



**December 2004 Newsletter
Volume 8 Issue 4**

Friends of Barkerville
Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

"Hear the bells on Christmas Day!"

BARKERVILLE HERITAGE TRUST REPORT

by Pat Pickering

Since the last newsletter in September, the Barkerville Heritage Trust has made several strides toward assuming responsibility for Barkerville Historic Town. On September 27th a committee met with the stakeholders in Barkerville. This included staff, merchants and contractors. The purpose of the meeting was to let them know what our plans are for the future. We were unable to answer a lot of their questions but we wanted them to send us their ideas and concerns. In order for Barkerville to be successful, we need to work together as a team.

On the weekend of October 23/24th, we met in Barkerville to continue bargaining a contract with the Provincial Government. The Board reviewed the financial report supplied by an independent company who did an audit as we requested. The company made some recommendations which we will discuss at the next meeting. The Trust asked for several concessions in the contract presented to us earlier in the year. As of now there are several issues we must get resolved, but the real show-stopper item is the money. We must ensure there is adequate funding for costs such as security, repairs and maintenance. We anticipate signing the operating agreement with the Heritage Branch before the end of the year. In addition, the Trust expects to be recruiting for its chief executive officer before Christmas. A committee of the Board is tasked with finalizing a job description and managing the recruitment process.

The newly elected Executive Board includes Gordon Ratray as chair; he represents 100-Mile House/Williams Lake. Councilor Murry Krause is vice-chair and he represents Prince George/Fraser Fort George Regional District. I (Pat Pickering) have been elected secretary. I represent The Friends of Barkerville. The Barkerville Heritage Trust will not operate as an administrative or management board, but as a governance board with responsibility for preserving and

promoting Barkerville for the benefit of the region and indeed all of B. C. Currently the Board has nine Directors. Four at-large members remain to be selected. The Barkerville Heritage Trust is now a legal entity under the Society Act. The next meeting of the Board will be November 27th and 28th

The Friends of Barkerville Executive and Membership wishes the Barkerville Heritage Trust every success in 2005.

THE CORNISH WATER WHEEL

by Dave Brown

"Let's build a new one soon."

I have worked as an interpreter in Barkerville for more than fifteen years, and during that time, the world famous Cornish water wheel has always figured prominently in my work. The first thing that impresses visitors when they see the water wheel is that it is an absolutely fabulous piece of machinery. Later when they begin to understand how the wet sink mining was done, they are impressed in a much deeper sense. They realize that men descended the 4 X 4-foot shaft to a depth of fifty feet and commenced working a twelve-hour shift mining the gravels beneath Barkerville. This realization invariably results in the statement, "God, they must have been tough back then." These men were more than just "tough"; these men were steeped in a mining culture that dates back to prehistoric times.

Mining the wet sink gold bearing gravels of Cariboo was a task requiring tremendous skill, strength and stamina, and wherever these qualities were required, the Cornish "hard rock men" were in great demand. These men came well-prepared for the daunting task that was in store for them because they came from a culture where mining was not merely an occupation as much as it was a way of life.

In the mines of Cornwall, one would find men and women and children working. The women worked on the surface and the children would "fetch, carry and do odd jobs." At twelve years old, boys could join their fathers and work underground. As the mines grew to be larger and more prosperous in the 19th century, mining became a family tradition.

By our standards, the life of a mining family in Cornwall was very hard. They would live in a tiny cottage, one room on the main floor with a sleeping loft above for the children. Water had to be fetched from the nearest pump, the garden supplied most of the food in summer with the staple of their diet being potatoes. Many miners kept a few chickens for eggs and a cow for milk. On the coast, there were fish to catch and it was not unusual for several miners to own shares in a small fishing boat.

(continued on Page 8.....)

