

# FAIRBRIDGE



# GAZETTE

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## EDITORIAL

### Trainee Girls.

We hope it is not too late to wish all our readers a very happy New Year. War clouds still are heavy overhead. Whilst we feel particularly safe and sheltered in this part of the world we are not unmindful of the many Fairbridge friends and supporters who are in the front line, bearing the hardships which war inflicts. Their bravery, courage and cheerfulness inspire us to do our utmost to help in every way we can to ease the burden which they are now unable to carry. As loyal Fairbridgians we would like to pledge ourselves to help those who have previously helped us. May 1941 find each one of us willing to do our share.

Since the last number of the Gazette was published we have welcomed home the 19 boys and 2 girls with the members of Staff who spent most of the summer at Fintry. We understand the boys did excellent work in the fruit orchards while the girls helped with the domestic work. These children took their places in Cottages, and the new duplex was opened to house the 23 trainee boys. The number of children now in residence now is 195.

Some of the outstanding items of news include the marriage of our senior Cottage Mother, Mrs. Sveinson of St George's Cottage, who in August married Rev. R. Axon, of Macleod, Alberta. Later in the summer Miss Dorothy Bulcock, who has worked in our Laundry for two years, was married to Mr

Frank Lee of Bamberton, and in December Miss Barbara Brockley, Cottage Mother, in MacMillan Cottage since that family of boys arrived from England was married to Mr. R.B. Carrick of Abbotsford, B.C. We miss them all but wish them the very best happiness in their new life.

The new House system for boys, outlined in the April 1940 issue, is still going strong and has been carried out with a good deal of success. The result of the year's marks shows, the Maroons 1st (K. Bennett, Prefect); Greens 2nd (R. Anderson, Prefect); Blacks 3rd (K. Braunton, Prefect); Maroons 4th (T. Kemp, Prefect).

Mr. Garnett has purchased the Hilltop on Kelvinside, overlooking the Fairbridge property. Many happy Saturday and Sunday afternoons are being spent there clearing the bush and kindling the bonfires.

We must not close this editorial without making mention of our Sunday School held each Sunday evening in the Chapel, conducted by Mr. Garnett. Each week a preparation class is taken by each Cottage Mother in her own Cottage. The Trainee Boys and Girls attend Bible Class conducted by Mr. Logan on Sunday afternoons in the Trainee Girls' Cottage.

Old Fairbridgians' News

Jim Lally.

After completing their employment at Fintry, Dan Brayfield and George White returned home on 2nd of November and stayed at the Farm School for a short period before proceeding to further employment. Dan is now at Salmon Arm in the Interior of B.C. and George White is at Chemainus, working with Matthew McDonald another Fairbridge boy. Both these boys are doing well.

Another boy giving good report of himself is Peter Forrest, now working at Nanaimo.

The last to go to employment at the dairy farm of Cmdr. Tribe was Joe Duffy. We hear he has made a good start and we all wish him well at his new job.

Jim Morgetroyd got off with a good start at his new job with Mr Nigel Kingscote at Cowichan Bay.

We were very fortunate to have some of the Old Fairbridgians with us at Xmas. Private Ed Walton was home from Winnipeg where he is at present stationed with the Royal Canadian Artillery, and Stoker John Hunter, who is serving with the Royal Canadian Navy and stationed at Esquimalt, where he is taking a stiff Stoker course. John came first in a class of 50 in a seamanship test with 89%. The next highest mark was 80%. We feel confident that he will continue to make us feel proud of him by keeping up his good work. We also hope he will attain high rank in the Service.

Two girls who are in employment but still attending school returned for a few days at Xmas, Katie Taylor and Winnie Hardy. Katie is studying at Prince of Wales High School in Vancouver and lives with Dr. and Mrs Meekison, where she works when not attending school. Winnie attends Victoria High School and has been living with Mrs. A.H. Plows, wife of the former Principal of the Fairbridge Day School.

Fairbridge Farm School  
Duncan, B.C.

January 1941.

Dear Mr. Green:

On behalf of the older girls and boys at Fairbridge I send my sincere sympathy to you in your many hardships at work. We all understand the position England is in now. The air raids seem to be still bad and there does not seem to be much safety on the sea.

The farm is economizing as much as possible on butter, eggs, cheese dried fruit, sugar and coffee.

We were very glad to receive your greetings at Christmas and we hope that you had a Merry Christmas, and that you will have a prosperous New Year.

