



FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE



Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society

June - 2005

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Pat Pickering

Summer Greetings to all! The Friends have had a very busy 2005 and a lot of things have happened since the last newsletter.

Firstly, the Barkerville Heritage Trust has successfully bargained a contract with the B. C. Government to manage Barkerville Historic Town. As most of you are aware, this process started three years ago (almost to the day). The contract started on April 1st 2005 and will be completed in 2020. The Trust mandate is Preserve, Protect and Promote Barkerville the same as the Friends. With all of us working together as a team, we will ensure Barkerville has a bright future. Barkerville Heritage Trust (BHT) has hired a new CEO who started work on June 1st. Her name is Umeeda Switlo. Umeeda is a crackerjack ball of energy. We wish her success.

The Barkerville Hotel is up and running. We hired Cathy Eisma and Heather Grady to cover seven days a week. We have lots of new items/merchandise for sale. Some examples are: leather goods, porcelain, hand-knit items, Victorian Jewellery, doll clothes, new book titles, additional activity books for kids as well as all the wonderful items we have sold in the past -- local authors' books, blacksmith items, bonnets, carvings, and of course, the Sheepskin Claim share certificates. Plan a day to come and visit us. We hope to have more volunteers; if you are interested in coming to the Hotel to volunteer, let us know.

As most of you know, Canada Post in all its wisdom closed the Barkerville Post Office. There has been a blitz of letter writers protesting this closure. The Friends were able to launch a post card campaign to reopen. Thanks to all those who participated, WE WON!!! Again we were able to team up together for a successful conclusion.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on upcoming events. On July First we once again celebrate Canada Day (Dominion Day). There is a lot going on for family enjoyment. We hope to see you there.

We are planning to revive the Barkerville Literary Society in the near future. If you are interested in this area, please let Jean Speare know at 249-5150.

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CURATOR'S CORNER

by Bill Quackenbush

This year we have been working with [Katimavik](#), a Canadian Heritage outreach program for youth between 17 and 21. The Program establishes a relationship with communities throughout Canada. They first identify the participants by asking each community to supply a list of groups that may be interested in obtaining the labour of these young Canadians. They then meet with these organizations, explain the program and request a list of jobs, potential supervisors and expected outcomes.

Katimavik is a great opportunity for the young people to learn about Canada and to help out along the way. The program is presently running for seven months. It is based on a tri-semester basis. Three different groups of young people come to work in the community, for about 8 weeks each, and then rotate to the next community. The groups go to three communities in the seven-month period.

Their time not at the work place is spent in workshops and getting to learn how to live away from home in a group situation. Not only do they carry out a variety of works for the community, they learn other skills. The participants also are billeted in the community for about two weeks.

There have been two groups through Wells during the spring and another is about to arrive. They have been doing many things, including assisting in teaching at the school, clean up around town, data entry and clean up of the Wells Museum, data entry and clean up for the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery, cataloguing of the Tregillus artifacts at Barkerville, assisting in the Wells Town offices and participation in many community events.

Their help has been most useful and they all appear to have enjoyed themselves while in our community. The last group was thrilled to see Wells and Barkerville transform into the summer event of the Cariboo. There are also three or four who intend to return.

Katimavik is an interesting way for young Canadians to stretch their imaginations, learn how to cope with an array of day to day events, and to develop personally. The outreach program is requesting input from communities for the next round, which is due to start in November.

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***THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION AND PROTECTION
of Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields***

INNER WORKINGS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Pat Pickering	747-0112
Vice-Pres.	Jean Speare	249-5150
Secretary	Mickey Ross	992-3320
Treasurer	Diane Nysven	

COMMITTEES:

Volunteer and Barkerville Hotel Committees
Chair Pat Pickering 747-0112

Membership Committee
Chair Loretta Grady 992-2008

Trails Committee
Chair Robin Grady 992-2008

Newsletter Committee
Chair Jean Speare 249-5150

Phoning Committee
Chair Mabel Haourt 747-3687

Fundraising Committee
Chair Mickey Ross 992-3320

Waterwheel Committee
Chair Dave Brown 991-0904
Assist. Jean Speare 249-5150

FOB ADDRESSES:

