



# Fairbridge Gazette

SUBSCRIPTION:

ADULTS, 10c — CHILDREN 5c

PUBLISHED AT:

PRINCE OF WALES FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL

VOLUME IV

JULY, 1943

Number 2

## EDITORIAL

—John Hunter.

As an Old Fairbridgian I must first express my appreciation of the rare privilege of writing the Editorial of the "Fairbridge Gazette."

It has been a great joy to see you again after my lengthy absence, during which time in the course of my duties with the R.C.N. I have visited the Mother Country and spent some time there. Whilst in England I had the opportunity of visiting scenes which would be very familiar to you. I was in some of your homes and met many of your childhood friends and some of your parents. I felt sad that your friends had been denied the advantages of the life of which we have so freely partaken, and as I compared the old environment with the new I wanted that you should appreciate more fully the work being done for you by your Fairbridge friends.

Whilst we are at the School, and I speak from my own experience, we do not appreciate what is done for us; but after we leave, it certainly comes home to us many times over.

When we leave Fairbridge we sometimes think we can get away from it, but I found it impossible—I travelled to England on a ship where one of the officers was the son-in-law of our Secretary-Treasurer—and when I reached England my Commanding Officer was the brother of the Matron of Fairbridge during my time there.

To all of you who are going out to employment within a few days, remember the gratitude asked of you by Fairbridge is very slight, but you can add much in a personal manner by living up to the ideals and standard set by our Founders, and if we do not attempt to do this we are unworthy of the great benefits we have received.

To be a Fairbridge Boy or Girl places a heavy responsibility on each of us and we cannot get away from it—I hope you will all make good and bring credit to the name of our beloved School.

## CADETS

—W. Cockburn.

Since my last report of the 1878th, there has not been a lot of activity but a few outstanding events will be mentioned.

The Signalling Classes which we held during the wet weather have been discontinued but the Signalling Instructor, Mr. E. Rogers, managed to convey a rough idea to some of his class. They were given:—

- Signalling with the buzzer;
- Signalling with flags in Morse;
- Semaphore.

Lieutenant Hodge and Sergeant Carr assisted in the instruction.

The First-Aid Classes are being continued till the course has been completed, when they will take a test for the certificate.

We had our first inspection on May 27 by Major Critchley and received his report on June 25. It contained the following remarks:—

- Cadet Leaders' efficiency—Good.
- Cadet Leaders' self reliance—Good.
- Cadets' general appearance—Good.
- Cadets' physical fitness—Good.
- Cadets' attitude—Good.

In the summary of his report it read as follows:—

"It was their first inspection and they did very well indeed. They are smart and keen. They are quite a junior corps but they did their work well."

We have only had three parades since the Gazette's last publication. One consisted of a route march to Duncan, where we took the salute at the Cenotaph. The second march to church service at Easter. The third, an inspection and march-past taken by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. W. C. Woodward, on the occasion of our Day School closing exercises. On July 7 we were inspected by Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C. An account of his visit will be found elsewhere in the Gazette.

## THE VISIT OF

MAJOR-GENERAL G. R. PEARKES, V.C.

—R. Phillips.

On July 7, 1943, we were greatly honoured by a visit from Major-General Pearkes. It was his first visit to Fairbridge.

While he was here he inspected our Cadets and said we were very good. After the inspection the General gave a speech. He spoke of when he was in England and how the German bombers were brought down by the gallant British fighters, who were manned by British and Canadian pilots. He said that the British and Canadians were ready for the invasion, but it never came. He said also that there were less air raids, except for a few which were hit and run. Therefore, he said, the British have mastered the air.

After his speech he looked around the farm and left for home.

## NOTES ON POULTRY

—Mr. Wilson.

Pen No.	Egg Production		Percentage
	No.	Production	
1 (Old Hens)....	122	1334	36
2 and 3 (Yearlings)	260	4141	53
		5475	48

Egg production in all parts of the province has fallen during June. Broodiness remains the main cause. Increased

prices have helped to offset this and due to the war I have not disposed of the old hens (Pen No. 1), though they are barely paying their way.

Unless arrangements can be made to increase the poultry pens, it will be necessary to dispose of all our present laying stock during September and October. The old hens will be sold for meat and a better price should be obtained for the yearlings as breeders.