INNER WORKINGS**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

President	Pat Pickering	747-0221
Vice-Pres.	Jean Speare	249-5150
Secretary	Mickey Ross	992-3320
Treasurer	----	

COMMITTEES (as of Nov. 4/04)

Volunteer & Barkerville Hotel Committees		
Chair	Pat Pickering	747-0221
Membership Committee		
Chair	Loretta Grady	992-2008
Newsletter Committee		
Chair	Jean Speare	249-5150
Trails Committee		
Chair	Robin Grady	992-2008
Phoning Committee		
Chair	Mabel Haourt	747-3687
Fundraising Committee		
Chair	Mickey Ross	992-3320
"Old Fashion Xmas" Committee		
	Pat Pickering & Jean Speare	(above)
Waterwheel Committee		
Chair	Pat Pickering	
Assit.	Dave Brown <browfam@goldcity.net	
"	Jean Speare	

FOB ADDRESSES:

Postal: F.O.B., Box 4152, Quesnel, B.C. V2J 3J2
 e-mail: fob-barkerville@uniserve.com
 Web Site: www.barkerville.ca
 Phone: 250-747-0112

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD NEWS: Membership dues will remain as they are for the 2005-2006 membership year -- \$15. single; \$30. family. The only difference will be the color of your card which will be GREEN. Purchases of Membership cards intended as season's gifts or for self will indicate the inclusive dates -- "for the year 2005/06. Membership year is May 1 - April 30."

BARKERVILLE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS: If you have attended in other years the two weekends before Christmas, you will remember the fantastic time you had. Once again -- Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, AND Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19 -- the Friends of Barkerville will join hands with the dedicated members of the Barkerville staff, all the visitors and rosy-cheeked children to dance around the holly bush -- figuratively speaking, of course. Following in the Newsletter, there is a further breakdown of activities, to the best of our knowledge at this time.

SHARES IN THE SHEEPSKIN MINE: One of the big efforts in this coming season will be the selling of shares at \$5.00 each in the Sheepskin Mine to finance the replacement of the flume and the water wheel. Anyone who frequents

Barkerville in the summer knows the great entertainment provided by Mr. Grimsby and Mr. MacGregor as they do the waterwheel show. If we want to continue enjoying Mr. MacGregor's polished promotional skills, interrupted rudely by Mr. Grimsby's bedrock common sense, then now is the time to keep the water rolling along the flume, turning that wheel and reaping those "nuggets". There will be a "broker" selling "shares" in the Barkerville Hotel throughout the two Barkerville Victorian Christmas weekends.

On the last page of the Newsletter, there is a blurb in bold print explaining how/where to buy shares during the winter.

CRAFT TABLES: During the Victorian Christmas weekends of 2005, the Friends are offering something new. Barkerville has given us the use of the Kelly Saloon next door to the Barkerville Hotel where we can make available ten tables for the sale of various crafts. A table will rent for \$10.00 per day, and may be acquired for one, two, three or four days. The items brought for sale should be of a size displayable on a table top (tables are quite large), and if racks are required, renters must supply their own, as well as wrapping paper, ribbon, etc. as desired. It is not possible to use the walls of the Saloon for hanging articles since the wall paper is a specialized wall covering.. Any ladies in attendance at the tables, if they do not have a Victorian costume of their own and would like to "dress up", may select a costume from the clothes rack in the Barkerville Hotel. For once in the whole year, long woolly underwear and warm footwear are considered fashionable -- and necessary, although the building will be heated. The hours open on all four days: 11 AM to 4 PM. The Goldfields Bakery will be open, selling Christmas Baking and offering lunches, so there would be no need to pack your own.

To reserve a table, phone Jean Speare, 249-5150 as early as possible..

PHOTOS WITH SANTA: Santa will once again be at his jovial best in the Reception Centre, and the FOB will be on hand to take photos of happy children, harried husbands and/or pets squirming on Santa's lap. Don't forget the sleigh rides either and memorize the words to "Jingle Bells."

CHRISTMAS PARTY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH: As usual! Well, just come along, all ye who have membership in the FOB. And as usual, it is Potluck at Jean Speare's home, 2525 Bouchie Lake road. There is lots of room, and if there are too many, the hardier of you can spill over onto Bouchie Lake, providing the ice has formed. (The ice machine does not seem to be working!) **BUT PLEASE!** leave a message at 249-5150 (Jean Speare) or e-mail <jspeare@telus.net> to ask what foods might be needed, or indicate what you intend to bring.

MEMBERS REMEMBER A DAY IN DECEMBER:

‘Wee Gilbert Remembers in Verse:

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Christmas comes but once a year,
So the saying goes --
With memories we hold so dear,
Like frost upon your nose.

