. Turnbull, Ken
19. Dewhirst, Gordon	41. McIver, Michael	63. West, Patricia
20. Emmerson, William (Robert)	42. Millman, Dennis	64. Westdorp, Rosemary (Easton)
21. Fairbridge, Stephen	43. Montgomery, Georgina	65. Wheeldon, Celina
22. Field, Phillip	44. Myhill, Roy	

Only 26% of the responses said they would receive the Gazette via the FCA website. No significant savings would result from not mailing the Gazette to those members and, if they were denied, the administrative burden would be disproportional for the meager savings.

Conclusion

The Gazette should be mailed to all active members and those who have paid separately for the Gazette.

Also, 35 memberships were paid for 2012, which was an added bonus.

Out of a list of 101 original FCA members, staff and relatives, 64 membership dues have been paid for 2012, plus 1 Gazette subscription.

Barry & Doreen Hagen

June 20, 2012

Photo taken after the Sunday Service, FCA Reunion Sept 2011. Pat Skidmore photo



**Fairbridge Canada Association
Membership Fees are due on
January 1st of each year.**

To commemorate my grandmother's arrival in Canada 100 years ago, I'm publishing her story and the stories of other British home children. The stories begin today with hers.

Visit: <http://littleimmigrants.wordpress.com>.

In planning this project, I've been in contact with several people keenly interested in promoting awareness of the British child immigration movement, an important part of Canadian history. One writer had no idea his grandfather was a home child until he researched his ancestry. His family always wondered why he never talked about his mother or any other relatives but simply said he traveled to Canada from England when he was a boy.

Some stories break hearts; others have happy endings with siblings finding one another after years of separation. Happy or sad, each story belongs to a precious person who lost family, country and identity. One thing most stories have in common is missing information, gaps. Most home children put the past behind them and worked hard at making Canada their home. To them, adapting meant forgetting.

Telling the stories of the children themselves is the best way to honour them. If you love true stories, visit the site and register to receive them in your email box as they are posted. Consider forwarding the link to friends who also enjoy stories or want to know more about the 100,000 plus children who immigrated to Canada between 1870 and 1948.

If you would like to write the story of a home child, I will be happy to post it. Stories can be anywhere from 500 - 1200 words. If photos are available, include 3 maximum.

Rose McCormick Brandon

Professional Member of The Word Guild

Listening to My Hair Grow: rosemccormickbrandon.wordpress.com

British Home Children: littleimmigrants.wordpress.com

In January, I'm starting a blog dedicated to raising awareness of this movement and to recognizing the contributions these little immigrants made to Canada.

I'm looking for people who will write their home child's story. They'll be published on-line, with a photo. My goal is to honour the hardships, sacrifices and struggles of these young people and to acknowledge their contributions to Canada.

My grandmother and her 2 siblings arrived in Canada in 1912 as part of this movement. So, 100 years later, I feel it's time to share their stories, letters and photos. It's estimated that approximately 11% of the population has a home child in their family tree. The stories are sometimes heartbreaking but always compelling.

Your story will be titled with the name of your home child with your name appearing beside the title. You can view an introductory post at <http://littleimmigrants.wordpress.com/> Stories will begin in January.

Some contributors are experienced writers but all stories are welcome. What's important is that the stories British Home Children be told. Rose McCormick Brandon rosebrandon1@yahoo.ca

Listening to My Hair Grow at : <http://rosemccormickbrandon.wordpress.com/>

WANTED COLUMN

- 1.Rose McCormick Brandon wants your British Child Migration Stories: See page 8 for details.
- 2.Cynthia is looking for photographs or stories of her uncle, Les Snaith who passed away last year. Les arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the first group in 1935. See January Correspondence, page 6, for contact details.
- 3.Arthur Joyce is seeking those who are willing to speak openly & candidly about their experience at

Fairbridge, both good AND bad. See January Correspondence, page 6, for contact details.

- 4.Did anyone stay at **Fazakeley Cottage Homes in Liverpool** before boarding the ship for Canada?

