Mai i Mehetin 1998



May to June 1998

Cymde ithas Gymraeg Vancouver



Welsh Society Remsletter — Cylchgramn Cymraeg



CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave. VANCOUVER, BC V5V 1A6 Tel: (604) 876-2815





Ministre du Patrimoine canadien

Hull, Canada K1A 0M5

Greetings to everyone participating in the Welsh Weekend, being organized by the Welsh Society of Vancouver. This is an excellent opportunity for many Canadians and visitors to get in the Welsh spirit with the entertainment you have planned, especially the Gymanfa Ganu.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I congratulate you for your successful efforts to promote Welsh culture in the Pacific Northwest. Canadians of Welsh origin have enriched our vibrant cultural mosaic, and I wish you all the best as you make Welsh traditions known to a wider audience.

Sheila Copps

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Like the bad penny, I'm back as I was disappointed with the response to my last "gentle reminder".

Membership dues are necessary to keep the Society operational as there are ongoing costs that must be dealt with. There are so many very hard working people that give not only of their time but their hearts and souls to make the Society what it is. It would be a great way to show your appreciation for all the hard work done and how proud you are to be a Member by renewing your Membership.

For your information the Constitution and By Laws state annual dues shall be payable as of January 1st following the Annual General Meeting to be a Member in good standing. It also states a Member not in good standing for a period of three (3) calendar months as of January 1st of the current year shall cease to be a Member.

Your Membership entitles you not only to vote and participate in making plans for the Society but to spend great Saturday nights in the Red Dragon Pub, get a reduction in the cost of attending special social events and to receive the Cambrian News.

It is the best deal in town. Let's hear from you.

Margaret Monck,

Membership Secretary.

April 10, 1998.

For Whom The Bells Toll......

On the second Sunday of every month the imaginary bells in the belfry of the Cambrian Hall ring out to call the members to worship.

We have hymn-singing, bible-readings, prayers, solos, and a variety of addresses. If you are monoglot Welsh do not worry, the proceedings are bi-lingual.

Our resident accompanist is our beloved Enid Lewis. She arouses our vocal enthusiasm with her renditions of traditional hymns. Ann Roberts always inspires us with her knowledge of Welsh history, religion, preachers and hymnologists.

The service bring back memories of childhood Sundays in Wales. Nostalgia at its sweetest permeates the proceedings. Our souls are stirred !

After food for the soul has been served, Tony and Gwen Tonack (and helpers) ensure that our physical needs are met. A delightful lunch of tea, sandwiches and cakes is provided. The victuals enhance the social ambience and chatter resounds against the walls.

If you have not attended before — here is an invitation to join us. If you have fallen by the wayside — put yourself back in gear— rev up, and revive your spirits.

Remember the Second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Let those bells ring for you !

Submitted by :

The " Big Pew" Regulars !

Bertha Miller

When Bertha was asked if she would join the Cambrian Circle Singers and journey with us to Wales in 1983, she readily agreed. This was typical of Bertha, ready, willing and eager to experience new things. Bertha soon became immersed in the Welsh experience and totally involved with the Welsh society. In doing so, we enjoyed her happy disposition. It was readily apparent that she enjoyed the Welsh experience as she never lost her enthusiasm for the endeavours of the Welsh society.

Bertha was born in Saskatoon and spent her early years of Mortlach, Saskatchewan. Toward the end of the 1930's, she moved with her family to the Fraser Valley where she was engaged in various occupations before moving to Vancouver where she joined the B.C. Telephone Company. Many of us began our long standing friendships with Bertha then.

Bertha loved travelling and visited many distant lands. Everywhere she went, she made not just friends, but life long friends.

Bertha's greatest happiness was when she was helping others. She took as many courses as possible with St. John's Ambulance, and even spent her non working hours helping other by volunteering her services to St. John's Ambulance work.

In her senior years, Bertha spent many hours supporting other seniors by taking them to medical appointments and assisting them by shopping, corresponding with friends and so the list goes.

