

VALLEY HISTORY AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM

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Roy Lake Remembering Dad

by Ethel Preece

Linnie and Percy Lake were the proud parents of five children. Their eldest child was Wilfred Leroy, born October 2, 1912, at the local hospital in Wilmer, B.C. The family lived in several locations in the Windermere Valley, primarily in Athalmer. They also spent seven years in Northern California. Roy, as he was known, completed his schooling to grade 9. Throughout his life, he always took pride in beautiful flowing handwriting, and treasured his art portfolio containing many drawing and watercolor paintings. His childhood pursuits were those of the times, namely horses, guns and sports. Later as a young man of seventeen, he was employed at Fairmont Hot Springs when the first tourist resort was constructed there.

Thereafter he worked wherever there was employment to be found, and in the late 1930's he had migrated to the West Kootenay area, working at the Trail Smelter. Here he played hockey with the Trail Smoke Eaters for a season or two. He met and married Nellie McLeod in January 1938. Their first daughter, Catherine, was born in Rossland the following September. Another daughter, Ethel, came along in January 1941.

The family moved to Kimberly for a short period of time, and finally back to the Windermere Valley in 1943. They lived for a time in a small rented house and then in a front apartment of the old Windermere District Hospital before Roy built a little house for the family across from the elementary school. In 1957, a house was constructed on 12th Avenue. This was the last residence that the family enjoyed in Invermere.

These were busy years for Roy and Nellie and the girls. Employment was hard to find and Roy was away with his welding machine to any logging camp that required his service. He then established his own company, opening Lake Auto Service Invermere in 1947. Nellie kept the books, becoming a very competent accountant. The company grew and expanded with several additions to the once very modest garage on the main street of Invermere. Being in a self employed business meant many long hours and weeks, always on call to the customers. At home there were gardens to keep, wood to cut, fish to be caught, and venison to be hunted. May 24th weekend was always reserved for planting the vegetable garden. At the annual Fall Fair held every September, Roy would often take top prize for the 'best in show' for flowers. He grew beautiful gladiolas and dahlias.

Undoubtedly, Roy was a leading citizen of the community. He was an active and participating member of the Lions Club, the Rod and Gun Club, the Liberal Party of Canada, and the local Chamber of Commerce. He also enjoyed the curling bonspiels every winter. Nellie was equally as busy with activities as Commissioner to the Girl Guide movement, and the girls were busy with school and sporting activities.

Roy served terms as the President of the Windermere District Board of Trade. He was on the Hospital Board and was one of the leading figures in the formation and operation of the Windermere District Social Services Society. He aided in the formation of Pynelogs, the former Bruce Memorial Hospital, in becoming an old people's home and later a home for the handicapped. In the municipality of Invermere, Roy was initially a Commissioner, then an Alderman. He served as Mayor for three terms and was instrumental in having the village water system installed, and later a sewer system. In his public office, Roy was known for his adherence to facts and his detailed research. But above all he was known and respected for his honesty and integrity and the fact that the welfare of the organization he was serving was always uppermost in his mind. In his last term as Mayor, he was proud to have facilitated the opening of the Invermere Courthouse.

After his daughters married, Catherine to Arthur Clausen (1959) and Ethel to Raymond Preece (1961), he and Nellie enjoyed having their grandchildren at home or visiting them in Edmonton or Victoria. There were four grandchildren: Kirsten (1962), Michael (1964), Kenneth (1966) and Steven (1969). Roy sold his business in 1971 and enjoyed semi-retirement. Unfortunately, Nellie, who had been chronically ill for many years, passed away in 1972. Roy met and married Anne Wood the next year. This marriage ended in divorce seven years later. In the following years, Roy himself became ill but he continued on with his civic endeavors and enjoying his garden. He later met Bunty, a friend of earlier years. They married in 1983 and continued to live in Invermere. Their home was happy and they enjoyed trips to the coast and to the prairies as well as a cruise to Alaska. She was at his side during the escalating illness and with him when he passed away in February 1985.