Edward Schleising was a boy housed there and he recalls children arriving and staying for a day or two before heading to Canada. If anyone stayed there and wants to get in touch with Edward, you can contact Pat Skidmore, ph. 778-888-6614 or email: patskidmore@shaw.ca and I will send you his email address.

Former child migrants bring first class action against Fairbridge and Government

June 14, 2011

Former child migrants have commenced a class action against the Fairbridge Foundation, the State of NSW and the Commonwealth of Australia in the Supreme Court of NSW, seeking redress for their suffering at the notorious Fairbridge Farm School at Molong in the central west of NSW.

The former Molong residents are claiming the Foundation and the two governments allowed a system of institutional abuse to develop and persist at the Molong Farm School over many decades.

It is alleged in the class action that many children suffered terrible physical and sexual abuse at the hands of the staff at the residency and have suffered lifelong psychiatric and physical harm as a result.

More than 65 former residents are already supporting the class action .

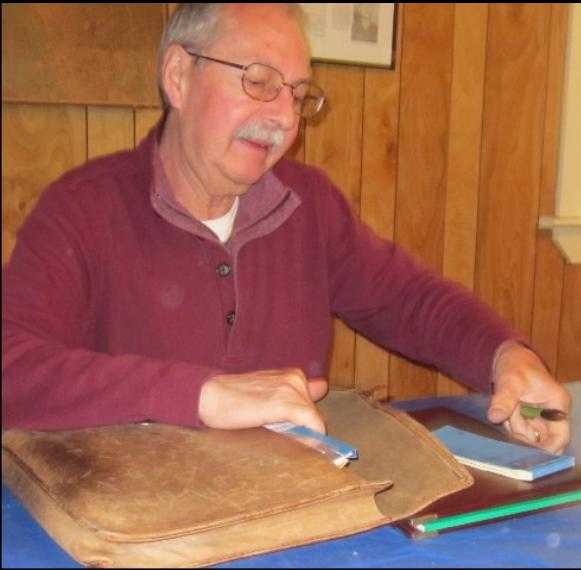
For more information see the website at:

<http://www.slatergordon.com.au/search/?q=Molong>

Other websites:

1. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2003422/British-child-slaves-launch-legal-action-Australian-government.html>
2. <http://tonyserve.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/110614-cpl-former-child-migrants-bring-first-class-action-against-fairbridge-and-government.pdf>
3. <http://www.globaltvbc.com/british+child+migrants+launch+australia+case/4942443/story.html>

Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society Board met in mid June, 2012



Ron Smith,

NEWS: The new flooring is down in the school house.

See page 15 for Chapel News

Fairbridge class action adjourned

Central Western Daily

BY BLAKE NICHOLSON

24 Jun, 2011 05:00 AM

A CLASS action taken out by former Fairbridge Farm residents has been adjourned and will return to court in November.

Almost 70 former residents have launched the class action against the Fairbridge Foundation and the state and federal governments over failures to protect them against alleged sexual, mental and physical abuse...

“For this group of people it’s not really about the money, its about acknowledgment,” he said. “No amount of money can really make up for the things that happened to these people.”

For more information see the website at:

<http://www.centralwesterndaily.com.au/news/local/news/general/fairbridge-class-action-adjourned/2205028.aspx>



Ron Smith, Karin Laurie (President) and Erik Henriksen,
missing from photo: John Hardy

PALLIATIVE CARE NURSE REVEALS TOP FIVE DEATHBED REGRETS

by Sarah Robinson and sent in by John Hardy

We all share common sentiments at the end of life, according to this anonymous nurse.

Death has been called the ultimate equalizer. Money, societal standing and physical appearance become irrelevant in death. But that's not the only way we become one on our deathbeds. According to one nurse, many of us share the same regrets.

The top 5 regrets people make on their deathbed has been spreading like wildfire in the social media world, and it's all courtesy of a nurse who worked in palliative care "for many years."

"People grow a lot when faced with their own mortality," said the anonymous author.

The nurse explained that the post stemmed from experience with patients in the last weeks of their lives.

"When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again."

Here are the most common five regrets, according to the nurse:

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

"This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honoured even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made."

