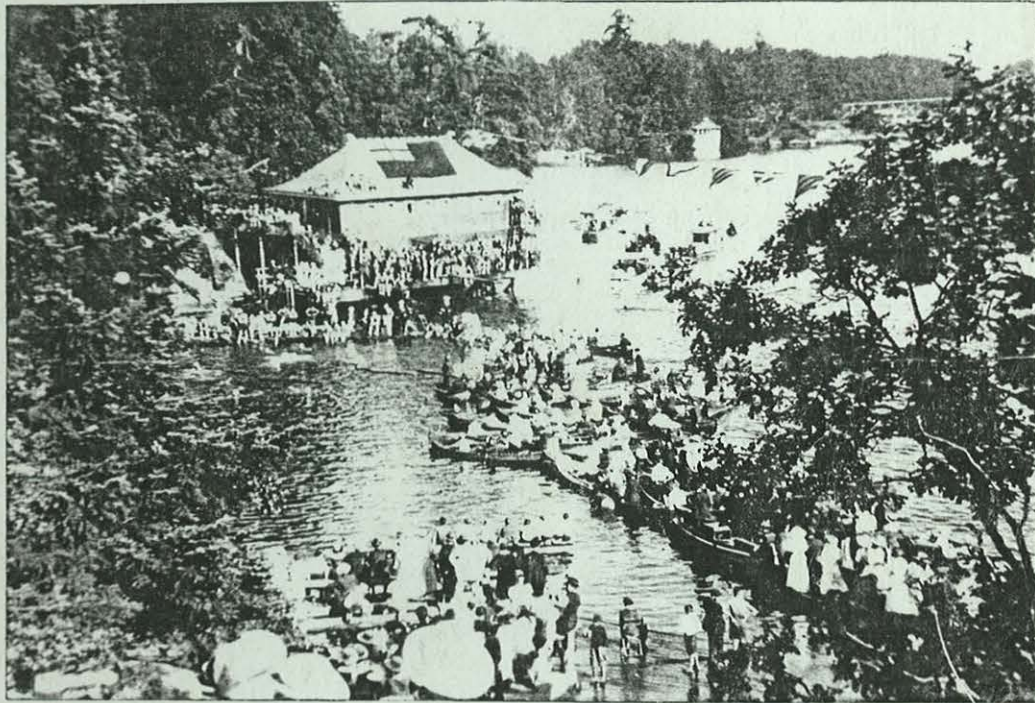


# NEXT TO THE GORGE



A HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BOUND  
BY TILLICUM, BURNSIDE, AND HARRIET ROADS  
AND THE GORGE WATERWAY. 1852-1996.

DENNIS MINAKER

## NEXT TO THE GORGE

### CONTENTS

The Yates Family.....	1
George Rogers.....	3
Servicing the New Neighbourhood, Bridges.....	11
Roads.....	15
Sidewalks, Streetlights.....	17
Water, Drainage.....	18
Transportation.....	19
The Builders.....	20
Street Development, Burnside Road.....	23
Harriet Road.....	25
Gorge Road.....	27
Tillicum Road.....	40
Churches.....	47
Wartime, Dairies.....	48
Tillicum School.....	51
Snow.....	54
Recreation, Fun and Games.....	55
The Gorge.....	57
Gorge Park.....	62
Sources and Additional Notes.....	64

Unless other indicated, all quotations used in this text were taken from interviews, by the author, of individuals who resided in the neighbourhood dating back to 1909. The author is currently preparing a complete history of the Gorge Waterway for future publication.

Cover photo: *Swimming gala next to the "Free" bathhouse, with the Curtis Point boat pavilion of Loo Gee Wing and the water trestle at Harriet Road visible in the distance.c.1913.*

The author requests that permission be obtained before reproducing any portion of this publication.

## THE YATES FAMILY

*"This Indenture, made the First day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two...witnesseth that the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay...do hereby grant James Yates...for the sum of eighty-seven pounds sterling, those lands...containing 87 acres, including Rocks...by the shore of the Portage Inlet. The S.W. corner is marked by a blazed Pine tree, and is situated to the Westward of that point of land which is about 2100 links S.E. of the Gorge. The other corners are marked on the ground by Posts, with Stones and Pottery under."*<sup>1</sup>

**James and Mary Yates.** With this agreement of 1852, James Yates began buying land, at one pound sterling per acre, that soon made him the biggest individual property owner along the Gorge Waterway. By 1858, in addition to his town lots, he had claimed 392 acres of Sections 10, 11, 12 and 81, that would now be roughly enclosed by the Gorge, Tillicum Road, Regina Avenue, and Carroll Street. Further to the west, he also purchased Section 20, containing Dysart and Austin Streets, plus rural properties in Esquimalt, Metchosin, and Sooke.

This Scottish pioneer's beginnings in the Colony of Vancouver Island, however, were considerably more modest. After a voyage of six months duration on board the brigantine *Harpooner*, Yates, at 30 years of age, arrived at Fort Victoria on June 1, 1849, to serve as a Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) shipwright - a trade learned at his stepfathers's shipyard in Dysart, Scotland. Under a contract of three years, for 90 pounds per annum, Yates' work included the supervising of repairs to the HBC steamers *Beaver* and *Cadboro*, and assisting in the construction of Governor Blanshard's house outside the Fort. Joining Yates on that long sea voyage from England, was his wife Mary. The daughter of a Welsh architect, Mary Powell was born in 1824, and married Yates in 1848. At the time of their arrival at the tiny settlement, it contained a non-indigenous population of about 30 HBC employees, with Mary Yates being one of only six British wives.

In his *Reminiscences*,<sup>2</sup> Dr. J.S. Helmcken described Yates as a "powerful, radical, cantankerous being; a dark-coloured Scotsman who hated the Governor and the Hudson's Bay Company". Becoming increasingly opposed to the authoritative rule of the HBC, Yates left their service after 18 months, to work as a private trader and wine merchant. On his Wharf Street property at the foot of Yates Street, he built the "Ship Inn" tavern, for which he was eventually issued the first retail liquor license in the Colony. Profits from the liquor trade allowed him to buy and develop more land along lower Yates Street, which proved especially lucrative during the 1858 gold rush when "shops, stores, and wooden shanties of every description were seen going up, and nothing was to be heard but the stroke of chisel or hammer".<sup>3</sup>

Yates' dislike for the HBC also led him into politics, becoming elected to the first Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island in 1856. By then, he had already taken on the role of gentleman farmer by starting to develop his Gorge property into the "Craigie Lea Farm". With the probable assistance of Songhees Indians and Kanakas (Hawaiians), he proceeded to clear the land of timber, some which was hauled to town by ox-cart for planking over drainage ditches. By 1854, 20 acres had been improved and that year's census described the farm as home to two horses, eight milch cows, 17 other cattle, seven working oxen, 40 pigs, and an assortment of sheep and chickens. Produce from the farm included 30 bushels of oats, 40 of peas, 30 of barley, 300 of potatoes, and 250 pounds of butter. Two years later, a dwelling house was constructed, allowing the Yates to leave their old house on Wharf Street for the healthier environment of Craigie Lea farm<sup>4</sup>.

By this time, Mary (described by Helmcken as a "nice, active, agreeable little woman with auburn hair...orderly and very neat, the opposite of her husband") had given birth to four daughters:

Emma (1850), Harriet (1851), Mary (1854), and Agnes (1855). Harriet's birth had been assisted by James

Douglas' wife, Amelia, who as Dr. Helmcken recalled "*remained for a long time with Mrs. Yates when her child was born, making her kneel down at the bedside, which Mrs. Yates considered did her a great deal of good.*" In June of 1858, the two oldest girls were the second and third pupils to be registered at the newly-opened St Ann's Academy. The year of 1857 saw the death of little Agnes, but the birth of their first son, James Stuart Yates, followed two years later with the arrival of Henry (Harry) Myers Yates.

On October 26, 1860, part of the Yates family left Victoria forever. While the three youngest children remained at Craigie Lea with James' sister, Isabella, the two parents took Emma and Harriet back to Scotland where better schools and more prospective husbands could be found. Whereas Emma grew up to become the wife of Alexander McGregor, British Consul in Denmark, Harriet did even better for herself. When her husband, Professor Sims Woodhead of Cambridge, received a knighthood for discovering a way to purify drinking water on the battlefields, she acquired the generous title of "Lady Harriet Elizabeth St. Clair Erskine Woodhead".

In 1862, James returned alone to Victoria, spending the next two years getting his business affairs in order, confirming legal title to his many properties, and assigning agents to manage his estate. Then in 1864, he sailed with his youngest children back to Scotland. There, Mary and James lived comfortably as absentee landlords in the Edinburgh suburb of Portobello until their respective deaths in 1898 and 1900.

With James' final departure from Craigie Lea in 1864, the farm was left in the hands of Isabella, at least until her marriage in 1874. In a single newspaper reference from this period, *The Victoria Daily Standard* reported on September 8, 1870, that "*Toy, a chinaman, was charged yesterday with stealing plums from Miss Yates' garden near the Gorge.*"



*James and Mary Yates,  
with Harry, Edinburgh,  
Scotland, 1864.*



**The Brothers.** On October 16, 1883, life at Craigie Lea changed dramatically when the two sons, James Stuart and Henry Myers returned to Victoria, the population of which had increased ten-fold since their departure in 1864. Having been directed by their father into the study of Law and Agriculture at Edinburgh and London schools, the two young graduates settled in at the farm, ready to take over management of the family estate. This endeavour got off to an unfortunate beginning however when their home burned to the ground, as reported in the *Daily Colonist*, on March 13, 1885: *"Yesterday morning, the dwelling house on Craigie Lea farm, about two miles from town on the Gorge Road, took fire and was entirely consumed. The only person in the house at the time was a Chinese servant whose attention was first attracted by a heavy volume of smoke which issued from the main building. Mr. Henry Yates and a gang of workmen were engaged in one of the fields and saw the fire, but did not reach the spot until the house was wrapped in flames. Nearly all the contents comprising furniture, clothing, and valuable papers were consumed."*

In the Autumn of that year, the two bachelors had a more agreeable experience, performing in an amateur production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* at the grand opening of the Victoria Theatre, located at Douglas and View Streets. Also in the chorus were their future wives, Annie and Ellen (Nellie) Austin, two of the numerous daughters of John Joel and Sarah Austin. Formerly the Deputy Sheriff of Victoria (1867) and Auditor for the Provincial Department of Public Works (1878-1883), Austin had recently started his own notary public and real estate business. He was also a prominent musician and choir master, and the Austin family home, built in 1878 at 670 Gorge Road West, was often the setting for musical evenings, where the two brothers could court the two sisters. Tragically, overwhelming grief drove the Austin family from their Gorge Road home in the Fall of 1888 when diphtheria claimed the lives of four of their younger children during a period of two weeks.

After his marriage to Nellie in January of 1889, Henry went into business with his new father-in-law, in addition to serving as secretary of the Jubilee Hospital. After residing briefly next to the new Austin home at 170 Cadboro Bay Road (now Fort Street), the young couple moved back to Craigie Lea farm. There, from 1893 to 1899, they lived with their only daughter Doreen, in a house of their own, listed in the city directory as being *"on the West side of Burnside, near Harriet."* Subsequent moves took them to 53 Bridge Street in 1904, followed by Shawnigan Lake, where Henry died of pneumonia in 1907. Later, his widow Nellie moved to England and then to Montreal, where she died in 1959.

In March of 1890, James and Annie were married and lived for the next 17 years in the rebuilt Craigie Lea farmhouse, probably located near the present junction of Earl Grey Street and Obed Avenue. There they raised three sons: James Austin, Henry Joel, and Robert Stanley. Their marriage lasted 58 years, until Annie's death in 1948.

**George Rogers.** Around 1893, a third household was established on the farm when dairyman George Rogers took up tenancy, paying a monthly rent of \$40 to \$50 (depending on how much land he cleared) to operate the *Craigie Lea Dairy*. In return for using the farm buildings and land (with 40 acres then under cultivation) Rogers was obliged by a legal agreement signed on March 14, 1894, *"to maintain all gates, fences, ditches, private roads, houses, barns, and stables...and cultivate the land in good husband-like manner, spreading one large load of dung for every load of hay removed... and keep the orchard in proper order, paying due attention to sufficiently fencing the fruit trees."* Reserved for private usage by the Yates, were *"the dwelling house and garden...and all the land lying between the said home and Millgrove Street on the west and the Gorge Road on the south, as well as the small grass field lying immediately north of Curtis Point and to the south of Gorge Road,"* To meet his need for more pasture land, in 1899 Rogers also leased 40 acres from *Ferniehurst*, the old Ker estate located on the west side of Tillicum Road. In 1902, Rogers expanded his grazing land to the north of Burnside Road by purchasing part of Section 81 from the Yates' estate. By this time, Rogers had also started

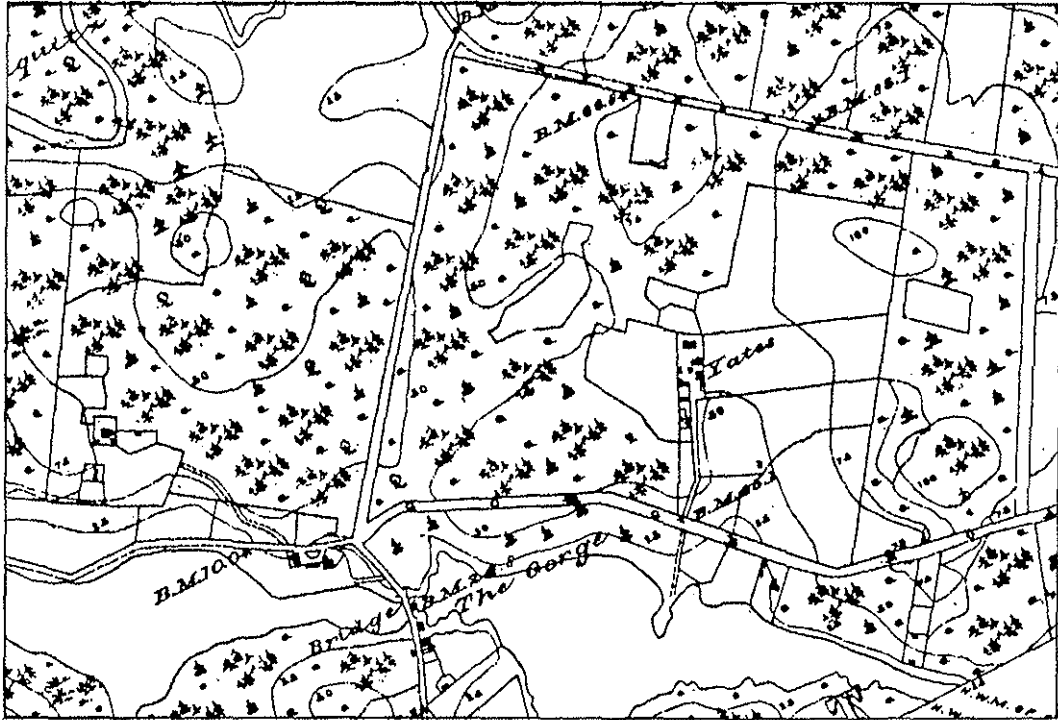
his own family, sharing a small cottage just north of the main farmhouse with his wife Lillie (nee Stevens) and their first daughter Ethel, born in 1899. In 1904, George Rogers moved to his own newly-purchased property on Glanford Avenue, while his brother Joseph managed *Craigie Lea Dairy* for two more years. Shortly afterwards, Joseph followed the tradition of the Yates' brothers by marrying Lillie's sister, Ethel Stevens.

**James Stuart Yates.** When Rogers took over daily management of the farm, James Stuart was in pursuit of a legal career that spanned 62 years, beginning in 1884 when he entered an established law firm with George Jay Jr. One early client to enter their Bastion Square office was the publisher/politician Amor de Cosmos. Later, their own firm was actively involved in the legal wrangle that followed the Point Ellice Bridge disaster of 1896. In 1907, the firm represented the Saanich municipal council. Yates also served as a founding director of the Royal Jubilee Hospital (1890), a school trustee, and Victoria City alderman (1900-1906). Like his father before him, he also served in the Provincial Legislature (1900) where he briefly acted as Secretary and Commissioner of Lands and Works in the short-lived government of Premier Joe Martin. James Stuart's own son (and law partner) Robert Stanley Yates, born at Craigie Lea in 1896, continued this family tradition by acting as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly from 1945 to 1948.

Another professional role for James Stuart Yates was acting as land agent for his father's estate, identified in *The Daily Colonist* on October 23, 1891 as worth \$169,450. With the expansion of the city, a number of wealthy Victoria merchants and industrialists were looking to the Gorge waterway (known then as "The Arm") as a fashionable place of residence -on the water, but away from the wind. Taking advantage of this demand, Yates began to sell off his shoreline properties from Sections 10 and 11 as early as 1885. Included in the list of early buyers were C.W.R. Thompson, who purchased nine acres to build the "Dingle House", and Robert Dunsmuir, who built a brick mansion called "Ashnola" as a wedding gift for his daughter Emily. A decidedly more modest purchase of land (away from the water) was made in 1888, when a city baker named John J. Wilson bought 1.8 acres at the southwest corner of Millgrove Street and Burnside Road. In 1889, he built a small house there, called *The Pines*, which stands today at 3184 Millgrove Street as the oldest extant house in the neighbourhood.

By 1905, with the real estate market booming, Yates was ready to sell the remainder of his late father's estate. That year, he placed the first of many newspaper advertisements heralding the sale of properties from Yates Street to Sooke, including "*Craigie Lea Farm, comprising 140 acres with a dwelling house, four acre orchard, and farm buildings.*" In the following August of 1906 he advertised that "*Craigie Lea property, having been subdivided into lots, affords excellent sites for suburban residences. The Gorge Carline, within a few minutes walk of most of the property, renders this area especially desirable.*" One of Yates' biggest sales of land at this time was to the City of Victoria, for the creation of the City Gorge Park on 11 3/4 acres of waterfront property, between the foot of Millgrove Street and Tillicum Road. In 1907, Yates sold the remainder of his Gorge property to a number of developers, including the B.C. Land and Investment Company. Also responsible at that time for promoting the Fairfield and James Bay neighbourhoods, this large company re-subdivided the old farm into smaller building lots which they put back on the market in 1908, finalizing the transformation of the 56 years old farm into suburbia<sup>5</sup>.

By this time, James and Annie had left the farm and taken up residence on Elford Street, in the Fernwood area, before their final move to 25 Millstream Road in Langford. There, in his final retirement years, Yates was considered the oldest native Victorian, and honoured with the title "First Chief Factor" of the Native Sons of B.C. In 1950, he died at age 92 years, followed by interment at Hatley Cemetery.



*Portion of 1888 War Department Map, identifying the Yates Farm above the Gorge.*



*Henry Joel, James Austin, and Robert Stanley Yates, Curtis Point. c.1899.*



*The second Craigie Lea farmhouse. c.1899.*



*Isabel Yates (?), Craigie Lea. c.1899. Rogers cottage in the distance.*





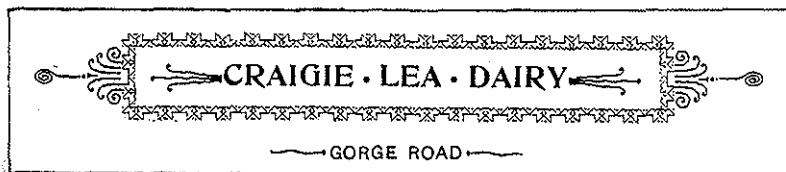
*James Austin Yates, Craigie Lea. c.1899.*



*The Yates family. c1904. Pictured left to right are the adults: James Stuart, Nellie, Sims Woodhead, Harry Myers, Harriet, and Annie. Children: Henry Joel, Robert Stanley, Doreen, and James Austin.*

*Charles E. Jorg*  
*Barretters, Solicitors*  
*Victoria B.C.*  
*Sept 29th 1896*  
*Received from Mr. George Rogers the sum*  
*of one hundred dollars in payment of Farm*  
*rent for August & September 1896-*  
*James Mates*  
*by his attorney in fact*  
*Shuart Mates*

Receipt for payment of rent for Craigie Lea farm, 1896.



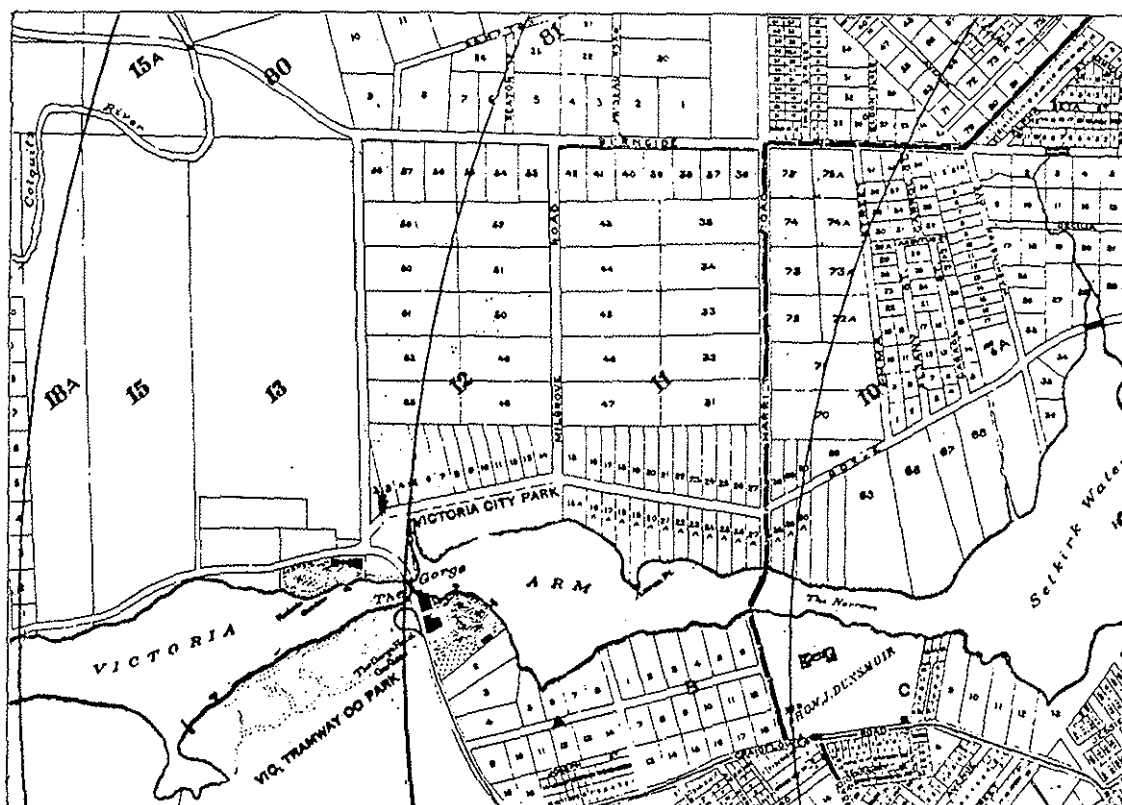
Craigie Lea Dairy Farm, 1899. George, Lillie, and baby Ethel Rogers are standing in the shadow of the cottage. The horse-drawn delivery wagon, next to the dairy shed, bears the name "Rogers" on the back.