## SPORTS

—Don Collins.

Fairbridge School in the past three or four months has had a lot to do in the way of Sports.

During May we had our usual Lower Island Rural Sports Meet at Shawnigan, along with other schools who competed against us. These sports were very good.

First, we had the relay races, then the potato races, followed by the jumps (broad and high).

The day was passing on and we were making friends with the boys and girls of the other schools when we were called together for the presentation of the cup. Mr. Logan gave a little talk, then he presented the cup. Shawnigan Lake came first, Fairbridge second. Fairbridge had hard luck though. They were very close to winning, but some of their best runners were missing due to the measles, so about seven replacements had to be made, and I am sure that the children and staff are very thankful for the way Mr. Gillett and the teachers put their time into helping us train.

Among other games that were played this year was cricket. We are very lucky to have Mr. Fox from Duncan, who is indeed a great help to us, showing us the different ways of fielding, etc. We had a game with the R.A.F. on Sunday, June 27. The score, after approximately two hours of play, was R.A.F. 72 (one innings), Fairbridge 60 (two innings); so the R.A.F. won by an innings and 12 runs. Another game is scheduled for some time in August.

The football turned out to be very good indeed. Mr. Allin was in charge for a little while, and then Mr. Rogers took over. We had inter-house games as usual and a cup which the Blues won by a good margin, defeating Blacks in the final by a score of 4-0.

It is fortunate we have Mr. Wilson with us this past few months. Once a great player at softball himself, he has introduced to us a knock-out league we have just now finished. There were eight teams. Team captains were as follows: Albert Bettonie, Fred Harding, Gordon Neale, George Turner, Ronnie Auton, Henry Robinson, Bill Cockburn, John Danks. The team that was the winner was Henry Robinson's, who outclassed Gordon Neale's 9-4 in the final game.

We had a game with the Kinsmen from Duncan. They beat us 21 to 24 in favour of the Kinsmen; then the Kinsmen played the Firemen and were beaten by 19 to 9, on our playing field.

We have had a little rugby but not enough to mention in this article. Lacrosse was scarce also.

We have the swimming cup to come to the leading house, so be ready to win it, you Blacks, Blues, Maroons or Greens.

The following was taken from The Victoria Times of June 11, 1943:—

### LOCAL BOY WINS FIGHT IN EAST

Camp Borden, Ont. (CP)—In a boxing card presented Thursday night at the Canadian army camp under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, Tpr. A. Anderson, of Victoria, won a third round technical knock-out over Tpr. W. F. Lariviere, of Sault Ste Marie, Ont.

Congratulations, Andy!

### AN EXTRACT FROM THE AUTO-BIOGRAPHY OF KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE

—Phyllis Gay.

So I went back to Umtali over Christmas Pass. From the summit of the Pass I could see north over the Gold Belt to Umtassa and the mountains of Inyanga. To the south the great heights of Vumba and Dora were deeply blue in the afternoon light, and the shadows stretched out behind the

granite peaks of the Odzi country. East and west towered Inyamutshiri, while far below me straggled the township of Umtali in its cheap brick and corrugated iron.

I went down the Pass home, and packed my two portmanteaus. And the next evening I said good-bye to my mother and, with the two boys who carried my kit, I walked down Main Street to the station.

At Cape Town I exchanged the luxury of the Zambesi Express for the sordid overcrowding of an emigrant ship bound for New Zealand.

On the 30th of August I landed at Vancouver, from thence I went to Nelson on Lake Arrowhead, where I was granted an interview with Lord Grey. I had hoped for ten minutes of his time, just to set my scheme of child immigration before him. Instead, we talked of it for just one hour, and his comprehensions and sympathy are still vividly before me.

Winnipeg, Chicago, New York—I saw them all. At last I sailed by the Etruria for Liverpool.

## GIRLS' DUTIES

Summer holidays are here again and we have commenced our summer routine duties.

Mrs. Davidson has taken over the arrangements for duties and has divided us into two groups, A and B. We work two shifts, 9 to 10:15 and 10:30 to 11:30. One group on the Farm and the other coping with weeds and other things needing to be done on the homestead.

