



Fairbridge

Gazette

OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN ASSOCIATION

R. J. Hancock, President.
Thos. E. Speed, Sec. Treas.
& Editor.

6050 Chancellor Blvd.
Vancouver, B.C.

July 1951.

EDITORIAL

"HOPE"

There are numerous trite sayings in which men have attempted to sum up human existence in a short, concise, fashion. "Love (and various other unprintable suggestions) makes the world go round" is one such cliché. However, it seems to me that human life, depends heavily upon and revolves about Hope. And by human life I mean a relatively successful and efficient human life.

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. This Hope is not conspicuous in our day to day existence yet we unconsciously desire succor from it. Our ambitions involve Hope since they always entail a desire for something in the future. Like Stevenson's "El Dorado", once one hope is realised another takes its place. Any ideal involves Hope- for of what use is an ideal if its subscribers do not hope and firmly believe that it will someday become an actuality? Any religion, social theory, or political conviction depends heavily upon Hope.

Another characteristic of Hope is its dire need for nutriment. It must be fed frequently and adequately, or, like almost every living thing, it will soon die. There must be a constant moving toward the realisation of the hope. There must be minor achievements and successes along the route or Hope diminishes and weakens. A specific hope can remain dormant for a long time but when its end becomes an impossibility, it is liable to starve. Yet Hope becomes non-existent only when life itself ceases.

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 the 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 organisation such as the Old Fairbridgian Association will ultimately lose its effectiveness as a motivator if it is not externally fed.

Ronald J. Hancock
May 12 1951

You will notice by the title of this edition that we are again using the heading, "Fairbridge Gazette". I would like to quote a few words from an editor's letter in the Gazette of 1947. In 1942, "Norman Alsop took over and prepared the first Old Fairbridgian's number... Then, in Feb. 1943, Joe Fenton ran the second O.F. number... July of '43 saw the Gazette take a most important stride. Casting aside the mimeographing machine, and for the first time, the Cowichan Leader took over the setting up type and the printing of the paper."

The above paragraph is self explanatory. It is the executive's wish that with your financial assistance we may again follow in the footsteps of those who gave this paper its start.

The following is also quoted from the same Gazette.

Fishing

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

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

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

- Leon Mendoza
(printed without permission of
the author. Ed.)

ANNUAL O.F. DINNER

The annual dinner was held of Feb. 10th. There were thirty-three members and friends in attendance. The banquet was held in the Olympic cafe, Vancouver. The meal was excellent and the whole affair was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. Through the courtesy of Mr. H. T. Logan we were able to present some films of past life at the Farm School and many of us saw ourselves and our friends as we once were and longed to be kids once again. We hope that next year we may be able to present these films again if enough people turn out for the event.

The business part of the meeting was simple and straight-forward. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. A financial statement was read. It was pointed out that only nine members paid their dues for 1950. Donations during the year totaled \$22.00. Three "News Letters" were sent out during the year and it was considered worthwhile to continue this for the coming year.

As the president's term was not yet expired, there was no new election. Mr. Tom Speed was re-elected to the office of Sec.-Treas. John Cowans was elected to fill the position of Vice-President. There were short talks by Mr. A. H. Plows, principal of the School and Professor H. T. Logan of the department of classics at U.B.C.

You will all be pleased to know that Mr. Jock Gillatt was unanimously elected to be an honorary member of the Association.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned after which the films so kindly lent by Mr. Logan were shown by Mr. Tom Speed.

Thos. E. Speed Sec.

NEWS ITEMS.

Kenny Dobbs is a member of the 2nd battalion of the Princess Patricia's fighting as part of the U.N. forces in Korea. To the best of our knowledge, he has fought in all the major engagements and is acquitting himself very well indeed. He writes that logging on the hills of B.C. is a soft touch compared with climbing up the hills in Korea. In his last letter he said that leave periods of one week were being started and he hoped to get to Japan for his first leave.

He would enjoy having letters from anyone although, if many write, they should not expect immediate replies. We at the School have sent off to him parcels at five week intervals and we are sure that some O.F.'s. would like to send some tobacco or candy to Kenny. His address is: K800196, Pte. Dobbs, K., 6 Platoon, "B" Company, 2nd. Battalion P.P.C.L.I., Canadian Army P.O. 5002, c/o Postmaster, Vancouver.