Each division in the school, except the younger one, has a Junior Red Cross Branch. When the operetta was put on at the end of the school closing at Christmas, one of the branches, named "Britannia Branch" put Red Cross boxes at the gymnasium door and we collected ten dollars. This money was sent as a donation from all the Red Cross Branches of the Fairbridge School to Junior Red Cross Headquarters in Vancouver. The money is going to the soldier's fund.

The last party of children that came out settled down quite nicely; they stayed for a month, and then went on to Australia. The party of children that came before that to stay here permanently, are doing very nicely. They have mixed with the other children and know the routine; although there are quite a number of boys and girls here now, everything is managed very successfully by all members of the staff.

So please don't worry as everything is going fine with us all at Fairbridge, and keep up your fine work as much and as long as possible.

Your grateful friend,  
LAVINIA ANDERSON.

Bill's Hill

Bill bought a Hill,  
Hill no good,  
Kids go with Bill  
And kids chop wood.

When Saturday comes  
We climb that Hill,  
We take an axe  
To show our skill.

There's a great thrill  
In showing your skill  
Chopping logs  
On top of Bill's Hill.

On New Year's Eve  
We had some fun.  
Had some wieners and a bun.  
We went with Bill  
To a hollow in the Hill  
And we ate until  
We had our fill.

Andy Buglass.

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Boy's Sports

Ken Bennett

Football: Football started in October. The first game to be played was against Qualicum who won at Fairbridge. A week or two later Victoria West came up and it was a draw. Cowichan School brought up a team who were defeated. Away, we played against Qualicum, but we were defeated. Farm School teams that played were Trainees against ex-Trainees; the Trainees won. The same teams later played and this time the other team won.  
Basketball: Basketball is well under way under the management of Mr. Warnock. The first team to play was Shawnigan against Fairbridge at home. There were two teams Midgets and Juniors; Fairbridge won both games. The Junior Girls played the Junior Boys three times, the boys won twice. Later the Junior Boys challenged the Trainees, but were defeated.

Fairbridge Happenings

Pearl Daniel.

At the school closing an operetta called "The Inn of the Golden Cheese" was put on by the children, bringing many visitors to the school.

At this performance there were two "Red Cross" boxes put outside the Gymnasium door and ten dollars was collected to go to the "Soldier's" fund.

School closed on December 20th for our Christmas holidays. These days were filled with joy and excitement with the thought of Father Xmas coming and also the party where we could see him in person.

During the holidays some children from the Wynne Shaw Dancing School came to entertain us at Fairbridge, a magnificent programme was put on and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It consisted of many kind of dancing, singing, acrobating and last of all the representation of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

These are not the only entertainments we have had, because another which we all love is the pictures. We are very lucky in having pictures shown by Mackay Smith, and Blair Company; these are always very good and very exciting. Pictures were also shown by Mr. Barrow, a friend of Dr. Stanier's; he took these different moving pictures while on a trip, in these we were shown many places and things we had never seen before.

In December Mr. Lincoln was a very welcome visitor back on leave for a few days from the Army.

The distinguished visitors for September were Sir Edward Beatty, C.P.R. Chairman; Col. Henry Cockshutt, once Lt. Governor of Ontario; Mr W.M. Neal, C.P.R. Winnipeg; Miss Agnes Macphail, Ottawa. In October there was Mr J. Herbert Curle, of Rhodesia who knew Cecil Rhodes. Dr. and Mrs Alfred Noyes were also welcomed visitors and the Doctor recited some of his own poems to the children. One of his poems he recited was "The Highwayman".

The Farm

Ken Braunton.

The Farm has altered quite a lot since our last issue. The new Horse Barn is now in use and is occupied by 16 horses. It has been named the Arthur Hendry Barn after Mr. Hendry, who did much to make the building possible. Land around the barn has been cleared and fences put up which will provide more paddocks for our horses.

The Root House has been cleaned out and the floor cemented. It has also been made larger. A new shed is being built beyond the root house to house the wagons and carts.

Mr. Woods and some of the Trainees are busy taking down part of the old horse barn. The part that is left is used for storing bales of straw and crushing oats.

The Farm produced 36 fine capon, weighing 6-7 lbs a-piece dressed, for our Christmas dinner.

The egg production has increased to over 200 eggs per day. We have Rhode Island Reds and a few Barred Rock hens.

A new bull has been added to the stock, Caesar by name.

