

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

420 Fraser St., P.O. Box 640
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

2016 Issue #3

Unlocking Lytton's Past

Snippets

In 1858, when Lytton was experiencing the gold rush boom, which brought an estimated 25,000 prospectors from around the world to British Columbia and miners were struggling to find their fortunes, what was happening in the rest of the world ?

In Lieu of a June Meeting

Our annual potluck dinner for Members and spouses was held June 28 in the Parish Hall.

Thanks to organizers Irene Steer and Peggy Chute, those who helped set up and clean up, and especially all the members who brought delicious food to share at dinner.

An enjoyable evening of shared food, stories and discussions.



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River Festival 2016

In past years the Museum has done various author readings and storytelling activities for our participation in River Festival.

This year, as Monty Python would say, now for something completely different. We hosted an adult scavenger hunt. Participants were provided with a list of Museum artifacts to find and indicate in which display area they found them.

We weren't overrun by participants, but those who did come left saying how much fun it was and why didn't more museums do this kind of activity? Several commented it really made them 'look' at individual items instead of just a sweeping glance at a display cabinet.

Any ideas for 2017's activity?





Outdoor Display Progress

The display extension has been a long time coming, however, it is nearing completion.

After consultation with the Building Inspector regarding Building Code restrictions, complicated roof construction and the fact prevailing winds would blow leaves and snow into any east-west building, the original L-shaped extension plan was abandoned in favour of a straight extension to the original north-south display lean-to.

The extension provides undercover storage for the railway speeders in the winter, and also gives another approx. 100 sq. feet of display area for large items we are unable to display in the Museum itself. i.e. chainsaws, stoves

Once the structure was completed and passed by the Building Inspector, several work parties were held. The gravel around the track extension was raked and leveled, a gravel and sand base laid in the new display area and paving bricks to match the existing floor installed.

The gravel, sand and bricks were provided and delivered by the Village of Lytton works crew, all at no cost to the Museum. Many thanks to the Village for their continuing support.

Thanks also to Retasket Contracting Ltd. in Lillooet which was contacted to find out which shingles they had installed on the Museum building so the extension fascia could be made to match. The company still had a small quantity left over from the Museum roofing job and these were donated and delivered to the Museum free of charge.

Rob Austin carried out the construction of the building under paid contract and the following people volunteered time and effort in the work parties: Jim Steer, Bob Bolan, Tom Peglow, Dereck Ostiguy and Peter Heaster.



Age, weather, and the last big windstorm have already removed many of the old cedar shingles on the display fascia and the two other small buildings' roofs in the backyard. Volunteers are presently replacing all the cedar shingles with shingles to match the Museum roof. We will be colour coordinated!

Once weatherproof the two smaller buildings will be used for more public display area and storage of extra items.





Local Boy Promoted to Flying Officer



Winnipeg, Man., 2 Dec. 66: Officer Cadet J. R. Loring of Lytton, B.C., has successfully completed the RCAF Radio Officer Course at the Air Navigation School in Winnipeg and has been commissioned as a Flying Officer. He received his wings from Wing Officer Commanding the Air Navigation School, Canadian Forces Base, Winnipeg.

Flying Officer Loring obtained his junior matriculation at the Lytton High School prior to joining the RCAF in November 1965. For the past year he has been undergoing intensive ground and air training as a student Radio Officer.

Flying Officer Loring will receive further training at an operational training unit. 407 Squadron, Comox, B.C., before taking up flying duties with Maritime Command.

His parents, Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Loring live at Box 98, Lytton, B.C.

Thanks to Bruce MacLennan, publisher Bridge River Lillooet News, for permission to reproduce this article. It originally appeared in the newspaper on 22 Dec 1966.

Lytton News Lillooet Prospector 1916

The residents of Lytton celebrated Empire Day by holding a most successful concert and dance in aid of the local Canadian Patriotic Fund, at the Globe theatre, kindly lent by Mr. A. F. Hautier.

Among the numerous company assembled to do honour to the occasion were Dr. and Mrs. Fort, Mrs. Al. Facault and son, Mrs. A. Dixon, Mrs. B. Brophy, Miss K. McLeod, Miss Smith, Miss Whitworth, Miss Etta Blachford, Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Hautier, Mr. and Mrs. De Los Loring, Mr. and Mrs. H. Graham, Mrs. E. McLeod, Mrs. Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Lucas and family, Mrs. A.G. Rebagliati and family, Mrs. B. Rebagliati and family, Mrs. John McKay and family, Mr. and Mrs. D.G. Sutherland and family, Mr. and Mrs. G.B. Baillie and family, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Baillie and family, Messrs. J. P. Drewett, J.F. Supon, Al. Palmer, A.F. Loring, Masters Gerald and Arthur Anthony and many others.

Through the kindness of the Revd. L. Dawson the boys from the Indian Mission school were allowed to attend in force, which helped considerably to augment the funds.

