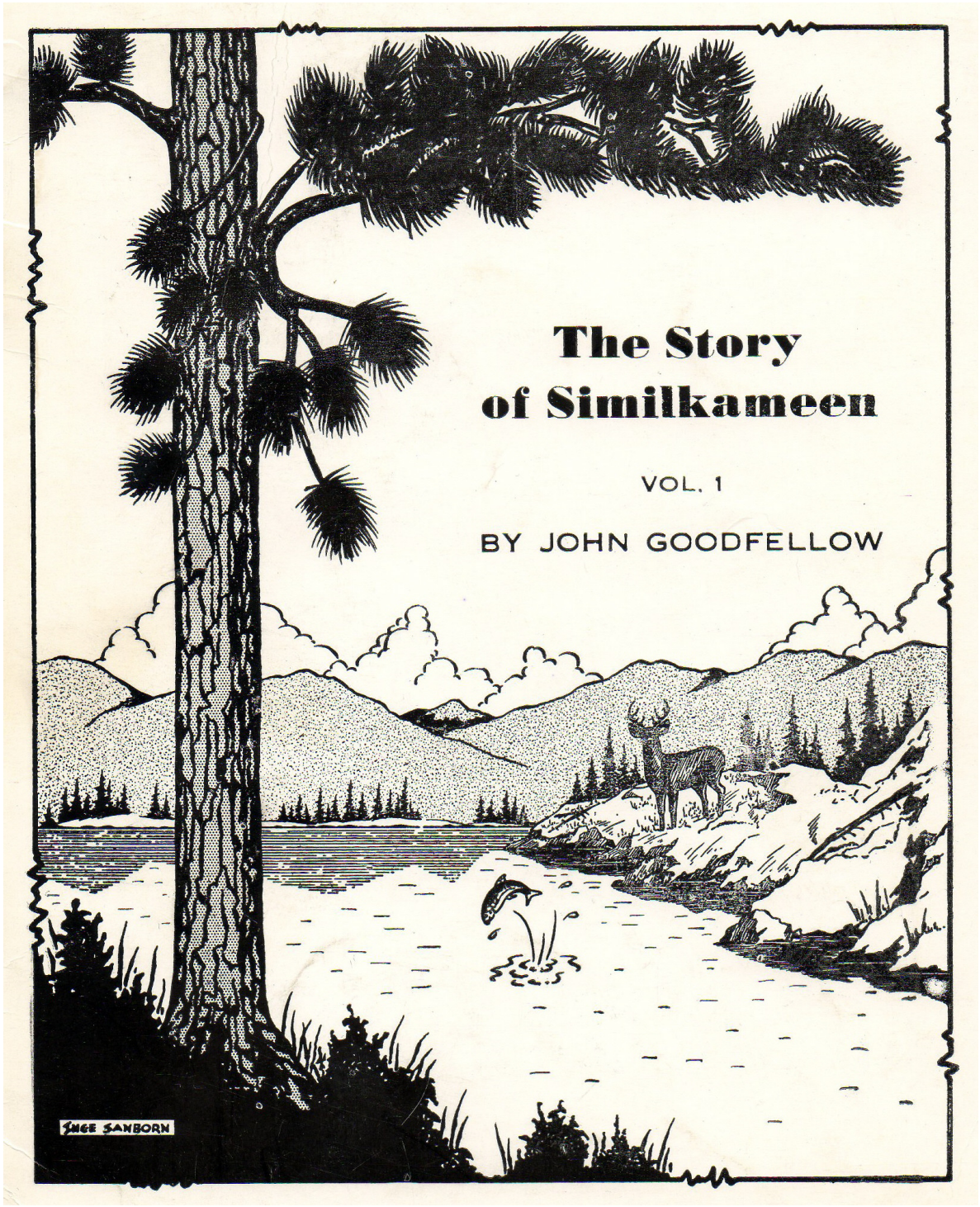

The Story
of Similkameen
VOL. 1
BY JOHN GOODFELLOW
SUE SANBORN

PREFACE

The Story of Similkameen, so far, has dealt with the goodly land, the native peoples, the hunt for furs, the search for gold, the discovery and development of coal and copper resources. That, of course, is not half the story. What remains to be told must await the preparation of a second volume; but the Princeton Centennial Committee felt that at least part of the story should appear during the Centennial year. With this in mind, the story to date is issued as volume 1 of the history of Similkameen. It is hoped that the second volume will not be too long delayed.

An effort has been made to indicate sources. Some parts of the story have already appeared elsewhere, and thanks are extended for the use of this material, but in the weekly instalments appearing in "The Similkameen Spotlight," it was thought unwise to burden the story with acknowledgements and indications of source material.

The author is grateful for encouragement from many people. Mrs. H. Allison has supplied photographs of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Allison and other pioneers, to whom this volume is dedicated.

Brendan Kennelly, who succeeded Charles Nichols as government agent on 16 November, 1953, made freely available to the writer Government mining reports, and other records, without which the story would inevitably have been less complete. We are grateful to Mr. Kennelly for his unfailing help and courtesy.

Early in the chapter on coal resources it is noted that Mr. Ernest Waterman was promoted local director in 1909. Mrs. Waterman has pointed out that this does not make it clear that her husband had been local manager since 1901, and we are happy to include this additional note. Mrs. Waterman's brother-in-law had been here since 1898 and left for Vancouver in 1901.

This Preface would be incomplete without a word of thanks to Laurie Currie who has spared neither time nor effort that the book might be in some measure worthy of its subject.

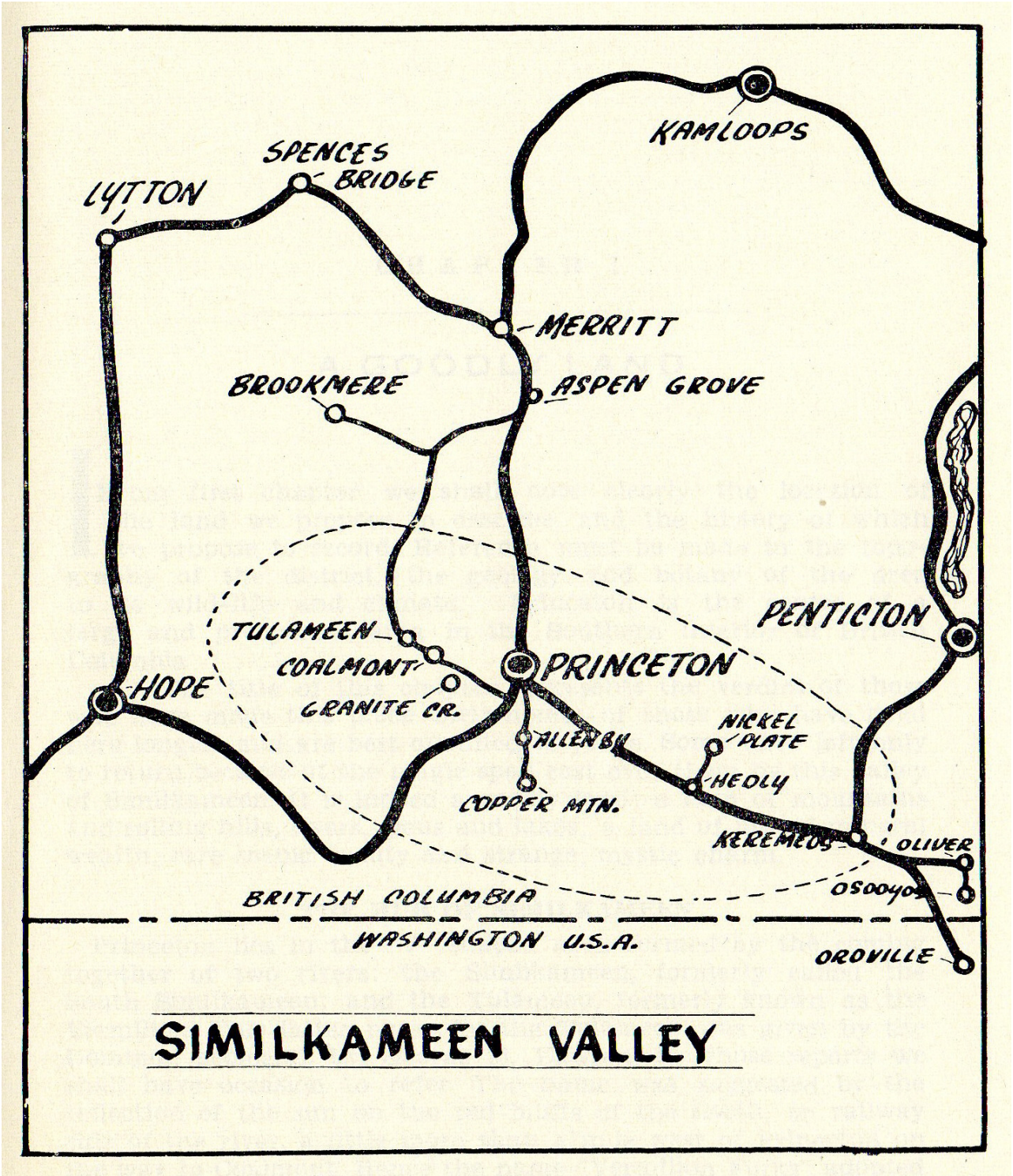
DEDICATED

TO THE PIONEERS

OF

SIMILKAMEEN

Mr. and Mrs. John Fall Allison



SIMILKAMEEN VALLEY

CHAPTER 1

A GOODLY LAND

In our first chapter we shall note clearly the location of the land we propose to describe, and the history of which we propose to record. Reference must be made to the topography of the district, the geology and botany of the area to its wild-life and climate. Princeton is the centre of a large and prosperous area in the Southern interior of British Columbia.

The title of this chapter represents the verdict of those who have made this place their home; of those who have lived here longest and are best qualified to judge. Some have left only to return because of the magic spell cast over them by this valley of Similkameen. It is indeed a goodly land: a land of untold mineral wealth, rare scenic beauty and strange, mystic charm.

THE HUB OF SIMILKAMEEN

Princeton lies in the "V" shaped area formed by the coming together of two rivers: the Similkameen, formerly called the South Similkameen; and the Tulameen, formerly known as the Vermilion. This latter name for the Tulameen was given by the Dominion geologist, Dr. George M. Dawson, to whose reports we shall have occasion to refer. The name was suggested by the reflection of the sun on the red bluffs of the north, or railway side of the river, a little more than a mile west of Princeton on the way to Coalmont. Hence the name "Vermilion Forks" adopted by the company that first developed the Princeton townsite.

As one scans the horizon from Princeton, mountains are seen to rise in all directions. The altitude of the town itself is given as 2111 feet above sea level. Mining centres within a large circumference are tributary to Princeton. In Charles Camsell's "Preliminary Report" (1907) we read that Similkameen covers "about 3,500 square miles, and will embrace the mining camps of Bear Creek, Granite Creek, Copper Mountain, Roche River, Hedley, Olalla and Fairview, including the country from Okanagan Valley to Hope Mountains, and from the International Boundary northward for a distance of about forty-five miles." (p.7)

In making his survey of our district Camsell selected Princeton as his headquarters, being the most central point. At that time (1907) bi-weekly stage operated between Penticton and Princeton. A second way in which Princeton could be reached, was from Spences Bridge on the main line of the CPR. This journey of about 120 miles was shortened by the construction of a branch of railway to Nicola Lake. This branch was 45 miles long. And, of course, there was the Dewdney Trail across the mountains from Hope, a distance of 66 miles. The highway, which was opened on 2 November 1949, follows a more southerly route, and is 83 miles long, with summits little over 4000 feet, compared with the trail summit of 5960 feet.

It must not be expected that the following pages will tell the whole story of the whole Similkameen. Our main concern will be with Princeton. But extended references will be made to many points in the valley, for the simple reason that the story of Princeton would be unintelligible without some knowledge of the larger background of the whole valley. Hedley, Keremeos, Copper Mountain, Allenby, Granite Creek, Coalmont, Tulameen and Blakeburn have all contributed to the history of Princeton.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW

The best way to see the country as a whole is from an aeroplane. Planes had landed on a temporary strip near Martin's Lake as early as 1929, but it was not till Sunday, 28 May, 1933, that the first plane landed on the present field, which was made to include part of the old race track. The following night a banquet was held in the Princeton Café to mark the occasion. But this is anticipating our story.

From the Copper Mountain Road, and from the Hope Road, splendid views may be had of Smelter Lake, and the upper reaches of Similkameen. From the One Mile (or Merritt) Road one sees to the north Elephant Mountain, the name suggested by the contour of the height. One of the best views is from Miner Mountain, which is reached by a break-off to the right from the Five Mile Road, just past where the Kettle Valley railway bridge was until 1942. Miner Mountain was formerly known as Bald Mountain, or Baldy. At the suggestion of the Princeton Board of Trade in 1953 it was changed to Miner Mountain, the name commemorating a famous gentleman bandit of the Robin Hood type, at least so far as local legend goes. Beyond the bare brow of the mountain lived Jack Budd, who died on 5 April, 1948, at the age of 100. Budd's ranch was known as the Hide-out, and it was known that Jack was a friend of George W. Edwards, better known as Bill Miner. Miner lived on the Budd ranch for some time before he took part in the famous train robbery at Ducks, B.C. in May, 1906. After an exciting chase, Miner and his accomplices were captured, and brought to trial. The ranch known as the Hide-out was Jack Budd's home for 45 years.

The Skyline Trail, and the snow covered Manning Peaks (formerly the Three Brothers – a road is now being constructed to this area of Alpine grandeur), will repay any amount of inconvenience in achieving a bird's eye-view of the surrounding country. The distorted strata at Hedley can be seen without leaving one's car. Crater Mountain, south and west of Keremeos (altitude 7522') is a majestic height. Nearer Keremeos are the Cathedral Lakes with a setting of jagged mountain peaks. The lakes lie between the forks of the Ashnola River and are four miles from the International Boundary.

A logging road now gives easy access to the basaltic columns a few miles beyond Keremeos on the way to Penticton. The Keremeos columns are among the most spectacular of their kind. Basaltic columns are found also on the Dornberg road, a few miles beyond Tulameen; on the Hope Road 16 miles west of Princeton, and at Agate Mountain beyond Wolfe Creek, where Alvin Towriss has done a lot of searching.

More convenient for the tourist are Whipsaw Falls near Nine Mile, Manning Park, and Castle Rock which is just over two miles east of Princeton on the old Hedley Road. Mention of Castle Rock revives a legend that is common in these parts. The valley of Similkameen is a land of light and shade. There is seldom fog in the valley, but winters are long, and sometimes severe. Life is full of compensations. Where winters are severe, hearts are warm. When the struggle for existence is hard the finer qualities of life often thrive. Friendship and courage take firmest root in stony ground.

Oldtimers had an interesting way of marking distance. The first white settler was John Fall Allison. Now he sleeps, with others of his clan, at the base of the little mountain called Castle Rock by Mrs. Allison, because it reminded her of Castle Rock in Edinburgh. In the early days, Allison often sat on the summit. Looking west he would see the Similkameen and Tulameen come together. In the forks of these two rivers stands the Princeton of today. Looking east, the united streams, under the name of Similkameen, wend their way through narrowing heights to join the Okanagan and the Columbia on their way to the Pacific. A glorious panorama is this valley of Similkameen. It is commonly said that it was Allison's wish to be buried at the summit of Castle Rock after he had crossed the Great Divide. From there his spirit would continue to watch the ever-changing life of the valley below. When the end came, Similkameen was in the grip of an early winter, and the pioneer was laid to rest at the base of the great rock.

How truly the Allison home had become the centre of the whole valley is seen in the fact that even today distances are still determined as from the first centre of civilization in Similkameen. The creeks east of Princeton are still called One Mile, Five Mile, Twenty Mile, because the points where they join the Similkameen represent that mileage from the original Allison home.

MOTHER EARTH

For the geology of the district one must refer to the various reports issued by the Geological Survey – Dawson, Camsell etc. An excellent paper on "The Geology of Princeton" was read before the Similkameen Historical Association by Miss Jessie Ewart, B.A. (now Mrs. P. Bird), on 28 April, 1933. She quoted the opinion of many geologists that Wolfe Creek was the original channel of the Similkameen. This was blocked by a volcanic flow of recent age, hence the Similkameen joins the Tulameen at Princeton

instead of farther down the valley. The oldest rocks of the valley are comparatively young as far as geological time is concerned. The tumultuous age in which minerals were formed was followed by a period of quiet, during which the whole of Princeton area was a vast, shallow sea, in which were laid down sandstones, clay, shale and coal beds. This period was followed by one of tremendous volcanic activity, then by the glacial age which preceded our present age. The glacier modified the topography of the district, rounding off the hills, and gouging out the valleys. From Princeton to Hedley the valley is a perfect example of an old glacial bed. The whole district is rich in mineral deposits, and these have determined the trend of human activity since the red man reigned supreme.

Mrs. S.L. Allison had an interesting story about the Roman Catholic church in the native village of Chuchuawa, just beyond Hedley. (The story has not been verified but has become part of local legend.) When the priests first came into the valley, their greatest opponent was the medicine man, who was bitterly opposed to the Christian faith. After much discussion with the priest, the Indians "down the valley" were "almost persuaded." But the medicine man was adamant. In such an impasse the priest could do no more than give them time. Then came an earthquake, and the natives attributed this to the power of the priest. The result was that they decided to accept the Christian faith, and the church they built was evidence of their decision.

To the native peoples the Great Spirit was the Great Transformer, responsible for all the changes in nature, and for the course of human history. Well might we echo the words of Tennyson:

"There rolls the deep where grew the tree.
O earth what changes thou hast seen!"

WILD FLOWERS

In summer time the district is made glorious by a profusion of wild flowers. Buttercups and mayflowers give colour to the landscape almost as soon as the snows of winter have disappeared. Later on, sunflowers carpet the hills and, seen from a distance give the appearance of unbroken yellow. Lupin, paint brush, pentstemon, purple and white heather reveal Nature in her warmest colours. The rhododendrons east and west of the Skagit Bluffs, and along the old Hope Trail, are a picture not soon forgotten. Magnificent stands of timber add commercial value to natural beauty.

WILD-LIFE

The whole area abounds in wild-life. In 1888 Similkameen earned the title "A Sportman's Eden", when a book of that title was published, describing the hunting experiences of Clive Phillips-Wooley. The efforts of the Board of Trade to have a large area between Princeton and Hope set aside as a game reserve was a far-sighted move which resulted in the creation of Manning Park. There is an ever present

danger that we forget too readily the heritage that is ours. "No future is safe where the past is forgotten." T.O. Lessard, through his weekly column in "The Spotlight" has done much to keep the tourist informed about our heritage of fish and game. A check-list of wild-life might make tedious reading, but a few records should prove interesting.

In “The Rocks and Rivers of British Columbia” (H. Blacklock & Co. London, 1885), Walter Moberly tells that in the spring of 1860 he

> “entered into a contract in partnership with Mr. Edgar Dewdney, to build a trail from Fort Hope on the Fraser River to the Shemilkomean River on the east side of the Cascade range of mountains, to reach the gold diggings on the latter river, where gold of a very fine quality had been discovered. Meeting with a very severe accident, I was laid up for some days in a miserable swamp, with only an Indian boy for my companion, and when I felt a little better I rode a mule down to a small log store-house which we had at a little lake. I arrived in the evening, and soon lay down to rest in the lower of two bunks in one corner of the house. As I lay there watching the moon shining through a large square opening in the roof that served the purpose of a chimney, I heard something walking on the mud covered roof, and quietly got up with my revolver. I thought it might be an Indian, intent on stealing some of our supplies, or rum, of which we kept a good quantity in the house. I saw what I took to be a hand come down through the opening evidently feeling what was below. This was repeated several times, when I managed to get into such a
>
> position as to leave the moonbeam between myself and the invader, when, instead of an Indian, I made it out to be a large panther – an animal very scarce on the mainland, but more plentiful on Vancouver Island. This made me feel uncomfortable, and as soon as the moonlight came between us I fired, and as I found in the morning by some blood on the roof I must have hit the brute…”

In December 1935, Charlie Shuttleworth shot a cougar measuring 9’2”. With his dog Jack, and Paddy Dickson and H. Hayes, he had tracked the cat relentlessly for a week in the Five Mile Valley. It weighed 240 lbs., and was rolling in fat. Charlie said it would average two deer a week. Allan Ford Gill, Princeton district game warden, has many “cats” to his credit.

The late Alexander F. MacKenzie, the Laird of Tulloch Ard (after whom Laird Lake was named), was widely known as a “mighty hunter.” On one occasion he captured a lynx alive, a feat, that was witnessed by a party of campers from the lake. The lynx had been attracted to the Laird’s “estate” by some choice Hungarian hares. It was spotted by Yarrow, the Laird’s favourite dog, who soon treed the stranger. The Laird quickly decided that the fur was not quite prime, and that the lynx should be kept alive till its pelt would bring the top market price. Carrying a noose at the end of a stick, MacKenzie climbed the tree, faced the snarling brute, pushed the noose over its head, choked it into submission, and kept it till the fur promised the desired price.

