FAIRBRIDGEGAZETTE

Newsletter of the Fairbridge Canada Association



The May 1940 Party

Can we put the names to the faces?

See page 5 for more information and page 12 to help name the group.

Photo sent in by Steve Turnbull, he received it courtesy of the Fairbridge Fonds, housed at the Liverpool University Archives, Special Collections Branch

The May 1940 Party came across the Atlantic on the CPR ship, the *Duchess of Bedford*.



"The pity is that the trickle of these young immigrants is so small. Canada could do with dozens of Fairbridge Farm Schools...we should try to get as big a leaven of people of our own stock as we can get."

Vancouver Daily Province, May 19, 1940

Similar 2012

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Membership Fees should be sent to
Temporary

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Fairbridge Canada Association

jkhardy@shaw.ca (250-701-0447)

Donations to the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society can be sent to:

Temporary

Pat Skidmore

See address next column.

Please note that the FCA and FABS have separate accounting systems.

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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

Dead Person's Society, Perth Australia

The children of a prominent family chose to give their patriarch a book of their family's history. The biographer they hired was warned of one problem. Uncle Willie, the "Black Sheep," had gone to Sing Sing's Electric chair for murder.

The writer carefully handled the situation in the following way:

"Uncle Willie occupied a chair of applied electronics at one of our nation's leading institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a true shock."

And

Discovering that his ancestor had been hanged as a horse thief, a researcher went on to describe the incident like this:

"Great grandfather died after the platform gave way while he was speaking at a public ceremony..."

Sent in by Ron Smith

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 Chapel

Send correspondence & material for the Gazette to: Pat Skidmore 1101 651 Nootka Way, Port Moody, BC Canada V3H 0A1 patskidmore@shaw.ca



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Roddy Mackay: FCA President

"Summer time and the livin' is easy"...... Remember that wonderful song composed by George & Ira Gershwin. Not sure about you but I'm beginning to find this livin' is not so easy. Doubt if any of us Fairbridgians are springing out of bed early mornings as we once did. However, I can't complain and consider myself very fortunate to have reached 78. Yes.... So I have slowed down a wee mite, but I can still get up and enjoy a nice warm summer day. Hopefully, all of you

are also enjoying these warm summer days. Summertime always brings back good memories of our days, running barefooted down the hill to swim in the Kokisilah River. Of course, that memory also includes a few of those miserable days when I was GATED! Oddly enough I've always called it the Fairbridge River I thought of it as our own private swimming hole.

The high light of this summer for me was a special invitation to participate in the 100 anniversary of Duncan on July 14th. The local pipe band "Cowichan Pipes Band raised 100 pipes & drums (various bands) combined and invited me to be the lead Drum Major of the parade. My very first experience as a Drum Major age 14 took place leading the Fairbridge Cadet Band on Dominion Day 1948. Sixty-four years later to be leading a massed pipe band in the old home town is a memory I will always cherish. It was a very hot summer day and a long parade my loyal wife was beginning to doubt I would make it to the end of the parade. Surprise, surprise the old boy made it!

This summer your FCA Board will begin planning and organizing our 2013 Reunion. Future details will be posted on our FCA website. www.fairbridgecanada.com On behalf of your FCA Board I welcome your comments and suggestions, please contact me at roddymc@comcast.net Take care and have a wonderful summer. Roddy

Excerpt from the Child Migrants Trust Press Release May2, 2012: see also page 4

We cannot give former Child Migrants their childhoods back. We are not able to give a mother and father their child back, but we can give them hope and restore a sense of fair play and justice. There is still much to be done. http://www.childmigrantstrust.com/news/child-migrants-trust-press-release--2nd-may-2012

John Hardy has been giving talks about Fairbridge: Dear John, Thank you very much for speaking at the Cowichan Historical Society about such an interesting part of the Valley's history—Fairbridge. All the best, Kathryn (from the Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives)

Those are the words from Kathryn Gagnon, Curator Cowichan Valley Museum, printed on a nice card with a 1938 picture of horses plowing the field at the farm. For about four years now I'd been giving a power point presentation on the school to various groups. It started with my own club, Probus, that meets at the golf course once a month, about 75 members. People asked me to talk about Fairbridge and I agreed mainly motivated by a concern that for newcomers to Cowichan, the idea of Fairbridge was of a real estate development along the Koksilah Road.