2. I wish I didn't work so hard.

"This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed

deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence."

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.

"Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result."

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

"Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying."

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

"This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to their selves, that they were content. When deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again. When you are on your deathbed, what others think of you is a long way from your mind. How wonderful to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying."

But it wasn't all sad recollections for the patients. The nurse also said that all of her patients eventually came to terms with the life they had lived and experienced acceptance.

"Every single patient found their peace before they departed though, every one of them."

If you died tomorrow, would you have any regrets?

Photos below from the Fairbridge Collection, Liverpool University Archives

The Home Children ...an important piece of Canadian history

A blog dedicated to raising awareness of the British

Home Child Movement and to recognizing the contributions these little immigrants made to Canada. Telling their stories gives their lives meaning. See the web at: <http://littleimmigrants.wordpress.com/about/>



Steve Turnbull's article, "Child Migrant," is on page 48 of the June/July issue of [Canada's History](#).

The magazine should be on the newsstands until July 30.

For more information on the magazine see the website at: <http://canadashistory.ca/home.aspx>

The Home Children Anthology

Canadian Stories - An Anthology of British Home Child Stories

*An Anthology of stories and poems submitted by
British Home Children and their Descendants*

Pat Skidmore and Roddy Mackay have stories in the Anthology.

Pat Skidmore: Marjorie Waited 73 Years for an Apology, page 2

*Roddy Mackay Meets Prime Minister Gordon Brown, London, UK, March
24, 2010, page 20*

Published by: Canadian Stories

A magazine containing literary folk stories
written by or about Canadians

It is available by subscription: www.CanadianStories.net

Copies of this book are available by contacting
Edward Janzen at: ejanzen345@sympatico.ca

CANADIAN STORIES

**AN ANTHOLOGY OF
BRITISH HOME CHILD STORIES**



SPECIAL EDITION
February 2012



The Famine and the Fear

by Reg Corns

It was 1845 in Ireland when the potato famine struck. Its impact on two of the many Irish families was devastating.

All they had was the potato, it was their provider until the blight came that is, then starvation and disease followed and with it the deaths of thousands of fellow Irish cottiers. To survive would be a task many would fail, but for others severe challenges lay ahead as they attempted to escape to the new world.

Yet many did survive only to be confronted by further ordeals awaiting them as they crossed the sea, then in Canada and America as loved ones became separated.

Would they find each other in the ever changing world of the 1850s?

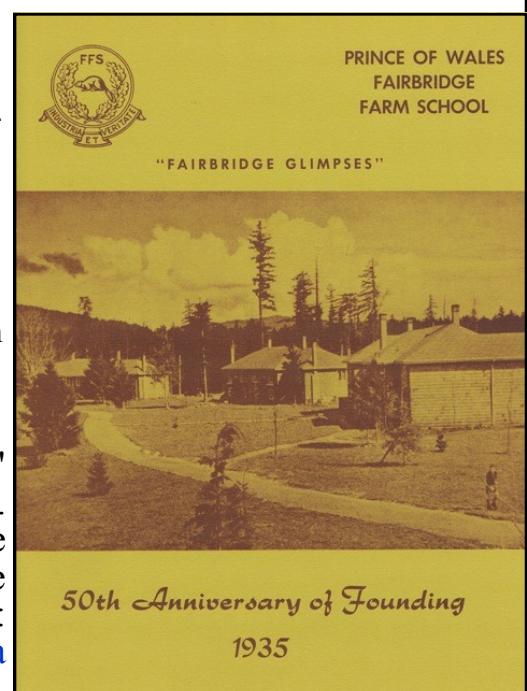
Who knows? Impossible things can happen

Reg Corns lives in Birmingham, UK. He was housed at the Middlemore Emigration Home in the late 1940s but was not sent overseas.