You would hardly believe how many and varied are the duties. We might shell peas, clean the bell, weed the paths, knit for Red Cross, do a little washing, clean some silver, or chop wood. We have quite a lot of fun wondering what we will be asked to do. I hope when we go out to work that our work will be as interesting.

We anxiously await the day when the fruit ripens and we will be sent up to pick the berries, plums and apples. Of course we are not allowed to eat any whilst we pick!

—L. Kemp.

## GIRLS' GAMES

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Teams No. 1 and No. 2 play Softball. Team No. 1 had sixteen points and Team No. 2 had nine points.

Mr. Wilson takes us for games each evening and for gym in the winter. In April and May we had hockey.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have done a great deal to help the boys and girls with their evening games and we appreciate it very much.

—B. Palser.

## TRAINEE GIRLS

The 1942-43 Trainee Girls are fast going out to Employment.

Ena Taylor has gone to a home in Saanich. Mary Duffy to a summer home at Shawnigan Lake. Molly Pritchard has joined Joyce for a few weeks at the hospital in Victoria.

Nora Dillon, Joyce Dean and Ethel Anderson have also gone to Victoria. Irene Lister, Jean Ryan, Barbara Lukins, Helen Slaughter, Irene Robinson, Dorothy Hood, Doreen Wilkinson and Betty Mein expect to go out within a few days, when the new class will move into Douglas Cottage.

The 1943 Trainee Girls have undertaken each afternoon from 2 to 4 to sew for the bombed-out children in England, and are making little frocks and underclothing, the material for which has been given us by the Red Cross Society in Duncan.

On Sunday, June 27, the 1942 Trainee Girls spent the day at Cowichan Bay and had a very delightful time swimming and boating.

At the end of June the Trainee Girls sat for an "Intelligence" examination on general knowledge of things concerning Fairbridge. The paper was set by Mr. Logan. The first three were: Molly Pritchard, 87 per cent; Ena Taylor, 82 per cent; Mary Duffy, 80 per cent.

## FARM NEWS

I know you would like to hear a little about the Farm.

Our dairy herd now numbers 60 head of cattle; 31 are cows, 17 heifers and 12 calves. We have had 25 calves in the first half of 1943, 10 heifers and 15 bulls, including two sets of twins. There are 29 cows on Canadian Record of Performance. Last month 30,000 pounds of milk were produced.

We have 16 horses and 34 pigs.

—B. Paizer.

## HEARD ABOUT FAIRBRIDGE

On the return of an ex-member of staff—

Small Boy: "Mum, you remember that woman what made me work for her when I cut a piece out of my new shirt? Well, she's back!"

## IMPRESSIONS OF SCHOOL-CLOSING BY SOME OF OUR YOUNGER CHILDREN

### The School-Closing—

I like the cadets best of all. The girls dress were very good and we listened to the Govner of B.C.

I like the twenty five dollars one of the girls got.

—"Clifford."

### The School-Closing Exercise—

I liked the school closing exercise very much but best of all the cadets and the dresses were very good too. The dance was very good. I like to see the presents given out and if I had one I would have rather had the twenty five dollars because that was the best prize.

—"Peter Mein."

### Day School Closing—

I liked the cadets best of all and giving out the prizes. I wished I could have a silver cup. I think the junior girls did a good bit of work in sewing. I liked the speech of Govner of B.C.

—"Brian."

## SCHOOL NEWS

—Brian Strawbridge.

During the past week Lieut. W. J. Garnett, R.C.N.V.R., has been living in his cottage on "Bill's Hill." The School is very glad to see him again and hope he has a peaceful holiday.

Since Day School closing the Trainee Girls have been put into one cottage, with the "L" Cottage girls being transferred to the other cottages.

Mr. F. Brown is now in charge of the Trainee Boys' cottage, as Mr. Burns has left.

Two weeks ago the R.A.F. from ——— visited us to play cricket and entertain us. Everyone had a swell time, especially at the concert, with "George Formby" top number. In the future we hope they will visit us again.

Many thanks to Nora Dillon who supervised at the laundry while Mrs. Siddall was away on holiday.