A child’s eye view recalled so well,
Returns each season, too,
Each shiny ball and golden bell --
Oh! how the excitement grew

Light from the kitchen gas lamp shone
On the tree in the dark front room --
Made it sparkle, glow and shine --
We’d light the candles soon.

The stockings hanging on the edge,.
The bulges we could tell
Were tiny little oranges and yes,
Candy canes as well.

A gift for each beneath the tree,
White tissue made them show;
I knew that one would be for me --
OH! breakfast is so slow.

Each year these memories return
To bring again the past,
And every year a new one’s born
To hold, and keep, to last!

‘Wee Gilbert /04

JACK NELSON REMEMBERS:

The door opens and your family is there to greet you. Everyone is friendly as you are welcomed into a house -- a home filled with love and laughter. In you go, with everyone jostling as the winter clothes are removed. Coats are off, and scarves, gloves and boots soon follow. You spot the Christmas tree, and are in awe at how beautifully it and everything else is decorated. Lots of aromas and smells fill the air. Presents are already piled under the tree. LOOK! there’s a doll and a small train set, and even a toy truck. Grandma is well prepared for an onslaught of grandchildren. Apples, oranges, nuts and candies are all out on the table. Invitations of “Have you had anything to eat?” and “Would you like a drink of milk or coffee?” are made and heard. All to make us feel welcome and included in this happy throng gathered for this festive season. The smells of puddings and mince pies baking and turkey roasting, ahhhhhhh, mmmm, dee-licious. Just think, all of this with countless hugs and kisses, many times over. **Have a Joyful Christmas, and Goodwill to All!**

(Jack Nelson’s new book, “A Baker’s Dozen, A Nelson Family Saga”, will be on the shelves in Nov./Dec. 2004 with Christmas stories and more chronicles in it. **Merry Christmas!**)

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER: by Ab McQuillin
Every year my family get together for Christmas and we decided, as I was home one year to take advantage of the situation. Reservations were made at the Mennonite Restaurant in St. Jacob’s, Ontario, and we did dinner. It worked like this -- you ordered the meat portion of your meal, be it turkey, steak or pot roast, and they put the potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, etc., on the table for you to help yourself, just like at home. It was a wonderful time, but what made it Christmas was singing, “We wish you a Merry Christmas” to the staff on our way out the door! Ab McQ.

A CHILD’S CHRISTMAS IN THE WAR YEARS:

by Ann Gillespie.....

Christmas in wartime Britain was as near normal as possible within the constraints of rationing, the blackouts, air raids and the absence of loved ones. We grew our own vegetables, raised our own chickens and saved enough of our 2 oz. of butter, 2 oz. of cheese, one egg and a tiny meat portion for a little extra feast. I hung up my stocking on Christmas Eve and Santa always came with wonderful presents. We lit the candles on the Christmas Tree and watched the lights flicker as we prepared to open the exciting parcels piled underneath. **Even in adversity, there was much for which to be thankful.**

Ann Gillespie

(Ed.’s Note” My cousin, Beatrice (Strand) Kew, who was born and lived in Quesnel throughout the 1900s, told me this vignette out of her early days:)

“I stood in the spacious kitchen of the Kersley Roadhouse watching my aunt (Sarah Shepherd) prepare a Christmas Dinner for a crowd of hardy teamsters who still brought freight into the Cariboo by six-and-eight-horse wagon teams. She opened the door of the huge cast iron oven, and a brown, bubbling hind quarter of beef sizzled there. Since front-end loaders were unheard of those days, my aunt rolled over this massive morsel with the use of a sawed-off pitchfork.”

FATHER LEARNED A LESSON By Josie Norn

One Christmas my dad hung his work pants up with the rest of the stockings, and told us Santa Clause better fill both legs, or there would be heck to pay! **Guess what?** In the morning when we went to see what was in dad’s work pants, both legs were filled with straw and pieces of stove wood. When dad saw this, he said, “Just wait until next year.” Next year came, and dad set a trap outside the front door
(continued on Page 8).....

ROCK AROUND THE BOOKSHELVES:

With Christmas now a month away -- give or take a day or two in either direction -- it might help to have a look at a few recent books that represent a Cariboo theme. (*Well, not totally "Cariboo" as you will see from Andy Motherwell's BOOK REVIEW submission for this issue.*)

"FINTRY -- Lives, Loves and Dreams" by Stan Saverwein with Arthur Bailey. Published by TRAFFORD, Victoria, 2000.