Roy was a friend to many and an inspiration to most. He was well recognized for his public speaking abilities and was frequently asked to give a toast to a bride, or say a prayer at official gatherings. He

was not a particularly religious man, but he found great spiritual meaning in the many beautiful things found in nature. The following was amongst some personal papers and although the words are not likely his own, the handwriting certainly is! I would like to include it here, as it aptly sums the philosophy by which he lived.

*Grant us, we pray,
Courage when we seem to fail.
Calm and poise when storms assail us,
Common sense when we feel perplexed,
Sense of humor when we feel vexed,
Hope when we are disappointed,
Wider vision for the future
And
Wisdom to begin again when our efforts
seem in vain.
Amen.*

Published in the Memory of Ethel Preece

C.D. Ellis Diary November 3, 1914

"We drove down to Invermere and Athalmer, had lunch at J.S. Chivers and returned home for supper. Took down some clothes to the Walkers and some shirts to Chas. Howell and 14 dozen eggs to Pitts and Hankey. Got credit at .60 per dozen. \$1.80 for 20 lbs. of sugar at Lakes and \$1.05 for 3 lbs. of butter.

The Provincial Government horses came up to be wintered on our place. Billie goes down to John's to see about the mail. Jack cuts some brush and fixes the meat. I took down and loaned to Ernest Fisher one 5 leg dining table, some saucers and plates and one wringer washer. On the 10th of September we took Fishers down one dresser with mirror.

The winter of 1898-99 was so severe that on April 10 of that year Hugh Gordon with a four horse team, hauled across the ice of Lake Windermere from Ed Johnston's Ranch (present site of Invermere) to Windermere, 5,200 pounds of potatoes in one load.

Brady Creek Ranch

James Brady was born in Durham, Eastern Townships, Quebec in 1840.

"I came in here in 1884 from Winnipeg to Calgary by the regular C.P.R. train, then by work train to Laggan and from there we packed in by horses over what was called the "tole road." I had followed the profession of mining in California, Guatemala and other parts and we were attracted to this neighborhood by rumors of great gold diggings. I was altogether interested in mining prospects.

In 1885 I took up a piece of land which was afterwards crown granted as lot #21 and the creek running through it was later given my name.

The Honourable Fred W. Aylmer, Capt. F.P. Armstrong, and Bellhouse, were the only white people living within what might be called now The Windermere Mining Division.

I took part in the Fenian Raid of 1866 near Montreal."

In 1885 James C. Brady homesteaded Lot 21, 4596 Group1 Kootenay. The water rights were granted to J.C. Brady from Brady Creek in 1886.

The Ranch is situated seven miles south of Invermere, West Side Road, west of Lake Windermere. Lot 21 is described as 90 acres on the north side of Brady Creek, 160 acres on south side, from lake shore 3/4 mile west, including Larch Point. Mr. Brady had three mining claims on Findlay creek as well.

In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lake homesteaded the Brady Creek ranch, Lot 21 and purchased Lot 5118, adjoining the south side.

Joseph Lake was born in 1856 in Hereford, England, and came to Manitoba in 1870. In 1885 he married Margaret Sutherland Kildonan, a descendant of the highland settlers brought to Manitoba by Earl of Selkirk. Their wedding trip from Fort Garry to Edmonton was by Red River carts drawn by oxen. They arrived in Windermere in 1897. In 1898 Joe Lake opened a store in Windermere and shortly afterwards the first store in Athalmer.

In 1889 the Brady Creek Ranch buildings were located on Larch Point, but Joseph Lake later moved to the north side of the creek. Their son, William Percival Lake, was born that year.

Mrs. Margaret Lake claimed the water rights granted to James Brady in 1886.

In 1916, son William Percival Lake (Percy) married Linnie Newell, from Wisconsin, who had come to visit her sister, Mrs. Grace Duncan, in Athalmer.

The Percy Lakes had five children, Roy, Ellen, Gordon, Myrtle and Calvin. The Brady Creek Ranch became the Lake family home until it was sold after WW11.

In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lake lived in Athalmer to look after the Lake store until 1925, when they retired to the Ranch. The Percy Lakes moved into Athalmer. The store closed in 1928 and the Percy Lakes went back to the ranch.

