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Fairbridge Gazette

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The Aquitania Party, May, 1947

Pictured above is the last group of children to arrive in Canada. The photograph was taken at Bennington prior to departure. All Canadian Fairbridgians and Old Fairbridgians, will recognize the conductor on the right—Mr. G. C. Warnock. And many Australian Old Fairbridgians will recognize the conductor on the left—the Rev. Ivor Church, who, himself, is an Australian Old Fairbridgian.

The children in the party, reading from left to right, are: Back Row, Gordon Dewhirst, Edward Langlands, John Rutherford, Peter Matthews, John Champion, Frank Easton, John Hardy, Robert Dobson, Gerald Hunter, Tom Lisle, John James, Anthony Lisle, Peter Timbrell, Peter Frankish.

Front Row: Michael McIver, Barry Whiting, Brian Grundy, Pat Lisle, Barbara Frankish, David Nicholson, Tommy Isherwood, Donald Timbrell, Alfred Hanson, George Rutherford, Ian Hall, Barry Sutton.

Sitting on the grass: Ronnie Nicholson, Daniel Dobson.

MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - - - - - Ajax
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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the Gazette is called the Christmas Issue merely because it covers events at the Farm School up to the end of 1947.

It would be more apt, perhaps, to call it the Holiday Issue in that the period from May 16 to December 31, 1947, which will be covered herein, represented the greatest mass holiday movement in the history of Canadian Fairbridge. Every child in the school, including the latest arrivals who took it in turn to spend a day sight-seeing in Victoria, had a holiday away from the school. Some of these holidays are reported elsewhere in this edition.

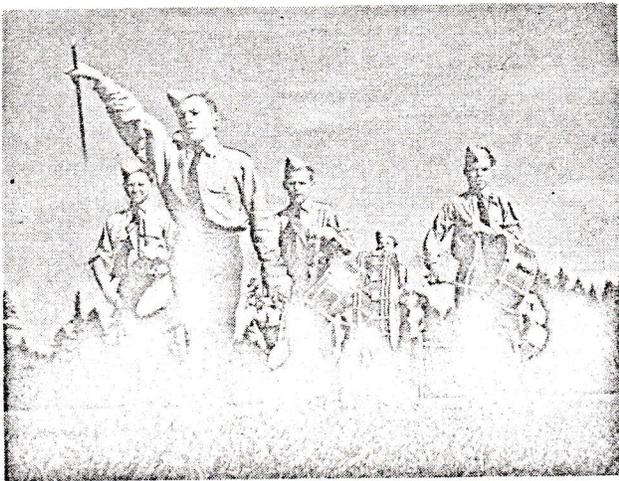
It is too late now to incorporate a Christmas message within these columns, but we do feel that the following account of "Christmas at sea," written by the Rev. Henry Teonge, a Warwickshire parson who joined the Royal Navy in 1675, makes good reading at any time of the year:—

"Christmas Day wee keepe thus. At four in the morning our trumpeters all doe flatt their trumpets, and begin at our Captain's cabin, and thence to all the officers' and gentlemen's cabins; playing a levite at each cabine doore, and bidding good-morrow, wishing a merry Christmas.

"Our Captaine had all his officers and gentlemen to dinner with him, where wee had excellent good fayre; a ribb of beife, plumb-pudding, pint pyes, etc., and plenty of good wines of severall sorts . . ."

Three years later the same Parson records that:—

"Wee had not so greate a dinner as was intended, for the whole fleete being in this harbour, beife could not be gott. Yet we had to dinner an excellent rice pudding in a greate charger, a speciall piece of Martinmas English beife, and a neat's tounge, and good cabbage, a charger full of excellent fresh fish, fryde, a douzen of woodcocks in a pye, which cost 15d., a couple of good henns roasted, three sorts of cheese; and last of all, a greate charge full of blew figgs, almonds, and raisings; and wine and punch gallore, and a douzen of English pippens."



—Courtesy N.F.B.

SCHOOL BAND

It was reported in our last issue that the Cadet Band, under the direction of Mr. D. Ritchie, expected to take part in the Duncan Dominion Day Carnival.

This privilege and honour was realized and the band was highly complimented on its performance in leading the children's section of the parade.

Unfortunately the photograph taken at the time proved unsatisfactory for reprint here. That shown above was taken by Mr. Jack Long, of the National Film Board.

ENTENTE CORDIALE

The Principal has often remarked that anything can happen at Fairbridge, and that one never knows what next will turn up in the mail. This, of course, applies to the incoming mail, but there are surprise packets in the outgoing mail, too. As you can well imagine, year in and year out many hundreds of letters are written in English and one tends to forget that there are other languages spoken in Canada, but we were brought up with a sharp jolt a short time ago when looking through copies of the outgoing letters. The following was addressed to a gentleman at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, in the Province of Quebec:—

"Je viens d'apprendre de nos voisins, Mons. et Mme. Maxwell, que vous construisez les rouets (mou-lins a tisser) et que vous en avez a vendre.

On m'informe, aussi, que les mou-lins sont vendus avec seulement une bobine, mais que vous en four-nissez deux autres a un prix supplementaire.

Seriez vous assez bon de nous expedier un de vos mou-lins, avec deux bobines supplementaires, paiement sur livraison, par chemin de fer, destine a l'adresse ci en haut mentionne."

We presume a translation is unnecessary! But there is an interesting commentary to be made concerning the word "rouet." This is the classical French word for "Spinning Wheel"; there is another expression commonly used, however, viz, "moulin a tisser."

The difficulty, apparently was which word to use. Working on the basis that the farther east one goes in the Province of Quebec, the more classical the French spoken, it was decided to use the word "rouet" and this proved to be correct. In other words, in the old established settlements on the south shore of the St. Lawrence east of Quebec City, one hears a purer French than in the industrial regions around Montreal, where the language has tended to become corrupted by English!

SPORTS

Perhaps the most noteworthy event in the sports calendar occurred during the Lower-Island Rural Schools Annual Meet, held last May. The Fairbridge tug-of-war team, captained by Ronnie Hancock, was determined to recapture the Lower-Island Rural School tug-of-war trophy, which had not been won by Fairbridge for a number of years. They practised assiduously under the watchful eye of Mr. J. Brown, and went into the fray with a quiet confidence. In this event, a team may be composed of any number of boys, provided only that the total weight does not exceed 600 pounds.

The Fairbridge team included R. Hancock, W. Emmerson, J. Cowans, and they had to pull against Shawnigan School in the final, who fielded a team of nine boys.

In the first pull, Fairbridge was caught napping and lost easily. The gloom in the Fairbridge section of the large crowd of spectators was quickly dispelled, however, when we won the second pull almost as easily as we had lost the first.

The consequent tension, not only on the rope but in the crowd, for the final pull, was terrific, with the fortunes of conflict literally swaying from side to side. Fortunately for the blood pressure of the Fairbridge enthusiasts watching the event, Hancock and his teammates pulled to victory, and so the trophy once more rests in the Day School.

CRICKET

Another noteworthy event was the resumption of cricket on the school playing field. Some playing was done by the boys themselves, and, on occasion, the girls joined in, too, but the main effort was by the reorganized Cowichan Cricket and Sports Association. This club decided to take up cricket again after a wartime lapse, and the club ground being used as a potato patch, it was necessary to find another playing field. Mr. Garnett came to the rescue and offered the school playing field which was eagerly accepted, and so we once again heard the sound of "leather on willow."

FOOTBALL

With the formation of the Duncan and District Junior and Juvenile Football Association, Fairbridge teams were withdrawn from the Victoria League to play in the two-division local league.

The second XI has not lost a fixture in this league, and, if this happy state of affairs continues, will enjoy the right

of playing off against the corresponding winner in the Victoria League for the Island championship.

The first XI is not faring so well, but the really bright spot on the soccer horizon, according to the coach, is the forward line of 1950, which now plays occasionally in front of the regular second XI defence. The left wing is the Nicholson brothers, ages 9 and 10; (see Aquitania Party picture). The right wing is made up of the Redshaw brothers, ages 9 and 11, with Peter Hipp or Raymond Telford in the middle. These lads are being nursed along carefully and by 1950 should be a nightmare to any opposing defence.