This book gives a very full account of the history and life of this unique piece of land on Okanagan Lake and the people who had vast dreams involving Scottish lords, promoters, developers and politicians, who tried to shape this area. Some were successful. It is, today, a provincial campsite. I thought it indicates, in a way, the difficulty of establishing a lasting heritage. In fact, it made me think of Barkerville. The Central Okanagan Heritage Society was involved with research the the publishing of portions of the story for many years.

FINTRY is a triangle of delta land, on the western side of the lake, (although much more property was involved) about 45 kms. north of Kelowna

The authors trace in great detail the story from the First Nations People, through many colourful owners to the present FINTRY which was at one time, part of the Fairbridge Farms School project taking orphans from the United Kingdom to train them in agricultural pursuits. After World War II, in 1949, financial support from the "old Country" collapsed.

The old manor home still stands, open to park visitors, as are the farm buildings, including a unique circular dairy barn FINTRY Ayrshire cattle helped University of B. C. establish its herd

submitted by Andy Motherwell

(Andy notes that Caryall Books can order a copy for you.)

"DEADLY INNOCENT" -- Louise Gilbert informs us that Bill Gallaher, Singer, Song-writer, Author, has produced another excellent chronicle of the Cariboo Gold Rush titled **"Deadly Innocent"**, a story of three brothers who travel across the continent to the gold fields. His first three books, "The Promise", the story of Cariboo Cameron's struggle to get his wife's body to her home in Ontario, a "Man Called Moses", depicting the life of one of Barkerville's famous characters, and "The Journey", a hair-raising account of the Overlanders making their way out West through trials and dangers, are all good historical reads and highly entertaining!

(Published by Touch Wood Editions Ltd., Victoria -- distributed by the Heritage Group. (Try Caryall))

Fraser Headwaters Alliance (FHA) got their fall news brochure out to many B.C. homes last week. (in September). Executive Director of the FHA, Roy Howard, Dunster, B.C. is quite rightly excited over a new concept for the "world's only inland rainforest at temperate latitudes" in the Robson Valley which is under promising discussion at the present time. This will entail the development of a "canopy walkway".

The introductory paragraph to an article explaining this concept of "following a walkway into the treetops" reads: "The canopy of a forest, like a mountain peak or deep canyon is a remote world; plainly visible, but not easy to get near or to explore.

"Unfortunately, unlike mountain tops and river valleys, the phenomenal world high up in the tree tops has traditionally been closed to all but children, the incurably curious and a handful of scientists. What researchers have called *The Last Biotic Frontier* is now available to provide an adrenaline rush to thrill-seeking tourists, and educational venue for students of all ages, an observational platform for all kinds of naturalists and an unforgettable experience for anyone who ventures up to where the forest reaches the atmosphere.

"The Fraser Headwaters Alliance realizes that there is an unparalleled potential for the Robson Valley to host a canopy walkway" **AND WHY?**

"The Robson Valley in British Columbia contains some of the wettest and most biologically rich examples of the world's only inland rainforest at temperate latitudes. This essentially means that more than one generation of giant western red cedar has existed since the last time that a fire swept through the region. Walking through the treetops can bring the majesty of these rare and spectacularly old forests to the world."

World-wide, there are now about 25 such facilities completed. The preliminary plans for Robson Valley would provide 350 meters of suspended aluminum bridges to be supported by nine aluminum towers with viewing platforms along the way. An interpretive centre would be located in McBride where interpretation would commence with guides on buses and no doubt, many questions would be answered on the return journey.

A successful example of a tree-top canopy walk presently in use in Canada was recently written up in a National Post issue. It both pictured and proclaimed the structure in the Haliburton F and W Reserve just south of Algonquin Park, Ontario.

(Quotations above taken from article in FHA Newsletter by Jocelyn Campbell.)

Christmas Shoppers would do well to remember that a credit card is a plastic passport to the shadow of debt.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS.....

THE YORSTONS AND THE LEONARDS

No matter how much anyone can read or write into it -- any family that can say it has achieved living in the Cariboo for One Hundred Years has the undeniable precedence to any Cariboo rights and privileges that may exist now , or come to exist in the future.