*Hauling hay, Craigie Lea farm. 1899.*



*George Rogers and family in front of the Craigie Lea barn. 1899.*



Subdivision map of 1907, identifying Milgrove, Harriet, and Emma Roads.

## BUY UP THE GORGE AND AVOID THE WIND

Lots \$50 and upwards. Ready purchasers found for lots in this beautiful subdivision.  
Handy to the cars, protected from the wind. All good land and chiefly under cultivation.

### \$50 CASH

And \$10 per month will buy any of them. Discount for cash.

\$100 allowed to each purchaser buying 6 lots.  
\$50 allowed to each purchaser buying 3 lots.

MAPS FOR DISTRIBUTION.

**The B. C. Land and Investment Agency**  
LIMITED  
922 GOVERNMENT STREET

Real estate advertisement, The Colonist, May 16, 1909.

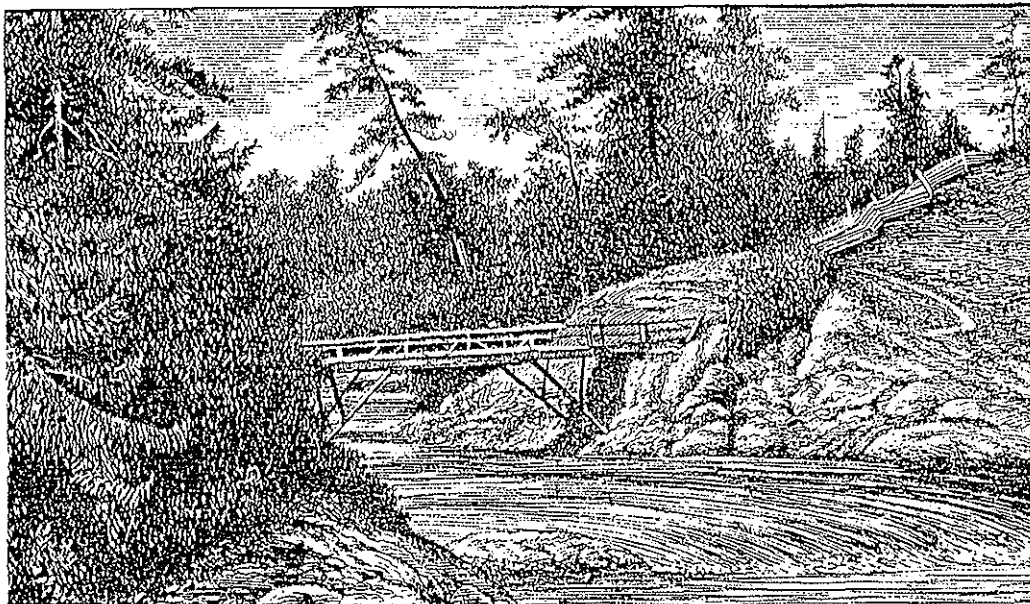
## SERVICING THE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD

**Bridges.** The first infrastructure to service the area actually predated Craigie Lea Farm. On February 2, 1848 a bridge of five logs was thrown across the Gorge narrows (*"rapids of Concordia Arm"*) under the supervision of Roderick Finlayson, as part of a trail that connected the Fort with the sawmill at Millstream, on Esquimalt Harbour. In 1867, these logs were replaced with a more substantial structure, supported beneath with vertical and diagonal trusses. A similar bridge followed in 1872, to be replaced in 1882 with a bow-string span, measuring 110 feet long and 13 feet wide. The contractor for this bridge was Daniel Adams, whose original Gorge Road house remains extant at 2803 Adelaide Street. On July 6, 1899, still another new bridge was opened, measuring 18 feet wide and built upon two steel arches. Although it stood for 34 years, this structure was declared unfit for general traffic in 1920, when it was limited to use by pedestrians, and vehicles with a maximum weight of 2 ½ tons, travelling no faster than 3 mph. In the Spring of 1933, this derelict bridge was demolished, obliging area residents to travel around the Gorge, cross by a rowboat made available by the government, or take their chances on foot, as one early resident recalled: *"I still had to deliver meat over in Esquimalt. So I wheeled my bike over on a plank, and I felt pretty darn shaky, looking down from that height"*. Another individual remembered that in order to catch the streetcar one evening, she had to cross over on the plank in the dark, guided solely by the flashlight held in the bridge watchman's hand. Finally, six inconvenient months later, new steel bridges were in place at both the Gorge and Craigflower crossings. Although the latter bridge is still in use, the Gorge bridge was replaced again, with the current structure, in 1967.



*The first bridge, c.1866. Each stage of it's construction was recorded by Roderick Finlayson in the Fort Victoria Post Journal from January 17 to February 2 of 1848: "Early this morning Mr. Neven and myself started with 8 hands to cut the road....from the plains through the wood to the rapid in Concordia Arm to bridge that place.... we have now got 5 large logs placed across the falls at which 7 hands were employed for the last 8 days....logs adjusted, materials prepared for its rails...the bridge is now completed. I rode across it this morning on horseback".*

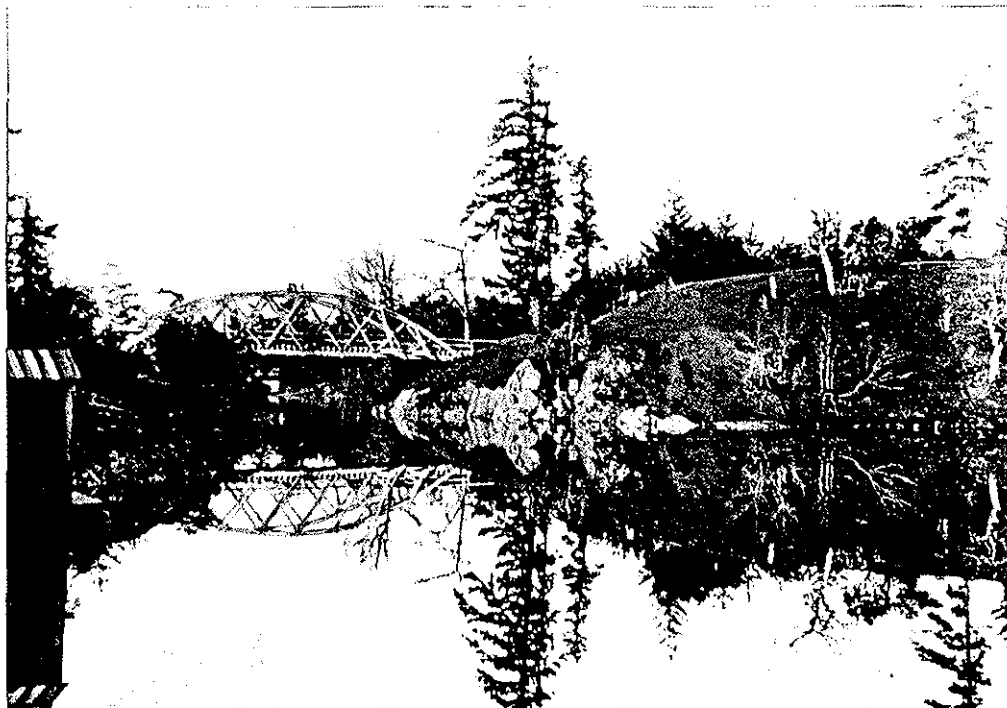




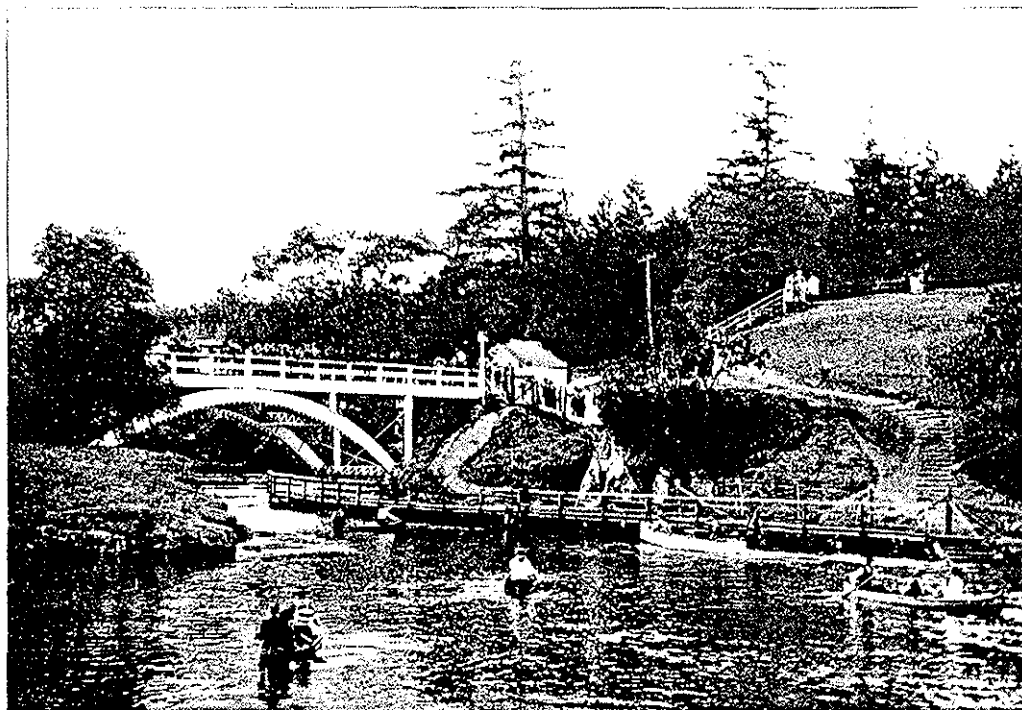
*The second bridge, completed on May 24, 1867, just a few hours before the first Queen's Birthday Regatta.  
Engraving printed in the Canadian Illustrated News.*



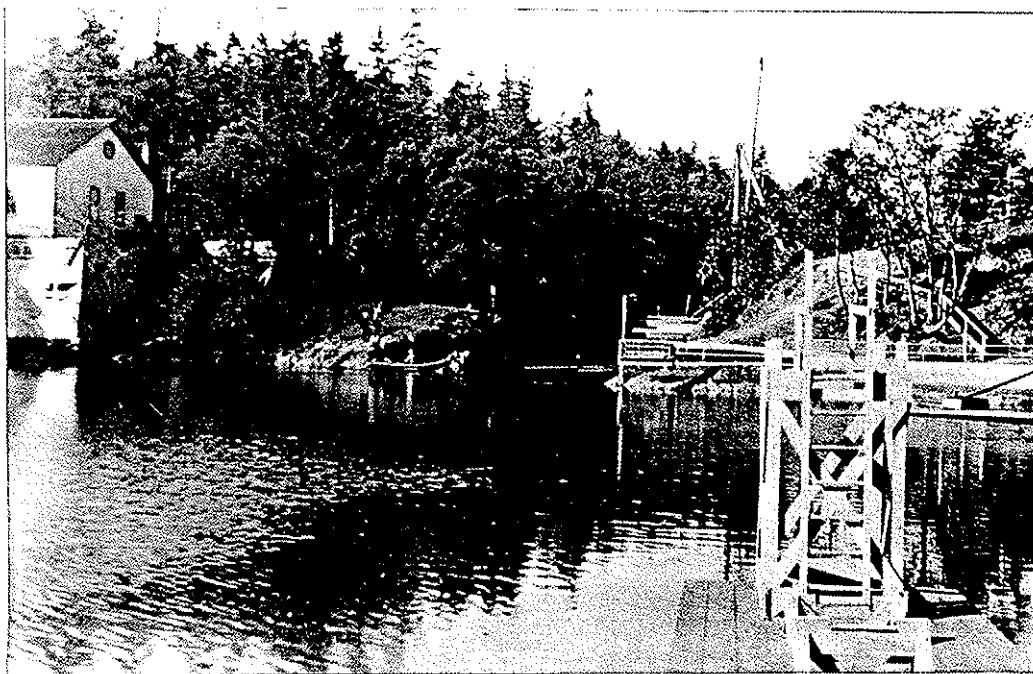
*The third bridge, with its footings on the Saanich shore located slightly westward of the previous site.*



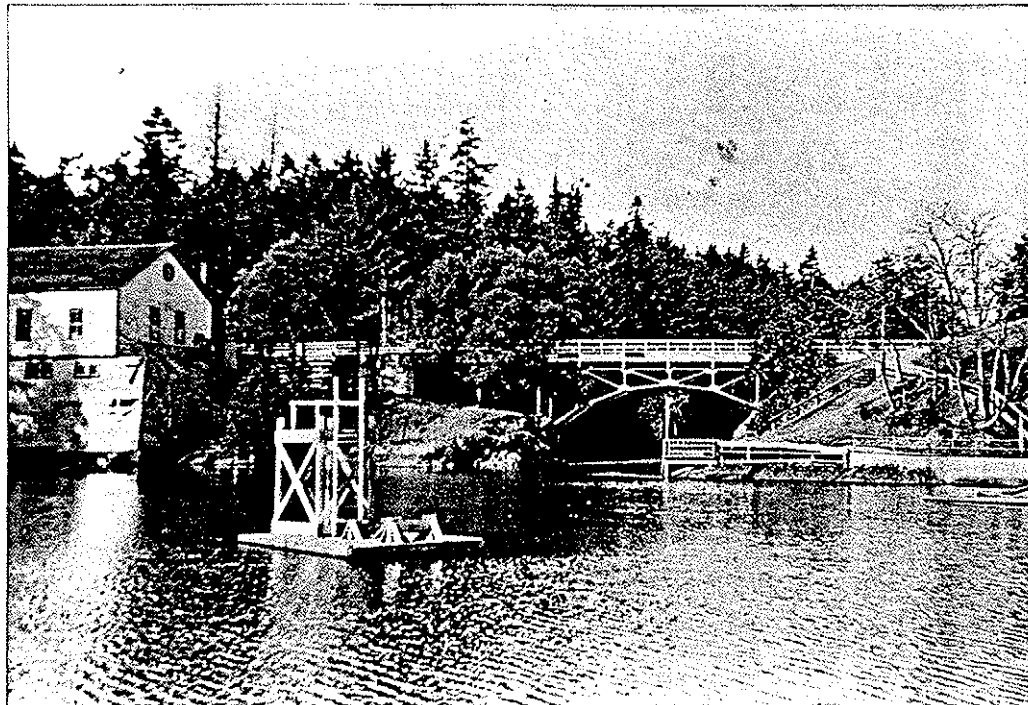
*The fourth bridge, for which "the hill on either side is being cut down so as to afford easy and secure approaches."*



*The fifth bridge (c.1908), used as a popular vantage point for watching the boaters. Note the canoe towpath.*



*The summer of 1933, after the previous decaying bridge "with rotting timbers and many loose rivets" was removed.*

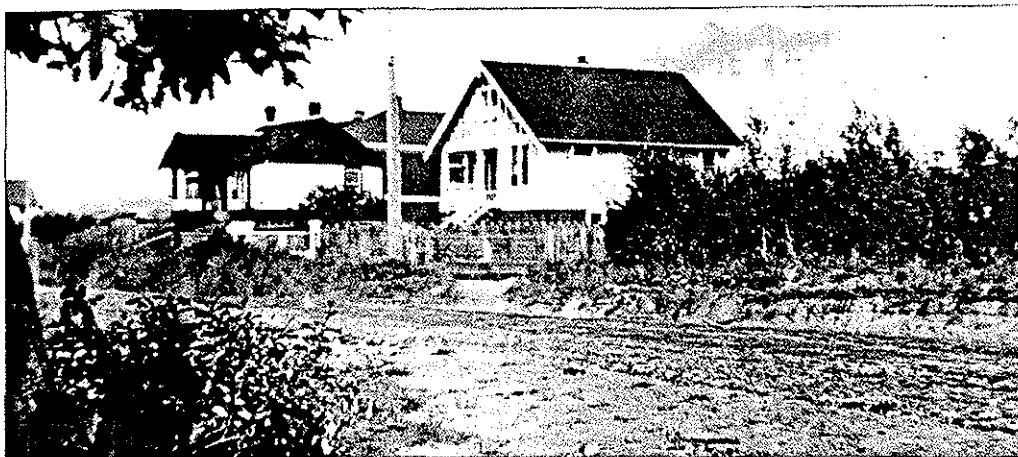


*The sixth bridge (c. 1934) next to the J.B.A.A. gymnasium, originally built in 1886 as the Gorge Hotel dance hall.*

**Roads.** Like the first bridges, the earliest roads were crudely built, existing as mere trails through the forest. Burnside Road appeared on maps as early as 1858. Known then as the "Victoria to Metchosin Road", it probably began as part of Finlayson's sawmill route of 1848. A survey map by H.O. Tiedemann in 1874 identifies Millgrove, Harriet, and Emma Streets as existing in some rustic manner. The origin of the name "Millgrove" remains a mystery, although the other two names obviously honoured James Yates' oldest daughters. In 1918, Emma Street was renamed to commemorate the former British Prime Minister and wartime First Lord of The Admiralty, Arthur J. Balfour.

According to legend, Tillicum Road took its name from the Chinook (sic) phrase "*Klahowya Tillicum*," meaning "*Welcome friend*", a greeting exchanged between the Yates and Ker families when meeting at the border that separated their two estates, Craigie Lea and Ferniehurst. The latter was founded by Robert Ker, the former Auditor General of both the Colony and British Columbia, when he retired there in 1874. Five years later, Ker died from exposure while travelling home from the Four Mile Tavern one winter's night. His 150-acre estate, roughly bounded by Tillicum Road, the Gorge, Dysart Road, and Colquitz Creek, was subdivided in 1910. Streets that today bear the names of his sons and granddaughters are Walter, Arnot, Davida, and Inez. Prior to 1923, Bodega Street was named Robert Street. Tillicum Road was laid out on a map as early as 1884, and actually identified by name on a publication of 1907. It was probably then little more than a glorified trail, for even in 1913 *The Daily Colonist* described it as in "*deplorable condition*."

Originally called the "Victoria to Craigflower Road," Gorge Road was laid out in its present form in 1885 to service the large houses being built "up the Arm". In 1915, it was designated as part of the Island Highway and received the area's first asphalt surface in the following year. Along with this improvement came a box of sand at the Harriet Road corner to help motorists cope with the challenges of "Ebert's Hill," the slope between that junction and Qu'Appelle Street. The smooth grade there was also a problem for wagon-pulling horses, forcing them onto the rough shoulder, a dangerous condition deplored publicly by the SPCA. In 1918, Saanich Council received a similar complaint about the danger to animals on Burnside Road where "*automobiles and Interurban cars usually travel fast from Harriet to Tillicum and no less than 11 dogs and two horses have been killed*." Council also received complaints about the less-travelled roads, which were little more than dirt tracks across the former pasture land. One Millgrove Street resident complained in 1917 that Saanich had "*only improved the road by grading and scraping the muck and clay from the sides to the centre of the road and treated it to a sprinkling of gravel. This was acceptable for summer use, but with the fall rains, the road resembled nothing much as a ploughed field, making it practically impassable and particularly for the ladies*".<sup>6</sup>



*The dirt and gravel surface of Albina Street, c.1924. These houses (3119 and 3115) have since been removed.*



*Looking up Donald Street, towards Maddock Avenue, c.1922. Behind the driver is the house at 194 Obed Ave.*



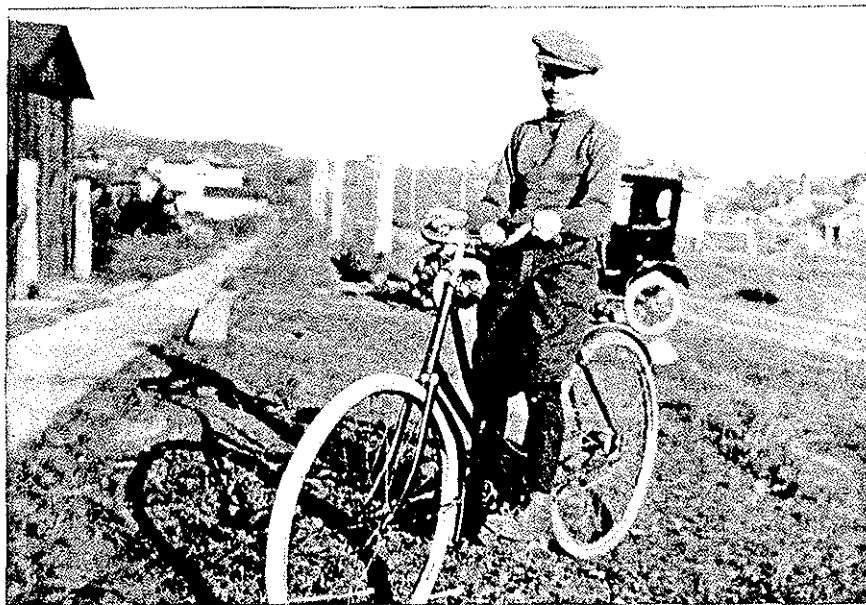
*From Qu'Appelle Street, looking west along Maddock Avenue in June of 1938.*





*Looking up Orillia Street from the 2900 block towards Tillicum School, c.1940.*

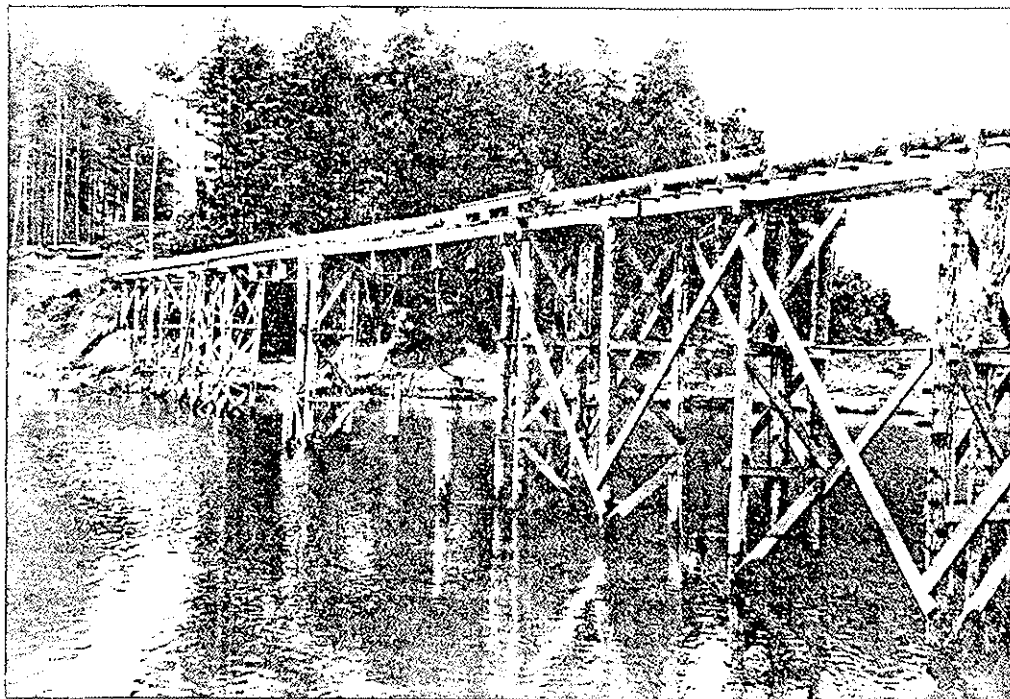
**Sidewalks.** In the early years of the new subdivision, wooden sidewalks were built along many of the area streets, sometimes by local residents under contract with the municipality. Consisting of three wooden planks running parallel to the roadway, these walks were a source of slivers and bruises to children, especially if the wheels of their bicycles fell between the planks. Because the wooden surfaces became particularly slippery during the winter, handrails were installed on a few of the inclines, such as along Obed Avenue, below Harriet Road. These sidewalks received little or no maintenance. As the inevitable decay set in, they were ripped out, and, in the case of side-streets, not always replaced.



