

VALLEY HISTORY
AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM
BOX 2315, INVERMERE, V0A 1K0 342-9769 MAY 2004



DR. AND MRS. F.E. COY

When talking about the thirties and interviewing people who were in the Valley at that time, one name appears to come up more frequently than any other. That name is Coy. Dr. and Mrs. Coy were very influential to so many people during that era.

Dr. Coy was the only doctor between Cranbrook and Golden, and he was on call practically 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from his home in Invermere, as well as resident doctor at the Windermere District Hospital.

The hospital then was situated on 10th. street and stands today as an apartment building(2004). Many old timer residents in the Valley today were born in this building, many others received treatment or spent time there recuperating from illness— and on most occasions it was Dr. Coy under whose experienced eye

they were treated and returned to good health.

Many others were treated in their own homes, and always Dr. Coy was quick to answer their call, regardless of the hour or the weather conditions.

Filmer Engers Coy was born in Chicago Ill, on November 17, 1890. He graduated from McGill University on June 9, 1914 and joined the Canadian Army Medical Corp on September 26, 1916. He was discharged on July 28, 1919 and came to the Valley with his bride in 1920. He practiced medicine in the Valley until he joined up for WWII in 1941. He returned to Invermere in 1949 where he retired.

Ellen Lucy Wilson was born on May 26, 1895 in Algoma , W. Virginia. She graduated from Nelson ,B.C. as a Registered Nurse and worked for a time in Golden.

Dr. Coy was a director at the Windermere District Hospital from 1919-1937 and at Lady Elizabeth Bruce Memorial Hospital from 1937-1941. Mrs. Coy was President of the Ladies Aid for many years.

In 1920 the Coys purchased a large home from Alex Ritchie (Strands Restaurant 2004) and lived here during the years that he was the only doctor in the Valley.

In 1954 the “Coy Block” was built by Dr. and Mrs. Coy. (Credit Union site- 2004)

Mrs. Coy started a jewelry store and gift shop called "Jewels". This business later sold to Kynos.

Dr. and Mrs. Coy always showed a concern for their community - a concern reflected in their community service.

Dr. Coy served on the Hospital Board and the School Board for nearly a quarter of a century. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Windermere District Social Services Society. Dr. Coy was largely instrumental in having Invermere incorporated as a Village in 1951 and he served as the first chairman of the first Village Council. He was also magistrate and coroner for many years. He enlisted in World War II and achieved one of the highest posts in the Medical Service in the Canadian Army.

Dr. and Mrs. Coy held a special meaning for many Valley people - and the Valley people meant so much to them.

They had two children: Filmer Rupert Coy and Elizabeth Coy.

(museum Archives- Coy File)

Windermere District Hospital

Opened 1956

Additions and Renovations

opened November 26, 1972

by

Filmer E. Coy, M.D., C. M.

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L.P. Root **Administrator**

Architects - Paul Smith Associates

Contractor - David Howrie LTD.

HELP WANTED

January 26, 1927

Female cook wanted for small country hospital. Wages- \$ 35.00/ month and board. Apply to Nurse Logan, Invermere, B.C.

Valley Croppings

June 1911 Canada's all time high for heat to that date was registered at Wilmer , B.C. at **115 degrees F.** (MacLean's Magazine February. 1954)

JOKERS CAUSED REAL PAN-IC

(By C. A. Hayden)

(late 1890's)

Every now and again, Rufe Kimp-ton chuckles, and when this happens expect a jest, even perchance at his own expense.

" I was the chief sufferer, and I mean sufferer, although I can laugh at it now, in about the funniest incident in my experience, " he said.

" Billy West, a one-armed chap, had gone on the rampage, spent his money and was broke to the world. He came into Johnny Connor's bullpen of a saloon in Golden—I was there doing some collecting—and wanted a drink.

"They wouldn't serve him told him to get out. He said he was sick and had to have a bracer but that made no difference. He had to get out."

n “Billy ran into Cham McKay, who was a daredevil if there ever was one. Cham had been up-country doing some mining and had some dynamite and fuses left over. Billy told him his tale of woe and Cham said he’d fix things all right.”

“So he got him an old broom handle, cut off a piece the length of a stock of dynamite, bored a hole in one end for the fuse and fitted over it the dynamite wrapper. It looked like the real thing for a fare -ye-well.

“Now, says Cham to Billy, “go into Connor’s place, and if they refuse to give you a drink, light the fuse and toss the stock at them.”

