

LYTTON MUSEUM

and ARCHIVES

March 2005

420 Fraser Street, Lytton, B.C.

Issue 6 Number 1



The North Lytton School — Botanie Valley (ca 1934)

Photo courtesy Lloyd Dodge

SCHOOL DAYS

North Lytton School

The school was a log building, built on the McKay ranch in Botanie Valley. It was built by the local farmers: the McKays, the Loring, and others.

The children attended from Alkali Flats as well as Botanie Valley, and they either walked or rode horses to school, as did the teachers.

Lloyd Dodge was interviewed for this article, as he attended the school from

1933 (Grade 1) to 1939 (Grade 8), and the following are his memories.

In the school they had a big blackboard in the front of the room. The desks were single desks, bolted to pieces of 2x4 and arranged in rows.

Heat was provided by a big 45-gallon drum or barrel wood stove in which the first student to arrive in the morning would start the fire.

They had to pack their water from the

Loring ditch in the summer and Botanie Creek in the winter.

There was a flag pole in front of the school and it was the job of the student monitor to raise the flag in the morning and lower it after school.

The teacher did the janitorial, and the 'outhouse' was out back for the convenience of all.

The teacher taught all grades from 1-8, whoever or however many showed up, and the basics taught were reading, writing (the old McLean style), arithmetic (without calculators, by memorizing the times-table), geography, history, and whatever else was required.

Lloyd feels strongly that by the time he was transferred to Grade 9 in the town school, he had a good grounding in mathematics (and can still quote the times-table!), he had good writing skills and was taught *excellent* spelling skills.

Recess was the time for fun, as it is now. However, at North Lytton the name of the game was horse racing, where there was lots of room to run and most students had their own horses.

That sport was brought to an abrupt end one day when two of the boys decided to go back to the ranch at recess for something. Coming back they raced over a wet, slippery bridge, one of the

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Miss Cawdell (1934)
Photo courtesy Lloyd Dodge

horses fell, nearly killing the rider! No more racing at recess!

Lloyd still remembers several of his teachers: Miss Cawdell, who married into the Bill McKay extended family, Miss Gillespie, Miss Sophie McGregor, and the two sisters by the name of Aikenhead. Most of the teachers over the years boarded at the Bill McKay ranch.

The 'schoolmarms' were usually young and attractive and were often courted by the local young men, to the delight of the school children.

In those days, the local stores in Lytton stayed open late on Saturday nights and closed at noon on Wednesdays, thus giving the store clerks a free afternoon.

One of these young clerks had quite a crush on one of our young teachers, and would come up to the school on Wednesdays loaded with candies or other goodies for the students.

They were also treated to early dismissal
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from school! The kids loved him more than the teacher did!

The school eventually closed because of low enrolment and the children came to town.

A school bus was provided for a few years, but even that no longer exists. The building was used as a private residence for a few years, but eventually went the way of most other old buildings in Lytton - it burned down.



Above — Back (L to R): John McKay, Lorenzo Loring, Virginia Pudney, Hazel Loring
 Front (L to R): Lloyd Dodge, Jackie Humphries, Esther Humphries, Rose McKay
Photo courtesy Lloyd Dodge

At left — on horseback
 Grades 3 and 4 (L to R): John McKay, Rose McKay, Lloyd Dodge
Photo courtesy Lloyd Dodge



(L to R): Miss Aikenhead, Lloyd Dodge, Alex Dodge and Lorenzo Loring (1935)
Photo courtesy Lloyd Dodge

LYTTON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES REPORT OF THE CHAIR

November 2004 Annual General Meeting

The past year has been a good one for the Lytton Museum and Archives.

Some of the projects we had set out in prior years have been completed in the past year. These include the building of our long-anticipated outdoor storage facility, the painting of the speeder and the fire wheel, new signage and a new screen door.

The major project, the outdoor display building, was made possible by a generous contribution from the Village of Lytton. In addition to the funding they provided, we added several hundreds of dollars in extra additions to the building and painting of the structure. We hope to add a proper floor in early 2005, but presently we are making do with the building as it is. We are already using it to house the fire wheel and speeder for the winter.

In 2004, we were also granted a Community Memories Project by the Canadian Heritage Information Network. This project was well funded, and allowed us to purchase a new computer, digital camera and digital recorders for the Museum.

A core group of seven people: Dorothy Dodge, Gwendy Lamont, Jim and Irene Steer, Joe Chute, Dorothy Phillips and Richard Forrest, put the project together and submitted it at the end of October. Some small adjustments have been requested by CHIN, and we are hoping to have them completed before the end of the year.