BASKETBALL

Mr. Gillatt, in his capacity as basketball coach, received a pleasant surprise when the age status for junior boys was changed. Insofar as Fairbridge was concerned it meant that John Cowans, Malcolm MacDonald, Kenny Dobby, Ernie Mein and Gordon Tonks were all eligible to play.

This caused, too, a corresponding strengthening of the midget team, although it meant that some promising newcomers to the game, had to be dropped for a year. This was counteracted by the introduction of a pre-midget practice period twice a week, under Mr. Chappell, between 3:30 and 5 o'clock.

While some of these pre-midgets are now lacking in height, they are getting the "feel" of the game and several of them should prove to be definite assets in a year or two.

November, 1947, was, as far as the records show, the most active sports month in the School's history. A total of 23 fixtures were played by our four basketball teams and two soccer teams. A summary of games for October, November and December is set out below:—

| Basketball | | | | | |
|------------|-----|------|-------|-----|---------|
| Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | For | Against |
| 22 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 399 | 335 |
| Football | | | | | |
| 16 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 38 | 56 |

Apart from games played in Duncan, the team had fixtures in Victoria, Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill, Lake Cowichan, Chemainus and Nanaimo.

INTER-HOUSE SPORTS

A successful Inter-House Sports Day was held on May 10, with every event closely contested. The final result was a win for Golds, with 114 points, against Browns' total of 109.

The Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Challenge Cup for track and field championship was won jointly by Ronnie Hancock and Eric Foster, with nine points each.

SOFTBALL

The Inter-House girls' softball championship was won by Browns, and the boys' Inter-House softball championship went to the Golds. This latter series was quite interesting. By arrangement between the House captains, junior and senior teams were to play three games apiece, with the cup to be awarded to the House winning the most games.

The senior games provided very keen competition, with Browns winning two games out of three. Thus if Brown juniors had won one game against the Golds, the final result would have been a draw. Unfortunately, Gold juniors proved too strong for Brown juniors and won three straight games, giving Gold House the championship by a total of four games to two.

The Inter-House swimming meet had to be cancelled for the first time in its history due to a "polio" outbreak in the district. But boys being boys, they could not stay away from water and so took up the next best thing, viz., fishing. It is doubtful whether fishing enthusiasm ever reached a higher peak than was evident this year. Perhaps the starting point for this wave of enthusiasm was a wet afternoon in July. Activities on the playing field were out of the question; and there was a general air of "What to do." The Duties Master, in final desperation, suggested a fishing competition, with a prize to the girl and boy catching the largest fish, nothing under eight inches to count.

Some of the girls, headed by Doreen Bryan, tried desperately to lure fish on to a hook, but failed to bring in one conforming to minimum requirements. And so the prizes went

to two boys, Eric Foster and Tommy Blackmore, who caught trout measuring 9½ and 9 inches respectively.

It was after this that one began to hear all kinds of mysterious references to the "junction." It was soon evident that it was a trout pool, but where?

Almost inevitably somebody decided to catch a fish measuring more than 9½ inches and the upshot of this was another competition for the largest fish caught during the Day School holidays.

By dint of considerable pulling and stretching, the length of fish caught started to increase, and excitement was very high with the end of the holidays in sight. Tommy Blackmore had been standing pat for two weeks with a 13-inch monster, but Tony Cousins, not undaunted, kept patiently at the sport, to be rewarded a mere five days before the close of the competition with a 14-inch "whale."

Both boys were awarded a prize—four hours in a powerboat at Cowichan Bay—angling for the really big fellows in the annual Kinsmen Salmon Derby. While neither lad was successful it was perhaps a case of poetic justice that Tony came nearer to triumph than Tommy. But it was equally an injustice that he should lose several feet of line, hook, plug, sinker AND SALMON on a snag. The salmon was seen later in the morning with Tony's plug still attached.

Should you still be trying to guess where is the "junction," it is where the Koksilah River and Kelvin Creek converge.



In this picture is shown Peter Forrest, president of the Old Fairbridgian Association, with a monster caught some years ago. Mr. Plows, who took the photograph, cannot recall whether Peter caught it at the "junction."

HOLIDAYS

The first group to depart was the Guides:—

"On July 4 a group of the 1st South Cowichan Guides climbed into a truck filled with everything from kit bags to vegetables. With us also was our lieutenant, Mrs. Williams, and our commissioner, Miss M. K. Broadhurst. We were all very happy. For some of us it was our first camp. The Fairbridge Guides were May Bean, Pat Phillips, Ada Thain, Evelyn Donnelly and Ethel Riley.

We arrived at camp, (Green Point, Cowichan Bay) at about 11 o'clock where we were joined by Guides from Duncan and Youbou. The truck was unloaded immediately and we began to pitch our tents. We had quite a hard time pitching our tents because we had the misfortune to run into a bees' nest (the bees retaliated by running into most of us). Furthermore, the smell of dinner cooking in the background did not help matters.

Dinner was served at 12 o'clock after which we had canteen, then all the companies were mixed up and divided into six patrols, with each patrol selecting its own name. I was patrol leader of the "Herons"; another patrol was "Crawfish."

The daily routine of camp was as follows: Cooks arose at 7 a.m., the rest of the Guides at 7:30; inspection at 8, breakfast at 8:30. We then did our patrol jobs, such as sani-

tation, cooking, fetching water and wood, etc. At 10 we had tent inspection after which we went swimming or on hikes. At 12 we had dinner followed by canteen; we then had a rest period for one hour when we could write letters or read. We usually went on a hike after rest.

One day we went for a hike up Mount Tzouhalem. We had a good time, but it's a wonder some of us didn't break our necks.

We had campfire from 7 to 9:30 p.m., and then to bed.

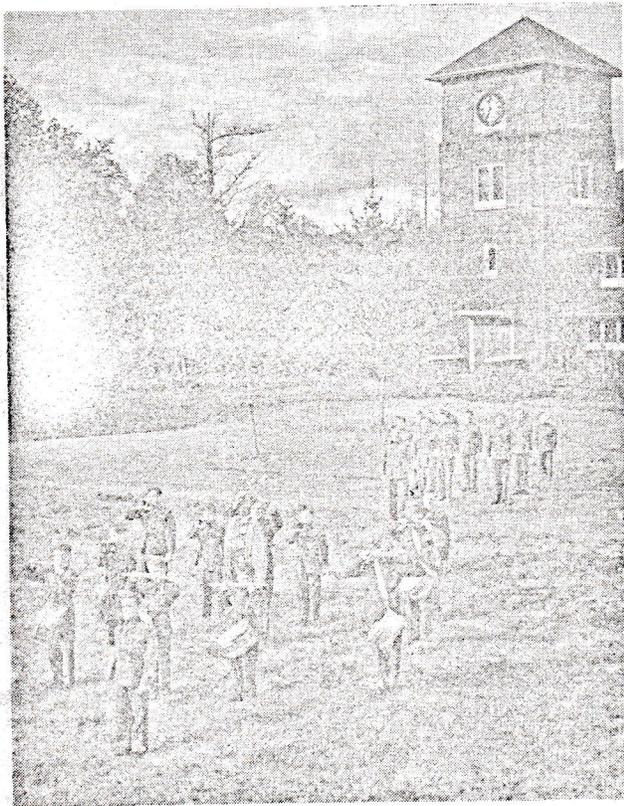
While at camp some of the girls passed various tests, such as swimming, cooking, nature, hiking and athlete's (which some F.F.S. girls got).

On the Saturday night we had a masquerade. There were some very good costumes and six prizes were given. Ada, Pat and May won one each.

In short, we had a very nice time and thoroughly enjoyed meeting other girls who were very friendly.

—Ethel Riley.

One "spicy" item not recorded by Ethel is the First-Aid Test. One of the leaders draped herself across a log and with the aid of copious quantities of ketchup gave the impression of bleeding to death. The piercing cries for "Help" soon brought the Guides on the scene, only one of whom was overcome by the "gory" sight. Fortunately for the leader the balance rallied round and pulled off a first-class demonstration of "aid to the injured."