Reg has researched the Middlemore Homes and has found many photos. He fought to keep the building from being demolished, but alas, was unable to stop the wrecking balls and it was demolished circa 2005. Today there is a housing subdivision in its place. This book is available on Amazon.com and on Abe Books



The "Fairbridge Glimpses" has been reproduced. Cost: \$10.00 includes postage. Contact Pat Skidmore for a copy: patskidmore@shaw.ca



*50th Anniversary of Founding
1935*

'A Family Affair' The Fairbridge Junior Girls B.C. Basketball Champions

Ron Smith, *Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society*, 2012

See the Fairbridge Chapel website at:

<http://fairbridgechapel.com/>

This story can also be found on the Fairbridge Website at:
<http://fairbridgecanada.com/>

The following story was sent in by Ron Smith

The 1945 Winners of
the BC Basketball
Championship.



*A Fairbridge Basketball Team.
Winners of the British Columbia Championship.*

Find U.S. Weather Instrument

There was considerable excitement at Fairbridge Farm School shortly after breakfast last Saturday morning when a small red parachute was seen dropping from the sky. At first it was thought the parachute would drop on the playing field but a current of air carried it over towards the south corner where it became entangled in a tree.

Curiosity was rife as to the nature and contents of a box-like object attached to the parachute and ideas as to its origin were no less imaginative than the books of Jules Verne.

While no stop watches were available to time the boy who climbed the tree, it was generally felt he should enter the tree-climbing event at next year's Dominion Day Carnival. And certainly no record-breaking descent engendered more tension than did this boy with his precious box.

Examination of the box revealed that it was of cardboard construction with an enamelled or plastic finish and on one side there were some printed instructions and information.

The gist of the message was that the box had been released by the United States Weather Bureau, presumably at Joliet, Ill, attached to a balloon. The balloon had risen to a height of roughly 12 miles and then burst, thereby releasing the box and its attendant parachute.

In flight the contents of the box acted as a broadcaster of temperature, pressure and moisture of the air through which it passed. The message indicated, too, that the box and its contents could be used again and on being found should be returned to the U.S. Weather Bureau at Joliet, Ill.

A printed label was attached to facilitate posting at no cost on the North American Continent. There was no date on the box to indicate when it was dispatched. Its return to Illinois in the afternoon mail on Saturday was, of course, more prosaic than its method of arrival, but the boys feel that this should not mitigate against a return visit.

Cowichan Leader

October 14, 1948

Now the question is just who was this Fairbridge tree-climber; does anyone remember his name?

Fairbridgians who passed away.

Our sympathy to the families.



Tara Lynne Mackay was born in King City on Oct 5th 1969. At age 42, she left us all too soon on Sunday Dec. 18th 2011. A tragic accident took our beloved daughter, sister, mother and friend. She was larger than life with her tremendous spirit that was always dreaming bigger. Tara had a passion for the outdoors where she could be found catching turtles, fishing, collecting rocks and exploring national parks; she enjoyed gardening too. A strong independent woman, she worked harder than most. Tara attended Monterey High; she enjoyed competing in Scottish Highland Dancing. Tara was a long time food server at First Awakening in Salinas and was working towards her dream of becoming an RN. Her love and compassion could be seen in her big brown eyes and beautiful smile. She was a responsible mother with a child's soul and will be missed dearly by her children Jeffrey and Britney.

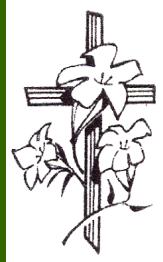
She loved her children and family more than anything in the world.

She leaves us to celebrate the vibrant, loving, strong woman whom she was. Tara is survived by daughter, Britney Plummer; son, Jeffrey Mackay; father Roddy Mackay (Betty); brother, Iain; mother Orris; sisters Christine Mead, (Virgil); Brianna Trinagli (Sal) and Kumo her beloved pet. Goodnight, Tara Lynne our darling daughter you will remain in our hearts forever



