

VALLEY HISTORY

AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM

BOX 2315, INVERMERE, V0A IK0 342-9769 AUGUST 2000

LAKE WINDERMERE CAMP



On March 21, 1920, Mr. C.E.E. Ussher, General Passenger Traffic Manager of the C.P.R. inspected the District and decided to establish a camp on the lake shore subject to the inspection and report by Mr. F.L. Hutchison. It was to be a "tent city." On April 16, Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Basil Gardom visited and approved the plan. After the cost of a "tent city" was estimated, the C.P.R. decided to build rustic cabins which would be less expensive and more permanent.

On April 22, 1920, Frank Stockdale and 2 men were working at pulling out dead trees and brush and getting the site cleaned up. Mr. Penniman prepared the necessary drawings and plans for cottages. Mr. H.E. Forester provided the 4x4's for the construction and Mr. J. Taynton and Percy Docking worked on the buildings. On July 15, 1920 construction was completed.

At the request of Mr. Ussher, the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruitlands Ltd. agreed to take over and operate the Camp when it was completed and furnished. The expenses preliminary to opening were \$700.00. The official opening was July 1, 1920.

The C.P.R. did not want their name used in conjunction with the Camp even though they were the owners as they feared tourists were apt to want what they called "C.P.R. Standard" for their accommodation. Mr. J. de Villeneuve was the manager the first season. He was experienced in other C.P.R. Hotel operations.

On July 17, 1920 the C.P.R. shipped 5 boxes of china, glass, and silverware to the camp. Blankets were provided for \$10.00 a pair, mattresses were \$225.00 for 50, and some equipment was supplied from the Palliser Hotel in Calgary.

Since being built by the C.P.R. early this century, this Lodge has served as a social center to the Valley. It's first function was as a camp for railway workers; consisting of several cabins on the lakeshore and a central Lodge. In 1920 it was advertised as a tourist destination throughout Canada and the U.S.A. Rooms cost \$4.00 a night if you stayed a week. At this time there was a nine hole golf course on the peninsula. Along with outdoor diversions such as bathing, boating, golf, automobiling, horse-back riding and hiking. Dining and dancing in the Lodge provided a focal point for socializing. Tourists arrived by train and were driven by automobile the one mile from the station to the Camp.

"The Camp will be operated by the Invermere Hotel Company, to whom requests for reservations should be made."

(from George Jewell papers.)

“Count and Countess Cisterna of Italy spent the weekend at the C.P.R. Bungalow Camp at Lake Windermere leaving again by special automobile. The Count is the first cousin of the present King of Italy.” Golden Star-Sept. 1928.

In 1933 the Camp was bought by Invermere Contracting for \$500.00. During this time, it was leased by two American women; one was the daughter of the Dodge Motor Company owners. She was a violinist and singer and operated this as a summer retreat for wealthy young women. Kathaleen Overstreet often played the piano that remains in the Lodge today.

LAKE WINDERMERE RANCH CAMP for Girls 1931

“We offer pack train trips through the trails of the Canadian Rockies on mountain bred horses under the direction of Walter J. Nixon, our government licensed guide. The Ranch Camp for girls is directed by Miss Mary E. Cutler, of Minneapolis and Dr. Harriett E. Cooke of Chicago who have considerable experience in the management of such camps. They have selected this as an ideal spot for girls desiring an active outdoor life combined with instruction in art.”

George Jewell, Carl Stroble and Hans Younk were the owners during the depression and war eras. They had the property subdivided and sold off the cabins during the fifties, many of which remain as summer homes. The Lodge remained as the gathering place even though the golf course had moved. A perfect spot for croquet !

In 1965, Ian and Lucy Weir purchased the Lodge for \$10,000.00.

They used it for a summer home for three years and after having it winterized in 1968, moved in permanently.

Lucy said that the first time she was in the Lodge was in 1937. She had just moved to Radium and was invited to a birthday party for Herb Blakley that was held at the Lodge.

Ian played saxophone with the Tunnacliff Orchestra and they played for many functions at the Lodge.

The seven foot Baby Grand piano that is in the Lodge today, was originally owned by the McCarthys at the Karmax Ranch. It was used in the David Thompson Memorial Fort for many years before being purchased for the Lodge at Lake Windermere Camp.

Ian and Lucy continue to live at the Lodge today. The trees and gardens have grown up around the house and the view of the mountains to the west has been replaced with rooftops. Inside the Lodge however, remains much the same as it was in the early days.

From; G.Jewell Papers

Friends of the Library. 1993

District Events

1911 - Formation of the Farmers Institute sparked the District Fall Fairs.