Postal: F.O.B., Box 4152, Quesnel, B. C. V2J 3J2
E-Mail: fob-barkerville@uniserve.com
Web Site: <http://www.barkerville.ca/>
Phone: 250-747-0112

Please Note the Dates of the Meetings remaining up to the Annual General Meeting in September:

July 7, 2005 Tower Inn, 5:00 p.m.
August 4, 2005 Tower Inn, 5:00 p.m.
Sept. 8, 2005 Barkerville, 6 p.m., followed by the Annual General Meeting

A WORD FROM 'WEE:

“My favourite place, Barkerville Historic Town, is back in full swing once again. Looking forward to all the usual happenings on the street with our new Trust at the helm. Our volunteers have done a great job of cleaning and re-arranging F.O.B.’s Barkerville Hotel, and it looks just great I hope that my grand children will be able to get here again this summer -- they all love it so much.

Made it to the Dinner and Auction at the Wells Community Hall in April, thanks to West Fraser Mills. The old Hall is looking better than it ever did, thanks to all the people who volunteer and donate to its restoration. The dinner was excellent, and a good time was had by all. Ted North and I, (we both went to school in Wells in the 30s/40s) came away with a whole lot of neat things.

Pat and Lana and I went to work in the Archives-Library in Barkerville during the winter. We have nearly completed the cemetery file and database. Will no doubt get back again this fall. At present, there are young people with Katimavik helping in the archives, and they are doing a very good job. I really enjoy getting into the history of that country as it brings back memories of some very fine people whom I had the privilege of knowing. It is also great to work with Bill Quackenbush who is a top grade Curator with Barkerville foremost in his life.

Hope everyone has a *super good summer.*” WEE

Editor’s Note: It has come to our attention that the Auction in Wells raised over \$14,000, which it is expected will go to the re-painting of the exterior. Once again, as in the 30s and 40s, the Wells Community Hall is regaining stature as one of the finest community halls north of Vancouver!

SELF-INTRODUCTION TO CATHY EISMA:

(Cathy Eisma, one of our Front End girls at FOB’S Barkerville Hotel says by way of introduction....

“I’d like to introduce myself. My name is Cathy Eisma and I am the new “front end” person at the Barkerville Hotel. Some of you know me already as I’ve lived in the area for 28 years.

“I am married to Bill (Bus Driver Bill -- as most people know him) and we live at Troll Mountain Ski Resort. We have three grown kids -- two girls and a boy -- all living away from home. I graduated from the College of New Caledonia in May of 2004 with an Associate of Arts (Honours), majoring in History and English. I hope to go back soon and finish my Bachelor’s.

“I have always been interested in local history, as my past employment record reflects. Mrs. Neate’s was my last place of employment. I spent six summers there, as well as during four of those years, I worked in the Leather Shop. Previous to that, I worked at Cottonwood House for 7 years, as a government employee for the contractor, as well as the contractor.

“My hobbies and interests are quite diverse, from scrap-booking to needlework and sewing, writing and hiking/walking. As a member of the Girl Guides in Quesnel for the past 18 years, I have been a leader, executive member and trainer of leaders.

“When in Barkerville, please pop in and say HI.” **Cathy**

MEET UMEEDA SWITLO -- the new C.E.O. for Barkerville Heritage Trust

On June 1, 2005, Umeeda Switlo, having been the chosen candidate for the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Barkerville Heritage Trust, took up her duties.

Umeeda comes to us from North Vancouver to which city she immigrated with her parents in 1974 from Uganda, Africa. She is a Marine Biologist, and studied toward a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies. Umeeda has one daughter -- Nareena -- who attends the University of Victoria, also in the study of Marine Biology. For at least four years, Umeeda worked in the area of her chosen profession, from Fisheries Biologist to Habitat Protection Biologist.

Umeeda was, first, a Guide and trainer's assistant at the Vancouver Aquarium; a Sport Fisheries Biologist -- Federal Fisheries and Oceans Department; employed as a Biologist with the Ministry of Environment, Victoria, as well as a Habitat Protection Biologist with the Ministry of Environment.

In the ensuing maze of employments and interests, we can only presume that Umeeda discovered, with some in-depth conviction, that she was a "people person", an entrepreneur, a cultural promoter, fund-raiser, marketer and promoter of events and destinations -- as well as having gained many more accolades. These have stood her in good stead; *these* have given the Heritage Trust -- the *THRUST* -- for which it has been waiting.

