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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO OLD FAIRBRIDIANS

As this is the last number of the Gazette to be published this year the Editor has asked me to write for it a Christmas Message to Old Fairbridgians, and I am very glad to do so. Some of you, I hope, will be at the Farm School for Christmas and I will have the joy of seeing you and giving you a personal greeting. To those of you who are in Canada this message, though none the less sincere, will be premature and will perhaps be almost forgotten when Christmas Day comes; to many others far away from your Canadian Fairbridge home, some on the rolling sea in His Majesty's fighting ships or in the ships of our Merchant Navy, some on land with friends or with your own families in England, some on the battlefield, plunged deep in the fight for Freedom—this message of good wishes and goodwill brings with it a reminder that all of us at the Farm School, all the staff and all your Fairbridge brothers and sisters, are thinking of you on Christmas Day. As we recall the solemn meaning of this holy festival and join in all the happy feasting and sharing of gifts amid the quiet peace of the Cowichan countryside, our thoughts will go out especially to those of you who may be in danger in our Navy, our Army or our Air Force: and our prayers are for your well-being and your safety on Christmas Day. To all of you, Old Fairbridgians, wherever you are, a Merry Christmas!

And here is a special bundle of good wishes which I want you all to join with me in sending to Jim Lally. The regulations will not allow us to send a copy of the Gazette to him, but each of us will send off to him, flying on the wings of our thoughts, a personal message of Christmas cheer.

I want also to express the thanks and congratulations of all of us to the Editor of this number and to the editorial staff. By a stroke of good fortune, Frank Todd happened to come home on leave just as plans for this Gazette were being made. He was persuaded to accept the Editor's task and generously spent a great part of his leave at it, with what fine success you see.

A Christmas message is a message of goodwill, of friendship. On Christmas Day we think of home, of our loved ones, of our friends, and we long above all things to be with them on that day of all days in the year. On Christmas Day we renew our friendships by exchanging gifts, by feasting and in other ways.

A Christmas message is also a message of Peace. On the first Christmas Day the angels sang "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth Peace, Goodwill toward Men." So, as another Christmas approaches in a world at war, we pray not only that the brave men and women who are bearing the burdens of our war effort everywhere may be given strength and courage to win the Victory, but also that a speedy Victory will be followed by a just and lasting Peace.

Then will our Old Fairbridgians, with confident hearts and high resolve, rebuild their lives in the trades and occupations that belong to Peace, and go forward, ever forward, never admitting failure, always striving for success in their determined effort to play their full part in creating a new Canada, a new Empire, a new World.

—H. T. Logan.

## SGT.-A.G. JAMES M. LALLY

Friends of Jim will undoubtedly be sorry to hear that he is now a prisoner of war in Germany, reported missing after air operations overseas on August 2, 1943. The following extract of a letter from National Defence Headquarters tells about all that is so far known of the circumstances surrounding Jim's capture.

"Advices have been received from the Royal Canadian Air Force Casualty Officer, overseas, that Sgt. Lally was a member of a crew of an aircraft which left its base at 11:41 p.m. on August 2, 1943, and failed to return after air operations.



"This does not necessarily mean that he has been killed or wounded. He may have landed in enemy territory and may be a prisoner of war."

Mr. Logan was notified by wire a few days later that such was the case. One card has been received from Jim, which is here quoted in full:—

"Dear Mr. Logan,—I suppose you have been informed of my whereabouts already. Things could have been worse than this, at least I am alive, and that is saying a lot. I wish I could write a long letter, but! . . . See you again one of these days. Remember me to all. Sincerely yours, James Lally."

How about some of you writing to Jim once in a while? His address is: Sgt. Air-Gunner James Lally, Canadian Prisoner of War No. 223436, Stammlager IV B, Germany.

When you write to Jim, it would be best if you could get hold of a copy of the regulations regarding letters to prisoners of war. Most of you fellows who are in the services should be able to get hold of these regulations from your orderly room.