We will be using more of the project funds to purchase a monitor and some

other equipment to present the completed project within the Museum. All of this equipment as well as the wealth of experience and new archival material is available for the use of the Museum.

We expect that there will be a small net profit to the Museum by the end of the project.

The long-awaited display cases have been started. Some materials have been purchased and we are presently assembling a prototype for the cases to try out in the Museum.

The screen door was purchased and put into use this year, but has been removed for the winter. It will be painted and a push bar added for next spring. It should be noted that the ceiling clearance on the porch is such that removal of the door is required to put a light bulb in the porch light fixture, so it will probably have to be removed every fall.

We have forty-three members this year, of which thirteen reside outside of Lytton.

Our accumulated donations this year have exceeded seventeen hundred dollars. Most interesting about this is that only one individual donation (The Scotiabank Bake Sale) exceeded one hundred dollars. This indicates that we have a wide base of support in the community, with a number of people making donations.

We have now been putting out a Museum Newsletter for five years.

We have put out three issues this year,

the third of which is here tonight. We print about one hundred copies of our newsletter when it first comes out, and we reprint the newsletters as needed to ensure that all issues are available at the Museum.

The older newsletters are also available on our website. Presently, we have Volumes 1 to 4 available, and I expect to get this year's issues onto the site soon. In the eleven months of 2004, to date, over 2200 copies of our newsletters have been downloaded from the website.

We are always looking for articles and items of interest for our newsletters. There are hundreds of stories yet to tell: the sawmills of Botanie, the uranium exploration, the fish traders of 200 years ago, flint knapping, the BX stage line, the West Side farms, businesses of the past and present, the parks, the rivers, the gold. The list of possible stories is almost endless. We invite anyone who might have a story to tell to write it down and submit it for inclusion.

Richard Forrest
Chair, Lytton Museum and Archives
Commission

An Addendum:

Since writing this report for the November 2004 Annual General Meeting, two sizable donations have been given to the Museum. Our thanks go out once again to Dr. and Mrs. Strang and to Dale and Roberta Dodge.



Uranium!



The Rosyd Mine (also known as the Botanie Mine) in 1984

Photo courtesy Dorothy Dodge

There is much evidence in our surrounding mountains of prospectors searching for gold, silver, and copper. However, did you know that there is a uranium mine below Jade Springs, close to the river?

It was registered as the “Rosyd” mine about 1955. Syd Baker was the prospector here, and I am assuming that ‘Rosyd’ is a combination of Rose and Sydney Baker.

We don’t know too much about the mine but Sydney probably had partners.

The mine is approximately 1.6 kilometres north of Lytton. According to the Minister of Mines Annual Report of 1955, a sample assayed 0.052 percent uranium.

A 12-metre adit (mine shaft) was driven in the limestone in 1955 but no uranium minerals were found.

One of the stories associated with the mine claims that a few years after the mine was given up as useless, Art Kent took an older fellow down to the mine to look at it.

This man used to come up occasionally and sit in the entrance to the mine, because he thought it might cure his arthritis!



Heritage Tea and Talk:

Another successful afternoon! We had approximately 30 people attend, with pictures to share and lots of stories to tell.

We met new friends, Don and Marion Willis. Don used to work at Earls court so he had lots of information.

There were delicious goodies supplied by the museum ladies, for which we are thankful.



The Rosyd Mine in 2005 — more overgrown and more fallen rock.

Photo courtesy Richard Forrest

More on the 'Winds of Chance' movie

First, another OOPS!

Now that we have our Newsletter books out, more people are reading the newsletters.

My brother-in-law, Alex Dodge, found a mistake in the March 2000 issue. With all our proof-reading, over and over again and by many people who should have picked this up, especially me, we missed a glaring error...

I listed one of the actors as Victor Mature; it should have been Victor McLaglan!

Many thanks to Alex, who went to great lengths to prove he was correct by checking Victor Mature's birth date - he would have been 9 years old at the time the movie was made.

These corrections are so important! If you have discovered an OOPS, please let us know!

Another point of interest:

Anna Nilsson, the leading actress, was supposed to be in a scene where she was tied up and placed in the bottom of a boat which was to come down the river.

She refused to do it, so one of our local men, Bill Hendrickson, took her place!

(This memory courtesy of Lloyd Dodge)



LYTTON MUSEUM and ARCHIVES



NEWSLETTERS

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

NEW AT THE MUSEUM

Newsletters *The First Five Years*

This is a compilation of the first five years of our newsletters, from Issue 1 in 1999 to Volume 5 Issue 3 in 2004.