Umeeda, on the day the FOB Newsletter interviewed her, looked dispassionately through her resume, and encircled the great loves of her career. Just what would one expect?! -- A strong background in varied events involving music, dance, visual arts, food, speakers, multicultural communities and youth.

And from that point on, - (or back) - as resumes read, Umeeda's career has been a multiplex of all these entities. These have helped to develop for her the skills she will use as Chief Commanding Officer of the Barkerville Heritage Trust. Which ever way we choose to look at it -- be it, Umeeda is now in a position to shape the New Era in old Barkerville, or we are in a position to appreciate a new on-going concept -- that is where we are today -- and since it amounts to the same vigorous objective -- **that is what we are happy to accept!**

Continued from front page:

Bill Quackenbush: The application forms from potential community partners needs to be completed by the middle of July. The Friends are presently considering becoming a community partner. Those members who are interested should contact Pat Pickering in order to have input. **B.Q.**

Pat Pickering: At this point, I wish you all a great summer and we hope to see many of you in Barkerville!!

Respectfully Submitted by Pat Pickering, President.

Barkerville Season's Pass --

(an additional item from Pat Pickering..)

Barkerville is selling the Friends of Barkerville Membership/Season's Pass at the entrance gate. This will be the only season pass sold in Barkerville. When you buy it at the gate, they will give you a receipt and a form to be filled out and taken to the Barkerville Hotel (next to the Theatre Royal) where you will be given your membership cards. Barkerville will still have day passes available as well as Heritage Packages which include a day pass, a Theatre Ticket, Stage Coach Ride and a ticket to pan gold at Eldorado. You can also buy these as individual tickets. Your season pass is also good for free entrance into Cottonwood House.

COST OF MEMBERSHIP TICKETS

Individual Year Pass is \$15.00

Family Pass is \$30.00

**Yearly Membership is valid from
May 1, 2005 until April 30, 2006**

**If you have additional questions, call
Barkerville at 1-888-994-3332 (toll free).**

Some Further Points from the June 2 Meeting:

- For Sale at the Hotel: Great size selection of fleece cardigans and vests, T-shirts and caps, all with the Barkerville Logo. Wearing any of these will make anyone an ambassador for Barkerville. Worn with a F.O.B. identity pin signifies an F.O.B. volunteer.
- A letter of permission came from the Forestry Dept for the removal of diseased trees from the Stanley Cemetery.
- Popular Blacksmith items are available in total.
- Barkerville Report from Bill Quackenbush revealed progress being made in Wells-Barkerville Cemetery with Maureen Kemp and Diane Carter completing painting of fence with help from Ashley -- a Katimavik member; cataloguing of artifacts by Anne Laing, Tracy Norman and Dorothea Funk -- (work carried on by Lana and Louise during the winter.)
- Heidi Kilsby was acknowledged for her suggestion to use post cards to put the Post Office back on the map and Richard Wright for offering monetary support.
- Street performers would like to see a "box lunch" auction to raise money for "greenery" at the entrance to Chinatown.
- Ursula Benischek will be putting a raffle together to run through the summer to the last Victorian Xmas in 2005.

THE GOLDFIELDS COURIER

As much as we were sorry to see the Wells Community News close its operation, we are pleased to welcome the Goldfields Courier and its Editor-in-Chief Jim Sketchley.

Reviewing the first two issues of the Courier -- May and June with July imminent-- we read of current happenings in the Barkerville area, historic facts from the past, the bonds of benevolence that have always held the goldfields population together, and always will, and pages of local advertising that signify a commercial need in the community.

And as long as inhabitants like Desi's Boy, Foxy and all our wildlife get their recognition, the Courier is well away on the road to literary and newspapering achievement.

THE SENTINEL

Once again, the Cariboo Sentinel doors are open and the scent of printer's ink and the clang of the printing press is evident along Barkerville's Main Street. Bid upon, and now operated by a young couple from Montreal -- Matt Moroz and Morag Kydd -- the Sentinel once again feels like its old self of 1868 when its early operators, Alexander and Mrs. Allan, chased down the news of the goldrush.

