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OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER

FOUNDER'S DAY 1950

Thoughts on Founder's Day.

Every Old Fairbridgian knows that the Fairbridge Society was founded at Oxford on October 19, 1909 at a meeting of Rhodes scholars. The late Mr. N.S. Macdonnell of the Supreme Court of Ontario was chairman. Those present were young men in their early twenties, from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland. Kingsley Fairbridge, in his autobiography, describes how he set forth in his speech, for the first time, his hopes and plans which lay nearest to his heart. "Finally," he adds, "I asked them to join in a work which should be for the good of England and the Empire."

"I sat down amid what seemed to be a very intense silence. Half a dozen men arose to ask questions... I answered each in turn easily and fluently, for my heart was uplifted. The hope of twelve years was burning in my brain. I saw the farm-schools as they would be - as they had been a thousand times in my dreams... Tomorrow I would see them with my living eyes."

I heard Cameron proposing and Dr. Waddy seconding, that we fifty men should declare ourselves the Society for the Furtherance of Child Immigration to the Colonies. I was instructed to "carry on", to collect money, to find the way. We each undertook to pay five shillings to the "fund".

"At a late hour we disbanded, and I wandered back to Exeter College hardly knowing where I was. According to the custom, I kicked on the old gate that is braced and riveted with iron, and Hookham, (the College Porter), entering my name for a "late" fine, let me in. I wandered into the main quad, feeling strangely lost, and then on to my staircase and my room."

"The Way", I thought, that is it. I am still to find the way. But we are on it, we - That's it - fifty of us now... My Child Immigration thought is spoken - it is become part of the world."

I well remember the ringing words of our Founder that night, spoken with an easy fluency which belied the nervous agitation of his mind. All of us who heard him were deeply affected by his earnest sincerity and we were ready to help in any way we could. That was the remarkable effect which Kingsley Fairbridge had upon all who came in contact with him. When in Australia three years ago I met a dozen or more of the Founder's Old Fairbridgians, now in their forties and many of them heads of families, one of them with grandchildren. All of them remember "Mr. Fairbridge" with affection and respect, and, though he died in 1924, he is still the strongest influence in their lives.

These are the things which come to my mind on Founder's Day 1950 - memories of that first meeting in the Japanese Cafe in the High Street, Oxford, forty-one years ago; the faces of my friends who were there; the strong personality of the Founder and the clear-sighted idealism which gave birth to the Fairbridge we all know; thoughts too of the noble work of Mr. Gordon Green and those who helped him to carry on and enlarge the work of the Founder. And, added to all these, are the thronging memories of the Farm-school we all know and love: one of the boys reading the lesson in chapel on Sunday morning; an evening meal in a cottage; the arrival of a "new party" of children; the dining hall on Christmas night; inter-school sports day at Fairbridge; the swimming pool on a sunny summer afternoon; milking time in the cow-barn; a prize giving in the day school; a meeting of the Trainee Club on a Sunday evening; a Founder's Day service in the Chapel; these and a thousand other scenes crowd the memory as one reflects on Fairbridge of the past - our laughter and our tears, our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments. And we remember with gratitude the kindness and help of our many friends who came to love and admire Fairbridge and her children.

We have been a close-knit family built upon the high idealism of the Founder, and seeking, so far as may be possible, to realise his dreams of what a Farm-school community should be. I welcome this opportunity to send greetings to each Old Fairbridgian, from my wife and myself, and may I express the hope, on this Founder's Day, that through the O. F. Association, you may be able to maintain in some measure, the ties with each other and with the best things for which Fairbridge stands.

Professor, Harry T. Logan
University of British
Columbia.

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Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore. Ecclesiasticus 44:13, 14.

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General News Items

Colonel M.F. Trew, the first principal of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and now Lord Lieutenant of Devon, has recently received the honour of an O.B.E. His career during World War 11 was one of great distinction.

Johnny Cowans was elected president of the Cowichan Lake High School Alumni this summer. John is not returning to the University this year.

The newest O. F. is Brian Tibbles. He is employed with the B.C. Forest Service at the Experimental station at Mesachie Lake, B.C.