But we write here, not just of *one* family, but of *three* families, all joined in family relationships, and all originating in the Isle of Sanday, in the cluster that makes up the Orkney Islands north-east of Scotland. These comprise two Yorston families, (John and Robert), and the Leonard family, (Charles).

While the Yorston brothers left Sanday earlier than 1904, -- John in 1890 and Robert in 1894 --, they bought the Australian Ranch in that year. Charles Leonard, their brother-in-law, left Sanday and arrived in Cariboo that same year, 1904. Charles wife, Mary Yorston, with four children, joined her husband about 1906. Robert and John Yorston both married following the purchase of the Ranch to sisters, Ethel and Janet Robertson in 1906 and 1909 respectively.

Now, in 2004, on the long weekend of July 30 through to August 2, the Yorston families and the Leonard family gathered their many relatives and branch relatives to their homes to celebrate the Century mark!

A recounting of the Leonard family celebrations was written by Louise Gilbert, as follows:

“The Leonard, White and Latham families gathered at the old Leonard farm. now the West Fraser Barn and log yard, for a reunion over the B. C. Day weekend. They came from parts of B. C., Alberta, Quebec and Saskatchewan. A barbecue dinner was enjoyed by all on Saturday, hamburger lunch and games for the children in the afternoon on Sunday, with Chinese dinner in the evening. A group picture of the family, 65 in all, was taken by Gordon Perry.

“Charles Leonard came from the Island of Sanday, in the Orkney Island of Scotland. He married Mary Yorston, and they had five children, -- John, Charles, Albert (Albie), Dorothy (White) and Margaret (Rita Latham).

“The children attended school in Quesnel, and most stayed for the rest of their lives, except for the years Johnny spent in Barkerville and Wells. and Dot and Archie in Wells. John and Eunice spent their last

CELEBRATE A CENTURY

years back in Quesnel, Archie and Dot in Lillooet, and Dot finally in Prince George.”

At the same time, the Yorston families came together “to quote”, for a “YORSTON FAMILY GATHERING/REUNION *to celebrate the Yorston Family Ownership of the ranch for 100 years.*”

For a north Cariboo ranch, the Yorston layout is an extensive territory. Alice DeMarni, writing for “a magazine, “Beef in Canada”. Sept./Oct. 1988, tells us: “ Six hundred and fifty acres of productive farmland situated between Highway 97 and the Fraser River, 20 miles south of Quesnel, form the nucleus of the 1100-acre Australian Ranch. Steeped in history dating back to the gold rush era, the ranch has been “home” to the Yorston families for four generations.”

There are memory markers all through the years that point up the many achievements the two brothers and their families brought to the farming districts to the area south of Quesnel. Besides being progressive farmers, John Yorston served as M.L.A. for the Cariboo in Victoria. During this time, he acquired many benefits for the local farmers. Under his presidency, the Kersley Farmers’ Institute was formed and the establishment of a creamery in Quesnel soon followed. He became the first president also of the B. C. Livestock Producers Co-op Association. To further augment these intentions, Robert Yorston traveled to the lower mainland to purchase a herd of dairy cattle, and Charlie Leonard drove the herd north to the Ranch..

Other memory markers are often in the minds of those outside the Yorston family, such as the wonderful Australian Picnics held every Queen Victoria Day in a meadow above the ranch. Few are alive today to recall that Robert Yorston drove a stage coach to Barkerville, as did Charlie Leonard.

The Yorston Reunion was celebrated in many ways over that memorable weekend -- perhaps the most outstanding the team-drawn wagon that took young and old to visit well-loved historic sites on the Ranch.

The Friends of Barkerville at this point wish the Yorston and Leonard families a long future and the blessings of the Christmas of the Century.

(Further information on the Yorston and Leonard families can be found in “Tribute to the Past”.

TRAILS REPORT by Robin Grady**Stanley Cemetery**

It looks like we had our final work-bee at Stanley on October 9. Five of us showed up. We burned the wood that was on the roadway, finished piling of dead material that was not pulled out of the bush and moved many wheelbarrow loads of gravel into the fenced area to cover tree roots that intersected the trails. I tried to burn the other piles in late October, but there was already too much snow and brush that was too wet to burn.