Morag has a Fine Arts degree from Concordia University, Montreal; Matt is a professional artist in Print-making and Design which keeps him employed in other seasons, also in Montreal.

Moroz and Kydd, as one would expect, approach their occupations in Barkerville as purists. They are using all the old printing equipment of those early days and producing Barkerville scenes using hand-carved blocks. They intend to greatly enlarge upon the production of further items as they go into the summer.

Visitors, young and old, must make the Sentinel a point of call to meet the "Allans" and go back in time to the days of the printing press. It is an education!

For the Sake of History we chose a few paragraphs from BC's Centennial Anthology, presuming by date "July 1st, 1868. Barkerville" that these were written by the Allans.

"At one minute past twelve o'clock the solemn stillness of the midnight hour was broken by the loud peal of Campbell's anvil battery sending forth its thundering salute of 21 guns, awakening every sleeper in the town of Barkerville, and making the lofty hills of Cariboo reverberate as though they had assumed life and were sending back a roar of applause at the opening up of a new era in the history of British Columbia. The sun rose bright and glorious and poured forth his rays upon clouds of bunting which floated gaily from every saloon and public building in the town of Barkerville.

From an early hour the streets were thronged with stalwart miners congregated from the outlying creeks of Cariboo, all drawn together with the one desire -- that of enjoying themselves on the anniversary of the creation of the great Dominion of Canada.

The great event of the day was the display of oratory on the part of those gentlemen who have by their eloquence made Cariboo celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Shortly after one o'clock, the crowd being then closely packed around the platform before Messers. Scott & Lipsett's saloon, the meeting was called to order, when J. M. Sparrow was unanimously called to the chair.....The chairman then addressed the meeting, and shortly reviewed the present position of the colony with the advantages likely to accrue from Confederation.....

Dr. Carrall proposed the first resolution, viz: Whereas....the people of this Colony have at sundry times and places, by means of public meetings, demanded of the Government of this Colony to aid and assist in procuring the admission of this Colony into Confederation, and all to no purpose, therefore let it be resolved:.....1) That in the opinion of this meeting the conduct of the Government of British Columbia, in opposing Confederation, is contrary both to the policy of the Imperial Government and the declared wishes of the people of this Colony....."

Note: Dr. R.W.W. Carrall of Ontario Loyalist stock, practised medicine on Williams Creek in 1867. When B.C. joined Canada in 1871, he was appointed one of the new province's first senators. From R. T. Wright's "Barkerville"

RAMBLINGS: The F.O.B. is not short on plans for the summer. Robin Grady, as head of the Trails Committee, has an assortment of demands on his agenda -- (and ours, those of us who are available as volunteers). These range from flagging new trails, grooming old ones, attending to repairs to the Stanley Cemetery and to Blessing's Grave at Pine Grove and other areas kept as memorials, all with attention to up-graded or new signs.

Fund-raisers: On the fundraising agenda, we have several ideas, some still in very nebulous form. However, one -- **The Billy Barker Banquet in aid of the reconstruction of the Waterwheel and Flume** -- is included in Barkerville activities for the August weekend of the 20 -- 21. Some connoisseurs will draw the line at this being called "a banquet." To explain -- this event is in commemoration of Billy Barker's 143rd anniversary of his striking gold in Barkerville. A Banquet in those days has no parallel with a banquet of today. The menu has no frills -- bannock and beans, turnip, coffee or lemonade, dried apple pandowdy. But it is offered as a symbol to the strong spirit of endurance without which the great strike on Williams Creek would not have taken place August 17, 1862 to start the unbridled stampede into **Barkerville. Help us keep smiles on the faces of Mr. Grimsby and Mr. MacGregor of the Skeepskin Mine as they watch "that wheel a-turning."**

Ramblings continued

THE NATIONAL HIKING TRAIL OF CANADA

"Hike B. C. -- The Western Section....."

The "TWINs" DO meet,.....the old meets the new, the past meets the present, and Quesnel, as in years before is the major western hub before the National Hiking Trail leaves on its last lap in the footsteps of Alexander McKenzie for the Pacific Ocean at Bella Coola.

Local proponents of this extensive trail system met at West Fraser offices April 16th to discuss progress of our western section since last year's meeting. Chaired by National Trail President, Pat Harrison of Surrey, up-dates on the many mountainous sections through Alberta and B. C. were reviewed.