*Cycling in the 2900 block of Donald Street, c.1925. Note the wooden sidewalk.*

**Street lights.** Darkness was another problem for early residents, as the few existing streetlights were limited to the main roads, such as Gorge and Burnside. This was a particular challenge during the Winter for boys delivering the morning newspaper along the dark, muddy roads, after having already peddled downtown to pick up their load by 4:50 a.m. at the *Colonist* building on Broad Street. By the 1930's, more street lights had been installed, operated manually by George Boulton of 3274 Albion Street, cycling from street corner to corner each dusk and dawn.

**Water.** Although a few wells were still in use, water from the Sooke reservoir was first piped along the area's main roads in 1911. Later, water lines were installed along the boulevards of sidestreets, dotted with outdoor taps for the use of bucket-wielding householders. To support the heavy water pipes carrying water further eastward to the city, a new concrete bridge was built along Gorge Road, over Cecilia Ravine in 1912. One year later, the water line was extended into Esquimalt via a temporary wooden trestle crossing the Gorge waterway from Harriet Road to Arm Street, protected during WWI by an armed guard.



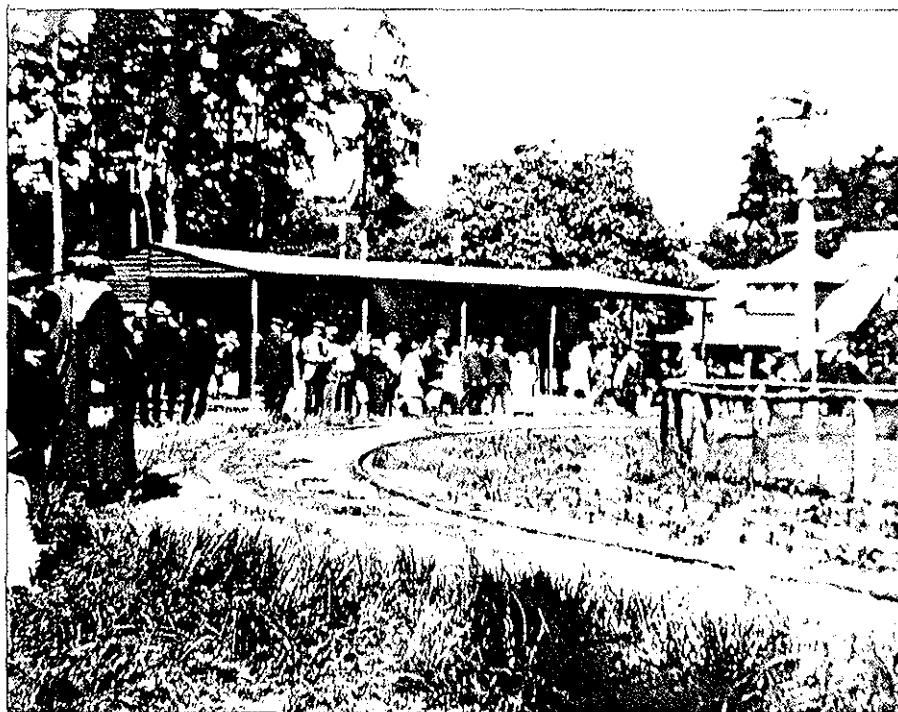
*Pipeline trestle across the Gorge, looking towards Arm Street. The Colonist, May 2, 1913.*

**Drainage.** To alleviate the problem of winter flooding, a number of drainage ditches were dug, often along natural water-courses. The low land along Albina Street, between Obed and Maddock Avenues was frequently under water during heavy winter rains. To off-set this, for many years a ditch crossed the backyards between Albina and Tillicum Streets, carrying surface water under the Maddock Avenue/Tillicum Road junction and through Rowlands fields to Colquitz Creek. This creek also received water via another, deeper ditch running straight down from Tillicum School grounds. Two other natural drainage routes, supplemented by man-made ditches emptied into the Gorge. One system collected water from the Maddock area, carried it south between Qu'Appelle and Wascana Streets, under Gorge Road, and into the Gorge on the east side of Curtis Point. Early maps show that a small estuary existed there, now covered by a tennis court of the Cedar Shores Apartments. The low land on Vincent Avenue at Tillicum Road also drained naturally into the Gorge, just east of the bridge. Invariably, these ditches became contaminated by leaking septic tanks, prompting condemnation by the medical health officials, such as in 1925 when "in summer, sewage from Harriet Road flowed towards Irma Street where it sank into the ground and dried up".<sup>7</sup> As the neighbourhood continued to be built up in the 1930's, these polluted ditches allowed raw sewage to enter the Gorge, even next to the popular swimming beaches. These waters were declared unsafe for public bathing in July of 1939, after a retired fisherman, living on a houseboat, came down with typhoid fever. Although the sewage system of the 1950's largely eliminated septic tanks here, so as to make the Gorge officially "clean", an outbreak of hepatitis in September of 1967, lead to another official closure to swimming.

*Transportation.* "I remember an Army troop marching along Burnside Road and a whole bunch of us from Tillicum School followed them to town. A lot of us had never been that far and when we got there we were flabbergasted by the stores, because it was Christmas time". This recollection of about 1920, illustrated how many young children then had little opportunity or reason to leave the neighbourhood. For adults though, in pursuit of employment or extensive shopping, it was a necessity. To this end, public transportation was readily available, particularly by the streetcars of the B.C. Electric Railway Company (BCER). Beginning in 1905, regular tramway service ran from the corner of Yates and Government Streets, along Craigflower Road, to the BCER's Gorge Park on Tillicum Road. By 1914, residents in the northern part of the neighbourhood could board a streetcar to town at the terminus of the Burnside/Mt. Tolmie line near Washington Street, extended to Carroll Street in 1924.

The tracks of this line, running along Burnside Road, were paralleled until 1923 by those of the BCER's Interurban Line, carrying heavier railcars between the Douglas Street terminus and Deep Cove. Designed chiefly to bring cordwood, hay, and milk from Saanich peninsula farms to town, this line also carried "pleasure-seekers" to the wilds of Prospect Lake, Brentwood Bay, or Deep Cove for a day of fishing, hunting, or picnicking. Local residents could board this train at the northwest corner of Burnside and Harriet, where two benches under an open-air roof served as the Interurban's first station from town.

Most streetcars were replaced by buses in 1946, but an early service was started in 1917 by Eric Hamilton of 349 (later 355) Gorge Road West. Called appropriately the Gorge Motor Bus Company, it consisted of two modified vehicles on solid rubber tires with wooden seats, charging a fare of five cents into town.



*B.C.E.R. streetcar loop across from the original Gorge Hotel, c. 1914.*

Competition with these early bus companies came from the privately-owned jitnies, operating in Saanich from 1915-1944. Up to eight passengers could squeeze into these four-doored, side-curtained touring cars, thanks to a folding "jump seat," hinged to the floor. Over-flow passengers were accommodated on seats bracketed to the doors, where the unfortunate occupants "*rode with their backsides sticking out into the weather. One good bump and they'd be out into the road.*" One local jitney-run began at the Gorge/ Harriet Road junction, where the driver waited until the city-bound bus rounded the corner at Millgrove Street and then he would "*take off ahead of it*" picking up passengers at the bus-stops along the way.

Being located along a waterway, the neighbourhood was also serviced by boat during the summer months, as early as 1890, albeit rather sporadically. During WWI, the more dependable Gorge Launch Service began to operate, ferrying passengers hourly between the Inner Harbour ("the Empress steps") and the landing next to the Gorge bridge -called the "*dollar landing*" in later years to reflect the return fare.

## THE BUILDERS

Although several large, fine houses were erected along Gorge Road, between Harriet and Tillicum Roads, prior to World War I, none were identified as the work of any specific architect or builder. Only Jesse Warren, architect of the Pantages Theatre (McPherson Playhouse) and the Central Building, at View and Broad Streets, is known to be connected by name with house-design in the neighbourhood when he published a call for tenders to construct "*five modern bungalows on Qu'Appelle Street for \$2,000 each*" in the December 5, 1911 issue of *The Daily colonist*. Many of the small local houses in those early years were in fact built by their owners, often in stages during their spare time. In the years between the two wars, more houses were constructed and some of the professional builders made a considerable impact in the neighbourhood.

One man who made a modest contribution of two adjacent houses was Arthur Bird, born in England in 1865. Lured north from the Prairies by Klondike gold in 1898, Bird escaped its clutches long enough to spend time in Victoria building a house for his family at 3108 Albina Street around 1913, followed soon after by the construction of 3110 Albina St. as a source of rental income. That done, he then spent much of the next twenty years seeking mineral riches in the North West Territories. Having at least discovered a seam of coal, Bird was last seen alive in August of 1934, at 69 years of age, when he set out to explore the land around Great Bear Lake. Though his remains were never found, his diary was located in an abandoned cabin, into which he had inscribed his last words: "*I, January, 1935. Everything looks black. No fur, no money, near 70, and 120 miles back. Don't think I can make it*".<sup>8</sup>

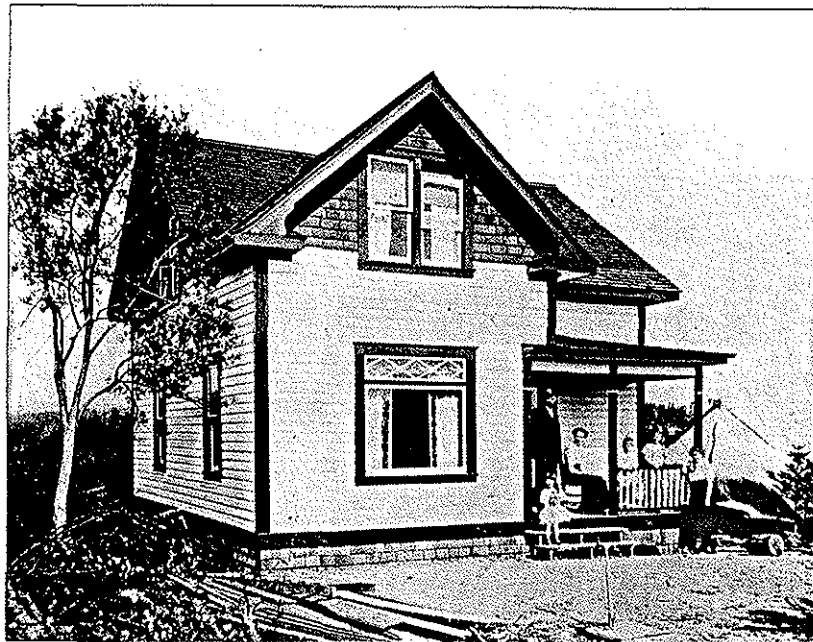
Another builder who also constructed two adjacent houses here was Thomas Knight, a master carpenter who had specialized in the making of furniture and spiral staircases in his native England. Around 1922, he built a house at 2960 Donald Street for himself and his daughter, Ellen. Later, he constructed a small house next door at No. 2950 for the parents of his second wife.

At 3041 Donald Street, Peter Bugslag built a house for his family in the early 1920's. The son of a bridge -engineer on the E.N. Railway, Bugslag also reportedly constructed a house in the Comox area for Eleanor Dunsmuir. His other local projects included a store on Burnside for Lily Wright, and houses at 3061 Millgrove Street and 2951 Donald Street.

Formerly employed with the Luney Brothers Construction Company, Herbert Bradley built a number of houses in the area, beginning with his own house at 3125 Qu'Appelle Street in 1930. Other local works included houses along Maddock Avenue at No. 47 (built for his parents) and No. 224. A third Maddock Avenue house was later moved to 3131 Orillia Street to allow expansion of Tillicum School grounds.

Although other carpenters also worked in the area, a large percentage of the houses built here after 1934 were the product of two men, John (Jack) Henson Jr. and Arthur Pass Jr. As the son of a brick-layer, Jack Henson (1910-1992) came naturally to the trade. In 1906, his father left England for Winnipeg where he found both work and a wife, the daughter of another mason. Arriving in Victoria about two years later, John Henson stayed long enough to build a stone house (still extant) for his family at the end of Victoria View Road, overlooking the Outer Harbour. Then, with a young family in tow, he *"travelled the world with a trowel in his pocket"* before returning to Victoria around 1929. Trained by his father, Jack and his brothers soon entered the brick-laying trade, with his first house built on Carey Road in 1933. Like other builders, Henson constructed houses throughout Greater Victoria, but locally, he was responsible for most of the houses built in the late 1930's and early 40's along Earl Grey and Wascana Streets, between Obed Avenue and Burnside Road. Typically, Henson would buy two adjacent lots and build houses upon them before moving, like-wise, up the block. While living at the Gorge Auto Camp, Henson built the first of these local houses was at 120 Obed Avenue, on a corner lot now surrounded by tall evergreens originally planted by his wife Katherine. Though a general contractor, Henson usually reserved the cement work and finishing masonry for himself, frequently incorporating a brick arch over the front porch. On some projects, he left some of the masonry work to his parents, such as the stone wall fronting the Catherine Court Apartments at 992 Gorge Road West.

Art Pass (1912-1995) was an equally prolific builder here, in the neighbourhood in which he grew up. Born in Alberta, he attended Tillicum Elementary School while living in the family home at 2968 Donald Street from 1920-1926, followed by a move to 2973 Orillia Street. Unlike Henson, Pass was not born to the trade, for his father, Arthur Pass Sr. was the local Metropolitan Life Agent. A popular man, the elder Pass was always welcome to stop for tea when doing his weekly rounds, collecting the small insurance premiums from his neighbours. In 1936, Art began his building career with the construction of a small house for his sister Grace and her husband Walter Cutt at 170 Maddock Avenue. During the following decades, Pass built about two dozen houses in the neighbourhood, including numbers 3022, 3028, 3034, and 3042 Earl Grey; 3071 and 3097 Millgrove; and 3015 and 3023 Donald Streets. Towards the end of his career, he expanded into larger projects, including the Gorge Terrace Apartments (1971) at 250 Gorge Road West and the Gorge Shopping Centre (1974).



*Family of Arthur and Louisa Bird, 3108 Albina Street. 1913.*





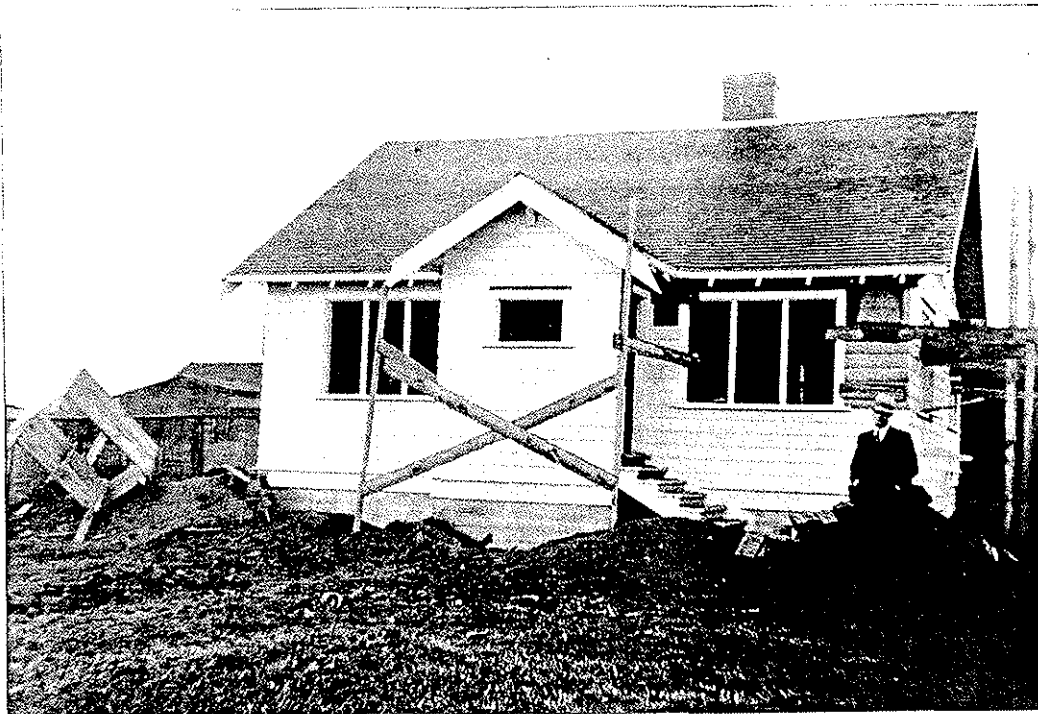
*Thomas Knight house at 2960 Donald Street, c.1922.*



*Jack Henson.*



*Henson-built houses in the 3000 block of Earl Grey Street, from Obed Avenue, c.1938.*



*Art Pass, standing in front of his first house at 170 Maddock Avenue, 1936.*

## STREET DEVELOPMENT

**Burnside Road.** As on Tillicum Road, housing, business, and industry all grew up together along Burnside Road. The first development there was the spuryard of the B.C.E.R.'s Interurban Line, located on 6.2 acres at the northwest corner of Burnside and Harriet Roads (see "Transportation"). Serving the railway line from 1913 to 1923, the yard contained a freight shed, waiting station, two spurlines for the heavy freight cars often loaded with cordwood, and stacks of steel rails. After terminating the line (land marked today by Interurban Road), the company used the spuryard property as late as 1949 for the preparation of power poles -a process that included the burning of huge piles of waste bark. During WWII, the site also doubled as a collection depot for scrap metal. In the 1950's, this block from Harriet Road to Albion Street saw redevelopment as the Burnside Service Station on the corner, next to a pharmacy and beauty shop located at 30 Burnside Road West.

Across the street, the one-storied corner building at 1 Burnside Road West was erected in 1947 as George Ball's Electronics and Radio Shop, which he ran with partner Howard Shemilt Jr., until 1968. Ball had learned his trade at his father's Battery and Ignition Service, established at 3241 Harriet Road in the 1920's. In 1948, at his shop on Burnside Road, Ball secretly built the first television set in Victoria. He then demonstrated the novel device for the first time in the family home at 54 Maddock Avenue where "to the amazement of his wife and children", pictures appeared briefly on the seven inches-wide screen, fading in and out, and sometimes disappearing altogether.<sup>9</sup>

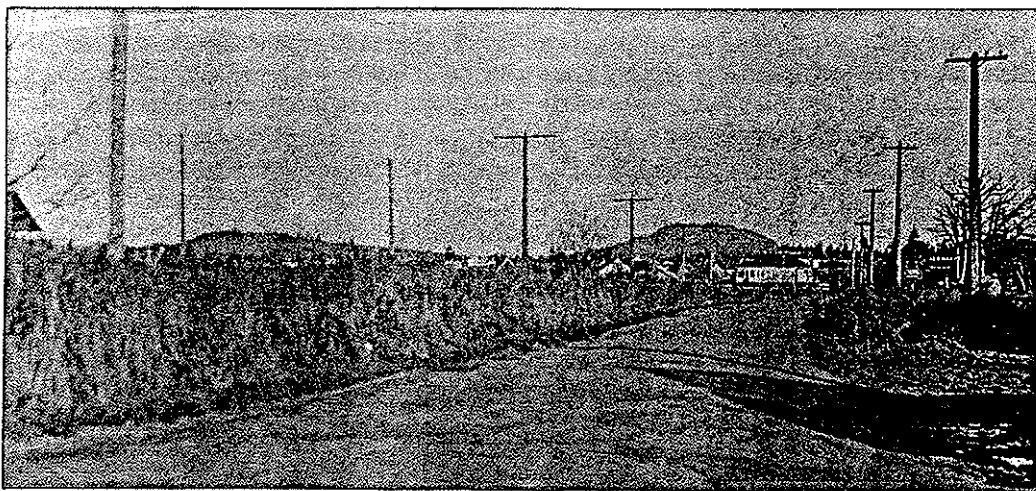
Back on the other side of Burnside Road, number 50 was developed in 1952 as a Shop Easy grocery store, followed by the Capital Market in 1968, and now known as Penny Pinchers. Further down the block, at number 98, the Burnside Fish and Chips shop set up business around 1949.

Across Wascana Street, the two-storied corner building at number 100 was erected in 1917 as a grocery and dry-goods store for James Dwyer. Remembered as *"a stout fellow with ruddy complexion, wearing a straw hat and black, elasticized arm sleeves"*, Dwyer ran the store (while living at the back) until 1925. That year, his business failed when, having joined a religious group that convinced him of the world's imminent collapse, he began giving his groceries away for free. A later owner, George Lapp, installed large double doors to the front of the building and ran it as an auto garage from 1930 to 1937. Then the next owner, Alex Shafoval, converted it back to a grocery store. In addition to renting out the top floor as a hall for weddings, etc., Shafoval added a single-storied wing onto the west side in 1942 which housed a shoe repair and barber shop. The year 1956 saw another change for this building when it became the Burnside Hardware Store. This business ran until 1969 when the Electron T.V. and Repair Service took over the premises.