“I was leaning against a pool table and there was quite a crowd in the saloon when Billy came in. He did as Cham had told him, was refused a drink and then he told them he was going to blow them all to Hades, took the lighted cigar from his mouth, touched off the fuse and heaved the stick behind the bar.”

“Johnny Connors went clean through the windows taking the cash with him. Everybody started for the door at once. I hit for the back door but it was just my luck that everyone followed. ”

“Every man jack of those fellows who struck out for that door jumped on me. I used to dress pretty horsy those days. Had a light suit with loud checks, a hard hat and yellow shoes. Everything was ruined. Every time I’d try to scramble to my knees, two or three of them would jump on me. That’s what they were doing, jumping from one place to another and mighty hard too. The suit was a ruin, the hat worse and even my boots were spoiled.

“I protected my face but my hands were cut to ribbons almost. See the scars?” (They were evident enough).

“Well, that was Cham McKay and Billy West.”

“I was the last to get out and I was sore and bruised all over but still able to make good time to the river bank where I found the gang waiting to see the saloon go up.”

“Well, we waited for quite a while and there was no explosion. Some of the fellows began to smell a rat but they were not any too sure, so we waited for a while longer. Then we tiptoed back to the saloon and there was Billy and Cham with a keg of liquor on the bar going for it for all they were worth.”

“It was one on the gang and talk about your sprees that followed!! It was certainly a stem-winder.”

(Jaryl McIsaac Files)

From Mt. Swansea

**By George Walker , Look-out Man
August 11, 1960**

What a wonderful sight it is to see,
The Columbia Valley from top of Swansea;
No haze at all, a few hundred peaks,
The lakes like mirrors, rivers like streaks.
We do what we can to preserve the trees,
For us humans, animals, birds, fish and bees.
When lightning strikes our lovely Paradise,
It leaves all in ruins, all that was so nice.
One thing we all agree on to do
Have holidays, also be a sportsman too,
Put out your camp-fire, clean up the trash,
Leave every-thing tidy for a return dash.
The wonderful visitors we have each year,
Just love to fish, swim, and photo the deer,
Then tell all their friends away back home
Of the most beautiful places there is to roam.

Invermere Hardware

(by Joy Bond- 1994)

In 1912, Frank Stockdale and George Bennett opened the hardware store with the name of " Invermere Construction and Supplies." In 1915 a lean-to was added to accommodate a dry goods store for Mrs. E.M. Taylor.

Sometime during the next few years, Bennett was bought out by Frank Stockdale and Alex Ritchie. The name was changed to "Invermere Hardware" and Alec Robb was hired as manager.

By the 1920's , Stockdale had bought out Ritchie and was running the business himself. While I was still in high-school I spent one Saturday a month doing books for Stockdale, who was my Uncle Frank. I suppose I was paid, but the exciting part for me was being taken to the Invermere Hotel for lunch. We ate in the little dining room off the kitchen where I always had chocolate pudding with whipped cream for dessert, made by the Chinese cook, Chu.

In 1940, I started in the Hardware full time. When my husband Bill came back from overseas in 1945, we bought the business. About that same time, the Invermere Hotel, where Uncle Frank had lived for years, was sold and he came to live with us above the store. I guess I wasn't much of a cook as he ate a lot of his meals at Mrs. Edith Kenning's Coffee Shop across the street.

In 1944, Charles Osterloh bought the E.M. Taylor Dry Goods Store and ran it until he moved the business across the street to a new

building in 1947.

In 1953, Charles Osterloh and Marvin Tunnacliffe bought the Hardware. In 1959 they moved to a new location and Orr Newton purchased the building, remodeled it, and ran the "Invermere Groceteria " from that location.

In the following years it had numerous owners. Maurice Clow managed it for a Golden, B.C. owner, In 1965, Danny Mackill took over as manager when Clow bought Fisher's Store for his grocery business. Ann and Norm Veitenheimer had the A&G Groceteria there for awhile.

In 1983, R.C. Thompson Grocery opened. It operated until 1992 when the business was closed and the building sold to Tim Strand.

Museum Update

Once again the museum is ready to open for the summer, thanks to our Curator, Dorothy Blunden and our display chairperson, Jessie Lockhart. Also thanks to the many volunteers that assisted with the pre-opening clean-up bee. The theme this summer is " When Nurses Wore Caps."

In February the museum received an electrical update with a brand new panel in the basement, two more motion lights on the exterior of the building and more lights in the Legion Building. The work was done by Deck Electric.

On July 17th another fantastic quilt show will be held at the museum.

(compiled by-Sandy McKay)