From there came the invitations to speak: Probus down town Duncan, 110 members, a women's group in the United Church, Victoria, and on it went.

One presentation I gave to the Elder College was sold out at \$12 dollars a seat. Roddy was in town so I had him give the talk on the Child Migrants Trust to cap off my own presentation. They've asked me to do another presentation in the fall.

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.



Late Summer Greetings. Like the woodcutters on page 8, I hope you are getting prepared for the inevitable winter, but that we all can enjoy a few more weeks of nice weather.

Steve Turnbull shared a photo of his father's 1940 party to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School, which he was sent from the Fairbridge Archive files housed at the University of Liverpool Special Collections Branch. The photos and records are out there: University of Liverpool, at the Birmingham Archives, (for the Middlemore Emigration Home), and in the BC Archives in Victoria.

Correspondence News Highlights: April—July 2012

I have had correspondence from a number of people since the last Gazette: *Down Under:* the Molong and the Pinjarra Old Fairbridgian Associations, Peter Gould, a former Rhodesian Fairbridge 'boy' who had a very successful trip to

Fairbridge 'boy' who had a very successful trip to visit his family in England, Bill Sutherland, with photos of a Rhodesian Fairbridge group get-together in Perth, Samantha from Australia looking for her Canadian relatives, Ken Clough: about the Lady Northcote Children's Farm School's 75th anniversary reunion this July and from Olga from Perth looking for a Rhodesian Fairbridgian mentioned in a former Gazette that she located on the Fairbridge Website—it was a successful outcome; also news from Joan Martin, Ron Smith; Bill Stoker; Ernie Hodge; Jean Conlon; Steve Turnbull, about the photo of the 1940 Party; Bill Cockburn; Chinami Hancock; and Will Garnett, working on his book about

his father, Bill Garnett; Tom Isherwood shared some Poems and Beryl Young, author of *Charlie, A Home Child's Life in Canada*, saying that she is travelling to Upper Canada Village this September for a reunion of 500 descendants of Home Children. Ernie and Hazel Todd sent in the following:

Last year I was eating lunch on the 30 of June with a friend and her six-year-old granddaughter. She was pretty animated as she talked about school and friends and teachers.

As I sipped my coffee, I asked her, "What day is tomorrow?"

She said " Canada Day"

She is a smart kid, so, I asked "What does Canada Day mean?" I sat waiting for her reply expecting something about the flag, confederation etc.

She replied, "Canada Day is when Prime Minister Harper steps out of the Parliament Building, and if he sees his shadow we have one more year of unemployment."

You know, it hurts when hot coffee spurts out your nose.

300 Former Child Migrants Reunited With Their Families

Excerpt from a Press Release, May 2, 2012

Almost 300 former child migrants have been reunited with their families in the UK thanks to the £6million Family Restoration Fund.

The fund was launched by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley in July 2010 and is administered and supported by the Child Migrants Trust.

Its aim is to cover the travel costs to help reunite former child migrants, who were sent under schoolleaving age from Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Commonwealth countries, with their relatives.

"Almost two years ago I launched the three-year fund on behalf on the UK Government, in recognition of the years of struggle and heart ache suffered by child migrants. I am very glad now to have met some of the families reunited as

At last our need to be with our families is being recognised

The Family Restoration Fund is administered and supported by the Child Migrants Trust.

a result of the fund."

Tony Costa, former child migrant and officer of the International Association of former Child Migrants and their Families (IAFCM&F), said:

"At last our need to be with our families is being recognised and made a reality. The fund is a very positive and practical help to us."

Margaret Humphreys, Director of the Child Migrants Trust, said:

"The Family Restoration Fund provides real substance to the integrity of Britain's apology to those who were so cruelly separated from their families and country as young children."