John Hunter's 21st birthday was celebrated with a dance on the 29th of June. During the intermission John gave a "few words" and blew out the candles on his cake. Many thanks here go to the Cottage Mothers and Mrs. Avey for baking those lovely cakes and looking after the refreshments so well.

Since mid-June Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have taken up residence in Queen Mary Cottage, formerly Mr. Allin's home. The couple were in "S" Cottage before, now occupied by Mrs. Grieve and her boys. We hear that both families like it much better.

Mr. Jago has been cooking in the bunkhouse for the men and trainees since Mr. Burns left.

Mrs. Davidson, long since left, has returned to Fairbridge temporarily to be Duties Mistress and take charge of Trainee Girls.

## OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN NEWS

JULY, 1943

—M. E. Hunter.

The total number of Old Fairbridgians is now 117, although by the time this issue is printed the number may have grown to about 125, which is exactly the same number of present Fairbridgians at the Farm School.

The new O.F.s include the following: Ian Cormie, who has been confirmed in his temporary appointment with Mr. Porter at Chemainus; and Colin Garside, who went to join Ian on July 1; Henry White, who is at Mr. T. Wilkinson's farm at Cobble Hill, where his brother, George, and others of our boys have been before him; Lionel Bowen, who has gone to a poultry farm near Victoria; Dennis Turnbull, working in a commercial garden at Royal Oak; Ted Meers, at the farm at McCoy Lake, near Alberni, where Tom Speed worked for some months; Fred Roberts, who has gone to the Marlows at Beaver Creek, where Tom Speed and others of our boys have been before.

Four of the boys at Pintry are now counted among the O.F.s, namely: Ken Arnison and Ted Spencer, who have been there all winter; Bob Bennett and Ivor Hunt, who went to help with the summer work there. Before the end of the summer Fred Bishop, Stan Newbery and Ronnie Crawte will be out at work, but at present they are working on the Farm School farm staff, along with Charlie Shelley, who will work at the Farm School on a semi-permanent basis.

New O.F. girls are: Ena Taylor, who has gone to a home near Sidney and who will attend high school there next term; Ethel Anderson, who will also go to school next term in Victoria, along with Molly Pritchard, who is spending the summer months working alongside her sister, Joyce, in the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria; Mary Duffy, who will go back to Victoria with her employer after a summer holiday at Shawnigan Lake; Joyce Dean and Norah Dillon, who have both gone to homes in Victoria; Helen Slaughter and Dorothy Hood, who have gone to homes in Vancouver.

Very soon Irene Lister, Barbara Lukins, Betty Mein, Irene Robinson, Jean Ryan and Doreen Wilkinson will be at their first jobs also.

The number of O.F.s in the Services now is 34 boys and 7 girls; that is, 19 in the Army, 8 in the Navy, 7 in the Air Force, 4 in the C.W.A.C., 3 in the R.C.A.F. (W.D.).

Of the boys in the Army, those overseas are: Dan and Henry Brayfield, Laurie Drape, Sid Park, Horace Skelton, Ed Walton, George White, Arthur Worsnop. Recently home on embarkation leave were Andy Anderson, Jim Dobbs, John Monnington. Those who are in the Army and still in Canada are: Denys Beechey, Joe Duffy, Victor Hughes, Tom Kemp, Leonard Smith, Frank Todd, Bob Warnock and Alf White.

Movements among our Navy boys include Victor Garside, who was mentioned by name on the front page of the Vancouver papers and other papers on June 14 in a press report of commando training tactics on the south coast of England; Pat Hood, who has been transferred to duty on the Atlantic; John Hunter, who returned to the Farm School for a long leave after serving one year on the Atlantic and more than one year ashore in Great Britain, and who has been posted to the east coast of Canada; Leslie Snath and Jock Stewart, who have both been transferred to Atlantic duty. Still on the Pacific coast are Arthur Cain, Ginger McDonald and Jim Morgetroyd.

