



Fairbridge Gazette

May, 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

... Phil Field

I trust that everyone successfully navigated the past winter without too much trouble. It certainly seemed long enough - even out here in "Lotus Land". It's nice to be back in the garden again, weeding and hoeing. Funny!! - how it is enjoyable now but was so much work and drudgery when we were on the farm. Mind you - a garden 10' by 10' is not quite the same as rows of mangels 100 yards long!

In a previous issue, I had mentioned an objective which we had set to achieve communication with other Old Fairbridgian Associations. Well, I am very pleased to inform you that very significant progress has been made in this regard and some delightful Booklets and Information from Australia are now in our possession. Some pertinent details will no doubt be given elsewhere in the issues of the "Gazette". It's kind of a thrill to be part of a "Global Family", so to speak.

We'll be looking forward to reporting at the Reunion in August on progress toward reaching all of the objectives we set at the beginning of our Term of Office. In the meantime, have a good spring - see you in the summer at the Reunion.

REUNION UPDATE

... Peter Forrest
'89 Reunion Chairman

The management at the "Inn at the Water" has just changed. On April 4, 1989, Anne and I went over to Cowichan Bay to check out some of the details for the upcoming Reunion in August and things are under control; the Wine & Cheese Party on Friday night, the General Meeting on Saturday morning, and the Banquet on Saturday night. Registration, this time, will be in the "Cove Room" from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Coffee will be available in the Cove Room on Saturday for those who wish it - good place to just "visit". Please make your reservations for rooms well in advance to avoid any disappointment. We want as many as possible of the OF's to attend the General Meeting on Saturday morning. It's "your" organization and only "you" can make it work.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY/TREASURER

... Molly Harris

1. We are now receiving Newsletters from NSW Molong, Australia and Pinjara and are pleased that we are united in this way. Pinjara will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary Reunion July 15/16, 1989, with a well thought out and planned affair, and we extend our congratulations. Also, we have now received an excellent copy of the NSW Molong booklet entitled "Follow Fairbridge The Founder" by David A. Rutherford from the Molong Historical Society and it will be on display with the "Northcote" booklet by Lyn Clough for all to see at our Reunion. Thanks again for providing us with this material.

2. Do you remember? In 1940 a group of children on their way to an Australian School stopped over for 6 months at our school until a boat was ready to take them there. One of the girls that was in that group has written to say that she and her 19 year old daughter plan to visit the school site. They arrive on May 14th-18th and arrangements have been made to look after them during their stay. We are hoping some of you will be able to meet with them during this time as I am trying to set a date and time for a get-together.

3. Address Change: The Fairbridge Drake Society's address is now 202 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7JW England, Phone 01 928 1704.

4. Keep them coming - a good response is being made with your memberships and we thank you. Some of you need to pull up your socks, however!

NOMINATING OFFICER

... Joe Fenton

Greetings, OF's everywhere.

As our Reunion approaches it is time to remind you that elections will take place during the sessions. Your present executive members would like to make it clear that they are not self-appointed.

Nominations for office are done in a democratic fashion and all offices are open to those members interested in serving on the OF executive.

Accordingly, the following positions must be filled during our elections: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and eight (8) Directors.

Present incumbents are, of course, eligible to run or to continue in office as the case may be.

Perhaps a hearty vote of thanks is due at this time to those dedicated members of the executive who have worked so hard to keep our OF Association functioning and vital to our interests.

We ask you to seriously consider running for office or to nominate those members who will best represent you in keeping our OF Association active and viable in the future.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE ... Pat Webb

A second request for possible Fairbridge Heritage artifacts has not come up with any meaningful response, but it would appear that somewhere along the way, some of the items that did have some history of Fairbridge attached did become saleable through auction and were purchased as such. Maybe the parties involved might be interested in placing a price tag on these Fairbridge artifacts. If so, how much?? And, would the rest of the Fairbridgians be interested in purchasing our Fairbridge History back?

As I said before, we do have the Chapel in hand to store these items of interest, for all to see and relate to on visits back to our "home".

Maybe we could give this some thought before our General Meeting in August and have some discussion, time permitting, at the meeting.

As a Director of the Heritage Society of B.C., I have been working with John Cowans, Keith Hamblett, and Ron Smith who are actively working on the restoration of the Fairbridge Chapel. We have managed to have \$15,000.00 made available from the Heritage Trust to start immediate replacement of the roof on the Chapel. This work is sorely needed right away, because of the damage that is going on with the ever-increasing leaks that are showing up. As soon as the right shingles can be produced, the work will go ahead.

The Clock has been repaired and is in good running order. As of Sunday last, it was keeping good time and let's hope it stays that way.

A more extensive report will be given by John Cowans who is the Secretary of The Chapel Society either in this Gazette or at the General Meeting.

In closing this report, I would like to thank you all for the privilege of having served as one of your Directors over the past years. It was a pleasure to work with the other Directors in setting up the Reunions and the BIG 50 that was a big event in all our lives. What I am trying to say is, that I will be stepping down as a Director this year, and hope that there will be others of you that will be prepared to take over on some of these Committee jobs.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE ... Eunice Nickolls Editor

1. We regret to inform you of the passing of another Old Fairbridgian - Ethel Riley. Many of you "younger" ones will remember this tiny little sprite. Ethel's husband, Owen Canfield, a columnist for the "Hartford Courier" in Connecticut, U.S.A., took a long shot and contacted a Nanaimo newspaper in the hopes of finding contacts or more about Fairbridge. His luck held when a neighbour of John Cowans took his call. John had Molly send Fairbridge material to Mr. Canfield, who would like to write a book about Ethel's life. As a result of the material being sent to Mr. Canfield, he has expressed his desire to attend our Reunion. We have on hand a lovely article he wrote about Ethel. I have read and re-read it in the hopes of putting the best of it in an abbreviated form - but I feel, quite sincerely, that you should read it in its entirety. It will be posted where you can all see it at the Reunion. Again - you "younger" ones - PLEASE seek out Mr. Canfield and share your memories of Ethel with him.

2. Remember - time is passing very quickly. Make your reservations now. See you in August.