## TO THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS

### Girls

I myself, have lost track of some of the older girls, and I am sure that some of you have too. Mr. Logan kindly supplied me with the addresses and information about the girls who have gone out to employment. I know you will find news of interest to you of some of your friends.

ETHEL ANDERSON went to employment this summer in Victoria, where she is also taking the Grade X course at Oak Bay High School. She misses playing on the Farm basketball team. Ethel's sister, Lavinia, joined the R.C.A.F. (W.D.) as a clerk-general this summer and the last we heard of her she was in Toronto.

We had a visit from MARJORIE ARNISON and ENA TAYLOR this week-end. Marjorie sees her brother, Ken, quite often. He is living near Victoria. Ena Taylor is attending high school in Sidney, taking the Grade X course. JOAN BUCHAN is taking a course in radio telephony and is now working in the Jubilee Hospital. EUNICE COCKBURN is taking her last year at King Edward High School in Vancouver. Good luck to you, Eunice. We know you will make the grade. Look out for FLORRIE COWANS if you are travelling up the coast anywhere, because she is working for the C.P.R. Steamship Company as a stewardess. PEARL DANIEL is still in Victoria, employed in the Club Cafe.

We hear JOYCE DEAN is employed in the home of Mrs. Cook in Victoria, where WINNIE HARDY used to be. NORA DILLON is employed at the Farm School after a short time in Victoria. ELLEN DUFFY is working for the B.C. Packers and is at the present time batching with two other girls. MARY DUFFY is in her first year of employment in the home of Mrs. Alan Mayhew, Victoria. MARY GREEN is in the home of Mrs. Davis on Tolmie Street. She and OLIVE TURNER spent a happy two weeks this summer at Camp Artaban on Howe Sound.

The last we heard from SALLY HINCKS her two children were getting along fine. Her little daughter, Sharon, resembles her mother. CATHERINE and DOROTHY HOOD are both in Vancouver, and it is rumoured that Catherine is joining the C.W.A.C. That is the spirit, Catherine! JEANNIE (Morrison) KENT has deserted Victoria and set up house in Vancouver. We want to wish them all the happiness in the world.

BETTY LENTON, as far as we know, is still working in a laundry in Victoria. We haven't had much news of her lately. How about it, Betty? DOREEN and IRENE LISTER are both in Vancouver and are seen together on their half days. BARBARA LUKINS and JEAN RYAN are both at the Farm School after the finish of their training, but are going to employment in Victoria. BETTY MEIN has gone out to housework in Victoria. I guess you all remember little Betty. EDITH PHELPS is helping to build our ships to knock Hitler. She is now a rivet-passer at the Yarrow shipyards.

MOLLY PRITCHARD is working in Victoria and attending Oak Bay High School. Our IRENE ROBINSON is taking JEANNIE KENT'S place in the home of Mrs. Johns, Victoria. Last we heard of her she was very happy. HELEN SLAUGHTER is looking after twin babies. She has been in the home of Mrs. Brown since she finished her training in July. CATHERINE STOKER is at present in Vancouver.

OLIVE TURNER spends most of her time writing to her brother, Tom, overseas. ANNIE USHER is still in the home of Mrs. Lord, Vancouver. I saw her when I arrived in Vancouver and I can assure you that she is the same old Annie. MOLLY WHITE spends very little time writing letters to her friends, but as far as we know she is still in Vancouver at the home of Dr. D. Telford. DOREEN WILKINSON is enjoying life and work in Vancouver. MARY ANNE WILKINSON is working for the Boeing Aircraft Company, Vancouver.

#### Girls in His Majesty's Forces

Because of certain wartime regulations we cannot print too much about these girls, but we will give you as much as we can safely print.

#### C.W.A.C.

Mary Batt (Ottawa)  
Nellie Falcus (Victoria)  
Frances Gibson (Vermilion)  
Jessie Newbold (Vancouver)

#### R.C.A.F. (W.D.)

Lavinia Anderson (Toronto)  
Winnie Hardy (Camp Borden)  
Katie Taylor (Vancouver)  
W.R.C.N.S.  
Joyce Pritchard (Galt)

—Katie Taylor.