Mrs. Blanche Brenton of Cahford, with the assistance of the Misses Spillman and Marjorie Sutherland, and Messrs. F. Dorrell and Walter C. Keeble, carried through an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music, which was thoroughly appreciated by the large and enthusiastic audience, as testified by the numerous encores, and the gratifying financial results accruing to the fund.

An ice cream stall was very ably presided over by Mrs. A. Dixon and Miss Smith, and was well patronized by the dancers, who indulged in the "gay fantastic" till the wee sma' hours, under the fascinating strains supplied by Mrs. Blanche Brenton and Mrs. De Los Loring.



How Do We Know ...

How do we know information on our labels, signs and what we tell our visitors is correct?

Information sources are classified as:

primary (deemed most reliable)

- a document or physical object written or created during or close to the event or time period in question, i.e. original, first-hand accounts; diaries, birth certificates, census records, letters, interviews.
- a “derived” primary source is based on a primary source, but has been transcribed or paraphrased from that source, i.e. a transcription of a census record, an abstract of a will or an obituary. However, any time someone copies information from one source to create another, there is a chance mistakes will be made.

secondary

- an interpretation or analysis of a primary source which may be based on primary sources, other secondary sources or a mixture of both. Secondary sources, one or more steps removed from the event, are often written at a later date than the events being described.

Examples of secondary sources include:

- A history book such as *The Last Spike* by Pierre Berton.
- Encyclopedias such as *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.
- A newspaper article written in 1980 about life in BC during the gold rush of 1858.

The majority of artifacts and archives in Lytton Museum have been received from local people who gave information about the things they were donating. As a follow up to

receiving the item, Museum volunteers spend a great deal of time, both at the Museum and at home, researching information.

A donation information “a doll I was given on my 7th birthday in 19XX” is considered a primary source and we only research to gather more information than the donor provided - model, manufacturer, number of years produced, etc..

A donation information made by other than the original owner “the family story is that great-grandmother was given this doll on her 7th birthday in XXX in Russia” is considered a secondary source and we would research to find out if it was indeed Russian and if it was produced within a time frame to match great-grandmother’s age.

Of course there are always the “mystery items” for which neither primary or secondary information is available. (see Newsletter 2014 Issue #4 *Another Mystery Person*). And, of course, there’s always that item which has debated information and we try to show both sides in our presentation.

The internet has been such a big help in our researching, as prior to so much information coming online, sources were limited to books purchased by the Museum, in the public library or in private local collections. We can now access information from other museums, governments and manufacturers around the world.



Then & Now

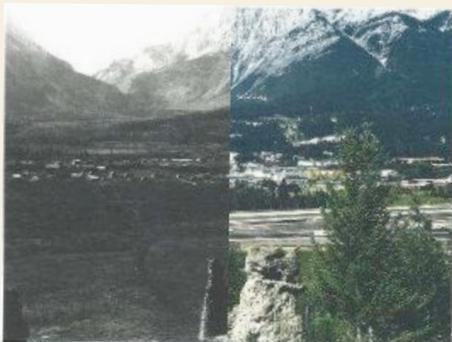
Repeat photography is an interesting technique where, working with historical photographs, a photographer retraces the steps of the original photographer and takes new shots in the same locales.

Thanks to Rev. Koten Benson for pointing out this interesting website - there's even a picture of Lytton! <http://lensoftimenorthwest.com>

National park biologist Cliff White, based in Alberta, took photographs showing the beauty of the Canadian and American Northwest and documenting changes in various locations that have occurred over a 125 year period.

On the website the "About" page explains how to use the site. If you do not have a computer, most public libraries have computers free to use.

Prefer a book ? Have an Alberta connection ? Mr. White and Canadian Rockies historian Ted Hart have produced a book entitled *The Lens of Time: A repeat photography of landscape change in the Canadian Rockies* of 100 sets of "then and now" photos covering Calgary and the foothills, the Bow Valley, Banff National Park, the slopes of the Rockies, the Columbia Ice Field and Jasper National Park.



Summer Visitors

Among the many visitors this summer was a couple who identified themselves as Chuck and Carla Berkler from Lytton.

The surname is not a familiar one in our Lytton history but they definitely were from Lytton... Lytton, Iowa that is !



Wikipedia and government statistics:

Encompasses 0.20 sq. miles with a population in of 377 in 1980, decreasing to 301 in 2015

Nearest medical centre is 7 miles away , in Sac City at Loring Hospital.

There's a bank, a City Hall, a Public Library two schools and two churches.

Farming is the main occupation.

Most residents travel less than 10 minutes to work.

Although there was an early homesteader in Iowa named Lytton, the 1914 history of Lytton's county indicates the town was named after Lord Lytton. It also mentions that at the time, Lytton was the smallest town in the state to have its own electric light plant.



Did You Live in Lytton When ...

At age 21, Ronald A. Ekstrom had already done three years service in the RCMP.