See the website at:

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May 1940 Party

Many of you are aware that I recently completed a major article on my Dad, Ken Turnbull, and his Fairbridge experience. That article appeared in the June/July 2012 issue of Canada's History magazine. In preparation for its publication and to satisfy my own curiosity I engaged in a concerted effort to find photos of my father as a child or teenager. Having seen many "departure" photos of various Fairbridge parties bound for Canada or Australia I assumed, but was not certain, that there was a photo taken of every group prior to departure. I contacted Gil Woods, former Fairbridge Company Secretary who minds the society records. He referred me to Dr. Maureen Watry, Chief Archivist of the Sydney Jones Library at the University of Liverpool. I asked Dr. Watry if there were any photos of the group we all know as the May 8, 1940 party, by the date they arrived at the school on Vancouver Island. The photo would have been on or about April 26, the day they sailed out of Liverpool. Dr. Watry was helpful beyond words. I simply gave her the departure date of the group and with no fuss or apparent bother it was done; one day an email arrived from Dr. Watry with a jpeg attached. I was as excited as a kid with a

stack of unopened Christmas presents; I had never seen a photo of my father as a child. I opened the photo, and was immediately disappointed, not by the photo-it is wonderful. I was the disappointment; I had absolutely no idea what Kenny Turnbull looked like 2 months prior to his 10th birthday. I took several guesses-most of them wrong as it turns out, and then I mustered enough intelligence to send the photo to my aunt Nora, Dad's older sister. She raised him and his brother Dennis for several vears after their mother died and their father retreated to the local pub. My old aunt's mind is still sharp and her emailing skills are even sharper. Back came a lightningfast reply pinpointing Dad (front row, 3rd from your right) and Dennis (second row, 2nd from your right). Dad and Frank Collins (2nd row with his arm draped over Kenny's shoulder) helped me identify some of the people but only a few. This is where you come in. Please send me or Pat Skidmore (who has been a tremendous help to me in my research) the names of anyone you can identify -especially if it is you! Collectively, I am sure we can match every lovely face to a name. To help you, the list of everyone in this party is included on the back page.

Steve Turnbull, Vancouver, B.C., turnbull1@shaw.ca



This group is mentioned in the other articles:

- ♦ Victoria Daily Colonist, May 8, & 12, 1940, p.2
- ♦ Vancouver News Herald, May 8, p. 12 & May 31, 1940, p.2
- ♦ Vancouver Daily Province, May 8, p. 9, & May 10, 1940
- ♦ Victoria Daily Times, May 31, 1940, p.5 (see p6)

←English Children Arrive− Thirty youngsters... bound for Fairbridge Farm on Vancouver Island. Left to right: Averil Ingram, Gordon Neil, & Eileen Ryan

Tyneside Lads Seek Roving Buffalo

"They're the latest news, served fresh and piping hot from Great Britain; they're a breeze from the Old Country, with an accent like a tonic to the nerves. They say quietly, with a determining tightening of young lips, that Britain is going to win the war, and some of them are not particularly overjoyed at leaving the homeland."

They are 24 boys and 6 girls, bound for the Fairbridge Farm on Vancouver Island and they landed in Vancouver this morning over the C.P.R. in the midst of a pouring rain." Their charge of the children said, "...they have as fine a bunch of youngsters as have ever been brought over here."

"It was little Irene Dobbs 9, of Glasgow, who was first off the train. Asked about news from 'Glasgie,' the young woman shook her head, she had nothing to tell. 'Don't talk,' she said, 'someone may overhear.'"

"We saw Indians, we saw Mounted Police, but where's the roving buffalo?' enquired Frank Collins, 11, a Tyne-sider from Gateshead." (...photo and excerpt from the Vancouver Daily Province, May 8, 1940, p. 9)

WORK OF FAIRBRIDGE SCHOOL IS OUTLINED

Victoria

Times

May 31,

1940

page 5

Outline of the modern form of immigration which is being attempted at the Fairbridge Farm School was given members of the Junior Board of Trade at a luncheon in Hudson's Bay Co. Thursday by Colonel Harry T. Logan, head of the Farm School.