### Boys

Visiting the school after an absence of a few years, I have found that there are now very few people here who I really know. It is only natural then that I should have inquired a great deal about the boys and girls who were here in my time and who are now scattered all over the world.

Since I began asking questions about you all, I have a fairly good idea where you are now. Some of you may be interested to know where some of your old school-mates are now. As my job keeps me on the move I've run into several of the boys in different parts of Western Canada. I was never a ladies' man, so Katie Taylor will tell you, in another section, what she has heard of the O.F. girls, and I will try to give you the latest on the boys.

Last week in Vancouver I was approached by a soldier. To me he was an absolute stranger. However, a few questions disclosed that it was JACK McNALLY! Jack had just enlisted into the Armoured Corps and the next evening he left for the East to take his basic training.

TOM SPEED was at the School recently and has just left for a training camp, having enlisted in the Army. JOE FENTON, KEN BENNETT and KEN DAVIES were in Vancouver for a time and paid a visit to the school for a few hours the other evening when their ship docked in a nearby bay. These boys are in the Merchant Navy. NORMAN RICHARDS, also in the Merchant Navy, is at present in Vancouver waiting for another boat.

PAT WEBB is presently at the School awaiting a call to report to the Navy. GEORGE WHITE is in action now with the First Canadian Division down in Italy; and HENRY BRAYFIELD is last reported to have been in North Africa; perhaps Henry is in Italy too, now. FRANK MORRIS is in training in the east for air-crew in the Air Force. JOHN DEE is at present in Vancouver taking pre-air-crew training. The last time I saw John, a few days ago, he was rendering the latest hits to a gathering of service men and women in the new service centre in Vancouver.

ERIC WHEELER and PETER FORREST are still stationed on the west coast with the R.C.A.F. TOM RENWICK, a corporal in the Air Force now, is stationed in Calgary. Tom was back at the school for a few days lately. NORMAN ALSOP recently qualified as an air-gunner and has proceeded overseas. You may have heard that JIM LALLY has been taken prisoner of war and is now in a prison camp in Germany. BILL RENWICK is in the Air Force and is stationed on the west coast. JIM MORGATROYD, GINGER McDONALD and JOHN HUNTER are with the Navy on the west coast. John is a petty officer now.

With the Canadian Army overseas are ED WALTON, and DAN BRAYFIELD. Dan was on leave in London recently to see some of his cousins. TOM KEMP was recently at the School on leave prior to proceeding overseas. JIM DOBBS was at the School a few months ago and also is now overseas. ARTHUR WORSNOP and ALFIE WHITE are both overseas with the Armoured Corps. LAURIE DRAPE is overseas in an infantry reinforcement unit. JOHN MONNINGTON is also in an infantry reinforcement unit overseas. PETER WILKES is down on the east coast with the artillery. BOB WARNOCK is in Calgary. Bob recently qualified as a small-arms instructor. BILL STOKER when last heard from was taking basic training in Eastern Canada.

LES SNAITH, PAT HOOD and JOCK STEWART are all receiving their mail through Halifax now. Pat was in Vancouver on furlough a short time ago; the town is still talking about it. Speaking of furloughs, I saw GINGER McDONALD while he was in Vancouver spending his furlough. Ginger has really begun to sit up and take notice of what goes on around him in the world.

ERIC WINCHESTER was in the Army for a while. He got an "E" category and is now working in Calgary. PHILIP TIPLER was in Victoria for a while employed as a welder in the shipyards. However, he was sick for a short time and has been staying at the School to recuperate. JACK WHEELER and JOHN NEWELL are still in Victoria. KEN ARNISON, LIONEL BOWEN, CHARLIE SHELLEY are working on the outskirts of Victoria and are seen in town once in a while.

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## Sport

### BOXING

Our boxing for the winter is now in full swing. The older and heavier boys are assisting the instructors, Mr. George Burns and Mr. Sam Wilson, in teaching the younger boys the fundamentals of this sport. At the present time the instructors are attempting to get one or two rings roped out at the gym for the boxing classes, held there each Friday evening.

