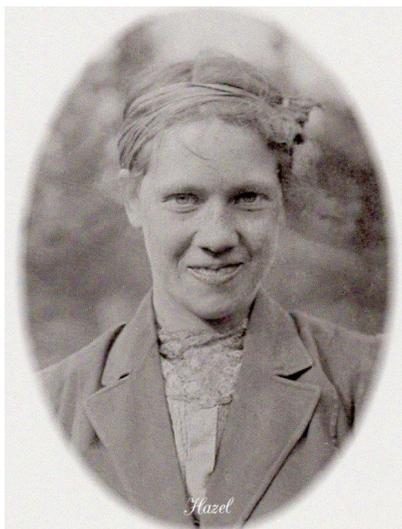


VALLEY HISTORY
AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM
BOX 2315, INVERMERE, V0A 1K0 250-342-9769 November 2014



**Hazel Kathleen Tegart
Kohorst**

“If I’d known you were coming I would have baked an Alpine cake .” Those hospitable words were said to me by a woman who does all her own baking under difficulties some of us would feel were insurmountable. Mrs. Henry Kohorst of Edgewater has been a semi-invalid for 32 years but she does all her own baking, washing, cleaning and ironing and makes her own dresses.

The Alpine Cake, Mrs. Kohorst referred to , is a special recipe named after the Alpine Ranch at Windermere where she was born and brought up . It was described as a delectable concoction made of sour cream, nuts and spices and lots of fruit. I hope to accept the invitation to come again and taste it.

Thirty-two years in a wheel chair has not dampened Mrs. Kohorst’s zest for living. She is not quite sure, because doctors are not, whether those crippled years are the result of polio or an accident. When she

was 24 years old she slipped one evening on a wet spot on her kitchen linoleum. It was a nasty fall. Within 48 hours, she says, she was paralyzed for 36 hours. “All I could do was wiggle my toes and turn my head.” She was in the hospital for a month. Then four months later she had a son, Bill, born in the Golden Hospital. His mother’s illness did not seem to have any effect on Bill. He was a fine baby and during the war was picked as one of seven select men in the Paratroopers at Petawawa, Manitoba .

Bill was not the only child born to her after her accident. Walter, Mary and another, who later died, followed Bill, bringing the total to eight. Mrs. Kohorst had had three children before she was twenty.

Born Hazel Kathleen Tegart (August 7, 1903), Mrs. Kohorst was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tegart and a sister of Lloyd, Thomas, Bob, Emily, George, Buster, Ivy, Marjorie, Jim, Bill, Alice and Monty. She reminisced about those happy days on the ranch, recalled walking five miles to school and five miles home again. “ In winter we’d be so hungry walking home we’d wish God would drop us a dry crust from the sky .”

“Christmas was wonderful. Our table was 20 feet long for the big family party with a turkey at one end and a goose at the other. Mother would bake for two weeks before Christmas and that table creaked under the load of food.

Mrs. Kohorst had several children without a doctor or hospital. When her last baby was born she was alone in the house with her 11 year old daughter, Olive. But Olive had been trained to deal with emergencies. She was only seven when her mother was stricken and she took over baking bread, helping with the younger

children and generally being her mothers right hand. Helping with a brand new baby was just a part of growing up.

She recalled, too, living for a time with her aunt, Miss Anne Mitchell, and “that was another happy part of my life.” Mrs. Kohorst described how it took a whole day to travel by democrat from Brisco to Windermere to see the folks on the Alpine Ranch.

Mr. (Henry Peter) and Mrs. Kohorst were married in the Methodist Church in Golden and lived in Brisco for 23 years before they moved to Edgewater. They had 8 children : Olive- 1921 , Ivy- 1922, Charles-1923, William-1928, Mary-1929 , Walter-1931 , Bruce -1932 , Robert-1935 .

Mrs. Kohorst has a chair on castors on which she maneuvers around her house, and a small heavy work table on castors. With these aids she gets through her household chores, mops the floors, bakes, and keeps her house in order. She does the washing in an electric machine but cannot hang it out nor can she make a bed because she cannot raise her arms. She enjoys ironing. She has a treadle machine on which she makes dresses for herself and does other sewing. She has done lots of making-over in her day, she says, for children and grandchildren.