We heard that a Fairbridge reunion was held on board a troopship crossing the Atlantic to England, when George White and Horace Skelton found they were crossing on the same ship with Tom Turner and Jim Lally. Was there any part of our Fairbridge life that they did not discuss, or of exciting events in the past that they forgot to talk about? Jim Lally is a sergeant air-gunner—he said that he could not get over being a sergeant and could not realize that he was being spoken to when addressed as "Sergeant." Norman Alsop is training for aircrew at Brandon, Man.; Peter Forrest visited us recently from his west coast station, where he is doing hospital orderly work. Frank Morris is in Vancouver, being pushed through high school work before embarking on his aircrew training. Eric Wheeler also is in the Air Force, but he has not told us where he is stationed, although he has been seen in Vancouver on more than one occasion. Cpl. Tom Renwick was expecting to be moved from Calgary shortly, after being there for nearly two years.

In the C.W.A.C. now are: Mary Batt, who is in Eastern Canada; Nellie Falcus and Jessie Newbold, who are both in

Victoria; and Frances Gibson, who is undergoing basic training. Winnie Hardy and Katie Taylor are taking a stenographic course under the R.C.A.F. (W.D.), and Lavinia Anderson, who recently completed Grade XI in the Oak Bay High School, will become a clerk in the Air Force after she has taken her training at Toronto.

We are all very proud of the fine record of our O.F.s in the Armed Forces, and of each one of you individually for giving yourselves and your services to your country when she most needs the help of all her citizens.

Of the O.F.s who are not in the Armed Forces, all are employed more or less directly in work of vital importance to the war effort, whether it be farming of one sort or another, working in shipyards, in the Merchant Navy, on coastwise shipping or in harbour work, or in the homes of our Canadian fellow citizens, helping to keep the home life of our country in good order and to bring up the children to be normal, healthy Canadian citizens, or in our hospitals or in store work or factory work.

Those at work on farms or connected with agriculture are: Darkie Alsop and Bill Renwick, at Sooke; Rab Anderson and Jack Wheeler, Victoria; John Dee, still at the Experimental Station at Summerland and finishing school there; Peter Garland, at school in Guelph and working part time at the Ontario Agricultural College; Bob Fenton and Bill Stoker, at Soda Creek; David James, John Mead and Charlie Williams, all near Courtenay; Jack McNally at Westwold; John Meers near Duncan; John Moore still at Fintry; Peter Wilkes at the Farm School; Alec Phillips at Salmon Arm; Tom Speed and Pat Webb at Cloverdale; Peter Tearle near Kamloops; and Ken Braunton, gardening in Vancouver.

In the Merchant Navy or on coastwise shipping or in harbour work are: Andy Buglass, Cluny Wallace, Norman

Richards, Trevor Stockbridge, Philip Tipler, Bernard Kynaston, Eric Winchester, who was recently discharged from the Army as medically unfit, Peter Conlon might be included in this group of seafarers, as he has recently returned from England on board a merchant ship. In shipyard work or factory work are Ken Bennett, Joe Fenton, John Newell, Ken Davies, Jack Lowe and Dick Speed.

Among the girls, Peggy Auton is working in the meat department of one of the Safeway stores in Vancouver; Mary Anne Wilkinson is at the Boeing Aircraft factory in Vancouver; Betty Lenton is at the New Method Laundry, Victoria; Florrie Cowans, Joyce Pritchard, Edie Phelps and Ellen Duffy are in hospital work in Victoria; Pearl Daniel is in a cafe in Victoria. Working in private homes in Victoria are Marjorie Arnison, Joan Buchan, who is trying to get into the W.R.C.N.S., and Jeannie Morrison, who is to be married next month. In private homes in Vancouver are Eunice Cockburn, who passed into Grade XII at King Edward High School at the end of last term, Mary Green, Catherine Hood, Doreen Lister, Catherine Stoker, Olive Turner, Annie Usher, who spent a week at the Farm School earlier this summer, and Molly White. Sally Hincks (Dillon) seems to provide a home-away-from-home for the O.F.s who are stationed in Calgary from time to time.

As I said earlier, the work of everyone of you is of vital importance to the smooth running of the war effort, although sometimes it may appear that your farm work has little or nothing to do with the war. We at the Farm School are every bit as proud of you O.F.s who are sticking to your jobs and serving your country in so many ways, even though you may not be wearing the King's uniform, as we are of those who are in the Armed Forces. One and all, you are doing a grand job—stick to it!