### BASKETBALL

The basketball season commenced in mid-October with a game with Duncan junior boys. The game was played in Duncan and our team went under, the score being 15-13 for Duncan. The second game, played at Fairbridge, was also a defeat for our team, the score this time being 20-13.

A number of the players on this year's junior team also played on last year's team; the remainder played with the midget team last year, Mr. Lynn Sully, formerly of the U.B.C. Thunderbirds, who is presently employed at the School as Assistant Duties Master, is coach for the junior boys' team.

### CADETS

We reassembled our cadet corps at the beginning of the school term. Although fourteen trainees had been made, it did not weaken our strength because they were automatically made senior cadets. The present strength of our company is 102 members, including 34 girl cadets. As yet we have not taken any training other than the drill that we usually do.

A supply of gas equipment was received recently, and we hope to construct a gas chamber in the near future. To date we have not received any uniforms, but have hopes of receiving them very soon.

—W. Cockburn, Major,  
Officer Commanding, Fairbridge Cadet Corps.

### VISITORS

There have not been so many visitors this summer as in previous years.

Among those whom we all welcomed again were the R.A.F. cricket team and concert party on August 15. It was a boiling hot day and the swimming pool was a popular place, both before dinner and during the afternoon for those who were not playing cricket. We shall all look forward to having other visits from our R.A.F. friends, and are sorry to hear that they may not be in our district next summer.

Col. G. M. Shrum, officer commanding the University of British Columbia contingent of the C.O.T.C., was an interested visitor on October 4. He inspected the Farm School and Day School buildings and spoke to the members of Division 1 in their classroom.

Mrs. M. Alston, who has lived many years in South Africa and is an authority on the birds and wild life of the African continent, spent a week-end at the Farm School in October. She knows well the country where Kingsley Fairbridge spent his boyhood and knows some of the Fairbridge family in South Africa.

We were pleased to see N.S. Stella Davidson, R.C.N., who visited us while on leave from Halifax, where she is engaged in occupational therapy in one of the Naval hospitals.

Flt.-Lt. Parker, of the R.A.F., thrilled us all by his talk on the work of the R.A.F. Intelligence Service. He had many stories to tell about the ways of getting useful information from prisoners of war, and ways of catching spies, and other stories of adventure which were just as good as any story from a book. He spoke for two hours, and we could have listened to him all night.

### TO THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS

(continued from page 2)

IAN CORMIE and BOB FENTON are up in the Cariboo at Soda Creek.

That is about all the boys we have any news about right now. Why don't some of you write to the Editor of the Gazette once in a while and let us know what you are doing? In that way we could pass on any news to your friends who don't see you very often.

—Frank Todd.

## Editorial

As an Old Fairbridgian returning to the School after an absence of some years, I find that it is a great pleasure to renew friendships with members of the staff here who guided us through the more impressionable years of our lives. It is very pleasant also to re-acquaint ourselves with you, the children now at the School. In our time you were very little tykes, and to us at the very grown-up age of fifteen were more than a trifle annoying at times.

It is quite a shock to find that you have grown remarkably in the last few years. I now find that the midget boys' basketball team of a few years ago are now trainees, and are about to go out into the world on their own.

In its outward appearance the old Alma Mater is about the same as we left it, but many differences can be felt. While wandering around the School this afternoon a couple of the younger boys approached me with a tale of woe: It seemed that they had to work for an hour after school. With a smile I recalled that just a few years ago I had groused about the same thing. What gave rise to the smile was not so much the fact that I remembered with some nostalgia the days a few short years ago when I was in the same position as these children, but the thought that in a few more years these same children will be back to the school for a visit and perhaps, while wandering around as I was, they will think back to those days as the happiest in their lives.