The second group of holidaymakers was the Cadet Corps, pictured above by Mr. J. Long of the National Film Board.

In our last issue you may recall Tommy Richards reporting that the corps expected to go to Wainwright, Alta. Unfortunately this was changed by the military authorities and the camp was held finally near Chilliwack.

"Thirteen cadets left Fairbridge to spend 10 days at Cadet Camp, Sardis, B.C.

We arrived at camp at about midnight, July 15, and were given our blankets and fatigues which we took to our hut. Then we had something to eat and went to bed.

Each morning we got out of bed at 6:30 to prepare for breakfast at 7:15, after which there was practice marching on the parade square.

Each afternoon we were assigned to the rifle range, bridge-centre or some other activity.

Evening passes were valid until 11 o'clock. We were allowed to go to Cultas Lake or Chilliwack. Most of us went

to Cultas Lake for swimming, boating or roller skating. Some of the cadets even went horseback riding."

—Louis Field.

This modest report from Louis omits something we think is of interest to all our readers.

The Fairbridge Corps ranked second in general proficiency, and first in willingness, according to a verbal report given C.O. Ritchie.

The report also fails to solve the mystery of why Clifford Cooper spent a whole day on kitchen fatigue! Clifford's version is an extemporisation on the general theme of plates, dishes and cups.

JUNIOR FOREST WARDEN

Cyprian Glentworth, Alfred Hughes and Harry Popplewell went to the Junior Forest Wardens' Camp at Point Atkinson. Harry's report follows:—

"On August 1, Mr. Garnett took the three of us to Nanaimo in his car to catch the early boat to Vancouver. We had breakfast on the boat, which took most of the trip (Editor's note: Must have been some breakfast!), and spent the rest of the day until 5 o'clock in Vancouver.

"At 5, Mr. Myring, Chief of the Junior Forest Wardens, started off to the camp with us, where we arrived in time for the evening meal.

"Our daily programme consisted of exercises before breakfast, with forestry lectures after breakfast, followed by woodcraft and signalling. We had the choice of semaphore or morse in signalling, and I took semaphore.

"After dinner the canteen was open where we could buy "coke," peanuts and ice cream.

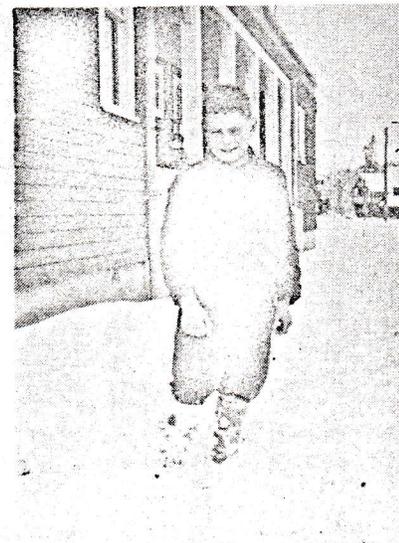
"We had swimming for a short time each afternoon, with a rowboat in attendance in case of accidents. Other afternoon activities included boxing, gymn sports, hikes and fire patrols.

"Films were shown in the evening. We all enjoyed ourselves very much."

—Harry Popplewell.

The balance of the Junior Forest Warden group went to Lake Cowichan with Mr. Garnett for a week-end camp at the Forestry Experimental Station. The boys ate in the bunkhouse at the station and endeared themselves to the cook by the quantities they consumed. They also set a record for time taken from the landing beach to the top of the observation tower, knocking half an hour off the regularly allotted time.

Six girls went to Crescent Beach with Miss Armitage and had a thoroughly delightful time.



The idea of endearing oneself to the cooks is not new, apparently. At least this might be assumed from the above photograph of Dick Speed, taken some years ago by Mr. Plows, outside the main kitchen at the Farm School!

FAIRBRIDGE NEWS

Reprinted from The Cowichan Leader

February 5, 1948

BUSY BOXING PROGRAMME

Ground-hog or no ground-hog, this is the "busy bees" season at Fairbridge—boxing and basketball.

On Saturday Cmdr. F. E. Kingscote, Esquimalt, is bringing a team of nine boxers to compete in a friendly exhibition tournament.

One of the boys in his team is Wayne Robertson, 89 pounds, who became Junior Golden Gloves champion in the recent competition at Victoria. The other eight boys constituting the team are Dick and Dale Coulson, Ernie Doddridge, Alec Ross, Alec Stuart, Jimmy Woods, Don Stuart and Eddy McDonald.

These boys will be matched against selections from the following Fairbridgians:— M. Darrell, B. McGee, G. Ryan, C. Cousins, E. Redshaw, T. Blackmore, J. Hardy, A. Lowen, P. Timbrell, R. Price and Geo. Gray.

There will be no judges for this exhibition, simply a referee, and no decisions or awards will be made.

Later in the month it is expected that a Fairbridge team will journey to Victoria to take part in a proposed Island Schoolboy Championship, after which comes the school inter-house tournament and then the annual Kinsmen Tournament in Duncan on April 2-3.

BASKETBALL PLAY-OFFS

Meanwhile, excitement is mounting in connection with the current district play-offs for basketball honours. Those children who are not discussing furiously the chances of the various teams are to be found in the gymnasium practising shots at the basket; even the ice in the district has not kept some of them away from the basketball floor.

A resume of sports activities during January shows that of 12 basketball games played, Fairbridge won nine, and also won two soccer fixtures out of four played.

Both soccer wins were gained by the rejuvenated 2nd XI. With a view to obtaining the stiffest possible competition for the regular 2nd XI forwards, it was decided to place them in front of the regular 1st XI defence, and to bring up some bantams to play in front of the regular 2nd XI defence.

The bantam forward line now playing for the 2nd XI includes R. and D. Nicholson, ages eight and 10, respectively, and F. and E. Redshaw, ages nine and 11, respectively. Redshaw brothers arrived at Fairbridge in November, 1946, and the Nicholson brothers in May, 1947.

Their size belies their ability and perhaps for this reason it appears

that their opponents do not take them too seriously until they find themselves facing a serious goal deficit. The Redshaw brothers play at inside and outside right, and the Nicholson brothers on the left. Peter Hipp and Raymond Telford alternate in the centre forward position and, as this combination of players is more or less in the same age group, it is expected that they will continue to play together for at least three more years.

DRAMA FESTIVAL ENTRY

Dramatics are gradually acquiring major significance in the realm of leisure activities. The play "Don't Open till Christmas", presented early in January, is now undergoing further intensive rehearsal for entry in the Greater Victoria School Drama Festival to be sponsored by the B.C. Drama Guild during the week March 8 - 13.

This will be the first occasion in which a Fairbridge group has taken part in a drama festival and consequently the cast is looking forward to the adjudication with mixed feelings. They have been somewhat encouraged, though, by the fact that Mary McGee, who had one of the major roles in this play when performed in January, and who has since left the school for placement in Vancouver, has been accepted into a drama group there and is reported to be doing very well in a juvenile role.

After the festival the play will be presented again at Fairbridge in conjunction with a farce which goes into rehearsal next week with an all-male cast.

In addition, Fairbridge Scouts of 1st Duncan Troop are preparing some scenes from "More Scouting through History" as their contribution to the Scout-Guide week to be held in Duncan late this month.

Scouting generally is also becoming a significant factor in the leisure programme, with a total of 27 Fairbridge boys enrolled in three Duncan Troops, some of whom hope to qualify for the Canadian Jamboree to be held near Ottawa in 1949.

TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

During the winter months especially these outside activities constitute a fairly serious transportation problem. In fact there are times when it seems that a full time transportation officer is required.

Take, for example, Tuesday evening of this week. Twenty boys were scheduled to journey to Lake Cowichan for basketball play-offs, with the first game at 7 o'clock. Seven girls were due in Duncan at the same time for a C.G.I.T. meeting, and three or four other children were also due

in Duncan for the regular dental clinic.

In addition, the school nurse, Mrs. Leamy, and one boy who had spent the day in Victoria for special preliminary dental treatment, were due to arrive back in Duncan on the bus at 8:40 p.m.