All of the newsletters are reproduced full size and we have added an index to articles.

The books have laminated card stock covers and are bound into one great volume!

The cost is just \$15 if purchased at the Museum and \$20 (the extra \$5 is to cover postage and packaging) if you want one mailed to you.

Contact Dorothy Dodge at the Museum at 455-2254 or by mail to:

Lytton Museum and Archives
PO Box 640
Lytton, BC
V0K 1Z0

Money orders and cheques are accepted.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING:

for photographs of the following men for a historical display with a scroll these men signed in 1934 in honour of Rev. Stanley Higgs.

John Michell	George Thomas
Henry McCarty	Harry McKay
Jimmy Stone	William Sampson
Arthur Skuki	George Wish

This week Georgina Quinn brought in a picture of James Quinn for this display. *Thanks very much, Georgina!*

Lytton Highway Cemetery

The cemeteries are an interesting and vital part of our history. Looking after and caring for our local cemetery tells former citizens, present citizens and all the people who pass by that we are a caring community.

Our next Lytton Highway cemetery cleanup, where we all turn up with rakes and wheelbarrows, will be April 3rd (hopefully!). Watch for the posters - everyone is welcome.

GRAVELY HUMOROUS:

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk and stopped centimeters from a store window.

For a second everything went quiet in the cab; then the driver said, "Oh, man, you scared the daylights out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize a little tap would scare you so much."

The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver - I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years!"

From our News Clippings File:

[ca 1930]

“Today, Miss Burrows (retired matron of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital), as concerned as ever, expresses the necessity for more small hospitals in the Province in such villages as Lytton... It is in these small hospitals where immediate help can be administered to avoid the tragedies that occur while transporting patients to distant overcrowded hospitals.”

March 30, 1950:

\$12,000 Fire Hits Lytton High School

Fire ripped through Lytton High School early today, burning it to the ground two hours before students were to begin the day’s classes. Damage is estimated at \$12,500. The Vancouver Sun carriers, Douglas Rebagliati and Wade Baker, noticed smoke pouring from the basement of the classroom structure at 6:45am. They rushed to tell their parents and the latter called the fire dept. By 9 am the building was a scarred shell...

1961:

Building Progress Report:

As the demand for housing increases, more accommodation is being developed. Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Dodge have nearly finished one unit of a duplex; Mr. Ber Rebagliati is converting the old family home into suites; Mr. and Mrs. Chute’s house is nearing completion; Mr. and Mrs. Van Dyke plan to move into their new home this Fall. The RCMP station has the framework completed and the new high school is going up fast with a crew of 30 men on the job.

(Ed. note: This new school burned down in 1972)

1978:

The Francis Van Dyke home at Nicomin Creek... burned to the ground Oct. 25. The wood-frame building with its contour porch was a well-known landmark. It was nestled close to the falls that can be seen to the left of the Trans Canada Highway north of Lytton. Cause of fire unknown.

DO YOU KNOW?

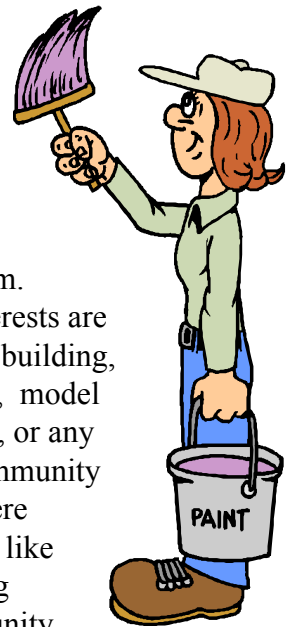


This is just a quiz — no prize, but we will give you the answer in the next issue. This photo was taken on February 25, 2005 in Lytton. Do you know where?

VOLUNTEER!

Lytton has many volunteer groups, including the Museum.

If your interests are gardening, building, collections, model railroading, or any type of community service, there are people like you helping our community.



JOIN THEM TODAY!

COMMUNITY MEMORIES

Our Community Memories Project: Lytton - Transformed by Transportation, is now available on the internet at www.virtualmuseum.ca.

When you get to the Virtual Museum site, click on the Community Memories button and follow the links to our exhibit.

If you do not have internet, or would
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like to visit the Museum, a display will be set up in the near future with our virtual exhibit.

Copies of the project will be given to the local schools and may be purchased at the Museum.



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