I know that in reading this exactly what you are all thinking, but in closing please let me say this: Ten years from now you will all undoubtedly appreciate what is now being done for you, but how about taking a few minutes now and thinking it over? I know, if you are honest with yourselves, you will begin to understand what your teachers and Cottage Mothers are trying to do for you. Why not give them a break and try to help them by doing everything expected of you to the utmost of your ability?

### OUR FARM

The place at which I worked was situated in the Fraser Valley, twenty-five miles east of Vancouver. New Westminster was the closer city. The farm consists of 300 acres, 150 under cultivation. There were six milking cows, seven heifers, two steers, and a bull, "Sir Helo." The milk was separated and the cream sent to town about three cans a week. Skim milk was given to the pigs. The milk is fed to weaning pigs and feeders; there were over a hundred pigs. The pigs were sent to market when they reached 220 pounds on the hoof, so that they weighed 180 pounds dressed.

For working the land we had two teams of horses, named "Pearlie and Bob" and "Queenie and Duchess." Also we had a John Deere Model "D" tractor and equipment for it, such as a disc, a three-bottom plough, and for the horses we had two fourteen-inch ploughs, harrows, seeders, lime-sower, hay mower and rake, and three wagons. For harvesting we had a thresher and a binder drawn by the tractor.

The lay of the land is a lot different than Fairbridge. In the first place it is below sea level; therefore it is necessary to have dykes and dams and ditches for taking the water off the land, and they are a nuisance because you have always to watch out for the stock getting into them and drowning, and if you are not watching carefully you will have your tractor in there, which is not so good.

—Pat Webb.

### CADETS ATTEND SERVICE AT CENOTAPH

The Fairbridge Cadet Company attended the Remembrance Day services held in Duncan on Thursday, November 11. Thirty cadets, ten girls and twenty boys, represented the company at the service.

Transported to the outskirts of Duncan, the cadets then marched to the cenotaph. The service commenced after the two minutes' silence at 11 a.m. At the conclusion of the service the military and cadet units took part in a march past.

The Fairbridge Cadet Company were complimented on their smartness by Capt. J. D. Groves, who had spoken earlier in the day at the Remembrance Day service in the school chapel, and by Mr. C. A. Howard.



# Farm News

## HORSES

During the month of October one of our best horses died at the age of twenty-three. Blossom was in her foaling period, her colt was still with her. After her death the colt had to be left alone. We now have seventeen head of horses on the farm; of these, five are colts which will be broken in during the next three months.

## CATTLE

The cattle herd now numbers sixty-two head. Of these thirty-three are now milking. As we have had an increase in milk production of late, we are now shipping four cans of milk daily to Victoria.

## FIELD CROPS

This year we have grown ninety-one rows of mangels, fifteen of which are to be used for seed purposes. All the roots have now been pulled and have been stored for later use. The root-houses have been remodelled to provide storage with better protection and ventilation.

—John Danks.

## POULTRY

Egg production has been down lately. Right now we are getting about 105 to 115 daily. During the summer we were getting about 280 eggs daily.

The pullets commenced laying much earlier than is usual and after two weeks they were giving ten eggs per day, which is very good. In other years it has taken the pullets eight months to attain this point in production. This year it took only about four or five months. At the present time we have about 745 birds, of which approximately 500 are pullets.

Mr. Wilson has done a great job on the poultry this year.

That is all the news of Fairbridge poultry for now, but we hope to do even better than this next year.

—Victor Smith.

## HALLOWE'EN

As usual, Hallowe'en saw big doings at the School. This year the chief attraction was a concert put on in the auditorium by the trainees.

The school children, guests of the trainees at this concert, were entertained by several amusing skits. "Madame Leghorn" was acted by Percy Millman. Ted Carr, Gordon Neale and Fred Harding put on a funny skit entitled "A Day at the Greasy Spoon Cafe." As their contribution to the evening's entertainment Don Collins, Frank Collins and George Pagden played in "Jake the Barber" and "A Day in the Gestapo Headquarters."

Fred Harding, as master of ceremonies, took over in the interval between the acts and led the audience in a community sing song. Bill Dowler rendered a solo and was supported by a chorus from the trainees.