The ramifications involved are too complicated to warrant mention here; suffice it to say that "Movement Fairbridge" on Tuesday evening was conducted without mishap and with due consideration of gasoline shortages and increased price.

QUEBEC SPINNING WHEEL

The possibility of including "cottage industries" within the general hobby framework has always been to the fore, more especially in discussions dealing with spare time activities for the girls.

As a preliminary to weaving activities and the possible establishment of an Angora rabbit colony, a spinning wheel has been received this week from the Province of Quebec. The name and address of the maker—and apparently it is a "cottage industry" insofar as he is concerned—was furnished by friends in Cobble Hill last fall.

Some prolonged correspondence in French has been carried on with the "fabriquant de rouets" since that the wheel "en bon ordre." time, culminating in the arrival of

February 19, 1948

CHILDREN'S PARCEL WELCOME

The extent to which food parcels are appreciated in Britain at present was brought home forcibly to children at Fairbridge Farm School this week in a letter from Mr. G. C. Warnock.

It was reported in this column last November that the children here had subscribed to a bumper Christmas parcel for Fairbridge children assembled at Bennington Place, Hertfordshire. Actually the bumper parcel arranged by a Duncan firm.

In his letter of acknowledgement, Mr. Warnock, now in charge of Bennington Place, states that the last parcel "arrived just before Christmas, in time to assist the cook to prepare a very excellent dinner for all children and staff, and in the evening one of the finest teas that the children had seen for many a long day. At the evening tea the children had guests from the village who could hardly believe that what they saw on the table could be true."

February 26, 1948

NEAR AND FAR

In October, 1936, a party of 28 children sailed for Fairbridge Farm School, Canada, on the "Duchess of Atholl." A recent letter from a girl of the party who is now married and living at Mercoal, Alta, reminded us once again how widespread is the Canadian Fairbridge family, and what interesting volumes could be written around the

experiences and travels of Old Fairbridgians.

The correspondent's husband is a coal miner at Mercoal and, of course, is currently affected by the strike. This, coupled with the payment of some very heavy medical bills recently for their small son, introduces an element of drama which was undoubtedly very far from the mind of the "girl" as she stepped on to Canadian soil just over 11 years ago.

Nine members of this party joined up with the various services during the war. And one of them, Jim Morgetroyd, who remained in the navy, was a crew member aboard H.M.C.S. Micmac in its collision with a freighter at Halifax last year. Jack Wheeler, who has stayed with the merchant service, is probably the most travelled of all Old Fairbridgians, in that he has been twice round the world.

Eight members of the party are now married, and have a total of eight children. These married folk are scattered from Vancouver Island to Dartmouth, N.S., and the farthest north is a young woman at Vanderhoof, who divides her domestic life with teaching in the local school.

Family and school also enter into the life of Pat Hood. He qualified for entrance into the University of British Columbia and, at the same time, assisted his parents to migrate from England and settle in British Columbia.

In conclusion, the mystery of the missing names in this synopsis should undoubtedly be referred to the "Atholl" party member who is employed by a detective agency!

BOXING TOURNAMENT

A friendly boxing tournament was staged at Fairbridge Farm School on February 7 when Cmdr. R. P. Kingscote brought up a team of nine boys from Esquimalt. Commander Kingscote's proteges are being trained by Mr. Tommy Burgess, whose birthplace was London, England, and it was quite evident that they are in exceedingly good hands.

Commander Kingscote is a firm believer in sport for the fun of it, and consequently decisions become of secondary importance. The boys have been trained in the same way and the tournament was the fifth inter-club affair this year. The advantages of this type of tournament were manifested immediately in the general behaviour of the boys and their ability to box as distinct from slugging.

The tournament constituted first-class experience for the Fairbridge boys, who will undoubtedly capitalize on it for forthcoming competitions.

Mr. Dennis Hogan acted as referee.

SPIRIT OF FAIRBRIDGE

The question often arises as to what would be Kingsley Fairbridge's reaction to the school here. Insofar as the boxing tournament is concerned there is absolutely no doubt. He himself was a keen boxer and the episodes concerning boxing at Oxford in his autobiography constitute some of the finest reading in the book.

But his life work was farm schools, not boxing. And his conception of farm schools might almost be described as a series of 10-year plans, in which you started off in true pioneer fashion on uncleared land.

After 10 years, during which the productivity of the land was built up, and a number of barns and houses constructed from primary materials found on the property, it was to be sold at its new evaluation and the money used to start afresh.

This whole concept was based on agricultural and rural conditions prevailing in 1912 and, specifically, as those conditions applied to Australia.

The vast change that has taken place since 1912 both in Australia and Canada needs no elaboration. And, by the same token, the training in farm schools has had to be adjusted accordingly.

For example, in the light of current trends on Vancouver Island and in British Columbia generally, there would be no point in conditioning students to a relatively primitive state of life. But this does not in any sense imply the killing of the pioneer spirit nor the destruction of an appreciation for rural life.

The number of Old Fairbridgians earning their living in rural areas is sufficient proof of this. Incidentally a considerable proportion have tried urban life and "found it wanting."

Neither has the pioneer spirit been killed judging by a letter received recently from an old Fairbridgian girl, now married and living at Hayland, Man. This spot is 130 miles north of Winnipeg on Lake Manitoba, with the nearest town 35 miles away. The young couple is negotiating for a house and property on the lake front, the main attraction of which it not, apparently, good summer swimming, but excellent winter fishing through the ice for "Yellows," Pickerel, "Saugers" and Tullibee.

The girl is expecting a baby but has elected to stay at home because "it would not be very wise to make the 35-mile journey to the hospital in a horse-drawn caboose over a bad road with the temperature at 30 degrees below zero." She adds a delicious understatement: "This is a mild winter, though, but a bit different from Vancouver."

March 4, 1948

PARTY FOR CAMERAS

David Garnett, son and heir of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Garnett, was two years old last Wednesday. To celebrate the event he invited to a party a group of children which included Gerald Woods, Robin Lee, Grace and Donna Ritchie, Phyllis Hipp, Vivian Chappell, John Morton, Michael Clark, Jonathan Leney and Ann Warden. David's brother, three-months-old William, was also present as an interested spectator reclining in the arms of his paternal grandmother.

"Tea," consisting of pink jelly and cream, cookies and cups of milk, was served on the hearth rug, with the children sitting in a circle under the watchful eye of fond parents, after which the males retired to the dining room, not for brandy and cigars, but to play with trains and other mechanical toys, while the fair sex remained in the drawing room to spin

(humming tops) and to make a new world with the aid of block toys.

There was a slight clash of interests when the boys decided to extend the main line of their railway into the drawing room, but the bad-time bell saved the day.

PARTY FOR INTELLECTS

Not to be outdone, the farm-school Trainee Club staged a party on Saturday evening, in the form of a monster quizz. Gerald Payne acted as the professorial master of ceremonies, running the programme along lines similar to those used on the radio.

Each person present at the party received a numbered ticket. Duplicates were drawn from a hat and ticket holders were given a choice of subjects on which to be quizzed. The range included social studies (for "mature" children), music, sports, popular songs, miscellaneous and general subjects for the very young.

Prizes consisted of chocolate and candy bars, with a jack-pot of bars being won by Gordon Dewhirst in behalf of Davidson Cottage. Refreshments were served, after which the 13-year-olds and under retired to bed while the "mature" children, aged 14 and up, enjoyed dancing until 10:15 p.m.

The staff social club also kept in the party swim by staging a social evening as a farewell to Miss R. Nott, who has been a Fairbridge employee for a number of years, both in the after-care department and as a cottage mother, but latterly in the office. It cannot be reported that this party was more prosaic than those held by the children.

KITES, THEN MARBLES

Any lingering uncertainties as to the arrival of spring were dispelled over the week-end by the arrival of Fairbridge's own harbinger of the season, viz. kites.

Insofar as Fairbridge is concerned the old adage about March can be paraphrased to read "If March comes in with kites, it goes out with miggies." The latter, (marbles) are a definite indication that the bad weather is over and usually absorb the interests of the children around Easter time, or immediately after the kites have been discarded.