On the evening of 22 April 1961, he and a “ride-along” were doing a routine patrol on Highway 12. On the way back to Lytton they stopped to check out a car parked on the side of the road. While they were checking the car, a southbound car came towards them at a high speed. Cst. Ekstrom signalled for it to stop but it did not and carried on toward Lytton.

Cst. Ekstrom chased after him in his patrol vehicle. Speeds of up to 85 miles per hour were reached and Cst. Ekstrom radioed ahead for a road block to be set up. At the side road into the drive-in theatre a vehicle pulled out onto the road in front of the police car. Cst. Ekstrom took evasive measures to avoid a collision, but lost control of his car. It skidded down the highway, over the bank, and down 200 yards before crashing into a tree.

Although the ‘ride-along’ survived the crash, Cst. Ekstrom did not. His Death Registration indicates he suffered a skull fracture after being thrown from the vehicle and he died at the scene.

The vehicle he was pursuing also crashed shortly thereafter, and the driver, Charles Alexander Harrington, fled the scene on foot. He was arrested later at his home in Vancouver and convicted of criminal negligence.

Cst. Ekstrom is buried in the Archmount Cemetery in Lethbridge.



If that's you, please consider donating any items pertaining to the Lytton area to the Museum.



In BC, in the past few years, several small museums have closed due to declining population and aging volunteers. If you have an interest in our local history and can spare some time, please consider being a Museum volunteer.

Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place.

A London School of Economics study found the more people volunteered, the happier they were. Compared with people who never volunteered, the odds of being "very happy" rose 7% among those who volunteer monthly, 12% for people who volunteer every two to four weeks & among weekly volunteers, 16% felt very happy

Volunteering can be personally rewarding and helps you 'give something back' to your community.

Let us show you around the Museum and describe the different areas you can help with - then let us know which areas you are interested in - we'll provide any necessary 'on-the-job' training.

Help keep Lytton Museum & Archives open and growing! And enjoy the camaraderie of fellow history enthusiasts.

Contact Dorothy Dodge or Marie Heaster for more information. Director, 1234 Main Street, Any Town, State ZL

100 Years Ago

From UBC Historical newspapers

Lillooet Prospector
July 7, 1916

TOWN OF ASHCROFT IS ALMOST WIPED OUT BY FIRE

A disastrous fire which started in a room upstairs in the Ashcroft Hotel, Ashcroft, at 6.45 o'clock Wednesday evening wiped out almost the entire town. A strong wind was blowing and the water supply was entirely inadequate to cope with the flames, the fire stopping when there was very little left to burn. The following buildings with their contents were destroyed: Ashcroft hotel, Murphy's law office, Morgan's law office, Bank of B. N. A., Northern Crown Bank, Harvey-Bailey & Co.'s big store and warehouse, with stock of about \$150,000; M. Dumond's store, with stock of over \$100,000; Koelkenbeck's barber shop and residence, post office, Gov. telegraph office, Kaltenbach's jewelry store, Cozy moving picture house, Russell's moving picture house, Engerman's pool hall and garage, Grand Central hotel and ice house, Phillips' residence and two barns, Huston's residence, Sutherland's residence, near C. P. R. track, Stoddard's shop and lumber yards, and all of Chinatown.



Curio Corner

curio: a rare, unusual, or intriguing object.

There are 3 in our Museum - approx. 6 inches long, mostly made of metal. Small but functional, they sit unpretentiously next to the high-top button shoes in one of the showcases.

By the 1880's stiff, tight fitting shoes (to show off a dainty ankle), evening gloves and garments with long rows of button became fashionable and a button hook became a necessity

Hooks came in various shapes and sizes. Fancy ones, made of precious metals, were often given as gifts.

Advertising hooks, with manufacturer's name and address stamped on them, were often given away free.



BUTTONHOOKS:
Used by Angela Rebagliati & Mrs. R.A.Chute, early 1900's
Used to fasten buttons through buttonholes on ladies shoes.
Believe me, it was a skill!
Donated by Sylvia Rebagliati and Mr. Joe Chute.



Small ones of less than 3 inches, used mainly as glove hooks, often came with gems or colour decorations and a ring so it could be used as a necklace pendant or chatelaine item.

Men's spats (remember those ?) also came with rows of buttons and some button hooks had a loop instead of a hook. They were often fancy enough to be worn on a man's watch fob.



Travelling hooks, which folded like a penknife, were also available.

See more at: thebuttonhooksociety.com

Regular Museum Meetings on the last Tuesday of each month 7:00pm in the Museum.

(no meeting in July, Aug. or Dec.)

\$10 Membership includes a copy of each of our newsletters.

Newsletters are available by e-mail in pdf format: saves you paper clutter & saves the Museum publication and postage costs. E-mail us at museum@lyttonmuseum.ca



Unlocking Lytton's Past

LYTTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

(a Village of Lytton Commission) is a member of:



British Columbia
Museums Association



Archives Association
of British Columbia

& the BC Historical Federation