When health dictated otherwise, Bertha ignored her own difficulties and frailties so that she could continue to support others, all of whom she considered to be less strong or fortunate as she. I often thought that Bertha believed that this was her mission in life to help and support her friends and neighbours.

Bertha Miller was a dear friend, unique spirit and caring member of many communities. As such, she will be missed by many.

Phyllis Owen

WELSH SOCIETY ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

DELTA GOLF CLUB , SATURDAY, 20TH JUNE,1998

For details call Bob Marsh at 946-3612 or Rob Barclay at 940-9112.

The fee will be the same as for previous years, \$40.00 and this includes a sandwich and one non-alcoholic beverage per golfer.

A barbecue will be held at the Cambrian Hall the same evening. Please note that non-golfers are welcomed to join in the fun and the barbecue, for a fee of \$5.00. Attendees at the barbecue are reminded to bring their own meats; but potatoes, salad, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.

Now regarding comments made by the victorious North Wales team of 1997, in the February edition of the Cambrian News, we thought we should reserve comment for a month before responding. In the meantime, we have been "baited" by the North team for some sort of reply. They have also placed a "mole" in our golfing foursome at Langara, where the captain and former captain of the South team, were playing! Not only that, the North team meet, once in a while, at the Red Dragon to plan some strategy for our defeat. This they must continue to do, as the Red Dragon welcomes their support! Good for you guys!!

Anyhow, the South's tactics are simple: with advice from previous Capt. Tom Watson Gilder and Arnold Barclay, the team will meet half an hour before the game and consume a pint or two of beer. With that, I'm confident that the South will smoke the North back into oblivion......

Submitted by Bob Marsh

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Highlight for May will be our first concert outside BC since our tour to Holland and Germany in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of WW 11.

On Saturday May 16 we will fly in two groups from Vancouver and Abbotsford to Edmonton, where we will sing a joint concert with the St. David's MVC in All Saints Cathedral that evening. On the Monday we will travel to Lethbridge and following a visit to Waterton National Park on Tuesday will sing that evening at the Lethbridge College Auditorium. On May 20 we bus to Calgary and morning sightseeing on Thursday will precede a concert that evening in the Red Deer Memorial Centre, plus a chance for the ladies to attend a dinner performance in Calgary of Fiddler on the Roof. Friday will feature an optional tour to Banff plus a barbecue dinner that evening at the Stampede Grounds, and on Saturday the tour will climax with a joint concert with the Calgary Festival Chorus in the Jubilee Auditorium. We fly back to Vancouver Sunday afternoon.

Submitted by Des Harris

I'M ON A COMMITTEE

Oh, give me your pity, I'm on a Committee, Which means that from morning 'til night We attend and amend And contend and defend Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, We defer and demur, And reiterate all of our thoughts, We revise the agenda With frequent addenda To favour our caucus and plots.

We compose and propose, We suppose and oppose, And the points of procedure are fun, But though various notions Are brought up as motions There's really not much getting done.

We resolve and absolve, But we never dissolve, Since it is out of the question for us, To bring the committee To and end like this ditty, Which should stop with a period thus......

Vancouver Weish Society

Officers and Directors For 1998

President:

Jeff Owen (604) 946 - 4956

V. Pres. :

Ann Roberts (604) 925 - 4662

Secretary:

Margaret Barclay (604) 940 - 9112

Treasurer:

Tecwyn Roberts (604) 464 - 2760

Mem. Sec.:

Margaret Monck (604) 733 - 9787

News. Ed.:

Gwilym Evans (604) 274 - 3794

Directors:

Rob Barclay Jane Byrne

Victor Griffiths

leuan Lampshire-Jones

John Pritchard

"SPIRITS FROM THE SEA"

This was the title of the exhibition of driftwood carving sculptures held recently at the Alliance Française on Cambie Street, Vancouver.

The sculptor and exhibitor was Bob Berry who hails from LLanrwst in North Wales. In his descriptive leaflet he wrote a short introduction to his endeavours:

Bob Berry grew up in a farming community in rural North Wales. Having grown up there, Bob Berry has always felt at one with the land and multiple life forms that cover its surface. In his carving, he uses primarily driftwood, found on B.C. coast, to reunite, in his own way, a historical partnership of human and other natural energies, be it the work of animals, such as the beaver, or the elements to create through that unity and put the human soul back where it evolved.