What we have done this year to date is remove and replace the fence facing the road; all the posts in this portion showed signs of rot. These were replaced with treated posts. With a lumber donation from C & C Wood Products new pickets were made. The new fence has also been stained. New stairs to the cemetery have replaced those that were starting to break up. Material has been purchased to replace the fence around one of the graves; this will be installed next summer and stained. Stain for as much as we can do next summer has been purchased, and one day with a good crew should finish the job. Pete Wright Contracting donated a truckload of gravel and this will need to be further spread along the trails. A small sign was placed at each entrance from the highway to the loop road to inform tourist traffic of this Historic site.

Three faller/slathers spent a good part of a day falling all dead trees around the area and several large ones inside the fenced area. The trees were then cut into lengths that could be handled to be piled for burning.

One final item to be done if there are funds left over is to replace the cemetery sign with a new one.

Several Good Ways To Say "MERRY CHRISTMAS"

Our introduction to winter this year is a "yes, it is" and a "no, it isn't" -- but for certain, Christmas will still fall on December 25, winter or not. A close look around Quesnel Ski and Sports could answer most of your gift questions.

Starting at the top, there is a great variety of toques. Keeping one's head warm is a known recipe for winter protection. The **KOOTENAY** toques -- Canadian -made in Cranbrook -- come in three distinctive styles, beanie, cloche or ear-flapped. These have a wool-knit exterior with a no-itch fleece lining. Assorted colors and patterns will please all buyers. Not to be outdone by other makes, **AMBLER toques**, also Canadian-made in Alberta, come in beret, beanie and cloche styles, the first two made of fleece with a decorative band; the cloche is of a new design in a wool knit **AMBLER** beanies also come in stretch POLAR-TEC. All toques are in the \$30. -- \$40. range.

Now down to the palmar extremities and how to keep them warm. Cross-country gloves by **AUCLAIR** are great for track-skiing, made of light windproof leather, (some are

thinsulate), and come in both mitts and gloves, all with leather palms. For mountain skiing there are **GORE-TEX OVER-MITTS** with tractionized palms that can quell the snow and the cold. Some have removable inner mitts held in place with Velcro. Expensive but dependable in high country -- \$100 to \$190. Many other choices of gloves and mitts are in stock for the down-hiller in the \$50. to \$80 range.

Washable down vests and jackets for men and women are available from both **MOUNTAIN HARD WARE** and **NORTH FACE**. The price of down-filled gear has dropped dramatically over the year making these items attractively affordable.

Down at the business end of the outdoors, besides **SMART WOOL SOCKS**, is a **ROSSIGNAL CROSS-COUNTRY PACKAGE** complete at \$279. -- and this includes boots! Children's sets are priced even less.

All models of **TUBBS SNOWSHOES** ranging from \$200 -- \$400 -- just waiting to break trail. and **ROSSIGNAL** and **SALOMON SNOWBOARDS** line QS&S like a picket fence, sporting wild imaginative art designs.

Among all these wonderful things, perhaps the most important are Avalanche Transceivers, Shovels and Probes. Two sets to a back-country group are recommended...and could keep you shopping at **QUESNEL SKI AND SPORTS** for many Christmases to come.

FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE-CARIBOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY : Our Monthly Meeting Schedule Starting in January 2005.....

January 6, 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 February 3, 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 March 3 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 April 7, 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 May 5, 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 June 2, 2005 -- Barkerville, 6 PM
 July 7, 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 August 4, 2005 -- Country Haven, 5 PM
 September 8, 2005 -- Barkerville (Annual General Meeting to Follow.

Humor With the Ethnic Touch: McCone made his wife keep a careful account of every penny she spent on herself, and once a week he examined it, to the accompaniment of groans of anguish. Once, going over the account, he said, "Harriet! Do you think I'm made of money?" "What's wrong, dear?" she asked. "Wrong? You spent one dollar for corn plasters, fifty cents for aspirin and ten dollars to have your tooth pulled! That's eleven dollars and fifty cents you spent this week on your own personal pleasure!"

....**Just a reminder to think of someone else at Xmas** -- to enhance **your** personal pleasure.

STALWART and STOIC SCOTS, The McCallum Brothers
by Wilfred and Branwen C. Patenaude

In years gone by, the depth of snow that fell in the Barkerville area during the winter could have been twelve or fourteen feet. This much snow on the steep roofs of mine buildings, especially when the snow became compacted, would have collapsed them, had they not been cleared off.