Various assortments of kites have appeared, varying from the newspaper covered type to the more refined models made in junior school with brown paper on which designs have been made. As might have been expected, kites have already tangled with telephone lines, and the run on string will undoubtedly cause a sales boom in Duncan stores.

So far nobody has run a message to Mars along the kite string, but this is probably because the first strings had too many knots in them, being an assortment of odd pieces scrounged here and there.

SOCCER RESUMED

Another indication of improved weather conditions was the resumption of soccer games on the playing field. Qualicum Beach School sent down their 2nd XI on Saturday afternoon. The ground was heavy for boys under 14 years of age and as

a result neither team showed to best advantage, although Fairbridge eked out a 2-0 win.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. H. Wetherall brought up from Victoria the team sponsored by the Pacific Meat Market. This team plays in the 3rd division of the Lower Island Junior and Juvenile Football Association and, on Sunday, were matched against a strengthened Fairbridge 1st XI. The latter scored the first goal and managed to maintain that lead throughout the game, the final score being 3-2. Clifford Cooper, playing for Fairbridge, achieved the secret ambition of all goalkeepers by saving a stiff penalty shot.

The 1st XI has another match today against Cobble Hill High School, and journeys to Qualicum on Saturday afternoon to play the 1st XI of Qualicum Beach School. These two teams drew 1-1 in their early season encounter prior to Christmas.

SPINNING WHEEL AT WORK

The spinning wheel recently acquired from a manufacturer in the Province of Quebec was put into operation on Friday evening by Mr. O. H. Maxwell, Cobble Hill, and Mrs. Maxwell gave an initial lesson to a group of girls who had previously expressed interest in this pastime.

Evelyn Donnelly was singled out by Mrs. Maxwell as being a very quick learner, trying her hand at both angora and sheep wool.

Mrs. Maxwell is a very enthusiastic spinner and demonstrated her preference for working with hand-plucked wool by taking the wool, as required, from a live Angora rabbit sitting on her knee.

SOCIOLOGIST VISITS

Dr. Leonard Marsh, a graduate in sociology from the University of Toronto is a visitor at Fairbridge Farm School for a week, as the guest of the principal and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Garnett.

Dr. Marsh is at present on the staff of the University of British Columbia and his visit to Fairbridge has been arranged by the B.C. board of governors of Fairbridge Farm School.

March 11, 1948

The December, 1947, issue of "The Fairbridgian" has just been received. "The Fairbridgian" is the magazine of the Old Fairbridgians' Association of Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra, Western Australia.

Of universal interest in this 31-page magazine is an extract from a letter written on February 14, 1913, by Kingsley Fairbridge to the secretary of the Child Emigration Society, Oxford. It will be remembered that "Pinjarra" was, and is, the original Fairbridge Farm School, and is also the title given to a book written by Ruby Fairbridge, the founder's wife.

Kingsley Fairbridge had been asked to give more details of the daily life at the school and, in the letter under reference, wrote as follows:-

"At 5:30 a.m., dawn, Walter Wickham rises and sallies forth armed with a .22 Winchester to shoot parrots, mynas and silver-eyes—three types of birds that are doing an immense amount of damage in the or-

chard. He, not being as yet over-skilful, at least succeeds in driving away the birds at the expense of a handful of cartridges; when he succeeds in bagging a few silver-eyes these are given to the pigs—a small economy, but not to be overlooked."

On one occasion, aided by Kingsley Fairbridge, the lad accounted for half a dozen parrots which were "then converted into an excellent pie."

Reveille for the younger boys was at 6:30:- "They 'double' down to the bathroom" where "there are three baths and three basins. The boy sits down in his bath and another fellow douses him with a bucket of clean water; he gives himself a perfunctory rubbing with or without soap, then dries and slips on his shirt; when he gets to the shirt stage he gives his face and hands a good washing in one of the basins and then washes his feet."

The life and routine recounted here is for the first party of children—13 boys—who went to Pinjarra, of whom nine, apparently, were under 12 years of age and were called the juniors.

Breakfast was served at seven o'clock, consisting of porridge or sweet corn with sugar and fresh milk, bread and butter or dripping, home-made tomato, fig, or apricot jam, of golden syrup, cocoa or tea.

"The boys stand up while the manager, or if he is away on the farm, the senior boy, says the simple and convincing grace of the British Navy 'Thank God, Amen'. I have been rather struck by the reverent attitude and "demeanour of all the boys both during grace and at the evening prayer. . . . I have the noisiest and worst-mannered boys at my table and by dint of a little chatting and firm correction their manners quickly improve. One seldom hears the expression "I want that", or "I don't want this", instead, we have "Yes please," and "No thank you sir."

At nine o'clock there was "Telling off the Details", an outline of the jobs to be done. But, as Kingsley Fairbridge pointed out, while a list of the details might look very efficient on paper, "real life" was full of obstructions and difficulties.

"For instance, a boy runs a splinter into his foot or finger—instant recourse to Mrs. Fairbridge, and very lucky if he is not accompanied by another two or three companions hoping to witness the operation."

Such an event not only disrupted the "detail" on which these boys were working, but also disrupted Mrs. Fairbridge's work in the laundry, or elsewhere, and, of course, any boy or boys who were with her.

Again: "Perhaps worried by flies and blazing weather two small boys quarrel, compliments exchanged, which reach horrified ears of cook, "bad language bein' the one thing she can't abide"; she reports to manager who has (to stop what he is doing) to order instant apology."

On another occasion in the same week under review, two boys thought it would be fun to explore a neighbouring field. When they failed to appear for lunch a search party was

instituted, causing a complete loss of time of two hours. The boys were alright, of course, they turned up 10 minutes after the search parties had left!

On February 13, a bush fire broke out and started sweeping towards the paddock. When at its height, the building contractor arrived "and the manager had to divide his attention between trying to save his meadows and trying to reduce building costs—"and so on, and so on; every day has some surprise up its sleeve, so that our beautifully worked out organization is hard put to it to realize itself."

Luncheon was served at 11:30 and at 1:30 Kingsley Fairbridge used to read to the boys for an hour. He found that Grimm's Fairy Tales, and others, were most appreciated, but that while Kipling's "Puck of Pook's Hill" was hard on the young boys, all the party enjoyed Fletcher and Kipling's "History of England". They were all intrigued by the newspaper accounts of the deaths of Captains Scott and Oates in the Antarctic, asking many questions, but "they could not understand why Oates left the returning party of explorers."

Three thirty to four thirty p.m. was the boxing hour. . . . "the boxing ring is on the whole perhaps the best disciplinarian of all and the fighting is now clean and free and good tempered, each boy doing his lawful best to win, keeping his head and temper like a thorough sportsman."

At 6:00 p.m. the boys had a sports period.

"As soon as the sports are finished the boys stand to attention and at the word the instructor and boys kneel on the parched and wind-swept parade-ground for the evening prayer, "Our Father, which art in Heaven" Many of the boys have private prayers, which they say before turning in, but "Our Father" is our common supplication. It is all very simple, but it always strikes me as peculiarly impressive. Just at sunset, when the long evening shadows of poplar and pear and apricot run out along the parade-ground and over the dusty furrows in the home orchard, these 13 little adventurers, having set forth to a distant land to seek their fortune, kneel towards the West and offer up in plain, deep-sounding words their daily sacrifice."

March 19, 1948

DRAMA FESTIVAL

The satisfaction of knowing that the effort expended was worthwhile was the happy lot of a group of Pat Phillips, Evelyn Donnelly, Sylvia Cowans, Irene Davidson, Gerald Payne, Alfred Hughes and Leon Field.

They participated in the Greater Victoria eighth annual drama festival in Victoria. Mention of the festival, including reference to Fairbridge's entry, appears elsewhere in this issue.

Remarkable, however, was the able carrying by Leon Field of the part of Hugh Taylor, who had to go into hospital. Field's inclusion was arranged one hour before the group left—he learned his part and stage

movements in the back of a truck.