On another occasion the Laird shot a bear, wounding it in the snout. The bear charged, and the Laird fell backwards over a log. He managed to swing his rifle and discharge it point blank into the bear’s face. The bear was so close that it ripped the hunter’s coat with its claws.

Frank LeFarge, who lived about 17 miles east of Hope till 1940 was walking to Hope one evening. It was getting dark. The trapper jumped over a log, landing, to his surprise, right on a bear’s back. Losing his gun in the scuffle, LeFarge drew his hunting knife. When the fight was over, LeFarge was badly mauled, but bruin lay dead. Fortunately, George Aldous passed that way not long after the scrap and was able to help the trapper who thereafter spent some weeks in the Chilliwack Hospital.

S.R. Gibson tells a dramatic story about his brother Luke. He was hunting in the Ashnola country and spied two mountain sheep on a narrow ledge. The ledge was too narrow for the sheep to pass, and neither was willing to retreat. After watching for a long time, Luke fired a shot, and suddenly the whole mountainside seemed alive with sheep.

CUNNING AND CURIOSITY

A picturesque story that might have come from Aesop's fables: The scene was the wood-yard of Sam Gibson's sawmill at Jura. A weasel was after a squirrel. As often as the weasel came too close, the squirrel was up the tree. At length the weasel buried itself, leaving just the tip of its tail above the sawdust. The weasel moved its tail from time to time, just enough to attract the attention, and arouse the curiosity, of the squirrel. Curiosity killed the squirrel, for it could not resist the temptation to come down and examine the moving object in the sawdust. In a flash the weasel had its prize.

The skunk, the beaver and the porcupine have all been common enough in Similkameen. Deer and elk are still plentiful. On the Hope Road, when the relief camps were in operation in the 30's, Klondike Bill had a herd of thirty deer. After the noon meal in camp, Bill would take the leavings, give a holler, and from all directions deer came bounding through the trees to get their fill. They were quite tame, and did not hesitate to eat out of Bill's hand. On one of his trips to the camps, Dr. J.R. Naden counted 72 deer.

BIRDS AND TREES

For a list of the birds that frequent the valley one should consult P.A. Taverner's "Birds of Western Canada." One observation, however, is pertinent. According to the late E.E. Waterman resident here for over fifty years, there are far more species of birds and far more of each species than formerly. The reason he gave was that there are now many more gardens. According to Mr. Waterman, the noble avenue of trees (poplars, cottonwoods) which grew along the Tulameen between the two bridges was

never planted, but seeded itself. Like Toby's cat, "they just grew." There may be some connection between this and the increasing number of birds seen in summertime.

Various efforts have been made to restock rivers and lakes with fish. Private individuals – Dr. D. McCaffrey, E.E. Burr Snr., Bert Irwin, etc. – as well as the local Game Association have spared no effort to achieve this, and district game wardens and provincial game commissioners have given much help and encouragement.

There are no rattlesnakes in the immediate vicinity of Princeton, and in the eastern part of the valley they are less numerous than they used to be. Grass snakes are as harmless as they are common, and should not be exterminated, as they serve a useful purpose.

INSECT LIFE

Few people have taken the trouble to study the insect life of the valley. Gordon Stace Smith (now resident in Creston, B.C.) specialized in Coleoptera. For a number of years he lived at Copper Mountain, and during his stay collected thousands of specimens. Some of these were new to Science, and some were named for their discoverer. One summer Mr. Smith joined the annual trek over the Hope Trail. He started out laden with empty cigar boxes, black pins, and an ample supply of cyanide. By the time he got to Hope he had over 800 specimens all neatly pinned in boxes. Of course, many of these were duplicates: for example, the longhorns. In the "Vancouver Museum Notes" Mr. Smith published lists of all he collected between Copper Mountain and Hope. These check lists will be found in the 1929 issues of "Museum Notes."

An entomological station was established between Aspen Grove and Merritt to study the insect borer responsible for the destruction of many pine and fir trees. Studies were continued during the summers of 1932 and 1933.

Weather is an unfailing topic of conversation. It cannot yet be predicted with any degree of certainty. Taken the year round, the climate is delightful. Spring comes in March, and is always welcome.

Buttercups and mayflowers deck the landscape. The hills quickly take on a coat of refreshing green. The days lengthen. People seem hopeful, as if they, too had taken on a new lease on life. For many years, beginning 1900, Mrs. Hugh Hunter kept accurate weather records.

Such is a brief description of this goodly land, touching on its location, topography, rocks, trees, flowers, wild-life and climate. This background is necessary if we are to appreciate the history of the valley. In itself it goes a long way to explain the changing scenes that have come about since it was the home of the red man exclusively.

Our next chapter will deal with the people who lived here before the white man came.

CHAPTER 2

BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME

"The Indians of Similkameen are every day becoming more civilized and the time is not far distant (if they survive the civilizing process) when there will be little or no distinction between a Similkameen Indian and his white Brethren." With these words the late Mrs. S.L. Allison closed her paper on "The Similkameen Indians," which appeared in the Similkameen Star for 20 March, 1912, and succeeding issues. During the years that have elapsed since this prophecy, some progress has been made towards its fulfillment, but the native peoples show no sign of losing their identity as a distinct race. They have adopted much of the white men's civilization (including some of its evils). They proved their survival value before the white man came. Since then, adaptability has gradually moulded the younger generations into modern ways. The word has become so ingrained in our speech that it is difficult to avoid the use of the term "Indian." The fact remains that they are not Indians, but native peoples of this land which the white man, too, now inhabits.

Sources of information relative to native history in this valley are few. For the most part we must rely on legends that have been handed down. Present-day Indians have ceased to be interested in the history of their forefathers. Stories of old, handed down from generation to generation are beginning to fail. The torch is no longer being passed on.

WHENCE THEY CAME?

In his report on the Ethnology of the Okanagans, Charles Hill Tout maintained that they came originally by way of the Pacific, and that their language "has closer linguistic affinities with the Oceanic peoples than with any other of the characteristic American stocks east of the Rockies" (Journal of The Royal Anthropological Institute vol. 41, 1911). But Diamond Jenness in his "Indians of Canada" views with suspicion the theory that our Indians came originally from across the Pacific.

The Indians of our province are divided according to linguistic families: Athapaskan, Haida, Tlingitt, Kootenayan, Wakashan and Salishan. The Salishan is divided into coast and interior groups. The Okanagan and Similkameen Indians belong to the Interior Salish family. The Similkameens reflect various intrusions from the Thompsons, and the Athapaskans.

MATERIAL CULTURE

We are accustomed to think of the red man as a warrior, but peace hath her victories no less than war. Long before the white man came there were arts of peace as well as war.

The homes of the Interior Salish were of two types. The summer dwelling was cone-shaped. During the winter months all resorted to the semi-underground dwellings known as keekwillies. The summer dwellings resembled those of the prairie Indians. Tepee-like, they were conical in shape, and were made of poles, branches, skins and grass. Winter quarters included the log hut as well as the keekwillie, both of which were partly underground. Keekwillie is a Chinook word meaning "low, below, under, beneath, down, inward," all of which are applicable to underground dwellings. "The keekwillie was dug in circular form, from 15 to 20 feet across and about six feet deep, or even less. A centre pole from the floor rose a few feet above the ground. Poles were laid from the ground to a support at the top of the pole; until a dome-like roof was formed of poles, brush and soil. A small, round hole was left in the roof, close to the centre pole, for entrance and egress, not only for the occupants but also for the smoke. It was the only ventilator." (Denys Nelson).

Keekwillies were common enough when the white man first came to these parts. In May, 1928, David Whitley of One Mile better known as "Red Paddy" (died 1 January, 1931) showed me where the

keekwillies had formerly been on the property of Percy Rowlands and Billy Green. The depressions were nearly forty feet across so they must have been unusually large.

Mrs. S. Perkins, formerly Miss Alice Allison and now Mrs. Ed Wright of Trout Creek, Summerland, said (May, 1928) there used to be two keekwillie holes just behind where the curling rink is now, but the railway cut right through them. Well-preserved are remains on the east bank of Wolfe Lake.

Sweat houses are frequently found near keekwillies. The sweat house was a regular Indian institution, and was regarded as the chief panacea for all ills.

The Indians of Similkameen were not behind others in their ability to fashion implements out of stone and other materials, and a number of local residents have collections of Indian artifacts: hammers, pestles, arrow-heads, etc. They were proficient in such arts as basketry, beadwork, tanning; and making pipes which, like red ochre and eagles' feathers, were items of export, and highly valued by neighbouring tribes. J. Corrie of Princeton says that "Chopaka" means soapstone, which was used in making pipes. He tells also that an Indian in Saskatchewan referred to his pipe as "My Chopaka."

FOOD FOR THE BODY

The native people lived of fish and game and the products of the soil. In the interior the emphasis was on hunting rather than fishing. There is nothing here to correspond with the great shell mounds and kitchen middens at the coast. When we pick huckleberries in Tulameen Valley or elsewhere, we are following an ancient custom. Sunflower seeds were pounded into flour from which cakes were made. Speetlum roots were dug in spring and eaten either dried, or boiled with serviceberry bark which gave it an almond flavour. When dried, it was a substitute for bread. The wild potato (stitome) was gathered in season, and edible fungi were highly prized as an article of diet. The cactus, or prickly pear, was roasted and eaten with salt. Kinnickinic berries, dried and pounded, were used for sweetening. This is an evergreen, creeping plant with a bright, red berry. Even after the white man came, the leaves were dried and used as tobacco when money was scarce. One of the picnicking sites on the west bank of Okanagan Lake is named Kinnickinic.

Wild onions, in the same manner as lichens, were slowly cooked by hot stones in covered pits. Edible roots included the tiger lily, snapdragon and a kind of celery. "Lebrew" was made from the soapberry, which was beaten with the hand in water till it formed a sluggish froth, like soapsuds. According to Mrs. Allison, this was "really very nice". There was also a tea, for which many virtues were claimed. Indians produced fire by inserting a piece of hardwood into a punk stump, and twirling it around between the hands till friction induced combustion.

Fishing in lakes and rivers supplied much of the Indian diet. Basket traps were used, also horse-hair lines to which thorns, or cactus hooks were attached. Native women made the baskets, and home-made twine.

Before they were able to obtain rifles for hunting the natives used bows and arrows, lariats and snares. Even deer were snared. At other times a whole tribe, with the help of their dogs, would herd deer into a natural corral, where they were quickly killed with bows and arrows.

Hunting was an important part of the lives of the men. The number of legends that centre around the hunt is evidence of this. Nor must we forget that far more skill and courage were necessary then than now. Armed with primitive weapons, it was no light matter to face a bear, or wolf, or cougar. Courage was a virtue that had to be developed if the race were to survive. The race was to the swift. The battle was to the strong.

In the making of homes, the manufacture of implements of peace and war, and in the making of canoes, hunting and fishing weapons, the Indians showed much ingenuity to achieve what they did before the white man came. Canoe construction did not reach so high a level as at the coast.

THE DAILY ROUND

The Similkameens had little or no political organization as we know it. The largest unit was the tribe, though tribes would not hesitate to unite against a common enemy. The law that governed inter-tribal relations was like the old Mosaic law: an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. Like the Romans of old, they could boast that none treated their enemies so ill, or their friends so well. Every tribe had its chief, and the shadow of his authority is still maintained. Well-defined customs grew up around the great events of life: birth, childhood, manhood, womanhood, marriage, sickness, death and burial. Church and state were represented by the medicine man and the chief.

PICTURE WRITING

The Similkameen Valley is rich in Indian rock paintings. Some are crude, some are elaborate, all are interesting. Students call them pictographs because they are painted on rocks, whereas petroglyphs are carved in rock. There are few petroglyphs in the southern interior of our province, but pictographs are common especially in Similkameen. They are a source of interest to tourists who wonder how old they are, who made them and what they mean. The Similkameen paintings are found chiefly along the old road which follows closely the original trail. Boulders, bluffs, rock faces and canyons were all “canvases” for the early painters who left messages intended for the many who would follow.

It is not possible to assign dates to these pictures. The oldest Indians believe they were made by their grandparents when they were young. Ashnola Mary (Narcisse), who died on 24 May, 1944, aged 110 years, said they had been there as long as she could remember. The red ochre used for paint has a time-defying quality which makes dating difficult.

There are large deposits of this red ochre in the Tulameen Valley and, before the white man invaded Similkameen, Indians came long distances to trade for the red paint. Tulameen means “red earth”, and Allison Flat was formerly known as “Yak-Tulameen,” or the place where the red earth was sold. It was the first market place in the valley. Some of the paintings have to do with tribal rites and initiation ceremonies, some are guides for hunters and travelers, others are historical records.

Between Princeton and Hedley (along the old road) are twenty “sets” of paintings. Most of them are made up of conventional signs, but some are records of local history or legend. The Ashnola paintings (on the south side of the river) have unusual designs. These were reported by K.G.L. Mackenzie in 1947. East of Hedley the new road follows the north bank of the river. Passing the native village of Chuchuawa, with its little church set on a hill, one comes to the most interesting pictures of all, about four miles past Hedley. Five minutes walk from the road brings the visitor to the base of an overhanging cliff. Here the early artists excelled themselves. In addition to the usual conventional figures, one picture suggests four captives being brought in. They are preceded by two men on horseback, and dogs seem to be at their heels. This is the most realistic study of all.

The new highway bypasses a third group, near the junction of the Green Mountain and Yellow Lake roads. Here is the famous “Spirit of the Mountains,” who continues from a safe distance to keep a weather-eye on east-west travel.

LEGENDS – THE SEVEN STONES

The natives used to people the surrounding hills and lakes with imaginary beings. They had their Sasquatch as the Okanagans had their Ogopogo. The seven stones of Similkameen (Okanagan Historical Report No. 12 – 1948) include the rainstone, the witchstone, the ghoststone, the firestone, the lovestone, the leapstone, and the hol(e)ystone. The rainstone when prayed to caused rain to fall. The firestone caused smoke by day and fire by night. The others were objects of local legend – except the hol(e)ystone, which is a relic of rock-drilling contests. It is still to be seen in front of the Frost-n-burger stand across from the Mine Rescue station next to the Court House on Vermilion Avenue.

Religious belief in a multitude of spirits, good and evil, explains many of the native customs. The medicine man was a real power for good or evil, or both.

WAR TO THE KNIFE

The following story was told by Mrs. Joseph Armstrong when she resided at Copper Mountain. Formerly she had lived at Susap Creek, near Keremeos. She had the story from Charlie Yakumtikum. When Charlie died (in 1930, according to Mrs. Armstrong's recollection), he was about a hundred years old. At the time of his birth an Indian tribal war had just concluded. The North Okanagans had been on the warpath. They travelled south and nearly exterminated the Indians at the south end of the lake. These Indians lived where Penticton is now, but the battle took place a little to the north and west. The South Okanagans had gone out to meet those coming from the north. Some say the South Okanagans were taken unawares. Relics of this battle are said to have been discovered on the bench around which the railway winds.

Having slaughtered the people to the south, the North Okanagans determined to go west and attack the Similkameens. These, all unsuspecting and unawares, were surprised at Susap Creek and great slaughter followed. Few escaped. One of the natives who escaped (a woman) fled to the south end of Palmer Lake where Loomis is now situated. The warning signal was given. Scouts soon learned that the North Okanagans were quickly approaching. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. The Loomis went out in strength to meet the invaders. One party of Loomis scaled the heights on the east side of Palmer Lake, and for a time remained concealed. Meanwhile the oncoming Okanagans advanced to meet the Loomis on the lake level. Then the Loomis came down from the heights and attacked their enemies from the rear. Again there was great slaughter. The North Okanagans were killed to a man. Their bodies were rolled into the lake. "Then we get even," was Charlie Yakumtikum's comment on the whole affair.

Of course, Charlie knew all this only by hearsay. His mother was the woman who escaped the Susap massacre, and fled south to give the Loomis warning. After the war was over, she travelled on foot by way of Fairview finally reaching the forks where Princeton is now situated. Here, three weeks later, her son, Charlie Yakumtikum, was born. Mrs. Armstrong described Charlie as a big man straight as an arrow even in old age. He rode a blue roan horse.

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Our Similkameen natives spoke the Okanagan dialect of the Salishan language, with minor variations. A few years ago Mrs. Louis Gabrielle of the Penticton reserve prepared a vocabulary for Mrs. R.B.White. Father LeJeune prepared dictionaries of the various Interior Salishan dialects. The Thompsons and the Similkameens have a few Athapaskan words which are a legacy of tribal warfare dating back, according to legend, to the end of the 18th century.

Very few white people learned to speak the native tongue. They found it easier to converse in Chinook, the trade language of native and newcomer. It was a sort of Esperanto, drawn from several native languages, and English and French. Its extreme simplicity of structure made it easy to learn. When

friend met friend the saluation was “Kla-how-ya.” There are still some in Similkameen who speak of “iktas”, when they refer to dollars. Kloshe was good, cultus was bad. Saghalie meant above, keekwillie meant below. A lovely word was illahee, which meant country, land or earth. Saghalie illahee was heaven; keekwillie illahee meant hell.

At banquets of the Similkameen Historical Association, which continued annually for ten years until the outbreak of the Second World War in September, 1939, Sam Gibson always closed the proceedings with The Lord’s Prayer in Chinook, and the National Anthem. The war brings to mind a story about a well-known son of Similkameen, who was proficient in Chinook. He was among the first to enlist from Similkameen. About a year later, in the course of duty, he found himself in a town in North Wales. One night he visited the village inn, where a Canadian in uniform was welcomed with open arms. One Welshman insisted on buying all the drinks, and to this our hero, who had Scottish blood in his veins, showed no objection. Complications arose when the generous Welshman insisted that the man in Canadian uniform could talk Welsh , and would not take ‘No’ for an answer. Finally, in a fit of desperation, our hero filled the room with fluent Chinook. The Welshman was delighted. “Ah,” he exclaimed “you talk South Welsh!”

NO WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Of course, the native peoples, before the white man came, had no written language. The folk-lore of the tribe was enshrined in memory and told again and again around the camp-fire. But some of these stories have been preserved. Mrs. S.L. Allison was able to interpret sympathetically the native mind, and in English verse has given us the story of In-Cow-Mas-Ket, a poem of Indian life. This was published in 1900 under the pen name of Stratton Moir, by the Scroll Publishing Company of Chicago. In-cow-mas-ket lived in Chuchuawa, and told

“wondrous stories of the men and of the creatures
That lived in days long past and gone;
Stories told him by his father,
Old even then, when he was young.”

CHAPTER 3

WHEN FUR WAS KING

The record of exploration in our valley is confined to white men, for the simple reason that we do not know who first discovered, explored and pioneered Similkameen. The first comers found here no opposing tribes. It may well be that they were a different race, long preceding the red men who peopled the valley when it was discovered by the white fur traders. Like the visible part of an iceberg, the history we know is but a fraction of the whole.

The main strands of Similkameen history since 1813 have been concerned with the fur trade, the search for gold, stock raising, mining, transportation and the growth of community life. Each of these strands has been linked with one or more strands in provincial or dominion history – the fur trade with the Hudson's Bay Company, and the International Boundary Commission; the search for gold with the Royal Engineers; stock raising with the "winning of the West;" mining with "the making of a province;" transportation with highways, railways and airways; and community life with church and school, and the growth of national consciousness. (BCHQ. April, 1938, pp 67 ff.).

EXPLORATION

Transportation and communication are twin sisters who have inspired search and discovery throughout the ages. Men had to find a way to unknown destinations, even as Abraham went south to discover the land that was revealed to him as he obeyed the inner voice. They had to keep in touch with those left behind so that later they could follow. The earliest white traders sought lands rich in fur-bearing animals. This led to rivalry and disputes and finally to the marking of the border between two great nations. North of this boundary came the Royal Engineers to open up the country following the discovery of land routes and mineral wealth. They were explorers and discoverers in their own right. Transportation led to map-making, embodying the results of trail, railway and other surveys. The story of exploration is, in part, the history of our valley. For the present, we deal with motives behind exploration.

Political motives led to the delineation of the boundary, and in this connection much exploratory work was done. Within recent years aerial photography has given truer pictures of large areas than was formerly possible. In the exploration of Similkameen one cannot escape a certain element of competition; first, between rival fur companies, then between governments; later, between railways, and finally between prospectors and mining interests. All this has led to intensive search. Many factors have entered into the mapping of Similkameen.

RIVAL FUR COMPANIES

The first white men to come to Okanagan, Similkameen and Tulameen valleys were fur traders, rugged men, representing rival companies. Those were the days when fur was king, and the story of our valley was linked with the larger canvas of Canadian and American history.