At the concert prizes were given to the winners in a recent contest for posters for the "Milk for Britain" fund. Also receiving prizes were members of the team who sold the most tickets in a recent "Milk for Britain" fund drive.

—Barry Brown.

## AIRCRAFT DETECTION CORPS

As a reward for their services with the Aircraft Detection Corps, a group of seven boys recently visited a nearby R.C.A.F. station. Our visit was arranged by F.O. Chaston and Mr. Logan.

The Fairbridge Cadet Group has played an active part in the nation-wide duty, and F.O. Chaston felt that the boys who had played a greater part in this duty should be given an opportunity of seeing the planes they have reported as flying over the School, from close hand, and seeing just what makes them "tick."

The group was conducted to the station by Major T. M. Wilson. The boys in the party were: Billy Cockburn, Brian

Strawbridge, Stan Blake, Ken Ryan, Harry Sharp, George Turner and Ronnie Auton.

Upon arriving at the station we were stopped by S.P.s. Upon showing them our passes we were allowed to proceed with our visit. F.O. Donnelly was our guide.

We saw many varied types of planes and were allowed to climb into the cabins and cockpits of the aircraft. We had lunch in the R.C.A.F. canteen. Boy-oh-boy! Ice cream, pop, cake and sandwiches.

We cannot very well tell you about the types of planes and the number of planes—military secret. However, I can assure you that everyone had a great deal of fun.

—Ronnie Auton.

## O.F. SPEAKS ON CANADIANS AS FRIENDS

I find this a very difficult topic to write on, but I must say that it is a very interesting subject with which to experiment. In my opinion, anyone who does not wish to make friends with others is less than human. After all, it is only human to desire association with other people, rather than becoming a recluse.

Apart from making pals you can gain, and learn lots from others, I know from my own experience, I have learnt more in the last year than in the previous seven. Why? Just for the simple reason that I have met up with others.

I know after leaving the school it is hard to get out and meet up with Canadians. However, once you start to go out to parties and join clubs and associations, your "Pals List" will grow by leaps and bounds. That is what we want. After all, who wants to be stuck in the mud for the better part of his life?

One great fault of us old English blokes is when we meet up with some of the Canadians we immediately start in scrapping with them about which country is better. Take my advice and quit. Aren't you proud to say you are now a Canadian? I am, and I'm sure the rest of you will be too.

After all, we are all living under the same flag and King. So come on kids, get that chip off your shoulder and get out and make friends with Canadian people. I'm sure you'll find them to be the grandest people in the world.

My thanks go to Mr. Logan and the rest who helped me while I was living at Fairbridge. It is a great place, and I only wish I was able to live over my last six years.

"LONG LIVE FAIRBRIDGE!"

—Nellie Falcus.

## SOCIAL BRIEFS

A short time ago the trainee boys and girls, some of the older school children, and a few members of the staff, enjoyed a camp-fire and sing-song at the upper ranch. Mr. Burns, the bunkhouse cook, supplied a bag of corn, which was roasted in the fire, and some cakes. Some of the boys had mouth-organs along, which helped to get the sing-song started. The sing-song was a little weak at first. However, a little later in the evening everyone got a little more enthusiastic, and on the whole it was a great success.

Members of the staff and the trainees were invited to a Thanksgiving dinner in the bunkhouse by Mr. George Burns. The guests all enjoyed the very good meal which was served them. Following the meal everyone present joined in a sing-song.

The Fairbridge Cadet Company recently entertained the staff and children at an impromptu concert in the Day School Auditorium. The concert was arranged by Major T. M. Wilson, instructor to the cadets. Signalman Frank Todd, on leave at that time, acted as master of ceremonies.

## THE SWIMMING POOL

This year there was a great improvement in the Fairbridge swimming pool. Mr. Rogers was the constructor of the raft and diving-boards. Fairbridge also paid for a gravel dam and a spillway, which held back most of the water for a deep hole. This year the girls and boys enjoyed the swimming pool as good as any year.

—Fred Harding.