Her face lights up when she speaks of the grandchildren, 24 of them and two great grandchildren. “ I love every one of them,” she exclaimed.

Visits from her children, grandchildren and neighbours are the bright spots of her day. In the evenings, there is reading, sewing and listening to the radio. She loves music, especially “ good music.” A great event is when one of her sons or a friend takes her for a drive.

Our visit had been pleasantly long but throughout there was no word of the things this woman misses. She talked of all the things she does, hears and thinks but there was no mention of the things she can’t do. She is enjoying a full life . Hazel passed away in 1962.

(Museum Files)

Old Wagon at the Meadows

Captain James Ogilvy-Wills’ wagon is said to be the oldest wagon in the Kootenays. Its wheels are old mill wheels: wooden fellon, iron bound and bolde. Four wheels are intact (1952) The wagon is about 12 feet long and an ordinary car gage in width. It has been at the Meadows in Fairmont about 50 years. The Meadows was originally part of the Joe Young property. Joe Young was killed by a runaway team about 1915. The house on the property is thought to be the oldest inhabited house in the district. Ceilings of split birch in excellent condition, are thatched with birch-bark and clay and roofed with shakes. Pegs were used instead of bails throughout the building which is estimated to be about 75 years old. (1952)

Hope Brewer when asked about the wagon in 1954 said: “ It was made at Fairmont Spring for Sam Brewer by a carpenter named John Grassick and the wheels were made by George Geary at Fairmont springs in 1894.” Two years later, Brewer let Joe Young have the wagon.

Windermere District Hospital Association 1914-1915

President -J.E. Cornwall
Vice President-Mrs. B.G.Hamilton
Secretary-treasurer-G.A.Bennett

Directors- Brisco- Rev. Thatcher
Edgewater-D.Larmour
Benches- N.M. Marples
Windermere-C.D. Ellis
Fairmont- Mr. Crawford
Wilmer- R. Hewatt, H.E. Forster
Invermere -C.Wedd, Mrs. G.

Starke

Athalmer- F. Richardson and
Mrs. J. Lake.

Miss Effie L. Turnor

The Turnor family left their comfortable home in Staffordshire, England, in May 1911, and emigrated to Canada. Dr. Philip W. Turnor, a retired M.D., Mrs. Turnor and children Madeline, 12 years; Effie, 9 years; and Gerald 4 1/2 years .

They arrived in Golden in June 1911 and made the trip up the Columbia River on the paddle wheeler "Klahowya." They spent one night at the Windermere Hotel and one week on the "Isobel" moored at Athalmer, awaiting completion of the settler's bunkhouse in Wilmer. They shared the bunkhouse with three other families until November when they moved into their bungalow that was built on the Benches west of Wilmer. They moved to Invermere in 1916. Miss Effie received her education in Wilmer School, the Benches "Sparkling Creek" School, and in 1916, Athalmer Public School. This was followed by a term at Miss Legallais Girls' School in Vernon. In the 20s, she studied art in Spokane, and the following year attended an Art School in Calgary.

She excelled in water colours, and was proficient in the art of calligraphy. She was generous and enjoyed sharing her talents. She also enjoyed gardening, bird and wildlife study, sewing, embroidery, knitting, music, literature and entertaining.

Many will remember this soft spoken, gentle lady who was a friend to everyone. She was active in community affairs and brought her enthusiasm, talents and energy to the organizations that played a large part in the progress of the Valley.

In the 1920s, Miss Bodecker organized the first Girl Guide Association in the Valley. Miss Bodecker enlisted Miss Madeline and Miss Effie Turnor as officers of her first Girl Guide Co. Miss Effie was the first Brown Owl, and how her Brownies loved her ! She belonged to the Girl Guide Association for many years.

Effie belonged and was active in the Angli-

can Church Women, and was a dedicated Anglican Church Sunday School teacher. She was a charter member of the Windermere District Women's Institute, and also a charter member of the Windermere District Historical Society. She did the beautiful art work on the framed list of Old Timers which hangs in the Museum . She was also active in establishing the first Museum building.