There were at least three great rival companies: the Hudson's Bay Company, organized in 1670; the North West Company founded in 1783, and the Astor (or Pacific) Fur Company which began in 1810.

David Thompson after thirteen years with the Hudson's Bay Company, joined the Nor-westers. The ambition of his life was to follow the Columbia to the Pacific. This he succeeded in doing in July, 1811, only to discover the Astorians had forestalled him by a few months.

The Pacific Fur Company had been organized by John Jacob Astor of New York. He had visions of a great, trading company that would operate from New York to China, with a central depot near the mouth of the Columbia. The beginning of this future capital was made in 1811. That same year David

Stuart established Fort Okanagan, and in September set out for the land of the Shuswaps, following the Okanagan river and lake; then branching to the Thompson River. Here a site was selected for a fort to be called Kamloops. The American flag was the first to fly over it. The fort was built in the autumn of 1812.

The Northwesters were not far behind, Joseph La Roque arrived only to discover that he had been forestalled as Thompson had been at Astoria. But the Northwesters built their fort. In spite of rivalry, there seems to have been little animosity between the servants of the two companies. Probably there was enough trade for both.

The situation changed when the war of 1812 broke out between Britain and America. A British warship was sent to the mouth of the Columbia, and the Astorians were glad to sell out, lock, stock and barrel, to the Northwesters. Fort Astoria was renamed Fort George. In 1821 the two Canadian companies amalgamated under the name of the older Hudson's Bay Company; and in 1825 the headquarters was moved to what is now Vancouver, Washington.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE

All went well till the dispute arose over the International boundary. In anticipation of this the Hudson's Bay Company moved its headquarters to the southern tip of Vancouver Island (Victoria) in 1843. The wisdom of this move was justified by the events of 1846, setting the boundary at the 49th parallel.

ALEXANDER ROSS

The earliest journey by a white man in Similkameen of which we have record was made by Alexander Ross, a clerk in the employ of John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company. Early in January, 1813, Ross left Kamloops bound for Fort Okanagan, at the junction of the Okanagan and Columbia rivers, and made the journey by way of Similkameen. He chose that route to satisfy a natural curiosity, and to spy out the land. After incredible hardships, Ross and his party descended from the highlands on the north side of the Similkameen River, and came to the valley at a point near Keremeos. Ross had set out on December 20, 1812, to visit David Stuart at Kamloops, and arrived there on the last day of the year. Here is Ross's story in his own words: "…with Mr. Stuart I remained five days, and in coming home I took a near and unknown route, in order to explore a part of the country I had not seen before; but chose a bad season of the year to satisfy my curiosity: we got bewildered in the mountains and deep snows, our progress was exceedingly slow, tedious, and discouraging. We were at one time five days in making as many miles, our horses suffered greatly, had nothing to eat for four days and four nights, not a blade of grass appearing above the snow, and their feet were so frightfully cut with the crust of the snow that they could scarcely move, so that we were within a hair's breath of losing every one of them."

Here follows an account of an accident caused by using too much powder to kindle a fire. Both Ross and his companion, Jacques, were stunned by the explosion. The narrative continues: "We hastened next morning from this unlucky encampment, and getting clear of the mountains, we descended into a low and pleasant valley, where we found the Indians I had been in search of, and something both for ourselves and our horses to eat. At an Indian camp we remained one day, got the information we required about the country, procured some furs, and then, following the Sa-milk-a-meigh River on to Okinacken at the forks thence we travelled almost night and day till the 24th of January when we reached home again."
(These quotations are from Ross's book "Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River" (London, 1849, pp. 206-208), quoted in the author's article on "Fur and Gold in Similkameen," in "The British Columbia Historical Quarterly," April, 1938, pp 67-88).

McDONALD'S MAP

Our next record is Archibald McDonald's map of the Thompson River district. This map is dated 1827, and indicates a journey made by McDonald in October of the previous year. The original is preserved in the Archives of the Hudson's Bay Company, and a photostat is on file in our provincial Archives. It also covers the ground between Kamloops and Similkameen – Okanagan Forks, but follows only in part the route taken by Ross in 1813. McDonald followed a more westerly course after leaving Nicola Lake and came to the "Schimilicameach" at a point apparently near the present town of Princeton. His "Red Water River" may be the Tulameen (which means "red earth") which is the north branch of the Similkameen River. Thereafter, he followed the left, or north bank as he journeyed eastward.

ALL-RED ROUTE

Until the Boundary award of 1846, goods had been transported from Fort Vancouver to New Caledonia by the Columbia River as far as Fort Okanagan, thence by pack-train to the junction of the Similkameen and Okanagan rivers, across country to Okanagan Lake, along its west bank, then across country to Kamloops. It became imperative that the Hudson's Bay Company discover an all-red route, north of the Line, from New Caledonia to the Pacific: a route which would avoid the dangerous stretches of the Fraser River. Alexander Caulfield Anderson was selected to discover this new route. Along with five men, and several natives, Anderson left Kamloops on 15 May, 1846, and travelled to Fort Langley by way of Harrison and Lillooet lakes, arriving at the fort on 24 May.

The return journey began on 28 May. Anderson enlisted the services of a native who undertook to guide him to the headwaters of the Similkameen River, from which he hoped to cross to the forks where Princeton is now situated. Leaving the Coquihalla on his left, Anderson followed the Nicolum, and then the Sumallo as far as its junction with the Skagit. Near this point the Sumallo forks with the Snass (Canyon), and Anderson turned north coming to a small lake which reminded him of the Committee's Punch Bowl in the Rocky Mountains. Although it was only the first week in June, the rhododendrons were in bloom but the lake was frozen over. On the 6th, they hit a beaten trail (Blackeye's), and after much hardship arrived at Blackeye's lodge just west of Otter Lake. They enjoyed a meal of fresh carp. From this point guides led them through the canyon to Aspen Grove, and on to Kamloops.

The road which became the Brigade Trail had five stopping places between Hope and Otter Lake: Manson Camp at the head of Peers Creek, 15 miles from Hope; Encampement du Chevreuill (Deer Camp) 19 miles farther on, where Chief Trader Paul Fraser was killed by a falling tree in July, 1855; the bend of the Tulameen 49 miles from Hope; Lodestone Mountain, 12 miles from Camp 3; and the Encampement des Femmes, near Otter Lake.

IN THE STEPS OF THE FUR TRADER

In 1937, with Willard Albert Davis, better known as "Podunk," the writer sought to retrace the old trail. Podunk was a man to be reckoned with. Even in old age his frame suggested the rugged strength of younger days. His twinkling eyes, rosy cheeks and white beard told of a patriarch who feared God, and nothing else. His name was a household word and his memory has already become a legend. We travelled from Otter Lake, past Camp 5 and up Jackson Mountain.

When we started climbing, travelling was hard, for as yet we were on no trail, and were ceaselessly climbing over windfalls and dodging branches. We had our first rest about an hour before noon. Through the tree tops we could see Otter Lake to our left. The valley below was green and gold, threaded by a ribbon of blue, with mountains rising on the far side presenting tree-lined ridges against a clear sky. Soon after this we hit the Brigade Trail. We came to it at a point where it switchbacks. Podunk had no doubt we were on the original trail. At one point we came across an old stump from which, near the base, a piece of wood projected, making a triangle with the trail and the tree. This was all the proof

Podunk needed. It was one of the little devices the brigade men used to keep their horses from rubbing their packs against the tree. The horses had to go around the projection. The road has long since fallen into disrepair, and is now difficult to follow, but to oldtimers in Similkameen it will always be "The" Brigade trail.

The trail which Anderson followed to Tulameen was the one on which Nurse Warburton got lost, and lived on berries for six weeks till she was found by Podunk Davis, after others had given up the search. She got lost a second time on the Pemberton Meadows Trail. It had been planned that when she returned to Vancouver from this trip she would meet Podunk Davis there, and they were to be married. But she never came, and neither of them was ever married. Mr. Davis died on 27 October, 1943. Just as on the mountain trails, Podunk looked forward to the final journey without fear. Before he died, he said, "I've had a good time. Life owes me nothing." Princeton paused to pay a fitting tribute to the memory of a brave soul, one who had pioneered many trails, and sat on his horse like a king.

THE LOWER VALLEY

These explorations in the western part of Similkameen were all made to discover transportation routes within British territory from the northern interior to the coast. By the time the brigade trail from Kamloops to Hope was an accomplished fact, servants of the Hudson's Bay Company were surveying the eastern part of Similkameen. The purpose of this latter exploration was trade rather than transportation, and the desire to have Company posts on British soil. When Robert (Bobby) Stevenson visited Fort Okanagan on 17 June, 1860, he found a great number of Indians at the fort. They were assisting the factor to pack up goods, preparatory to moving the post to Keremeos, where it had been decided earlier in the year to establish a farm and trading centre. The possibilities of stock-raising and horse-breeding were also kept in mind. Loads were arranged for 150 horses. At the time, Stevenson was a member of the John Collins expedition, and had gone to the fort to purchase supplies. But no supplies were on sale, as the post was to be abandoned the next day. Keremeos is said to mean "wind channel in the mountains." The name is descriptive. The village of today lies not far from the river and the sage-brush slopes beyond the orchard lands are often swept by winds that course through the valley. The rolling bunch grass hills made an ideal range, and the servants of the Company were quick to see its possibilities. In 1956 Keremeos achieved village status. This coincided with the 50th anniversary of its moving from the old location to the present site.

In the Keremeos branch of The Canadian Bank of Commerce is a plaque with the legend: "Hudson's Bay Company post, 1860-1872. Francois Deschiquette, officer in charge. Alexander Ross first visited these parts in 1813." Deschiquette was the first factor at the Keremeos post. He came from the nearest point across the Line. Soon after his arrival, he erected a small log building, and commenced farming on a small scale. He died two years later, and was succeeded in 1863 by Roderick McLean who had been with the Boundary Survey party, and was considered one of their best axemen. Frank Richter, who planted fruit trees in the valley in the early 60's, was in charge of horses and cattle. By the spring of 1864 McLean had completed the log store, and begun the erection of a dwelling house. He made many journeys among the Indians who traded furs for goods supplied by the Company. Furs collected by McLean were baled and shipped by pack-train to Fort Hope, taken by river steamer to New Westminster, then on to Victoria and thence to London, England. After McLean left the Company in 1867, he opened a store at Rock Creek, later going to Cariboo where he remained ten years. Following this he lived for a time in Kelowna, then took up land at Okanagan Falls.

McLean was succeeded by John Tait, who remained till 1872 when the post was closed. As a trading centre, Keremeos does not seem to have been very profitable. It was more important as a centre for wintering horses and putting up hay. It also had a strategic value, which was lost when the trading posts just south of the boundary were closed. The store erected by McLean stood till 1914.

Life in our valley was quiet in those far-off days. There was less friction between native and newcomer than south of the border. Mrs. S.L. Allison attributed this largely to the influence of the Roman Catholic priests, who laboured effectively among the native peoples. Some still remember the long pack-trains, and the jingle of horses' bells when the time came to bring in supplies over the Hope Trail, or to send pack-trains, or herd cattle to Hope. Perhaps life was more severe then than it is now but we still need the spirit which enabled men and women in pioneer days to face life with a deep faith and a brave heart. They builded better than they knew.

CHAPTER 4

EVENTS IN THE MAKING

Although all was quiet in our valley in those far-off days when fur was king, important events were in the making. The setting of the boundary in 1846 at the 49th parallel was not only an event in point of time, but the beginning of developments which were to continue with important results. First, was the impetus it gave to discovery north of the Line, so that an all-red route might be assured. The Hudson's Bay post established in Keremeos in 1860 lasted only twelve years, but during this time were the beginnings of ranching, farming and fruit growing which are today the mainstay of the lower valley with Keremeos, Cawston and Ollala as its centres. Another result of the award was the appointing of a commission to survey and mark the dividing line between British and American territory.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The joint British and American commission consisted of statesmen, scientists, surveyors, axemen and cooks. The work of determining the boundary line, and marking it, lasted from 1858-1861. In 1859 the Line was marked from the Skagit to the Columbia and this included Similkameen. Markers are officially described as monuments, and are spaced at regular distances. Camps were established at the Ashnola and Pasayton rivers, with Captains Haig and Darrah in charge. They left these camps on 4 June, and reached Osoyoos two weeks later.

Lieutenant Charles W. Wilson, secretary to the Commission, notes in his diary for August, 1860, fording the Similkameen River above Keremeos: "We travelled up the much talked of valley of the Similkameen & crossing it about 3 miles below the mouth of the Ashtnolon camped on the bank having made about 16 miles. The valley is very pretty but from having heard so much about it I was disappointed; the finest part of the valley was occupied this spring by the Hudson's Bay Company & we found a (French) Canadian half breed in charge, he had some cows & a large number of oxen so that we had a good drink of milk a thing not be despised in this part of the world. The Canadian had just gathered in his harvest; the wheat, the first grown in the valley, looked very well as also did the potatoes & other vegetables; from the farm an Indian hunter joined us & accompanied us into the mountains on his way to hunt; just where we forded the river we passed the wooden cross erected over the graves of our three men who were drowned when (Captain) Haig (Astronomer to the Commission) crossed over."

CENTENNIAL

The Boundary treaty was signed on 15 June, 1846. A century later this event was celebrated at many points along the Line by people from both sides renewing vows of peace and friendship at the border. The Okanagan-Similkameen celebration was held at the border point between Osoyoos and Oroville. Addressing the thousands who gathered on that occasion, Dr. R.R. Laird, M.L.A. (Liberal) for Similkameen, said "We are children of a common mother." There was a feast of oratory, and other items that usually accompany such celebrations.

BOUNDARY MARKERS

The "monuments" along the international boundary that are of special interest to Similkameen are numbered (west to east) 78 to 83. Princeton District Forester, J.H. Dearing, informs us that the Look-out at Monument 83 is staffed by the American Forestry Department.

In 1941, finding it easier to arrive at the scene of serious forest fires along the boundary, more than fifty American fire fighters travelled over the Hope Road on Sunday, 20 July. They had left Montana the previous evening with full equipment. In addition, were several truck-loads of mules. Of course, the

Hope-Princeton highway was still in the making then (it was not opened till 2 November, 1949), and the big busses in which the men travelled experienced some difficulty negotiating Copper Creek hill. Some distance beyond this point the Hope Road is within a few miles of the international boundary. At the point nearest the border the fire fighters left their busses, and hiked south to the border.

SHADES OF SHERMAN

We believe that this was the first time an American force had travelled the Hope Road since General Sherman passed through British Columbia to the coast with an escort of cavalry in the fall of 1883. At that time, General William Tecumseh Sherman was a world-famous commander of men. His name was connected with the famous 300-mile march through Georgia, "from Atlanta to the sea" in 1864 during the American civil war. He was a familiar figure on both sides of the border. Both Mrs. Kruger, and Mrs. S.L. Allison had many stories to tell of him and his men. He visited the Allisons here, and left some prized souvenirs.

There had been trouble in 1883 across the Line between the American Government and the Nez Perces Indians, and General Sherman had been sent west with a troop of cavalry to restore order. The U.S. Government at one time planned to build a fort at Oroville, Washington.

Mrs. Kruger described the General as a modest, unassuming man, who permitted a degree of familiarity on the part of this officers which a lesser man would have found inconvenient.

When he crossed the Hope Trail in 1883 he had come from Coeur d'Alene, and Osoyoos, and had with him an escort of 25 mounted men. At Hope he was met by Andrew Onderdonk who was at that time in charge of a section of C.P.R. construction. The escort returned over the trail to Osoyoos, but General Sherman travelled from Hope to Victoria on the steamer "Western Slope." At the capital city he stayed in the old Driard Hotel, and called on Lieutenant-Governor Cornwall. From Esquimalt he sailed on the U.S.N. "Walcott," to Port Townsend. He retired the following year, and died in 1891 in his 71st year. The famous general left a kindly memory wherever he travelled on this side of the border.

A NOTE ON GEOLOGY

H. Bauerman, geologist to the Boundary Commission, did geological work in the southern portion of Similkameen in 1859-61 but his report was not printed till 1884. He explored along the Hope and Pasayton trails. Dr. G.M. Dawson covered much the same ground in 1877 and again in 1878. This was the last work done in this district by the Dominion Geological Survey till Charles Camsell made his survey in 1906. In 1901, W.F. Robertson, provincial mineralogist, examined and reported on Princeton and Copper Mountain districts. The same year the International Boundary Survey commenced a topographical map of the boundary belt. Dr. R.A. Daly was Canadian geologist to this Commission. Subsequent work is recorded by Camsell in his reports on Hedley and Tulameen, issued in 1910 and 1913 respectively.

In his report Bauerman notes the presence of Chinamen panning for gold along the Similkameen, and this must serve as introduction to our next chapter which deals with the search for gold.

CHAPTER 5

THE SEARCH FOR GOLD

The search for gold begins a new chapter in Similkameen history, and brings into the picture Governor James Douglas, Col. Richard Clement Moody, and some of his Royal Engineers. Gold had been discovered in the interior of the province in the late 50's. In 1858 miners began to arrive from the south, where the California excitement of 1849 had died down. On their way to the Fraser diggings, or (later) to Cariboo, the majority came by the Columbia River route, following the Okanagan Lake, thence overland to the diggings. Many following this latter route diverged up the Similkameen, where gold had been discovered. Others turned east to Rock Creek where finds were of sufficient importance to lead Douglas to build a trail from Hope east.

It is known that David Douglas, for whom the Douglas fir was named, found a gold nugget in the interior of this province in 1833, and this is the earliest recorded find. But the late Frank Buckland of Kelowna believed that long before this date Spaniards came north from Mexico in search of minerals here. He believed they were the first Europeans to visit Okanagan, but of this there is no sufficient evidence.

Mrs. Allison attributed the discovery of gold in Similkameen to Hudson's Bay employees, who found the search for gold more profitable than the hunt for furs. The discovery of gold is also attributed to members of the Boundary Commission.

GOLD DISCOVERIES

In "The Sunday Province" (Vancouver, 7 July, 1929) Reece H. Hogue makes the following statements: "In 1850 Indians from the Skeena River brought gold to a Hudson's Bay post, but an expedition which set out to find the source from which it came met with failure. Placer gold was found at Natchez Pass, and in the Similkameen country, as early as 1852, and in 1853 gold was secured from Indians near Kamloops. The following year Colville Indians were known to have gold in their possession, and between 1855 and 1857 various discoveries were made…"

In "The Oroville Gazette" for Christmas, 1910, Bobby Stevenson told of "A trip through the Okanagan Valley in the summer of 1860," and has this to say about the discovery of gold: "Gold had been discovered on Rich Bar, four or five miles above the present town of Oroville, in August 1859, and the discovery was causing great excitement. The boundary survey party had made the discovery and the papers were full of it at that time…"

So far as Similkameen was concerned, gold-seeking expeditions from the south had three goals: Rock Creek, Similkameen and the Fraser River (the Cariboo rush came in the early sixties). Rock Creek is a story by itself. Similkameen deals with discoveries both south and north of the border. It tells of Chinese as well as white men in search of gold; it tells of the Collins expedition, and the settlement at Blackfoot, near Allenby.

PIONEERS AND PROSPECTORS

We have seen that the focal points in the search for gold were Rock Creek, Similkameen, the Fraser River and Cariboo. Next to the hunt for furs, the search for gold had more to do with the exploration and development of Similkameen than any other factor in early days. Like the Overlanders of 1862, the pioneers and prospectors were lured west by prospects of gold. They were the footsoldiers of civilization on the march. They had in mind the Promised Land, and were inspired by dreams that made them strong to endure, and patient to achieve.

In “The Similkameen Star,” 20 August, 1942, we paid the following tribute to two worthy pioneers: “This week saw the passing of two of Princeton’s best-known oldtimers – Alexander MacKenzie and P.Y. Smith. Both were in their eighties, and both had spent the best part of half a century in Similkameen. In the best sense of the word, they were pioneers, laying the foundation stones of things to be. There was little here when they came. They watched Similkameen grow. To its development they have made their contribution by their labour and their faith.

“It is given to few pioneers and prospectors to see their dreams come true. Others reap where they have sowed. Not every soul is cast in the pioneering mould, but those who are do not hesitate to face hardship and sacrifice present comfort for the sake of future gain. It matters little whether they realize their dreams or not. The thing that matters is that they do dream, and work till sunset. This is the only happiness most of them ever find. Such development as we have we owe to these brave souls who have not hesitated to suffer hardship while seeking out the hidden treasures of earth. Whilst most of us are busy in many ways, we pause for a moment to pay an humble tribute to The Laird and “P.Y.,” who have crossed the great divide.”

ROCK CREEK

The Rock Creek story has points of contact with our Similkameen history. Rock Creek is on the Kettle Valley railway, and eleven miles northwest of Midway. Within recent years a splendid bridge has eliminated the long, winding “down-again up-again” dip to the creek. It was here in October, 1859, that Adam Beam, a Canadian, discovered gold while on his way to Similkameen from Fort Colville (originally spelled Colvile). By October, 1860, about 500 miners were in the neighbourhood.

