

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR THE APRIL06

We are always on the lookout for new and interesting bits of island history. At a recent Seniors meeting at which I made a short presentation about the museum I was asked if I knew anything about some kind of concentration camp that had existed in Blubber Bay during the Second World War. Subsequently Jack Maciejko gave me the phone number of Mamie Kelly who is alive and well and living near Barrier BC. I learned from her that there had indeed been a camp in Blubber Bay for conscientious objectors and Mamie worked there in the kitchen for some months probably in 1944.

These men were housed in a bunkhouse that was situated within walking distance of the current ferry dock. Mamie thinks that the objectors were employed at the BC Cement operation across the bay from the ferry dock. We would be very interested if anyone else has any knowledge of this and particularly the location of the bunkhouse and possibly a picture of it.

Last month we advertised for a floor polisher and we wish to thank Jim and Billie Johnson for their donation. We will be looking for someone who remembers how to run one probably sometime in June before we open for the summer.

We want to thank Barbara Mueller for some pictures of the Texada Mines camp area around where the RCMP station now is. Here is a picture of the bank building with its imposing sign. The remainders of the mines buildings were all removed, some to other locations on the island and some off the island by barge.

Thank you for your kind attention and till next time please take care of each other.

Norm MacLean

