

Museum Musings for July 2007

Summer is upon us at long last and as you read this the Museum will have opened for the summer. We have changed the hours to 11.00 AM to 3 PM Thursday through Sunday. Our special Blubber Bay one hundredth anniversary display will be open in the old jail all summer so be sure to bring your visitors for a look. We would like to welcome Laura Wood who will be our museum attendant for the summer.

The Texada Seniors sponsored a tea for all Texadans seventy five years of age or more and your scribe must confess to having been in attendance. We were treated to a fine "slide show" by Carol Robertson and Doug Paton celebrating the Blubber Bay centenary. They were dressed in period costume and did a superb job. Our review of the Nanaimo Free Press newspaper microfilm of the period 1873 to 1890 has been suspended temporarily as the film had to be returned after one month. Only one reel out of seven had been partially reviewed but much interesting material dealing with Texada was found. We will be continuing the exercise shortly.

The museum received a new book recently donated by the author Heather Harbord of Powell River. The book is titled Desolation Sound and is the history of the people who originally settled in that area. It is of considerable interest to us as it is dedicated to Maria Zaikow; and also makes reference to Mary Gussman and to the late Joe Christenson who all grew up there. There will be a reading by the author late in September on the island so keep an eye out for advertisements.

Our photo today is of a stock certificate for one thousand shares in the Van Anda Copper and Gold Company issued in the name of: Florence Adelaide Gillespie dated 10 October 1896 and signed by the President of the company, Edward Blewett. Does any one know who Florence Gillespie was? With shares at one dollar each this represented a tidy investment however we are sure that it was a good one since this company operated the Cornell, Little Billy and Copper Queen mines. Ed Blewett founded the town of Van Anda named after his son. We wish to thank Peder Norbygard who kindly allowed us to make a copy of this certificate for the museum. Until the next time please take care of each other and remember to think green.

Norm MacLean