Following the discovery of gold in August, 1859, by members of the Boundary Survey party, Robert (Bobby) Stevenson, then employed at the Port Gamble sawmill on Puget Sound, read a notice published in an Olympia paper, stating that Captain Collins, an Indian fighter of some note, would conduct an exploring party across the Cascades in the spring of 1860. This was stated to be the first party of white men to cross the Cascades from Puget Sound to the interior of the territory. The route selected was up the Snoqualmie River, through the pass of that name, and down the Yakima. The diggings proved to be more rich than extensive. Stevenson tells that in the spring of 1861 he saw Big John Hadley with three partners, take out $1600 in four days, but $20 to $25 per day per man was the usual average.

COLLINS EXPEDITION

The expedition was advertised to start east on 19 April, so two days before that date Stevenson and two partners, Frank Pasters and James McCurdy, sailed on the steamer “Wilson G. Hunt” for Seattle. It was April 29 before the party got started.

There were 34 men in the party, and horses in excess of that number. By the time they had crossed the mountains, and proceeded down the Yakima River, they were almost exhausted. They crossed the Yakima at the present site of Parker on the evening of 7 June, and reached Okanagan River by the 16th. Franswa, in charge of the fort at Okanagan, loaned them a boat in which to cross the river.

Proceeding up the east side of the Okanagan, the party passed through McLoughlin Canyon, followed the Little Bonaparte, arriving at Kettle River, at the mouth of Rock Creek, on 22 June, 1860. “At this point,” writes Stevenson, “Captain Collins made a speech and formally disbanded the Collins expedition.” Unfortunately, we are told nothing of the results of this expedition. Instead, he tells the story of the McLoughlin party’s fight with the Indians in the McLoughlin Canyon sometime prior to the Collins expedition. At the time of his writing (1910) Stevenson was, so far as he knew, the only survivor of the party that left Seattle in April, 1860.

After the McLoughlin party's fight with the Indians at, or near, the site of Oroville, one section of whites escaped to Osoyoos Lake, and another to Similkameen. The Indians did not follow them into British Columbia. The Similkameen party made their way across the Hope Mountains, and finally reached the Fraser River. There is a Collins Gulch near Coalmont, but it is not known that this place name had anything to do with the hero of Stevenson's story. The place was the scene of a coal discovery much later in Similkameen history.

Stevenson arrived at Rock Creek in June. The following September Governor James Douglas arrived on a visit to the mines. Douglas appointed Stevenson customs officer. Bobby was a big man, big enough to command respect. He was known by the Indians as the "man who knew no fear." But before long Bobby was attracted north by the growing fame of Cariboo.

CENTRE OF LEGEND

Stevenson became a legendary figure in Similkameen. He was born in Ontario in July, 1837, and came west in 1859. He had many mineral claims at Copper Mountain and elsewhere in Similkameen. He is remembered as "a man of infinite jest" and many of the stories told about him are reminiscent of the exploits of Paul Bunyan or Baron von Munchhausen. One story must suffice. In the early days in Similkameen it was the unpardonable sin to steal a man's horse. On one occasion Bobby was the victim of such a theft. Suspecting Ashnola John, Bobby armed himself with two revolvers, and followed tell-tale tracks. As he surmised, they led to the Indian reserve, and to Ashnola John, not far from whom was Bobby's horse.

Bobby shook his fist at the chief, and said that this sort of thievery had got to stop once and for all. Placing one of the two revolvers in the chief's hand, he explained that they were to fight a duel. They would stand back to back. When Bobby gave the word of command, each would march ten paces, then turn quickly and shoot to kill. As Bobby told the story, they stood back to back. "I gave the word of command, marched ten paces, and when I turned around the scoundrel was half a mile away."

ALL FOR THE LOVE OF A LADY

Before leaving Rock Creek, there are two worthies who must find a place in this chronicle: Jimmy Copland and Archie Aberdeen, both of whom often visited friends in Similkameen.

On more than one occasion, when in his nineties, Jimmy Copland addressed the Princeton Sunday School. Born in Forfar, Angus-shire, Scotland, 4 July, 1838, at the age of fourteen he went to sea in a sailing ship. He sailed the seven seas, and rounded Cape Horn half a dozen times. He was barely twenty when he landed in San Francisco, and headed north to British Columbia, with thousands more, to the Fraser River in search of gold. At Fort Langley on Friday, 19 November, 1858, he witnessed the birth of the crown colony of British Columbia. Since the weather was too wet for an outdoor ceremony, all concerned met in the reception room of the Big House at Fort Langley. James (afterwards, Sir James) Douglas handed M.B. Begbie his commission as Chief Justice of the new colony; and Begbie handed Douglas his commission as Governor. Oaths of office were taken, proclamations were read, English law adopted, guns fired, and in a drizzle of rain British Columbia came into being. Jimmy Copland was the last survivor of those who witnessed this historic scene.

From the Fraser Jimmy went to Rock Creek, and this became his headquarters for nearly eighty years. He took part in almost every gold rush in the province. When on his way back to Hope in 1860 he met Governor Douglas near what is now Oroville, and then followed the Similkameen till he came to the site of Princeton. There was gold excitement here, too; and here Jimmy built one of the first (if not the first) buildings in what is now Princeton. Copland built a cabin for Mr. and Mrs. John Marston. Marston was the fourth to take up the land here. The record reads, "September 20, 1860 –P/R 4, Similkameen

(Hope) 160 acres, between the north and south forks of the Similkameen River at the extreme point of said forks."

In spring of 1870 Copland travelled north to the Skeena River country, where he had some thrilling adventures. Here he found the only woman he ever loved, an Indian maid whom he married. Later, she accompanied him to Camp McKinney, where she commanded the respect of all the miners. In July, 1951, the writer accompanied A.D. Broomfield on a trip to Camp McKinney. We arrived there mid-afternoon on the 5th, and did some exploring in a downpour of rain. The forgotten cemetery looked desolate but we were able to photograph the marble shaft erected to the memory of Mrs. Copland; and to read the inscription at its base: "Copland, Jeannie Shulaget Copland. Born 1860 at Kitkargas, Skeena River. Died May 18, 1908." Mr. Copland died in Grand Forks on 20 April, 1938, and was buried in the Rock Creek cemetery.

A BROTHER SCOT

Archie Aberdeen was tall, straight, and bearded, a venerable looking figure. His cabin was not far from Jimmy's at Rock Creek. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in June, 1829, at an early age he came to Canada and arrived on the Pacific coast long before the railways came. Like Copland, he made Rock Creek his home, and was a familiar figure among the prospectors, and in mining camps. In April, 1930, after a holiday in Vancouver, he was returning to Rock Creek, and broke his journey to visit friends in Princeton. He was then 101 years old. On the 16 April, the writer had a pleasant chat with him in the sitting room of the Princeton Hotel, of which A.D. Broomfield was then proprietor. It was suggested to Archie that he attend church the following Sunday. For a moment Archie looked into space, and then he said, "I haven't been to Church for a hundred years; but," he added, as with sudden resolution, "I'll come next Sunday."

Archie's mind was made up, but the following night, Thursday, 17 April, he died sitting in his chair. On the 20th – Easter Sunday – they brought him to church, and after a brief service he was buried in Princeton cemetery on the hill south of the Similkameen River. The spring grass on the rolling hills made a picture of rare beauty. The long day's work was done. Now he rests from his labours, and a little monument marks the place where he lies. "Archie Aberdeen – 101."

It will be seen that the story of Rock Creek had much in common with the history of Similkameen. Many came from the Creek to stay in our valley. It was the discovery of gold at Rock Creek that determined Douglas to push a road of sorts from Hope across the mountains and through Similkameen to the diggings. This brought to our valley the earliest settlers. Douglas was a visitor, and many of the Royal Engineers learned to know and love Similkameen.

OUR FIRST SETTLER

Although many had come to hunt for furs, or search for gold, John Fall Allison was the first who came to make this valley his permanent home. He is rightly regarded as our pioneer citizen. Allison was born in Leeds, England, on 6 January, 1825, where his father was house surgeon to the city hospital. In 1837 the family moved to Illinois, and twelve years later the son joined the Forty-niners travelling westward to California hoping to get rich quick. In 1858 he was in Victoria with a letter of introduction to James Douglas, who asked him to visit Similkameen and report on recent gold discoveries. This was the beginning of Allison's connection with Similkameen.

Allison was instructed to ascertain the facts regarding reports of rich placer grounds discovered by Hudson's Bay employees at the north fork of the Similkameen, or the Tulameen as it was called by the native peoples. Unknown to himself at the time, Allison followed the Similkameen, finding good prospects at a number of places. He also discovered outcroppings of copper which twenty years later he staked, and developed as the Allison mine.

It was not until he arrived at the forks that he discovered that he had followed the south branch, instead of the north branch of the river which comes to Princeton from a westerly direction. About a quarter of a mile below the forks he found Johnny McDougall, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, with his wife and family, camped on a high bench above the river. They had constructed a rough chute to convey the paydirt of the river where it channelled through a rocker and the gold extracted. They were getting nuggets worth $3 or $4 each, and making good wages, they said.

Following a visit to Victoria, Mr. Allison returned to Similkameen to explore trails, and prospect for minerals. Mr. Allison wrote that when he first caught sight of the Similkameen hills and valleys he thought it was the most beautiful sight he had ever seen. "The luxuriant bunch-grass, uncropped and waving in the wind like a field of grain, all the sidehills, that are now barren, covered with tall grasses." To other miners and prospectors, distant fields looked more promising, but Similkameen won the heart of John Fall Allison.

Later, he entered into partnership with an American named Haynes, buying a herd of Durham cows and settling down as a stock-raiser. In 1866 (1867) he was married to Susan L. Moir, youngest daughter of Stratton Moir of Ceylon.

OKANAGAN INTERLUDE

Without severing their connection with Similkameen, Mr. and Mrs. Allison farmed at Westbank, Okanagan, 1872-1884. The story of this interlude is told by Dorothy Hewlett Gellatly in "A Bit of Okanagan History" (Kelowna, 1932. pp. 14 – 22). "In November, 1872, with a pack-train loaded with supplies and belongings, they set out for the Okanagan by way of Dog or Skaha Lake. Mrs. Allison carried two of her three small children on horseback, one in front, and the other tied on the saddle behind. Marie and the Indian girl took charge of the third. Slowly they travelled over the perilous mountain trails from Princeton to Okanagan. Less than two months later, on January 2nd, 1873, Mrs. Allison's fourth child Louise, was born – the first white child born on the west side of Okanagan Lake."

During the summer of 1880 the notorious McLean boys were at large in Okanagan and Similkameen. The sons of an HBC chief factor, with a companion named Alex Hare, they were desperadoes at war with society. The climax came when they murdered John Ussher, government agent at Nicola, and J. Kelly, on 7 December,1879. One of the boys paid a visit to Sunnyside, as the Allison farm was called, when Mr. Allison was absent on one of his periodic trips. Mrs. Allison showed more kindness than fear, and was unmolested. The boys were eventually captured, tried, convicted; and hanged at New Westminster on 31 January, 1881.

Among visitors to Sunnyside were Mrs. Allison's sister and her husband Edgar Dewdney. On 1 November, 1892, Mr. Dewdney was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, and members of the Allison family were frequent guests at Government House in Victoria.

The winter of 1880-81 was one of the worst on record. Allison lost half his herd of 800 head. He returned to Princeton and here he remained. Allison was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1876, and assistant gold commissioner in 1885. This latter position he held until the office was moved to Granite Creek, when he retired and devoted himself to private business. Several severe accidents affected his health, and he died in 1897. He was buried in the Allison cemetery at the base of Castle Rock. The tombstone erected to his memory bears this inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of
JOHN GALL ALLISON
Born Jan. 6 1825
(18 Died Oct. 28 97)

Born in Leeds, Yorkshire, Eng.
Came to Similkameen 1859

HERBERT ALLISON
and Grace Thomas
Little grandchildren
of above."

Mrs. Hugh Hunter always maintained that there were three mistakes in the above inscription: (a) Allison's middle name was Fall – not Gall, as in the inscription; (b) the date of death is two or three days out; (c) Allison came to the Similkameen in 1858. Mrs. Hunter was right about the spelling of Allison's middle name. If it is not as stated in the inscription, we do not have the exact date of Allison's death; there seems to be a difference of opinion as to the best-known cattleman in the whole valley. Mrs. Allison lived till 1937, when she died (1st February) in her 93rd year.

BLACKFOOT FLAT

In his "History of British Columbia" Hubert Howe Bancroft quotes "The Victoria Colonist" for 5 February, 1867, which tells of Jackass John who prospected Similkameen in 1860, and wingdammed a portion of it. After taking out $40 in two days the water rose and drove him out. Returning in October, 1866 he washed out $900 in fourteen days. Among other places, Jackass John worked at Blackfoot, which was the earliest community formed by gold seekers. It was on the south fork of Similkameen, about six miles south-west of Princeton, and two miles above Allenby. In 1861 the flat and its immediate neighbourhood contained forty homes, including miners' cabins. For many years this remained one of the forgotten ghost towns of the province. In September, 1935, the site was relocated, and identified with Kruger's Bar. According to James Jameson, iron spikes in a river boulder indicated till about 1925 where a bridge crossed to a store and hotel on the south side of the river. Theodore Kruger, who gave his name to the place, was born in Hanover in 1829, and came to British Columbia in 1858. Like J.F. Allison, he had tried mining on the Fraser before coming to Similkameen. In 1868 he moved to Osoyoos as store manager for the Hudson's Bay Company.

DOUGLAS VISITED PRINCETON

Douglas visited what is now Princeton on his return from Rock Creek in the fall of 1860. It was he who ordered the Royal Engineers to lay out the townsite of Princeton. It was originally spelled Princetown. When King Edward VII was Prince of Wales he visited Eastern Canada and the United States. That was in the spring and summer of 1860. When Princeton was laid out that year, it was named in honour of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII, known to history as "The Peace-maker." The last (perhaps the only) living link which Princeton had with the Prince's visit was the late Albert E. Howse, who was born on 12 July, 1855 and died on 13 December, 1938. (Mrs. Howse died in Toronto on 11 November, 1949, and her ashes were brought here for interment.) Mr. Howse often spoke of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Eastern Canada. He remembered being taken to see the proceedings on the occasion of the visit. He was only five years old at the time, when in Grimsby, Ontario, his uncle Jacob Beamer hoisted little Albert on his shoulder so that he might get a good view of the Prince. The townsite that was surveyed and named in honour of the Prince was a mile east of the present townsite, and was a mile and a quarter square. Its eastern boundary was Allison Creek; its western, a line running from Swan Lake to the river. When the present townsite was surveyed, and mapped out into lots, the name Princeton was transferred to the new site within the forks. It was the search for gold that brought Princeton into being.

There is more to be told about trails and roads when we consider transportation. Douglas's scheme of a wagon road from Hope to Rock Creek was not completed. Trouble arose over a proposed tax on freight, and the road, after being constructed 25 miles east from Hope, was discontinued. A glorified trail was pushed through to the gold diggings at Rock Creek.

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

When British Columbia was born at Fort Langley in November, 1859, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton (author of "The Last Days of Pompeii") was Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Imperial Parliament. He ordered a detachment of Royal Engineers to British Columbia to assist Douglas in governing and opening up the new crown colony. Col. Richard Clement Moody was in charge. The first and second groups to arrive came by way of Panama, arriving in Victoria on 29 October and 8 November, 1858. The body sailed from England on "Thames City," rounded Cape Horn, and arrived at Esquimalt on 12 April, 1859. Altogether, there were 165 officers and men. When Douglas determined to build a road from Hope to Rock Creek, Captain J.M. Grant was placed in charge of this undertaking. The Royal Engineers under his charge did lasting work. Howay described Grant as "the greatest road builder of them all." When work on the wagon road was discontinued, the remaining, existing trail was widened. Three parties continued work under Sgt. L.F. Bonson, Cpl. William Hall and Sgt. J. Murphy.

One of the Royal Engineers, Lieutenant H. Spencer Palmer made a remarkable journey from Hope through Similkameen to the United States border. He was instructed to make careful survey of "the country lying between Fort Hope and the 49th parallel of latitude, where it meets the route of Fort Colville." Palmer left Hope on 17 September, 1859, and on the 22nd "struck the Similkameen below the Forks." Following the Similkameen, he crossed the International Boundary on 27 September."

Some of the Engineers pre-empted land in Similkameen, and are remembered in such place names as Moody's Prairie and Luard Lake. Their most enduring monument in Similkameen was the road and trail from Hope to Princeton. About seventeen miles from Hope a section of their road is still to be seen, and an historical marker is planned here to comemorate their work.

Others had a hand in building the road-trail from Hope to Princeton. Walter Moberly tells us that in the spring of 1860 he "entered into contract, in partnership with Edgar Dewdney to build a trail from Fort Hope on the Fraser River to Shemilkomean River on the east side of the Cascade range of mountains…" It is still known as the Dewdney Trail.

THE WHATCOM TRAILS

The Whatcom trails were links between Similkameen and the Fraser River gold rush. There were two Whatcom trails. The first was begun by residents of Whatcom, (afterwards included in Bellingham) in the State of Washington, in the spring of 1858 in the hope of avoiding payment of levies imposed by Douglas. It was hoped to divert to Whatcom a share of the mining trade which would otherwise go to Victoria, following the discovery of gold on the Fraser. The trail followed the Nooksack River, crossed the boundary near Huntington, and came to the Fraser about thirty miles below Hope. It did not touch Similkameen as we have defined it.

This trail proved unsatisfactory, and Captain W.W. DeLacy located a second one, which followed the Skagit, and joined Anderson's route of 1846. The second trail proved no more successful than the first and the few who travelled it experienced nothing but grief and disappointment. The advent of river boats on the Fraser ended all hope of breaking the trade monopoly.

GOLDEN CARIBOO

It is commonly said that distant fields look more green. Glowing reports in the early 60's of rich finds in Cariboo lured thousands of prospectors away from the Fraser, Similkameen and Rock Creek. Among those who headed north was our old friend Bobby Stevenson, who played an important part in a deathless story of heroism and romance. In this section, two new characters are added to our story –

Cariboo Cameron and James Schubert. It is because of the part played in it by Bobby Stevenson that the Cameron story is linked with Similkameen history.

When he resigned as customs officer at Rock Creek, Stevenson drove a large number of horses into Cariboo, and sold them at a handsome profit. Thereafter he visited Victoria, arriving there on 15 December, 1861. There he met "Cariboo Cameron," who, with his family, had arrived in March. Stevenson returned to Cariboo in April, 1862. Mr. Cameron followed in July. In their search for gold they were successful beyond their dreams, but an epidemic of smallpox brought nothing but sorrow and grief. Mrs. Cameron died on 23 October. The husband had promised his wife that if anything happened to her she would be buried in Cornwall, New Brunswick, from whence she had come.

Mr. Cameron kept his word. The remains rested in a cabin till the mournful trek to the coast could be made. No one would volunteer to help in this journey, though Cameron offered twelve dollars a day, and a bonus of $2000. They were all afraid of the smallpox. But Bobby Stevenson said he would go at his own expense. They set out on the last day of January, 1863. The temperature was fifty degrees below zero. On their way to the coast they found many dying of smallpox. Cameron and Stevenson suffered untold hardships,but finally reached Victoria on 7 March. After a temporary burial, the body of Mrs. Cameron was taken east by way of the Panama, and was finally buried in Cornwall.

THE OVERLANDERS OF 1862

Bobby Stevenson was in Cariboo when members of the Overland Expedition of 1862 arrived there. Among them were the Schuberts. Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Schubert had three children: Augustus, James and Mary. Soon after reaching Kamloops a daughter was born, and they called her Rose, the first white child to be born in the interior of British Columbia.

As a young man, Jim took up land in North Okanagan. He used to drive stage from Kamloops to Okanagan Lake, and changed horses at Round Prairie where the family had settled. Jim afterwards moved to the south end of the lake, and later to Hedley then Tulameen, where he ran a store. He was a mere infant when he came with the Overlanders in 1862. He related to the writer how Peter McIntyre took him on his back and swam across the Saskatchewan River. That was his earliest recollection.

After mining in Cariboo, and prospecting in the Mackenzie River district, Peter McIntyre crossed to the United States of America, where he became Indian fighter and pony express guard. In the early eighties he returned to British Columbia, and settled near Vaseux Lake, where his sister kept house for him. McIntyre's Bluff, north of Oliver, is named for him. When he died at the age of 91, Jim Schubert was one of the pall-bearers. Jim died on 17 March, 1938 and was buried at Tulameen. Mrs. Schubert continued the business in Tulameen till 1954, when she went to live with her daughter Mrs. Ivan Hunter, in Oliver. Mrs. Schubert died there on 5 March, 1957.