Consideration is being given now to the establishment of a permanent dramatic club and play-reading committee. At present the group is confined to children 14 and over.

EASTER CROSS-COUNTRY

Announcement that the annual cross-country run will be held on Easter Monday is responsible for considerable "trotting", particularly among the smaller boys.

The course is approximately five miles and is gruelling enough under the best running conditions. To date the fastest time for the run is 31 minutes five seconds. R. Hancock tried hard to break this record last year, but failed by seven seconds owing to adverse weather conditions.

Chief interest this year is centered around what Roy Myhill will be able to accomplish. Last year, at 12 years of age, he ran second to Hancock. While it is hardly likely that at his present age he will break the course record, nevertheless surprises may be expected particularly if he is extended by some dark horses.

BOXING TOURNEY

Weight consciousness, usually associated with the fair sex, is also predominant among the boys in view of the forthcoming inter-house boxing tournament and Duncan Kinsmen boxing tournament.

The former is now scheduled for Easter Saturday, March 27, and the latter a week later. Skipping seems to be the favourite method of removing surplus — avoirdupois — and consequently there is a premium on all odd pieces of rope.

HOBBY SHOW

Another event, too, for which considerable preparation is being made, is the forthcoming Rotary hobby show. Posters have been finished for entry in that competition and the final touches are being put on scrap books, model airplanes and leather-work.

April 1, 1948

CROSS-COUNTRY WINNERS

The annual cross-country run on Easter Monday proved to be one of those surprise affairs that completely

upset prognostications of "form experts."

It was commonly expected that Roy Myhill, who ran second last year, would romp home first without much effort and that the main issue would be whether anybody could force him into breaking the course record of 31 minutes 5 seconds.

The course is almost five miles long and sufficiently gruelling to make a comfortable afternoon's walk. Running conditions were almost ideal and the course drier than is usual at this time of the year, although very rough in the first two miles.

Sixty boys lined up on the starting line at the main dining-hall to await the word "Go" from the principal, Mr. W. J. Garnett, and it was after they disappeared below the chapel hill that little bits of conversation here and there started to build up tension among the spectators.

"Well, I don't know, '—' has been practising hard all this week and claims to have made the cedar bridge in 20 minutes." "Yes, but did you hear about '—', he claims almost a course record in a practice run." And as one listened to these scraps of conversation it was apparent that a lot of hard practising had been carried on in a quiet, unobtrusive way.

Finally the first boy came into sight on the crest of the hill between the water tower and the dairy barn. He was dark but, at that distance from the office, which was the finishing line, he look bigger than Roy Myhill, and then a general cry went up.

"It's 'Clapper' (Gerald Payne)." Yes, it was Gerald Payne, somewhat more flushed than usual who came in first in 32 minutes 56 seconds. He ran sixth in 1947.

Thus he will hold the Cora Hind Trophy until next Easter Monday. Roy Myhill come second again, and Clifford Cooper, whose determination is always a source of admiration, came in third as compared with fifth place last year. Raymond Chopin, who had been practising with Gerald Payne, took fourth place as against tenth last year.

Considerable credit is given the first novice and so Frank Easton received a well-deserved round of ap-

plause when he came in eighth, just ahead of Tom Lisle and John Hardy, two other novices, who ran ninth and tenth. John James, another novice, ran fourteenth, amazing everybody by his style and condition at the finish.

The event is conducted on an inter-house basis and was won by Gold House this year with a total of 974 points against 873 for Brown House.

INTER-HOUSE BOXING

Another inter-house event was held last Saturday evening. It was the annual boxing tournament, which is usually a preliminary to the Kinsmen tournament in Duncan.

There were few surprises in this contest, but nevertheless an interesting programme of boxing. The best bout of the evening was between Gordon Dewhurst and Henry Popplewell, with the former gaining the decision.

Another good scrap was that between Daniel Dobson and David Nicholson in the 61-70 pound class, with the decision going to Dobson. Gold and Brown Houses divided the points equally for the evening's competition. Mr. Dennis Hogan, Duncan, acted as referee, and the judges were Messrs. A. H. Plows and J. Brown.

CADET CORPS IN VICTORIA

On Tuesday evening members of the cadet corps journeyed to Victoria for a return basketball engagement with a corps in that city. The Victoria group came to Fairbridge a week ago to play two basketball games, after which the various individuals were the guests of Fairbridgians at a supper meal and tour of the farm.

The visitors also found time, before viewing a programme of films supplied by the military authorities, to listen to a broadcast of a hockey game in Toronto. The Victoria group thoroughly enjoyed its visit and the same may be reported concerning the Fairbridgians' visit to Victoria. In the latter instance the boys ate in the gunners' mess at Work Point Barracks and then went on a "tour of inspection" before playing basketball at Centennial Armoury. As one boy remarked, "We are having a first-class Easter holiday."

CAMP ELPHINSTONE

Tommy Blackmore spent a week at Camp Elphinstone, run by the Y.M.C.A., on the Mainland. He had a grand time, but caused considerable concern to his cottage mother and the principal when he failed to show up on the train at Duncan. He walked in about an hour later. It transpired that he was so engrossed in a book of comics that he forgot to de-train at Duncan. On realizing his plight he pulled the emergency cord, which stopped the train, and blandly strolled off disguised under a load of kit-bags and comic books before the train crew had a chance to determine the trouble.

The 1st Duncan Scout Troop held its annual camp on Mayne Island, much to the satisfaction of all who attended.

This troop, of whom half were Fairbridgians, also made a float for the Dominion Day Carnival in Duncan, and were awarded a prize of \$25.

Various children stayed with godparents or friends and returned with glowing accounts of their adventures.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Mr. G. C. Warnock and family went to England in August where Mr. Warnock is now employed by the London office of Fairbridge Farm Schools, Incorporated.

In September Miss M. K. Broadhurst was appointed local District Commissioner of the Girl Guides. Miss Broadhurst is in charge of Strathcona Cottage.

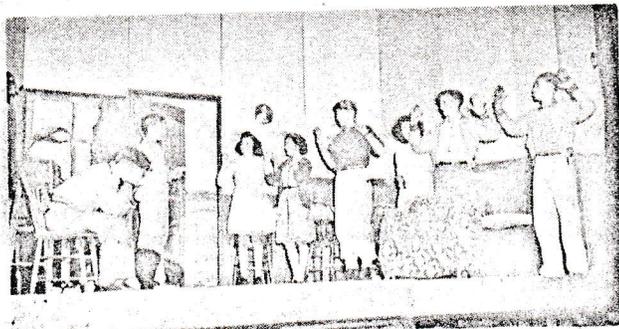
We have lost a relic. The old "Dodge" is gone, leaving Mr. Frank Brown almost heartbroken. It was traded in for a new "Dodge," now used by the Principal, and his "Oldsmobile" became the new "Brown Express."

A new stores building is being set up between Mr. Lamont's Cottage and Dulverton Cottage. The building was originally an army hut and its arrival at Fairbridge in sections by truck, was a choice excuse for being late to school.

In order to minimize road difficulties, the sections left Colwood around 5 in the morning, reaching the school between 8:30 and 9. Naturally the "gadgets" used to unload the sections without damage had to be carefully examined by big boys and little boys, ably assisted by the girls, and passed upon as to fitness.

The position in the Day School is more nearly normal now. The increased number of Fairbridge children necessitated using a fourth classroom, and, as a result of some rearrangement by the local school board, only two classrooms are utilized by Duncan children.

The dining-hall, hospital, office, chapel and all duplex cottages received a fresh coat of paint during the late summer. The work was done by a spray-gun and it goes without saying that the contractors were beset by willing "apprentices" for this method of painting. On some pretext or another most of the small boys found that their services were indispensable to the painters.



This is another of the photographs taken by Mr. J. Long, of the National Film Board, and shows the Trainee

Club rehearsing "Weather Clearing," a report on which appeared in our last issue.

The players, reading from left to right, are: M. MacDonald, June Harding (on floor), C. Gray, Sylvia Cowans, Agnes Taylor, J. Harris, Lilly Clabby, J. Cowans and R. Hancock.

