



MARCH 1986

Fairbridge Gazette

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PRINCE OF WALES FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Springtime to all of you! I hope that you have wintered well.

Last week as I was working on this year's garden patch, my mind went back to the little vegetable patch we used to have behind our cottages. And I recalled weeding the mangle fields which probably accounts for the fact that my garden patch is very small. Let me assure you that the executive committees have been busy in the provincial mangle patch.

Following the mandate given by the general meeting, your executive has been making good progress through the committees these past few months. You will find these mandate items in the November, 85 Gazette. We plan to continue our progress and we will give an interim report following the August meeting in Duncan. (You may recall that we said there would be an executive meeting the third week in August at the last reunion.) We are planning to reach our objectives by the next reunion, August 1987.

Phil

Residents open homes for Fairbridge reunion

Nearly 200 Old Fairbridgians returned to the site of their school days last month, visiting the historic cottages and buildings which served as the site of their education.

Homeowners and residents of the Fairbridge Strata Society hosted a tea and reception on the school grounds near the chapel, and opened their homes to the visitors, said Don Morton, a member of the 1983-85 Fairbridge Alumni Society committee.

In appreciation, FAS president John Cowans presented them with a plaque commemorating the reunion and in particular, the school visit.

"This will probably be hung in the school chapel," said Morton.

The reunion drew several people who had been prominent during the 1934-1952 operation of Fairbridge School: Lady Aileen Dodds-Parker, chairman of the Fairbridge Society of London, England; Barbara Turris of Ottawa, daughter of the late Col. M.T. Logan, who was principal of the school during most of its active life.

Enka Tasse of Malvern in Worcestershire, England, who was well known as Miss Hunter, office

manager at Fairbridge; provincial archivist Dr. Patrick Dunae; and Major A.H. Plows of Victoria, who was closely connected with the school from its inception, as day school principal and then as after-care officer following its closure.

Some 50 of the registered visitors attended a Sunday morning service at the chapel, conducted by Rev. Thomas Speed of Vancouver, a member of the first party to arrive at the school in 1935.

Another reunion will be held in 1987, Morton announced. A new alumni committee has been struck: president Philip Field (1941) of Burnaby; vice-president Pat Webb (1937) of Surrey; secretary-treasurer Molly White-Harris (1935) of Burnaby; and Cowans as past-president.

Other committee members include: John Hardy (1947) of Vancouver; William Cockburn (1937) of Cowichan Bay; George White (1936) of Campbell River; Annie Usher-Forrest (1936) of Burnaby; Eunice Cockburn-Nichols (1938) of Langley; Joe Fenlon (1938) of Sidney; Keith Hamblett (1946) of Victoria; and Ernie Todd (1935) of Prince Rupert.



The Chapel

Text and specimen of Honorary Memberships issued to Staff and friends of F.F.S. as per direction from last General Meeting.

As evidenced during the reunion in August 1983 and again this past August 1985, Old Fairbridgians have shown an increased interest in recalling the part that the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School played in their life.

The Executive, on behalf of the Fairbridge Alumni Association, felt it timely as part of that increased interest to express their appreciation to the staff members and friends of Fairbridge who contributed their time and effort in helping guide us in those early years.

We would be most pleased if you would honor us by accepting an Honorary Membership in the Fairbridge Alumni Association, along with our expressions of appreciation for the part you played in our upbringing.

Thank you from all of us.

Yours sincerely and kindest regards,



MOLLY'S CORNER

On behalf of the committee, many thanks for the Christmas cards, letters, phone calls and other kind words that came our way with respect to the Jubilee Reunion.

Our thanks as well to those of you who responded to our last Gazette appeal for payment of membership fees. Again we remind you tardy ones to get with^{ed} and complete the form below. To serve you and to keep the alumni going we need your membership.

The provincial archives has sent us \$10 for a subscription to the Gazette.

We were saddened to learn of the passing away of Peter Wilkes in March of 1985. You may recall his visit with us at the 1983 reunion and how glad he was to see his old school chums again. We were saddened as well at the recent passing away of Eric Winchester, and of Josh Whitaker. Don Morton gave the eulogy for Josh.

Jubilee Reunion packages still available! Two posters \$2 each. School pin, \$2 each. Fairbridge Glimpses booklet, \$5. Please add \$2 for postage.

Help! Need the address for Jack Wood. And if you know of any staff member who has not received honorary membership, let me know.

Congratulations to Caroline MacGregor, Fairbridge Society office, London, on the birth of her baby, a boy!

Tom Turner and Tapes

Tom Turner has tapes of the 85 Jubilee Reunion available in VHS or Beta at a cost of \$40, of which \$4 is returned to our alumni. If you were not at the reunion, this is the next best thing. If you were there, re-live it with a video tape. Send cheque or money order to: Tom Turner, 38 Otterbury Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 5A1.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE WANTS YOU TO KNOW...

In reply to specific questions from the Archives Committee, the Provincial Archives have indicated that they are interested in any and all material to add to their Fairbridge collection, but in particular they are specifically interested in:

- letters, diaries, scrapbooks and other written material/records
- photographs bearing names and dates
- records and photographs prior to coming to Canada
- letters and records from students after they left the school
- our impressions and reflections of the school as we Now see that experience.

By means of this newsletter, we urge all readers to make a definite commitment to gather and send all such material to Bill Cockburn (or contact him re disposition).

4227 Judge Drive
Cobble Hill, B.C. V0R 1L0

Please do it NOW-our heritage demands preservation-so lets have a really positive response on this one. We can do no less than this for our children and our adopted homeland. Thanks. PjF.

PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

Thankyou to all thoser who planned, prepared, and carried through the most successful reunion in Duncan. It was even better than the previous one!

Maureen and Tom Speed

I wish you every success in your reunions and will try to get to the next one.

Edith A. Ritchie

I've been to many reunions in my day but never ones that developed such a warm atmosphere of friendliness and genuine concern for one another as the two Fairbridge ones which I have attended.

Mimi Nichols

For me, living so far away from the site it would be the only opportunity I would have to see, visit and relive old memories with those that I grew up with.

Rod MacKay

It was fun to see former Fairbridgians whom I had not seen literally for decades...the day at the farm school was great--so nostalgic to visit the cottages again.

Enclosed are my fees for the Fairbridge Alumni Association for the calendar year 1986 ----- \$10.00

NAME _____
(please print)

ADDRESS _____
(include postal code)

TEL. NO. () _____
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