BIRTHS

Happy parents have recently written to tell us of the following:

To Mr. & Mrs. Les Snaith of Ladysmith, a son, Geoffrey Arnot.
To Mr. & Mrs. Vic Garside of Nanaimo, a daughter, Cheryl Ruth.
To Mr. & Mrs. Glen Naylor (Agnes Duffy) of Qualicum Beach, a son, Robert John.

Eric Lewis is now in New Zealand where he is conducting business as a hairdresser and tobaccoconist. He has been in the Antipodes for some fifteen months and has now settled in the small coal mining community of Huntly.

Two Fairbridgians have recently enlisted in the Cdn. Army: Clifford Cooper is now in training in the Royal Canadian School of Artillery at Picton, Ontario, and Leon Field is a gunner with the A.A. regiment stationed at Victoria.

The following are also rumoured to have joined the services: Rab Anderson, Bob Bennett, Victor Smith, Ted Collins.

Sgt. Bob Warnock has rejoined the Active Force and is attached to the Vancouver Island Light A.A. Regiment for A. & T. duties.

To the best of our knowledge Ed. Walton and Tommy Richards sailed with the 25th. Brigade and are now in Korea.

MARRIAGES

William Dowler was married to Audrey Georgina Marsh in Vancouver on May 6th.

Derek Garside was married to Elizabeth Jean Bigsby of Armstrong on March the 16th.

The infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Tipler was baptised in the Farm School Chapel in October 1950. Phillip David.

We have had a letter or two from the Fairbridge Society in England. It is very gratifying to know that we in Canada are being remembered as part of the Fairbridge Organisation by our very good and sincere friends at home in England. Miss Hall writes that a party of children left for Australia on May 23 and another will be leaving some time in August.

The London office sends greetings to all Fairbridgians and Friends of Fairbridge and especial good wishes to those who were so successful in their University Examinations, Dick Speed, Ron Hancock Pat Hood, Bill Stoker, Leon Mendoza, Tom Speed.

The following story, if one may call it so, was submitted by our very sincere friend, Gordon Green. This is also being published in Australia this year.

A LITTLE JOURNEY TO NORWAY, SWEDEN, GERMANY, and SWITZERLAND.

The Fairbridge committee having decided that I should look into the conditions of "Refugee" children and other "alien" children for whom no happy and constructive plan had been achieved, it was easy to arrange a flying journey to Norway and Sweden and then to Germany and Switzerland.

It was agreed that the core of Fairbridge duty and purpose was to save children and give them health and preparation for life and work in a sound community. The succour of European children is not, clearly, within the competence of the Fairbridge Society, judged on the terms of its foundation. However, the plight of very large numbers in Europe is so desolate and so damaging that it might be that Fairbridge in this extensive emergency could plan for some help in such a form as would not conflict with its statutory duties.

In Norway the presence of Refugees required little investigation and no help from any foreign agency. The problem of 6,000 dependent children at the end of the war had been solved without any outside help by way of "foster homes" in Norway. I was, however, able to gather information on the general care of children and on the methods used for fostering their good health.

In Oslo I spent some time with the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Diesen. What he has achieved for the children of his country will be an appropriate monument to his skill and his charity. If one regards only the year 1946 - the first year clear of the Occupation, one learns that in Oslo, no child between the ages of 5 and nine was lost through ill health. Oslo is not disgraced by a single slum - although there has been an acute housing shortage and the overcrowding that is therefore inevitable. I brought away with me a report by Dr. L.

Stoltenberg of the Oslo School Medical Board - on the school children during the war years. Before the war it was the practice to promote good diet and hygiene for young people and children. The so called "Oslo Breakfast" was served free at the schools. This meal consisted of one third to one half a litre of fresh milk, as much wholemeal bread with vitamised margarine and cheese, and cod liver paste - as each child would eat. Hard bread or biscuit with vitamised spread was added, as well as raw carrot, swede, apple or half an orange. The hygiene conditions were good. The children only attended school in the morning and each school-room was only used by one class each day. There was equipment for physical training and for showers to be used after training. The Municipal holiday camps had room for 2,500 children for 6 weeks stay during the holidays. There were also sanatoria where children not in robust condition could have care for a year or more.