Roy Howard, (Fraser Headwaters Alliance) Dunster, has done much to prepare the trail through Jasper National Park and has further cleared and marked the 'Goat River Trail to Bowron Lake. This trail, according to Howard, is an early access to the gold mining country, but short by a year or two of the Gold Rush Pack Trail from Keithley over Snowshoe Plateau. From Bowron, a route to Wells/Barkerville has still to be determined, probably by climbing the eastern slope of Mount Murray from where either town can be reached by the Jubilee or Yellow Hawk hiking trails.

At this point, Robin Grady, (Friends of Barkerville), and Paddy Doherty, (Quesnel River area), see the route leaving Barkerville by the recently re-established Gold Rush Pack Trail --(the first access to the gold fields) for Keithley and Quesnel Forks. From this destination, access to Quesnel will be by a route along the Quesnel River.

From Quesnel, possibly using the already historical footbridge crossing of the Fraser River, the Hike B. C. Trail will connect with the Telegraph Trail, -- for the past several years under the maintenance of Dwight Dodge, the Telegraph Trail Preservation Society. It will meet up with the Alexander Mackenzie Trail -- (or "Grease Trail") - north of the Blackwater River and west of the West-side road to Prince George.

It was gratifying to learn that members of the First Nations people are interested in the routes under discussion and willing to participate in the maintenance of the many trails to their knowledge along the Alexander Mackenzie route. Kent Sedwick of Prince George reported that Linda Price is interested in "looking after" the Ulgatcho Trail section, while Roger Jimmy, a former chief, is also willing to help. These resources are invaluable to the understanding of early trails. Following discussion on local trails in the Hike B. C. concept, Pat Harrison outlined his plan for a south-to-north spur up through the province (or "down through", as the case may be), to connect with the Alexander Mackenzie Trail north of the Chilcotin River. This "spur" includes as well, a route -- Victoria to Comox on Vancouver Island with ferry access to or from the mainland. The trail up through the mainland is already linked by a series of established trails in its southern half -- Powell River, West Vancouver and

north. The lengthy route up over the Chilcotin plateau will require considerable study.

At the close of the meeting, Robin Grady annexed the Friends of Barkerville/Cariboo Historical Society to the HCEM as a participating organization.

Under the banner of Hike Canada en Marche/ Hike B.C. all associated trails will retain their original names and routes. And Canada, Province by Province, will soon be linked from the Atlantic to the Pacific with the markers of the National Trail. [www.nationaltrail.ca/Hike BC.htm](http://www.nationaltrail.ca/Hike_BC.htm)

The next annual General Meeting, 2006, is to be in Quebec.

Jean Speare.

IDENTITY

A few in our Friends of Barkerville group were leafing through documents of days gone by and assessing the extent to which we had served our *cause* --the cause that summoned the Friends of Barkerville into being twenty years ago on July 9, 1985. Richard Wright, one of the charter members, in his book, "Barkerville -- A Gold Rush Experience" writes of that day:

"On July 9, 1985, in a small cabin in Wells, a group of Wellsites, Barkervillians and summer residents met to discuss the need for a society that would act as a lobby group for historical and environmental concerns as they affected the goldfields. They identified the need for conservation funding; to locate and reopen historic trails; funding for publication programs and research projects; and a lobby group on behalf of Barkerville." Out of this group came the first Executive.

Since that time, many dedicated people have stepped in to fill vacancies created by those who, for one reason or another, had to move on. And as volunteers do, they assumed the needs the original members saw in the first place and they added to those needs through changing times. Quite suddenly, it was obvious that they had done one Hell of a lot.

THIS is where the volunteers realize their worth, realize they had a potential to give and were proud to do it **as volunteers.** --**THAT** is their reward.

That and the fact that we have maintained and strengthened our **Identity** through helping many others to preserve life in the old town *when it could no longer do so on its own.*

Our Identity is based on a mandate: "THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION AND PROTECTION of Barkerville and the Cariboo Goldfields."

We can be proud of that mandate and the prestige it gives us as a group and as individuals. Barkerville today looks kindly upon all those who worked to preserve it, all those who protect it and saved it from what inevitably would have been a "graveyard of rotten logs."