1912 - The first fall fair was held in the Athalmer Schoolhouse September 14-15

1913 - The second Fall Fair was held in the Skating- curling Rink in Athalmer with 1600 entries.

The Racing Association scheduled horse races September 15th at the race track adjoining the new townsite of Invermere (Athalmer). The oval race track was half a mile long. The purse was a \$1000.00. The race track was in conjunction with the polo grounds.(The area is now the Invermere Industrial Park). The fall fairs were always held at the race track and was known as the "fair grounds".

1913-1920 - The early fall fairs always had the Exhibition buildings well filled. The race track scheduled races. The local ranchers raised race horses. The Native people entered these races also. Rose Kinbasket, daughter of Chief Pierre Kinbasket, entered these races. She died in 1917 at Vancouver when her horse stumbled at the race track there. Rose had always won the Indian Ladies' Race at the Fall Fairs.

For some years Rodeos were put on and amusement parks were set up for the children .

1913- "Columbia Valley Times" listed the winners inthe handicraft section of the fair:

Embroidery	Mrs. W. Taynton
Eyelet Embroidery	Mrs. Troyer
Tatting	Mrs. Kimpton
Patchwork quilt	Mrs. Starke

May 1933- "Moon Queen" a Cantata was presented by the pupils of Miss Dora K. Bodecker at her home. Parents and friends were invited to attend.

Those taking part were:

Elsie Johnston
Audrey Cleland
Lucy Pennington
Dorothy Gregson
Frances Ashworth
Evelyn Ashworth
Shirley Newton
Betty Pennington
Allison Cleland
Marion Tunnaclyffe
Dorothy Tegar

The boys parts were taken by:

Fil Coy
Stanley Frater
Warner and Donald Newton

Certificates were presented to Joyce Johnston, Elsie Johnston, and Dorothy Gregson won in the competitions of the Music Makers Guild of London, England.

R. Gladwyn Newton, on behalf of the audience thanked Miss Bodecker for the evenings entertainment.

ORIGIN OF CREEK NAMES

By Winnifred Weir

Horsethief Creek-on the eastern slope of the Purcells, northwest of Wilmer, received it's name from the exploits of an American and a Swede who, it is said rustled some pack ponies from a whiskey peddler. They were pursued up the creek, captured and taken to Fort Steele. Its first tributary is Boulder Creek.

Barbour Creek- is named for the pioneer Barbour family of Wilmer.

Ben Able Creek- which runs into Lake Windermere, is named for Ben Able, a pioneer of the Valley.

Kimpton Creek- is named for Windermere pioneer, Rufus Kimpton.

Stoddart Creek- is also named for a Windermere pioneer, James Stoddart.

Stockdale Creek- is named for Frank Stockdale.

Forster Creek- is named for Harold E. Forster.

Kain Creek- is named for Conrad Kain, alpinist and guide of Wilmer.

Brady Creek- is named for James Brady, a land surveyor who also had a place on Findlay Creek.

Brewer Creek- is named for old timer, Samuel Brewer.

Delphine Creek- was named by George Starke in honor of his wife.

Taynton Creek- was named for Jack and William Taynton.

Tatley Creek- was named for "Old Tatley", a Kootenay Indian who lived near Fairmont.

Goldie Creek- was named for a man named Goldie who lived in the Invermere area.

Shuswap Creek- is named for the Shuswap Band.

Salter Creek- was named for "Old man Salter", who had a shack on the southside of the creek, below the road.

Findlay Creek- was named for Patrick Findlay, a gold miner from the N.W.T. In about 1863, he discovered gold on this creek.

Toby Creek- named for Dr. Levi Toby who was a resident geologist and civilian surgeon who first came to the Kootenays in 1855.

UPDATE OF THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT DAVID THOMPSON STATUE

The committee continues to meet regularly. Cam Berry has joined the committee to assist us with fund-raising. He has been in touch with many corporations. We have also applied to the B.C. Millennium Fund and to the Gaming Commission.

If enough funding is acquired then our intent is to include Charlotte Small, the wife of David Thompson, in the statue.

On July 22nd an information booth was set up for Visitor Appreciation Days in Invermere. Pledges were taken from interested people. If you are interested in making a pledge please write to ;

David Thompson Millennium Project
Box 2670
Invermere, B.C. VOA-IKO

We would then contact you if enough funding is acquired in order to go ahead with the project. Or..... any contributions will be held in a trust -fund. If for any reason we do not proceed with the project, the funds will be returned to you or applied to other Museum needs at your direction.

On July 22,2000 the Valley Piecemakers Quilting Guild held a successful show at the museum. We are very thankful for their generous donation.