All correspondence should be directed to:
 Secretary Treasurer 6050 Chancellor Blvd., Vancouver, B.C.
 Thos. E. Speed

President 6050 Chancellor Blvd., Vancouver, B.C.
 R. J. Hancock

EDITORIAL

Why An O. F. Association? 1950

The other day I heard a familiar voice call me by name. Though it had been several years since I had seen the owner of the voice, it was no trick for me to identify him as one of the first pupils at Fairbridge School. Naturally, for personal reasons, I was mighty pleased to enter immediately into conversation with your present Secretary-Treasurer. But it was not only because of my acquaintance with the individual that I welcomed this chance meeting. It was also because Tom Speed represented to me a group of persons, - boys and girls- whom I remembered as the first pupils in a make-shift two-room school, back in 1935. Our discussion soon turned to others of that group- and then to others of the enlarged group- the Old Fairbridgian Association of to-day.

Why did we start conversing about Fairbridge? Just because "Fairbridge" is a particular alluring topic? Not necessarily. Had Tom and I lived in a community in Borneo, or Iceland, for the same length of time, our talk would have turned to our association with persons there. Wherever people gather and live in groups, up springs an association - the influence of which is felt for many years, perhaps for a lifetime. But, you may say, childhood acquaintances are only temporary- the natural process of growing up dims the associations made in early years. Precisely, - that is where an organisation established for helping people "keep in touch" comes into operation. Your O. F. Association sets up the machinery whereby you may renew old friendships and make new ones. That is the purpose your President referred to in the June News Letter, when he wrote, "Comradeship is ... the basis and essence of our Association."

An Association, then, is just what the word would seem to mean, an inter-relationship of members to form a society, with the resulting influence of the society upon each individual. Names on a roll are not enough for a successful association. There must be active participation and interest in the purpose and activities of the group. Perhaps you are saying, "We have our own association and clubs, in the community in which we live." I hope you have. You wouldn't be human if you hadn't. But, perhaps, too, you can add something to the O.F. Association from your experience in other organisations. In this way you would be helping those O.F.'s. who, as yet, have not "settled down", and who look forward to the contacts to be gained with the only established group they know.

The foregoing remarks should have answered, at least partially, the question, "Why an Old Fairbridgian Association?" Perhaps the more pertinent question would be, "Whither the O. F. Association?" Will it "go places" in furthering its purpose??? Time, and your support, individually and collectively, will tell. May I express my sincere hopes that the story will be one of unqualified success.

Jock Gillatt.

News Items

The marriage of Joe Jessop and Miss Lovaine Uridge took place in Vancouver on Saturday July 22. The honeymoon was spent on Vancouver Island during which the young couple paid a visit to the Farm School.

Barry Brown, after spending some three and a half years in Australia including service in the R.A.A.F., returned to Canada last winter to make his home and has settled at Chemainus.

John Roberts spent the summer working for the city of Victoria. He will be attending Victoria College this winter having graduated from Belmont High School last June.

Ken Dobbs spent the last winter in a silver-lead mine at New Denver in the Slokan. He likes the mountain meadows and says there are good opportunities for dairy farmers. Ken's sisters, Amy and Irene, live in Victoria.

Employed at Honeymoon bay, this summer, were John Cowans, Morris Finter, Clifford Cooper and Hugh Taylor. Also in the same general area were Leon Mendoza and Frank Merrison. Leon is attending U.B.C. this fall.

Ken Bennett has shipped as a wireless operator on the s.s. "Lake Minnewanka"; he has as a shipmate Don Cuming, A.B.; destination, Hull, England. His address is c/o Western Canada Steamships, Van. B.C.

Mickie Pownall is employed on the staff of the Chateau Lake Louise.

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A VERY IMPORTANT LETTER !!!

Dear Old Fairbridgian;

As you will likely have perceived upon getting this letter, the time previously set for the Annual Banquet has arrived. We, your executive, are discussing plans for the event, but we cannot accomplish anything concrete until we hear from you. Upon your interest and financial support rests, not only the calibre of this annual function, but the very continuation of it.