GRANITE CREEK

We have already noted the community of gold seekers at Blackfoot. The only other "rush" in Similkameen was to Granite Creek. Here, in 1885, a large community sprang up. This was at the mouth of the creek, where it enters the right bank of the Tulameen, twelve miles west of Princeton. W.H. Holmes, recalling his arrival there soon after the rush began, said that the place was full of life, and at every hundred feet on the river was a water wheel, all turning to a different tune.

The rush was started by the discovery of a gold nugget by cowboy John Chance. The date of the discovery is given as 5 July, 1885 – a red-letter day in Similkameen history. According to S.R. Gibson, Chance was driving a band of horses from Washington state to New Westminster. For some unaccountable reason, after he reached Princeton he did not follow the Dewdney Trail, but went up the

Tulameen, passed Aspen Grove, and followed the old Coquihalla Trail. News of the discovery soon leaked out, and the rush was on.

Within a few months a tent town covered the flat near the mouth of the creek. By the end of October, 62 companies had creek claims averaging 300 feet each. From 5 July to 31 October gold to the value of $90,000 was reported. In December, Henry Nicholson, the mining recorder, estimated the population at 600 whites and 300 Chinese. Tents were soon replaced by log buildings. In January, 1886, G.C. Tunstall, gold commissioner, reported forty houses, six saloons and hotels, and seven stores. The peak production was in 1886, when gold and platinum to the value of $193,000 were taken, chiefly from Granite Creek. By 1900 Granite Creek was just another ghost town. Hugh Hunter, who had been appointed mining recorder in August, 1899, was in March, 1900, moved to Princeton as government agent.

Gold officially reported at Granite Creek represented only a percentage of what was actually taken. Chinese were regarded as the worst offenders in this connection. If government agents were unable to report correct returns, others were able to overstate them. The truth lies somewhere between what was actually reported and what was stated in "The Similkameen Star" for 10 September, 1915: "F.P. Cook, the pioneer merchant of Granite Creek was to Princeton last Friday. In 1885 when Mr. Cook walked into Granite Creek carrying his blankets it was with difficulty that he made his way along the crowded main street. Twelve saloons did a flourishing business and closing hours were unknown. The town had a population of about 2000 inhabitants, and was third largest city in B.C., being only exceeded by Victoria and New Westminster. Kamloops then would probably come next in size. Placer miners in 1885-1886 took probably $800,000 in gold and platinum out of Granite Creek."

In connection with reporting incorrectly amounts of gold taken, one Chinaman was called "Not Enough" because this was his invariable answer when asked how much he had taken. "NotEnough" was a well-known character in early Tulameen and Granite Creek history.

There is little today to suggest the former glory of what was possibly the third largest town in the province in 1886. Coal superceded gold as the main source of industry in the Tulameen Valley. Early in the 20th century coal was discovered near the site of Blakeburn, and in 1909 at Collin's Gulch. Coalmont was so named because of the belief that there was a mountain of coal which could be stripped and operated by steam shovels.

Bert Irwin had intimate knowledge of life in Granite Creek during the "rush," and today our best-informed citizen on its early history. In 1900 Frank Bailey, remembered as "stuttering Bailey," issued a map and forty-paged pamphlet in which he tells of nuggets of exceptional size: two from Bear Creek worth $400 and $415 respectively. "In 1887 a Chinaman found a nugget worth $900, which was exhibited at Wells, Fargo & Co's bank in Victoria."

The site of the Granite Creek gold rush is one of the historic spots in Similkameen, and is well-worthy of a marker to indicate its past importance in our history.

Following the discovery of rich placers in 1885, Dr. G.M. Dawson visited the Tulameen and Granite Creek in 1888, and a short summary of his work appears in the annual report for that year. Preliminary examinations were made by Charles Camsell in 1906 and 1908, and geological work continued during 1909 and 1910. Important work had been done by J.F. Kemp in 1900, and W.F. Robertson in 1901. In his second Report on the district, Camsell writes: "The topographic work in this district begun by L. Reinecke, in August, 1908, and was carried to completion in the summer of 1909. The methods employed were partly photographic, and partly plane-table and sketching from traverses run between fixed points.

"The geological work was begun by the author in July, 1909, and continued until the end of September of the same year, the assistants being W.J. Wright and W.G.S. Agassiz. In the following year

the months of June and July were spent in this field, and the work was carried on with the assistance of J.D. Galloway and W.S. McCann. Altogether five months was required to complete the geological mapping and to collect the necessary information for the report."

RED PADDY AND GRANITE CREEK

Here follows notes of conversations with David Whitly, better known to oldtimers as Red Paddy. During the last few years of his life he lived on the Merritt Road, almost opposite the DeMuth sawmill, which is now operated by Jack Munsie, about six miles north of Princeton. Paddy and his collie dog Venus were inseparable. He was born in Belfast on 20 November, 1853, and came to Canada in 1882. He had a remarkable memory of the photographic kind, and was never at a loss for a date. He used to boast that he was the only man in Princeton who could prove his sanity. Apparently he had been given a "clean sheet" from Essondale and had papers to substantiate his statement. The notes which follow were taken in 1928:

"I came west in 1885, right through to Granite Creek. There was great excitement there then. Sometimes I travelled on foot, but mostly on horseback. There would be three or four of us together. Granite Creek was a busy place then. I was always able to make a little money. My partner, Fred Kelly, sold his claim to a man called Cameron – not the Dr. Cameron who was so well-known there. This one used to play the piano.

"The first government recorder was a man named Lindsay. He came from Victoria. Mr. Irwin came after him. The gold commissioner was Judge Tunstall. The place where Chance discovered gold – I've seen it lots of time.

"I had a garden at the mouth of Granite Creek. Two boys called Mills had taken it up, but didn't do anything with it. Then John Smith took it up. You've heard O' Widder Smith at Spences Bridge, and her apples? She sent a box to Queen Victoria, gold medal apples they were. It was this lady's husband who brought in ploughs and started the garden. But he quit, and left it to me. Martin Strong helped me sow oats. He was a contractor and brought down some mules.

"Rev. George Murray of Nicola was the first preacher in Granite Creek. There were tents aplenty, and two cabins, but really no houses when Murray first came."

According to Paddy, who claimed to have gone round with the hat collecting gold dust for the preacher, the first service was held in a log building under construction. It was three logs high. The place was destined for a saloon, and afterwards became knows as the Adelphi. It was by Jim Leighton, who in 1928 was living at Savona.

Mrs. A. Irwin, wife of government recorder from 1886-1889, rode into Granite Creek on horseback in 1886. Mrs. Irwin was living in Princeton in 1928, and remembered the three preachers who, periodically, represented the Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican churches at Granite Creek – George Murray, James Turner and Henry Irwin, known to oldtimers as "Father Pat." For some time Mrs. Irwin was the only white woman in Granite Creek. Then for a time, there was Mrs. Thompson, sister of Mrs. A. E. Howse. Mrs. Irwin recalled, "There was no music at the services. I used to lead the singing especially when Mr. Murray came – he couldn't sing at all. Services were held in a large, log building which was built for a store."

A BOOM TOWN

We are fortunate in having the autosketch of Walton Hugh Holmes. He was a regular attendant at the annual supper meetings of the Similkameen Historical Association till the Second World War made such gatherings difficult. Many will remember the tales he old. Mr. Holmes died on Thursday, 21 March,

1940. Funeral services were held from Coalmont United Church, and a fitting tribute was paid to the memory of the grand, old man.

Mr. Holmes had a long and varied career. He was born in Bury, England, on 20 March 1853, and received a liberal education. After a brief apprenticeship at office work, he answered the call of the sea. Then followed four voyages in the sail-rigged ships of the last century: two to India, one to South America, and one to Portland, Oregon. Mr. Holmes always believed that there was no sight at sea comparable to a full-rigged ship, with all sail set to the wind. The memory of the sea, and the uprightness of the sailor, were part of the heritage that was his.

After his visit to Oregon he determined to leave the sea, and settle on land. Returning home, he passed his nautical examinations, came to New York, and crossed country to California and Oregon. He came to British Columbia in 1880, while the CPR was still in the making and worked on rail, and on riverboat till Canada was spiked down from sea to sea. He loved to tell about Hope and Yale and New Westminster in these early days.

In 1885 he came to Granite Creek, remaining hereabouts till his death. Holmes was one of a number who planned to run a store at Granite Creek. Coming south from Merritt, they passed Aspen Grove, then crossed Pike's Mountain. There was no trail, and the grass was so high that on horseback one could hardly see the man in front of him. Holmes never saw the grass that high again, for it was destroyed by fire that year. After leaving Otter Flat (now Tulameen) they were only six miles distant from Granite Creek. Here Holmes tells the story:

"We began to meet people between the two places but when we came in sight of Granite Creek it looked like an anthill. Several hundred men of all sorts, saddle horses and pack animals, tents on both sides of the river. What a sight! All available space taken up for tents. Campfires everywhere. There was one small cabin built by Mr. Allison for a store, but there were no supplies in it. Only some tin plates and iron knives and forks; no provisions procurable, and they were badly needed. We found our pack trains would be welcome when they arrived. The most of Granite Creek was already staked off for claims. They were only 100 feet long from high water mark to high water mark across the creek. There was no Government office to record them, so it was not long before we had to appoint a recorder, a Mr. H. Nicholson, pro tem. till a Government Agent was sent in 1886…By that time Granite Creek was quite a town, all log houses."

THE RISE OF HEDLEY

The decline of Granite Creek corresponds with the rise of Hedley, which for many years was the largest settlement in Similkameen dependent on gold-mining. The early history of Hedley Camp was recorded by the late Harry D. Barnes, and appeared in "The British Columbia Historical Quarterly," April, 1848. Hedley is described as lying "at a point where Twenty Mile Creek, after swinging around the western base of Nickel Plate Mountain emerges from its canyon and has cut a boulder strewn channel through the river-benches to flow into the Similkameen River a short distance below the town." Its elevation is 1700 feet.

Placer mining, which began at the mouth of the Twenty Mile Creek, now Hedley Creek, in the early sixties, was soon exhausted. The period of lode-mining began in 1896. George Allison and Jim Riordan had staked three claims for Edgar Dewdney in 1894, and one had been recorded by J. Coulthard. These four, however, were allowed to lapse. Peter Scott located the Rollo in 1897, and three claims the following year. That same August (1898) Albert Jacobson and C. Johnson, two Swedes who had been grub-staked by W.Y. Williams, then manager of the Granby mines at Phoenix, located two claims (Mound and Copper Cleft), and four were staked by F.I. Wollaston and C.H. Arundel (Horsefly, Sunnyside, Bulldog and Copperfield). The Nickel (Plate) was to prove the richest of all, and to become the first producing lode mine in Similkameen.

Peter Scott was the father of the camp, which he decided should be named for Robert R. Hedley, then manager of the Hall mines smelter at Nelson, B.C. who had grub-staked Scott. Mr. Hedley was born in Amherstburg, Ontario, in 1863 and educated in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was still in his 'teens when he learned assaying with the Orford Copper Company at Copelton, Quebec. Later, he was appointed chief assayer at the Eustis plant designed by W.F. Robertson who, as provincial mineralogist for British Columbia, visited Tulameen in 1901 and reported its ore deposits and placer mining. From 1889 – 1895 Mr. Hedley worked in Venezuela, Mexico and Arizona, before coming to Pilot Bay in Kootenay, B.C., as metallurgist of the first smelter to be operated in this province. In 1897 he moved to Nelson, where he remained ten years. It was during this time that he was associated with Peter Scott who located claims around Hedley. Mr. Hedley was retained by the Dominion government in 1907 to make a survey of mineral resources in Western Canada. After this he settled in Vancouver. He died on 30 September, 1940, at the age of 77, survived by his wife, two sons and one daughter. (There was a Methodist minister, Rev. J. W. Hedley, who came to Hedley in 1902. To the Keremeos field he added Nickel Plate and Hedley, with residence at the latter point. But Hedley Camp was named before he came).

In 1898 Wollaston and Arundel exhibited Nickel Plate ore samples at the New Westminster fair. These samples came to the notice of M.K. Rodgers, who represented the mining interests of Marcus Daly of Butte, Montana. At the time Rodgers was on his way to Cassiar, but cancelled his sailing from Victoria, and next morning started out for Similkameen. The first samples assayed carried values so high that Rodgers suspected salting. With this in mind, he returned by himself and resampled the properties. The results were equally promising. With the bonding of the group, permanent work was started in January, 1899. In October, 1902, a tramway was constructed, flume work undertaken, and the erection of a stampmill and cyanide plant commenced. Milling of ore began in May, 1904.

A GROWING CAMP

First supplies for the new camp came from Fairview in November, 1898, when George Cahill led a pack-train of 35 horses laden with supplies. George was to become a familiar figure in Hedley. He died in Princeton General hospital on 13 December, 1939, and was buried in Hedley cemetery under United Church auspices. He was the last of the original prospectors of Nickel Plate still living in Hedley. Cahill arrived in Hedley about the same time as Harry Yates and Fraser Campbell. It was Cahill who staked the famous Mascot Fraction for Duncan Woods of Trout Creek, Okanagan who refused all offers for it till he sold in 1933 to a Vancouver business group represented by Larry Canty. By this time Wood was in advanced age, and in poor health. He did not live long to enjoy the money he received, but left $150,000 to his sister.

Various amounts are mentioned as being received by Wollaston and Arundel from the Daly interests. Harry Barnes mentions two amounts of $60,000 each. George E. Winkler suggested another amount in this story which he loved to tell. For some time after the option was given, Arundel heard nothing about the results of Rodgers' inspection of the claims. The prospector began to feel pessimistic. His funds were low, and one day as he was passing the bank someone tapped him on the shoulder. Turning round, he was surprised to see M.K. Rodgers, who said he wanted to complete payment on the deal they had made. Rodgers invited him into the bank and gave him a cheque for $79,000.

As Hedley grew, supplies were brought in from the coast to Penticton, and freighted from there west on the Keremeos Road to the fifteen mile cut-off over the mountains to Nickel plate made in 1900. In the fall of that year work was commenced on the Keremeos-Princeton road, and this was completed in 1901, making the Dewdney Trail a chapter in history.

By the end of the century Hedley was a busy centre and Nickel Plate was covered with claims. At first, the Nickel Plate mine was operated under a provincial charter for the Yale Mining Company, but in 1903 the Daly Reduction Co. Ltd., with more inclusive powers, was formed, Gomer P. Jones had been

appointed superintendent in 1900. C.A.R. Lambly was mining recorder and gold commissioner for Osoyoos mining division, and prospectors had to travel to Fairview to record their claims.

In 1905 M.K. Rodgers was succeeded by R.B. Lamb as manager, and W.H. Brule succeeded A.H. Brown as mill superintendent. In 1906 F.A. Ross and E.A. Holbrook became manager and superintendent respectively. The Daly Estate sold its holdings in 1909 to a New York syndicate, and a new company, The Hedley Gold Mining Co. Ltd., appointed Gomer P. Jones general superintendent, Roscoe Wheeler mill superintendent , B.W. Knowles mine engineer, and William Sampson mine foreman. The years that followed were handsome years for the company. Except during the winter of 1920-21, production was maintained till 1930 when operations were suspended because of low grade ore. Harry Barnes records that from 1904-30 there had been mined and milled 1,300,000 tons of ore.

But there was still gold waiting to be discovered. In 1932 the mine was sold to the John W. Mercer Exploration Co., later known as the Kelowna Exploration Co. Ltd. and once again it became one of the province's major gold mines. The new company under the direction of W.C. Douglass, was responsible in 1937 for much community development at Nickel Plate, where a modern village was built at an altitude of over 5000 feet. This was connected with the east-west highway by a mountain road, the cut-off being just north of the native village of Chuchuewa. Photographs of the valley taken by Walter V. Ring in 1938 are prize possessions.

HEDLEY'S HISTORIAN

Before brief mention of other properties, and some record of Hedley community life, a few notes about Harry D. Barnes Hedley's historian, should be in order. A true-born Englishman, Harry began his pilgrimage on 24 May, 1869, and was raised on a Somerset farm. In the spring of 1889 he came to Canada and worked on an Ontario farm before coming west to British Columbia in the fall of 1890. That winter he was employed clearing land in Vancouver, just south of False Creek and east of Granville street. In April, 1891, he saw the "Empress of India" arrive at Vancouver on her maiden voyage, and the next day he left for the Okanagan country. After a spell of ranching, he left in the fall of 1892 and travelled by saddle and pack-horse to the Boundary Country. Here he prospected for a number of years before coming to Similkameen in the spring of 1900.

Arriving at Hedley, he went to work for the Daly Reduction Co. Ltd. and continued till the plant closed down in December, 1930. Starting as a labourer, he was put in charge of the warehouse in 1905, and later promoted to purchasing agent. After 1930 he was interested in several mining properties, but his chief interests centred around his home, garden, church, lodge and historical society. His home was his castle, his garden was his pride and joy. He loved Hedley, because it did not have the winds of the lower valley, or the deep snows of the upper valley. From this centre he scanned a wide horizon, and by means of books, radio and newspapers kept well-informed about the progress of life in the big world beyond.

A deeply religious man, he was brought up in the Anglican Church, and to the end found strength and comfort in her paths. A member of long-standing in the Masonic Order, he was held in the highest regard by all his brethren.

During the last seven years of his life (he died in Kelowna on Sunday morning, 22 June, 1952, and was buried in the Hedley cemetery), he took a great interest in recording the history of which he had been a part; and wrote interesting papers, some of which were published in the "British Columbia Historical Quarterly," and in the annual reports of the Okanagan Historical Society. These included the history of Hedley, Nickel Plate, and "Reminiscences of the Boundary Country." In all these efforts he was meticulously correct, and all that he has written has become part of the definitive history of our valley.

His life was like a quiet stream passing through changing landscapes till it reaches the great ocean. His going forth was like the setting of the sun. Kindly and loyal, he was the soul of integrity. He

kept alive in his own life the highest traditions of the land which gave him birth. He has left a fragrant memory, and a rich heritage of historical lore. When the news of his passing came, many felt that a Prince had fallen in Israel.

Under the direction of R.H. (Pat) Stewart, the Hedley Mascot Gold Mines Ltd., made notable progress for a number of years. An aerial tramway, connecting mine and mill, was constructed up the steep canyon side, and concentrates were shipped to the A.S. & R. Co.'s smelter at Tacoma. Exploration for new ore bodies in claims adjoining the Mascot was continued under the direction of Dr. V. Dolmage. In the Company's seventh annual report (1940), the mine is described as "in a very healthy condition and the outlook more than ordinarily bright." Credit for this is given to C.W.S. Tremaine, general superintendent; W.B. Montgomery, mining engineer; and Jack Moore mine foreman.

By 1950 gold-mining at Hedley Mascot had ceased to be profitable. The 1949 Report had this ominous paragraph: "During the 13 years ended April, 1949, Hedley Mascot fractional claim yielded over $8,500,000 in gold. Exhaustive exploration elsewhere on the property yielded interesting indications but sufficient ore was not found to warrant continuation of milling."

During the second World War the writer made several visits to Apex Mountain and the Canty mine east of Nickel Plate, but here, too, operations were discontinued.

HEDLEY COMMUNITY

Hedley is still on the map, and those who remain are determined that it will maintain its place in Similkameen. It used to be one of the liveliest towns in the interior of our province. It is still one of the happiest. Its people live neither in the past nor the future but in the present.

Before the town began, Bradshaw's, near the mouth of Fifteen Mile Creek, was a stopping-place for east-west travellers on the old Dewdney Trail. Tom Bradshaw came from Greenwood in 1899, and bought the newly-completed Johnson house. Bradshaw planted an orchard, and a station on the GNR was named for him. All the Bradshaws have passed on, and the familiar stopping-place is no more.

Hedley City Townsite Company was formed in 1900, and R.H. Parkinson made the first survey. Dave G. Hackney built the first Hedley hotel on Haynes Street that winter. In 1902 came the Grand Union hotel, built by McDermott and Marks, and sold to Robert Herron and Anton Winkler. A few years later Winkler became the sole owner, and so continued till fire destroyed the building in 1918. The Commercial hotel, built in 1902, was opened in 1903, with Neil Huston and W.A. McLean proprietors, McLean becoming owner a few months later. The Similkameen hotel built in 1904, was burned down in February, 1916. On the site afterwards occupied by the Shell Oil Company's station, John Jackson built the New Zealand hotel in 1905, and this was destroyed by fire on 6 November, 1911. The Great Northern hotel (John Lind and the Peterson Brothers) was opened in 1906. At that time there was more than enough business for all of them.