Dr. Ronald J. Hancock, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (C)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ronald J. Hancock. He departed peacefully on December 31st, 2011. Ron is survived by his wife Chinami and their son Myles, by his in-laws Hitoshi (Kyoko), Kazuhiro, Chihiro (Hiroshi), Motoshige, and Mari; by his first wife Patricia and their children; Sandra (Bruce), John (Kim), Sharon, Michele (Greg), Sylvia; and by his grandchildren Andreas, Naima, Alexis, Mariah, Alexander, Nicola, (Chloe), Spencer, Carter, Jacinthe and Jemma. Born in London, England on November 2nd, 1930, as an infant he was sent to an orphanage there, and then to Fairbridge Farm School (Duncan, Vancouver Isl.) by the British Government in 1938. He attended Penticton High and won the Provincial Scholarship in 1949 to enter UBC. There he obtained a B.A. in Honors English (1953), MD (1957). After 3 years Residency work in England, and more General Surgery Residency in Vancouver, he attained his FRCS in 1963. Ron practiced as a General Surgeon, and had an illustrious career working at VGH, Shaughnessy (Head of General Surgery), UBC, St. Vincent's and Mount St. Joseph's hospitals. He saved countless lives. He was an associate and clinical professor at UBC for 30 years, receiving numerous teaching awards. As an active member of the BC Surgical Society, in 1984 he served as the President. 2004-2009, Ron was the President of the Fairbridge Canada Association. He had a rich music career, joining MUSSOC at UBC, performing at TUTS in Damn Yankees ('85), and was one of the first members of Opera in the Schools. He was also on the Board of Directors at the Vancouver Opera Association. Ron was an opera aficionado, and sang opera and Broadway show songs at various ceremonies and recitals. An avid golfer, he was a member at Shaughnessy Golf & C.C since 1969. He was not a religious man but when he had a clutch putt to make, he asked the good Lord for help. Far more often than not, it went in. He played with dear golfing buddies (Al, Dave, Peter, Ken, Bob, and Cal) who battled every weekend with a friendly wager on the line. His phrases "Ronnie High" and "The Touch of a Surgeon" became legendary on those fairways. Eight holes in one are to his name, as are many winning prizes, and green jackets (Round Up). The sport, as with music, was a part of his very soul. A member of the Arbutus Club, he was a strong swimmer from his life-guarding days. He went on numerous trips to Scotland, Hawaii and the BC Interior with his vast array of golfing friends. Never missed the annual golfing trips that dear friend Duncan arranged for more than 40 years. He would visit Japan regularly to see his in-laws, and his singing prowess would bring down the house at every Karaoke Bar he visited. Had more than his fair share of health challenges, but Ron's perseverance and power of mind would battle through them. He always quoted Sir Winston Churchill's phrase "We shall never surrender" to communicate his life's philosophy. We would like to thank Dr. Dodek, the Doctors and Staff of VGH (ACE & Palliative Care), the BC Cancer Agency and Home Care Nurses for their loving support during Ron's difficult final journey. A special thank you to Jamie and Duncan for their devoted friendship. A celebration of his life will be held at Shaughnessy Golf & C.C on Feb. 11th 2012, 2-4pm. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Ron's memory to the Fairbridge Canada Assoc., VGH Foundation, or the BC Cancer Foundation would be greatly appreciated.



Ron Hancock as President of the Fairbridge Canada Association.
L-R: Pat Skidmore, Barry and Doreen Hagen, Ron Hancock, Theresa Shelley, Jean Conlon, John Hardy



Ron Hancock at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School helping the nurse bandage up a patient.
A Nicolas Morant Photo CRP Archives 3588



CHAPEL NEWS—Spring, 2012

Sent in by Ron Smith

During the winter it was fairly quite around Fairbridge. With the cooler weather in January our 138 year-old clock decided to take a little rest off and on during January and February. It is once again keeping perfect time, although we have one repair to do as the minute hand is about 5 minutes off from the hour strike. A long story (about 30 pages) is almost finished about our clock and other old ones throughout Canada and it looks like it is the 7th oldest manually wound clock in the country.

The annual Christmas Carol event at the chapel in late November was a success. The event is organized by the Reimer family and other Fairbridge families supplying the goodies.

There was one memorial service at the chapel in February for a long time resident of Cowichan Station and there are now three weddings planned this summer. With these events spaced out nicely we will have time to do some major cleaning inside and painting outside. New hardwood flooring will be put down inside the school house. The cost for the material is almost \$3,000. The present linoleum is now 30 years old and is lifting and cracking.