During the 1880s and 1890s, three young, very large and capable Scotsmen lived and worked in the Barkerville area. Donald, John, and Will McCallum had originated from Oban, Scotland, emigrating to British Columbia early in the 1880s.

After working in the coal mines in Nanaimo for a while, they moved north, attracted by the resurgence of mining in the Lightning Creek and Williams Creek areas of the Cariboo. Carpenters by trade, the brothers became known for the making of Cornish water wheels, used during the period of deep placer mining on both Lightning Creek and Williams Creek.

As winter approached, the brothers took contracts to clear the snow from the roofs of certain mine buildings in the Barkerville area. Most of these were the very high mine hoist shaft buildings of deep mine operators whose officials left the country during the winter. These companies could afford to hire caretakers and snow removers to attend to their buildings on Lowhee Mountain, Upper Stouts Gulch, Proserpine Mountain and other nearby locations.

There were many different types of roofs, some were built of sheet metal, some with wide wooden boards, and others of cedar shakes. It was most unwise to shovel cedar shakes, as cold weather made them brittle, and they were easily broken. Before the snow arrived, a survey was made of the roofs, hammering down protruding nails and dealing with any other obstructions on the surface of the roofs..

While some men would have spent long, weary hours shoveling each roof off separately, the McCallums used a unique and essentially easy method that took little time, requiring only strength and accuracy. Climbing up on ladders, two brothers would position themselves at the top of the roof, one on each side, and holding the end of a stout wire between them, they thrust the wire down into the snow and against the roof. Pulling the wire down to the bottom of the roof, it was not long before the snow slid with a great swoosh down to the ground. If occasionally the snow did not move, a half-stick of dynamite set off below the roof would usually do the trick.

In later years, Don McCallum built a log house up the hill from Conklin Gulch, later occupied by the Cochran family. At a time when he was foreman of the Lowhee Mine, Donald married Ida Patenaude, daughter of P. M. Patenaude of Horsefly. Ida died giving birth to Donald McCallum II.

W. & B. P.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: by Pat Pickering

WOW, I can't believe another year is coming to an end!

The Friends have had a very busy time in the past few months. Committees have been struck and plans are being made for activities throughout the winter, spring and the new Barkerville "season". If you are interested in committee work, please don't hesitate to call. Committee heads and various phone numbers are listed on Page 2.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the Barkerville Heritage Trust is ploughing ahead. Currently we are negotiating a contract with the Provincial Government and hope to have this in place before Christmas.

The Christmas in Barkerville Committee and Barkerville merchants, staff and contractors are working diligently to create an "Old Fashion Christmas" atmosphere for all who visit this year. This year, the Friends are sponsoring a "Bazaar" in the Kelly Saloon, with further info on Page 2. Come and enjoy the beauty of winter, have a sleigh ride, take home some sourdough bread, buy some stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts, renew or buy your membership, and warm up with hot apple cider at the Barkerville Hotel. For more information call me at 747-0112.

The Stanley Cemetery has had a facelift, thanks to the Quesnel Community Foundation grant and the Trails Committee. Great job guys -- and gals! The loop road is usually ploughed and the cemetery will look great in its winter coat, as will the spectacular Wells/Barkerville Cemetery on Government Hill.

With this year almost at an end, we start to make plans for the coming year and look at new and exciting projects to do during next year. It has been suggested that we repair and give a facelift to Blessings Grave near Troll Mountain. Reports from the Trail Committee tell us there is still much work to be done to the ditchlines above Summit Rock by which we access several mountain trails. We are open to suggestions for other projects as well, so phone them in.

Late in October, Jean Speare and I took advantage of attending a workshop on "Grant Proposal Writing" sponsored by the Quesnel Community Foundation/Vancouver Foundation. All the many aspects of this subject were fully covered by Barbara Oates of Vancouver who discussed three proposals already under way in our vicinity.

Recently the Friends of Barkerville applied for a student internship to work in the Barkerville Archives during the first few months of the new year. We are pleased that this has been awarded to us by the University of Northern British Columbia and the Co-operative Education Department. The job bulletin has gone out and we will be interviewing some time in early December. Hopefully this will help with the backlog of cataloguing and in particular the Tregillus collection.

