

ELK'S HALL - "THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE"

The wood-frame building was born of necessity after 1898 when the first school classes in Van Anda had outgrown their temporary location in the "Honeymoon Cottage" – Henry and Olive Treat's log cabin.

The new one-room schoolhouse was completed in 1904, halfway between the Copper Queen and Marble Bay settlements. (The present "anteroom" formed the original classroom.) It featured coal-oil lamps, a barrel stove, an outhouse and spring water hauled by bucket up the trail. A Mr. Johnstone is recorded as the first teacher.

By 1906 the Texada mining boom necessitated more classroom space so an addition was built (presently the front part of the main hall) thereby completing an L-shape.

After World War I the school population waned but as Texada's fortunes revived after WWII, a modern, 3-classroom school was built on a new site in 1952 (now the Texada Museum!) and the old schoolhouse was sold to the B.P.O. Elks.



In subsequent renovations the Elks moved one wall back 30 feet to enlarge the main hall (forming a T-shape). A waterline was finally laid by the Elks-sponsored baseball team and plywood was layered on top of the old floor to allow dances to be held twice a month. A kitchen was added onto the west side later.

Over the years the Elk's Hall has hosted Chamber of Commerce banquets, Scouts, church parades and the first Mother's Day service (1953) for which the hall

was decorated with splendid spring flowers.

Other occasions to dress up the hall were the popular cabarets (Hawaiian, Hillbilly themes), Klondike Nite, turkey shoots and New Years dances. The 1967 Centennial cabaret featured Mounties, igloos and a Can-Can floor show. Twice-monthly bingos and the ever-popular movie screenings (complete with a real projection booth and hits like *Tarzan Goes to Africa*) ensured the hall was well-used and greatly appreciated.

In recent years the Elk's Hall has witnessed craft fairs, Hallowe'en parties, rock dances and has hosted the first meeting (and fundraising dance) for TAN's anti-garbage campaign in 1982.

At 110 years, the Elk's Hall has seen its share of Texada history and many have fond memories of the "old schoolhouse".