Unfortunately we didn't receive funding from Farm Credit Canada to assist with our projects at the heritage site so we will have to stretch the work out over a few years. Once everything is finished we should have a very nice, more useable building to house small meetings, display heritage artefacts and so on.



Ron Smith showing the Fairbridge Chapel Clock works to Former Rhodesian Fairbridgian, Peter Gould, and his wife Mary Ann and right by the Chapel sign. The Goulds were visiting from New Zealand, and on their way to be reunited with family members in England.

Pat Skidmore photos

A few of the other underway or completed are:

- A new glass display case is being made by Ron Price of Fairbridge for the appreciation gift to Col. Logan and Mrs. Logan upon their retirement from the farm school in 1945. This is a silver gong mounted between two steer horns. The case will be painted black and is quite attractive.
- A *Short Guide to The Fairbridge Chapel* has been prepared and is available on our web site, fairbridge-canada.com and can be downloaded.
- A copy of the chapel dedication event of April 1940 as written in the *Cowichan Leader* and a copy of the actual dedication have been mounted in two picture frames and are now located on the nave wall just above the font.
- Another short one page *Glossary of Terms* is framed and near the chapel entrance. It lists the various names of places within the chapel.

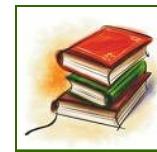
A letter was sent to Canada Post suggesting they consider using portions of the Col. J.S. Dennis window for the Christmas stamps for 2015. They need two years (or more) to decide on the stamps being issued and do the proper work. As mentioned that year is an anniversary year for both the establishment of the school (80 years) and for the opening of the chapel (75 years). They always like to tie their stamps in with some commemoration. If we are selected we will notify everyone on our chapel web site as well as through the *Gazette*.

Finally we want to thank everyone who has been supporting the Chapel Society over the past year. Your assistance has really been appreciated and allows us to undertake a number of projects to maintain the heritage site. We will likely be holding the Annual General Meeting in late May or June and post a report on the web site.



I just wanted to say thank you for sending me the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary. It has helped me cover a portion of my school fees at SFU surrey as I continue to pursue a degree in business. I offer my sincerest thanks for your generous support.. Sincerely, Brad Fairbridge

The 2012 Bursary Application form is available on-line: <http://fairbridgecanada.com/> or <http://fairbridgecanada.com/bursary.html>



NOTE: The deadline has been extended to July 15, 2012.

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



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

2011 Executive Members:

Pat Skidmore President

Barry Hagen, Treasurer

Directors:

Doreen Hagen

John Hardy

Roddy Mackay

Theresa Shelley

Joan Skidmore



Grades, Bible, and A Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

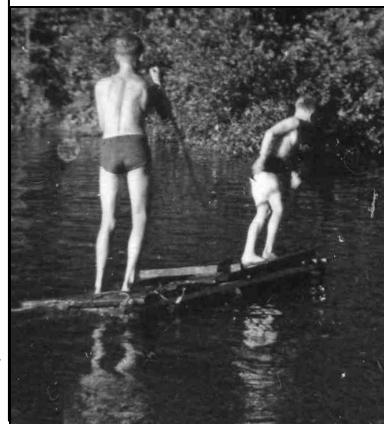
The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!)

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"



*Photo above courtesy of Eric Lewis... Photos below courtesy of Ken Armstrong
Left Andre Lowen and David Nichelson... Right Tom Lisle (1949)*



