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with geologies

OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN ASSOCIATION

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RANDOM THOUGHTS ON AN UNRANDOM TOPIC

We found ourselves in the middle of a most interesting conversation the other day - a conversation concerning the fates of infants, who through unfortunate circumstances, either have no parents or are permanently separated from them. This problem is a serious one in modern society. It involves a greater segment of the population than many of us realise. As products of earlier circumstances similar to those above, we as Fairbridgians and parents should have considerable interest in this problem.

The importance of the upbringing of such individuals lies not only in the Christian aspect, but from humanistic considerations is directly related to the future strength of our society. For the moral and intellectual seeds sown in infancy and youth later blossom into the stable and responsible citizen the world needs so badly today, or degenerates into the neurotic and irresponsible individuals that has helped bring about the present world situation. The former group might pull us through our contemporary chaos; the latter are undermining modern civilisation. Most people of course are a combination of the two extremes, the general population forming a continuum extending between the two, yet it is the proportions of the interfusion in each individual that determines his behaviour and is thus so relevant here.

In the providing of some situation for the groups that concern us we are faced with two major alternatives: the institution or the foster home. The healthiest atmosphere in which to raise a child is, we think the reader will grant, that brought about by a happy and enlightened home. This rare situation cannot be elaborated upon here. However, in a happy home the parents "get along", having love and respect for each other. Thus in the family unit there is fostered a rigid respect for the rights of others combined with a certain flexibility allowing the individual to be his natural self and supplying that essential element of securely belonging. True happiness in the corollary of enlightenment. Thus such a family besides laying basic moral foundations also instills a desire for knowledge and a passion for truth.

It is such a situation, so briefly described above, that the authorities dealing with the "orphan segment" must try to reproduce. Therefore, in theory the institution is only a second best solution to the problem. It cannot compete with an adequate foster home into which the child is taken when very young and grows up as One of the family. However, such is not the case when we consider a poor foster home which can do more harm than a rigid institutional upbringing. A good institution, while it must fail in providing family affection, can give the individual a morally sound and well directed life's training. The psychological gap left can be filled, in many cases, by intimate friendships and later, marriage and a family life. The institution also has the advantage of being able to replace the "parent substitutes" before they can do irreparable harm. On the other hand, foster homes can be changed also. It is not disadvantageous for an individual who is past his formative years to go through several foster homes. Sometimes a general adjustment to foster homes is acquired first, leading to a more complete adaptation to the particulars of another home later.

Characteristic of most institutions is the lack of socialisation. Institutions tend to exist as isolated units in the centre of a very different mode of life. They must necessarily become an integral part of the surrounding society, since the individual cannot enter the society and successfully adapt himself to it if he has had no contact with it. To avoid undesirable out-

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side contacts the child could be shielded until he reaches the age of discretion.- Let us say twelve years of age.- Next to the lack of the parent-child relationship this lack of socialisation is probably the most serious argument against institutional life.

The problem of the "orphan segment" is a large one space allows only a very superficial treatment of it. The strain of modern life upon the family unit rendering it less capable of supplying a healthy atmosphere for child upbringing, the high divorce rate, and the number of unhappy homes are just a few related topics we cannot discuss thoroughly. The family is the building block of civilisation; never has it been so threatened. Basking in the relative luxury and comfort of our Western democracies we take too lightly the problem of child upbringing. In this regard Russia is probably far ahead of us. Although Britain has almost modern and successful foster home system it is still only a step in the right direction.

In modern social welfare, the pendulum ~~is~~ of opinion is swinging towards the foster home technique. As previously stated, a good foster home comes closest to solving the problem of the homeless child. Yet a good institution is better than a poor foster home and far more changeable. A permanent solution must include the education of parents towards their grave responsibilities. However, we shall not even attempt a definite conclusion. Our purpose was to stimulate thought. If this sketch has achieved that much we feel the effort has not been wasted.

R.J. Hancock
June 1952

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BIRTHS

- To Mr. & Mrs. John Monnington - a son, Lester.
- To Mr. & Mrs. John Newell - a daughter, Judith Hazel.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Bell (nee Muriel Lister) - a daughter Joanie May.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Derek Garside - a daughter, Judith Lynn.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Joe Jessop - a daughter, Janet Isabelle.
- To CSM and Mrs. Bob Warnock, in January 1952, - a son, Reginald Tommy.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Tipler - a son, Wayne.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Glen Jamieson (nee Mary Redshaw) - a daughter, Gayle.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Austin Brown (nee Pam Morrison) - a daughter, Lynne Charleen.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Robert Duncan (nee Audrey Arnison) - a daughter, Julie.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Russel Martin (nee Joan Valentin) - a son, Colin Russel Gordon.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Fred McCaig (nee Nancy Scott) - a son, Gerald Scott.
- To Mr. & Mrs. William de Ruiter (nee I. Lister) a son.
- To Mr. & Mrs. John Danks - a son, John Charles.
- To Mr. & Mrs. Les Snaith - a daughter.