Stating that the great need in Canada at this time is of industrious people who are not afraid of work, Col. Logan said:

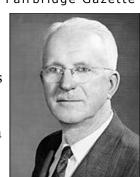
"We are trying to bring into British Columbia new population. We are introducing young boys and girls into the province at an age when they will become adapted easily to our way of living."

Immigration work of the Fairbridge society began in 1935 when 41 boys and girls from England and Scotland were brought to this province, and given new homes on the 1000-acre farm.

Most recent additions arrived on May 8, 1940, when 30 more children were brought here. To date, 23 boys and girls, trained at the farm school, have been placed in positions in the province.

HARRY TREMAINE LOGAN

(1887-1971) ...born in Londonderry, Nova Scotia, the son of the Rev. Dr. John Logan, a Presbyterian minister. He completed his Classics degree at McGill in 1908, and went on to St John's College, Oxford (A.E. Housman's college) as British Columbia's Rhodes Scholar — a just reward for his combination of intellectual and athletic abilities.



Around Town



Above: Roddy Mackay travelled up to Duncan in early July to participate in the Duncan Days Parade

Right: In early July
Molly Harris and Mollie Preece
had a good visit—they reminisced about their early Fairbridge Days.



The Australian Molong Fairbridge Farm School

The NSW Migration Heritage Centre is forming a collaborative project with the Orange City Council, the cordinator of the Blayney Cabonne Orange Regional Sustainable Collections Project, to employ a local historian to undertake oral history research with Molong residents about their recollections of child migrants from the Fairbridge Farm School, Molong. The project will produce four new exhibition panels about the Fairbridge Farm School, Molong for installation at the Molong Historical Society.

The Fairbridge Farm School, Molong exhibition will place the objects held in the Molong Historical Society collection which are associated with the Fairbridge Farm

Local Historian to undertake oral history research with Molong residents about their recollections of child migrants from the Fairbridge Farm School, Molong.

School in their historic context.

It will comprise 4 panels on the following themes:

- Overview of child migration to Australia
- The Fairbridge scheme
- Life at Fairbridge farm
- -Institution's links to the town of Molong.

http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/projects/fairbridge-farm-school/

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Nicholas Morant: Part 1

Ron Smith has put together an interesting article on the photographer, Nicolas Morant, who took a lot of photos at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. This is Part 1:

Introduction

When reading the eulogy to Dr. Ron Hancock in the spring 2012 Gazette and seeing the picture of Ron as a teenager bandaging a 'patient' under the watchful eyes of the school nurse it was noted the photo was taken by Nicholas Morant.

Some may know of him while a few who grew up at Fairbridge may have met the photographer or even are in one of the outstanding pictures he took while visiting the farm school. However, many may not be at all familiar with this great Canadian photographer whose career spanned over seven decades.

Early Years

Born in Penticton on June 29th, 1901 and growing up on a fruit farm near Kamloops his parents sent him to University Military Schools, a Victoria private institution, (now St. Michael's School) for eight years to better his education. Although he never graduated due to his failing math, he did like English and began taking photographs as a hobby. After finishing with his schooling he returned to Kamloops and became an assignment writer, or 'stringer' and photographer for the Victoria Times but by age 23 he joined the Winnipeg Free Press as a news photographer and once-a-week columnist. The job turned out to be quite demanding and after four years, on the advice of his doctor, he quit the paper. Shortly after it occurred to him that the Canadian Pacific Railway may need an experienced photographer and by 1929, for \$90 a month, was in their employment with the title of Special Photographer assisting with company public relations



and advertising. He once again briefly left the CPR in 1935 rejoining the *Free Press and The Canadian Press* as a portrait and news photographer but by 1937 was again with the railway company and based out of their Winnipeg Public Relations Department. A year earlier he married Ivy May "Willie" Young (1910-1986) who became his constant working com-

Here are 2 Nicolas Morant Photographs—Do you have any Halloween Stories from your Fairbridge Years? Send them in!



panion on his many assignments across Canada and elsewhere in the world

In September 1939 the CPR was intending to build a rustic cabin retreat about 12 kilometres from their small station of Wapta, Alberta and sent

Morant along with Swill Guide Christian Haesler to inspect the site. Unfortunately they came across a grizzly bear with a cub and it attacked both men who were badly mauled. With a broken right leg and badly bleeding from a torn arm and scalp wound Morant was only saved when the cub barked out and the two grizzlies went off down the trail. By now Haesler escaped the attack and had gone for help. He made it to Wapta and an engine and flatcar were summonsed for the rescue. After being carried four miles down the mountain on a stretcher Nicholas Morant spent several months in hospital undergoing a number of operations.