Dr. Turnor accepted the position of Agent for B.C. Telephone early in 1920, a post he held until he retired in 1934. Miss Effie accepted a position as operator in the B.C. Telephone office in the late 1920s, and when her father retired she became the Agent. Effie was an efficient, obliging Chief Operator. In the days before direct dialing, putting through long distance calls was quite complicated. Her soft voice was recognized up and down the Valley. In case of emergency, she cleared the lines to reach a doctor or put through important calls. She went over and above the call of duty to give excellent service. She also trained a succession of local girls to become good operators. During this time, Effie knew every child in the Village and was ready to help any family in times of need.

Miss Effie was transferred in 1950 to Gan- ges, Salt Spring Island where she continued to work for B.C. Telephone until her retirement in 1960. She returned to Invermere for several years.

Miss Effie met Miss B. Stoakley, who was employed at Kootenay National Park, Radium. They shared a love of travel, and many similar interests. A caring friendship developed and they became constant companions. When Miss Stoakley retired, they moved to Salt Spring Island for awhile, then to Victoria. They bought a van and continued their travels. They never failed to visit Invermere every autumn to check up on developments and to visit friends. Effie passed peacefully in Sidney, B.C. on Oct. 22, 1989.

(Jessie Lockhart Files)

Invermere Community Hall

At a meeting of the Invermere Community Committee held in the Legion Club Room, Saturday **June 1, 1946**, the following motion was made : Moved Major T.C. Bell, OBE, seconded J.H.Blake that this meeting is of the opinion that a War Memorial should be established for the district and should be representative of the Windermere District, namely the area lying between Canal Flat and Spillimacheen. Carried.

At a meeting **June 18,1946** a new committee was struck : Major Bell, N.T.Bavin, O.A.McGuinness, M. Tunnacliffe, Wm. Hillier, C. Osterloh, and G.E.Cleland. It was proposed that a community centre should be built and when completed should include the following :

1. Dance Hall (dancing, basketball, badminton etc.)
2. Picture Show (theatre, public meetings)
3. Lunch room and kitchen.
4. Committee room to serve as reading room and for small meetings.
5. Two cloak rooms and check room.
6. Toilets and heating system.

The committee recommended that Invermere build its own community centre rather than canvass the whole district for funds but that the War Memorial should enshrine the names of citizens from Spillimacheen to Canal Flat who have served in Canada's Armed Forces in War.

August 26, 1946— It was decided to construct a building 50x90 ft. Major Bell and N.T. Bavin reported a rough estimate of the materials for the building to be \$5500.00. At that meeting the original Community Committee resigned and were replaced by : A. Ashworth, W.H. Cleland, Wm. Hillier, Jas. Johnson, and M. Tunnacliffe.

Finance Committee : W. Weir, C.E. Osterloh, K.M.Marples.

Building Committee : Major Bell, N.T. Bavin, O. Young, J.H. Peters, J.T.Frater, Wm. Foyston, G.E.Cleland, O.A.McGuinness, Wm. Bond, Mrs. K.J.Bond (Joy), Mrs. A. Osterloh.

September 3, 1946- A letter was sent to all residents soliciting funds and a subscription list was published.

November 11, 1946— Total donations to date- \$6,617.36.

Total expenses to date- \$6,923.35.

Deficit- \$305.99.

Estimated cost of completing building \$7000.00. A total of 38 donations had been received. The response was disappointing. A more active campaign was undertaken.

Proposed scheme to campaign for subscriptions from : town residents, resort owners , former residents of the district and wholesale firms who sell to local merchants.

June 11, 1947— Meeting to arrange opening dance.

July 21, 1947— Total donations- \$10,499.73
Work is still to be completed : heating plant, coal bin, basement floor, stairway to second floor, rest rooms, chimney and storage room.

(Museum Files)

At our recent Annual General Meeting, we elected our 2015 executive. Thank you to these wonderful volunteers.

President— Margaret Christensen

Secretary— Joan George

Treasurer— Josette Jarche

Directors

Joy Bond
Anne Keely
Audrey Mantyka
Sandy McKay
Louise Frame

(compiled by—Sandy McKay)