FARM NEWS

We continue to maintain an average of 30 milch cows, with a herd total of around 60 animals.

This year further laurels were acquired by the herd in the form of the Agricultural Society Shield and the Shannon Cup. The former is awarded to the best herd entry at the Duncan fair, and the latter is for the best calf.

In addition we carried off a considerable number of ribbons at the Vancouver Exhibition.

The calf club, too, shared in honours as the Cobble Hill Calf Club, to which Fairbridgians belong, and of which Phillip Field is president, was awarded the Trimble Cup, indicative of the most progressive club in the Province for the year 1947. Jack Macfarlane, young son of Mr. A. Macfarlane, who was our herdsman during the latter part of the war, set a record by winning first place honours in Provincial competition. This was Jack's first year in calf club work.

We purchased a thousand chicks this year, putting them to range in the orchard. This proved to be a profitable venture not only for the poultry department, but for the orchard as well. In the early Fall four hundred pullets were sold and the balance transferred to laying-quarters.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, Mr. Jack Woods battled successfully against the odds in the garden to produce, among other things, a satisfactory crop of berries, most of which were put into the cold storage plant at Duncan for consumption after the turn of the year, when fresh fruit is difficult to obtain.

OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN SECTION

It is very gratifying to find that so many O.F.s take a keen interest in this publication.

We find from correspondence that editions of The Gazette are read in many parts of the world as the mail catches up with O.F.s in the merchant service.

From time to time, too, suggestions are received (most welcome to an editor), and we print two now that emanate from Jessie Newbold, who is Mrs. Carver, of Peoria, Ill., U.S.A.

The first suggestion deals with the annual Christmas card competition open to Fairbridgians. Jessie's suggestion is that the competition should be extended to Old Fairbridgians as well, who will compete with Fairbridgians on the same terms.

We would welcome some expressions of opinion on this subject.

Jessie's next suggestion is that as Old Fairbridgians are settling down in all parts of the North American Continent, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to all meet at any given time. Thus why not start a "Correspondence Club"?

Another suggestion, mooted recently, concerns the publication of this paper. As you know, it should appear quarterly, but even on that basis it is not possible to give more than a precis of what goes on at the School.

Some of you may be aware that a weekly article on school events appears in The Cowichan Leader. We have been able to make an arrangement whereby specially set-up copies of these articles can be made available at the end of each month. (Sample copies are being mailed with this issue of The Gazette.) If it is felt by a majority of O.F.s that this type of news-sheet supplies the need for information, then we could limit publication of The Gazette to an annual event, with emphasis on pictures.

Again, may we have an expression of opinion, please?

CHAPEL

The Rev. Ivor Church was the guest preacher on Sunday, June 1, having arrived from England the day before as a conductor of the "Aquitania" party.

To many, the most astounding aspect of his sermon was the disclosure that he was an Australian Old Fairbridgian, having graduated from Pinjarra.

* * * * *

Most Fairbridgians and Old Fairbridgians are familiar with the benefits that have accrued to the school through the efforts of the Royal Society of St. George, Vancouver.

On July 20, this society sent a representative group to the School for the first time for the express purpose of unveiling a memorial plaque to O.F.s Norman Alsop and Thomas Kemp.

The plaque is the bronze product of an Ontario firm, and is placed on the wall near the head of the south aisle.

A photograph of it is to be made and we hope to reproduce it in the next issue of The Gazette.

* * * * *

During August, services were taken by the Rev. F. A. Comley, who is well known at the School, and also by Dr. H. H. Gowen. The latter is a distinguished Oriental scholar, and author of numerous books. We were particularly fortunate in hearing a sermon from him as he has since moved to the United States.

* * * * *

Founder's Day, October 19, fell on a Sunday this year. The address was given by an Old Fairbridgian, Tom Speed, who used as his text the following quotation from St. Paul's epistle to the Romans: "Therefore, Brethren, are we debtors."



This is a picture of Tom, taken on Founder's Day.

* * * * *

New altar hangings in blue velvet have been donated by some friends of the School in Montreal. These people visited Fairbridge during the summer in connection with the annual convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

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The service on Christmas morning was a carol service of the Nine Lessons, a child from each cottage reading the lessons.

* * * * *

The south-west approach to the Chapel has been cleared and planted with new trees and shrubs. Insofar as our climate permits, it is hoped to plant, in the vicinity of the Chapel, a specimen of the trees, flowers and shrubs mentioned in the Bible.

* * * * *

Baptisms in the Chapel included Robin Lee, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bulcock; John Morton, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Morton; and Vivian Chappell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Chappell.

—Rev. T. L. Hipp.

There have been several weddings since our last issue, but before mentioning them we would like to draw attention to the following law passed in England in 1790:—

"By act of Parliament of 1790 all women of whatever age, profession or degree, whether virgin, maid or widow, that shall impose upon, seduce or betray into matrimony any of His Majesty's subjects by means of scents, paints, cosmetics, washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, high-heeled shoes or holster hips, shall incur the penalty of the laws now in force against witchcraft, and the marriage stands null and void."

Obviously, of course, this will not apply to O.F. girls who, without a doubt, use nothing more than the charm of their personalities during their courting days; on the other hand we regret that O.F. boys cannot make use of the law because it is no longer in effect.

* * * * *

LISTER—Doreen Lister was married to Mr. Frank Eade in the Canadian Memorial Chapel, Vancouver, at 7 p.m. on June 26. Doreen's sister, Muriel, acted as bridesmaid, and the reception was held in the house of the groom's brother.

* * * * *

WHITE—Molly White was married to Mr. Glenn Morphet, in Vancouver, on August 26. Molly sent us a fine description of the wedding and wedding gown, but we cannot refrain from using the following description:—

"Molly's wedding dress was of white nylon with a lace yoke and peplum. It had a bustle effect and the neckline was slightly off the shoulder. She wore a full-length veil and an orange blossom ornament in her hair. She carried her confirmation prayer-book which had been covered in white, with an orchid and white sweet peas in a shower effect."

The significance of this description is that it was written by a man—Mr. A. H. Plows—and is taken from a letter he wrote June Harding, in which he described the event.

* * * * *

HUGHES - HUNTER—Hazel Hughes was married to John Hunter in the Farm School Chapel on New Year's Eve, 1947. Following the service a reception was held in Miss Armitage's cottage (Pennant), one of the highlights of which was the magnificent cake made by Ed Walton, an Old Fairbridgian.



"Out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings . . ."

Something was worrying Ernie Todd when this picture was taken by Mr. Plows, but we doubt whether it was the prospect of becoming an O.F.

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. John Dee, of Vancouver, a son (Danne John), on September 10, 1947.

To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kacer (nee Kathleen Anderson), of Eburne, B.C. a son (Robert Andrew), on October 29, 1947.

* * * * *

With the permission of Old Fairbridgians we would also

like to include the following births at the Farm School:—

To Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Garnett, a son (William Murton), on November 15, 1947.

To Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Chappell, a son (Peter Wilfrid), on December 15, 1947.

O.F. EXPERIENCES

As an indication of the type of letter that might be received through the establishment of a "Correspondence Club" we reprint some extracts from a letter sent to the principal recently by Alec Phillips:—

"We are drilling for coal about 150 miles from Dawson Creek at a place called Pine River, and in order to get supplies, mail, etc., we have to take the caterpillar tractor and proceed over the wettest, muddiest road through bush you ever saw, so the foreman doesn't go out any more than necessary. It takes all of two days to make the round trip, about 35 miles, to the Campbell Manis Construction Company's base camp. I know, I had to hike in from there when I got here. I left Vancouver on Saturday, August 30, by plane to Fort St. John, then took the bus to Dawson and another bus to the base camp arriving here on Tuesday, the 2nd of September.

"We live in tents and although it doesn't sound so good, it really is OK. I have an \$80 sleeping-bag—a 'Woods Three-Star Arctic' and I am sure glad to have it; it's really comfy, especially in the wee small hours of the day. The weather hasn't turned really cold yet, but we have had some snow and lots of rain, and you know what the muskeg is like up here when it gets wet!