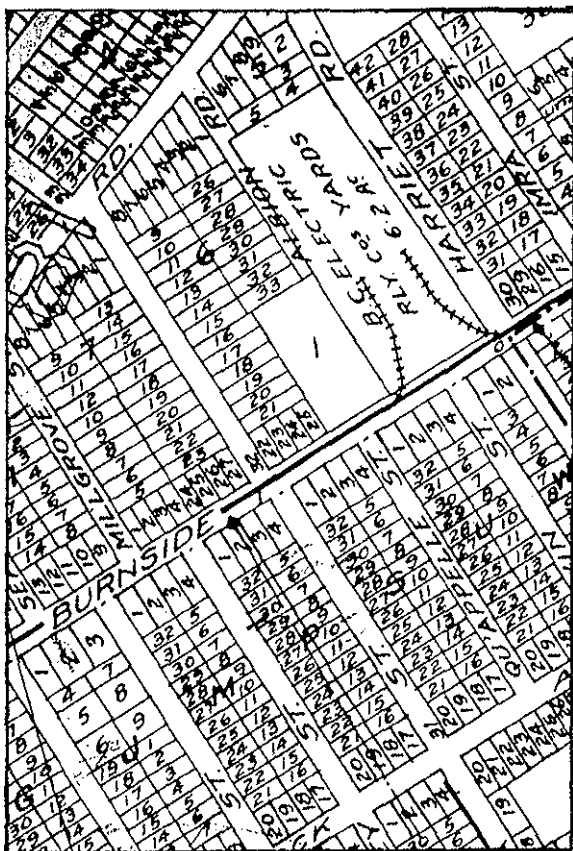
Across the street, number 101 served as Harry's Grocery and Confectionary Store around 1942, replaced by the Burnside Grocery in 1949. For many years after WWI, a teamster named Harry Simpson lived in this block, at number 115. In a small barn behind his house (next to Earl Grey Street), Simpson kept two horses which he used to pull a hand-cranked dump wagon, delivering gravel to construction sites. There he would find more work in excavating the ground for basements with the use of a plow and a metal scraper, pulled by one of his horses - a method used in house construction as late as the 1930's.

In 1914, the first store along this portion of West Burnside Road was started at number 164 as the Millgrove Grocery. Around 1922, it was taken over by John and Lily Wright who improved the building and added a gas pump, while continuing to purchase other properties in the area -including the lot at the southeast corner of Burnside and Harriet Roads, where Lily started a dry-goods business around 1940. At that time, she sold the small grocery store to John Gordon, who in turn ran it for many years as Gordon's Community Store, before becoming the current Wel-Food Store.

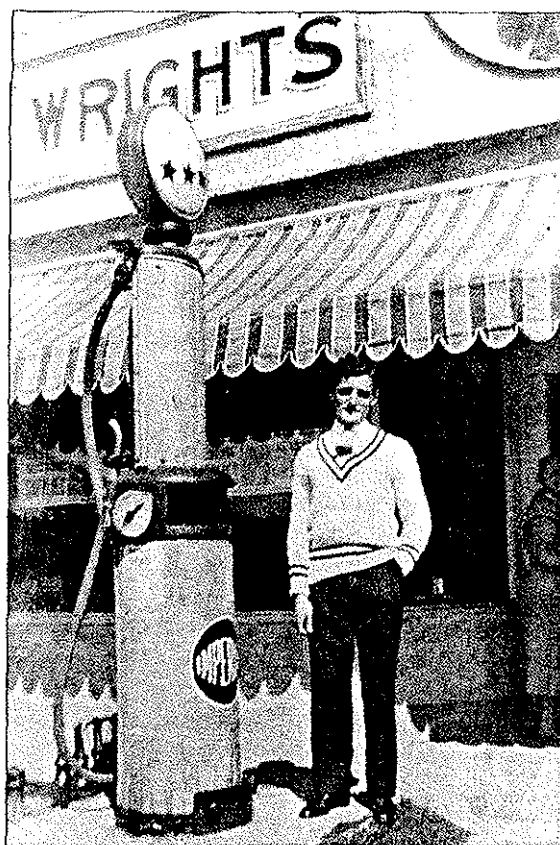
In the 1930's, a public works yard and government relief office was established at the northeast corner of Tillicum and Burnside Roads. From there, unemployed men would be trucked out to various work sites in Saanich to clean ditches, shovel gravel, and make improvements in the public parks, earning about \$2.00 per day.



*Looking up Harriet Road at the Burnside junction, 1932. The field on the left was the old Interurban spur-yard.*



*Area map, c.1922, showing spuryard.*



*Burnside facade of Lily Wright's store, 1935.*



*Thomas Leahy of 27 Burnside Road West, c.1950. Behind him is the former B.C.E.R. spuryard.*

**Harriet Road.** The build-up of Harriet Road almost exclusively concerned residences. Three of these were of particular interest, having been built for "retirees". The first resident to come along was Seymour de Trafford Cunningham who, in 1908, constructed the first house on Harriet Road between the Gorge and Burnside Road. Born in 1857 into a wealthy Lancashire family, Cunningham emigrated to Canada in 1884, taking up cattle ranching near Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Retiring to Victoria in 1906 with his wife and three sons, Cunningham purchased five acres from the Yates Estate along the west side of Harriet Road. He then subdivided this property further to create Logan Avenue. Upon the remaining two and one-half acres, at 3060 Harriet Road, the family then built an attractive house called "Rossall", after Cunningham's boyhood school. Some years later, a tennis court was laid out in the front yard, enabling the sons, Gerald and James, to become junior tennis champions of B.C. Behind the house, the larger portion of the property provided space for an extensive orchard (populated with pheasant and quail) and two dairy cows -milk from which was delivered to nearby houses on a three-wheeled bike. Seymour's widow, Nellie Cunningham, lived at Rossall until 1968. Three years later, the house was demolished and replaced with a townhouse complex.

The second notable house along this road was officially listed as 35 Obed Avenue. Former property owners in downtown Winnipeg, John and Phoebe Riddle retired to Victoria in 1907. Having purchased land on the southwest corner of Harriet Road and Obed Avenue, they contracted a cousin to design a home for themselves and their five sons. The highest, if not the largest house in the neighbourhood, its five levels consisted of a cellar, the main floor (housing a den, parlour, kitchen, scullery, and dining room), bedrooms on the second and third (attic) floor, and upon the roof, a flat-topped cupola. The exterior was further embellished by both a greenhouse and a glass conservatory, bay windows, a wrap-around verandah on the second floor, and a porte-cochere over the front entrance. Although the latter faced Obed, the driveway began off Harriet, leading past attractive gardens to a large coach-house, surmounted by a loft. The house remained in the family for many years after John Riddle's death in 1925, eventually becoming a rather dilapidated rooming-house until demolished around 1980. The Craigie Lea Co-operative townhouse now occupies this site.<sup>10</sup>



*Riddle House at 35 Obed Avenue, showing the roof-top observation tower.*





*Cunningham house at 3060 Harriet Road. The turret was purely decorative, not connected to the interior.*



*Nellie and Seymour de Trafford Cunningham, with their sons' tennis trophies, c. 1926.*

The third significant development on Harriet Road was located on the city side, upon land purchased from Yates in 1881 by a successful ship chandler/businessman named Frank Adams. By the 1930's, the last of the Adams' family had departed, and their house (at 3056 Balfour Street) fell into ruin and most of the open, grass-covered property sat empty until 1960. In that year, the United Church built the first unit of their housing complex called Chown Place - named after Dr. Chown, a former general superintendent of the Methodist Churches of Canada



*Looking down Harriet Road to the Gorge Road junction, 1937. The Stocks' auto camp is on the right.*

**Gorge Road.** With the attraction of water-views, the initial development along Gorge Road came in the form of large houses on two-acre lots, beginning as early as 1885. After 1915, a growing tourist traffic upon the newly-paved surface led to the establishment of various commercial enterprises between Harriet and Tillicum Road.

Along the south-side at 7 Gorge Road West, Herbert and Isabel Stocks established the Gorge Auto Camp in 1929. A taxi and bus driver by trade, Stocks cleared the corner lot by hand and used lumber salvaged at the Ogden Point dockyard to build several small cabins. Under Isabel's management, these units were rented out during the summer months for approximately \$1.50 per night. In the off-season, a gas-powered saw was set up on the property for cutting up lengths of cordwood. In later years, the simple rustic cabins were enlarged and improved, allowing the motel business to survive until replaced with the contemporary Parkview Apartments in 1994.

On the adjacent lots (39 Gorge Road West) a large turreted house was built in 1897 for Hannah and John Braden (1841-1926) when the latter retired from the Provincial Parliament. As a younger man during the 1870's, Braden spent much time hunting and prospecting throughout B.C., suffering many near-fatal adventures that included falling through the ice into a fast-flowing river, and being pursued overland by hostile Indians-the latter bred in part by the pugnacious personality of both Braden and his fierce Bull Mastiff dog "Rover". In later years, while settled somewhat more sedately in Victoria, he owned a plumbing firm that built the water-works of Port Angeles, in Washington State, the Royal Jubilee Hospital, and Central School. The Braden house remained within that family until 1937.<sup>11</sup>

Next door, at 51 Gorge Road West, was "Hopedene", the home of David and Mabel Eberts from 1889 to 1929. Originally known as "Boxwood", this large wood-sided house on one and one-half acres, was built in 1885 for Robert McMicking, who had earlier introduced both the telephone and electric lighting to Victoria.

Trained in Toronto as a lawyer, David McEwen Eberts (1850-1924) entered provincial politics in 1890, serving under a succession of Premiers as Attorney General (1895-98, 1900-1903) and House Speaker (1907-1916). A close family friend to Premier Richard McBride (of 219 Gorge Road East), Eberts was also active in social and sporting circles, and upon his water-front grounds "*each May 24, friends gathered to watch the regatta. Often there were dances at Hopedene, for there was a son and three daughters in the family. Mrs. Eberts gave tea parties and often the Judge had friends for dinner and for a long talk in the library*"<sup>12</sup>. The terraced grounds of Hopedene, graced with a boathouse, tennis courts, orchard, and a greenhouse, were also used for charity events. One example of these was the St. Mark's Church garden party on June 17, 1915, of which *The Colonist* reported: "*from 3 o'clock until after 7, the grounds were gay with laughter and music*". The latter was provided by the Gordon Highlanders Pipe Band and "*from the pretty improvised stage, a delightful concert was given*". Included amongst the performers was "*little Lily Dooley who was much applauded after her rendering of 'Ship-Ahoy' and some children from Mt. Tolmie School who entertained with pretty action songs*". Other attractions included games, refreshment tables, and a fortune-tellers tent.

After the Eberts departed, Hopedene had a series of occupants beginning in 1930 with Dr. Arthur F. Barton, Pastor of The Progressive Thought Temple on Pandora Street. One area resident recalled that Barton "*could look into your eyes and tell what was wrong with you*". In 1941, the Braden and Eberts' houses were purchased by Charles Traunweiser. A former hotelier from Calgary, Traunweiser incorporated the two old houses into the San Sebastian Auto Court, a complex that included an out-door swimming pool and numerous motel units.

A small estuary separated Hopedene from the next property to the west, identified as "Aaron Point" in a survey map of 1847, but popularly known as Curtis Point. Beginning with the first Queen's Birthday Regatta of 1867, this small rocky protrusion into the Gorge Waterway was for many years a favourite site for public-viewing of the races with permission granted annually by the Yates family. On some years, it also served as a reception site complete with a brass band, such as at the Coronation Day Regatta of June 22, 1897 when the James Bay Athletic Association (JBAA) set up "*a highly decorated reception tent and a well-filled table inside. Here they entertained their friends and a steady run on the tent...showed that their friends were not few*".<sup>13</sup> At any time of the summer, the point was also popular as a camping or picnic spot, such as reported in *The Victoria Daily Times* on June 6, 1893, when "*The Young people's Literary Association of the First Presbyterian Church held its first picnic of the season last evening at Curtis Point. Some 40 members went out in boats from McIntosh's, returning at 11 o'clock*".

Originally sold by James Stuart Yates in 1904, Curtis Point found another new owner in 1907 by the name of Loo Gee Wing. As "*one of the Chinese Merchant Princes of British Columbia*",<sup>14</sup> Wing owned a number of business dating back to 1888, including a local boot factory and store, a Broad Street laundry, and a hotel and theatre in Vancouver. Apparently, he also paid the head taxes for other Chinese immigrants, collecting an interest upon repayment. At Curtis Point, his "*quaint waterside residence with the rambling semi-orientalism of the grounds and buildings*," included a pavilion-styled boathouse situated along the western shore of the point-the cement footings for which are still visible at low tide. A number of early residents in the neighbourhood also recall the presence of "*several cabins right down to the waterfront for his concubines*" and that "*two or three of his girls drowned themselves off the point*".<sup>15</sup>

In 1919, Wing sold this property, consisting of seven adjacent lots, to an English investor who then rented the point to the Victoria and Island Athletic Association (VIAA) for a summer camp until 1924 (see Recreation ). Beginning in 1922, this group shared these grounds, at 99 Gorge Road West, with the Tourist Auto Camp, managed by the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau. Reflecting Victoria's enthusiasm for promoting tourism, the 1923 season of this camp was inaugurated with a ceremony attended by the local reeves, the city mayor, and Lieutenant-Governor W.C.Nicol, who paid the fee of 50 cents to be registered as the first honorary guest of the year. To entertain the camp visitors, most of whom came from the Pacific Northwest, a number of activities were available. These included the playing of tennis and basketball, boating, swimming (on a beach improved with Naval Brigade Band. Other facilities included a communal kitchen, city-water, and *"a tea room/store hidden by a flower-covered trellis and well-stocked with fresh bread, butter, milk, and other perishables"*<sup>16</sup>. Beautifying the grounds was accomplished by caretaker William Hadley, a former officer of the HMCS Rainbow, through seeds and plants obtained from "Butchart's Sunken Gardens". His attention also extended to keeping the swimming beach clean by the construction of a concrete septic tank, a gesture contradicted somewhat by the daily burning of *"excess sewage...with the use of straw and crude oil"*. To house the growing number of visitors (2,488 carloads in 1925), canvas tents with raised wooden floors and sides were erected throughout the old orchard, eventually supplemented with cabins as demand increased. Later, this property served as the Victoria Motor Court, until demolished along with the adjacent San Sebastian complex in 1977, for the building of the present-day Cedar Shores Apartments by the Traunweiser family.

Back at the corner of Harriet Road and the north side of Gorge Road West, the former auto camp managers, William and Ada Hadley opened a small confectionary store of their own in 1932, a Depression year when no sale was too small, including *"a single aspirin for my mom which they sold from a little tin"*. Other neighbours were less supportive, petitioning against the small commercial enterprise in a "residential neighbourhood". Despite this early example of the Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) Syndrome, the business persisted through various renovations and ownerships for almost sixty years until, as "The Food Palace", it was destroyed by fire and replaced with an apartment building.

Further along this block, at 40 Gorge Road West, a handsome, bungalow-style house was built in 1912, one of several erected along Gorge Road during the building boom prior to World War I. Converted to the Sans Souci Motel in 1953, the building was later demolished as that complex expanded, before it too was replaced with an apartment building.

Located behind the Sans Souci motel, at 2939 Qu'Appelle Street, was a particularly attractive house also built in 1912 by a real-estate speculator. Surrounded by a prize-winning garden, this house featured a large entrance hall, an L-shaped conservatory off the corner den, and a glassed-in sleeping porch on the second floor. For many years, it was occupied by the family of James Dunlop, a purchasing agent for the Provincial Liquor Control Board. After 1929, when Dunlop moved to a new house on Lansdowne Road, designed by Samuel Maclure (now part of Camosun Campus), number 2939 became the home of Dr. George and Isabel Ramsay. Widowed during the Depression, Mrs. Ramsay was forced to take in tourists and boarders, converting the extra bedrooms, closets, and even the potting shed into rental space.

When the Yates left in 1907, the centre of the new subdivision was open farm land, but along Gorge Road, a thick border of forest still stood. Thus, in 1909, Stephen and Ada Levings were obliged to live in a tent while *"cutting a lot out of bush where there were trees five feet in diameter"*,<sup>17</sup> before building a family home at 70 Gorge Road West, next to the foot of Qu'Appelle Street. A bricklayer by trade, Levings worked on a number of building projects around Victoria, including the Yarrow Building on Fort Street, the stone wall at 4201 Quadra Street, and the Savory greenhouse chimneys on Spencer Road in Langford, the last of which was demolished in 1995 for highway expansion. In 1924, to provide employment for his two sons, Herbert and Cyril,

Levings built the Auto Camp Garage at number 76. At that time, this was the last service station before the Malahat. Infamous for its abundance of grease and grime, the garage was operated by the Levings' brothers until 1936. In 1947, it was converted into a small grocery store, and remains still extant today.

Further along in the same block, the Gorge Auto Service existed from 1948-1966 at number 90. Later it was operated as a Texaco service station, until replaced by a restaurant.

In the three blocks along Gorge Road between Millgrove and Albina Streets, some of the neighbourhood's largest early houses were built. Erected before WWI, all but one of them has since been demolished and replaced with apartment buildings. The sole survivor, albeit smaller than the rest, now stands at 2930 Millgrove Street, although it's original address was 170 Gorge Road West. Now one of the oldest existing houses in the neighbourhood, it was built in 1908 for a boat-builder named Wilfred Humphrey, on a lot that almost extended to Obed Avenue. In 1909, George Turner, an electrician, took possession of the house, called "Sylfaen", as well as a boathouse moored directly below on the banks of the Gorge.

Next door, at number 182, Joseph W. Taylor built a large house called "Carrickbaye" in 1914 on a property equal to five lots. During the 1930's, the small family of Charles French, a retired Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, occupied this house. Apparently, during this period, it was used for the filming of a movie entitled "A Woman In Ermine," starring Margaret O'Brian. From 1953-1968, the building served as the Willow Court Tourist Home, run by the Borgens family.

At number 210, between Donald and Orillia Streets, another large house was built around 1913 on property called "The Moot", referring to the group of coniferous trees left standing along the Gorge Road frontage. From 1927 to 1962, the house was home to the family of Reverend Samuel Peat, a retired missionary.

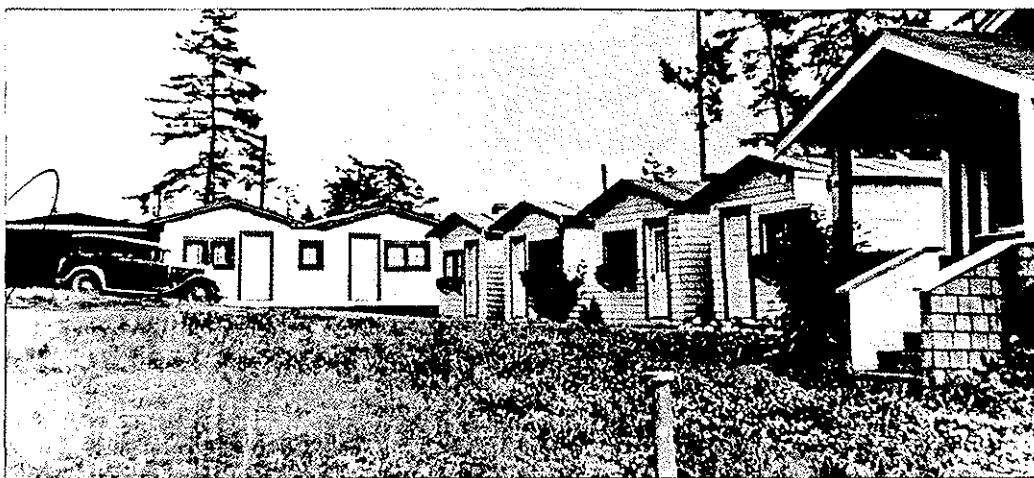
In the block between Orillia and Albina Streets, three houses were built before WWI, beginning with the smallest structure at number 234, erected in 1909 for a newly-wed couple named Samuel and Helen Clegg. This bungalow was separated by a tennis court from "The Firs" at number 244, the home of Helen's parents, Thomas and Phoebe Abbey, who moved there from James Bay in 1910. Abbey was then the proprietor of the City Brokerage Company, while his son-in-law, Clegg, worked as an insurance clerk at Pemberton and Sons Realty, before eventually starting his own company. From 1921-1943, "The Firs" was owned by William and Elsie Crouch. As the Reeve of Saanich from 1927-1938, Crouch maintained that sidewalks and too many streetlights made people soft. He put this philosophy into practice by using the lot around his large house for the growing of fruit trees, vegetables, and raising chickens.

In 1912, the third house in this block was built at number 256 for a farmer named Henry Lasenby, but occupied for many years by the family of Robert Nixon. After Nixon's death, his spinster daughter, Jenny, used the house as a nursing home for the elderly from 1930-1950, embellishing the Albina Street property line with roses growing ten feet high upon a chicken wire fence wire.

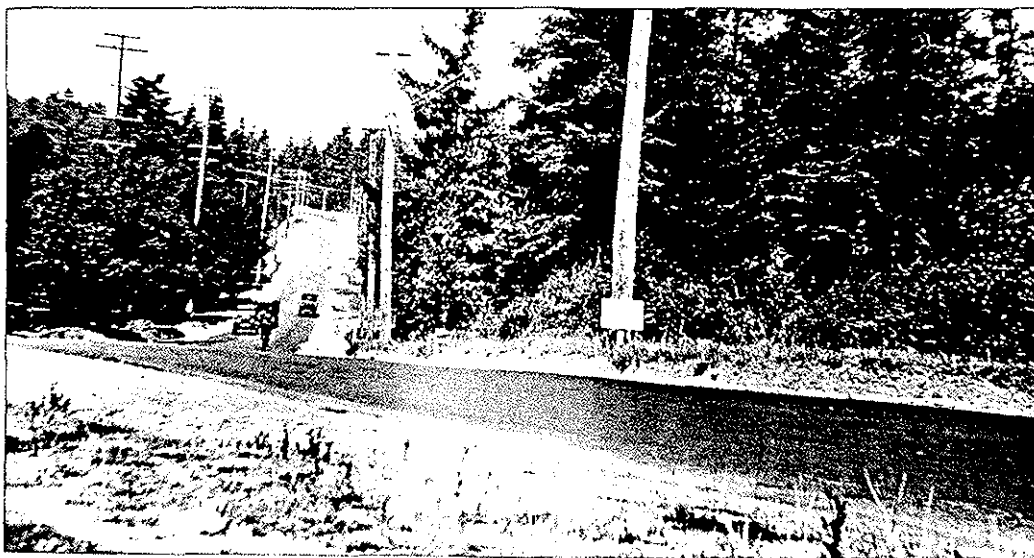
At number 266, in the final block along this portion of Gorge Road, a "flat-roofed, tarpaper shack" served as the home of Major J. Parker Hibben, and his reclusive wife from 1914-1942. A Boer War veteran, Hibben was born in Victoria in 1864 and worked for 70 years in his father's pioneer stationary store, T.N. Hibben Company, along Government Street. According to a *Daily Colonist* article of 1951, Hibben's interests included raising goats, nocturnal skinny-dips in the Gorge, and "dancing a jig when the moon was full." In 1953, the site of Hibben's house and goatyard became the parking lot for a Super-Valu grocery store, changing to Fairways Grocery in 1964.

At the southwest corner of this property, from 1936-1976, brothers Alex and Walter Baran operated the Tillicum Service Station, where they also sold produce from their father's Glanford Avenue greenhouse-nursery. Behind the station, part of which also housed a barbershop/beauty salon, there was a long, ten-foot deep drainage ditch which was used in early years for the convenient disposal of waste oil and auto part debris.

During the Royal Tour of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1939, a small grandstand was erected in front of this gas station for the public to view the cavalcade as they crossed over the bridge from Esquimalt en route back into town along Gorge Road. Some property owners also built their own vantage points, such as one of the Stocks' family who put a simple platform in a forked tree fronting the Gorge Auto Camp. Another enterprising resident, John Kirby of 120 Gorge Road West, erected some bleachers on his sloping front lawn where neighbours could enjoy homemade cookies and lemonade while waving to the Royal couple as they passed by. To Kirby's delight, his guests received the added bonus of a standing salute from the King when he spotted the Red Ensign hanging from the property-owner's homemade flag pole.