So we say, to everyone of us of the past 20 years, all supporters, all staff workers, all members of the Friends of Barkerville and volunteers, **ALL** have been nobly rewarded for a job well done -- and a job on-going.

OUR BOOK REVIEW by Andy Motherwell

THE WOMAN WHO WALKED TO RUSSIA --

written by Cassandra Pybus: Published by Thomas Allen – Toronto 2002

This book is by a Tasmanian author who has produced several other titles.

She has done considerable research trying to find details of Lillian Alling's supposed walking journey from New York to the coast of Bering Strait in the era when I was born (1927). Lillian's travels have been reported by Art Downs in his Quesnel-published magazine, B. C. Digest, and more recently in Bill Miller's "Wires In The Wilderness", (previous book report), and Guy Lawrence's "40 Years On The Yukon Telegraph."

Lillian's track was through Quesnel, along the Collins Telegraph Line, (Dominion Telegraph in 1927) to Kispiox and on to Telegraph Creek. The author reports on her travels to Dawson City and then Lillian disappears.

Cassandra, by extensive research, gives a plausible ending to this saga in what I would call a historical mystery tale. The conclusion is fantastic in its simplicity.

What fascinated me was the extensive research that was done, such as examining the immigration lists of hundreds of thousands of European people who first landed in North America at New York. Then the author checked Oakalla Prison for details of Lillian's winter there after protective arrest in Hazelton. She then followed and checked on routes to the Klondike along the telegraph route, referring to writings of the period (Jack London) to gauge the rationality of going each way.

The local library can bring this book in on request, or it is possible that there may still be copies in Caryall.

I am amazed at the access that the Internet gives to historical researchers and the wealth of long lost details found therein.

I think you will enjoy this book.

Andy Motherwell

QUESNEL SKI AND SPORTS

(Has Your Skin Covered!) Anything to protect you from the summer sun in the coming days of outdoor activity can be found at QS & S.

The usual good old standbys in outdoor clothing are still with us, many of improved fabrics, while **PRANA** offers new styles to consider. Fabric used by PRANA has the "stretch" built into the weave rather than being dependent upon the thread. Dye fast -- no shrink. Prana also has tie-front capris, \$74.98, lycra tops and polo tops, and Cascade pants (4-way stretch) @ \$110.

Sierra Designs are right in there as well with polyester capris and stretch Tank Tops

Royal Robbins -- an old dependable has LOTS of colors among their \$90. skirts, zip-off combined pants and shorts plus blouses and tank tops. Most items are 100% nylon.

Among **Columbia** and **North Face** products, one will find (and *this* is important!) fabrics with UPF of 15. Columbia's "running" items are "flat stitched" for comfort during movement. Running Tanks @ \$35.00.

North Face has short-sleeve shirts with mesh pocket. Pants, roll-up zip-off variety @\$100.00, all of quick-dry synthetic fabric. (UPF = Ultraviolet Protection Factor.) There is a great wall display of everything that is tried and true in footwear. **Merrell** sandals \$90., and walking shoes, L & M, \$120.00. North Face low hikers in GORE TEX, and the same for **Garmont**. Three types of **Chaco** models, including thongs, all with arch support.

Both Garmont and North Face have hiking boots in two price ranges --\$275. to \$350. and \$155. to \$200.

And look at those leggings called "**Crocodiles**" and quite descriptively so. Totally harmless, they are close to the heart of many skiers and ALL tree planters.

To keep you on the move, check out package meals by the **Hot Pack Co.** -- "**the meal that heats itself.**" -- **high cuisine catering**, which we expect says it all -- "keeps you on the move."

For those of you who really are on the move and do not like to stop for breaks, check out the new "**Hydration Kits**". Some come in their own nifty little packs, suitable even for day hiking, or can be put in a larger pack. But a plastic tube over the shoulder acts like an irrigation ditch and **you** get water as required without missing a beat.