***** (Pat P.)

(Continuing Christmases Remembered.....)

to catch Santa. When we were all in bed, dad ran through the house, yelling that he had caught Santa. Then we heard him give out an awful scream. When we got to him, he was lying on the floor bleeding. He had slipped and fallen against the door and cut his head. No, he didn't get hurt badly, but there was no more trying to outdo Santa Clause. (J.N.)

(The editor also remembers.....)

I remember a Christmas (c1932) when my parents and me paid our traditional visit to Gray's Sawmill at Kersley for Christmas dinner in the "cookshack". Their elder daughter who could play a piano beautifully was unfortunately solely involved in the cooking and serving of the feast. I was asked, "would I play the piano for some carols?" Pressed into service with scarcely more than six or eight lessons under my finger tips, I managed to pick out some staggered notes, my treble hand being only a pathetic improvement over my left. However, I was no longer embarrassed when, in searching out notes for "Silent Night", I became aware that all the lusty voices above and around me were singing "Hark The Herald Angels Sing", which proves, it isn't *what* you play but *how* you play it. From there on, it was easy -- best (*and last*) concert I ever played. It should be added that the real glory of those evenings was provided by the tie-hacks and mill workers who remembered other Christmases by singing carols in their native languages. (J. Speare)

Further to Pat Pickering's Report.....**A CHRISTMAS PRESENT STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS**

When you brush your cat or dog, remove the hairs from the brush/comb and put them in a mesh bag. Hang these bags out in the spring. You will be surprised how quickly they will disappear as the birds collect it for their nests. Start collecting now so that you have lots on hand when spring has sprung.

A message came to Pat today from "Fobbie" our mascot moose:

"I received an invitation this morning
To have Christmas with friends to the south
Signed by Red and Babe and Dundas --
It took the word right out of my mouth!
Of course, I said "YES" in an instant --
To get to Jean's on the 4th I will fail,
Cause I've got a long hike before me
Over the Gold Rush Trail.
The Pioneer Ranch will look welcome,
And like you, I will be with my friends,
But I will take your good wishes to them
For a Christmas where joy never ends." **Fobbie**

(Continuing "The Cornish Water Wheel.....")

If the home life of these miners sounds romantic, I doubt if they had much time to enjoy it. Take time to consider the requirements of their workdays. In some cases, their homes were situated five miles from the mine site. These men had to walk five miles to the collar of the shaft, they then had to descend several hundred feet of vertical ladders. Once reaching the base of the shaft, they might be expected to walk another mile or two along a "drift" to their place of work. After eight hours of back-breaking toil in cramped, hot, quite often wet conditions, the miners had to do it all in reverse to get home.

One would think that skilled workers would be well compensated for such a grueling workday. The sad truth is that in most of the mines, only the miners working a dry workable pitch rich in metal seam would receive a living wage. The rest would receive very little.

For these remarkable men, places like Barkerville represented a place of hope, a chance to change their station in life and end the legacy of hard toil and early death. The chance was slim, but it was a chance. The proof of the miners' toil lies in the timbering 50-odd feet beneath Barkerville. The only visible symbol of their contribution to this Province is a broken down, half rotten, barely functional, world famous Cornish water wheel. **Let's build a new one soon!**

(Editor's Note....And in so doing,, we will be giving the early heart beat of the Goldfields -- the Cornish Water Wheel -- its well-deserved place in our Provincial history.)

FIVE DOLLAR SHARES in the Sheepskin Mine for the purpose of rebuilding the water wheel and flume may be purchased at any time from Dave Brown e-mail <browfam@goldcity.net> or from Jean Speare e-mail <jspeare@telus.net> or phone 249-5150. During the winter months, your "certificate" will be sent by mail and your remittance can be sent to the Friends postal address: Box 4152, Quesnel, V2J 3J2. During the coming summer season, certificates will be sold in Barkerville.

A CHAPTER CLOSES

There is no better way to say it -- the final issue of the Wells Community News was on the newsstands bearing its November/December masthead.. For the enjoyment, and often nostalgia, that it brought into our homes, we have to salute Marie Nagel, *founder*, and last editor, Richard Wright. It is inevitable that, one day, another "Voice of the Goldfields" will take its place on the stands, but it will never be quite the same.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
FROM THE NEWSLETTER STAFF