

# LYTTON MUSEUM

## and ARCHIVES

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420 Fraser Street, Lytton, B.C.

Issue Number 1

### A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF YOUR MUSEUM

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- Curator & Archivist

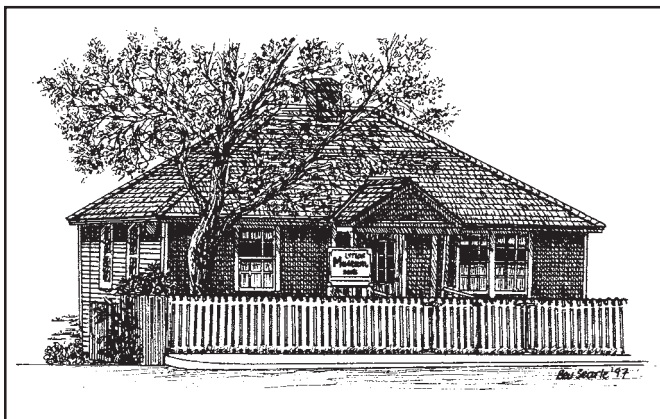
We had a busy year, with close to 900 visitors from all over the world.

Many former Lyttonites from as far back as the 1920's came to see us, to tell us their stories and share their pictures with us. Some have sent us artifacts, such as the spittoon from the Globe Hotel, or the Rosary that belonged to the Hautier family, and many more items that were originally used by their families in Lytton.

We have been asked to do many genealogical researches for families working on their family trees.

A number of markers in the Highway Cemetery have now been tied into our Lytton history because of these requests.

There are now over a thousand pictures in our archives. We have photocopied them, labeled them, and mounted them in 'Browse Binders', so that they are available for viewing by the public. Copies of most of these pictures can be ordered from the museum. Our Archives are not very extensive yet, but



there are some very interesting windows to the past included in them. We also have a Reference system that is worth investigating. We have Census lists from 1881, and voters lists from the 1880's.

We are fortunate in many ways. Funds are always a problem, but the Village has been very supportive in providing our building and maintaining it. There are many expenses, mostly the specialized materials that are needed to house the pictures and materials in the Archives. These are usually paid for by private donations, donations from visitors, and a grant from the Village.

Our volunteers are what keep us going, fixing this and that, building shelves, setting up the Browse Binders (a major job), and one volunteer even got into the Internet and ran off all the births, marriages and death lists for Lytton! By

the way, the original Museum committee also completely renovated the building, all volunteer help!

Our sincere thanks go out to our faithful volunteers: Dorothy Share, Mona Crowston, Lloyd Dodge, Eli Makiev, Chuck Keeble, Peter McArthur, Graham Everett, Frances Van Dyke, Sylvia and Cor

Vandenbos, Richard and Joan Forrest, Peggy and Joe Chute, Val Ablett, Lois Brooks, all the museum committee members and all those who have donated precious family pictures and records.

We have also been very fortunate to win



Do you know this man?  
*See page 3 for the full picture and story.*

approval for various grants over the years.

The Chamber of Commerce has supplied us with a student for the last two summers; we received a Young Canada Works matching grant worth \$3000 to work on the old Village records; a \$1500 matching grant to help set up the Archives originally; a \$900 matching photograph grant; and last but certainly not least, we received a \$2000 matching computer grant, which enabled us to purchase a new computer system and

enter all our records on computer. These grants are mostly 'matched' with volunteer hours.

**Have you been to the museum yet?** Interesting artifacts and pictures of the past are coming in all the time, and when you visit, you will realize that you probably have many items collecting dust in a basement somewhere that could be shared with the community. We accept outright gifts, and also accept materials on loan. Please come - we thrive on visitors!



## DID YOU KNOW.....?

*... that there was a fox farm operating on Pudney Flats? We are currently investigating this story!*

*... that we have a full set of Kumsheen Year-books from 1959 to 1993, courtesy of Joe and Peggy Chute?*

*... that school groups are always welcome? Just make an appointment, call 455-2268.*

*... that the King and Queen of Siam visited Lytton in 1931, and we have a picture!*

*... that the July 1st celebrations in the early 1900's were held in middle of Main street Lytton?*

*... that the old Lytton airport was at various times a racetrack, a baseball field and the site of the famous 'Point-to-Point' race?*



## Lytton Museum & Archives #072

Description: King and Queen of Siam (1931)

Taken at the CPR Station, Lytton. Child presenting flowers is Dorothy Arnold, Lytton citizen.