Because of his injuries he was rejected from military service but was loaned by the CPR to the Canadian Wartime Information Board, part of the National Film Board, and took numerous photos of the armed services and industrial plants churning out everything from new ships and planes to bombs. This work culminated with an assignment to the first United Nations conference in San Francisco.

Nick was also a good prankster. As he recalled, "at one time the CP's head office in Montreal complained that the prints he'd been sending them were too small." He "responded gleefully by making an enlargement eight feet long and mailing it to Montreal! That ended the complaints."

Another time, Omer Lavallée, an associate in the rail-way's public relations department mentioned "Nick picked up the remains of an aluminum kettle on the CP Rail roadbed in the Rockies. A bulldozer had run over it and it was quite flat, though the handle was still attached. Nick tied on an address label and sent it by railway mail to our departmental accountant. On the back of the label he made the notation, 'Please have this repaired, and returned'."

Look for Part 2 in the Christmas Gazette





Do you recognize the boys?

Page 8 Fairbridge Gazette

The Fairbridge Chapel News

Summer, 2012

Sent in by Ron Smith

While we are a little late getting this *News* out it is better late than never, as they say.

On June 15th we held the **Annual General Meeting** of the society and we have posted the minutes on our chapel web site <u>www.fairbridgechapel.com</u>. The new floor in the school house was finished just the meeting and everyone was pleased and wanted to thank Ron Price who organized and co-ordinated the project. New real brushed oak 112 cm wide hardwood was put down in the main room and a new one piece linoleum material added to the small kitchen area.

The first **wedding** of the year was held on July 21st. It was a beautiful day for Melissa Van Boven and Darren Binnema. This was probably the largest wedding held in the chapel in years as every pew was full. The next wedding will be on September 1st with the final one at the end of the month.

Nancy and Don Merry, who have lived in Fairbridge since 1986, donated a very nice Hammond organ to the chapel in memory of Nancy's mother Verna Benjamin. Verna was the first president of the chapel society back in the '80's and, along with her husband Bill, was the first owners of the Principal's residence after Fairbridge was redeveloped.

Work continues with the general maintenance of the chapel. This includes painting and gardening at the mo-

Send DONATIONS to the Fairbridge Chapel to: Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society 4791 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan, BC V9L 6N9

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

ment. If time permits later in August we may tackle a few other projects including repairing the cement to the back entrances and refinishing the other five chapel doors. A test area to put a preservative coat of shingle oil will also be made.

Canada Post replied to our suggestion of using a portion of the J.S. Dennis, Jr. memorial stained glass for the **2015 Christmas stamp**. The post office usually puts out a series of three as well as a single one. At any rate they indicated that they will consider the request in about a year from now when they decide on the upcoming stamps for the year. As many of you may we aware 2015 will mark the 80th Anniversary of the founding of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and also the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Fairbridge Chapel.

Finally, a little 'community news', Michael Braithwaite, now 25 grew up at Fairbridge and is the son of Lyle and Marilyn who live in the former principals home is competing in the double sculling event at London. His first day of competition was July 28th and his brother Andrew wrote a fantastic essay on the 27th in the *Globe and Mail* titled "My Olympian brother". Also it is Michael's boat, along the two men, that is depicted on Canada Post's commemorative 2012 Olympic stamp.



That knotty piece looks like it will be a tough one to split!

From the Fairbridge Society 1937 Annual Report. Page 30 Winter is coming...
time to fill the
woodsheds.
Does anyone recognize the Fairbridge
woodcutters?







Fairbridgians who passed away

Happily I have no reports for this Gazette.

Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society News

Four students applied to the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society for the 2012/2013 school year

This year we began a new program with the Cowichan High School, in Duncan. One of the bursaries will now go to a student from that school. Revenue Canada stipulates that 25% of the allotted bursary money should go to a non Fairbridgian, and working with the Cowichan School will ensure we meet this requirement.



Good luck in your studies.

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

2011 Executive Members:

Pat Skidmore President

Treasurer NEEDED

Directors:

Doreen Hagen John Hardy Roddy Mackay Theresa Shelley Joan Skidmore





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



Ron Smith sent in a story for the last Gazette—**Find US Weather Instrument**—see page 12, Spring Gazette. The story was originally published in the Cowichan Leader on October 14, 1948. I heard that it was Harry (Henry) Lister who climbed the tree.

Send in more of your Fairbridge Stories! There must be a thousand and one.

REUNION SEPTEMBER 2013

As Roddy mentioned on page 3, the FCA Committee has begun thinking about and planning for the September 2013 FCA Reunion. Details will be posted on the website and be updated as new information arrives. Information and updates will also be included in the Gazettes: Christmas, Spring and next Summer. You can also contact a Director (contact information is on page 2) for information.

Mark your calendars — there will be no shortage of laughter, hugs and good food...



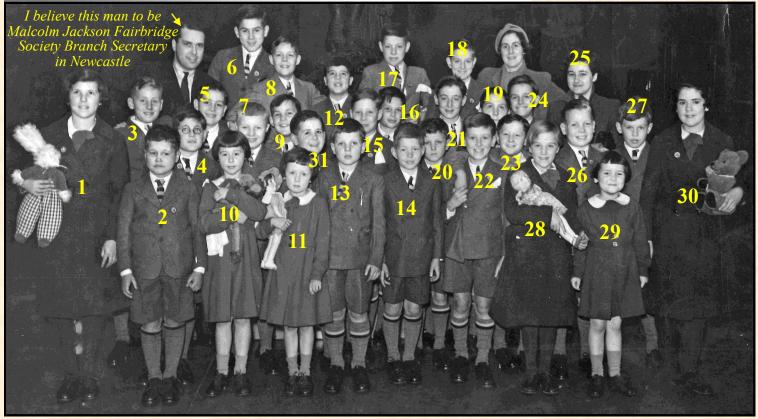
Fairbridge Gazette

First published in 1939.



Next Gazette: Christmas 2012

Look for you



"It was not always easy to prevail upon the parents to part with their children but once they realized the benefits to the children themselves the transfer was not difficult." Malcolm Jackson (Secretary, Fairbridge Society) in the Times Colonist, Impressed by Island School. Malcolm H. Jackson Arrives From England With Party for Fairbridge Farm, May 12, 1940, p.2.

Please help to indentify the people in the May 1940 Party to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. Match the list below by putting the numbers beside the names. Ernie Hodges sent in several.

18 Bennett, John

17?Bennett, Robert

21 Bettonie, Albert

6 Braunton, Kenneth

23 Collins, Frank

Cormie, Ian

28 Dobbs, Irene

10 Harding, Dorothy June

7 Hendersen, Frederick

1 Ingram, Averil

25 Kynaston, Bernard

3 Meers, Edward

9 Mendoza, Leon

8 Neal, Gordon

_ 6_1\cai, Goldon

24 Phillips, Alec

16 Phillips, Raymond

26 Pownell, Michael

14 Richards, Thomas

11 Riley, Ethel

29 Ryan, Eileen

30 Ryan, Jean

31 Ryan, Kenneth

15 Sharp, Harry

4 Smith, Rudolph

Stephenson, Robert

12 Townsley, Douglas

27 Turnbull, Dennis

22 Turnbull, Kenneth

22 Turnburi, Kemieti

20? Tonks, Gordon

2 Turner, Kenneth

? We have one too many

On recount, there are 31 children in this photograph and there were only 30 listed in the 1940 party.

Could one child have been with the chaperones?

Can we identify # 5, 13, or 19? It might give us a clue as to who the extra child is?

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

The deadline for submission for the next issue is:

October 15, 2012

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.