

Museum Musings for Aug. 06

I am pleased to be able to report that the museum is in full swing for the summer as I compose this on 20 July. We opened to the public on 29 June and as of today we have had 67 visitors. Add to that the forty seniors from the tour bus that visited us on 16 June and the forty or so that came to the open house on 25 June and we can report a total of 147 visitors so far this year I note however that the donation box does not seem to reflect that number. Perhaps the purse strings will loosen as the summer wears on.

Another milestone has been reached at the museum. We have established a web site called texadaheritagesociety.com. There is not much there to look at yet but we will be adding pages of photographs and textual material including this modest column, which will be added on a monthly basis. Being launched into cyber space is a bit spooky for this old correspondent and it will be interesting to see what kind of response we will get. We would welcome any suggestions you may have as to what you would like to see on this site.

Gary McLeod has advised me that Tom Raper the Texada soldier who died on Vimy Ridge and whose picture we published earlier was the son of James Raper and not Alf Raper as I stated in my last column. We apologize for the error.

We want to express our thanks to the Texada Elementary School who have donated a large quantity of material representing a number of schools on the island some of it dating back one hundred years. We have not had a chance to catalogue this material yet but it includes many photographs and a large number of attendance records. Also included is a magnificent photo album finished in purple velvet and measuring 28 by 21 inches. They don't make them like that anymore.

Don't forget that we are open from 1 to 4 PM Thursday to Sunday until the end of August. Again I urge you to bring your visiting friends and family and make sure you spend some time enjoying our photo collection organized into slide shows in our computer. No computer skills are required. Our attendant, Chelsea Robertson, will run it for you. We are always interested in getting new photos. If you have any you think have historical value we will arrange to have them scanned so that you can keep the original if you wish.

Until next time please take care of each other and enjoy the summer.

Norm MacLean