*The Gorge Auto Camp, operated by the Stocks family, 1932.*

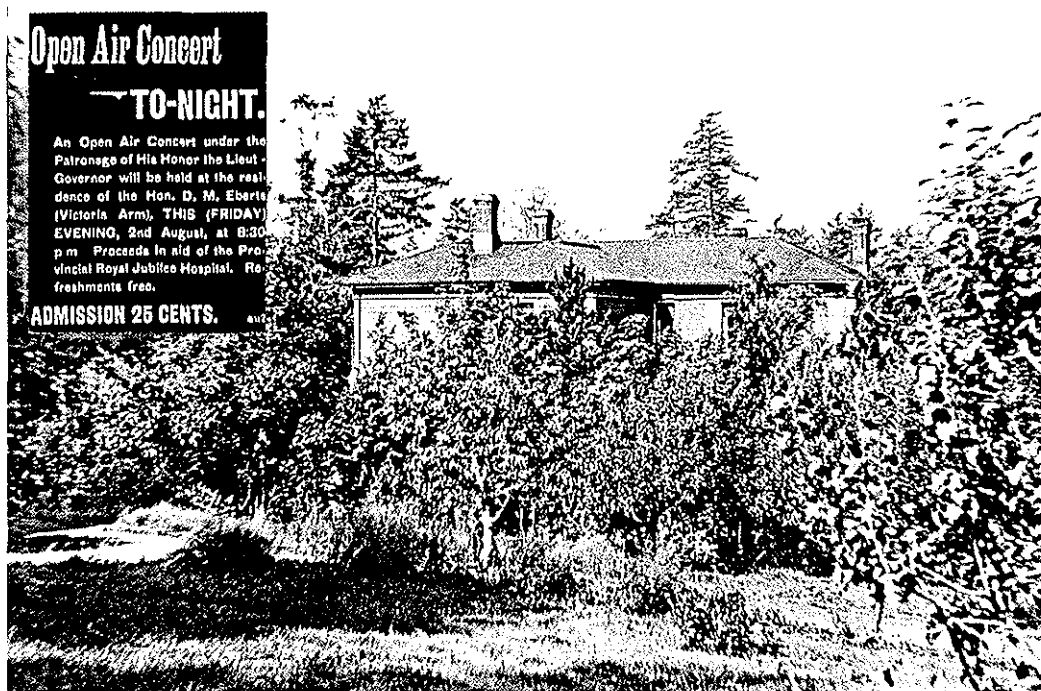


*Looking down Gorge Road (Ebert's Hill) from the Harriet Road junction, 1929.*





*The front facade of the Braden House, c.1940. In the glass conservatory at the back, John Braden grew figs.*



*Looking from Braden's property to Judge Ebert's former house at 51 Gorge Road West, 1931.*



Looking westward on Gorge Road at the foot of Wascana Street, 1932.  
Behind the fence is the Victoria Auto Camp.

Advertisement in  
tourist pamphlet,  
1921.

### Victoria Camping Site

V. I. A. A. COUNTRY CLUB

Curtis Point, Gorge Road

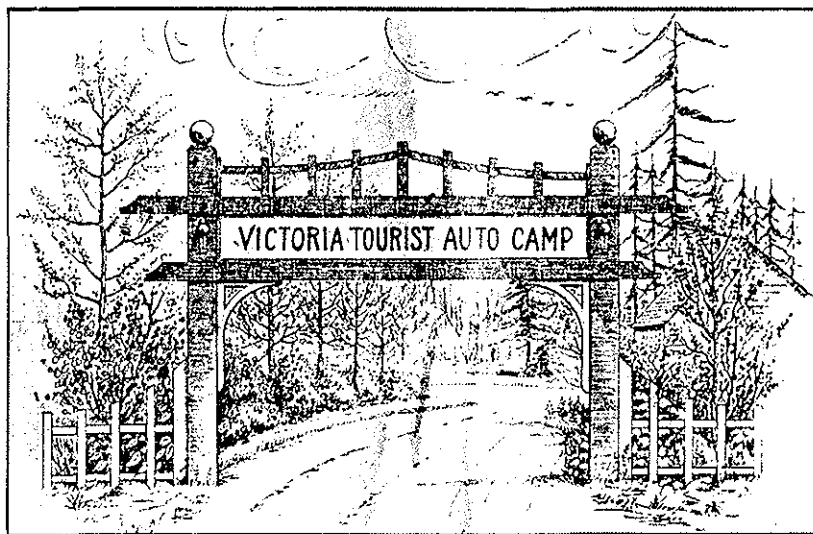
(adj. joining City Park)

Swimming - Boating - Canoeing - Tennis  
Gymnastics - Dancing, etc.

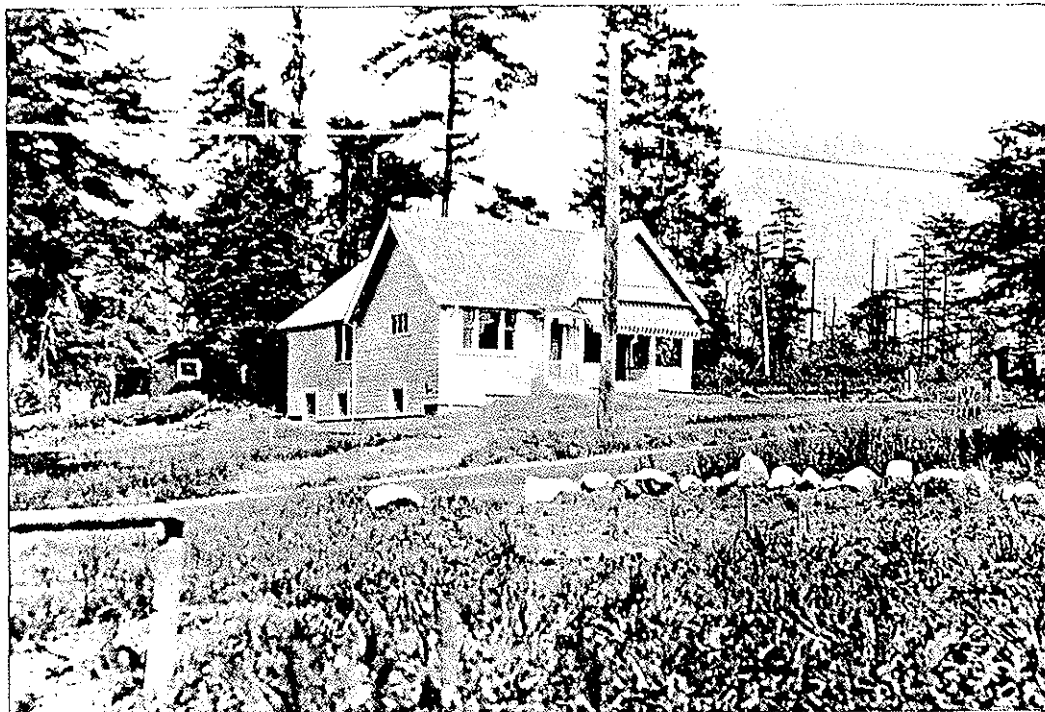
RATES: \$5.00 Weekly or \$1.00 per night

For further information apply

W. H. Davies, c. o. Empire Realty Co.  
641 Fort Street. Phone 2251



"The Rustic Archway" into the Tourist Auto Camp, The Colonist, 1924.



*Hadley's confectionary store at 2 Gorge Road West, 1932.*



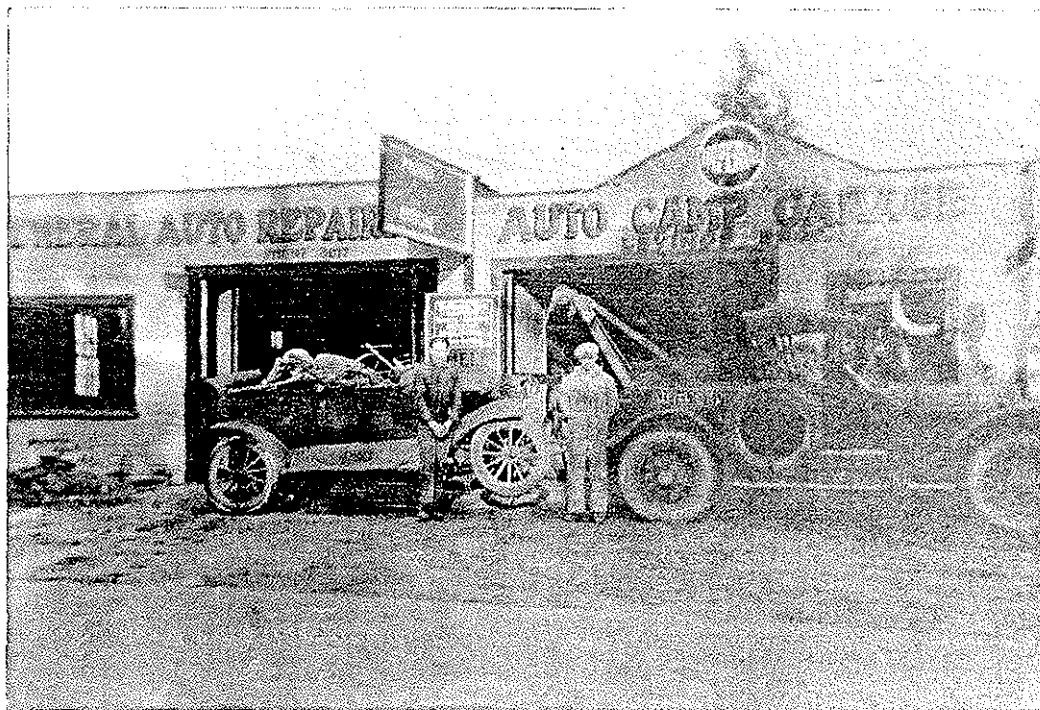
*Voorshuys' grocery store at 2 Gorge Road West, 1962.*



*House at 40 Gorge Road West, c.1940.*



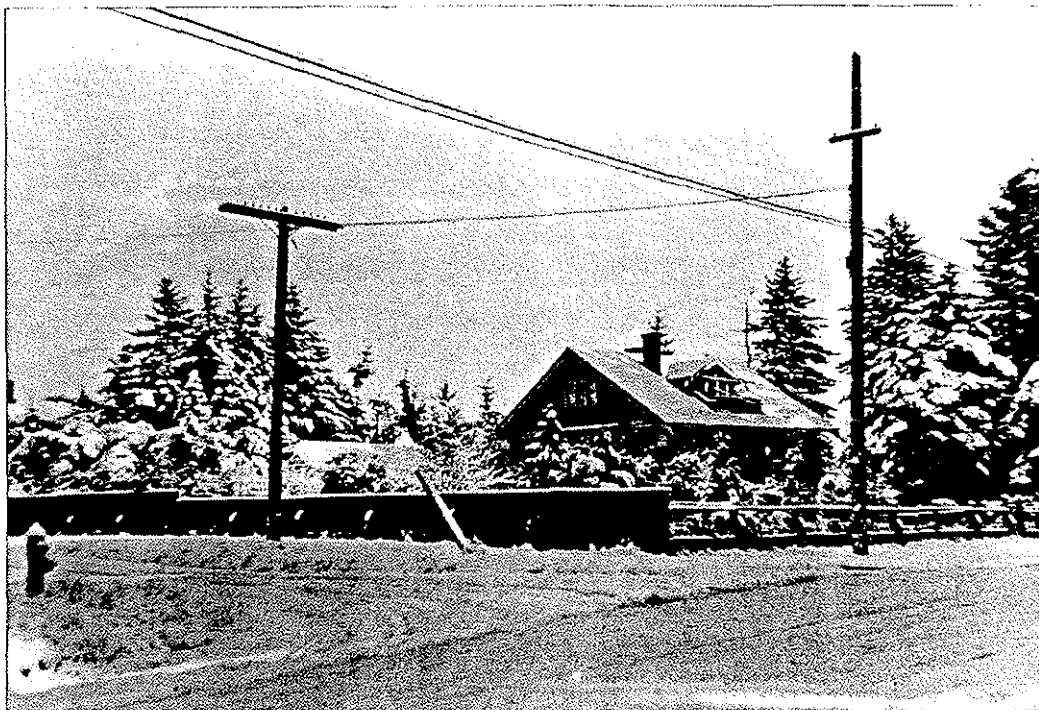
*Ramsay "Tourist Home", 2939 Qu'Appelle Street, c.1935.*



*Levings' Auto Camp Garage, 76 Gorge Road West, c.1928.*



*"Willow Court Tourist Home", formerly "Carrickbaye," at 182 Gorge Road West.*

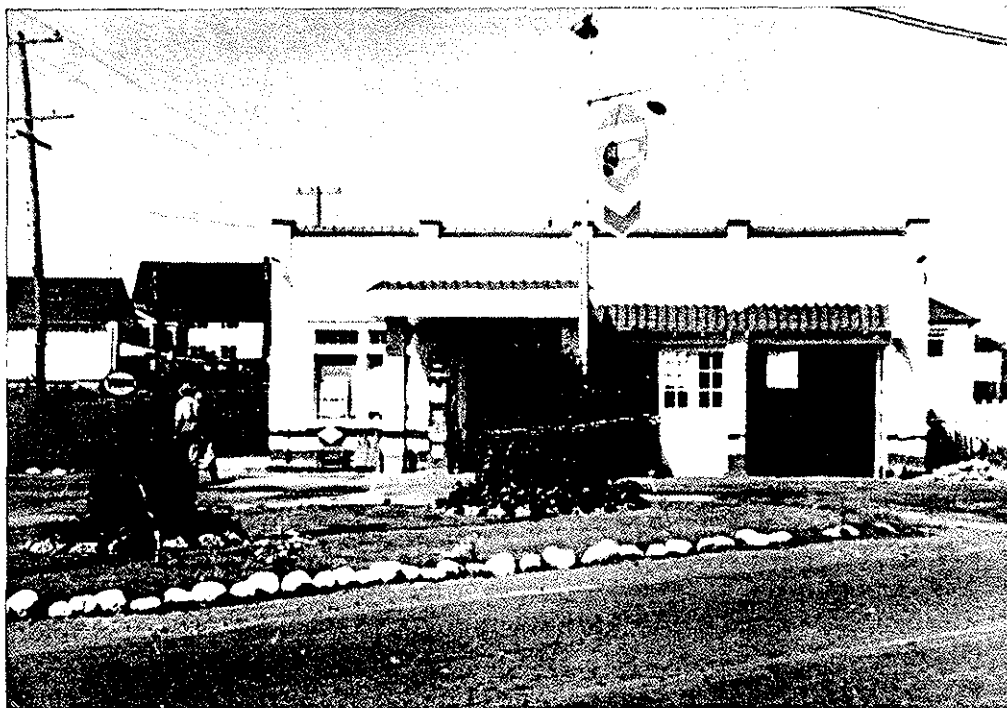


*Looking from the foot of Orillia Street towards the Peat house, 210 Gorge Road West, c. 1942.*

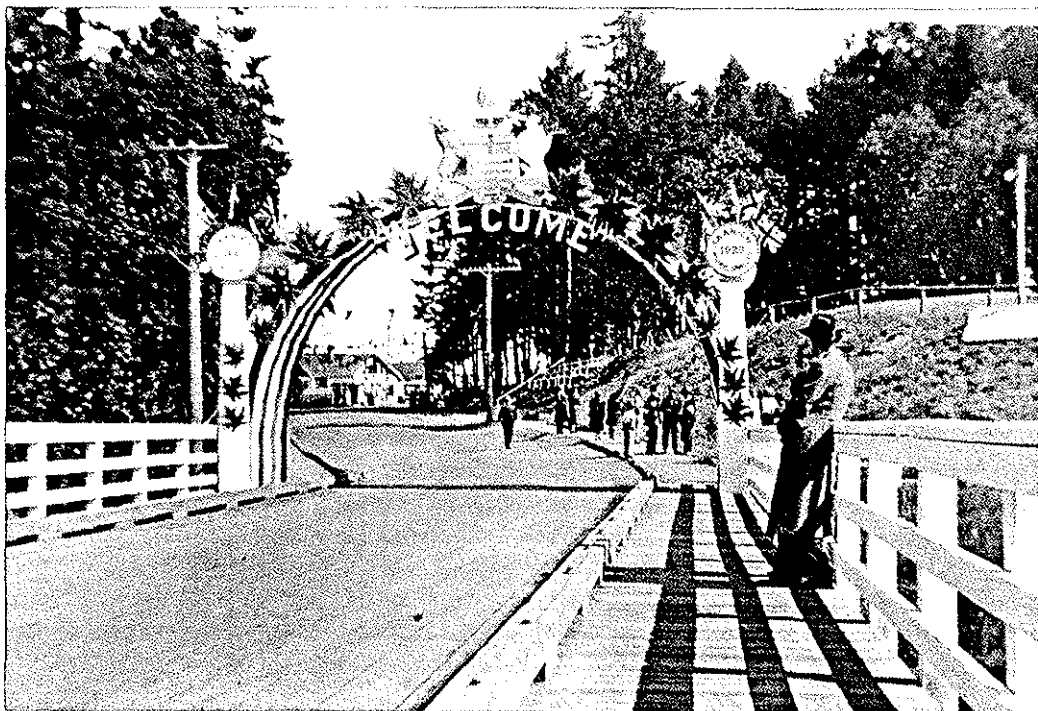


*William and Elsie Crouch on the front porch of 244 Gorge Road West, formerly "The Firs".*





*The Tillicum Service Station, c.1938. On the left are Crosby's store and the Gorge Presbyterian Church.*



*Arch built over the Saanich end of the Gorge Bridge to honour the Royal Tour of 1939. The gabled building in the distance was Wheeley's Confectionary. Note the bleachers.*

**Tillicum Road.** In 1887, the owner of the Victoria Phoenix Brewery, Joseph Loewen (1832-1903) purchased 12 acres of land along the Gorge immediately west of Tillicum Road. There, on the height of land now occupied by Arnot Avenue, he built "Rockwood", a large three-storied, turreted house that equalled or surpassed Hopedene as a local focus of Victoria's genteel society. As described by James Nesbitt in *The Colonist*, June 10, 1960, the Loewen house was "*a bright and happy place, a most fashionable rendezvous for the Victoria belles and handsome naval officers. There were many musicals, garden parties, and formal dinners.*" An example of these social events was reported in *The Daily Colonist* on August 1, 1908, noting that "*a tennis dance at Rockwood was pronounced a complete success with over 150 guests. The ballroom and dining room were charmingly decorated in a warm scheme of yellow -yellow broom and Shasta daisies being the flowers used. The floor was pronounced to be delightful by all the dancers with the orchestra being under the supervision of Miss Thain. dancing was kept up with much zest until the small hours. For those who did not indulge, a room had been set aside for bridge.*" Transportation of guests to this party at Rockwood, "*picturesquely situated, commanding a fine view of the arm and the Gorge Park*" was described in *The Victoria Daily Times*, July 31, 1908, which noted that "*the stern-wheeler 'Craigflower' left the causeway at 8:30 with a full complement of passengers. Others went out by car and carriage and fully sixty persons reached the house by automobile.*" For the convenience of guests travelling by street car, special arrangements were made with the BCER for late-night return trips. On the occasion of daughter Gertrude's marriage in 1905 to Dr. Hermann Robertson (son of A. Roche Robertson, former mayor of Victoria, Provincial Secretary, and Supreme Court Judge), a wedding reception was held at Rockwood which *The Colonist* described as "*handsomely decorated for the occasion...with calla lilies and white chrysanthemums, while the upstairs reception room was turned into one grand showroom for the display of a most magnificent array of presents. The groom's gift to the bride was a gold pendant, set with emeralds and pearls.*" All six of the Loewen daughters were prominent in local musical society and they all married well to men successful in medicine, law, and politics -most notably the eldest daughter, Martha, wife of Sir Francis Barnard, the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C. during WWI. After the Loewen family left Rockwood in 1908, the house was purchased by Estella Carroll, who ran it as a brothel, complete with midnight raids by the police, until it burned to the ground on August 5, 1923. Flames were reported to be visible 15 miles away, and one nearby resident on Tillicum Road recalled "*getting table-sized pieces of wallpaper onto our roof. I can remember one sheet had pink roses on it.*"

From the Loewen estate, Carroll also purchased the old Victoria Gardens tavern, a rambling structure located at the water's edge, west of the bridge, since 1865. Like Rockwood, this tavern lost considerable respectability in its last years. In a recollection of his childhood at Craigie Lea, circa 1905, James Austin Yates remembered the tavern as "*a place that used to be out-of-bounds for we boys on a Sunday. There were sailors, soldiers, marines, loggers, miners, and everything else going on down there. They'd come out in hacks to have a rare old time.*" After a few years, Carroll sold the waterfront property. Part of the old saloon may have been moved and re-erected at 362 Davida Street. The remainder was demolished and replaced with the present buildings after 1911.

Aside from this brothel and tavern, most commercial development along Tillicum Road in those early years concerned more conventional enterprises. Although many residents purchased their large monthly food orders at downtown department stores such as Spencer's, a demand still existed for small shops locally -congregating chiefly along the west side of Tillicum Road, just above Gorge Road.

At the corner of these two roads, Sidney Wheeler ran the Gorge Confectionary Store from the mid 1920's until about 1935. A few years later, Reg Driver rebuilt on this location, running the Gorgeway Grocery, complete with a soda-fountain service and a neon "Star Weekly" sign over the door, until 1971.

In the remainder of the block below Arnot Avenue, several other early shops existed. At number 2900 Tillicum Road, the Craigflower/Gorge Grocery was operated by a series of owners from WWI until 1935, when taken over by Frank and Elanor Evans. In 1950, the business was replaced by the Tillicum (Gorge) Hardware store until the 1960's. Next door, at number 2902, a bakery shop ran from 1921 to 1935, operated for much of that time by Alice Drake, proprietor of several small bakeries around town.

From 1921 until the 1970's, the Tillicum Meat Market stood at number 2904, managed during the first 10 years by the father and son team of Walter and Frank Tupman. Music, though, was the latter's first love, and he also served as choir leader at the Centennial and Metropolitan Churches.