May has a new colt, bringing the total of colts on the farm to 7, with 9 horses.

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Christmas in our Cottage.

Lawrence McCarty

I had a very nice Xmas. When I got up I had a bowl of porridge first then I had a chocolate bar and a candy and an orange. After this I did my work and got into my Sunday suit and had the Tree. I got four presents and some more candy. Then I wondered what time Church was at Duncan so I went to see and found the Catholic children had gone. So I went to your Church and had a very nice service. When Church was over I ran home and played games. When the afternoon came we thought we would be too full for Christmas night so we only had soup for dinner and some bread and when we had finished we played games and eat candy.

I hope you had a very nice Xmas too and a happy New Year.

Girls' News

Jessie Newbold

In the Home Economics Department the Trainee Girls are making their outfits which they will take to employment when they leave the school in the summer. The Intermediate Girls are making gym suits and the Juniors are making small necessities such as laundry bags, etc.

The girls in Mr. Warnock's division are making bit by bit a patchwork quilt for the Red Cross.

Miss McLenaghan visited the school lately and made a very kind speech to the girls.

There are 43 girls over 12 years of age on the weekly 'duties' list now, but Mrs. Davidson never seems to find it difficult to find work for them to do. They scrub woodwork, clean windows, stack wood, darn Trainee Boys socks. They help in the Laundry, Hospital, Staff Cottage, or may even be seen washing the School car.

We have had Annie Usher resident at the school convalescing from an operation performed last November. She is almost well now and hopes soon to return to employment. Joan Buchan is recovering from an operation on her feet. It will be a little time yet before she is able to get around without assistance. Mary Anne Wilkinson, who has been in hospital several months, is up and around and we hear she will soon be out and back in the Trainee Girls' Cottage.

During the winter season several times the Trainee Girls have entertained groups of the Trainee Boys in the Club House. We have played games always ending with a cup of cocoa and sandwiches.

In November the Girls' Junior Basketball team played Shawnigan Lake School, Shawnigan winning the match.

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Christmas cards have been received, among very many others from Mr. Joe Lewis who is now serving with the R.C.A.F. somewhere in England. Also from Mr Jack McAllister who is in training with the R.C.A.F. in Eastern Canada. Both Mr Lewis and Mr McAllister have been in our Main Kitchen staff in more peaceful times.

## A Day with the Nurse.

Molly White

During the year every Trainee Girl spends some time working with the Nurse in the Hospital. It is interesting because, besides doing the general cleaning and some of the cooking, we have a chance to get a little knowledge of how to care for people who are not well. We learn how to take temperatures and make poultices. We also learn something about diets for certain patients and learn how to make dressings and sterilise them.

Our day in the Hospital starts at 6:15 a.m. when we get the fire alight and prepare the breakfast trays. Temperatures are taken and then breakfast is served after which the beds are made and wards tidied.

After Nurse has seen to the children in the clinic I clean up down there and may help disinfect laundry or have to fill Cod Liver Oil Bottles for the Cottages. Dinner is served at noon and I fetch this from the Main Kitchen. Then the wards are dusted again before the children have their rest period which lasts until 3 p.m. when all is quiet in the Hospital.

At 4 p.m. I start taking the afternoon temperatures and help Nurse give extra nourishment to some children who come to the Hospital especially for this at 4 p.m. Then I start preparing supper which is served about 5 p.m. All this sounds very easy but it really is not so easy because we are likely to have a cut foot or a splinter in somebody's hand or somebody comes in with a pain whilst the supper is being prepared and these children have to be looked after and attended to, usually in the kitchen because of the inconvenience of the downstairs clinic for emergency cases.

After supper I wash the dishes and clean the kitchen while Nurse does the treatments in the clinic. We then fix up the Hospital patients for the night and I usually get back to my Cottage about 6:30 p.m.

We hope soon to move to the new Hospital where the clinic is on the same level as the wards and kitchen. The clinic has its

own entrance and it will be much easier to treat outside patients and know what is happening in the Hospital at the same time. The new Hospital has large airy wards opening off one long corridor. Patients under observation can be isolated. It will be equipped with an electric stove so that we will always be ready for an emergency. Each ward has a buzzer which is numbered so that the nurse can tell where she is wanted.