The following is alist of the recent O.F. marriages.

William P. Stoker to Beryl J. Denman in Vancouver on June 4th.

Joseph S. Fenton to Phyllis E. Ball in Victoria on June 14th.

Ronald Milne and Irene Davidson were married on April 5th. at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Langford, B.C. The Rev. H. J. Jones performed the ceremony.

Peter Mein and Catherine Eager were married in Vancouver on April 19th. The wedding was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Dante with whom Catherine has been staying. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. O. Arnold Olson.

Charles Williams was married to Rosalie McTurk at Courtenay on June 25th

On January 5th. Amy Dobbs was married to Leonard Walter Perry at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. The Very Rev. Dean Cecil Swanson D.D. officiated. The bride was given in marriage by Prof. H. T. Logan of the University of British Columbia.

At All Saint's Church, Alta Vista, on December 15th, the Rev. Canon T. DePencier officiated at the marriage of Kenneth Arnison to Wendy-Lou Bourget of Vancouver. Friends at the wedding included Mr. & Mrs. H.T. Logan, Mr. Tom Speed and of course Ken's sister Margerie.

Finally on the list is the wedding of Ronald Emmerson to Joan Charlotte Baker in Toronto on September 1st.

Of interest to many O.F.'s. will be the following letter from Mr. Ted Spencer. Ted has, for many years been ranching in the interior of British Columbia. He is an ardent supporter of the Old Fairbridgian Association and never fails to send in his dues. plus a substantial donation.

"Ranching is like any other business. To be a success one has to thoroughly know what he is doing. It is a gamble which one has to make the most of in the good times and salt away some money for the rainy days. That, I imagine, is the same in all walks of life.

I find the Winter is the hardest time of the year to put in on a ranch. The rancher has not the modern conveniences of the city so he has to create his own amusement for the long Winter nights. Music can be a great pastime, although it is hard to please everyone with it, but if one possesses a musical instrument it is easy to wile away the long hours. Also hobbies of all sorts come in handy too. I save stamps as a hobby and find that I can enjoy many interesting hours.

To be a rancher, one has to be a jack of all trades. The Spring work begins with the dehorning of the cattle about the end of March. Also about that time the cows are calving and one has to ride through the herd to see if any of the cows or heifers are having trouble.

By the end of March the steers are usually out on the range. April finds us working on the land. There are ditches to be cleaned, barnyards to be cleaned out and the usual spring clean-up. The Summer work consists of putting up the hay and shipping the cattle off to market. Most of the branding is done in may although some of the calves born late have to be branded in the Fall.

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Now we begin to get ready for the Winter. The stock-yard fences have to be built and the range fences repaired. In November the cattle come down from the range grounds and the beginning of the Winter feeding depends upon the weather but we are usually feeding towards the end of December. Then the feeding is a full time job until the spring break-up. Considering everything, ranching is a healthy and enjoyable life and I would not trade it for any other kind of work.

Yours sincerely
Edward L. Spencer.

Ted's address is Nicola, B.C. I am sure he would like to hear from some of you. While you are dropping him a line it would be appreciated if you could also drop one to Ron or myself. We are always pleased to hear from any of you.

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NEWS ITEMS

Morris Finter graduated from the Nanaimo Vocational School, Diesel Section, recently and is proceeding to the Salmon Arm district where he will be employed by the Provincial Department of Public Works.

* Those graduating from Cowichan High School this June are; Gordon Dewhirst, Eric Foster and Hugh Taylor.

A Those Fairbridgians now serving with the Canadian Army in Korea
R are Bob Bennett and Ed Walton. Tommy Richards recently returned
M to Canada and is staying with his brother Norman in Vancouver.
E Two others are serving in Europe under N.A.T.O. Command: Arthur
D Fewings is in Germany and Malcolm Macdonald is with the R.C.A.F.
F Fighter Wing stationed in Kent, England. Ken Dobbs returned from
O Korea last Winter and is now back in civilian life.
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C Sid Jarvis is stationed at Whitehorse, Y.T. with the R.C.A.F. where
E Mrs. Jarvis and the children have joined him.
S Frank Merrison is now a brother Sapper to Joe Jessop and Gene Field
* in the Royal Canadian Engineers.