"I began carving again, fifteen years later, during layoffs at the Vancouver Shipyards, where I worked as a welder. Driftwood became my medium. There were strange looks at clocking-out—the other guys with their lunch pails and a crazy Welshman with a wet log on his shoulders."

Bob Berry

Here is an answer to a question in a music test revealed in the Missouri School Music Newsletter:

Aaron Copeland is one of your famous contemporary most composers. It is unusual to be contemporary. Most composers do not live until they are dead.

The Tragedy of Walhachin

In 1907, an enterprising American, Mr.C.E.Barnes, had visions of converting this arid, sagebrush- covered area through which courses the Fraser river, into a productive panorama of healthy green orchards.

Land was cheap here 16 kilometres east of Cache Creek and 3,265 acres and 1,500 acres were acquired on the north and south banks of the river respectively. A dam was built on a nearby lake and an irrigation system put in place to convey the water a distance of 20 miles to the proposed orchards. A ponderous steam tractor uprooted the sagebrush and ploughed the land. Soon the formerly arid land was transformed into a green carpet of cover-crops, criss-crossed by neat rows of several thousand apple trees.

A settlement sprang up when planted orchard land was offered for sale at \$350 an acre. Four-room houses were listed at \$1,100. English families were induced to immigrate there. The town grew rapidly and large houses were erected by the inhabitants. By 1913, the once dry and desolate wastes were a picture of productive beauty, and the Indian word, Walachin, meaning "an abundance of food products from the earth", had become a reality.

Mr Barnes had piqued the interest of the wealthy Marquis of Anglesey in the project, and the latter became a heavy investor in it and built a large home complete with swimming pool nearby.

Then disaster struck in the form of the First World War when out of a total male population of 107 in Walachin, 97 went to war! There were heavy casualties but further misfortunes were to befall the community: a heavy cloudburst destroyed large sections of the flume that conveyed the irrigation water. The Marquis of Anglesey had spent over \$1,500,00 by this time and he sought some financial assistance from the Government to repair the damage, but was refused.

In a short time, the thriving orchards fell victim to the drought. Hundreds of trees died and more flumes fell into a state of disrepair leading to encroachment of sagebrush from the mountain side. The proud manicured orchards were inexorably replaced by the original native flora. Today, there is scant evidence of the ambition, hope and pride that drove men and women to wrestle this patch of land from its raw savagery.

But what of the future? Will there be an other entreprenurial spirit, another Mr. Barnes, willing to dream about the conquest of this corner of our province and turn it into a rich verdant quilt of green orchards? Perhaps the large hydroelectric developments in our province will supply a source of cheap power to irrigate the soil and make it a reality. Sadly, up to now, it has not materialized.

Condensed from an article, "Milestones on the Mighty Fraser" (C.P.Lyons) supplied by Derek Jones.

Can you imagine the incredible courage it took to first discover that frog legs were edible?

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

The VWMC has been honoured by an invitation to take part in a very special celebration, the Millenium Celebration, to be held on October 28th at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England.

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir organize and present a concert at the above venue every other October, where a massed choir of some thousand voices, formed by an agglomeration of Welsh choirs, perform to a sold out capacity.

During the Millenium Celebration however, invitations have been extended to choirs all over the globe to assemble for a grand performance on October 28, 2000.

Second bass Bill Hunter is busy at the helm of the Planning Committee preparing for this very important and honoured event for the VWMC.

During the Falklands war in 1982 a nurse, Bronwen Williams, found a young Argentinian soldier, much confused by the war, praying in Welsh inside the little cathedral at Stanley. It transpired later that he was Corporal Milton Rees, a 17 years old conscript and the son of the English lecturer at Trelew College, Patagonia. The young soldier was fluent in Spanish, English and Welsh and had been appointed secretary to the brigadier-general who installed himself as military governor in Government House during the occupation.