In 1931, another father and son couple, Arthur and Fred Wheeley, took over the butcher shop, while living temporarily in a house at 3101 Tillicum Road, below the elder Tupmans. Under Fred's management until 1969, the business mainly served customers living between Harriet and Admirals Roads. Many of them were on monthly charge accounts, placing their orders by telephone (if they had one), or with Fred in person during his routine rounds. At one time, these orders were in turn delivered by local school boys on store-owned bicycles. Earning 25 cents per hour, they would often receive a bonus of unsold french pastry from the next-door bakeshop when delivering on Saturday evenings. Customers who could not be home at the expected time of delivery might leave such notes as *"please go around to the backdoor and put meat in the refrigerator. Don't let the dog out and close the door. Thanks."*

Also different from today's style of grocery shopping, was the butcher shop itself. In the early years, a fresh covering of absorbent sawdust was applied each Monday morning, because, as Fred recalled *"with a wooden floor, you'd never be able to stand it; the fat would get into the floor and stink to high heaven."* Complaints about the potential fire-hazard, though, obliged the Wheelleys to later confine the sawdust to the working area behind the counter, swept up each Saturday night for their garden compost at the family home built at 303 Arnot Avenue. Before a pick-up service was established, waste meat, skin, and bones were dealt with in similar fashion, putting them *"out in the field in back each evening and the dogs would have cleaned it up by morning. There wouldn't be a bone left"*.

Completing this list of shops between Gorge Road and Arnot Avenue was an apparel shop at number 2908, run from around 1950 to the mid 1960's by Alicia Smith.

The next block, between Arnot and Vincent Avenues (the latter known as Portage Avenue before 1923), was first occupied in 1939, by druggist Bruce Young. In that year, he opened the Gorge Pharmacy in a small wood-frame building, replaced around 1960 with the present concrete structure. Remembered as a very thin man, living on Arnot Avenue, Young served as a *"doctor"* to local people *"because for some little ailment, you could just go to him"*. Shortly after Young's retirement around 1971, a dry-cleaning business took over the site.

Unquestionably, the longest-serving shopkeeper in the neighbourhood was Edith Crosby. Born in Scotland in 1881, this lady owned the Tillicum Community Store for almost 50 years, during which time she lost two husbands and a son. As Mrs. Craigmyle, she began her business in 1914 in the large house still standing at 307 Obed Avenue, next to Tillicum Road. Until home delivery service was inaugurated in 1916, her shop doubled as the local post office where neighbours could pick up their mail, brought daily from town via horse and buggy. In 1917, Edith relocated to her permanent site at 2942 Tillicum Road, where she built a house (still extant) with a small store-front. There she remained, with the assistance of her second son "Bud", as a *"bright, cheerful, and warm-hearted woman who much preferred working to the idea of a placid retirement"*<sup>18</sup> until her death in 1960.

Continuing north along Tillicum Road, the Tillicum Fish and Chips shop began in 1948 at number 3000, next to Obed Avenue-operated by a series of owners until converted to a Chinese-food kitchen.

One of the first businesses to become established along Tillicum Road was located on the east side, in a house that still stands at number 3023. Known originally as the Tillicum Grocery Store, it was operated from 1912 to around 1927 by James Taylor, whose wife worked as a charlady at James Dunsmuir's Hatley Castle. From 1930 into the 1950's, the family of George Burns lived in the building while simultaneously using it as a photographic studio and confectionary store.

The store at 3023 lasted much longer than other little enterprises started up along Tillicum Road in those early years. One example, located at number 3060, was the Estes Bakery, started in 1914 by William Estes (1864-1943), the son of Howard Estes, a Missouri-born black slave who had homesteaded on Salt Spring Island in 1859. By 1918, this "bakery" was no more, and William had reverted back to his life-long trade as a delivery-man, while his wife, active in the Burnside Methodist Church, served as a local midwife. Two other examples of brief enterprises during WWI were the corner grocery stores at 3091 and 3101 Tillicum Road.

The last, but largest, commercial development site along this portion of Tillicum Road is now occupied by Tillicum Mall. In 1858, this property was divided between two owners. The larger, southern portion (part of Section 13) belonged to Dr. John Kennedy (1805-1859), a retired HBC surgeon and member of the First Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island (along with his neighbour, James Yates) representing Nanaimo. The smaller portion (Section 80) between Burnside Road and Colquitz Creek, was granted by James Douglas to Jean Baptiste Jolibois, a retired metis, for his service with the "Victoria Voltigeurs", a local military police recruited from the ranks of HBC labourers. In less than three years, both of these men were gone. Kennedy's portion was inherited by his son-in-law, John D. Ogilvy, the first importer of honey bees to the Colony (albeit without success). Unfortunately for him, Ogilvy was also unsuccessful as the Indian Agent and Customs Clerk at Bella Coola, where he was shot to death by a bootlegger in 1865, followed by interment in the Quadra Street Cemetery. In 1875, Robert Ker bought Ogilvy's estate, and before the turn of the century, the whole site had become part of the extensive Burnside Farm, begun in 1865 by Mathias Rowland who had served as a hangman at Fort Victoria on a single occasion. Eventually this farm property stretched from Colquitz Creek to Swan Lake, under the management of his son Joseph until his retirement in 1922.

From WWI until 1950, the Rowland family leased this part of their farm to several tenant farmers, beginning with the Nishimoto and Ono families. While living in a large wooden house at 3080 Albina Street<sup>19</sup> from 1914 until its destruction by fire around 1938, Jenkichi Nishimoto and his wife, Shimoko, worked the land on Tillicum Road, raising vegetables and strawberries for sale at the City Market (now occupied by Centennial Square). Trained as a shipwright in Japan, Nishimoto had earlier built a covered barge or "sampan" which he launched on the Gorge in 1908 to provide popular sight-seeing tours along the waterway between the BCER Park and Portage Inlet. While farming the Tillicum Road land, he continued to build small boats with the use of a steam shed to bend wood located near the present-day Arena Way. The completed boats were then hauled by a team of horses down Tillicum Road, for launching into the Gorge, west of the bridge.

During the early 1920's, the smaller portion of this property, next to Burnside Road, was farmed by Rinzo Ono (1885-1974). Between growing seasons, Ono worked on whaling ships north of the Queen Charlotte Islands - leaving his wife, Tora, and their children in the family home (papered with Japanese newspapers) at 3157 Tillicum Road. By the 1930's, Ono was leasing a larger piece of Rowland property, now occupied by Colquitz Secondary School, where he operated the Tillicum Dairy. That farm's house, which they occupied during the years prior to the Japanese-Canadian expulsion of 1942, still stands at 572 Whiteside Avenue, minus the Ono's steam bath-house, heated by a wood-fired brick stove.

After the departure of these two families, the Tillicum Road land was farmed by a dairyman named McKay, remembered for using that road as the easiest way to drive his horses and cows from one end of the farm to the other. After McKay, the final tenant was Bill Mattick, who leased the farm in the late 1940's for the growing of daffodils.

Around 1950, the Rowland family sold the property, and as *The Colonist* noted on June 1, 1951, "a new era of entertainment in Greater Victoria" began with the opening of the Tillicum Outdoor Theatre. Among its advertised features, were "the largest screen in Canada", 620 car speakers, outdoor seating in twin Cape Cod chairs, and an enclosed viewing room seating 132 people -all surrounded by one-half miles of fencing and guarded by a Bull-Mastiff dog. At the entrance, located at the junction of Burnside and Tillicum Roads, a large marquee announced the current showing. Attached to this was a pointed "neon skylon", standing 60 feet high, as a landmark visible from several blocks away. By the late 1970's, however, the era of drive-in theatres had passed. Despite the operation of weekend "flea-markets" there, the theatre closed down for good in late 1979 with a final showing of "Superman I". At the demolition sale, sheets of white plywood were available to purchase-souvenirs of the former screen. In April of 1982, the Tillicum Mall opened on this site.

# OPENS TONIGHT!

## A New High in Entertainment for Victoria

Here at last is the entertainment you have wanted, a place where the whole family can go as a group in one car with no parking worries and without the necessity of "dressing up," remain in the car and be entertained. At the **TILLICUM OUTDOOR THEATRE** there's no walking to the box office, no waiting for seats, no climbing over people in the dark, no separation from friends or family when you get there. Yes, here's an idea so practical you'll wonder why Victoria hasn't had one before.

**DON'T DRESS UP**  
Come as you are... Your car is your theatre.

**CARTOONS ON EVERY PROGRAM**  
Also the Latest News of the World Events.

**KIDDIES UNDER A TREE**  
Bottle-warmers provided.

Ideal for the Aged and Hard of Hearing. Control the volume of your own individual speaker inside your car.

Smoke if you wish—you won't annoy anyone.

**SNACK BAR**  
Centrally Located Refreshments of all kinds.

Adults—Weekdays 60¢  
Children—Under 14 15¢  
Under 8—FREE  
Adults—Saturdays and Holidays 85¢

**NO BABY-SITTERS**  
Bring the children... save the cost. Even bring your pet.

**GIANT SCREEN**  
Perfect sound and projection.

Here's the Opening Program  
**DANNY KAYE** in  
"The Inspector General"  
In Technicolor.  
THE LATEST NEWS  
CARTOONS  
"Bambi Every Monday"  
"RIVERA DAYS"  
Plus **GIANT FIREWORKS DISPLAY**  
Show Starts at 8 o'clock  
Come Early if You Can

# TILLICUM OUTDOOR THEATRE

BURNSIDE AT TILLICUM

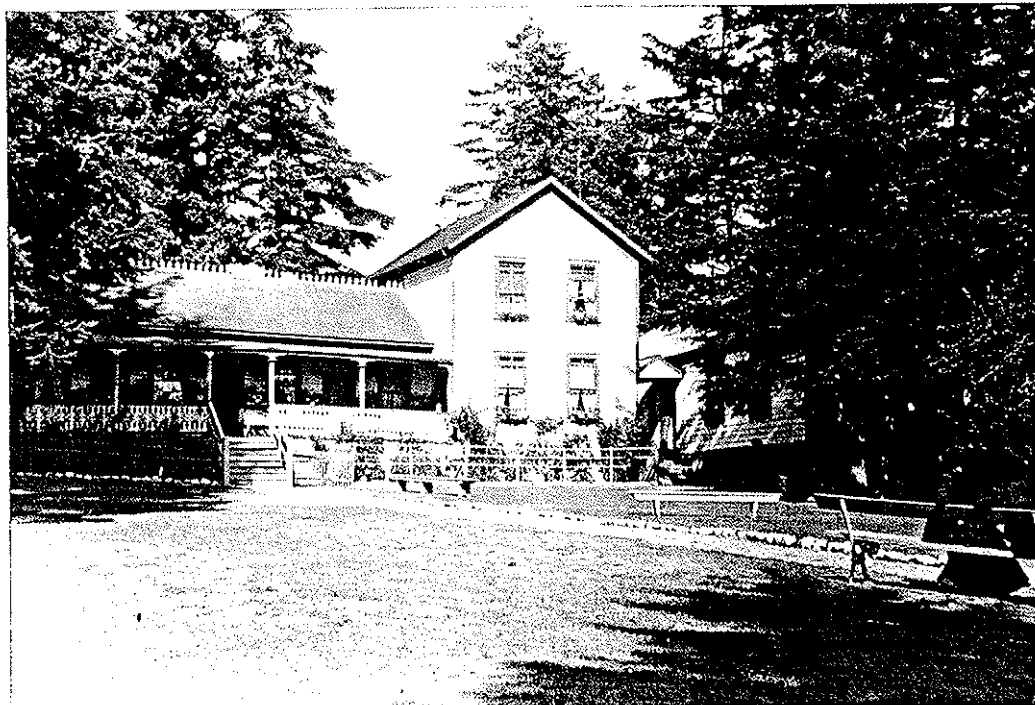


*"Rockwood", c.1900.*



*The Robertson/Loewen wedding party at "Rockwood," 1905.*





*The waterfront facade of the Victoria Gardens Tavern, c.1894.*



*Inside Driver's "Gorgeway Grocery" c.1950*



*Looking up Tillicum Road during the Royal Tour of 1939. On the extreme left is seen the Tillicum Meat Market. In the middle distance is seen the Gorge Pharmacy, then Crosby's store and the Gorge Presbyterian Church.*



*The Isbister children cycling on Tillicum Road, c.1922.*



*Aya and Toyo Ono on Tillicum Road, 1940. Behind them is McKay's dairy farm now the Tillicum Mall.*

## CHURCHES

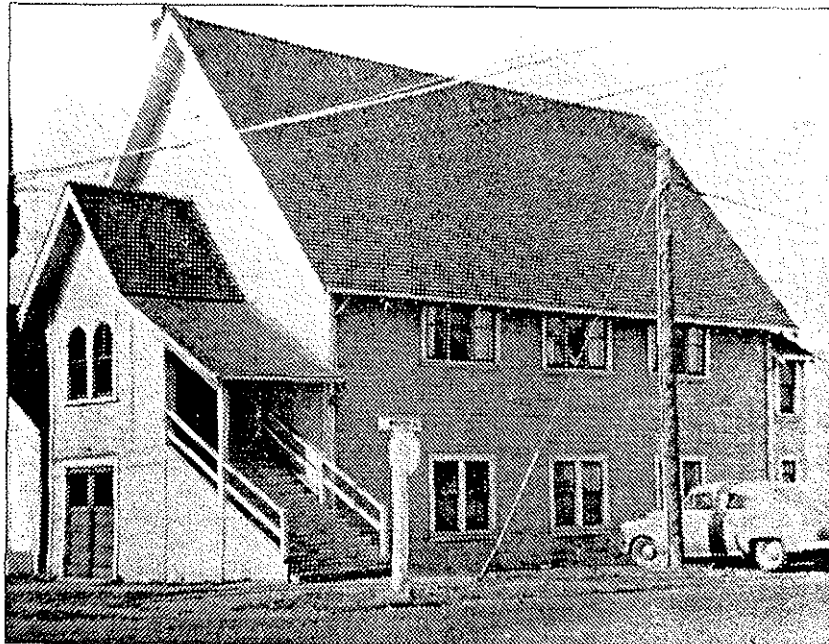
In addition to having the most commercial development in the neighbourhood, Tillicum Road has also had most of the churches. At 2958 Tillicum Road, the neighbourhood's longest-standing place of worship, the Gorge (Trinity) Presbyterian Church, held its first Sunday service in June of 1914. An annual Christmas treat for the church's Sunday School children was to receive *"nice little bags of hard candy and an apple or orange, which got many kids to become Presbyterians during the month of December."* In 1955, the original church was replaced with the present structure.

Other places of worship have also existed in the area over the years. In September, 1913, the Burnside Methodist Church was erected at 3166 Millgrove Street by volunteer help over two and one-half days to replace an earlier leaky tent. From 1920 to 1940, this 24' x 40' building served as a Sunday School and gymnasium operated by a widow, Mary Brannigan, who lived in the rear of the structure. Following demolition, lumber from the old church was incorporated into the present house.

Another Sunday School existed during the 1930's at 60 Logan Avenue, run by John and Ruth Miller. One early resident of Earl Grey Street recalled that *"we'd go there Sunday afternoon and have Bible classes with a Japanese girl named Miss Okamoto (of 3443 Whittier Street) teaching us girls, and her brother, Sam, teaching the boys. Mr. Miller put on lantern-slide shows every Friday night, and of course they were religious ones, but, to us kids, it was fascinating to see anything like that."*

An unlikely location for another Sunday School existed temporarily during the 1960's. While the St. Joseph's Church was under construction on West Burnside Road, (next to Admirals Road), some local Catholic children attended Sunday services amongst the smell of stale popcorn in the indoor viewing room of the Tillicum Drive-In Theatre.

The most recently constructed church in the neighbourhood is the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness built in 1959 at 3067 Tillicum Road.



*Gorge Presbyterian Church, c.1950.*

## WARTIME

When Edith Craigmyle moved her business from its first site in 1917, she left a vacancy in the large corner house that was soon filled by the Gorge Branch of the Red Cross, identifying their presence with a large flag hanging in one of the front windows. Formed in April of that year, with local dairyman, Alfred Few, as Honorary Treasurer, the group's main purpose was to raise funds locally for the war effort in Europe, a role previously performed by the "Ready-For-Anything Club". To this end, one of their social functions organized that summer was a garden party at Carrickbaye, 182 Gorge Road West, where *"a number of returned soldiers were present as guests and enjoyed the entertainment...and refreshments served on the lawn in the shade of the fine old trees"*.<sup>20</sup>

Another local war-related event occurred in the summer of 1918 when Saanich detectives raided a house in the 3100 block of Qu'Appelle Street. There, in the attic, they reportedly found gold worth \$1,000 and *"German bible student literature containing objectionable material"*.<sup>21</sup> After refusing to pay a fine, the three occupants were then sentenced to Okalla prison for three months.

During World War II, air-raid sirens were situated along Burnside Road, near Wascana Street, and on Tillicum Road, at Vincent Avenue, that *"went off every night for just a minute at 9:00 for testing. If they stayed on longer, you knew it was a real warning"*. During the drills, local Air Raid Precautions Officers (ARP's) such as Arthur Wheeley and supervisor Fred Hole of 2964 Harriet Road, patrolled the neighbourhood checking that the street lights had automatically switched off, and no house lights were visible. Another ARP, Mary Park of 224 Maddock Avenue, fitted all the children at school with gas masks.

## THE DAIRIES



*Seymour de Trafford Cunningham with dairy cow and children, 3060 Harriet Road, c.1910.*

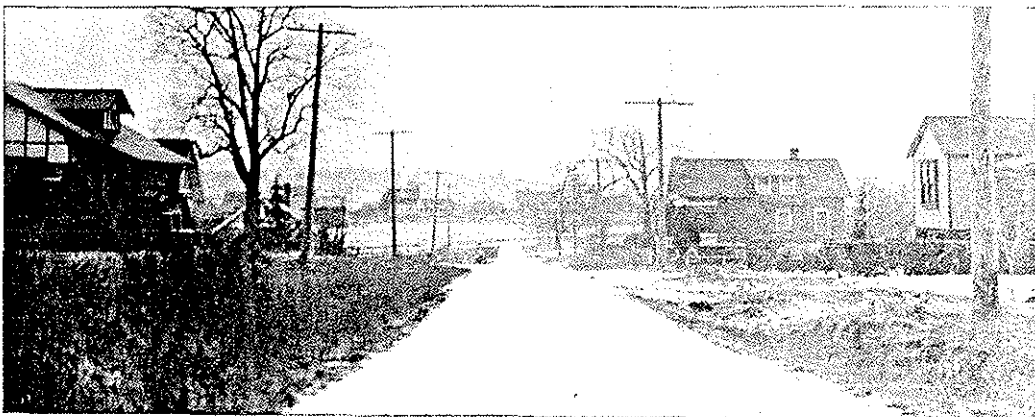
The small dairy business of the Cunningham family on Harriet Road was not unusual during those early years here. Despite letters to Saanich Council complaining of *"the noise and flies of cows in a residential neighbourhood"*, many people kept a milk cow (plus innumerable goats, chickens, and rabbits) for their own use or to supplement the family income. A survey of 1921 showed that 34 cows were kept in the neighbourhood that year, divided amongst 13 households.

A few residents kept more than one cow. The most notable of these people was Alfred Few (1853-1926) who supplied milk to the Empress Hotel in 1915 from a herd of 30 cows. From 1909 to 1917, the Fews were the only residents on Earl Grey, living in one of the former Craigie Lea farmhouses. By the 1930's this house had deteriorated into *"an awful old thing...that looked like an old prairie farmhouse with vacant land all around."* this house survived until the 1960's when it was replaced by the two current houses listed at 3016 and 3022 Earl Grey Street. Few also made use of an original barn at the southeast corner of Millgrove Street and Obed Avenue, described in a 1915 Medical Health Officers report as *"old, not lime-washed and without much light or ventilation."* Despite this condition, the barn was converted to a house (2975 Millgrove Street) two years later and from 1925 to 1941, it was occupied by the widow, Ellen Few, and her daughter, who also owned the house on the opposite corner, at 170 Obed Avenue. Although the smell of a barn lingered in their converted house for many years, it remained occupied until around 1980 when it was replaced by the present duplex.

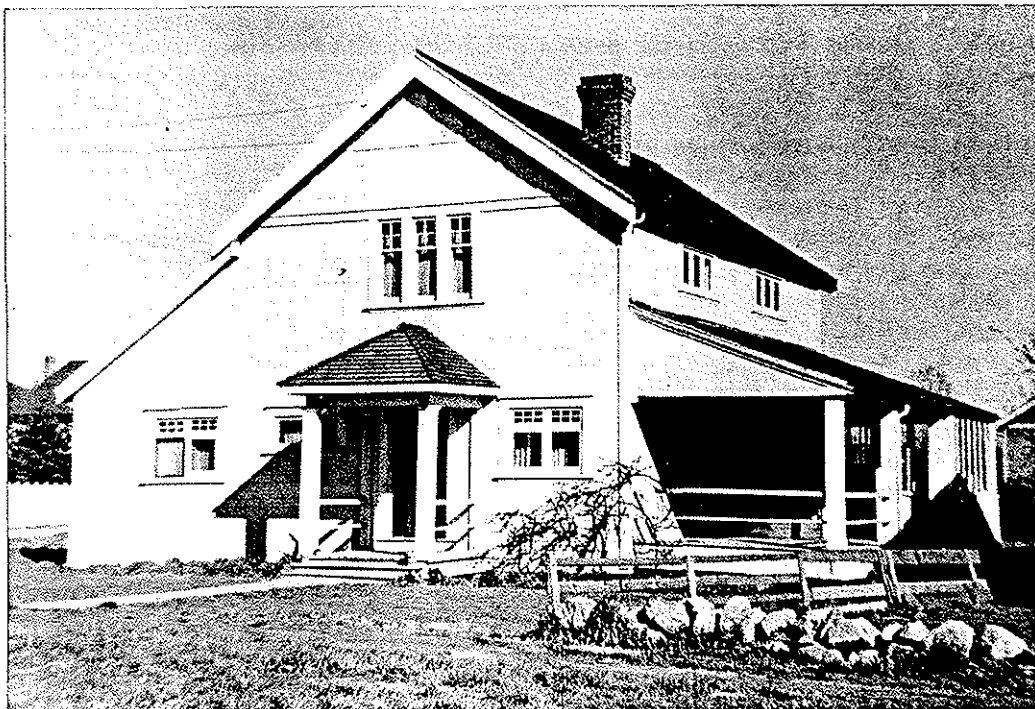
To pasture his cows, Few probably made use of the empty adjacent block bound by Earl Grey, Maddock, Wascana, and Obed Avenue. During the 1920's and early 30's, this land was used for growing corn and sunflowers to fill the silo of Martha Rudd's dairy farm at Eldon Place, off East Burnside Road. After harvesting, the remaining stubble was grazed upon by the Rudd cows driven to this fenced-in block along Maddock Avenue.

Two other smaller-scale dairymen also lived here, both residing on Albina Street after 1914. The first dairyman, living with his family at number 3016, was Fred White- remembered as *"a funny old guy, with great big boots on his feet, mucking around in his barn,"* with a fondness for an evening glass of stout, kept warm on the kitchen stove. Having only six cows to feed, White would drive them each morning along the dusty roads, dragging their chains behind them to nearby vacant lots, where, tethered to a stake, *"they'd be there all day, eating a circle around themselves."* Each evening, the process was reversed, driving them back to the small barn located at the northwest corner of Albina Street and Obed Avenue. Milk from White's cows, *"at 10 cents a quart, almost half cream,"* was delivered by horse and buggy to customers in the neighbourhood. On one particularly hot day, after the climb up Ebert's Hill, White treated his horse to a cooling swim in the Gorge at the foot of Harriet Road -a fitting reward for a horse that knew the milk route by heart, needing little coaxing from White. During WWII, White retired from dairy farming and moved into the small house he built at 278 Obed Avenue. Both of his houses on this corner are still extant, with modifications.

