

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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NEWS & NOTES

It's been a busy summer for the SHS. The Society helped celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of B.C. with a major event held at the Adventure Centre on June 7.

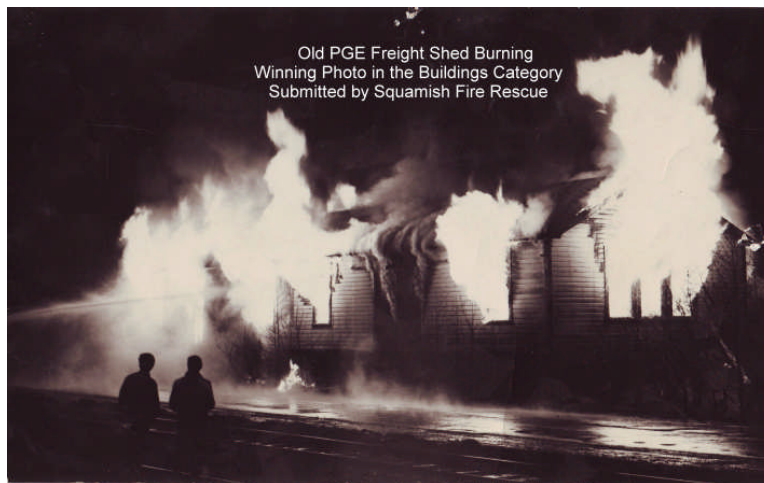
Festivities got underway at noon and continued until 6 pm. The schedule included a display of photos submitted for a historical photo contest in the categories of buildings, people, and events, with substantial prizes in each category. There was also a BC 150 cake cutting ceremony and the Antique Road Show, with notable appraiser Alan Bowen, was a crowd favorite. Two new Squamish related films, produced by the Squamish Historical Society, were shown in the Adventure Centre theatre. *Brackendale Then and Now* is an hour long documentary based on photos and video interviews tracing the lives and times of various individuals and families who helped guide the development of Brackendale over the past 100 years. *The West Coast Logging Life*, traces the evolution of the forestry industry from its earliest years to the present in Squamish and other west coast communities. Eric Andersen, who is a director of the SHS, installed a temporary montage of historical photos in the foyer of the Adventure Centre. His display attracted a steady stream of interest and much discussion. Members of the Squamish



Nation shared stories about their history and traditions and representatives from Service BC presented the story of the development of government services in the province reaching back over 150 years. Additional displays were set up by the Britannia Museum of Mining, the Squamish Public Library, and the Squamish Classic Car Club.

ORAL HISTORY UPDATE

The SHS oral history project is gathering momentum. Recently Eric Andersen and SHS President, Bianca Peters, spent an afternoon with former Squamish logger, Ken Barbour in his apartment in Kitsilano. They video taped three hours of Ken speaking to stories, photographs, articles and cartoons he drew.



Ken Barbour was born on September 4, 1924. His initial claim to fame was that his dad, Al Barbour, brought the first steam donkey into the Squamish Valley at the turn of last century. Al lost the donkey to the French Boys in a boisterous poker game one evening aboard the

Union steam ship, sailing south from Squamish to Vancouver.

According to Ken, Al credited his friendships with notable First Nations members such as

August Jack and Charlie Douglas for his success in the Squamish Valley. Ken spoke very highly of his visits as a young boy with both Minnie and Bob Armstrong among other neighbours in the Brackendale area. He has vivid memories of a colourful life that was rooted in forestry in the heyday of the industry during the 40s and 50s.



He also shared his political views, including the role he played in forming the Republican Party of Canada in 1967.

Ken was a special guest of Logger's Sports in 1969 and on that occasion, he presented the "Al Barbour- Squamish Pioneer Logger" plaque and a Sheila Gibbons painting to Pat Brennan, who was the mayor at the time. The painting was of his father, Al Barbour, standing by the Cheekye log flume.

These days Ken enjoys his retirement as a



L. to R.: Al Barbour, unknown logger, Gilbert Barbour

volunteer tourist- greeter in Gastown, Vancouver The SHS decided to hang a number of Ken Barbour's satirical cartoons in the windows of businesses throughout Squamish during Logger's Sports days, held between August 1 and

August 4. A film related to the interview with Ken will be produced and aired in the near future.



UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sept. 6 we will be setting up a booth at the Brackendale Fall Fair for the third year in a row. The BFF is a longstanding community gathering celebrating the rural lifestyle and history of Brackendale and is always a very worthwhile event.

Our display was well attended last September and we will be traditionally displaying the late Lefty Goldsmith's antique kitchen appliances, as well as an exhibit entitled "Emily Carr's visit to Brackendale in 1933." We have traced the artist's connection to the community through her friendship with Sophie Frank and have discovered art work depicting the area.

We will also be hosting the Forest History Association of B.C. AGM on Saturday, September 27th. A number of presentations and displays are planned for that event. A new film production, entitled *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart* is also in the works.

Our next membership meeting will be on Thursday, September 11th at 7 pm at the Tantalus Senior Centre.

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN is published by the Squamish Historical Society.

Our purpose is to collect, preserve, document and showcase the history and artefacts of the community of Squamish and surrounding areas. Our Email address is: info@squamishhistory.ca

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