Now that one has chosen something from all of this there is the importance of sun screen. There is **Dermatone** sun screen for the lips #23 sps, for the skin #36 sps, and a Swedish formula, #30 sps. That takes care of safety under the sun. Now for safety on the water -- Well, **Stohlquist PFDs** in every size, color and shape So throw your Sun Screen into one of those handy **PRANA** hemp purses with shoulder strap, zip into your Stohlquist, and get those paddles wet

J. Spear

Something To Keep In Mind.....Dwight Dodge of the Telegraph Trail Society has scheduled a hike in the Blackwater country for the first Sunday of every month probably until snow flies. The initial hike this year on May 1st was enjoyed by several people. There is another the first Sunday in June for which the Newsletter does not come out in time. But check with Dwight at 240-5783 for details of the hike in July.

THE HOTELS OF STANLEY: *(The editor acknowledges permission of Branwen Patenaude to use information found in her book, "Trails to Gold -- Roadhouses of the Cariboo, Vol. Two" pertaining to the hotels that once stood in Stanley.)*

The present re-construction of the Lightning Hotel in Stanley -- we understand for private use -- reminds us that here was a town of the Gold Rush era (sister town to Barkerville in its heyday) that easily supported three hotels with their adjacent dining rooms, pubs, general stores and for a short while in the Lightning Hotel, the post office.

Because of its longevity, much has been written of the Lightning Hotel, from its arrival (1873) at the current site under the proprietorship of William Houseman (the Duke of York) who renamed his "Yorkville Saloon" as the Lightning Hotel, to the final owners to run it as a business -- Hannah and Jimmy Williams. In the intervening period, other owners were William Ellis, John Lowe, William Morgan and Len Ford. As was so often the case in these early days, the original Lightning Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1924. Jimmy Williams then "bought and moved several buildings from the defunct LaFontain Mine (check the Eleven of England), (itself a thriving mining town a few miles west of Stanley on the road to Quesnel), to Stanley where he opened the Lightning Inn on the site of the original hotel." The celebrated service enjoyed at the Lightning Hotel ended in 1947 upon the death of Hannah Williams, super chef and confectioner from Lancashire.

According to Patenaude's careful research the **Stanley Hotel** was in operation in 1871, two years before the Lightning Hotel, under J. J. Robertson. "By the fall of 1872, it was sold to S. P. Parker, the former proprietor of a boarding house in Barkerville." From here on, The Stanley was the victim of unfortunate owners who succumbed to poor health. Parker died within a few months of his purchase. His widow carried on until a Mrs. Austin came on board. Mrs. Austin did not live long following this. Her husband sold to John Fleming and then he married "the widow Parker" after which they moved to Richfield. Within a year, Fleming sold to his brother-in-law John Boyd. The next owner was William Trelaise, and finally, William Wormwald in the early 1900s. In 1920, the Stanley Hotel was torn down.

THE GRAND HOTEL: "John Peebles, who had been in the Cariboo since the early 1860s, operated the **Grand Hotel** in Stanley in the mid-1880s. Still operating a decade later, the hotel was visited by Luiga Yolland and her husband, an Anglican minister, on a trip to Barkerville. In her memoirs, Luiga comments: "There is no sitting room at the hotel, only a big barroom, but we were conducted to the annex, a 'lean to' known as 'the bridal chamber'. This favoured area was kept scrupulously clean and free of bedbugs, and we appreciated it fully."

"Following the death of John Peebles in 1899, the hotel, as part of the Peebles estate, was purchased in 1908 by H. Jack Gardner -- (well-known early sawmill operator and owner of the Gardner Lumber Company on Reid Street). A fire that began in the attached store destroyed the building in 1937."

Somewhere in the intervening years (1908 to 1937 -- the Grand Hotel was operated by a man by the name of Hannafin (sp :?) He was married to Doctor G. R. Baker's step-daughter -- Nellie Howison -- who became Mrs. Les Walker after Hannafin's drowning in "Man-made Lake" near the Ketch Hydraulic on the Barkerville road. Perhaps this is just "another gap to be filled". Perhaps Branwen has some further information on these last short years of the **Grand**.

Ed.'s Note: With the colorful transition of Barkerville 2005, we feel it only right to dip into the memory bank and recall these three highlights of the sister town of Stanley.

SEVEN SUMMITS IN SEVEN DAYS! **A Cariboo Mountain Challenge**

The Community of Wells and the Bear's Paw Cafe, are sponsoring a Cariboo Mountain Race for 2005. Participants will complete 7 local Day hikes and collect token from the peak of each completed summit. There are two divisions, Recreational and Professional and the Grand Prize at the Professional level includes a beautifully restored character home in Wells, 80 km east of Quesnel.