Archive #: 072

Museum #:

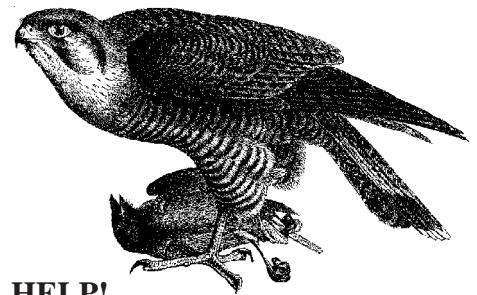
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## ITEMS FOR SALE

- Copies of old photographs
  - Lytton Ski club crests
  - Lytton Rifle Club crests
  - Chunks of Petrified Wood
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## HELP!

We have a SHARP-SHINNED HAWK that needs stuffing. Would anyone like to make a donation towards the costs?

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## NEEDED!

1 only 3-drawer locking file cabinet. Does anyone have one that they wish to sell?

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## **PACIFIC COAST MILITIA RANGERS (PCMR)**

The Lytton Pacific Coast Militia Rangers were formed in 1942, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour in WWII.

This group was made up of those men who were either too old or too young to join the forces. Their uniforms consisted of bone-dry hats, pants and coats.

They did their training at Jackass Flats, where the Jackass Inn was. This training also included target shooting at the old Lytton airport site, which was actually the racetrack at that time.

Neil Hallisey Sr. was the instructor/organizer, with help from the policeman here at that time (B.C. Prov. Police).

There were 20 members, and included Jim Keating, Boots and Art Kent, Lloyd Dodge, Sandy and Jim McKay, Frank Jaggard and Jack Russell, among others. This was an unpaid, voluntary service, from 1942-1945.

## **B.C. DRAGOONS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGERS**

These men were in Lytton to guard the railway bridges. They were here for about a year, then were shipped overseas and WW1 veterans were brought in, including James Paulin Dodge, Dave Marks, Frank Jaggard, Jeff Stevens and Fred Raspberry, among others.

The barracks, consisting of several wooden shacks, were set up in Hobo Hollow.

These veterans were employed by the Dept. of National Defence.



**Lytton Museum & Archives #054**

### **Rocky Mountain Rangers 1940:**

George McGuire, unknown, and Captain Duck standing on the porch of the Brophy House Do you know who the man in the center is? If so, please call the museum at 455-2254 with your information.

Archive #: 054

Museum #: A1997.04.048



### Lytton Museum & Archives #715

Description: Gold Dredge on Fraser River Lytton South (ca 1885)  
Shows native miners on shore using rocker boxes

Archive #: 715

Museum #:

A1998.11.113

Special Note: Please credit: No. 19980 Vancouver Public Library

### A MINER'S EXPERIENCE

by Thomas Seward

(*The Colonist, Victoria, B.C. 1905*)

Thomas Seward became a prospector when he traveled to this part of the world. However, a prospector's life certainly wasn't all roses, and he eventually settled in Lytton and started a ranch approximately three miles up the Lillooet road.

He raised his family there, and after his wife died, he sold the property to the New England Co. and St. George's School was built there.

Mr. Seward went to Victoria, and while there, wrote a series of 10 articles for the Colonist, on his experiences as a

miner. His grandson, Alfred Seward, found a scrapbook in the B.C. Archives that included copies of all ten articles. He ordered a copy for our museum, and it is available for short loan periods. The following is a quote from one of the articles:

"Early one morning at the end of September, I arose and looking from my cabin door towards the river where a smart north wind was ruffling the water, I noticed that the water had fallen two or three feet in the night. Turning to my house partner, Mr. Lampsom, I said with barely concealed elation and excitement, "I shall make a big thing of it today."

And so we all thought.

The whole bar was covered the entire day with men washing and digging with unusual vigor, expecting the big strike. At evening as I dragged wearily home I was met by my friend, who had been detained in the house by illness and whom I had not seen since morning, not even having taken time to snatch a meal: "Oh Joe," he shouted, "how much is it? Tell me quick." Reader, I had just 75 cents in my gold pan.

Yes, after months of toil, buoyed up by the hope of making a fortune when the river was low, despising the paltry \$10 or \$15 I washed out every day, looking on it as a flea-bite with what was ahead, I was not in any way prepared for the disappointment that had befallen me. I had reached the climax of my hopes, low water, and with it my first day's work had yielded 75 cents.

As I sat staring at the lump of gold and quicksilver that lay at the bottom of my gold pan, wondering if it was all a dream or just chance luck, the miners who had been working below me began to troop back to their cabins. As I watched them slowly trooping by, words were not needed to tell me that their luck had been as bad as my own. Their despondent faces and drooping shoulders had failure written only too plainly upon them.

One and all had the same story; the gold was practically finished, for what could be washed out was barely enough to pay for grub, let alone anything else. Still we stayed on, hoping against hope, but with no better luck. Day by day now saw the stampede of the miners who had formed the ranks of the great invading army of the Spring. They passed in canoe loads, boatfuls, anything that would float .....cursing the day that had seen them set foot on the shores of the Fraser."