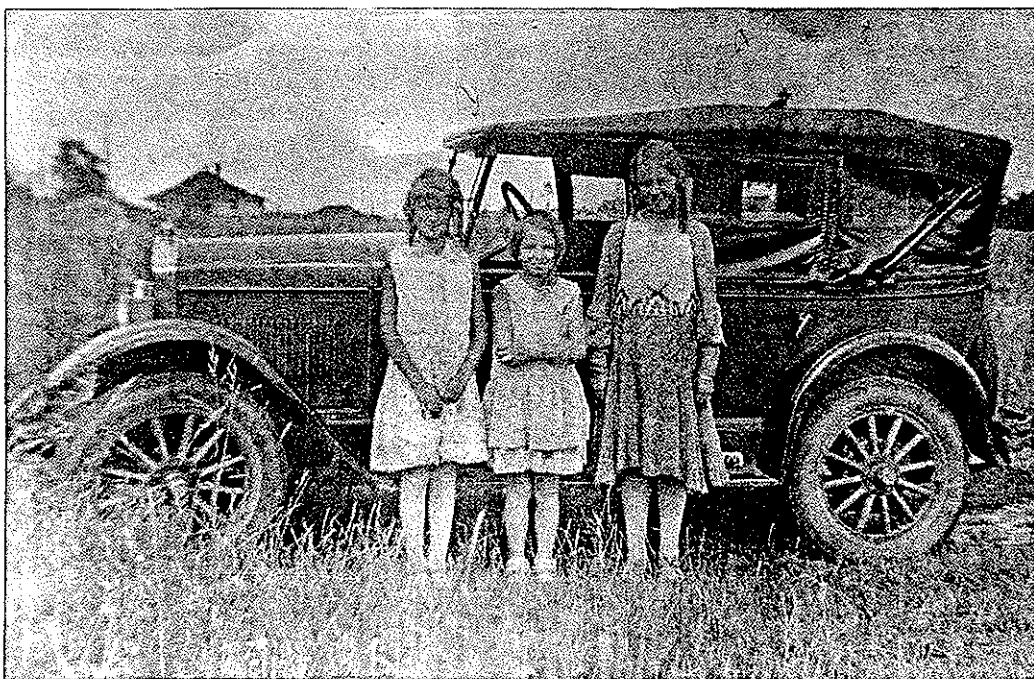
The second dairyman was Thomas Mitchell, who lived with his wife, Rachel, at 3177 Albina Street until moving to the Glanford area in the 1930's. Mitchell's property was next to Tillicum School, and at one time he kept his small herd of five or six cows in sheds that previously served as the school outhouses.



Looking down Logan Avenue to Wascana Street, next to the empty block rented by the Rudds for their cows 1930.



*Alfred Few's old barn, converted to a house, at 2975 Millgrove Street, c.1940.*



*Grace, Elsie, and Eveline Ralph of 3016 Earl Grey Street, 1932, standing in front of Mrs. Rudd's meadow. The house in the left corner stands at 121 Maddock Avenue.*



## TILLICUM SCHOOL

Tillicum Elementary School began in 1915 as a one-room schoolhouse, located at the northwest corner of the Burnside/Tillicum Road junction. Intended for only temporary usage to reduce the overcrowding at Craigflower School, this rustic building offered little in the way of comforts and conveniences to the students. To improve conditions, the sole teacher, Miss Gwen Hewlings, wrote to the school authorities about such problems as outdoor privies in danger of over-flowing for lack of regular emptying "*a great deal further from the toilet building than heretofore,*" and poor drinking water from a well that "*needed to be thoroughly cleaned during the summer vacation.*"

In the summer of 1916, a new site was sought for a larger, permanent school and in January of 1917, the Saanich School Board agreed to buy seven lots in the 3100 block of Albina Street for \$2,825 and a further advancement of \$3,600 towards the construction of a four-roomed school. Designing this new building was the responsibility of architect C. Elwood Watkins, whose earlier works ranged from the buildings of Chinatown's Fan Tan Alley to the grandeur of the Victoria High School.

During the summer vacation of 1917, the old schoolhouse was moved to Cloverdale Avenue, while construction proceeded on the new building at 3155 Albina Street. Opened without fanfare on September 4, 1917, the new school was already considered too small for the area's need. With an enrollment of 290 children, two grades were placed in each of the four classrooms, while an over-flow of 25 students occupied the school office room. As well, the basement was unfinished and indoor toilets were yet to be installed. In 1921, accommodation improved with the construction (on the southern side) of a four-roomed, two-storied addition, allowing for one grade in each of the eight classrooms. Conditions improved further in 1945, with the addition of a gymnasium, allowing for indoor athletics when the wet weather rendered the dirt and gravel playing fields unusable. This large indoor space also allowed for the presentation of school concerts before an audience of parents -an impossibility in earlier years when only the central hallway was available for this use. In 1962, the construction of a new concrete-block gymnasium, permitted the old one to be converted into a library.

Although too small to suitably accommodate all the local children in 1917, the new building did occasionally serve as a centre for the community. One example of such extra-curricular usage occurred on June 29, 1918, when, as *The Colonist* reported, the Ward Seven Cottage Gardeners held their Annual Flower Show and Home Products Fair, with "*a children's exhibit of manual training, cooking, sewing, and displays of cut flowers, potted plants, poultry, and dairy produce.*" In 1919, the fair expanded to include a goat show and children's outdoor sports. The latter were also held as part of the annual school picnic at the City Gorge Park, such as reported in *The Colonist*, June 20, 1920, when "*after an afternoon of sports, supper was served by the mothers of the pupils who were present, about 200 strong.*" In June, 1924, the students also competed in the first Annual Saanich Schools Field Day at Beaver Lake Park.

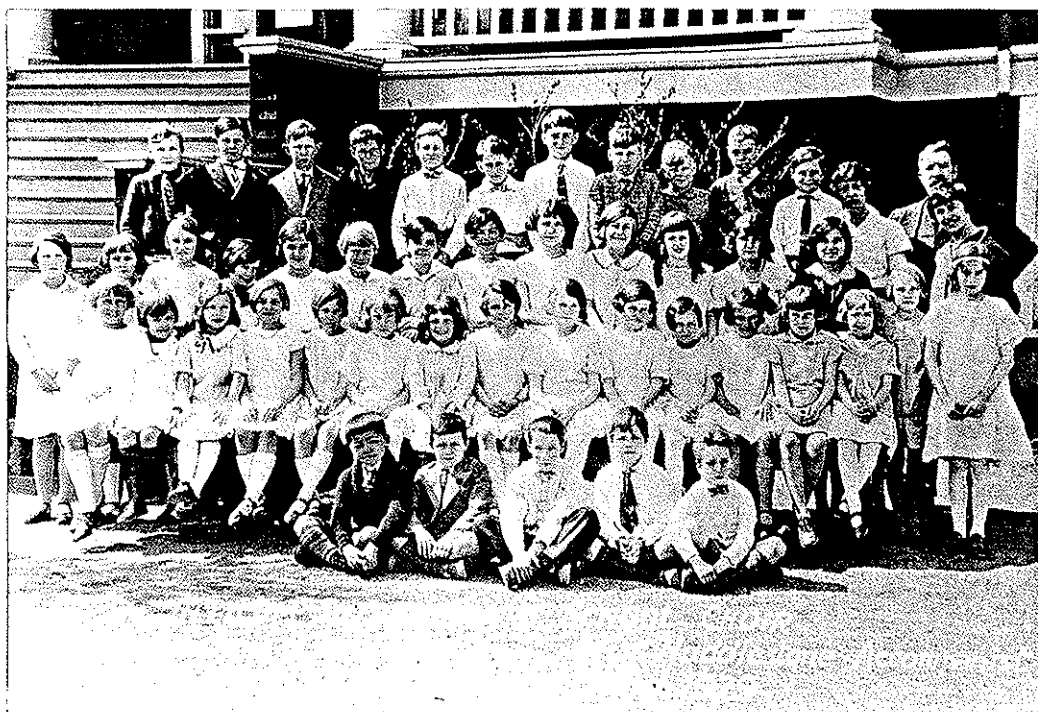
To make room for the series of structural additions to the school over the years, the grounds were expanded twice towards Maddock Avenue and Burnside Road, necessitating the demolition or removal of 11 houses from within the block. One of these, at 3119 Albina Street, belonged to the Huddleston family, of whom one daughter, Hilda, became a teacher at the school. Years earlier, in 1917, she had received a Royal Humane Society of Canada Bravery Award for rescuing no less than five drowning children in the waters of the Gorge and Colquitz Creek over the previous three years.

Responsibility for the new school's administration was given in July of 1917 to principal William O'Neill for a monthly salary of \$100 -a position that he kept for almost 20 years. Unlike his brother John (principal of Tolmie School), "Billy" O'Neill remained a life-long bachelor, living downtown at the Balmoral Hotel on Douglas Street. From there, he travelled to the school each morning via tramcar and on foot, to take up position at the top of the Orillia Street stairs *"with the bell-clapper in his hand, tapping out a steady rhythm as the older kids marched past into the school, while the younger ones entered below."*

With classes underway, O'Neill also doubled as a teacher to the grade eight students, habitually using the sleeves of his blue serge suit as a blackboard eraser *"so that five minutes into the classroom and they'd be snow white."* Lessons in grammar and arithmetic were his specialty, often introducing the former into the latter when incorrect language was used. If extra emphasis was required, he was also given to freely waving his wooden pointer overhead, sometimes at the expense of light bulbs suspended from the ceiling. When required, the ultimate discipline of strapping a recalcitrant student was made possible with a length of leather machine-belt, kept in his coat pocket at all times. Acts of mischief by the students ranged from the simple to the elaborate. One legendary example stemmed from O'Neill's habit of chewing tobacco beside an open window next to his raised desk. One day, unknown to their principal, some students shut this window and then cleaned the glass. Much to O'Neill's embarrassment, when he spat out his wad of well-chewed tobacco, *"it ran down the pane like a seagull had just gone by."* On another occasion, some boys gathered up metal gates from neighbouring fences, tied them together, and pulled them up the flagpole. Another often-told story describes how on one Halloween, some older boys took a wagon from Mitchell's adjacent dairy farm, and hauled it up the front steps of the school. Some versions of this event had the wagon filled with cordwood, while others more colourfully referred to manure.



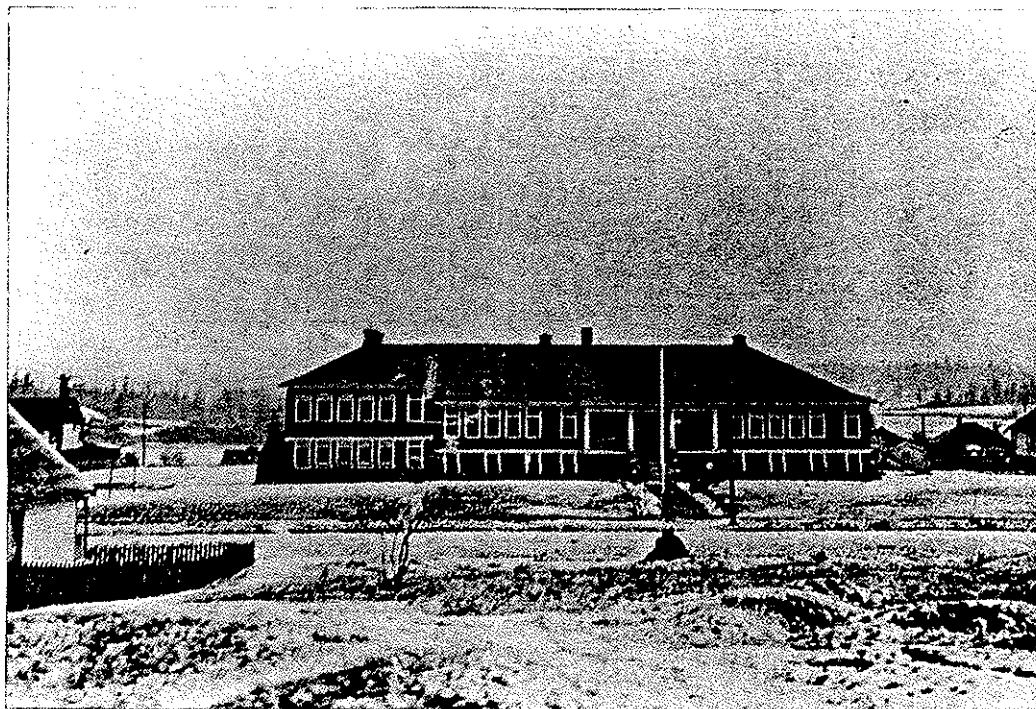
*Students at the original Tillicum School with teacher, Miss Gwen Hewlings, 1916.*



*Tillicum Intermediate School Choir, 1929. Principal W.O. Neill stands at the top right corner.*



*Students at Tillicum School, 1933, with houses on Donald Street in the distance.*



*View of Tillicum School from Donald Street on January 27, 1930. The wing on the left was added to the original four-roomed building in 1921. In the distance are Rowland's snowy fields along Tillicum Road.*

## SNOW

Another letter of complaint that Miss Hewlings sent to the Saanich School Board concerned the difficulties brought by the record snowfall of 1916. From her home address of 2515 Work Street, she wrote of February 9, 1916:

*"Dear Sir. I opened the Tillicum Road School in Monday morning, but not one pupil arrived. This probably was due to the condition of the road in front of the school, the sidewalk and the road from the Burnside Road to the school never having been cleared of the deep snow-drifts. Thus the way to the School was practically impossible for a small child. The School has not been opened for the last two days, as the drifts were being cleared away from the out-buildings, etc. Yours respectfully, G. N. Hewlings"*

With the school closed for a few days in that snowy February of 1916, the students were free to enjoy themselves. Such was the case a former resident of Orillia Street who remembered: *"It snowed so much, the snow came right up over the little lean-to kitchen. I put on a pair of my father's pants and crawled up to the top of the roof and slid down."* The adults, however, were more troubled by the hardships that came with the snow, as that same person recalled: *"My father started for work at the Brackman Ker mill in James Bay and he got as far as Craigflower and Tillicum when he had to turn back because the snow was over his head. It was awful. The men were overseas then and so a lot of women were living alone. I can remember my dad saying that he put a rowboat into the Gorge at the foot of Millgrove Street and rowed down to a coal yard near Point Ellice bridge and took some sacks of coal and delivered them to one lady with small children who lived on Orillia Street to help her out."*

A similar recollection was offered by another early resident. She recalled that *"the snow was piled six feet deep. It was terrific. You couldn't go anywhere. Mrs. Crosby, the little store keeper on Tillicum Road always got in an extra ton of coal in the Fall in case anything happened. Dad made a pair of skis out of lumber and we had a couple of walking sticks. Then we went down to her place and hauled coal on our backs to two neighbours who hadn't any in their house. And we brought groceries too"*.

One gentleman remembered being 16 years of age during that snowfall when he was working in the Sayward Building downtown. A shopkeeper there offered him one dollar to drop off (on his way home to Burnside Road) a pair of shoes at the Gorge Road East residence of Premier McBride *"where there was supposed to be a 'do' that night. So I looked around and saw how much snow was falling and I got a couple of gunny sacks and wrapped them around my legs. I had to trudge through the snow and it was getting higher all the time. When I got to their door, I knocked and said 'Here's some shoes for you'. The fellow at the door said 'No damn good for those tonight'. Anyway, I got the dollar for it, but they never tipped me at McBride's. I'd left the shop at three o'clock. By the next morning, we had four feet of snow"*.

## RECREATION

**Fun and games.** Acts of harmless mischief by local children then weren't restricted to school time. One resident of the early 1920's recalled sitting with friends on the clay bank overlooking the Tillicum/Gorge Road intersection and *"when the Dunsmuir's came by from Hatley Castle with beautiful horses pulling a buggy, we'd yell 'Get a car, get a car!'"*

Another person remembered *"stealing a few tomatoes from the Riddle Brothers Greenhouses on Douglas Street to eat on the way to Swan Lake, where we used to swim at the time."* From there, they would walk down to "French's Menagerie" on Darwin Street *"with a pocket full of rocks to throw over the wooden fence to get the lions roaring."* This same fellow also recalled *"stealing corn from a farm across Burnside and apples from an old orchard just up from Curtis Point, then go back to Gorge beach and cook them over a big bonfire."* Another early resident remembered roasting potatoes there and cooling them down to eat with a quick swish in the salt water of the Gorge.

For a different group of boys, the *"fun and games of Halloween"* included twisting a knot in the trolley cable of the Burnside streetcar. When the car then reached the dip in the line at Cecilia Ravine, the shortened cable caused a disconnection from the overhead power lines, resulting in *"blue flashes just like a lightning storm, before it stopped dead. No harm was meant by this. We did it because the conductor was such a cranky character."* Some "fun" though was not without a degree of damage. Another early resident recalled that *"along the south side of Maddock, near Qu'Appelle, there was an old barn that belonged to a World War I vet who got killed and never came back. We kids hated it because it was full of rats. So about four of us got some gas and set it on fire. The firemen let it burn down and for years we used that as a football field."*

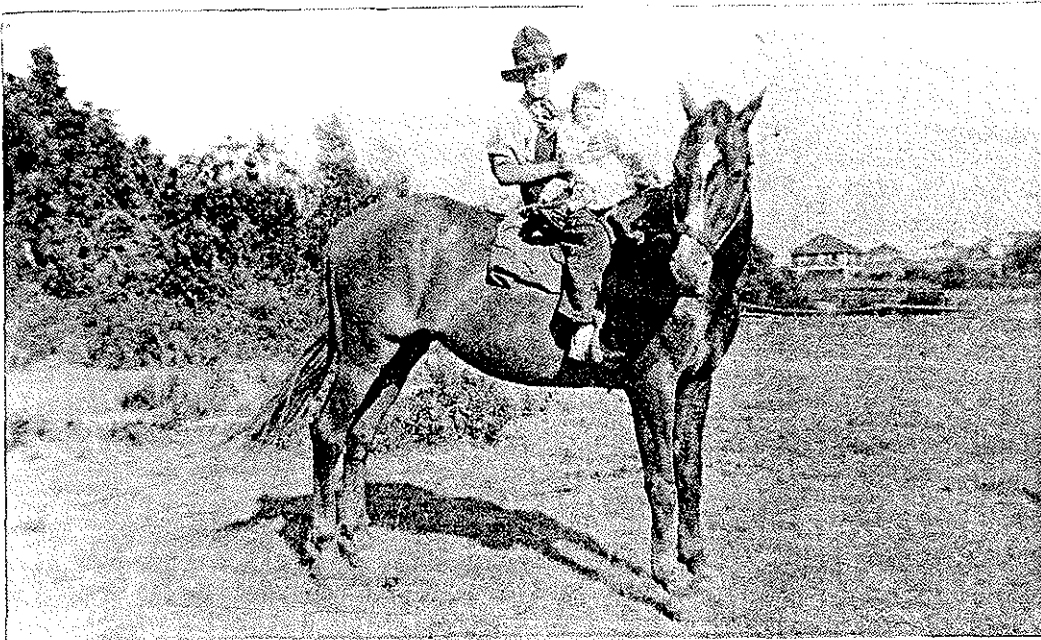
Another flat field, popular for playing baseball, was located further along the north side of Maddock Avenue, between Millgrove and Earl Grey Streets. Other children's games, such as "Run, Sheep, Run" or "Duck on A Rock," could be played almost anywhere in the centre of the neighbourhood. There, between the few houses, the former pasture land survived into the 1930's as *"empty grassy, rolling fields, with no trees but lots of buttercups and yellow daisies for us to pick."*

Picking poppies and digging shallow caves was also popular at the oak and arbutus-covered rocky knoll called "Adams' Rocks", vestiges of which exist today where lower Irma Street meets Chown Place. This site was doubly intriguing at Halloween, when "parties" would be held nearby at the derelict Adams' house on Balfour Street. Several blocks away, to the west of the neighbourhood, the rolling hay and corn fields of Rowland's property on Tillicum Road gave youngsters an opportunity to snare rabbits and shoot pheasant. The adjacent waters of Colquitz Creek also were popular then for hunting duck and geese, fishing for trout, and skinny-dipping.

*Arthur Pass, at 2973 Orillia Street, circa 1933. Behind him can be seen the open fields of grass and "yellow-centers" where local children could play and the cows of Fred White would graze all day. Fred's small house, at 3016 Albina, is barely visible at Art's left elbow; while next to his right shoulder is seen the tall Tillicum Road house, at Obed Avenue, where Edith Crosby had her first store, occupied in 1917 by the Gorge Branch of the Red Cross.*



Catching tadpoles and frogs was possible at a swamp where the arena now stands, but a more convenient location existed north of Maddock Avenue, between Earl Grey and Wascana Streets. There, a number of two-foot deep ponds were inadvertently created by the Baker Brick and Tile Company while excavating for clay during the latter years of WW I. Called "Cooke's Ponds", after a family of 11 children living nearby at 3127 Millgrove Street, they were popular for ice-skating and bonfire parties each winter. Other winter fun included sledding down "Bird's Hill" on Maddock Avenue, below Albina Street. During fairer weather, the sloping paved surface of Gorge Road allowed children to "have a ball roller skating. We would skate from home down Tillicum Road and turn up Gorge Road. Then huff and puff up Ebert's Hill, because it was hard going to get up there. Then turn around and skate down and along home." On warm summer nights, young people liked to gather under the street light at Millgrove Street and Obed Avenue -sometimes eating pears picked from the last of Yates' old fruit trees, still growing at the edge of the road, near Earl Grey Street.



*Frank and Wanda Cooke of 3127 Millgrove Street, c.1919, showing the fields behind their family's home. In the far distance is Qu'Appelle Ave.*

**The Gorge.** For most children, summertime fun meant swimming in the Gorge waterway at the foot of the neighbourhood. "Braden's Beach", at the foot of Harriet Road, attracted some kids, particularly for the added pleasure of an after-swim bonfire, although lying in their wet swimsuits upon the sun-warmed asphalt of Gorge Road served the same purpose. The majority of kids, though, preferred to swim instead at the Gorge City Park where the City built a bathing pavilion for public use in 1912. With no admission charge, this two-storied, shingle-sided building was called "*The Free*", in contrast with "*The Pay*" change rooms at the privately-owned BCER Gorge Park. Located next to relatively deep, warm water across from the bridge, the Free soon became "*undoubtedly the popular swimming hole of the majority of young Victorians*<sup>22</sup>" where "*kids came by bike from all over the city. Some even changed in the bush because the change house was all full up.*" Facilities available to swimmers at the Free included change rooms for boys and girls on separate levels, fresh water showers, a sun-bathing verandah, slides and diving platforms (although some children preferred jumping off the roof), and a rare improvement to the adjacent beach from "*a barge of sand sitting there for months. We used to swim out to it and have a hell of a time fighting in the sand.*" To keep a watchful eye on the swimmers, the City hired a caretaker/life-guard/swimming instructor, the most notable being Ralph Alcock, who earned 40 cents an hour to be at the Free each day of each summer from around 1924 until a typhoid threat from leaking septic tanks closed down public swimming in 1938. By then the Free was in a derelict state and finally set ablaze by local vandals in July of 1945.