Therefore, since we hope to have the gathering sometime during the second week of November, WE MUST HAVE A REPLY FROM YOU BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE MONTH in order to allow sufficient time to notify you of the date and location. Of course, your suggestions would be most welcome. Well, I will not ramble on. Although there are thoughts which might be appropriately expressed here, they are most adequately set down elsewhere in the News Sheet. Thus I will merely wish you the best of luck and remind you to reply as soon as possible.

All good wishes,

Ronald J. Hancock, Pres.

News Items Contd.

Mr. & Mrs. Emil Liska (Molly Pritchard) were blessed with a son born June 27th. at St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria.

Joan Buchan is now residing in Tasmania where she is training as a nurse.

Mr. & Mrs. Russel Martin (Joan Vallentin) have just completed one year of teaching and of married life at Penny, B.C.

Ed. note. The school at Penny has, within the last two days, been shut down due to an epidemic of poliomyelitis.

(Is it spelled correctly?)

A recent visitor to the Farm School was Mrs. Lorne Nelson with her husband and son. Mrs. Nelson is the former Edie Phelps.

Mr. & Mrs. Vacqueray and daughter, Irene, are once again living in Vernon. Silvia Cowans makes her home with her sister and Mr. Vacqueray.

Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Skidmore (Marjorie Arneson) with their two children, Freddie and Patricia Jane are living in Vancouver. Cliff works in the freight department of the C.P.R.

Mr. & Mrs. John Hunter (Hazel Hughes) have moved from Little Mountain Camp and are living in a home of their own on E.19th. Ave. John is not returning to the University this year.

Mary Green and her husband Mr. Leo Halldorson, with their young son and twin daughters, have moved from Lulu Island into Vancouver.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred McCaig are moving to Port Alberni. Fred, after graduating from U.B.C., is employed by B.S.&W. in that city. Mrs. McCaig (Nancy Scott) and their son will follow Fred as soon as he has found living accommodation.

Pat Morrison and her husband Austin R. Brown have had a recent addition to the family. Gail Elizabeth.

Mr. & Mrs. Archibald Young (Phyllis Gay) have moved to Burn's Lake, B.C. They have two fine boys, Paddy and Larry.

June Harding has entered the Vancouver Vocational School of Practical Nursing. She is now taking her practical training in the various hospitals.

It has just been brought to my attention that Joan Martin and her husband are teaching at Willow River, B.C., this year. Ed.

Doreen Pleasant (Mrs. Pat Kelly) and her husband are now living at Revelstoke.

Lillian Kemp was married last November to Mr. Norman Sheppard. They are living in Hamilton, Ontario.

Doreen Bryan is working as a power machine operator for the Jones Tent and Awning Company, Vancouver.

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We are heavily indebted to Mr. A.H. Plow for the news of the O.F. boys and to Miss C. DeWolfe for the news of the girls. Others of whom we have word are, Sarah Falcus, Mary Ann McGee, Mary Redshaw, Irene Robinson, Audrey Richards, Olive Turner, Mollie Preece, Isabel Wylie, Margaret Buckley (Wylie), and Enid Nicklin.

Bill Renwick was a patient in the Vancouver General Hospital this summer. He is married and now living in Vancouver.

Visitors to the home of Peter and Annie Forrest during August, were Eunice and Bill Cockburn, Irene Robinson, Ginger McDonald and Mr. & Mrs. John Dee.

Late news items.

Bernard Kynaston, who recently spent some time at the Farm School, is now on his way to Halifax aboard the Canadian Destroyer, Crescent. Your secretary received a letter from him, posted in Mexico, last August.

Agnes Duffy was married on August 5, in Nanaimo, to Mr. Glenn Naylor. Kathleen and Mary Duffy were involved in a traffic accident on the way to the wedding. They suffered facial injuries but are reported to have been well recovered by the end of August.

Ronald Milne, who is twenty-one on the twenty-first of this month, will be guest of honour at a party in his honour at the Chilliwack Golf Club. Ron has worked at the Golf Club for a number of years.