Sent in by Gayle and Jock Bennett

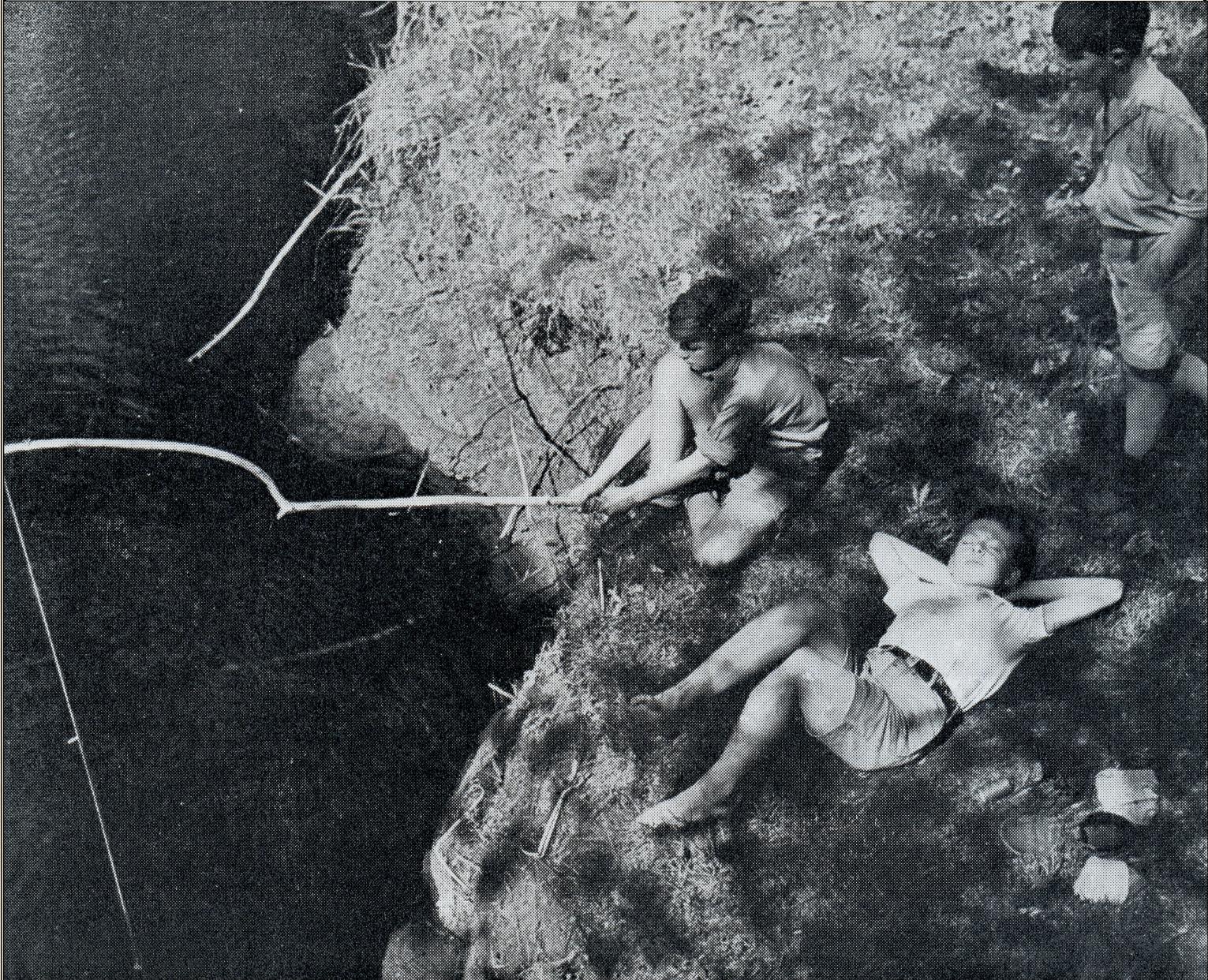
Fairbridge Gazette

First published in 1939.



Look for your

**Next Gazette:
Late Summer 2012**



Do you have any news to report?
Send it in to the *Around Town* column.

Here's your chance to get your stories published in the Fairbridge Gazette. Send in poems, adventures, Fairbridge tales, what you are doing now or whatever you would like to see in your Gazette. The deadline for submission for the next issue is:

July 15, 2012

WANTED COLUMN

Are you looking for a long lost friend? Confirmation of a Fairbridge Memory? An old photograph? A forgotten recipe? Or?

Send in your requests to our

WANTED COLUMN.

We will try to help.

See page 8 for a list of things that people are looking for.