Another attraction of the Free was its close proximity to the bridge and the tumultuous waters below, which for decades, thrilled countless divers, swimmers, and boaters alike-the irresistible appeal of which was missed somewhat by Saanich Councillor, Francis Simpson of 2933 Albina Street, who complained of young people "*congregating on the bridge, a dozen at a time and interfering with traffic*".<sup>23</sup> His proposed bylaw of 1923, banning the wearing of swimsuits on the bridge, proved to be impractical, however, and jumping off the bridge into the rock-free, deep water on the west side continued to be "*an adolescent rite of passage for many young people.*" This was made all the more challenging during an out-going tide when a swimmer "*was sucked into*



*the vortex and disappeared. Seconds later, he would reappear in boiling waters, many yards downstream, minus some skin from his legs through contact with barnacles".<sup>24</sup> To avoid the latter, other means of riding the current were attempted, as described in the *Daily Times* on July 12, 1926:*

*"Some excitement was caused by a collision between a great log, manned by a dozen swimmers riding the current swirling under the bridge and a canoe fighting the current in the opposite direction. A nose-on collision upset the canoe and sent the swimmers flying off the raft. The two occupants of the canoe were thrown into the water and their straw hats, cushions, and paddles raced down the stream with the canoe. Fortunately, they were good swimmers."*

Often, upset canoeists and inexperienced swimmers were less fortunate, and a number of drownings occurred -despite the addition of such safety features as an electric light installed under the bridge in 1905, life preservers, and a wooden boardwalk (canoe "towpath") running along the Saanich shore. Many years later, in 1960, the danger of the fast-flowing current under the bridge was reduced when associates of the Gorge Boat House dynamited part of the underwater rocks.

Back during the earlier years, additional protection, in the form of policemen stationed at both ends of the bridge, was particularly valuable during the busy water carnivals, such as the May 24th regattas when *"thousands crowded the shores and thousands more viewed the sports from the innumerable skiffs, pleasure boats, launches, and scows which covered the water".<sup>25</sup>* This festival, held almost annually from 1867 to 1954 as part of a city-wide celebration of the Queen's birthday, offered an afternoon of boat races by sailors from Esquimalt and visiting ships, competing in naval whalers, cutters, and skiffs, plus Indians from all over Vancouver Island, paddling to the Selkirk Waters and back in their dug-out canoes. Novelty events included decorated boats and greased-pole climbing, while the music of one or two brass bands added to the crowds' pleasure.

Another aquatic event that attracted crowds to this part of the Gorge was the "Through-Victoria Swim," in which greased competitors raced from the cold waters of the Inner Harbour to the finish line, three miles distant, at the Gorge Bridge. This gruelling competition took place annually between 1915 and 1934, won nine times by local swimming legend, Audrey Griffin.

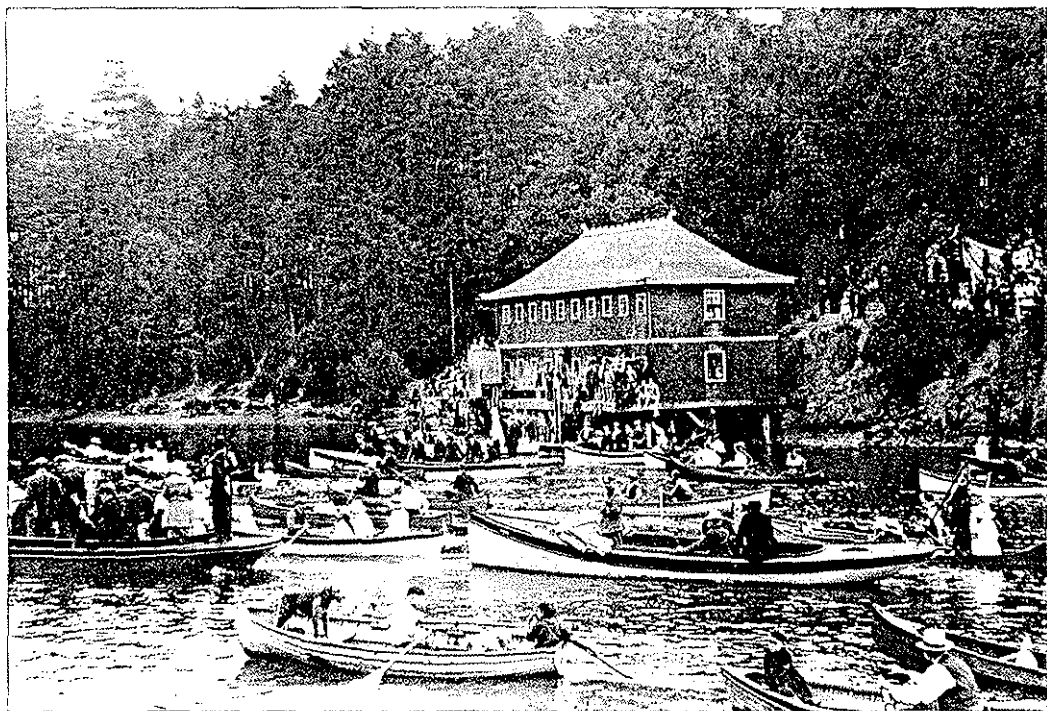
Local aquatic clubs on the Gorge also hosted swimming galas that established provincial, Pacific Northwest, and even national standings in outdoor events. Of the six clubs that existed here between 1905 and 1937, the most dynamic organization was the Victoria and Island Athletic Association (VIAA), located at Curtis Point from 1919 to 1924, under the guidance of sports promoter W.H.Davies. There, to attract competing swimmers and divers from Seattle, Portland, and elsewhere (some of Olympic calibre), the club built a competition-length swimming tank out of floating logs, and a series of diving towers, ranging from 10 to 100 feet in height. Following a tragic exhibition dive in 1922, when club member Billy Muir broke his back, the last of the tall towers was dismantled. The exact location of the tower's footings are now masked by the concrete steps and block built there in the 1950's by motel owner Charles Traunweiser to access a wooden float. After the VIAA disbanded their aquatic activities, their Curtis Point facilities served as a boy's summer camp of the YMCA.

Another aquatic group at that time was the Victoria Amateur Swim Club, located at the foot of Inez Drive. Two of its active members who lived in the neighbourhood were Percy Pitt, of 3080 Earl Grey Street, and Jock McNeill. Former Champion Swimmer of B.C.(1911-1913) and 200 yards Canadian title holder (1912), McNeill lived at 2970 Albina Street in 1925, when, as club president, he invited Olympic swimming star (and future "Tarzan") Johnny Weismueller to perform at the newly-opened Crystal Gardens Pool.

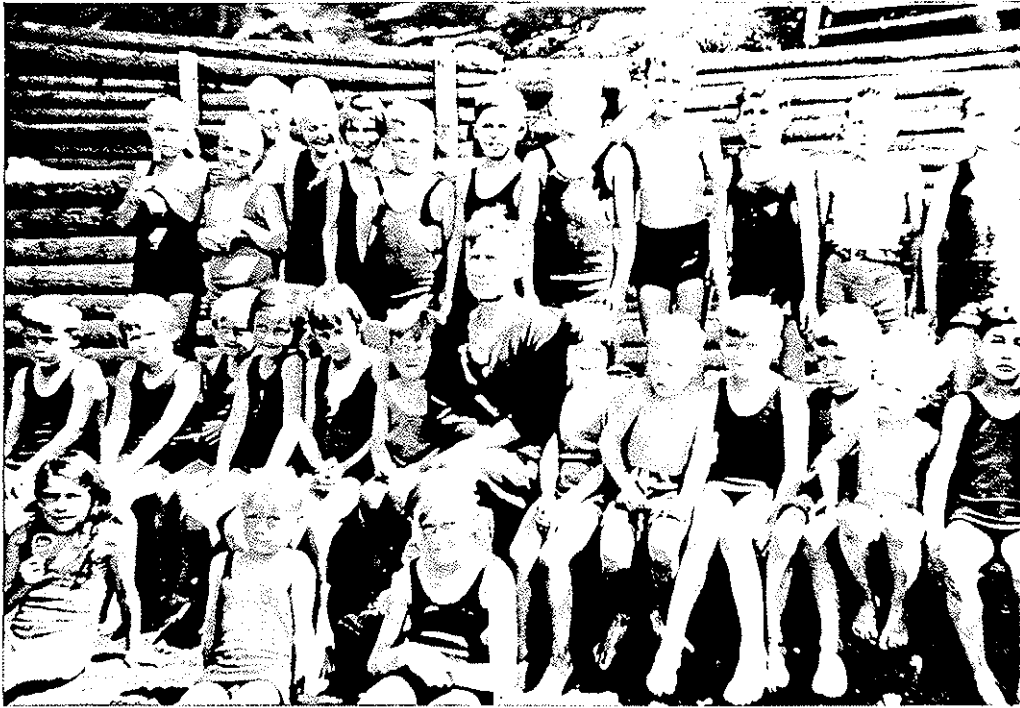
Adults, as well as children, were invited to join these Gorge aquatic clubs. Other organized sports in which they could participate locally, included lawn bowling at the Burnside Club, opened in 1922, plus tennis, badminton, rowing, and basketball at the James Bay Athletic Association's premises, located in the future Gorge Hotel from 1928 to 1937. As well, a number of residents owned their own tennis courts, where they would hold friendly matches on Saturday afternoons with neighbours.



*Private tennis court between the old Eberts and Braden houses on Gorge Road West, c.1938.*



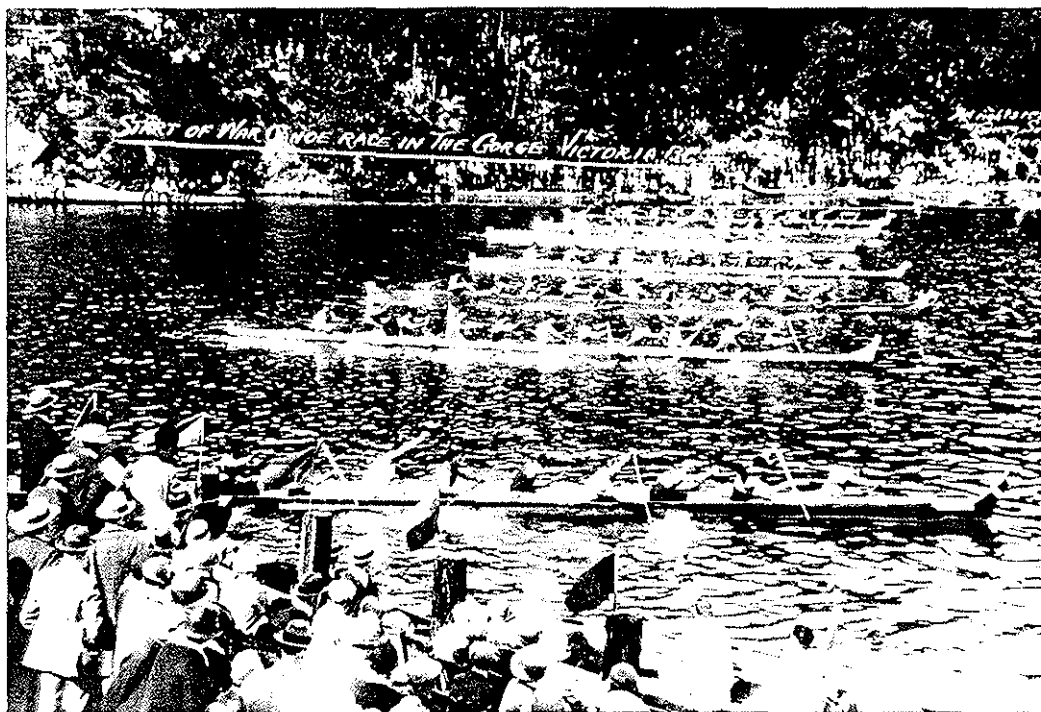
*Boaters gathered near the finish line of the "Through-Victoria Swim", by the "Free" bathhouse, c.1919.*



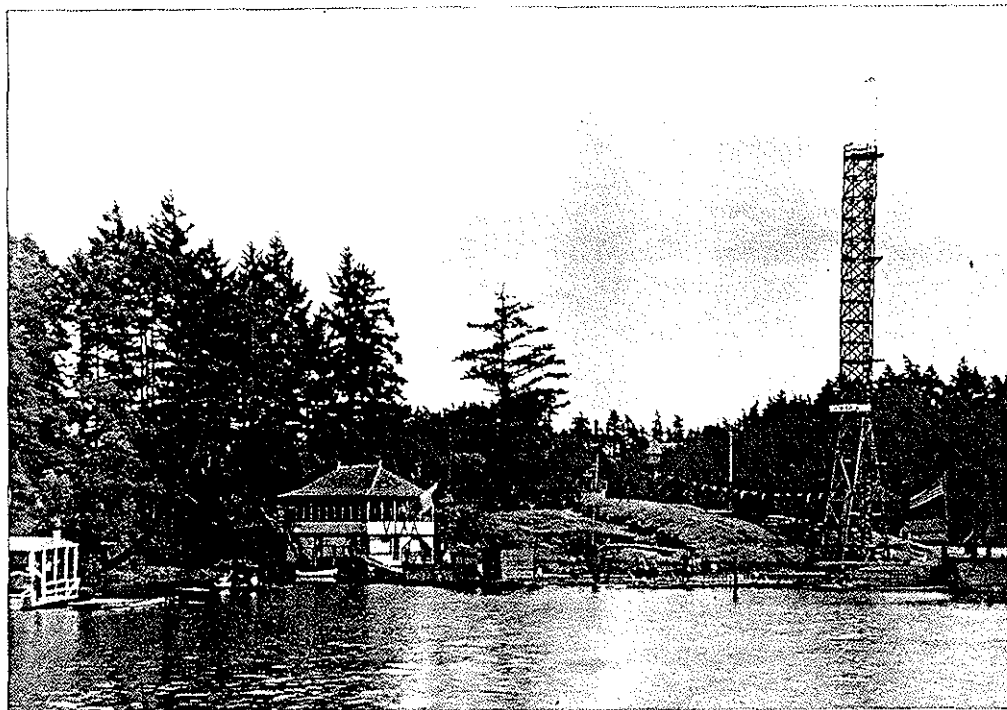
*Ralph Alcock and neighbourhood children sitting next to the "Free," 1932. The log embankment was a relief project.*



*Diving off the western side of the Gorge bridge, 1916. Billy Muir is the middle diver.*



*Indian canoe races at the Gorge Regatta, 1931.*



*VIAA camp at Curtis Point, 1922, showing the boathouse, swimming tank, and 100-foot high diving tower.*

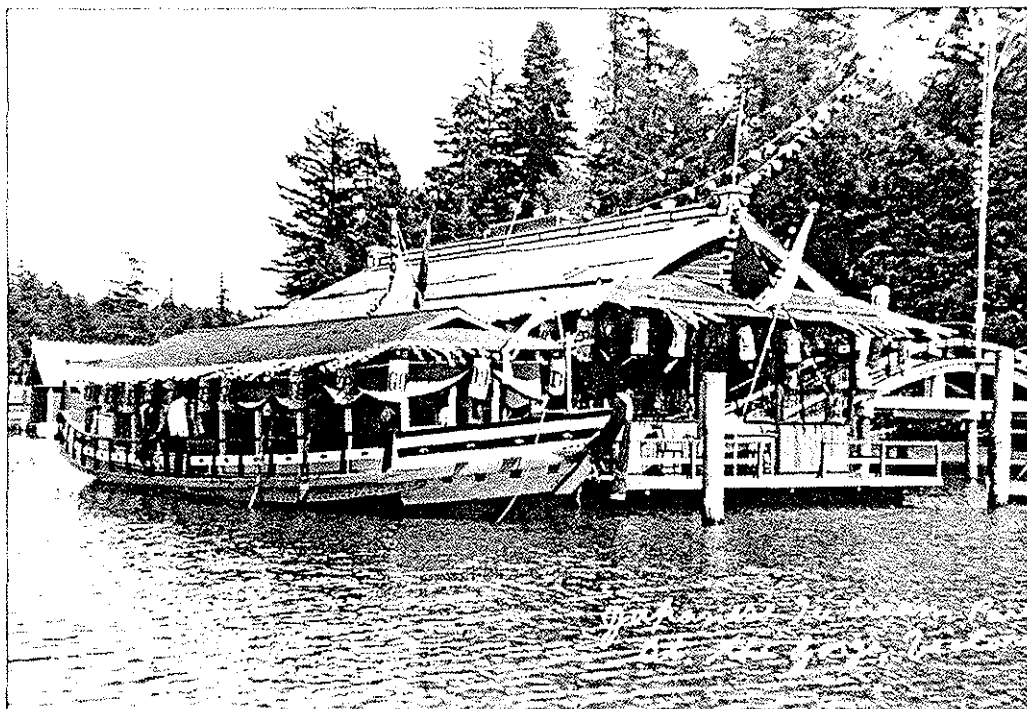
**The Gorge Park.** Perhaps the most popular attraction locally, to people of all ages, was the BCER's Gorge Park, located in Esquimalt, just a short walk across the bridge. During its prime years, from 1905 to 1925, this ten-acre forested playground, illuminated at night with strings of electric lights, offered to the delight of thousands, a variety of attractions that included boating, bathing, roller skating, and dancing; riding on a roller coaster through the trees, down the Shoot-the -chute into the water, and upon a merry-go-round; testing one's skills at games of chance and the rifle shoot; floating up the Gorge in the "Sampan"; picnicking amongst the bamboo, rhododendrons, and fish ponds of the Japanese Tea Gardens; and enjoying the amateur and professional<sup>26</sup> performances of the outdoor vaudeville stage, where, as advertised in *The Colonist* on June 6, 1920, "*the young ladies are talented, well-costumed and pretty; the boys are neat and clean in their comedy; and the musical selections are all catchy, popular, and the latest issue.*" Amongst those who performed on the park's stage were members of the Dooley family, who lived at 3144 Millgrove Street from 1914 to 1921. One daughter, named Lily, who later toured for four years in W.C.Field's vaudeville act, was remembered by an early Albina Street resident as "*a siren of the first water, who could sing, dance, and had a lovely voice. I can remember coming home one time up Maddock Avenue, and there was Lily Dooley in her front yard, surrounded by her admirers. I can remember looking at her and thinking 'Isn't she pretty!'*"



*Vernie Shemilt and Lily Dooley,  
standing on the porch of the  
Shemilt family home,  
3184 Millgrove Street, c. 1918.*



*BCER Gorge Park, c.1917. The vaudeville stage is visible on the right, in front of the concession stands.*



*Nishimoto's sampan, next to the floating ice-cream parlour, BCER Gorge Park, c. 1917.*

### Sources And Additional Notes

1.Extracted from the original document, pertaining to the purchase of Section 11, available at the office of the Surveyor General. The "*shore of the Portage Inlet*" refers to the north side of the Gorge Waterway, between Earl Grey Street and Harriet Road. The "*blazed pine tree*" would have stood along this shoreline at the foot of Earl Grey Street. The "*point of land*" refers to Curtis Point.

2.*The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken*, D.B.Smith, 1975.

3.*Daily British Colonist*, November 6, 1862.

4.An excellent semi-fictional account of life at Craigie Lea farm has been written by Maureen Duffus, a great-granddaughter of James and Mary Yates, under the title of *A Most Unusual Colony. Vancouver Island. 1849-1860*.

5.During my research for this local history, three individuals told me that the top-soil from this area was used to build up the grounds of the newly-built Empress Hotel. I did not find any newspaper articles to support this idea, but the timing was correct, as the sale of Craigie Lea farm occurred simultaneously with the hotel's completion. But this coincidence applied as well to other areas of the city, more conveniently located for the cartage of soil. For example, on September 22, 1907, *The Colonist* reported that "*the filling in proceeds by hauling earth from Spring Ridge and elsewhere;*" and in March of 1908: "*the city provides 350 loads of loam.*"

6.All letters quoted in the text are available at the Saanich Archives.

7.*The Daily Colonist (TDC)*, May 27, 1925.

8.*Miners and Moonshiners*, F.J.Peet, 1983.

9.*The Victoria Daily Times (VDT)*, November 27, 1948.

10.This family was chiefly known for the *Riddle Brothers Greenhouses* located on Douglas Street, now the site of the Saanich Plaza. With the financial backing of their father, brothers George, John, Walter, Percival, and Archibald built a total of eight greenhouses. The main one, constructed in 1921, was reported to be the largest wood-framed hothouse in Canada, measuring 76'x400'. Two crops of tomatoes and cucumbers were grown annually for shipment to the mainland and the Prairies. For more details, see *TDC*, August 10, 1924.

11.See *TDC* , April 30, 1924, for a full account of Braden's adventures.

12.James Nesbitt,*TDC*, September 16, 1951.

13.*TDC*, June 23, 1897.

14.*TDC*, August 6, 1911.

15.Three early residents remembered the cabins for concubines, but only Bert Levings (Saanich Archives) made reference to these alleged drownings. No newspaper accounts were found.

16.*VDT*, July 12, 1924; July 25, 1925; May 1, 1926. *TDC*, August 17, 1924.



17. Recollections of Bert Levings, Saanich Archives.

18. From a newspaper article by Audrey Johnson, 1957.

19. Still extant at 3084 Albina street is the house of their neighbours, Shiro and Kiyoko Koyama. The former worked as a fisherman/carpenter; his wife, a published poet, served as a mid-wife to the Japanese families.

20. *TDC*, August 1917.

21. *TDC*, August 21, 1918.

22. *VDT*, July 12, 1926.

23. *TDC*, July 25, 1923.

24. Archie Wills, *The Islander*, 1971.

25. *TDC*, May 25, 1892.

Supplemental information came from the Provincial, Saanich, and Victoria Archives, and the following publications:

1. *Victoria: The Fort*, D. Pethick, 1968.

2. *A Documented History of Music in Victoria, B.C. Vol. 11, 1850-1899*, R.D. McIntosh, 1981.

3. *The French Presence in Victoria, B.C., 1843-1991*, L'Association Historique Francophone de Victoria, C.B.

4. *The History of Salt Spring Island*, B. Hamilton, 1961.

All photographs were kindly made available to the author from private sources, with the exception of the following graphic material:

1. Provincial Archives: Top, p.5; top, p.10; p.11; bottom, p.12; top, p.13.

2. Victoria City Archives: tourist pamphlet, p.34.

3. Island Blue Printing, map, p.3.

4. Trinity Presbyterian Church Archives, p.47.