

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR MARCH 08

It has been a long winter but the crocus and snowdrops provide proof that spring is really just around the corner. Spring means spring cleaning and the museum is not immune. We recently removed everything that we had stored in the basement of the museum and began sorting it in a large garage that the Blubber Bay Quarry kindly loaned to us. This is giving us the opportunity to do an inventory and "re-catalogue" a good deal of material. We are also beginning to photograph all artifacts to support the data base system that we are developing.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome some new members who have been helping with this work. They are: Barbara Mueller, Brenda Rairie, Donna Lechner and Peter Kenny. Welcome aboard.

We recently received a donation from Bob and Barb Wells consisting of archival material that had belonged to Helene Orpen who was Bob's sister. She passed away last year. Helene wrote stories and articles for the Powell River News for many years and this donation includes many of her hand written articles. Helene was also a member of the Centennial Committee that produced the original island history titled "Texada".

We also received a copy of a book titled "Powell Rivers First 50 Years" kindly donated by Diana Vaughn. It includes a chapter titled "Texada" which was written by Helene Orpen and is a fine capsule history of Texada. There is also an excellent depiction of the sinking and resurrection of the steamer Cheslakee with fourteen photographs.

An excellent book has been donated to us by Norm Liebich titled "A Better Life" which is his autobiography and account of his families' life in Germany and in Canada. There have been Liebichs on Texada since 1924 when Norm's father moved his family here from Nanaimo and settled in Blubber Bay. Norm is now living in a retirement home in Nanaimo. Our photo this month is of Norm (on the left) and Art Liebich celebrating Art's ninety second birthday on Texada in June 2007.

Until the next time take care of each other and remember to think and act green.

Norm MacLean

