

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2009

We are familiar with the story of the still that was established in Pocahontas Bay during prohibition in the 1920's. We understand that what led to its discovery was the sight of a white horse in the area that aroused suspicion. Subsequent investigation uncovered the operation and it was closed down.

The museum recently received a copy of the journal of the Canadian Aviation Society for the winter of 1974 that corroborates this story. The journal contains a history of early aviation in BC written by E. L. MacLeod. He was a pilot with the Canadian Air Board, created in 1919 and replaced by the RCAF in 1924, to provide flying support to federal agencies. Our photo today is of one of the unique aircraft that they used a flying boat with a single pusher type engine mounted under the upper wing. Their base was at Jericho Beach in Vancouver.

Mr. MacLeod recounts that sometime in 1928 the Canadian Customs Department in Vancouver became suspicious of a barge that made regular trips out of False Creek. They noted that a white horse had been on the barge on one trip and that the horse was not aboard when it returned. They arranged for one of their officers to carry out a reconnaissance in a flying boat and the white horse was spotted. The rest, as they say, is history but one wonders what ever happened to the white horse. One also wonders what may have happened to the stainless steel tanks in which the illegal brew was prepared. They allegedly were acquired by citizens of Texada. Give us a call if you have any additional information.

The museum was honored recently by a visit from the newly elected District School Board. The board toured the museum and listened to the kids critique the Texada history course that they completed recently. We thank the kids for the gifts they presented to those of us that helped Clarence with the course.

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

Norm MacLean