It was feared that the children's nervous system would suffer from the long absence of the father serving in the Resistance, or in

article from Mr. Green, contd.

the Forces abroad and also from the pervading fear of the Gestapo. However, in spite of that, there were relatively few children who showed positive nervous disturbance, except those who were inherently not very robust. It was found that when the children left the scene of their fears, they showed a surprising ability to forget their fears and escape from the menace which they felt at home. At the same time it could not be denied that the health of the children was below standard - they were lighter in weight, had poor colour and had slackened muscular action. They appeared tired and lacked energy or will to do their school work. A study covering the war period of weighing and measurement statistics showed not only lighter weight but also a decline in the rate of growing. Oslo children fared worse than most other children in Norway but Dr. Steltenberg remarks: "Thanks to the assistance given by our neighbouring countries and our farmers and the fact that we succeeded in providing them with sufficient vitamins, we can assume that the war years have not, generally speaking, caused lasting damage to the health of the children."

There were 35,000 "stateless" people in Sweden. Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians and some Finns are able to earn their living in Sweden - one of the most prosperous countries and probably willing to keep these people but for persistent pressure from the Soviet for their repatriation. I talked with some of their leaders, able men, freely giving their services towards ultimate resettlement of their groups. It is a self-contained problem requiring special measures, distinct from shipping, and costs of shipping and other transportation. "Hundreds" have attempted the Atlantic crossing, in small groups. Most of these have been lost at sea, with their small craft. Some have gained the shores of America - and eventually have been accepted by Canada, by special "Orders in Council". It is dreadful that such heroic people cannot come within a social order to free them from that in which they live. I was present in Stockholm, when, for two days, 200 young men were interviewed by competent examiners of an overseas, government sponsored, organization. I have never seen a finer group of young men.

As I found myself in Amsterdam on the way to Germany, I gave an hour or two to enquiries which would be useful in connection with the sale of the "Mitchell" Rembrandt self-portrait, to endow "John Howard Mitchell House" in England which is to be used as a reception centre for young Fairbridgians. I visited the Rijksmuseum Bibliotheek, and saw the cleaned "Night Watch". M. Maulenhoff of the Rijksmuseum gave me a copy of his brochure on the cleaning of the "Night Watch". The cleaning has revealed several more new life size figures and the painting is now called the "Morning Watch" by the citizens of Amsterdam. I am, perhaps, hardly qualified to judge but it struck me that the "Mitchell" Rembrandt self-portrait is a greater painting than some of the Rembrandt heads in Holland. In Rotterdam, Mr. Willebië le Mair asked the curator of the Boymans museum to show us the collection of pictures there. . . . All the Goering thefts, I was told, have been returned to the Dutch and Flemish galleries. This visit threw no further light on our treasured Rembrandt oil painting except to educate me to its value.

We drove to Brussels to fly to Frankfurt and the American Zone. At once we went to the famous Henau camp. There were 5,000 refugees from the Baltic provinces in this "Camp 554", - a former German barracks. It had a hospital made entirely from rubble, fully equipped and staffed. The whole camp was staffed by the D.P.'s. There was a vocational technical training school (fifteen departments each showing products of high commercial value made from odments). I saw tailoring, carpentry, millinery, woodcarving, pottery, radio, blacksmithing, tinsmithing, etc., . . . There were experts in every line and classes for groups of 25 enrolling for 5-6 months. It was a wonderful colony of superior people who should be transplanted without

Mr. Gordon Green contd.

destroying their community. I then went to the camp for Ukrainians and a smaller number of Baltic refugees at Mainz-Kastel, again in a former German barracks. There were close to 2,000 in this camp. But its equipment for training had been concentrated at Hanau; there was a comparative lack of it here. Groups, however, go to the Hanau camp for training.... One was struck by the fine bearing of the people at this camp; the children were superb. The boys and girls (6 - 18 yrs.) put on a Scout and Guide concert and we marvelled at the talent. They are a most God-fearing people and their quiet power is indeed something to make one marvel.