In 1906 Lot 5118 was sold to W.W. Taynton by Mr. Joe Lake. South side of the creek was sold to Maurice Ruault in 1930.

After WW11, the north side of Brady Creek was sold to Glenn Denning for hobby farming of horses and residential use. It was then sold to Lloyd Anderson and used for the same purpose. Carl Jones then bought the ranch and turned it into a Charolais Cattle ranch and hay fields. He also built a new home overlooking the old ranch building. It was later sold to Dr. Draper, a Calgary dentist. The present owners of the north side of the Brady Creek Ranch are the Davidson brothers, John, Marshal and Murray.

Telegram sent to the Winnipeg Free Press August 3, 1916 read:

"While engaged in survey work James Brady of Golden dropped dead this afternoon in field. Brady followed profession of mining engineer in California and Guatemala. He is survived by widow, son Campbell Brady and daughters, Mrs. Shaw of Golden and the wife of Dr. Owen Meredith Jones of Victoria, B.C."

(B.G. Hamilton Files.)

**Months of the year
Kootenay Dialect**
(From the Diary of C.D.Ellis-1911)

January - **NAK-TA-A-SOOK**

February- **NIP-KO**– The month when the bear have their young.

March - **LE-KOOK** - Spring.

April- **KAK-KOOM-E** - When the earth splits.

May- **O-LO-ME** - When water rises.

June- **KOO-KOO-KOOP-KO**- Strawberries ripe.

July- **KOO-KOO-SKOO-MO**- Saskatoons ripe.

August- **HOOK-LAY-KOW-IT**- When the berries ripen during night time.

September- **KOOK-MA-KA-KOO**– When the chokecherries are ripe.

October- **KO-PEK-PICK**– When the leaves fall.

November- **K-TA-LO-K-CHOOP-KA**– When the white tail run.

December- **MISS-TA-MOO**– The big month.

Windermere- **YA-KO-NA-KA**– The place where a baby was born.

**Letter from R.L.T. Galbraith to B.G. Hamilton
November 22,1922.**

“ The division of the Kootenay Indians must have taken place a number of years before 1865 as they were divided into small bands and each had it's chief. Michel had been chief of all until they divided. He settled with the St. Mary's Band near the St. Eugene Mission.

Flathead Kootenays: Baptiste succeeded by Eneas then Gustata.

Tobacco Plains: David Joseph succeeded by Edward then Paul.

St. Mary's: Michel, succeeded by Joseph, Isador, at present Francois.

Lower Kootenay: Eustace, succeeded by San Pierre, at present Arbel.

Columbia Lake: Moise (Moses) succeeded by Arbel,

Arrow Lake: Joseph, succeeded by Baptiste then Louis Joseph.

The Storage/Implement Shed

In 1983, there became a need for storage in an out-building to enable us to make better use of the basement of the Station which had become mainly storage. The shed became the first building to be built on site.

With a three-sided foundation, the main floor was built with assistance from the Village council and Charles Osterloh to become an uninsulated storage area for all the building equipment as well as a workshop. Because of (too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer), the workshop never materialized. But it did become an excellent storage area.

Underneath became a display area for outdoor equipment with the front screened in for viewing and protection to the equipment. This area soon became impossible to keep dusted as a road beside the Museum became busier.

In 2009, a cement floor was poured and doors were installed. Lights were also installed and the interior was painted. This created a wonderful display for all kinds of implements, such as farming, building, gardening and logging. Therefore, it became known as the Implement Shed.

Happy New Year Members

From your W.D.H.S. Executive.

The pandemic continues to control the number of people in a gathering , so future meetings and viewing of Old Movies will continue to be on hold! Hopefully, by the May Newsletter, the message from your executive will be more positive.

Your executive has been busy behind the scenes continuing with projects in very small groups and sometimes on their own.

We thank Sandy McKay for continuing with the Newsletter, Sandi Jones for continuing with the inventory and Sue Macdonald for continuing with the summer project which is Historic Buildings. Hopefully work bees will be reinstated in February. Curator, J.D. Jeffery is on the job on Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm.

Arnor Larson is busy thinking of Old Movies that he will be able to show when we can open up.

Thankyou to all those who have renewed their membership.