CSM Bob Warnock may possibly be in Europe with the 27th Brigade. Mrs. Warnock and the children are at present making their home with Mrs. Warnock's Family in Quebec province.

In February Gnr. Louis Field was in training at Camp Shilo

Victor Smith, Canadian Provost Corps, is stationed in Vancouver. Bill Stoker has a commission in the same Corps.

* Doris (Taylor) Cunningham's husband is serving with the 27th Brigade
S in Germany.

Recent Enlistments

C Royal Canadian Air Force -

R Barry Brown Lawrence McCarty
O Dick Todd Henry Robinson

D Canadian Army -

Ken Turner, 3rd. Battalion P.P.C.L.I.
Ken Armstrong, "F" Coy., Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

D Roddy Mackay has completed his Medical Assistan'ts training and is
M now awaiting posting to a R.C.A.M.C. unit. He ranked second in his
R examination with 94%.

* Bob Dobson has completed his Radio Technician's course. He is now
A posted to a flying station at Winnipeg.

NEWS

One of our regular correspondants is Betty Falser. As many of you know, Betty has been ill in hospital for a number of years. She is now a great deal better and enjoys receiving news from Canada. She would appreciate it very much if some of you would write to her once in a while. Her address is: 295 Lodge Rd., Winson Green, Birmingham 18, Warwickshire, England.

Of interest to some of the old Old Fairbridgians is the following. A driver for one of the Vancouver Bread Companies picked me up on the Grandview Highway the other day. We started talking about one thing and another and I learned that this driver was a friend of Norman Alsopp and was on the station in England when Norman's plane crashed. Sometimes the world seems very very small. (Thos.S)

D All Fairbridgians will join with us in our sorrow at the passing
E of Mrs. Frank Eade (nee Doreen Lister). Doreen passed away in
A hospital on February 4th. She was buried at New Westminster.

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O.F.A. (Old Fairbridgian Apathy)

The Old Fairbridgian Association attained a new high during the preceding year. However, it was a 'new high' in the wrong direction ie, a new low. Never have we met with such an alarming lack of enthusiasm. It is a perplexing paradox that when O.F.'s. meet they greet each other in a heart warming fashion. Many O.F.'s. are day to day friends, and naturally so since they have so much in common, a considerable number are partners in marriage and very few of us have no consistent Fairbridge contacts. We are all interested in Fairbridge news and events and even in Fairbridge History. Yet pitifully few of us show any interest whatever in our organisation. The response to our gazettes and 'get-togethers' - the bare essentials to hold such an organisation together - is disheartening and disgusting. Some 'unvital statistics'.

1% wrote general letters

0% commented on the Gazette

12% payed fees.

untold hours spent on getting out a gazette.

Constitution allows \$40 to be spent by the executive in one year. The bank balance is only \$30, so this is impossible. Incidentally we have been able to keep the bank balance at this approximate level for the past four years by just working with the odd donation.

There are many other things which crop up, for which we get no pay and spend hours of labour on.

We are supposed to be your executive and since you have elected us we expect you to have sufficient interest and confidence in your organisation and enough respect for us to show a little response. We do not expect you to be gushingly sentimental, we do not expect you to be paragons of industry by writing reams of articles for the gazette (6 or 8 would be sufficient.) Even an article written in arguement against the continued existence of the association would be most welcome (certainly with such a showing of apathy by the membership the writer of such would have a very strong case.)

The O.F.A. is certainly not a closely knit organisation: it could never be so. But under the present circumstances it can no longer honestly be called an association of any kind. Either we have an Old Fairbridgian Association or we do not. The first step towards revitalising it would be for you to a) pay your fees, b) send in your comments pertaining to the present modest effort or write an article of some sort for the next one(poems, jokes,

experiences etc. no matter how brief or of what description.)
Then your executive will at least know you are alive and have something to work on. Unless we have some support and fees to work with it will not be possible to have a 'get-together' again this year. It is up to you.

Disinterestedness is very contagious but then so is a little enthusiasm.

Sd. Ronald J. Hancock, President.

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NEWS ITEMS contd.

