

THE K.R.T.A. BRIDGE

January, 2003.

Editors: Barb Stankiewicz and Florence Harrison

The spirit of Christmas came early for over seventy members of the K.R.T.A. in the month of November. Traditions Restaurant, sparkled with decorations provided by Donna Walsh, Boxes under the tree began filling with donations for Christmas Amalgamated as the group arrived. Grace, led by Babs Enns, set a tone of joy and fellowship for the turkey dinner that followed.

The Silver Bells added their cheery voices in song and our hearts went out to the citizens who need our assistance. Eva Harvey agreed to be a voice for the disabled at city council and a letter was also sent to the newspapers to protest the provincial assessment practices of people who are unable to cope with the volume of questions on the resent reassessment forms.

Alf Law's two 50/50 draws, the sale of decorations and the telling of "Good Things" all turned a profit for worthy causes. That Christmas feeling was very real as friend wished friend the best of the season .

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

By Marie Laroche

My wish for you is a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Some of our accomplishments for the first three months were to write to the Premier protesting the reassessment of the disability insurance. One of our members made a presentation at city hall stating the hardships this assessment had caused many people. One of our members ran for council. Another ran for School Board Trustee and was elected. Many members volunteer in the community. It is good to see so many teachers involved in the community.

I want to thank everyone who contributed their memoirs to the Heritage book. It is important to give as much support as possible to this project. So far over twenty- two members have contributed information. Their names will continue to be in a draw for a free lunch.

Schools still needing representation are: Savona, McGowan Park, Pineridge, Summit, Juniper Ridge, Happyvale, Parkcrest, Heffley Creek, Arthur Hatton, Bert Edwards, Fitzwater, David Thompson, Pinantan, Barriera Ridge, Barriere Elementary, Brennan Creek, Chase Primary, Haldane Elementary, Blue River Elementary, Dutch Lake Elementary, Raft River Elementary, Vavenby Elementary, Logan Lake Elementary, plus all the secondary schools. We have a big challenge to accomplish this by April 2003. I will be phoning people to ask for contributions. Again I thank all the people who have made the effort to contribute some tidbit to the Heritage Book.

Our local membership has increased to 246 as of January. We are now eligible to send three delegates plus the president to the September A.G.M.

Our interbranch will be held in Penticton in May. I have no dates yet.

Happy writing, from Marie.

Note from Warren Damer....

We are indebted to previous authors whose work in the school district has been thorough and far reaching. We would like to thank Ron Hatch for his supervision and especially Marie Laroche for her boundless energy in doing background work of collecting the material. We are planning to write primarily about elementary schools in the volume we are now preparing.

PROGRAMS FOR JANUARY TO JUNE 2003

January Friday 31 Topic: Researching your family history (genealogy)

February Friday 28 Topic: C.H.E.S. Canadian Harambee Education Society

Speakers: Don Fraser and Linda Breault

Note: ...11:30 starting time will be early to accommodate the Silent Auction. At this meeting we are going to have a fund raiser for C.H.E.S. It will be in the form of a Silent Auction. We would like everyone to bring an item if possible and have a minimum bid in mind. Ideas: ... a craft item you have made- a small item you no longer want but may be useful to someone else- tickets to an event such as a hockey game- dinner for two that you prepare in your home. BE CREATIVE!!!

March Friday 28 Speakers: Our Bursary recipients from U.C.C.

April Friday 30 Topic: Xeroscape Gardening. Speaker: Susan Hayes from Plants, Pots & Perennials (Valleyview by Coopers)

Medoc (Johnson and Johnson) have requested time to tell us about new insurance

May Friday 30 Topic: Annual General Meeting: Election of officers

The interbranch social will be held in Penticton

June Year end social - time and other details to be announced

The Doll Club to have president chosen by draw.

CONGRATULATIONS

We have it on good authority that our friend KARL KNAPP has celebrated his 90th birthday recently. Remembered by his students for many fond reasons, one outstanding memory was his ability to demonstrate "one arm pushups". Karl attended K.R.T.A. regularly serving on the PENSIONS COMMITTEE with distinction. He lives alone and still looks after himself. Congratulations, Karl, you are a role model and a respected friend.

CANADIAN HARAMBEE... a project to educate African girls

With many people of the world desperately needing our attention for water, food and education, the question becomes one of choice. Where can we make a difference? The Canadian Harambee Education Society, C.H.E.S. is our choice. Basic education for girls can potentially raise the fortunes of a family, a community and ultimately a country. A student can be sponsored for \$400. a year.

BURSARY FUND RAISING

Classic Dolls Club

\$10.00 per ticket

Winner to choose a character doll or an antique reproduction doll, or to look like a picture of a child. Proceeds for U.C.C. bursary for education students.



Florence Harrison

People have often wondered about the skeletons of fruit trees that are scattered among the sand and sagebrush along the bank of the Thompson River between Ashcroft and Cache Creek. Joan Wier came and told us about the settlement which was started about 1910 and flourished for about 9 years called Walhachin. Charles E. Barnes, an American land surveyor, who was working out of Ashcroft at the time, decided that this place would be ideal for growing orchards, after viewing a 2 acre orchard owned by Charles Pennie some 24 kilometers east of where Barnes was working. He found backing for the project which would cover some 500 acres and would only invite titled English families to participate in the project. He failed to explain that there was not any water close by to water the fruit trees. A large flume had to be built to bring water from the head of Deadman's Creek 20 miles (32 kms) away. Remnants of this flume can be still seen snaking its way along the hillsides to its destination. The families came and brought everything with them to continue the same lifestyle they had enjoyed at home. Silver tea services, and evening clothes etc. so they could hold parties similar to ones they had at home. They dressed for dinner every evening, and everything went well until the First World War when most of the men joined up to fight in the War. This left mainly the women at home to look after the crops and to maintain the flume. Many did not return after the war. Some because they were killed and more to return to England because their older brother had been killed in the war and the land in England had been given to them. That spelled the end of the settlement of Walhachin. To this day there are tales that many of the families who simply buried silver tea services etc. in their back yards and the government has prohibited any one from going there now to dig or look for any relics.

Joan Weir's Book can be bought from the Kamloops Museum and it is titled "Walhachin... Catastrophe or Camelot?" Joan lives in Kamloops and teaches part time at the college.