We went to Heidelberg and from there drove to the Children's centre - for unaccompanied children, at Aglasterhausen, about 30 miles away. There we found 300 children and young people from age 2 months to 20 years, in a former German institution. The staff were D.P.'s. The matron was absent but we were shown over by a D.P. welfare Officer. A big, bleak place - but a shelter - poorly equipped. There was overcrowding, eight girls lodged in rooms which should house no more than five. There were no sheets and no floor covering. Water supply was insufficient and only few electric lights. On the other hand the kitchen equipment was good. I found an excellent Estonian woman doctor (a "D.P."), providing medical care, without much equipment. Seven girls and boys were due to leave as repatriates for Poland the next day and one little boy was ready for America.... No one mentions the past to any of them because it might provoke an attack of hysteria. I was told that some had witnessed tank battles from "front Seats". The D.P. staff is doing its very best - indeed. We returned to Heidelberg and were soon back again at Frankfurt. I went along to see the nutritional centre for Jewish children, run by Dr. Kramer Ph. D., a Jugo-Slav Jewess of about 30 years of age. 80 Jewish boys and girls 7-17 come to her centre for four weeks exactly. Balance of each month is taken for overhaul. There were 35 Jewish children's camps in the area. I spent about 1½ hours at her centre. The building is a children's home - modern - established by the Germans. It is very efficient throughout. There are enormous windows (none of which are broken). The floors - ground, basement and landing, are tiled. There is ample room for 80. There is both hot and cold water throughout. The American Jewish Distributing Committee gave them everything.... Dr. Kramer is a grand woman - her father, her husband and she were taken from Yugoslavia by the Germans. She came to Belsen after her father and her husband were gassed at Auschwitz. Her number was tattooed heavily on the inside of her right forearm. Looking at that I saw the spectre of the S.S. Dr. Kramer has decided to spend her life with children after her experience with them. She will make a mark in children's work.

We reached Hanover at about 3:30 a.m. There must have been many more than a thousand people wandering in and around the station. I signed for my room at the Control Hotel across the way and then went back to the station and tried to size up that motley. All hungry-looking, all apparently moving if they could. I was told that "hundreds of them come and go into the Russian Zone trading fish from Bremerhaven". But hundreds could carry tons of fish and one cannot see a black - or grey - market in very doubtful fish.

The gauge on all was said to be footwear. Reasonable footwear - grey market, good footwear, black market. Refugees wore anything from a piece of wood wrapped with sacking or anything which would stand the strain.... Then, one man told me, that 150,000 single tickets had been issued to the Russian Zone. 16,000 babies had been born to married and unmarried couples during the same period in one Zone.

From Hanover we went to Lemgo where we met the chief representative of the International Refugee organization in the British Zone. I was able to discuss children. There were about 800 little

children in our B.A.O.R. Zone without plates to eat from or spoons to eat with. They were "unaccompanied" children: but they were "out" children. I was determined to bet the plates and spoons and mugs. Thanks to our London staff, more than enough were supplied and acknowledged.

I went to Zurich with the object of visiting the Pestalozzi Children's village at Trogen near St. Gallen. This was a Sunday and on arrival we found it closed to visitors on Sundays. All the 170 boys and girls had gone to Schaber to Church. ... The Scheme: The whole thing is very similar to Fairbridge, Canada in 1937. 16 children with house-father and mother from each country - Poland, France, Germany(Hamburg), Austria, Hungary, Italy. 350 is to be the limit. There have been the familiar mistakes in planning. They are now being rectified. Swiss cities and large industrial concerns provide the buildings. Public appeals give the running costs. Pestalozzi (Historian) was a Bernarde of Switzerland 200 years ago. A large bronze statue has a prominent setting in Zurich. Karl Buresch, a handsome Austrian explained the effort to cultivate the three international arts, Music, Handicrafts and Gymnasia. We went carefully through the "France" house. Every house has a small workshop. Every child has a pair of skis. All children - all ages from 6-13, girls and boys - share the house. But there are some very high "I.Q's." and some very low. At present, education is within each house, and is done under difficulty. It is really a rehabilitation centre for war orphans. Most of the Polish youngsters saw their parents shot and are in need of the most care. It has been agreed there that when a boy turns 14 he must go home to his country of origin. As every child has no family it looks like transfer to a narrower field - and possibly an out-of-date orphanage... At Pestalozzi there is no central dining hall - They would be ahead of us in theory and practice of music and handicrafts. The isolation of the place certainly gives the lie to "Fairbridge" isolation making staff impossible to keep - except again these are highly trained European adults with a very fine sense of living.

That was the end of my tour. We had to make our way to England across France during the strikes. I would like to go on with the story. What can be done? If it is agreed that the movement of "families" - healthy, Christian men and women, with small parties of children, can be started, nothing material should be impossible of attainment.

Gordon Green
London, England

NEWS ITEMS

On May 22nd in the Chapel of Christ Church Cathedral the infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Norman Pollard (Enid Nicklin) was christened Gregory Norman.

A recent wedding of interest is that of Mary Redshaw to Mr. G. Jamieson.

Mr. & Mrs. Young (Phyllis Gay) who reside at Burn's Lake are now the proud parents of three children.