Soon after the first hotel was erected, Kirby and Hine built a two-story log store which was operated by F.M. Gillespie. In August, 1892, J.A. Schubert bought the business. Charles Richter of Keremeos opened a butcher shop, which was taken over by Cawston and Edmond, then by John Mairhofer who sold out to Eugene Quaedvlieg in 1931. L.W. Shatford opened a General store in 1903 with F.H. French in charge. Hedley was well supplied with stores during the years that followed.

The Bank of British North America opened its Hedley branch in 1905 with G.H. Winters manager and L.G. MacHaffie teller. That was the first bank in Similkameen. Telephone connections with the outside world were established in 1905 by Dominion Government line from Kamloops to Keremeos by way of Merritt, Princeton and Hedley. Electric power became available in 1903, and water service the following year.

Education was not forgotten. The first school was opened in September, 1903, with M.L. Whillans, a sister of Dr. H.A. Whillans, in charge. The original school was in a room at the rear of the Methodist Church. A new school was completed in 1907. This was built against the hill, but after the big slide in January, 1939, it was taken down, and some of the lumber was used to build the present school opposite the community hall.

F.M. Gillespie was appointed postmaster in June, 1903. He was succeeded by Mr. Baxter; then by T.C. Knowles in 1937. For many years the post office was in Love's drug-store.

Dr. F. Rolls opened a drug-store and office in 1903, and in August of that year Dr. H.A. Whillans with his family moved from Princeton to Hedley when he was appointed company doctor. Although built in 1907, the hospital was not opened till 1910. Dr. M.D. McEwan was chief surgeon. He died in February, 1928. The hospital was closed in 1930. Succeeding doctors were Dr. Gordon Wride, Dr. Laird, Dr. Badger, and Dr. E.G. Markowski, and Mrs. Markowski who was known as Dr. Murphy. Not only was she highly qualified in her profession, but also an accomplished musician, whose talents were always at the service of the community. For a number of years the Hedley drug-store was operated by Reg. Scott.

Grace Methodist, built in 1903, during the ministry of Rev. J.W. Hedley, was the first church in Hedley. Presbyterian services were held in Fraser's Hall, and later merged with the Methodist cause. Rev. A.H. Cameron is the best-remembered Presbyterian. Rev. Henry Irwin (better known a Father Pat) was amongst the earliest visiting Anglican clergymen. The Anglican church was not built till after the first World War began.

"The Hedley Gazette" was founded by Ainsley Megraw in January, 1905, and ran till August, 1917. The plant was subsequently bought by R.J. McDougall of Penticton. Mr. Megraw was one of the moving spirits in organizing the Hedley Masonic lodge in 1905. Other lodges which were flourishing in their day were Orange and the Woodmen of America. Of recent years the Moose lodge has been most active in community service. For a number of years they sponsored the annual Burns' Night, which was the event of the season, attended by guests from every part of Similkameen and Okanagan. The capacity of the community hall was always taxed. In 1950 history was made when the haggis was flown in by air, the slow freight not being able to promise delivery in time. Another event sponsored by the Moose and the ladies of this Order is the annual dinner to senior citizens.

DEPRESSION, FLOODS AND FIRE

Although gold mining operations ceased at Hedley and Nickel Plate in 1955, there is still a lively community there. Hedley has had its full share of depressions, and disasters. Floods caused serious damage in rainy years; and fires have plagued its history. The rock-slide on 24 January, 1939 resulted in two deaths, and many homes had to be relocated. Fire destroyed the Cade mill on 9 October, 1951. The Hedley fire brigade, organized 1935, has answered many calls. "1956" was Hedley's worst year for fires: the Chinese restaurant block (original Commercial hotel) was destroyed 12 August, 1956; Hedley hotel burned down 6 December, 1956; the block opposite the hotel was destroyed by fire January, 1957.

Mrs. E.H. Frampton died as a result of this last fire, when the house in which she was living, and the block in which Charlie Anderson had his garage, were destroyed. Mrs. Frampton was born between Princeton and Hedley on 11 August, 1888. Her father, John Hatton Bromley, came to Similkameen from Ontario, and married Mary Kathrine Lorenzetto of Hope, B.C. Eliza Ann, born of this union, was baptized by Father Pat (Rev. Henry Irwin, Anglican). When she was 21 she was married to R.J. Edmonds by Rev. J. Thorburn Conn (Presbyterian) who served Princeton and district from 1907 – 1910. After Mr. Edmonds died she married Ernest Haymand Frampton (a widower) on 19 November, 1949. Mr. Frampton died a few years before Mrs. Frampton. After her death, the whole community paused to pay simple tribute to the memory of a very gracious and kindly soul.

Of one thing we may be sure: the search for gold in Similkameen and Tulameen is not done. Both on the Tulameen and Similkameen rivers there have been substantial dredging operations, and these may be resumed sometime in the future. The search for gold will continue. Time-honoured methods of hydraulicking, sluicing and panning may give place to newer methods. We predict that gold operations in Hedley will be resumed. There's still gold in them thar' hills. The prospector has outlived the fur-trader. The mineral resources of Similkameen are far from being depleted. They only await new discoveries. A quotation from Harry Barnes may fittingly close this Hedley section.

"With the coming of the railroad, the four-horse freight teams and stages disappeared from the roads, and a new era was entered upon. Of all the many prospectors who once had climbed the steep slopes of Nickel Plate Mountain and of nearby Apex, Northey and Riordon mountains, and had there trenched, dug open-cuts, sunk shafts, and driven tunnels in their search for gold, how very few remain. Some had left early for distant green fields; others, with more faith, stayed on until no longer able to do the assessment work on their claims; many are now dead. A few attained wealth, others made a smaller stake, but the majority gained experience only as he recompense for their labour. With their passing went much of the romance of those early days at Camp Hedley, the memories of which still linger in the hearts of the few."

RIVER GOLD

But this chapter would be incomplete without further mention of river gold. Hydraulic operations on a large scale were attempted in the 90's, bringing C.F. Hope, W.C. McDougall and W.J. Waterman into the picture. Their first attempt, in 1893, was not encouraging. The Anglo-American Co. (Captain S.T. Scott, 1895) built the White House in connection with their operations above the Freeman ranch on the Similkameen. Results did not justify hopes or expenditure. Mr. Waterman had some success with a less pretentious operation in the same area, and this proved to be important for the part he was afterwards to play in Similkameen.

Large-scale operations were not resumed till 1947 when the Atkinson Dredging Co. commenced work. The first gold brick was shipped on 23 January, 1948. The original promoter was James W. Boothe, who became vice-president of the company. He was born in Illinois, U.S.A., on 17 March, 1880, and first came to Similkameen in 1933. Before World War II, he had acquired sixty leases, and was preparing to operate them when war broke on 3 September, 1939. Gold mining was prohibited in U.S.A., and shortage of man power made it impractical in British Columbia, and elsewhere in Canada. Old operations might continue but new ones were forbidden. "I thought I was sitting on top of the world," he said, "then I woke up to find myself working in a shipyard in Seattle."

After the war Mr. Boothe returned to Similkameen and began where he had left off. He found two men especially helpful: Ross Hunt and Hugh Ross. Hunt had a wonderful eye for distances and Boothe often checked the guesses to find them correct. Ross Hunt died in Princeton hospital on 21 April, 1947. Hugh Ross was a tall, spare man, with unusual powers of endurance. Ross died in Vernon in May, 1947. This was the year the Atkinson Dredging Co., Ltd. was organized with offices in Vancouver. Sheridan K. Atkinson, Sr., president; James W. Booth, vice-president; Sheridan K. Atkinson, Jr., superintendent and director; W. Scott Ford, placer miner. Mr. Ford had charge of the Princeton office. He was a young U.S. airman, who had served with the RCAF, and had often glimpsed Similkameen from his plane.

Company project No. 1 consisted of fourteen leases between the Granby power plant and the Similkameen canyon. There was much testing before dredging equipment was installed at a point beyond the Granby plant about three miles from Princeton. The dredge machinery was a Lima 1201 dragline; the washing plant, in sections on twelve pontoons, floating in a pond, was kept in place by winches on the dredge's top-deck, from which anchorage lines ran ashore. A vast amount of gravel was removed, here and elsewhere on the Similkameen. Results of operations in the form of river dikes can still be seen.

It was confidently stated by old-timers that no such operations had ever yet paid dividends to investors. This might have been the exception that proved the rule had not ice and high water destroyed the installations, and brought an end to the project.

CHAPTER 6

DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COAL RESOURCES

Coal is sometimes referred to as “black diamonds,” and platinum as “white gold.” The discovery of coal was an important event in our local history, more important than the first discoverers realized. Development of coal mines contributed much to the prosperity of Princeton for many years. The trade winds have slackened. We may be in the doldrums now, but the future Princeton will be determined largely by the use that is made of the untapped coal resources of Similkameen and Tulameen valleys.

E.R. Hughes, now of Victoria, succeeded Jack Biggs as mines inspector with headquarters in Princeton, writing to “The Spotlight,” 3 January, 1951, estimated the Princeton coal area as about forty square miles, with deposits of “at least 300,000,000 tons,” exclusive of the Coalmont and Nicola deposits. The recorded output in 1951 was 1,640,518 tons. The largest annual output from any property was 81,780 tons by the Granby colliery in 1940. Mr. Hughes pointed out that none of the mines now inactive were closed because their coal resources were exhausted. He estimated that coal mined represented less than one per cent of probable reserves.

EARLIEST COAL DISCOVERY

According to Mrs. S.L. Allison, coal was discovered in Similkameen before the mainland was proclaimed a crown colony on 19 November, 1858. In the summer and fall of that year John Fall Allison explored the valley and found coal on the right bank of the Similkameen, just above the forks, near the east end of the river bridge, and in the hill that rises on the south side of the new road to Hedley. This outcropping attracted early settlers who mined their own coal, and in winter-time hauled it on sleighs over the ice to their homes.

The site of Similkameen’s first coal discovery was not forgotten. In 1898 the Vermilion Forks, Mining and Development Co. Ltd., was organized, and bought from S.D. Sands the Princeton townsite. Mr. Sands had married Rose Allison, from whose father he had the land. The company secured 1200 acres of coal land adjoining Princeton. In 1909 John Gulliford tunnelled “Discovery Hill,” and hauled coal by horse-team to Princeton and Hedley. By this time its commercial possibilities were apparent. W.J. Waterman had interested Authur Hickling in Similkameen, and this led to the formation of an English company which financed and reorganized the Vermilion Forks Company under the name of Princeton Coal and Land Co. Ltd. In 1909 Ernest Waterman was appointed local director, with Charles Graham superintendent of the Princeton colliery. The output that year was only 150 tons but the following year (James Holden mine manager) it rose to 11,868 long tons. In 1909 only 32 men were employed. In 1910 the number rose to 67, and by 1912 there were 110 men on the payroll.

Mr. Waterman continued as general manager when Francis Glover was appointed manager in 1914, with Andrew McKendrick overman since 1912. The coal seam, originally worked by a small adit on the river bank, was now operated by a slope 12 X 9 sunk 1100 feet from the bench above. During the latter part of 1914 there was trouble with fire in the old workings, and difficulty in sealing off this area. By 1916 the mine was served by a spur from the completed Kettle Valley railway. The banner year was 1917 when 52,000 tons of coal were mined. William James succeeded Andrew McKendrick as overman in 1918.

The development of a prospect at Findlay Creek was undertaken in November, 1923. In this year George Stringer (of Stringer & Sons, England) took an option on the mine, and a new company was formed. Difficulties at the old mine increased: fires in No. 1 mine continued; and in No. 2, further east, crushing caused by intrusive rocks increased. This led the management to sink a new shaft on the west side of the river adjoining the town. Here a good seam of coal was developed, but its location (beneath

the town) was a source of trouble. The old mine was abandoned in 1924, and the new one in February, 1926.

The last remaining company mine buildings on the townsite were near the corner of Endcliffe Avenue and Bridge Street. Here were two large, wooden buildings. During the second World War, they were used by collectors to store waste paper collected for the war effort. In 1949 the area was bought by the Princeton School Board, and the buildings taken down.

It is no longer possible to trace the spur from the road to the original mine. For some years after the mine closed this was a favourite walk. As late as 1928 underground fires broke through the surface, lighting up the bench at night-time. It was a weird sight. No further work was done at the Princeton colliery till 1948. From 1909 to 1924 333,000 tons of coal had been mined, and it was known that much remained. It was hoped to tap "a little bit of hell that did not catch fire." In September, 1948 Fred Mannix & Co. Ltd. commenced strip-mining; but this was discontinued in April, 1949. The property was then leased to Joseph P. Wukelick, who with a few men did some hand-stripping at intervals till February, 1951.

UNITED EMPIRE (RED TRIANGLE)

Princeton's second coal mine was operated by The United Empire Mining Co., which in 1908 secured nine claims 2 ½ miles northeast of Princeton, on One Mile Creek, sometimes referred to as Hunter Creek. The B.C. Portland Cement Co. completed its massive stone buildings in 1911. The spur from the GNR was completed and extended to the mine, which hoped to supply the necessary coal for the cement plant operations. The balance was to be shipped across the Line. The Cement Plant operation is a story by itself, and must be told elsewhere. Sufficient here to state that it did not fulfill great expectations, and was soon closed down. This had an adverse affect on the nearby coal mine, which shut down in May, 1914. W.C. McDougall and M.H. Whitehouse were president and vice-president of the coal company; with E.G. Marston secretary-treasurer, and W.G. Simpson mine manager. The mine closed in spite of the fact that the company had been reorganized in 1913 under the name of the East Princeton Coal and Land Co.

In 1917 the company appeared as the Tulameen Coal Co.; and in 1933 as the Red Triangle Coal Co., whose president was J.T. Maage of Tonasket, Washington. W.R. Foster was superintendent. A tunnel, 825 feet, was run to tap standing pillars. W. Forsyth was shift boss during part of 1935, after which year we hear no more about this company.

CHARLIE HUNTER'S MINE

Charlie Hunter and Ben Bowen were inseparably connected with the Tulameen Valley Coal Mine, discovered in 1924. Charles Alexander Hunter was born in Scotland on 1 April, 1875, and was a soldier during World War I. He had a ranch about 1 ½ miles west of Princeton. It was reached by a wagon road following the north bank of the Tulameen west from Princeton. Here he discovered coal, and he and Ben Bowen did much of the exploratory work. They started with next to nothing, but by hard work and wise management were able to make a success of their mine. By the end of 1924 ten men were employed. The year's output was 1073 tons. Work on KVR spur was begun, and 6831 tons of coal were mined in 1925. Production increased each succeeding year.

All the necessary machinery and equipment for a big mine were installed. Dave Francis was overman in 1927, when 42 men were employed, and output was 14,406 tons. John Bennett became mine superintendent in 1928, with Andrew McKendrick manager, and Thomas Dobie, T. Rowbottom and W. Foster firebosses. That year 50 men were employed, 17,886 tons were produced, and the average wage was $5.20 per day.

In 1929 the Tulameen Coal Miners Ltd. was organized, with M.Y. Alvazoff managing director, John C. Bennett mine superintendent, William Strang overman, and Thomas Dobie and Robert Gourley

firebosses. Robert Dixon became president in 1930. Then followed difficult years. The long years of the Depression began suddenly with the crash of stock markets in the fall of 1929. R.B. Bennett had won the federal election in 1927, and remained in power till he was succeeded by W.L. Mackenzie King. There was a spate of political parties: farmers, CCF, Social Credit, who believed that something was radically wrong with the "system." Unemployment increased each year, and it was little consolation to know that conditions were no better elsewhere. It was the longest and most serious Depression Canada had yet experienced, lasting from 1929 – 1936. All this had a profound effect on social and economic conditions in Princeton. These years are still remembered as "the hungry thirties."

At first, Victoria put men to work on government projects, but soon decided they could not maintain the standard of wages being paid for relief projects. Then the Dominion instituted relief camps to which many single men, and some married men, were admitted. The men were assured of food, clothing and shelter, with a few cents per day spending money, but the congregation of men with a common grievance only served to increase prevailing discontent.

The situation in Princeton was aggravated by the arrival of Arthur H. Evans, a professional labour agitator. Miners at the Tulameen had real grievances, and Evans found it easy to organize them in defence of proclaimed demands. This was in November, 1932. A strike followed in December. Local police were heavily reinforced, foot as well as mounted men being rushed here. Early on 3 December there was a clash between police and workers. It was a bitter cold night, and a great crowd of men and women, even children, had tried to keep themselves warm around a huge bonfire near China Creek. Police claimed provocation, denied by the workers, and charged the crowd, which was soon dispersed by the mounted men. This served to increase the bitterness which had been stirred by the fiery oratory of Arthur Evans.

Evans and others were arrested, and charged with being members of an unlawful association, the Communist Party of Canada. A prison term did not stop their activities, and so long as the Depression continued there could be no end to the local troubles. In the summer of 1933 Evans was "kidnapped" by a number of local men, who put him in a car, drove him to the outskirts of Merritt, bought him a ticket and bundled him onto a train at Dot station. Some time later, a court case arose out of the "kidnapping" but in a mass of conflicting evidence the case faded out. Evans led the "On-to Ottawa" trek in 1935. He died in the Vancouver General hospital on 14 February, 1944, after being struck by an automobile.

Operations at the Tulameen did not prosper after this labour trouble. In February, 1935, the mine was shut down, and allowed to fill with water. An effort was made to resume operations in September, but in March, 1936, the attempt was abandoned. Charlie Hunter died of cancer on 25 March, 1935. His passing coincided with the end of the mine which he had discovered and developed.

PLEASANT VALLEY

The life of the Pleasant Valley coal mine dates back to 1925 when Robert Schulli and M.J. Mullin reported a new prospect on the south side of the Tulameen River, two miles south-west of Princeton. In 1926 diamond drilling operations were carried on by the W.R. Wilson interests under the superintendency of Ridgeway Wilson of Victoria.

W.R. Wilson became president of the Pleasant Valley Coal Co. Ltd. in 1928, and plans were made for operations on a large scale. Early in 1929 a bridge across the Tulameen was completed, linking the mine with the KVR. Thomas Cunliffe was overman, with John Gillham and William Harmison firebosses. But the labour troubles of November, and the strike in December, 1932, brought a halt to the work at the end of the year. Work in No. 2 mine was resumed in January, 1933, but the mine closed towards the end of the year. Work was resumed at No. 2 mine in 1934 with Thomas Cunliffe Overman, and John Gilham and James Sim, firebosses.

Pleasant Valley had been one of the most promising operations in Similkameen, and was often referred to as “Wilson’s Mine.” He was known as “the Grand Old Man of British Columbia mining.”

LYNDEN (BLUE FLAME)

In the fall of 1929 American interests began operations at the Lynden mine (lease 962) near the Nine Mile bridge, south of Princeton, and nearly a mile from the highway; from which a road was built following Lamont Creek, and opposite the old Dewdney Trail. Some of the company directors lived at Lynden, Washington and this accounted for the mine name. First president was M.C. DuVall of Bellingham; first manager was W.R. (Bill) Foster, with Frank Lester, Bob Gourley and William Harmison firebosses. In 1927 the output was 2770 tons, and 44 men were employed.

Sam K. Mottishaw in 1928 was appointed superintendent and manager; 50 men were employed, and the output was 18,398 tons. The company reorganized in 1929 as The Blue Flame Coal Co. Ltd., with Lester Ecker (Bellingham) president, and Sam Mottishaw superintendent. Robert Alstead was placed in charge in 1930, and in 1933 the mine was acquired by the W.R. Wilson interests, following closing of the Pleasant Valley as a result of labour disputes. The Blue Flame Collieries Ltd. (W.R. Wilson president; R. Alstead superintendent) was then listed (1934) as the Wilson Mining and Investment Co. Ltd. Blue Flame mine. This became Similkameen’s most important producer in 1935, with 99 men on the payroll at the end of the year. The coal was trucked to chutes near Princeton.

W.R. Wilson died in March, 1937, and thereafter was a break in production at the Blue Flame. Then came the Second World War and work at the mine was not resumed till the spring of 1951, when the Taylor Burson Coal Co. Ltd. reopened it, with Jim Fairley in charge, and Arthur Hilton, Thomas Bryden and John Magielka firebosses. This company explored a new prospect east of Blue Flame No. 1 in 1952, but the life of these properties was not prolonged.

ASHINGTON

The history of the Ashington Coal Co. Ltd. is confined to the year 1929. President of this company was Joseph W. Irwin of Coquitlam; Edward Floyd was superintendent, with Peter Carr shift boss, William Westenedge and Peter Hunter firebosses; and the indispensable Herb Cornish, who had the gift of being able to do almost anything, and doing it well. Mr. Floyd had ample office space in the building now occupied by the Canadian Legion Branch.

The “mine” was situated in Princeton, within a few feet of the north bank of the Tulameen River, just beyond the bridge. Mr. Floyd took a prominent part in Board of Trade activities, and on one occasion reported to this body that his men were now nearing the main seam, and gave the exact day and hour when it would be contacted. He painted a glowing picture of the expansion that would follow, but the great day came and passed and little was heard about the mine. It is doubtful whether prophecy raised expectation among oldtimers who were “from Missouri.”

