



Fairbridge Gazette

September 1988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Phil Field

In the last issue of the Gazette, I mentioned two areas of significance that I could see for our Association in the future - contact with Australian OP's and a perpetual scholarship in the name of the Canadian OP's.

Well, progress has been somewhat slow regarding contact with Australian OP's, however, I understand that they have a fairly strong organization, so I am sure that our limited contacts to date will eventually lead somewhere.

Very good news, however, regarding the scholarships project, and you will find the details further in this Gazette under the committee chairperson's comments on the subject. Suffice for me to say, however, that I think you will all be most pleased with the successful efforts taken so far, and I would encourage each and every Old Fairbridgians to strongly consider as much financial support as can be given to the proposed fund.

Let's all get behind this and really achieve a lasting legacy to the situation that fate laid out for us Fairbridgians.

The Executive are meeting on a regular basis, and the committees much more frequently. If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch through Molly Harris or Phil Field, President, Fairbridge Alumni Association.

BURSARY ... John Hardy MONEY HAS CROSSED THE WATER

The Fairbridge Alumni Association has received a cheque for \$18,694 for the Fairbridge Alumni Scholarship Fund, from what is now called the Fairbridge Drake Society.

The money is the remains from the old Fairbridgians Grant and Loan Fund. It has taken more than two years to have the funds transferred to our alumni control.

A proposal to create a scholarship program was discussed and adopted at the General Meeting, 1987, which will see funds given to persons who have demonstrated economic need and who are trying to improve themselves through further training. Priority will go to the issue of Fairbridgians.

A committee of three, Tom Speed, John Cowans, and John Hardy, has been struck by the executive to develop criteria for making awards, administering the fund, and reporting to the membership. The committee will be investigating a way to have donations to the fund tax deductible.

Basically, the fund is being regarded as a start by the executive, sort of seed money that we hope will grow through donations from Fairbridge Alumni.

The committee will investigate vesting the fund with the Vancouver Foundation, a public foundation comprising 319 funds with aggregated capital exceeding \$156,000,000. There is a provision within the foundation for matching grants for a minimum figure of \$25,000 if the trustees judge that a fund could benefit from the assistance.

However, with or without the foundation, it will be important to maintain the alumni fund in perpetuity drawing only on the interest earned to make awards from year to year.

The committee also stresses that the awards are not exclusive for college bound young people but should encompass any form of vocational training, the main criteria being that a person is trying to improve themselves and needs help with the purchase of books, fees and the like.

It is the hope of your executive that this fund will grow over the years, keeping the name of Fairbridge alive and helping the needy in the way we were helped by the school.

REUNION INFORMATION ... Peter Forrest

The '89 Reunion will be held at the "Inn at the Water" on August 25, 26 and 27th. To avoid a lot of confusion, we are asking you to send your answer and cheques to: **Peter Forrest, 6930 Curtis, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2B1**

Peter is in charge of the Reunion and would like you to follow through on this. He will send you a receipt - which will be your confirmation. If you wish to enclose your annual membership dues at the same time - he will gladly pass these on to Molly Harris. More info on the Reunion will be forthcoming.

CHAPEL NEWS

... John Cowans

By the time this gazette reaches you the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society will have acquired legal title to the Fairbridge Chapel and school house.

As you are aware, the Chapel has not been in full use for three decades and is in need of extensive repairs to restore it to a safe condition for occupancy and use as a place of worship, as well as making it available periodically to the public and special interest groups. The Chapel will also be available for weddings, funerals, christenings, reunions of the Fairbridge Alumni Associations, and special occasion church services and ecumenical services, on a fee-for-usage basis.

In addition to raising funds for the extensive restoration needs which will be well over \$50,000, the Society has operative costs to finance.

We are therefore, soliciting your financial support. Membership in the Society is open to anyone at the modest cost of \$10.00. Donations toward the restoration are tax deductible as the Society has been recognized as a charitable organization.

Fees and/or donations can be sent to John Cowans, Treasurer, Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society, 4749 Fairbridge Drive, R.R. #7, Duncan, B.C., V9L 4W4.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY/TREASURER ... Molly Harris

Bits and pieces from letters and phone calls:
1. John Stocker (an Australian OF, now a Professor of English at the University of Ulsan, South Korea) wrote to report on the March 25th 50th Anniversary Reunion of the Australian Old Fairbridgians' Association: "The Reunion, held at Orange and Molong, was a great success with over 300 sitting down to dinner. There also was a barbecue, a visit out to the Memorial site just outside the old Farm School, a gold tournament, a lakeside picnic, a Chinese dinner and a visit to the Molong Historical Society".

2. In an earlier postcard, John Stocker wrote: "May I suggest that you send a copy of your Alumni's Gazette to the other OF schools. It would be nice for all three main OFA's to thus be in touch by exchanging newsletters". (We responded with Gazettes being mailed to Pinjarra and Molong).

3. Dr. Patrick Dunae (B.C. Provincial Archivist and a good friend of Fairbridge) is on a one year exchange at the State Archives of Western Australia in Perth and in a July/88 letter to the Alumni wrote: "My counterpart from Perth, Steve Howell, will be doing my job at the Provincial Archives in Victoria until March, 1989". Patrick also commented on having visited some Fairbridge sites and said: "Beside the Fairbridge chapel at Pinjarra is a huge

boulder, which marks the grave of Kingsley Fairbridge. It is quite an inspiring site and having seen it, one cannot help but feel moved at his 'vision'. Another highlight of mine was having lunch with Mrs. Barbara Rowley, who is the daughter of Kingsley Fairbridge. She was born in Pinjarra in 1912, the year the first farm school started and has clear recollections of the early struggles of the Fairbridge Society. She is very keen on maintaining contact with Fairbridgians around the world, so was most interested in hearing of the Alumni Association in B.C.". Patrick concluded by sending his regards to all OF's and advises he would be delighted to see any visitors to Perth.

4. Margaret (King) Clark (an OF nurse) phoned in June with the information that she had been in touch with Sidney resident David Gurr, the author of the book "A Woman Named Seylla" and though he makes reference to Fairbridge in his book, his only association was having learned of Kingsley Fairbridge in his travels. Mystery solved! For the more curious he can be reached at 9170 Ardmore, Sidney, B.C. V8L 3S1. Phone: 656-0415.

5. Thanks to those who responded to our appeal for membership dues with payments, donations and letters.

EDITOR'S NOTES ... Eunice Nickolls

I received a letter from England and it referred to some child migrant films that had been aired in Britain. Some of these associations are good and some are questionable. We would suggest you use extreme caution if you are approached by them.

Dr. Pat Dunnais' video of Fairbridge is still available. To get your copy - please write to: Sound & Moving Images Division, Provincial Archives, Parliament Buildings, Victoria B.C. V8V 1X4. Copies are \$30.00. However, if you send your own blank cassette, it is only \$15.00.

Harry Sharp was married to Janet Kraft. Congrats!!!

Young "Mr. Mark Charles Hamblett" arrived on July 7/88. Happy parents - Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hamblett. After 43 years - Keith has located a sister in Leeds. He will visit her in November. We're happy for you Keith.

At our next General Meeting, Joe Fenton will be in charge of nominations. If you are at all interested in being active in our Fairbridge Alumni Association, please write to Joe at: 1875 Dickson Avenue, Sidney, B.C. V8L 1E6. If you don't write, approach him at the Reunion. We need some "new blood" to keep the association going.

If you have anything you would like me to put in the next Gazette, please call me at 534-9109 or mail it to Eunice Nickolls: 2457 - 34A Avenue, Langley, B.C. V3A 7B9.