June Harding graduated from the Vancouver Vocational Institute in March of this year and is now on the Nursing staff of Grace Hospital, Vancouver.

Born to Mr. & Mrs. Kent (Jeannie Morrison) of Ladysmith, a daughter in February.

Ken Ryan is at present driving for East End Taxi in Vancouver.

KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE MEMORIAL

Of interest to all Fairbridgians and Fairbridge Friends is the Kingsley Fairbridge memorial which is to be erected and dedicated in Umtali Southern Rhodesia in the very near future. Over 1000 pounds sterling was realised in England for this project.

At the University of B.C. this year Dick Speed completed the first year toward the M.A. degree. Bill Stoker attained his B.A. Mr. J.J.A. Gillatt also received his B.A.

Dick received the Benet scholarship for studies in psychology.

Pat Hood, Ron Hancock and Tom Speed also passed their exams and are preparing to return next fall. Also last but not least Leon Mendoza was successful in his first year at the U.B.C.

Ron Hancock is working this Summer at a logging camp near Port McNiel. He finds sufficient recreation facilities. He writes, "I am certainly not regretting the fact that I brought my camera up here since I am finding much use for it. I have expended a whole roll already... I found a most fascinating subject in a yearling deer which is no more afraid of humans than of its own mother... The camp is also frequented by a tame racoon of which I snapped several close-ups."

Stan Newberry was married to Isabel Olsen in December. The couple reside in Edmonton.

On Sunday Feb. 18 at 3pm the infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Pat Webb was christened Glen Harvey, at All Saint's Church, Vancouver.

Ken Dobbs writes from Korea that he met Tommy Richards recently.

Victor Smith is now at Camp Borden where he is taking a 2½ months course as an army Provost.

Cyprian Glentworth is now working at the Gang ranch in the Cariboo where Harry Lister was once employed. Harry is working on a farm next to the school. His present employer, Mr. H. F. Standen, was Jack Wheeler's first employer ten years ago.

James Winthrop has achieved University Entrance this year. He will be taking Grade XIII at Cowichan High School next year.

Three boys from the Farm School, Roddy MacKay, Tom Lisle and Kieth Hamblet, were members of a square dance team from Cowichan High School which competed in the B. C. Championship festival at Haney in May. The team was successful in winning the Provincial High School Championship.

Johnny Robinson is now the owner of 43 acres of land at Salmon Arm and hopes to stock it with Hereford cattle.

Born to Mr. & Mrs. James Dean (Lilly Clabby) on June 15th. in Victoria a daughter, Linda Jeanett.

Ted Spencer recently visited the Farm School.

This I sincerely hope is the last page. But I cannot close without first mentioning our great need for financial support to keep our Organisation on its feet. I would sincerely appreciate members dues and any donation toward the cost of this Gazette.

I had a letter from Victoria. Part of it reads as follows:

"You know, Tom, there are quite a number of O.F.'S. living on the Island and I think it only fair that the O.F. banquet be held in Victoria once in a while." The only comment I shall make here is this. Any organisation is governed by the wishes of the paid up members. If the people in the Vancouver area pay their fees and those on the Island don't (excepting two people) then there is little more left for me to say. I will add that I would like very much to have the next gathering in Victoria. Ron also holds the same opinion.

The very best of wishes for success to all,

Thos. E. Speed

Further News Items

Lawrence McCarty, who has for the past two years been employed in the laboratory of the B.C. Cement Company at Bamberton, has now gone "North" to the Aluminum of Canada project at Kitimat.

Clem Gray is working in the pulp mill at Port Alice, after spending several years at sea.

Ron Emmerson is located in Toronto and is employed by Dunlop Tyre and Rubber Co.

Three boys from the School, Roddy MacKay, Tom Lisle and Kieth Hamblett were in the Champion Square Dance team and Eric Foster Tom Lisle and John Hardy won the awards as best citizens in their respective classes at Cowichan High School

The following is a partial list of those whose addresses are unknown. Anyone knowing their whereabouts might drop me a line.

D. Beechey	H. Robinson
J. Bennett	H. Skelton
D. Brayfield	R. Stephenson
H. Brayfield	J. Stewart
A. Buglass	D. Townsley
F. Colline	J. Wheeler
J. Dobbs	A. White
R. Fenton	E. Winchester
B. Hodges	A. Warsnop
J. Lowe	W. Cockburn
J. Mead	C. Stoker
R. Powell	N. Goodyear
	Mrs. K. Howard

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