THE BLACK MINE

This mine was named for the property owner, A.S. Black, a prominent lawyer in Princeton for many years. He and Perly Russell were the backbone of the local Conservative association. The mine was six miles from town, and reached by a road into Findlay coal basin. In 1929 it was leased by Haigh and Winter of Princeton, who did an immense amount of work on the property, locating and grading a new road to the mine, and building tipple and bunkers. In 1938 it was operated by the Glover Trust Syndicate, with Francis Glover as manager. Only a few men were employed. Production was expected, but no great amount of coal was brought to the surface.

Granby took over the Black mine in 1947, and in December of that year the Marwell Construction Co. Ltd. of Vancouver, undertook to strip-mine it, and supply coal for the Granby power plant. Fred Mannix & Co. Ltd. continued the operation in the year 1949 with B. Montgomery as superintendent, but operations were suspended at end of March, pit fenced and mine abandoned. Some hand-stripping was done in December, 1951 by R.B. Savage and three partners.

GRANBY

It may be remembered that the Princeton Coal and Land Co. mine, the first in Similkameen, after it had been taken over by the George Stringer interests, took an option on coal lands at Findlay Creek, and started developing prospects in 1923. Nine years later a new coal mine was opened by the lessees of Lots 970 and 385, near Bromley Creek, five miles south-west of Princeton. In this development Percy W. Gregory was agent for Princeton Properties Ltd., which took over the assets of the company. In 1906 a hole 863 feet deep had been sunk by Alex Sharpe with promising results.

The Bromley Vale Collieries Ltd. was organized (1932) with Randolph Haig president and P.W. Gregory secretary. In 1934 the Bromley Vale mine was operated by the Cascade Coal Co. Ltd. and in 1936 by the Black Diamond Collieries Ltd. The Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Co. Ltd. comes into the picture in 1937. Coal was trucked from the Granby Colliery four miles to the bunkers on the north bank of the Similkameen, then conveyed across the river to the Granby steam power plant. Thos. M. Wilson was manager, and 97 men were employed in 1933.

Because of high operating costs, and labour troubles, the mine was closed on 4 December, 1943, after producing 464,368 tons of coal during the preceding seven years. Granby power plant used an average of 210 tons of coal daily.

Under the name of Tulameen Collieries Ltd., with T.M. Wilson manager, work was done at Tulameen No. 3 mine and Pleasant Valley No. 4 in 1946. This latter was the only mine operated by the company in 1949.

OSCAR LIND MINE

Frans Oscar Lind, who died on 21 January, 1956, began the development of the Allison Flat Mine later known as the Tulameen Valley Coal Co. Mine. Begun in 1935, it was taken over by this company in 1936, and was run by W.D. Seaman, who represented American capital. During the winter of 1938 there were 57 men employed, and this number increased later.

The miners were organized under the United Mine Workers of America, and there was considerable trouble during the winter of 1942, when T.A. McCloy represented the miners in negotiations. Eventually organization under the UMWA was recognized, and for a time work progressed smoothly. But there were troubles of other sorts and this mine, too, was forced to close.

BRITISH LAND LTD.

Since the Tulameen Valley Coal Co. mine was closed no coal mining on a comparable scale has been done in Similkameen. Charles H. Jackson, for the British Lands Ltd., in 1941 worked a prospect six miles by road south-west of Princeton, and continued interest in this for a number of years.

Adjoining the British Lands property, the Taylor prospect was recorded in December, 1945, in the north half of Lot 88, Yale Division. This same year Elmer Burr had a crew of three men working on lots 292, 103, 102, on the Similkameen River south of Princeton, with James Taylor in charge. In 1946 the Taylor Burson Coal Co. Ltd. was formed. A new prospect was opened up on Lot 300, six miles south of

Princeton, in 1947. These properties, with James Fairley and a small crew, continued with varying success for a few years.

Arthur W. Hewitt explored a prospect on Lot 1133, Yale Division, in April, 1951. The licence was assigned to Robert Evans in July, 1953; and transferred to M.J. Mullin in June, 1954, in which year operations were suspended.

M.J. Mullin and sons in 1948 secured a 121 acre coal claim one mile south-east of Princeton, and for the next few years did some exploration work.

COALMONT AND BLAKEBURN

These efforts may seem small in the light of past history, but they represent the work of men who still have faith in the future. In dealing with the history of Coalmont and Blakeburn it may not be amiss to start at the end of the story, for this links it with Princeton history. In 1955, coal licences 69 and 70, covering Lots 297 and 298, were transferred from Ed Mullin to Mullin's Strip Mine Ltd. Twelve men were employed, including nine truck drivers, transporting coal from Blakeburn to the Granby Power Plant. This operation continued till the Granby mines were closed in 1957. In the Princeton and Tulameen areas today there are practically no operating mines, but we refuse to believe that this chapter in our history is closed. We still think that, in ways hardly dreamed of today, the best is yet to be.

The provincial mining report for 1908 notes development work on coal outcrops at Granite Creek and Collins Gulch which runs north into the Tulameen east of its junction with Otter Creek. It is not known that the Collins for whom the gulch was named had anything to do with the Collins expedition of 1860. It is usually stated that "a man named Bonthrong" discovered and prospected for coal near the site of Blakeburn and at the gulch. Nearest approach to the discoverer's name in mining reports index is Bonthrone, but date references suggest no connection with coal discoveries in Tulameen.

A number of local men interested themselves in financing development of prospects. These included Isaac McTavish, a kindly, canny Scot of ample proportions, who for many years ran the Coalmont store, now operated by Walton W. Smart. Mr. McTavish died at New Westminster on 15 October, 1950, in his 75th year. The sawmill begun at Tulameen late in 1909 supplied much of the lumber for the growing Coalmont. There was great rejoicing when the GNR arrived in 1911. Progress was assured. By l911 Coalmont was assuming the appearance of a prosperous business centre. "The Coalmont Courier" was established in 1912, with Ed. N. Clark editor-manager. The front page carries the proud boast: "Circulates in every home in Princeton, East Princeton, Tulameen, Aspen Grove, Merritt, Nicola, Hedley, Keremeos and around the terrestrial globe." It proclaims itself to be "the largest newspaper in the province, outside Kamloops, Vernon and Vancouver" (One wonders about Victoria). Coalmont is featured as "The City of Destiny – Coming Coal Metropolis of Southern British Columbia, with a population of 10,000 in the near future."

One advertisement urges prospective buyers of lots to "Take time by the forelock: she has no back hair". Hotels and places of business were not afraid to buy space. Granite Creek Hotel (H. Goodison) has "good stabling in connection". Hotel Otter Flat (Mrs. E.J. Henderson) offers "good fishing and boating". Coalmont Hotel (L.N. Marcotte) assures its patrons of "courteous attention and first-class accomodation". F.P. Cook completed his Coalmont store in 1912. J. Jackson had "Livery and Feed Stables" at Coalmont and Tulameen. Ruddy's Restaurant catered to travellers, and Lin Kee did the laundry. Henderson & Tilson at Tulameen, and Tilson and Co. at Coalmont, sold dry-goods. James Clarke, jeweller and watchmaker, had a Coalmont agency run by A.D. Worgan. These items are interesting in themselves, but still more so as illustrating the mood of the moment, and the faith people had in the future based on an expanding coal industry.

As with Granite Creek, so with Coalmont and Blakeburn there is little today to suggest the magnitude of former operations, following the discovery of coal, and the organization in 1910 of the Columbia Coal & Coke Co. Ltd., with Mr. Parrish of Winnipeg and J.T. Johnston of Vancouver as president and vice-president. The company acquired ten square miles of coal lands in the Tulameen Valley. The railway came in 1911 (GNR), and by 1912 seventy men were on the company payroll.

The Columbia Company sank a 2000 ft. tunnel in Fraser's Gulch; a diamond drill hole of equal depth half a mile farther west and some tunnels and slopes at Bear's Den. The place was so named because a wandering bear fell through the roof of one of the cabins while the occupants were at home.

To read the local papers of the time one would never have dreamed that the company was in financial straits, but such must have been the case for operations were suspended in the fall of 1912.

COALMONT COLLIERIES

The property was acquired (1913) by the McEvoy Trust Co., and operated under the name of "A. McEvoy, Trustee Operators, Coalmont Collieries". Of this new company Arthur McEvoy of Vancouver was president; and A.N. Canting vice-president and general manager with residence at Coalmont. A.H. Douglas, Vancouver, was secretary; and A. Ford, acting superintendent. In 1914 the output was 4850 tons. This was hauled by horse teams from Blakeburn to Coalmont. During spring and summer fifty men were employed.

BLAKE WILSON AND PADDY BURNS

For a time war conditions made mine operations difficult. The Coalmont Collieries was closed during 1916. The following year work was resumed under a Vancouver syndicate, with Alexander Sharpe manager. Then the Coalmont Collieries Ltd. was organized (capital $3,000,000) with W.J. Blake Wilson president, L. Parrish vice-president, A.H. Douglas secretary-treasurer; and Donald McLean, manager (Coalmont) and Thomas Bysouth fireboss. The 1918 output was 5744 tons. W. Garrison of Princeton hauled the coal to Coalmont by horse-truck in summer and by team and sleigh in wintertime. The following year the hauling was done by Monroe and McKay. During the summers of 1918-19-20 the coal was hauled in five-ton trucks owned by Merlin McLeod and operated by F. Pope and C. Lucas.

The aerial tramway installed in the fall of 1920, was 15,110 feet long, and had a carrying capacity of one ton per minute. By 1924, when George Murray was appointed manager, 284 men were employed and the output for that year was 149,080 tons.

A 1600 ft. tunnel was driven at an elevation of about 3800 feet to tap the coal seam in No. 4 mine at a lower level. The 1927 payroll exceeded half a million dollars.

The mine was 1600 feet above the tipple at Coalmont. In 1930 John G. Biggs, district mines inspector, described Blakeburn and Coalmont "the largest, most important coal operation in Princeton district." Around 300 men were employed. It was a good camp, and all men who worked there enjoyed a measure of content and well-being denied men elsewhere in the early years of the Depression.

BLACK WEDNESDAY

The Thirteenth of August, 1930, will be remembered as the darkest day in the long history of Similkameen. On that Wednesday in No. 4 mine at Blakeburn, occurred one of the most disastrous mine explosions in our provincial history, resulting in the death of forty-five men. Of the forty-six men who were in the mine at the time, only one was able to stagger to safety. He was John Porchello, who was not far from the entrance when the blast came.

It so happened that mines inspector John G. Biggs was about to enter the mine when the explosion happened. Within a matter of minutes he and George Murray (manager) were organizing relief measures. Workers dug feverishly in the gas-laden air to reach their comrades, but none were ever brought out alive. The anguish of wives, mothers and children, bravely hoping against hope, spurred volunteer workers to tireless endeavor. It was days before all the bodies were recovered. Those who looked on learned that the price of coal was not measured in terms of dollars and cents alone.

The victims of the disaster were buried in Princeton cemetery; some under Roman Catholic auspices, the rest by The United Church. The first funeral service was for Albert Cole, age 19 on August 17. The last was for John Connell Smith, age 36, on September 4, 1930.

Blakeburn Relief Fund was organized by the Princeton Board of Trade with W. A. Wagenhauser as chairman, and Dave Taylor secretary. Money poured from every part of the province, the total reaching over $33,000. Disbursements were handled by a Permanent Committee at Blakeburn, of which J. Ovington was chairman, E.G. Lucas (manager of the Royal Bank at Coalmont) was secretary, and William McKinnon, treasurer. In addition to this there was a separate United Church fund, and this was handled by the local minister, Rev. J.G. Reid, who lived at Coalmont. Every cent received was distributed in benefits, expenses being absorbed by the Company and the Bank.

The exact cause of the explosion was never determined. The various theories advanced are discussed in the lengthy report submitted by Thomas Graham in the annual report of the Minister of Mines for 1930 (pp. 338 ff.) Many left Blakeburn after the disaster. Those who remained returned to work, and production of coal was resumed, though on a smaller scale than formerly. On the 28th of October the Princeton United Church choir travelled to Blakeburn and gave a concert. We had had rain in the valley and snow had fallen at Blakeburn. Cars had to have chains. Gerry Brown sent two cars from Coalmont. George Murray brought one from Blakeburn; W.A. Wagenhauser, A.D. Broomfield; W. Paul Garrison and Dr. R. Manson all helped solve the problem of transportation. It was the first concert Blakeburn had had since the disaster. About 200 people were gathered in the cookhouse, and the choir never had a more appreciative audience. It was commonly said that this broke the spell which had hung over Blakeburn since Black Wednesday. Mr. Murray made sure that all the visitors had a hearty supper before returning to Princeton.

After that, things slowly returned to normal, but life was never quite the same again at Coalmont and Blakeburn. It was a blessing for Princeton that Blakeburn kept running all through the depression years. Many of the miners were Scottish, and Burns' Night was observed annually on the poet's birthday. Gerry Brown always gave the toast "To the Haggis" in his own inimitable way. At other times in the year there were dances and various sports. So, that Blakeburn was a happy family.

IT WAS A GOOD BLAKEBURN

By the time the end came in 1940 the Depression was over, but Princeton was sorry to see Blakeburn close down. Some notes written on Monday, 8 April, 1940, may be included here:

"Billy Hazzard had agreed to take me to Blakeburn for service there tonight. As arranged he called at the manse at 6:30. The day had been fine; the evening was cool, the sky clear, and the road dry. In less than an hour we were at our destination.

"We had hardly begun our journey when Billy said the Blakeburn whistle had blown for the last time today. He had seen some of the Blakeburn people in Princeton, and the news was authentic…When we arrived there, Billy said, "Well, the power plant's still running." The lights were on. He parked in front of the bunkhouse and prepared for a nap while I went to the church. A good fire was on, and the place was warm. Mrs. C.B. Hill, Mrs. Frank Barnes, Mrs. R. Murray, Miss Madge Jones (school teacher), Mr.

and Mrs. Tewey Barnes, the Cole girls (who sang “The ‘Old Rugged Cros’ unaccompanied), and a few others, made up the congregation.

“Stella Olsen was not there to play the organ. At the close of the service eight, besides myself, partook of communion. Soon after 9 o’clock I left with Billy Hazard for Princeton. Soon after I arrived home, the radio broadcast the news that Norway had declared war on Germany, which had attacked Denmark and invaded Norway. German troops had occupied Copenhagen. Listeners are advised to tune in for further news.” History was made at home and abroad the day Blakeburn closed down. Some time after this, Mrs. W. Cole, writing to “The Merritt Herald,” told of happy days in the mining camp, and added, “It was a good Blakeburn.”

PEOPLE AND PLACE-NAMES

Coalmont was so named because of the belief that there was a mountain of coal which could be stripped and operated by steamshovels. It was the railway port for Blakeburn.

Blakeburn was so named for W.J. Blake Wilson and Patrick Burns, who were the largest shareholders in the company that mined the area. Mr. Wilson died in Vancouver on 22 June, 1934, aged 68. At the time of his death he was president and managing director of Burns & Co. Ltd.

Senator Patrick Burns, the last of Canada’s great cattle kings, died in Calgary on Wednesday, 24 February, 1937. In 1928 he sold his meat packing business for $15,000,000 and was appointed to the Red Chamber in 1931. He and Mr. Wilson were the driving forces behind the Blakeburn coal mining operations which had a lasting influence on the history of Similkameen.

CHAPTER 7

COPPER MEANT "WORK AND WAGES"

For many years the prosperity of our valley was reflected in the rise and fall of copper prices on the stock market. The period of copper mining in Similkameen came to an end in 1957. There is still abundance of copper in the earth. How long it will be before copper mining is resumed depends on many factors, including supply and demand, and a return of conditions which make production profitable. Copper mining has employed as many men in the valley as gold mining. Copper and Kennedy mountains, Hope Trail, etc. – but only at Copper Mountain did large-scale production take place.

Allison had noted copper on the Hope Trail in 1859 and later located claims in the vicinity. Kennedy Mountain was named for a prospector who died in 1933. Hugh Kennedy belonged to the Robert Dick and Thomas Edward type made famous by Samuel Smiles a generation ago. Kennedy's shack was little more than a place to keep fossils and curios of every kind. Kennedy and McDiarmid located in 1897, E.E. Burr and L.H. Jones in 1898, and George Allison staked the Red Buck in 1899.

Copper Mountain is ten miles south of Princeton, and is reached by a twelve-mile road. There was a KVR branch line running south along the Similkameen to the primary crushing plant. The railway passed through the Allenby mill-site at 5.5 miles south of Princeton, and continued 7.7 miles to base of Copper Mountain, which lies between the Similkameen River to the west and Wolfe Creek to the east.

The valleys of the Similkameen River and its tributaries are separated from each other by founded mountains covered with fir and pine. There is an absence of peaks in this part of the interior plateau which rises from the depression (2000 ft) around Princeton to 4,000 ft. at Copper Mountain, and to 6000 ft. where it merges with the rugged Cascades.

Various dates have been given for the discovery of rich ore at Copper Mountain, but in "Geology and Mineral Deposits of the Princeton map-area, British Columbia" (Geological Survey memoir 243, Ottawa, 1947), H.M.A. Rice states (p. 82) that the "first discovery of copper ore was made by a trapper in 1884, but it was not until 1892 that the showing was staked by R.A. Brown. In 1900 the Sunset Copper Company was formed to explore the claims, and in 1905 the property was optioned by F. Keffer, who formed the South Yale Copper Company."

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

The trapper referred to in the above quotation was James Joseph Jameson, senior, who was born in Kentucky of English and Swedish parents in 1828. Coming to Canada, he settled first in the North Thompson country then in Similkameen, where he died on 18 June, 1891 in his 64th year. He is remembered as farmer, prospector, trapper, packer and hunter. Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jameson (senior) there is (so far as we know) only one survivor; Amanda (Mrs. Duncan McIntyre) known as "Mandy." For many years the McIntyres lived at East Princeton, where the sawmill is now. Walter Jameson who was blind, died in 1946. Bob (Robert Edward Lee Jameson) died on 3 May, 1951, and his elder brother, James Joseph (junior) died at the coast, on 29 July, 1951 and was buried in the Jameson cemetery off the old Hedley road just east of the Art Shenton Ranch.

James Joseph, junior, was born north of Kamloops on 27 August, 1864. The family moved to Similkameen in 1882 and settled on the site now occupied by Atkinson's dairy. In his prime, James stood six feet, two inches and weighed 220 lbs. Like his father before him, the son learned the ways of the hills, and was often employed as a packer. He learned to know of hidden wealth in the hills and claimed to have discovered gold at Granite Creek ten years before the big rush was started by John Chance in 1885. He used to maintain that he was 18 years old when he and his father discovered ore at Copper Mountain. This would make the date of discovery 1882, two years earlier than the date given by Mr. Rice.

The two Jamesons (James Joseph – father and son) went hunting one day. They had new rifles and were anxious to test them. According to the story told by the son, both the hunters spotted a deer at the same time: both fired, both hit, and the deer went down. Then they proceeded without haste to where the deer lay. Just as they neared it, the deer jumped to its feet, and bounded into the woods. They never saw it again, but at the spot where the deer had fallen the father recognized a greenish tinge in the rock, and was wise enough to know that it suggested copper. Such is the story, as told to the writer by the younger of the co-discoverers of copper at Copper Mountain.

In 1917, when living in Hedley the son was married to Miss Elsie Bryant, who survived him. Miss Bryant's father William Bryant, had the old Similkameen hotel at Hedley. It was built in 1904 and destroyed by fire in February, 1916. When the writer came to Princeton in 1927, the Jamesons were living in the big house (formerly a hotel) on the Ashnola townsite. After it was burned down in November, 1946, the Jamesons moved to East Princeton.

If there be some doubt regarding date of discovery, there need be no doubt as to date of recording, for we have documentary evidence of this. We have field notes of "Lot 1077, being Sunset mineral claim…surveyed by Chas. De Blois Green for R.A. Brown," often referred to as "Sunset Brown." The record appears under "Lands & Works Department, Victoria, 26 August, 1898."

"The length of the claim is 1500 feet. The claim was located on the 28th day of Oct., 1892. Recorded this 30th day of October, 1892." The survey was begun on 13th and completed on 14th May, 1898. A number of claims were recorded by James Jameson and R.A. Brown. Brown was interested in furs and visited Jameson periodically. It was in this way that he learned of Jameson's copper discoveries, and became interested in mineral claims in the vicinity. The Sunset was the first claim located on Copper Mountain. The names of other claims soon became familiar: Helen H. Gardiner (Charles Saunders and partners, owners), Oriol (French, Day, Almond, owners), Jennie Silkman (French and Day), King Solomon (Snowden and Burr), Holdfast, Vancouver, Sunrise, Copper Farm, Princess May, Red Eagle, Triangle, A a P. (Charlie Willarson, Johnson, Cramer and Morrison).