Ken Dobbs, who is reported elsewhere in this news letter, has joined the Canadian Army, Korean Brigade. Dennis Crawte is also in the Canadian Army, regular force.

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I happened to be reading a copy of the London(England) Daily Telegraph, dated Oct. 14, 1950. I noticed there an interesting picture of two little boys talking to the Countess of Athlone. The Caption beneath the picture was as follows: "TEA PARTY FOR YOUNG EMIGRANTS.- Princess Alice Countess of Athlone...when she attended a farewell party at the Royal Empire Society yesterday. The children are going to the Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, Western Australia." I am sure all of us wish this new party the very best in their venture. They are at this moment on the high seas bound for their new home.

Ed. Thos. S.

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Dick Speed, who graduated from the University of British Columbia last term, has returned to take up studies leading toward his M.A. He has been appointed to an Assistantship in the department of Psychology, this year.

LETTERS

There are approximately two hundred Old Fairbridgians. I have been very pleased to receive letters to date, from the following people: Bob Warnock, Dick Speed, Mr. H. T. Logan, Victor Smith, John S. Hunter, Mr. A. H. Plows, Miss D. Hall(Eng.), Mr. Gordon Green, Pat Webb, Leon Mendoza, Bernard Kynaston and Miss C. DeWolfe. Ron also just received a letter from Avril Ingram who hopes to be returning to Canada next year. (We always send copies of these news letters to those O.Fs. who reside outside of Canada.)

One might notice that there are a few O.Fs. who have not written recently and from whom we would be very pleased to receive a letter.

Thos. E. Speed Sec-Treas.

Also among our correspondence are one or two Old Northcotean magazines. The Northcote School, as many of you may know, is in the State of Victoria, Australia. I was reading in the Winter edition, a poem sent in by a girl, Miss Shirley Roberts, c/o R.B. Nixon, P.O. Wangaratta, Victoria.(It is about 200 miles from the New South Wales' border. The poem is as follows.

The Descent of Man

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree,
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to the other: "Now listen you two-
There's a certain rumour that can't be true:
That man descended from our noble race-
The very idea is a shocking disgrace.

No monkey ever deserted his wife,
 Starved her babies and ruined her life;
 And you've never known a mother monk
 To leave her babies with others to bunk;
 Or pass them on from one to another
 Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see-
 A monk build a fence round a coconut tree,
 And let the coconuts go to waste,
 Forbidding all other monks to taste.
 Why, If I put a fence around a coconut tree,
 Starvation would force you to steal from me.
 Here's another thing a monk won't do-
 Go out at night and get in a stew;
 Or use a gun or club or knife
 To take some other monkey's life.
 Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss-
 But, brother, he didn't descend from us!

-Anonymous.

ASSOCIATION FINANCES.

It may be appropriate to publish here, the financial situation of our Association. I must emphasise the fact that we operate on the proverbial "shoe-string" owing to the fact that members are not sending in their dues. Your executive is allotted, by the constitution of the association, \$40.00, to undertake the year's work. We have tried to revive interest in our Association by keeping you informed by news letter. We give our time and labour, free. We expect that you will be interested enough to give the Association the moneys to supply the material.

Bank Balance	Jan. 1950	\$ 52.04
Petty Cash	"	nil
Fees	1950	18.00
Donations	1950	10.00
Expenditures		
(News Letters (#3) and	1950	\$ 30.45
correspondence)		
Balance to October 1950 (Bank a/c plus petty cash)		<u>49.59</u>

I submit the above for your consideration. It is very general but nevertheless fact. And I hope, as I am sure that you must do, that we shall develop, in the near future, a more healthy bank balance.

Thos. E. Speed
 Sec-Treas.

In adding 'finis' to this addition I must thank all those who have contributed in any way, especially Mr. H.T. Logan and Mr. J. Gillatt. Miss C. DeWolfe was very kind in submitting a great deal of the girl's news which was conspicuous by its absence in the last edition.

To all Old Fairbridgians and Fairbridge friends I send my very best wishes.

Thos. E. Speed
 Thos.E. Speed
 Editor.