"This is all to create awareness and fun," says Cheryl McCarthy, one of the creators of the concept. "All we really want is for people to enjoy these mountains as much as we do. As well, we wanted to allow people with a competitive spirit to have something really attractive to shoot for, too."

At the Recreational Level, participants need only summit 7 of 8 designated hikes, at any time as long as they are completed before September 10, 2005. On each peak is a token and a flag, unique to that peak. When participants return with a complete set of tokens, they receive a piece of World Famous Cranberry Carrot Cake, and tea of their choice, from the Bear's Paw Dinner Cafe in Wells. Dave Jorgenson, organizer for the event, says, "There is no fee at the Recreational level, the summits don't need to be completed on consecutive days, or in any particular order, and we encourage people to bring us photographic proof of each summit visit so we can post their progress on our Wall of Fame over the course of the summer."

At the Professional level, they will be sponsoring a 7-day race starting August 31st and ending on September 6, 2005. Each day will be a timed event with all participants racing to the summit and back along a prescribed route.

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NOTICE OF MOTION
Change to Bylaws

I, Robin Grady, move that we change our Bylaws to include the following:

1. if a Director of the FRIENDS OF BARKERVILLE -- CARIBOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY is absent from three (3) consecutive Directors' meetings without an excuse acceptable to the President prior to a forthcoming meeting, that they be asked by the Executive to step down and
2. that the vacated position will remain vacant until the next Annual General Meeting, and
3. that we limit the number of directors to twelve (12).

MOVED by R. I. Grady
SECONDED by J. E. Speare

The above **Notice of Motion** is presented here to properly notify the Directors of its need for further discussion at the **2005 Annual General Meeting** of the Friends of Barkerville. Keep in mind the date, time and place of this meeting:

Thursday, September 8, 2005 at the Barkerville Reception Centre (upstairs)

Directors' Meeting at 6:00 pm followed by the Annual General Meeting at 7:00 pm

continued from Page 7 - Seven Summits: The best time for the day wins the yellow jersey for the following start, and a prize for that day. Participants will receive 7 nights accommodation at the Wells Hotel, all meals during the event, T-shirts, and passes to Barkerville. Grand prize for the best accumulated time on September 6, includes a fully restored character home in Wells with an estimated value of \$90,000, passes to Barkerville and Cranberry Carrot Cake from the Bear's Paw Dinner Cafe`. Second Prize includes a Ford Escort Car, and passes to Barkerville. Jorgenson says, "the best thing about this project is that it raises awareness about our community, the fabulous and untapped hiking resource that we have here, and also, our connection to our roots through Barkerville. 50% of all our profits will be fed right back into the operating and marketing budget for Barkerville Historic Park."

For more information, lists of peaks, race rules and entry fees: Dave Jorgenson, 1-866-994-2345 (toll free); Fax: 1-250-994-2347; Email: adventure@whitegold.ca

continued from Page 4 -- Ramblings: As Pat Pickering mentioned in her Report, we are giving thought to bringing back to life some semblance of the old Barkerville Literary Society. We don't think of this as a resurrection of dusty, cobwebbed tomes of the gold rush era, but as a vibrant, often hilarious, merging of writings from that golden past with the output of authors today, providing their work is a salute to gold and gold-seekers. Much planning has still to be done, and first and foremost, we must have the OKAY from Umeeda Switlo and Bill Quackenbush along with their suggestions and expertise. The Barkerville Hotel will be able to impart the news on this as it proceeds.

We had also considered a mini-marathon, by name a "Grubstake Stampede", but we could be only a *very little* brother to the **Seven Summits** on that particular weekend. This is shelved until our next season.

We want to clear up what is a mystery to us! Since James Anderson is renowned as the Bard of Cariboo, we wonder, "who was the Bard of Lowhee?" Over the past few months, poetry attributed to him has surfaced, most recently in Newman and Wright's "Drovers and Dust." It would be filling a void to have a name and a history for the Bard of Lowhee.

We hoped we would have space to list events to come throughout July, August and September, but there is no shortage of these schedules throughout the gold fields. And no one will get past the Reception Centre without one Everyone **connected to Barkerville wants YOU to enjoy your visit.**