VOIGT'S CAMP

The South Yale Copper Company for a time concentrated on the Voigt Camp, and in 1911 renewed their option on the Copper Mountain properties. In the 1910 Report of the Minister of Mines for B.C., p. 224 we read that "Copper Mountain has been extensively prospected by the B.C. Copper Company," and that the camp has progressed little since it was reported on by Mr. Robertson in 1901. At the Mountain and at Voigt's Camp development work continued by means of diamond drilling, open cuts, trenching, tunnelling and shallow shafts.

At various times a number of companies took options on Emil Voigt's properties, but no purchase was effected. It is common report that Voigt was offered large sums for his claims, but offers never equalled demands. Their dreams were never realized, for Mr. and Mrs. Voigt both died before property sales were effected. A few yards from the southern summit of Wolfe Creek hill is a fenced plot enclosing three graves: "Emil F. Voigt, Age 70 years, died April 5, 1927," and "Mary A. Voigt, died Sept. 14, 1925, age 55 years." In between these two graves was the grave of their son, Victor.

Meanwhile ore treatment difficulties had been solved, and in 1914 Pardoe Wilson surveyed a railway branch line from Princeton to Copper Mountain. In 1916 a power contract was arranged with the West Kootenay Power Company. Expenses entailed necessitated the formation of a new company, the Canada Copper Corporation, which controlled and financed the older organization. Progress was retarded through labour troubles, and the shipping of ore to the mill did not begin till 18 October, 1920. Then the war price of copper dropped to thirteen cents, and the mill was closed on 9 December, 1920.

The concentration plant at Allenby was completed by the end of 1919, and electric power was supplied by Kootenay beginning 19 October, 1920.

GRANBY LOOKS AHEAD

The mine and mill remained inactive during 1921 and 1922, but the exhaustion of ore bodies at Greenwood made the Granby Mining, Smelting & Power Co. Ltd. anxious to secure new properties. A letter from this company (1922) advised its share-holders that the Canada Copper Corporation was being reorganized, and in 1923 it was absorbed by the Allenby Copper Co. in the Granby interests. Development of the property under supervision of L.R. Clapp was begun (1923) but acquisition of the Allenby Copper Co. Ltd. was not completed till October, 1926. Decline in price of copper in 1924 caused further delay, and work at Allenby and Copper Mountain was suspended.

Early 1925, under the managership of Charles Bocking, with H.C. Smith as resident manager, operations were resumed. This time there was an air of optimism, a feeling that the trade winds were about to blow. The war years (1914 – 18) had been difficult years yet work done had indicated faith in the future. Oscar Lachmund was general manager of the B.C. Copper Co. when war broke out. From 1912 – 1918 F.R. Norcross, Jr. was superintendent of work at Copper Mountain. Store, offices, bunkhouses, power-line, pumping plant, tunnelling were among projects completed. In 1918 Mr. Norcross resigned to take a commission in the American Engineers, and Mr. Lachmund was succeeded by H. van Wagenen as general manager, with P. Crane mine superintendent and Van Smith mill superintendent.

The mill was brought to capacity in 1926. The tailings contaminated the Similkameen River so the Company purchased Hitchings Flat between Allenby and Princeton, and constructed a flume to the tailings pond near the cemetery. This pond was greatly extended during the summer and fall of 1941 and was constructed by the Interior Contracting Co. (A.S. Hatfield, manager), and extended from the Copper Mountain Road to the golf course with, the retaining wall running parallel to the Hedley highway.

Reports (1926) tell of the Allenby houses, 54 in number, being painted. There were 138 employees. Store and mess house were rented to Al Almstrom.

During the summer months (1926) half the ore mined at the Mountain was taken from three major glory holes. There were 44 dwelling houses and bunk-house accomodation for 218 men. The Mountain store was rented to W.A. Wagenhauser of Princeton, who appointed William Lindsay in charge. During the year 665,508 tons of ore were mined and shipped to Allenby by two ore trains a day.

BUNK-HOUSE FIRE

The most serious disaster to visit Copper Mountain was the bunkhouse fire on 18 March, 1928. At that time, Jack McLaughlin was superintendent at the Mountain, with Steve Swanson mine foreman. Nine men were burned to death, and many more were injured. With the exception of H.W. Towl, whose remains were shipped to Penticton, all were buried in Princeton cemetery on 23 March. Ministers of Anglican and United churches conducted funeral service in the Orange Hall, which was then opposite the Star office. A year later a service was held when the memorial cairn was dedicated in Princeton cemetery. The plaque bears this inscription:

“In memory of Ralph P. Bassett, 1888; Patrick J. Dermody, 1863; James McKay, 1875; Daniel A. McPherson, 1875; Alex Matheson, 1882; Nils Solid, 1898; Martin Swanson, 1871; H. William Towl, 1885; William H. Upjohn, 1900. These men lost their lives in the fire at Copper Mountain, B.C. March Eighteenth, 1928. Erected by Copper Mountain Athletic Association.” During the year a new bunkhouse was built to replace the one destroyed by fire.

Friday 11 April, 1930 was a redletter day in Copper Mountain for on this date the community hall was officially opened. This was one of the finest halls in the interior of the province. Outside measurements were 102 ft. by 42 ft. with auditorium 72 ft. by 42 ft. By this time Canada was already suffering from the world-wide depression, and the people of Copper Mountain felt quite sure that the new hall was a token of continued prosperity. It did not seem logical to them that such a splendid building should be opened if the Company were about to close down. They were to continue in this happy frame of mind for some months yet.

At the beginning of May, 1930 H.C. Smith was appointed assistant general manager, and R.L. Healy of Vancouver succeeded Mr. Smith at Allenby. V.G. Anderson became mine superintendent at the Mountain when John A. McLaughlin left to fill an important assignment in Russia. At the farewell banquet Ned Nelson expressed the regrets of many friends at the departure of Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin.

It was not long after this that failing copper prices forced Granby to close its operation at Allenby and the Mountain. The Lieutenant-Governor, R.R. Bruce, visited Copper Mountain early in November, 1930, just before the shut down; also Blakeburn where the disastrous explosion had occurred in August of that year. On his first official visit (May 1929) he was accompanied by his niece, Miss Helen Mackenzie. On Saturday, 11 May, 1929, the vice-regal party motored from Penticton to Keremeos, and on to Hedley and Princeton. Here he was greeted by the skirl of the pipes, and the whole town turned out to do him honour. At every community in Similkameen and Tulameen valleys they received a royal welcome.

So it was again in 1930, but this time there was a very different atmosphere. His honour spoke of the impending closing of Granby operations and at the reception in the Mountain community hall he spoke brave words of encouragement, and voiced the hope that before long the trade winds would blow again. Work at the mine and the mill stopped on 15 November, and was not resumed till the late fall of 1936, when preparations to reopen mine and mill were begun.

The long years of the Depression are described elsewhere in this story. Some left Copper Mountain, but many stayed on. Very few could find work elsewhere, and essential services were maintained by the Company. But they were weary years, during which people learned how to wait.

WHISTLE BLOWS AGAIN

Although preparations were begun late in 1936 to reopen the mine and mill, it was not until 12 June, 1937 that the mine was reopened and ore shipments resumed to the Allenby concentrator. This date we have from A.S. Baillie in his Preface to “A Half Century of Mining in British Columbia,” a souvenir brochure issued by the Granby Company to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its activities. Mr. Baillie quotes the first specific date in the Company’s history in the 1899 report by A.B.W. Hodges, then superintendent: “About the latter end of June, 1891, returned to Grand Forks and commenced the clearing of the land and grading of the smelter site and also the grading of the flume.” Company operations in and around Grand Forks continued till 20 June, 1919. Granby acquired the interest of the Hidden Creek Copper Company at Anyox in 1910. The smelter there was blown in during March 1914, and continued in operation till July, 1935. Operations at Anyox came to an end during the Depression. In December, 1935 the shareholders decided to liquidate the company and N.L. Amster and A.S. Baillie were appointed liquidators. After disposing of the assets they recommended that the Granby should re-open the mine at Copper Mountain and the concentrator at Allenby.

Mr. Baillie was the moving spirit in this transfer of company activities, and to him Similkameen was indebted for much of the prosperity that continued for twenty years. The power plant site at Princeton was acquired in December, 1936, and excavation commenced on 2 January, 1937. The foundry at Allenby was constructed in March and April, 1937. The provincial mining report for that year lists Mr. Baillie as president and general manager of the company, with W.R. Lindsay general superintendent, George Buckle mine manager, Walter I. Nelson, general manager; A.W. Seaton, treasurer (1939 Report). By the

end of 1937 there were 509 men employed, and 3000 tons of ore per day were being mined. The power plant was built under the supervision of A.C.R. Yuill, with the assistance of J.W. Southin, who remained in charge until he was succeeded by A.R. Eastcott, who remained till operations closed in 1957.

R.S. Douglas was appointed mine superintendent. A photograph in the Granby anniversary souvenir (p. 27) shows members of the Company operating staff in 1940: L.H. McKay mill superintendent, K.C. Fahrni, chief geologist, J.A.C. Ross, assistant mine superintendent and J.C. Dumbrille assistant to the president.

A serious accident occurred at the Mountain on Wednesday, 4 August, 1937, when seventeen men were injured (many of them seriously) following a break in the hoisting apparatus which resulted in the man-cage crashing to the bottom. Dr. R.J. Wride and Dr. Paul Phillips were on the scene in record time. The relief train reached Princeton that evening, and trucks and ambulances were waiting to take the injured to the hospital. During the next twenty years there were no more such serious accidents at Copper Mountain or at Allenby, and the Granby held an enviable record for "Safety First."

WAR AND POLITICS

For some time after World War II broke out in September, 1939 Copper Mountain continued to ship copper to Japan. This aroused a protest from Church ladies of Princeton and elsewhere. "The Case for Copper Export" was stated in a Princeton Star editorial on 18 July, 1940. The situation was far more complicated than many realized. The export of Granby concentrates was made with the knowledge and approval of the Canadian and British governments. The following paragraph from the editorial noted gives some idea of what Granby operation meant to Similkameen: "Since the Granby began reopening and reconditioning its properties at Copper Mountain and Allenby in 1937 it has expended the following sums: Plant additions and improvements $1,660,000; for wages, $3,900,000; for supplies $2,750.00; Income taxes (including an estimate for the first half of 1940) $475,000; and for dividends $405,000." At that time Canada was not at war with Japan; the whole situation was changed after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour, and there was no longer any question as to stopping copper exports to Japan.

Early in 1944 the Similkameen Industrial Welfare Association was formed. Its first meeting was held in the Princeton Oddfellows hall on 9 January, 1944, to appoint delegates to interview Premier John Hart and members of his cabinet in the hope of preventing a threatened shut-down of copper operations. The lean years of the Depression were still fresh in people's memories and it was determined to do what might be possible to prevent an economic blackout in Similkameen. The delegates elected to represent the Association were George Anderson, key man of the Copper Mountain Miners' Union; J.L. Jenkins of Bretts (Princeton) Garage; and Rev. J.C. Goodfellow of the United Church, Princeton, Mr. Jenkins represented the Board of Trade.

The delegation conferred with Mr. Baillie who stated that the Company was determined to carry on without benefit of subsidy if that were possible, but would like to know the Government's attitude if Company finances were exhausted trying to maintain a going concern. The delegation received a warm welcome from the Premier and his cabinet; and from the leader and members of the Opposition. Bernard G. Webber, member for Similkameen (CCF) arranged the meeting with the cabinet at which were present: John Hart (Premier), R.L. Maitland, K.C. McDonald, E.C. Carson, George Pearson, H. Anscomb, and H.G.T. Perry.

It is difficult to know just how far this meeting contributed to continued operations at the Mountain, but the fact remains that whatever difficulties there may have been were overcome, and work went on.

The provincial mining report for 1945 (p.A.90) notes that diamond-drill system of mining at Copper Mountain has displaced the former percussion-drill method, the new method being called the Horadiam, a word derived from horizontal, radial and diamond. There is noted also a marked decrease in the labour

turnover. Company operations were adversely affected by the nationwide railway strike in 1950, Allenby and the Mountain reporting layoff of 250 men. Had the railway strike continued longer than it did, it is quite possible that operations at the Mountain would not have been resumed.

A.S. BAILLIE RETIRES

The following letter, dated Copper Mountain, 28 February, 1951, signed by Julian B. Beaty, Chairman of the Board of Directors, was addressed to all the employees:

"Effective March 1st, 1951, Mr. Lawrence T. Postle will assume the duties of Vice-President and General Manager of this Company in complete charge of all the Company's operations.

"Although Mr. Baillie will be retiring from active management he will remain with the Company as Vice-President in charge of Finances.

"We are confident that Mr. Postle will receive from all of you the same cooperation and friendship that Mr. Baillie has enjoyed during the many successful years of his administration." In February, 1948, Mr. Baillie had been re-elected president of the Mining Association of British Columbia at its 27th annual meeting with Dale L. Pitt and T.H. Wilson vice-presidents.

Mr. Baillie had presided over the destinies of Copper Mountain and Allenby for nearly fifteen years. It was due to his vision and courage that it was decided in 1936 to resume operations. There were endless problems to be solved before the mine could be running smoothly. Then came the difficult war years with the inevitable shortage of man-power, but under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Baillie all obstacles were overcome and one of the largest copper mines in the world was placed on a sure footing for many years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Baillie took a keen and active interest in the welfare of all the employees, so that the communities at Copper Mountain and Allenby were really like one large family.

ORGANIZED LABOUR

During the decade ending in June, 1949 when Granby celebrated the 50th anniversary of its operations in this province, wages had risen from $4 to $10 per day. Mining costs of ore shipped increased from 53 to 75 cents; and the mine capacity increased from 3400 to 5300 daily shipping tonnage.

The organization of the Labour union in connection with the Mine, Mill & Smelter Union was completed during the Second World War with George Anderson as business secretary. The result of demands made by organized Labour were awaited with interest by all, and with anxiety by some. The Union was fortunate in having some men of insight and character who were a steadying influence in the ranks. Foremost among these was Angus Campbell, who died on Tuesday, 18 November, 1947. In his passing, many felt that "a prince and a great man had fallen in Israel." He was great in simplicity and sincerity, in honesty and uprightness of purpose, and in capacity for friendship and service.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell, Angus came of good, Scottish, Presbyterian stock. He was born at Embro, in the township of West Zorra, Ontario, and brought up on the farm. He was educated at Maple Grove High School, and at Woodstock Baptist College. In 1907 he went to Montana, where he worked as a carpenter; and in 1912 came to British Columbia, working first at Athabaca Landing, then, in 1913, for the Granby Company. From 1915 – 1929 he was with the CPR as trainman and conductor. Then he went to Hedley, and returned to Copper Mountain after operations were resumed there in 1936. He had given deep thought to education, labour and politics, and did not hesitate to support advanced views even to his own hurt.

George Walker Anderson, who became the Union business agent, was born in Peterhead, Scotland, and as a young man, came to Canada, had long been active in the Labour movement. He had

a good command of language, and was not without ability to sway his audience. In his time he had suffered for his convictions. He was fortunate in having at his side a man like Angus Campbell.

In 1946 Labour demanded more than the Company was willing to concede, and this led to a strike which lasted some months. This was the last time that the Union voted for such action, and thereafter steady progress was made, and Labour-Management relations remained on a high level. Each learned to understand and to respect the other.

ANOTHER VICE-REGAL VISIT

Soon after Mr. Postle took charge in 1951, His Honour, Clarence Wallace, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, visited Similkameen on the invitation of the Princeton Board of Trade. He and his party were greatly impressed by their visit to Allenby and Copper Mountain.

During 1952 the Mountain crew averaged 560, and 431 underground. At the end of the year, between the Mountain, Allenby and the Power Plant, there were 853 men on the payroll; and the average daily production was 4895 tons. Open pit mining began and increased each year. The new order was "More machinery and fewer men." During 1953 there were 96 men hired: 260 quit or were laid off, reducing the working force to 164.

In April, 1957, J.A.C. Ross (General Manager) indicated that copper prices made continued operation of the mine impossible and the mine closed at the end of April. Employees had been given ample warning as to what was about to happen. The end did not come as a surprise. There had already been many farewell parties for those who left before the mine closed.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hale left in June, 1954, though members of their family continued till 1957. Both the Hales came from Nova Scotia. Mrs. Hale should have had a medal for services rendered to the community. The work she did for many years conducting a large Sunday School at the Mountain was beyond praise. The Anglican Church at the Mountain was dedicated on 17 June, 1953, during the ministry of Rev. Grant Dale. A Roman Catholic Church had also been built, also a Pentecostal Church. United Church services were held in the school before the Anglican Church was built.

Every community service and organization was established at Allenby and Copper Mountain – schools, churches, PTA, Canadian Legion, First Aid, Mine Rescue, Library, Community League, restaurant, pool room, store, picture shows. Now all are memories. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides added a picturesque touch at the annual services sponsored by the Legion on the Sunday nearest the 11 November. The Christmas Trees, strung with coloured lights, and clearly seen at night by travellers on the road to Hope, made an unforgettable picture. "1957" marked the end of another chapter in the long history of Similkameen.

SIMILKAMEEN
HISTORY BOOSTERS

PRINCETON MEMBERS:

C. Boulier
Mrs. Elsi Boulier
Mrs. Helen Kolbo
Miss Yvonne Richardson
H. Karvonen
Lloyd A. Hoffman
N.H. Cromie
Ruby Bey
E.G. Willis
Mrs. Hanna Willis
Robert W. King
Jane I. Goodfellow
Christie D. Goodfellow
Ruth Goodfellow
Eric M. Goodfellow
Arthur D. Thomas
Diane E. Thomas
William Arthur Thomas
Patrick W. Kelly
Mrs. J.C. Goodfellow
Albert Daley
A.M.A. Stenvold
Miss Shirley Kelly
Harold Allison
Lorna Allison
Linda Allison
Patricia Allison
Dennis Allison
James W. Allin
Mrs. C.V. Prosser
John Vanderspek
Mrs. C. Vanderspek
Sonja Currie
John Ewart
Carl Stenvold
S.G. Mills
N. Littlewood
Barbara Towriss
C. Gavin Davis
Mrs. F.G. Veale
George Kirby
Elmer E. Burr
A.E. Kolbo
James Corrie
E.J. Rotherham
Mrs. Dora Gellatly
Charles A. Bernard
T.O. Lessard

E.W. Nowell
Mrs. E.W. Nowell
Allan Gill
Mrs. Edith Gill
C.V. Prosser
John Allison
Mrs. Kathleen Allison
Harry Elias
Colin Cameron
Thomas A. Cameron
J.A. Jacobson
L.Q. Wilson
Calvin Willard Huey
Mrs. Ethel Huey
Wallace A. McBryde
Mabel E. McBryde
Roy E. Thomas
Ruby F. Baillie
Stan Thompson
Jim Fairley
R. Miller
Janet Hardin
Stan Wilson
Emily Miller
Clayton V. Hamilton
Frank Pesut
Sam Langford
Ken Mansfield
J.D. Spafford
Don Atkinson
M.C. Parkinson
Robert Taylor
Mrs. Robert Taylor
Laurie Currie
Mrs. John Ewart
E.H. Cook
J. Edmund Gott
Elizabeth G. Smith
G.J. Norman
Roy E. Lind
F.G. Veale
G.A. Taylor
S.A. Gould
R.J. D'Angelo
M.O. Pomp Heap
Mrs. Helen Corrie
Mrs. A.M. Rotherham
Mrs. E. Watreman
T.D. Hardin
Mrs. A.L. White

OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS:

Mrs. Ralph L. Arthur
1903 Cedar Crescent
Vancouver, B.C.
William D. Bees
2936 Alberta St.
Vancouver, B.C.
John M. Goodfellow
3328 W 13th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.
F.M. Peebles
Tulameen, B.C.
W.W. Smart
Coalmont, B.C.
Grant Young
Osoyoos, B.C.
Sue Young
Osoyoos, B.C.
Alan Young
Osoyoos, B.C.
Kathy-Sue Young
Osoyoos, B.C.
Mrs. H. Lawrence
Hedley, B.C.
Mrs. W. Innis
Keremeos, B.C.
Cliff Schisler
Kitimat, B.C.
C.N. Peebles
Tulameen, B.C.
Mrs. C.N. Peebles
Tulameen, B.C.
Albert E. Byrne
20 Brien Ave. Altrincham
Cheshire, England
J. Ray, Jr.
Kamloops, B.C.
Ron Allison
Kinnaird, B.C.
Shirley Allison
Kinnaird, B.C.
Lynne Allison
Kinnaird, B.C.
Robert John
Fernie, B.C.
H.Lawrence
Hedley, B.C.
W.A. Lode
Keremeos, B.C.
George Cornish
Box 437 Lake Cowichan