Remember the:

Date: Friday, May 15, 1998

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Cambrian Hall

Occasion : Three Welsh Ladies and a Harp



Tickets: \$10 for members

\$12 for non-members

From: Gaynor Owen(946-4956)
or Gaynor Evans(271-3134)

Come and Support these artists

Diolch yn fawr iawn



A Welsh Tea Party. Picture held by Mrs Betty Wolff-Verbeck and Bill Wynnne Woodhouse. Courtesy of The Ckwyd Family History Society. Ruthin, Wales. Three of the girls are members of the Bowen family of Cefn Mawr. Two of them visited Wales in 1930 from U.S.A.

The names and personal history of 3 of the girls is known to Mrs. Wolff-Verbeck who was studying that family history in 1991 and further information was being keenly sought at that time. The fourth girl sitting on the right of the photo, was not known, but any info that would help identification was also welcomed.

W.A. Bee Report

On April 22nd ten W.A. members and four volunteer helpers arrived at the Cambrian Hall bright and eager, prepared to give their all for the Welsh Society, by making the tastiest and most delectable Welsh cakes for the PNWGGA celebrations.

In the kitchen Veronica Gilder, Betty Morgan and Joan Wilkinson measured and mixed batch after batch of dough — only stopping when the machines got overheated and threatened to explode. Meanwhile Joan Roberts and Phyllis Owens were sorting currants in order that no inferior fruit or twigs would take away from the perfection of the finished product.

In the Bar kitchen, Mer Montador and Marion Armstrong rolled and cut dough in a scene of unending plates piled with dough.

Then, the rest of us took over - Gwen Tonack, Marion Griffiths, Liz Murray, Mae Lievesley, Ann Jones, and myself, cooked and cooked and cooked, joined by Phyllis and Joan when they were finished currant processing.

After a lunch break, Joan and Veronica joined the bakers, while Betty did the

dishes, and Gladys Evans arrived from a Doctor's appointment, to spell the rolling out. Finally, the cooling out process began to manifest itself and it was time to pack the little cakes in tubs for storage. We thought we'd never come to the end.

Our containers ran out. Tony Tonack & Gord Thomas came to our rescue, bringing some empty ice cream pails from home. Anything we could find was filled. I lost count at 140 dozen and I'm pretty sure we made close to 170 dozen.

Our real bright spot was luncheon break when Enid Lewis arrived to rehearse with Veronica. What lovely Welsh singing we en joyed.

We are most grateful to our volunteer helpers, Ann Jones, Phyllis Owens, Mer Montador, and Joan Roberts. We could not have done without you.

The next WA. meeting is May 20th, when we will plan future meetings.

B. Thomas, Sec'y

Vancouver Welsh Society Week-end

Don Murray wishes to say a big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who assisted in any way in making the above such a success.

A full article will appear in the next issue of the Cambrian News.

We were very pleased to see Kathy Thomas at the Gymanfa Ganu and to learn that she's recovering nicely from her recent surgery.

Margaret Parry is also recovering well from a recent trauma incurred in a fall.

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Farmer's Market Seasondays 9-2 May 16 to October Tross Lake Gen Gr	Saturday	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.	30 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.	Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. VSV 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815		Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.	20 Dake Gelf Course Section Gelf Day Self - Serve Barbaces at Red Drugon
Welsh Feesbed of Soc" Three Ledies & a Horp By stickets in advance	Friday	22	29 Galeway Theatre Richmond	Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B. VSV 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815	vo.	12	19
	Thursday	21 Welsh Speaking Evening	28		4	11	18
May 1998 Mis Mai 1998	Wednesday	20 W.A. (Noon) 21 Meeting	27	Tune 1998 Mis Mehefin 1998	3 7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	10 7:30 p.m. General Mtg	17
May	Tuesday	19	26	June 1998 Mis Meho	2	9 Orphens Singoni Pearson Hesp. 57th & Combie	16
	Monday					80	15
	Sunday	18	25	Chedifest Cencers 2:30 @ Gateuney Orphens Ched-			14 11:00 a.m. Church Service and te bach
		17	24	31	1	7	