Sid Jarvis in a letter to Mr. Don Morton, former Fairbridge herdsman, has the following to say about Whithorse, Y.T.: - "Whithorse, first look at it reminds one of a movie set for a Western movie. All the buildings have false fronts, the town consists of about two main streets and a handful of stores. The thing that really shakes you up here is the prices: milk, 50¢ a quart, when you can get it; cream 80¢ a pint; eggs a dollar a dozen; beer, 50¢ a bottle; wood \$20 a cord. Fortunately the Air force gives us a Northern allowance of \$125; this brings my wages up to about \$325 a month. It surely is a big difference from the Army pay as we new it. Believe it or not the majority of people up here have to buy their water. We were fortunate enough to get a house with water and plumbing installed."

Clem Gray who recently sailed from Vancouver as passenger steward in s.s. "Columbia Star", a freighter with passenger accommodation, spent last Autumn on the C.G.S. "Stonetown", the converted frigate which is stationed out in the Pacific as a weather ship. During his last tour of seven weeks the ship encountered some of the winter's worst weather and took part in the prolonged and tragic search for the crew of the S.S. "Pennsylvania".

Andy Anderson, whom many Fairbridgians will remember best on the playing fields, is still playing football in the Victoria area where he is employed by the Oak Bay Municipality.

Mr. & Mrs. Russel Martin (Joan Vallentin) took up residence near Duncan last August. Mr. Martin was teaching at Duncan Elementary School where Mr. Gillatt was the vice-principal and Joan was teaching at Koksilah school.

Two more Fairbridgians graduated from the University of British Columbia, this Spring. Pat Hood received the degree of Bachelor of Laws and Tom Speed the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Tom Speed will be studying at the Anglican Theological College for a further two years.

Dick Speed completed another year of Post-graduate work and has accepted employment with the Ontario Hydro Commission in Toronto. He is employed as an industrial psychologist.

Leon Mendoza and Ron Hancock are also continuing their work at the University.

Winnie Hardy is in Winnipeg where she is employed in the Dominion Civil Service as a stenographer.

Denys Beechey is also working for the Government at Tranquille Sanitorium.

Ken Turner was for some time driving trucks on the big construction job for Alcan. He is now in the army.

Peter Conlon, after taking a course in Industrial Electricity, for which he is eligible by reason of his wartime service in the Merchant Marine, is now a four term apprentice to a firm in Vancouver.

Joe Fenton is still pounding keys - he is Operator on the "Howay", Dominion Government Fisheries Patrol Vessel. His brother Bob lives at Shownigan Lake and is engaged in logging.

Ethel Riley is employed at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. She is a graduate of Victoria High School.

Roy Myhill is working with Brian Tibbles at the Forest Service Experimental Station at Mesachie Lake.

Anyone who still thinks the game of badminton is "strictly for the birds" should visit the Qualicum Club and watch the mixed doubles team of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mant (Ellen Duffy) in action. District mixed doubles champions for the past two years, Ellen and Henry are hoping to win the trophy for the third time this year.

Ronald Milne is working with a survey party for Canadian National Railways out of Prince Rupert.

Has anyone seen or heard of Jack McNally. He was last known to be in Vernon.

A Visitor to the Farm School this Spring was Mr. Hal Skelton. Hal is employed as a foreman in concrete construction and at present is working on the Duncan Bay pulp mill project.

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The following poem is reprinted from an old copy of the "Cowichan Leader."

COWICHAN BAY

There's a place that I know, where I'm longing to go,
Now I feel autumn's chill on the way;
'Neath Tzouhalem's dark lea, where the scent of the sea
Is floating o'er Cowichan Bay.

In the dawn's early light, when the day breaks through night,
And the black shadows turn into gray;
Then I'll pack my gear in the boat off the pier -
For there's fishing in Cowichan Bay.

Hear the plop of an oar, as a boat leaves the shore -
There's a hundred out fishing each day -
Silver fellows agleam, forty pounders they'll seem,
As we row in from Cowichan Bay.

It's the loveliest spot, and I'm glad it's my lot
To see the sun's first morning ray.
Yes, I'll surely be there, with a line and a prayer,
When there's fishing in Cowichan Bay.

Somenos, B.C.

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Kathleen Lang

Thoughts for each day.

Religion is not a method, it is a life, a higher and supernatural life, mystical in its roots and practical in its fruits; a communion with God, a calm and deep enthusiasm, a love which radiates, a force which acts, a happiness which overflows. Amiel

Conversation opens our views, and gives our faculties a more vigorous play; it puts us upon turning our notions on every side, and holds them up to a light that discovers those latent flaws which would probably have lain concealed in the gloom of unagitated abstraction. Melmoth