"There's lots of game here, only to-day we saw a mother black bear with three cubs; there are lots of moose and deer, too, kind of wish I had time to go hunting, but I don't want to meet up with any grizzlies, and they say there's lots of them, too."

"S.S. Fairbridge"

Somebody once remarked that at least one half of the world does not know how the other half lives. But a considerable number of Old Fairbridgians have indicated a desire to see both sides of the picture as evidenced in correspondence from Jack Wheeler. Jack, in a letter mailed from Curacao, writes:—

"I have four Fairbridgian shipmates on S.S. Lake Kamloops, Victor Smith, John Danks, Peter Conlon and Gordon Neal. Perhaps, someday, there will be a ship fully manned by Old Fairbridgians."

Jack goes on to say that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, of Hollywood fame, is threatened with severe competition and possible extinction as he, Jack, has purchased a movie camera.

The letter also contained Christmas greetings to everybody at the School.

WOLF, WOLF

Ted Collins, writing from Callendar, Ont., set our spines shivering when we read the following:—

"Gee, you sure can hear the wolves these days. Just the other day our neighbour's big dog and one little dog, and our little pup, had a fight with them, and the wolves got our neighbour's pup, a sister to our pup. The big dog came home with a chunk out of his hip.

"The wolves are becoming so dangerous that the game warden is going to have a hunt for them one of these days."

Ted has acquired a Snider 57 (this is not one of Heinz's varieties) with which he hopes to bag a deer or two. The Snider is fitted with army sights which, coupled with the calibre of bullet, leave no doubt as to the result in an encounter.

Ted's letter, too, contained Christmas and New Year greetings with the following addition: "and hope you have the times of your lives." We certainly did, thank you, Ted.

PIONEERING

At this stage we hear another sort of howl, this one from the O.F. girls. "Oh the boys aren't so tough as they would like you to believe."

Whether that be true or not, we can quote from the experience of girls, too.

Mary Halldorson (nee Green) writes from Hayland Post Office, Manitoba.

Where is Hayland? Well it's 130 miles north of Winnipeg, on Lake Manitoba.

Is it tough? Well, it's 35 miles from Ashern, the nearest town and doctor, and at the time of writing the temperature was 23 degrees below zero.

Mary says that "30 below is the coldest we've had this winter, but they say this is a mild winter. I sure feel it cold compared with Vancouver."

Mary and her husband are negotiating for a house on the lake shore. For summer bathing? Certainly not, winter fishing, through the ice!

And if this does not prove that O.F. girls are as tough as the boys, when it comes to facing difficulties, we will add a strong final upper-cut. Should Mary become sick, or seriously ill during the winter she is reconciled to the fact that hospitalization is out of the question and, moreover, will consider herself lucky if a doctor can manage to get through to her.

STUDENT OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS

The year 1947 saw the establishment of a new O.F. classification—Student Old Fairbridgians, of whom there are seven.

Lawrence McCarty, John Cowans and Malcolm MacDonald are living at the School but continuing their education at Duncan High School. Lawrence is in his final year, and the other two are in 11th year. Lawrence and John play soccer for the high school AGAINST Fairbridge. Due to the change in age limit for basketball, Malcolm is still able to play basketball for the Fairbridge Juniors.

Phillip Field and Jimmy Harris are Student O.F.s doing 10th year work in the Fairbridge Day School.

Leon Mendoza is tackling 11th year in Vancouver, working at the same time, and Ronnie Hancock is doing likewise at Penticton High School. Ronnie was one of a group that worked in fruit orchards at Naramata during the past summer. He elected to stay on in the district, working for his board and lodging, in order to attend Penticton High School. Incidentally he is playing basketball for the Intermediate B's of Penticton.

JOHN HOWARD MITCHELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

On Sunday, October 12, the school once again became indebted to Mrs. W. N. Mitchell, for it was on this occasion that she presented to Mr. Logan Mayhew, chairman of the B.C. Board of Governors, acting in behalf of Fairbridge Farm Schools, Incorporated, the John Howard Mitchell Memorial Library.

For some time past the library facilities of the School have been inadequate. Apart from the fact that there was insufficient storage space, there was no reading-room in the generally accepted sense of the term. To overcome this deficiency, Mrs. Mitchell purchased a pre-fabricated cottage which has been set up on a concrete foundation behind the hospital looking across the playing field to "Baldy" Mountain.

The main room of the cottage, which will be the reading-room, has an open fireplace. Even without the furnishings as at present, it is easy to visualize the quiet hours of pleasant reading that will be spent by the children in this room.

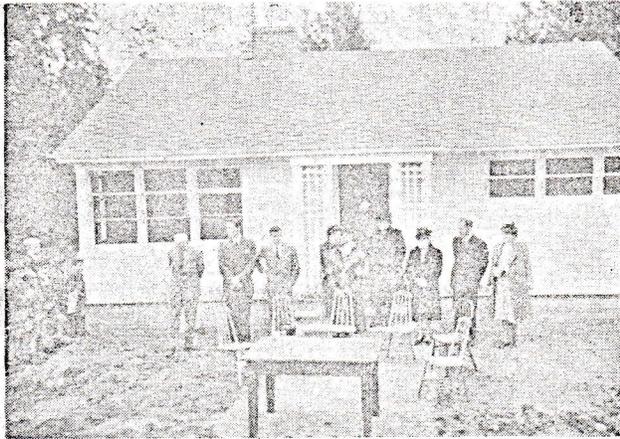
In cataloguing the books now on hand, Mrs. Mitchell found that many were duplicated and that, even after leaving certain books of reference in the present Day School Library, there would be more than would go into the new building. In view of this, it has been decided to establish a circulating library of about 40 books per cottage. An initial distribution is to be made to the various cottages and after a given period of time a general shuffle will be made with the result that there will be a constant stream of reading matter going into each cottage. People have not started to call us the "Bookworms" yet, but it is anticipated they will, by which time the name will be appreciated as a compliment, we hope.

During the presentation ceremony, Miss Hincks, of the Victoria Public Library, gave an excellent talk concerning the adventures to be had in a reading-room through careful selection of books and by allowing one's imagination to be carried away with the story. In this connection we know a man who had an encyclopoedic knowledge of fish, fishing and fishing tackle. He knew where all the best fishing was to be had and what lures to use, how to cast and how to use flies. But circumstances had not permitted him to fish more than once

or twice in his whole life, in spite of which he was an acknowledged authority. He had many books on the subject and had read them all thoroughly. His imagination had done the rest, and very few people realized it. There is, too, a good book entitled "The Little Room," by Guy N. Pocock. The book is actually a series of essays concerning the writer's room in a boarding-house and how he furnished it according to his moods and imagination. When, for example, his thoughts strayed to famous pictures, he would imagine that he had stripped the room, redecorated it and placed, in the most advantageous positions, the pictures he would like to have. When thinking of books he would again rearrange his room and place on the imaginary shelves all the books he had ever enjoyed and others that he would like to have.

Our headmaster used to advise us, before leaving school, to buy books with the money we were about to earn rather than think of motorcycles and cars. For, he said, "You will never miss the small monthly outlay and before long you will have an extensive library with which to while away constructively your leisure hours. Thus you will be making an investment."

And it was this point that Mrs. Mitchell brought home very forcibly when presenting the library. She called it part of her investment in the ideals for which Kingsley Fairbridge stood.



THE FAIRBRIDGE DOGS

There's a number of dogs
On the Fairbridge grounds,
Collies and mongrels,
Spaniels and hounds.

There's Wolly and Penny,
And Paddy Hipp, too,
And a little dog, "Tippy,"
Who to Fairbridge is new.

On the farm site there's Micky,
Who is all black and white,
Also there's Matty and Bitey,
(But he sure doesn't bite).

Then one day on the farm site
Certain things were found,
Dead chickens and feathers
Were all lying around.

Poor little Flicker
Was blamed for the theft,
And a little while later,
The poor dog had left.

Although there are many dogs
Around on the farm,
I'm sure that none of them
Will do any more harm.

—Evelyn Donnelly.



—Courtesy N. Morant.

Eric Blackmore and Woolly