## The Life of Kingsley Fairbridge. Extracts selected by Annie Usher.

A small property of 160 acres was the beginning of the Farm School in Australia. It was the little town of Pinjarra which was selected. It was only fifty-five miles from Perth and within three miles of a doctor and hospital. There was a four roomed house with a well and an orchard. Before long we had settled in here, and presently received the first party of children whose ages ranged from 7 to 13. There were plenty of difficulties, but on the whole, things were going well and plans were being made for more children, amongst them a party of girls. Then war broke out and one by one the staff left and went to the front. Kingsley volunteered, was accepted, but afterwards rejected on account of his malarial history. He felt not time must be lost, and that he must return to England. Kingsley's health, however, began to fail. He lived however to see his dreams come true. He saw two hundred children from many a dark street, brimful of happiness enjoying the interests of a farm. He saw his old boys returning, men now, and some of them owning their own land. Kingsley Fairbridge died in July 1924.

## STOP PRESS NEWS.

On January 27th we were honoured by a visit from a very gracious lady who took a meal with us in the Dining Hall and spoke words of encouragement to the Cottage Mothers whom she met during the afternoon, Lady Byng of Vimy.

### Our Christmas Holidays

Our Day School broke up for the Christmas holidays on December 20th, 1940; it was then when we started our busy work getting ready for the great day to come.

The Carol Service, conducted by Miss Hyndman, took place in the Chapel on December 23rd. The Choir sang many of the old time carols with several of the children taking solo parts. Bob Bonnett and Ken Braunton read the lessons and Mrs. Downie was at the organ.

On Christmas Day the Service was conducted by Mr. Hugh Savage, who gave us an interesting address. The Church decorations consisted of cedar boughs draped around the pillars and Lectern. There were wreaths around the Angel posts leading to the Chancel and white flowers and green ferns on the Altar. The Font was decorated with holly.

It was at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Day when we started our dinner, it consisted of:

Dinner - Chicken, Ham, Dressing, Potatoes, Peas and Carrots.

Dessert - Christmas Pudding, Mince Pies,

We were very pleased to have some of the older students at the dinner, they were: Peter Forrest, Pat Hood, Norman Alsop, Edmund Walton, John Hunter, Jim Lally, Laurie Drape, Matthew McDonald, John Monnington, Katie Taylor, Winnie Hardy, Annie Usher, Joe Duffy, Sid Park, Jock Stewart.

The Tree stood at the lower end of the Dining Hall beautifully decorated with presents from the Women's Auxiliary.

Following a sing-song a telegram came from Santa Claus which made the children excited. When he came he was greeted with cheers. He gave each child their present from the Tree and when they received them they proceeded to their Cottages.

Mr. Burns and Mr. Wilson were the cooks who looked after the dinner; they were assisted in the kitchen by Joe Fenton Laurie Drape and Andy Buglass.

The treat from Fairbridge was for each child to see a picture show in Duncan.

One day during the holidays we had a

wiener roast on Mr. Garnett's hill, which was followed by a sing-song.

We enjoyed the holidays very much.  
Mary Batt.

### A Girl's Day at Fairbridge.

Ena Taylor

We rise with the bell at 6:30 and get dressed and make our beds. We start some of the house cleaning before breakfast which is taken in the Dining Hall at 7:20 a.m. After breakfast if we have a cold or any other ailment we go to Nurse in the clinic for treatment and then go back to our Cottages and finish our work before the school bell rings at 8:45 a.m. We like to get to school a few minutes early and play on the swings before the bell rings for classes at 9 a.m. We have two periods in school and then a ten minute recess and then two more periods before 12 o'clock - when we go home and get ready for dinner. We go back to school at 1:15 and home again at 3:30 p.m. when we change and report to the Matron for our duties from 4 - 5 p.m. Our duties are varied. We may be wanted to help with the sewing or told to wax the dining-room floor or be sent clean the Chapel or stack wood. At 5 p.m. the knocking off bell goes and we go home to supper which has been prepared by the girl who is called the Cottage girl and who goes home from school to help Mum with the preparation of the supper.

After supper there is basketball or gym or else we remain in our Cottage and do our mending and listen to the radio or else write letters. Of course during the summer we are out of doors more in the evening and go down swimming or also play games on the playing field.

This completes a normal day for a Fairbridge girl.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Two copies of "Campus Chaff" have been received from the West Summerland High School to both of which Eric Wheeler has contributed articles.

We also acknowledge with thanks receipt of the "Fairbridge Family Chronicle", being the magazine of the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong.