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TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
OF  
OYAMA  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



compiled by  
Kalamalka Women's Institute  
1951

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- P R E F A C E -

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This History of Oyama has been of great interest to the group compiling it. Two of these have been members of the Kalamalka Women's Institute since its inception in 1914. Our President, Mrs. L. Norman, and Secretary, - Mrs. T. D. Shaw-MacLaren and three past Presidents have greatly helped in gathering material.

We are proud to say, the binding of the original Book also comes under our Institute work. Bob Nyffeler is a member of the Hobby Club, sponsored by the K.W.I. and became an enthusiast in Leathercraft, and volunteered to make a binding for our History. The Design chosen is from an old Silver Bracelet of the Haida-Tribe, now in possession of the Victoria Museum.

The Water Colours and Silk Screen prints in the original were contributed by a local Artist, - Janet Middleton, - one of the Instructors at the Banff School of Fine Arts.

The typing of our History is the work of one of the members of the K.W.I.

Oyama, 1951

D.A./MCM

-PREFACE-

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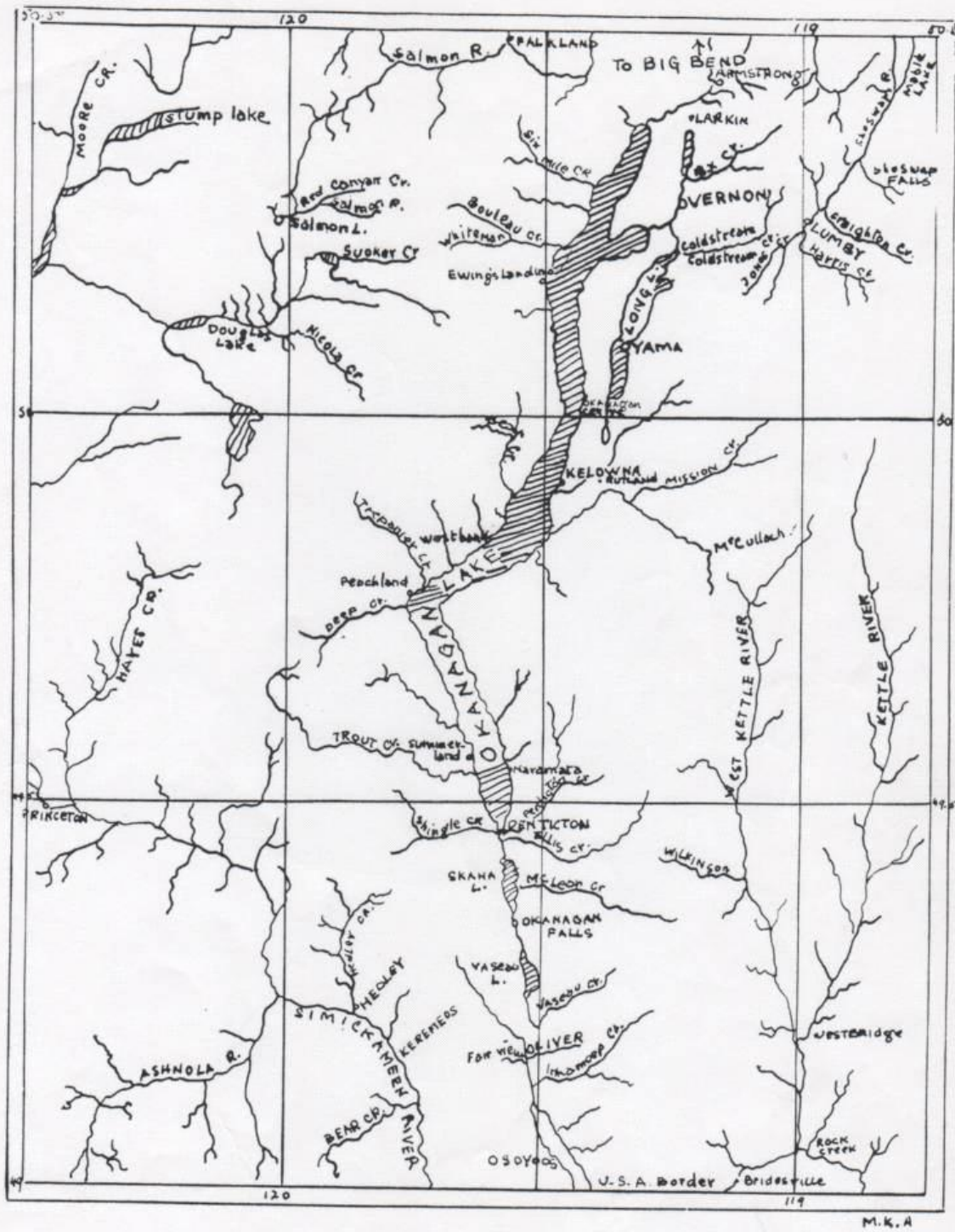
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- FOREWARD BY LADY TWEEDSMUIR -

Chapter

- I History of local Women's Institute.  
II Geography and Topography.  
III History of local Indians.  
IV Pioneer Settlements.  
V Churches - Schools - Industries.  
VI Population - Newspapers.  
VII Existing and defunct Organizations.  
VIII War Effort and Honour Rolls  
Maps and Illustrations.

- C O V E R -

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- IV Pioneer Settlements: Reports by the Okanagan  
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-KALAMALKA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE -

CHAPTER - 1

A Nation is the sum total of its homes. The building of the home has ever been a definite part of Rural development through-out Canada. Man built the shell of the home but women have ever moulded its heart, and in tracing the development of Oyama, we find our history woven with the home-making of the women.

Adelaid Hoodless, in 1897, saw the need of an organization which would enable women to make better homes, and the women of Oyama, imbued with the same spirit, joined together under her Banner, to form their Women's Institute.

On the 25th day of February 1914, the Women of Oyama gathered at the home of Mrs. E. Trask to plant the tree, the fruits of which are still being garnered and cultivation of which is still being carried on by some of the first hands. On the 30th of April following, Mrs. Lipsett, - a member of the Provincial Advisory Board visited Oyama to acquaint this group with the history and aims of Women's Institute, and the Kalamalka Women's Institute came into being, with Mrs. E. Trask appointed President, - Mrs. Wynne Secretary-Treasurer, - Mrs. A.V. Despard Vice-President and Mrs. W. Newton, - Mrs. E.A. Aldred, - Miss E.D. Miller and Miss F. Hicks as Directors, - Mr. W. Hayward appointed auditor.

Perhaps the appeal Mrs. Lipsett made to the women of that day was the fact that the Women's Institute is primarily educational in character as from the beginning the yearly program of the K.W.I. has featured informative and educational items. The first year the members studied bulletins on tomato growing and weed extermination, listened to a talk on school needs, by one of its own members, Mrs. R. Allison, (which subsequently was published in the Vernon News and in the Canadian Home Journal) having a discussion of laundry work and looking into the question of an Institute Library as sponsored by MacMillan's Publishing Co. and listening to a paper on Medical Inspection in the School.

FIRST GREAT WAR. The year 1914 brought the First Great War and the women of the K.W.I. turned to the work of supporting Canada in her great fight for freedom. At the August meeting money was voted for the Institute Patriotic Fund and a drive was started immediately to add to the original amount. The first help was given to the local unemployed due to war conditions.

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In September the K.W.I. invited Dr. C. Morris of Vernon, to speak to them on First Aid. The Red Cross was generously aided, - Home News Letters written to soldiers, - parcels and apples were sent to men overseas, - (it would be nice to have quoted a poem inspired by one of these parcels, as there is a record of one having been written by Mr. D. Dewar) Money was sent to the Serbian Relief Fund and the Knitting Circle sent articles to Lady Munroe for the use of the Balkan Expeditionary Force. Parcels were sent to Prisoners of War and convalescent soldiers were entertained by members of the Institute at the President's home, - "Iris Point". Funds on hand when war ended were sent to Queen Elizabeth of Belgium.

Women are sometimes peculiar in their ideas regarding what comes first as there is a record of a meeting on Home Nursing being substituted by a public meeting on Prohibition, when a resolution was formed requesting the Commanding Officer of the Vernon Camp to, - "Pronounce all bars out of bounds for Soldiers". (This was evidently a highly controversial gathering, for the vote was found to be a tie.) If the C.O. did finally receive the Resolution, there is no record of his remarks.

War work meant extra work, not substitutional for earlier endeavors. The K.W.I. never ceased in their quest for knowledge which would make them better homemakers and citizens. Records show that members prepared papers, or had Speakers to enlighten them on such subjects as "Russian Folk Lore" - "Civics and Citizenship" - "China" - "Egg Markets" - "Value of Poultry" and "Vegetable diets" as well as members sharing their knowledge by demonstrating such accomplishments as "Pickling" - "Weaving" - "Cake decorating" - "Crystallization of fruits" and "Candy making".

Names fondly remembered by many present day residents of Oyama are, - Mrs. Campbell-Brown, still living in Vernon, where she still enjoys giving public talks on China to new generations, also the late Mrs. George Potheary, - one of the best Cooks Oyama has ever known, - Miss F. Hicks, now a resident of Kelowna, an expert in the art of decorating cakes, - Mrs. G. C. Goulding, now of Vancouver, and Mrs. B. Griffith, still of Oyama, expert with the Candy Thermometer.

1915 INSTITUTE LIBRARY. In 1915 the K.W.I. of Oyama directed their attention to the education of both young and old in their District and the Institute Library was opened and continued to be run by members until it merged into the Okanagan Union Library in the year 1937.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND. In May 1916 a Resolution was sent to the Provincial Government urging that a Scholarship Fund for British Columbia be set up, and at this time the K.W.I. set up a local Scholarship fund which helped two Oyama students in securing their high school education, - not then available here. Miss Winnifred S.I. Brown was awarded one hundred dollars from this fund in the month of

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1915 CHRISTMAS TREES. The year 1915 saw the organization of an annual Christmas Tree for the local children. This was an entertainment carried on by the Institute until the population grew to the point where it became impractical,-- sometime in the thirties.

AGRICULTURAL HALL. In 1915 the K.W.I. took part in helping with improvements on the Kalamalka Agricultural Hall,-- now the Oyama Community Hall,-- where they held the majority of their meetings. They helped furnish a Pump and Tables, which was the first of a long list in this effort.

MUSIC. Under the able direction of Mrs. J. Butterworth, music was taught to many children,-- the K.W.I. combining with parents to pay the cost.

FLOWER SHOWS. One of the main projects for raising funds for all these good works was the Flower Shows and Juvenile Fairs held annually. In looking over the reports of that particular time one wonders how they accomplished so much,-- so wide and varied were the displays. One family alone entered over fifty varieties of fruit, vegetables, handiwork and cooking.

1920 SCHOOL NURSE. In 1920 the impact of new settlers in the District created the need of a School Nurse and in June 1920 the K.W.I. had Mrs. McLaughlin, then Provincial Superintendent of Women's Institutes, give an address on the advantages of having a School Nurse, and at the July meeting discussions were held on the subject and instructions given the Secretary to write for further information. The matter lay in abeyance until 1922, when they happily thought of having the Vernon School Nurse visit the Oyama School once a month. This was made possible by members of the K.W.I. providing hospitality for the Nurse and expenses being shared between the Institute and the Child Welfare commission. The first Baby Clinic,-- held in June of 1922, was a real victory for the W.I., as well as for Mrs. P. Lovgren, whose young son Bill was "Prize Baby". The Memory of Miss Payne, our first School Nurse, remains fresh in the minds of many Oyama women.

HALLOW-E'EN PARTIES: In 1921 the K.W.I. inaugurated a Hallow-e'en party for all youngsters in the District. This party, now under the supervision of the School, is one of the highlights of the year, eagerly looked forward to by young and old alike.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS: The need of providing suitable recreation for the growing numbers of children in the District was met by the K.W.I. in March of 1922 when

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K.W.I. LUNCHEON 1922. On the twenty-second day of September 1922, the K.W.I. undertook to entertain interesting people from all over Canada and Britain, when they provided a Luncheon for one hundred and forty people. This was perhaps the largest effort the K.W.I. has ever made. The following excerpt from the Vernon News dated Sept. 19, 1922 will best portray this venture:-

"Members of the Montreal Board of Trade and British Parliamentarians Luncheon at Oyama, where the Women's Institute in conjunction with the Kelowna and Vernon Board of Trade, prepared a luncheon in the Community Hall. The Hall presented a most entrancing picture. Three long tables were laid down the hall, while on the platform was the Speakers Table, - all four being lavishly decorated with flowers, spotless white linen and an abundance of fruit".

The menu was most elaborate, - Cold fried chicken done to a turn, - (Oh! the agonies of one poor young war bride frying her first chickens, - watched over by a stern husband who wished to make sure her contribution was up to the standard of her neighbours) Cold ham and veal, corn on the cob, - hot from the kitchen, - Salads served in scooped out tomatoes, luscious Oyama peaches served with local thick cream, - Cantaloupe just taken off the vine, cakes and pumpkin and lemon pies.

While the Old Country guests had not acquired the taste for golden bantam corn, the Montrealers expressed their delight when this genuine Canadian dish was set before them.

Every Speaker praised the ladies of Oyama for the wonderful luncheon, declaring that it so eclipsed any meal at which they had been guests, they were at a loss to adequately express their thanks.

All details in connection with the Luncheon were exceptionally well carried out even to the parking of cars, - a task undertaken by the men, and which was done in a manner that would put many big city traffic squads to shame.

At the head table President McTaggart, of the Vernon Board of Trade, had on his right, - President Birks, of Montreal, and on his left, Sir Edward Cornwall, - also at head table sat Sir Arthur Currie, Lord Strafford, - Lord Bertie, - J.A. McKelvie, Federal M.P. and other well known citizens of the District. Lukin Johnson of the Vancouver Province paper, who was with the party, wrote of the trip

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"Oyama, one of the beauty spots of the Okanagan Valley on Friday achieved lasting fame when its Women's Institute joined with the Vernon and Kelowna Boards of Trade in entertaining members of the Montreal Board of Trade Centenary Party, and their guest of the British Houses of Parliament, 'In all their tour through the Dominion', President Birks of Montreal said in his speech of thanks, 'they had met no more lavish hospitality nor had they seen decorations so beautiful as those which graced the Agricultural Hall in honour of their visit.'"

1925 INSTITUTE DAY IN VERNON. In line with the outlook which took the K.W.I. beyond Oyama, they co-operated with the Vernon Women's Institute in the publishing of a Special Supplement to the Vernon News of February 19th 1925. A glance at this Edition, which contains reports and accounts of Institute work from Institutes all through the Valley, impresses one with the highly educational aspect of the Institute work. In the K.W.I. report a paragraph was given to lectures, one to enumerate on musical programmes and concerts undertaken by members, as well as one giving an account of numerous papers prepared and read by their own members. The Edition also points out the place Institutes take in the social life of their Districts. All reports list dances, cardparties, picnics, plays and musical evenings. The day this paper went on sale was Institute Day in Vernon, with the women of both Institutes busy at stalls, or serving teas. The funds raised from this project went to the "Save the Children Fund" -- "W.I. Crippled Children's Fund" and the Vernon Jubilee Hospital, all of which are present day projects.

1926 In 1926 Handicraft entries were sent to the Canadian National Exhibition, and in 1927 a display of handicrafts sent to the Kelowna Cottage Industries, and in 1927 the Othao Scott Fund was added to the above mentioned projects.

1927 At home we find a protecting eye was kept on the young people,- a strong protest being recorded with regard to "The vulgar dancing of the twenties" and later on there is a motion opposing members bringing their dogs to Institute meetings.

1930 HUNGRY THIRTIES. The call for help in the "Hungry thirties" extended the charitable efforts of the K.W.I., and with increasing difficulties to surmount in raising funds for their projects, a carding machine was bought, quilts made from wool donated by the late Mr. Forward,- always a great friend,- and raffles of these was one of the main financial schemes. Unceasing work at Teas,

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1930 Sales of work, - and Sales of Plants and Seeds provided the money for rubbers, milk and books for needy children, Christmas parties, grocery hampers and wood, as well as giving help to a young girl who was anxious to train for a nurse. All this with previous commitments or broader aims, viz:- The Peace Garden in Manitoba, - the North Okanagan Musical Festival, - Salvation Army, - T.B. Preventorium in Kelowna, - Vernon Jubilee Hospital etc. The Solarium fund seemed to be justified when a local child was sent there for treatment.

HEALTH EXHIBIT. In 1930 a letter from the Department of Health congratulated members of the Institute on their Health Exhibit. This was enhanced by the circulation of leaflets from the Metropolitan Health Insurance Co., as well as the displaying of posters. Mrs. J. Craig, a local R.N. demonstrated the weighing of children, after which Mr. Bird gave a lecture on Health, and members of the K.W.I. helped him eat the whole-wheat pancakes he made and served. Lectures were heard on Wild Flowers of B.C. and amateur gardening. Social life, much needed in those years of slim profits were provided by Grandmother's Teas, and Mother and Baby Teas.

1939 TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF K.W.I. In 1939 the K.W.I. celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary by way of an Anniversary Tea and all former members were invited as well as friends from neighbouring Institutes. Four Life Membership Pins were presented during the afternoon by the President, Mrs. F. Whipple. Members paid homage to the work of the past and expressed faith in their ability to hold up their standard in the future.

SECOND WORLD WAR. The position of the K.W.I. in the Second World War portrays the growth of the District. The Red Cross work was done by a group working on its own, - the K.W.I. supporting with funds when necessary. Soldiers wives formed a club of their own also sponsored by the K.W.I.

CANADIAN ART. In line with the attention given Canadian Art during the war, the K.W.I., with Mrs. Allison President at the time, arranged for a display of Silk Screen Prints, which was made in the Community Hall and with the idea of fostering art appreciation, a Print chosen by the vote of the children was donated to the School. It is interesting to note that they chose Tom Thompson's "Northern River" the picture voted the most popular at the Dominion Art Gallery that same year.

Anthony Walsh of the G.L.W.F. visited the Institute that year and spoke of his work with the troops.

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- 7 -

1948 BETTER FARM HOMES COMPETITION. In 1948 a committee under the convenorship of Mrs. Vernon Ellison prepared Plans and answered questions for entry into the Better Farm Homes Competition and were awarded the coveted second prize of \$75.00 and this was later voted to the Fraser Valley Relief Fund.

HOME DECORATING. Mrs. T. Towgood was appointed a delegate to the Home Decorating Course at the University of British Columbia following which the K.W.I. secured the services of Miss E. Cross of the U.B.C. Extension Department to give a course in Oyama. The success and enthusiasm created by this course led to a further course in Leathercraft, with Miss Travis of the U.B.C. as Instructor. From this developed the Oyama Hobby Club, a most enthusiastic group.

1950 NEW CANADIANS. At the close of the Second world War, the K.W.I., wishing to draw the New Canadians as well as other new settlers into their community, arranged for what is known as an Annual Friendship Tea;— the first of these Teas being held in 1948 with each member obligated to bring some new settler, neighbour or friend. This year the Institute is planning entertainment on a larger scale by way of a representative United Nations Tea, and New Canadians have been asked to contribute by way of arranging individual tables containing a sample of food typical of their own Country. This with the idea of creating an atmosphere of United Nations in our District.

UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE. In response to an appeal by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, the K.W.I. have adopted nine children under the Unitarian Service Committee Scheme, and given generously to provide aid to the suffering children of Europe, especially those injured by Allied bombs. At the present time this work is going on with members making layettes for Greek babies.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC. Our newest effort is that of a Blood Donor Clinic undertaken in July 1950, supervised by the Kelowna Branch of the Red Cross, when 85% of the people responding to the call were new donors.

1951 HOME GARDENS.— Any story covering Institute work in Oyama would be incomplete without an expression of appreciation regarding the work of Mr. Harry Evans, of the Horticultural Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Vernon. Mr. Evans has always given generously of his time and experience, both by way of advice and in talks to the Institute on the perfecting of the Home Garden.

KALAMALKA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.— And now, in 1951, with thirty-seven years of faithful service recorded,— together with other Institutes representing the Federated Institutes of Canada,— the K.W.I. of Oyama look forward to an ever increase in membership and continuous expansion in service towards the realization of the dream of Adelaide Hoodless in the year of 1897.

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BETTER FARM HOMES COMPETITION. In 1948 a committee under the convenorship of Mrs. Vernon Ellison prepared Plans and answered questions for entry into the Better Farm Homes Competition and were awarded the coveted second prize of 75.00 and this was later voted to the Fraser Valley Relief Fund.

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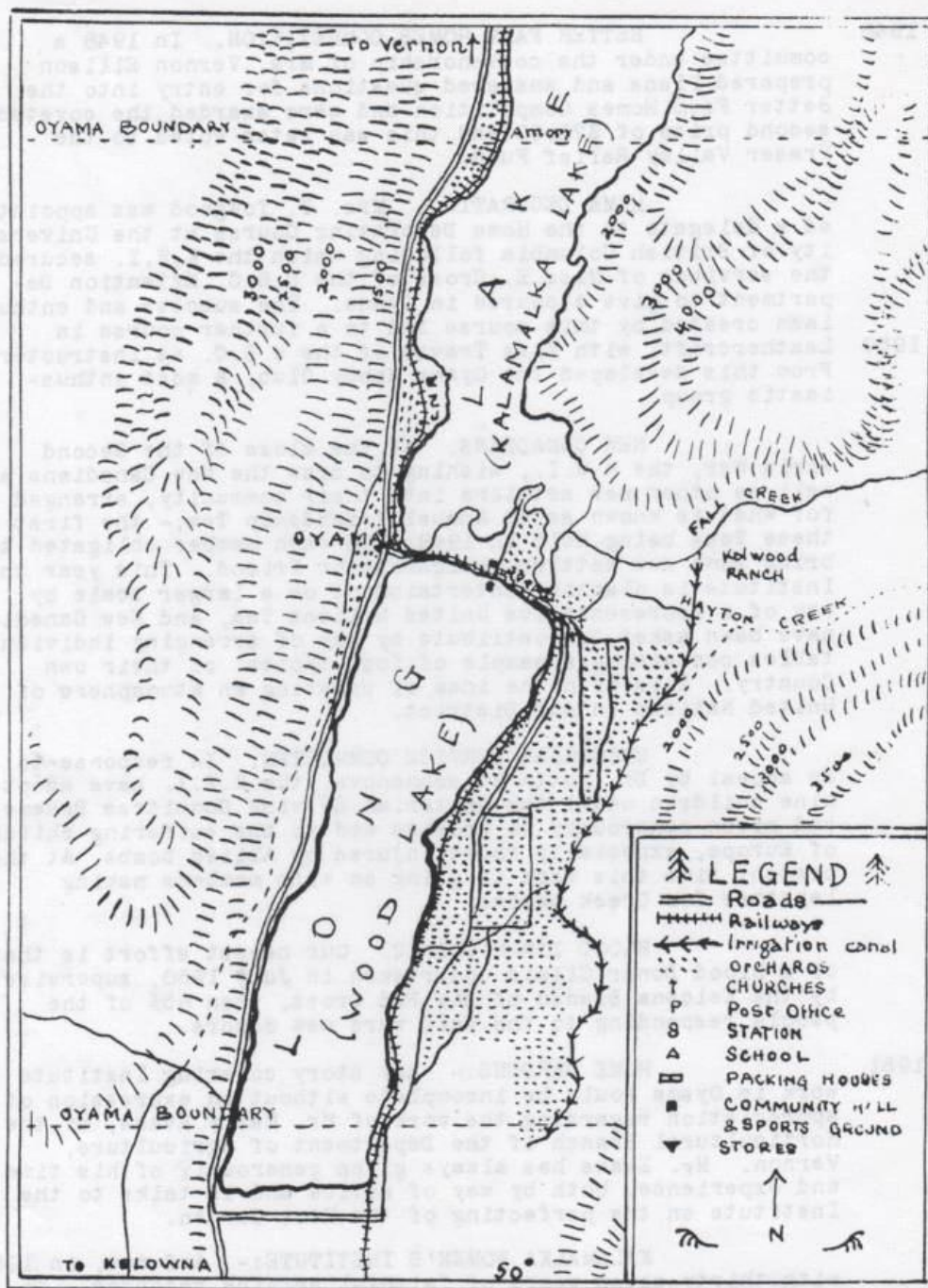
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OYAMA DISTRICT - 1951

CHAPTER -2-

- GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY -

BOUNDARIES - NATURAL RESOURCES -  
How they affect settlement.

Two small but beautiful lakes known to "Old-timers" respectively as LONG lake (Kalamalka) to the North, and Wood Lake to the South, lie in a narrow valley between Vernon and Kelowna, - 1150 feet above Sea level, just north of the 50th parallel. They are divided from Okanagan Lake by a small but steep Mountain Range, about a thousand feet in height. Kalamalka and Wood Lakes are separated at Oyama by a strip of land running East and West, - a natural bridge joining two Islands from shore to shore and seeming to invite settlers to live on either side and yet create one community. This narrow Isthmus is believed to have been a dam built by Beavers of bygone days. A small creek meandered through from Wood Lake into Kalamalka, draining eventually from the Northern end into the great Okanagan Lake. The Canadian National Railway was surveyed across this natural bridge and thereby it was commonly known as "The Railroad", although no steel was laid until the year 1925. The two lakes are approximately sixteen and a half miles in length, - Kalamalka being twelve miles long and Wood Lake extending a distance of about four and one-half miles.

1910 In the year 1910 a Canal was cut through the "Railroad", making the two lakes form one waterway. This Canal was of great importance to the early settlers, as their produce could now be carried by boat and scow to the Head of Kalamalka Lake, transferred to wagons and driven by team to the Vernon Railroad. Messrs. Johnson and Carswell owned a logging camp on Wood Lake and now could tow logs through the Canal; they also owned and operated a Steamboat named "Maud Allen", which they ran with scows up and down the lake, thus providing transportation for freight and passengers.

BOUNDARIES. The Northern Boundary of Oyama lies eight miles South of Vernon on No. 5 Okanagan Highway. Our Southern Boundary coincides with the boundary line dividing north and south Okanagan Electoral Districts. Our East and West Boundary extends between the Gold Range, rising towards the Selkirks and Rockies on the East and the Coast Range on the West, - 1150 feet above sea-level and just north of the 50th parallel, - embracing a series of cultivated benches

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- 2 -

and cattle ranges, on up into timber lands where upper lakes provide our domestic and irrigation water.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES.

**FOREST:-** Our Forest was a great natural resource in the early days. Timber was logged and towed down the lakes, and cord-wood was cut every Winter by our local settlers. Sawmills still operate on the timber lands behind the Ranches on both sides of the lakes, supplying lumber for flume building and other purposes.

**WATER:** Water must perhaps be considered our greatest natural resource. Situated as we are in a semi-arid District in the dry belt of British Columbia, without lakes or springs in the mountains above, cultivation would have been impossible except for those living on the low levels who could pump water out of Kalamalka Lake. Fruit growing, which brought the majority of our settlers at the turn of the Century, would have been impossible without a plentiful supply of water; this was brought chiefly from Oyama Lake, four thousand five hundred feet above, in the mountains on the East side.

**FURS.** Beaver were plentiful in the early days; so very plentiful indeed, that it was difficult to build a dam for storage water in Oyama Lake. The late Mr. W. Whipple, one of our oldest settlers, and his sons were great trappers and not only accounted for the beaver, but also for the killing off of cougar, lynx and many coyotes.

**FISH.** Our lakes were famous for their great run of kokanees. They were caught and preserved in large numbers for winter supplies of fish, particularly by the Indians, who lived on the Reservation south of the lakes.

**BUNCH-GRASS:** The bunch-grass was also very valuable to the early settlers. It was a luxurious food for cows, as also for horses which were turned out to graze. (It was a pleasant sound to hear the tinkle of the cow-bells on the hillsides, but far from pleasant however, when rounding up the cows in the evening, to miss the note of the bell particularly wanted. It sometimes meant a long ramble over the range before the wanderers were found and brought home.) The bunch-grass was so thick around Oyama that the fir-cones, when falling, caught in it and never reached the ground. This prevented heavy timber seeding and made easy clearing for the fruit growers. Tom Wood, after whom Wood Lake was named, and whose homestead was at Winfield, ran his herd of cattle over the thick bunch-grass on the East side of the lake until the land was subdivided for orchard property.

**SCENERY.** The beauty of Oyama, like the Bride in a wedding procession comes last, although it is perhaps the most important of our assets. The two lakes, - one softly

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blue, the other of vivid sapphire, holding pools of jade and amethyst, and reflecting the mountains, never fail to thrill people as they look down upon their surprising beauty. Kalamalka, the "Lake of many colours" has been a source of inspiration to many; it can be found in paintings and verse throughout the Dominion. The beauty of our setting has undoubtedly brought many settlers to the District- also many Artists and holiday visitors. It had also led to the establishment of several most attractive Resorts.

RECREATION:- The greatest Winter attraction in Oyama is the outdoor Skating-Rink, which is set in a natural Coulee surrounded by evergreen trees. It is situated on a hillside on a portion of Mr. Vernon Ellison's property and is a great attraction to the whole community. It provides safe skating for young and old as well as drawing many people from surrounding Districts.

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CHAPTER -3-

- OLD INDIAN SETTLEMENTS -

Although we have no Indians living within our District, we have evidence of Indian settlements before the advent of white settlers. The three locations identified as such are:-

No. 1 The Island, or Peninsula, in early days the Property of the Ensors and later, for many years, the home of the Rayburn family. Many fine arrowheads, corn-pounders etc. were found here. One of the most interesting finds in the District was made by Mr. Rayburn. While putting in his pumphouse he uncovered a complete skeleton of a man placed in a shallow natural cave close to the waters edge. Among the bones were sixty-four Elk teeth, each drilled,- which had evidently formed a necklace. Also upon digging the foundation of his house Mr. Rayburn uncovered many Indian skulls. Probably therefore,- this beautiful piece of land was a burial ground.

No. 2 A second location identified by remains as a former Indian Settlement is on high ground North of the Oyama public school. Here Mr. Miller,- former owner of the property, found many Indian relics, which he later added to the collection made by the late M. P. Williams of Winfield, and on the latters death the combined relics became the nucleus of the Kelowna Museum.

No. 3 A third settlement was on Rattlesnake Point on the West side of Kalamalka Lake, now known as "Amory Ranch". The Beaver, as in the case of the Isthmus between the two lakes, is supposed to have connected a tiny Island with the main land, thus forming a sandy point jutting out into the lake and providing a convenient boat landing.

In 1913 Mr. W.R. Powley sold this property to the Campbell-Browns, and behind the stable they found a circle built of stone,- the foundation circle of an Indian Kickwilly, and sometime later a similar circle was found opposite, on the East side of the lake. On the level space was a spot sprinkled with chips and flakes of white flints, foreign to the District, where implements etc. such as arrowheads had been manufactured. During subsequent years many finished specimens of Indian art such as arrowheads, pounders, moccasin stretchers etc. were found and treasured by the Campbell-Browns. Among the most interesting of these is the broken half of an axe or tomahawk head, made of a very hard dioritic green stone, not to be found nearer than Mexico or Alaska. It is of a very superior workmanship, beautifully shaped and polished; probably the work of Coast Indians of a higher craftsmanship than that of the local tribes, whose ancient boast was that of wisdom rather than manual dexterity.

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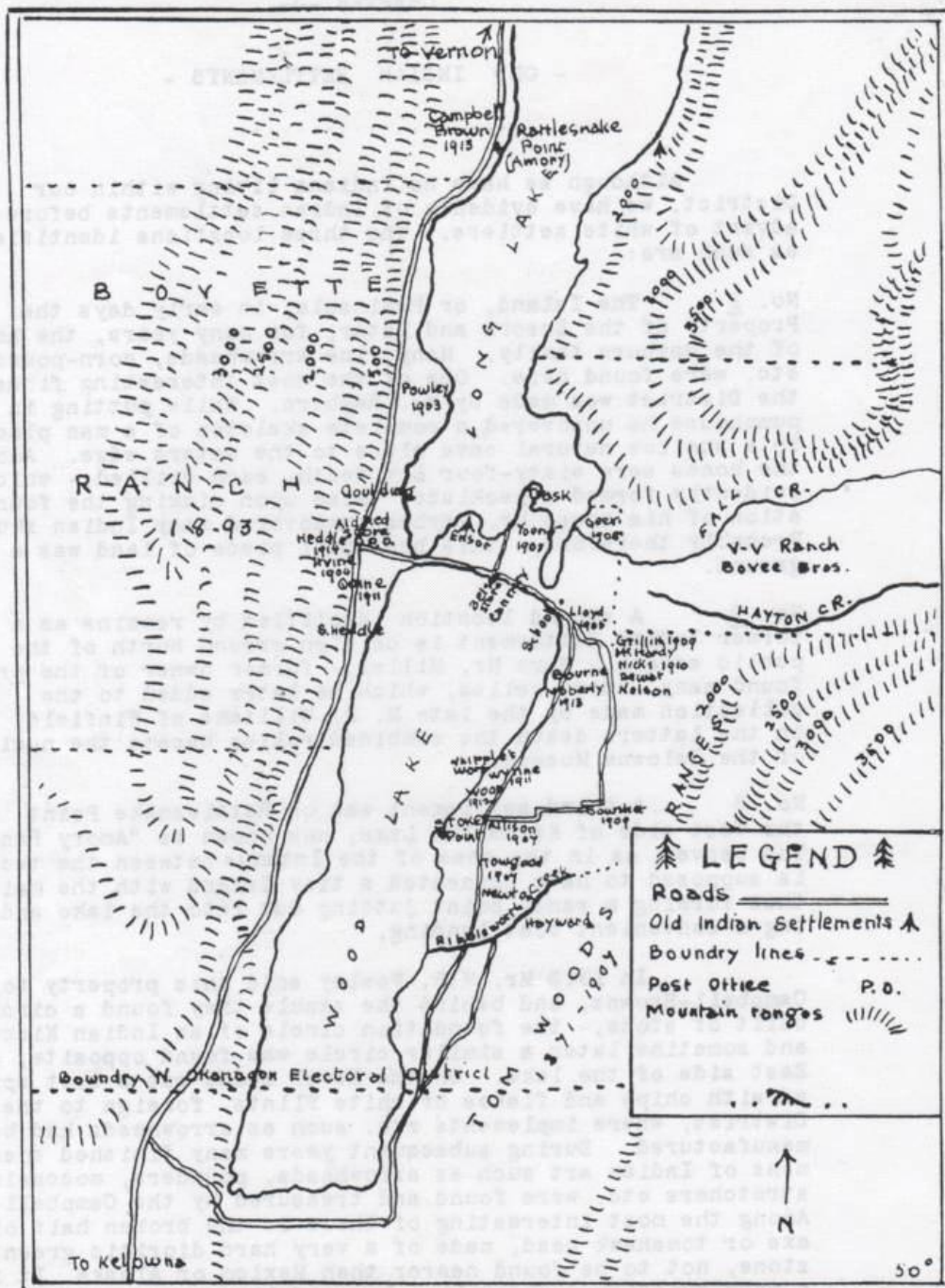
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OYAMA DISTRICT 1893 - 1913

CHAPTER -4-

PIONEERS-

EARLY DAYS:

Before the year 1893, our District lay in its Natural beauty along the shores of "Long Lake" (Kalamalka) and Wood Lake. In the last half of the nineteenth century travellers from Kamloops and "Priest Valley" (Vernon) passed through on their way to "Mission" (Kelowna) but as yet there was no settlement here.

In 1867 Tom Wood and Cornelius O'Keefe drove cattle from Washington U.S.A. to Mines in the Big Bend country of the Columbia. They travelled through our Valley and by the shores of the great Okanagan Lake, both settling eventually at its Northern end. In 1871 Tom Wood sold his property there and took up a homestead at the south end of Wood Lake, - (Winfield) and ran a herd of cattle on his ranges, which extended over the benches lying along the east shores of the lake which takes its name from him.

1893 In 1893 the first settlers began to come in. FRANK BOVETTE pre-empted land on the West side of Kalamalka and Wood Lake, stretching from the South boundary of the present "Rainsford Ranch" to and including O.H. Hembling's property. He built a "halfway house" and called it "Deer Lodge". It had a number of small box-like rooms and was never a success, though later on it was used for Church services. This property was later sold to Fred Gillard, one of the early settlers of the Okanagan Valley.

1903 JOHN LLOYD came from the Old Country with his family in 1903, and bought the Bovette property, a portion of which he afterwards sold to George Goulding, who built a home and lived there for many years.

1904 DR. IRVING came from the Prairies in 1904 and bought forty acres and later the remainder of this property with the idea of turning it into Orchard Lots; he went back and returned the following year with his mother, brothers and sisters. Here Dr. Irving built his home and planted an orchard.

The Fruit era had begun in Washington U.S.A. and our neighbours to the South were converting the dry banks of the Columbia River into fruitful orchards. So also the settlers of our valley saw an opportunity of transferring sunflowers and bunchgrass into valuable orchards, with the aid of irrigation from Oyama Lake located in the mountains on the East. Dr. Irving subdivided his land and

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sold to W. D. Heddle, Stuart Heddle, the Adams family and J. D. Quine. J. D. Quine and the Heddles did not bring their families to live in Oyama until a few years later. Mr. Quine came in 1911 and was the first Justice of the Peace for our District. Samuel Young, with his family, settled on this property in 1905.

1904

Frank Bovette, the first settler, from whom Dr. Irving bought his land, had also owned what is now the Rawsthorne Ranch on the shore of Kalamalka Lake and this he sold to Mat Howard, who had driven up from Washington. Mat claimed to be a former Indian Scout. He ran a "halfway house" in a log cabin where the mail stage between Vernon and Kelowna stopped for a meal and a change of horses. Mat was a colourful character and when he sold to W. R. Powley in 1904, he dressed up in a white shirt and celluloid collar and departed for a holiday. Two weeks later he returned with his shirt anything but white, begging to have his collar undone. He had never learned to unfasten it the whole time he had been away.

The Mail Stage between Vernon and Kelowna was driven by "Old Scott" who drove down one day and returned the next. It was an experience to travel for the first time with Mr. Scott. At the beginning the horses were well behaved and the passenger made to feel responsible for their bad behaviour, but by the end of the journey he would be sharing Scott's robe and have a hot brick at his feet.

1908

A POST OFFICE was established on Dr. Irving's property in 1908 and his brother Henry was installed as Post Master. A name now had to be found for the community and Mrs. Irving, the Doctor's mother suggested Oyama, which was the name of a Japanese War leader who had won great victories over the Russians in the war then being waged. Ottawa approved of Mrs. Irving's suggestion, hence our District was called Oyama. This venerable old lady came to Canada in a sailing ship in the year 1832. It was driven by storms on the Atlantic until the passengers were reduced to half a cup of water each for their daily allowance. Mrs. Irving died in Oyama 1916 at the age of ninety-two. Dr. Irving, although retired from practice, never failed to help in cases of illness when called upon; a great benefactor in the days when there were neither cars or telephones.



- SETTLEMENT OF EAST SIDE -

- and the -

- NATURAL BRIDGE -

1904 Developments were now taking place on the East  
to side of Kalamalka and Wood Lakes. A trail winding between  
1907 trees along the Natural Bridge, or Isthmus, joining what  
appears to be two Islands with shores almost all round, join  
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BOVIE BROS. The Bovie Bros. came to Oyama at the  
turn of the Century and established a cattle Ranch on the  
East side of Kalamalka Lake high above on the mountain side  
and called it the "V bar V" Ranch. (This Ranch is now known  
as the famous "Kalwood Ranch", home of the prize purebred  
Herford cattle owned by Vernon Ellison) The Bovie Bros. sold  
to H. Furness, who later sold to Jack Hayton, a typical  
remittance man of the old school, who found life pleasantly  
occupied by running a few cattle on the range and this he  
did until the outbreak of the first World War.

ALBERT GEER. Albert Geer bought property on the  
shore of Kalamalka Lake below the "V bar V" Ranch and in-  
cluding one of the two Islands which he sold to S. A. Trask  
and who called it "Iris Point". This beautiful Island is  
now owned by Mr. and Mrs. F. Segerstrom.

S. YOUNG. Samuel Young, another of the early  
settlers, first settled on the West Side of the Lake, but  
finally settled on the Isthmus, where the younger Young  
generation have grown up and still have their home.

TOM WILLIAMS. The Point, or second Island joined  
by the Isthmus, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, was  
first owned by Tom Williams, who sold to Sid Edwards, and  
he later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ensor, - pioneers of the old  
world. For a time the Ensors lived in a peat dugout, but  
later they built a shack. Mr. Ensor and his wheel-barrow  
will always be remembered by the remaining few who knew him.  
The wheelbarrow went with him everywhere, over highways and  
byways, - on various errands and on his occasional visits to  
Vernon by boat and on into Vernon where he loaded his  
groceries etc. pushed it back to the lake and on home. He  
drove a one-horse democrat, in which Mrs. Ensor sat in an  
arm-chair placed in the back. They were kindly people and  
good neighbours and regret was felt by the "Old timers" when  
they sold out and went to Cuba to a Pineapple Plantation.  
This beautiful Point was owned for a few years by Mr. Jones,  
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REV. A.V. DESPARD. The property now called "Jadebay" was first owned by a Surveyor named Latimer, who sold to the Sigalet family; they sold to G. McCauley who sold to S. Hillyard and W.S. Powley. It then became the property of the late Rev. A.V. Despard and family who built a cottage in 1911 and lived there for nearly forty years. Mrs. Despard became the second President of the Kalamalka Women's Institute.

MR. W.A. DOBSON. Another early settler who bought on the West side and later crossed to the East side where he established a Ranch was R. Lloyd, which in 1907 was taken over by Mr. W.A. Dobson and his family who lived there for many years. This property has recently been turned into a Ranch Hotel by Mr. and Mrs. A. Cushing and named "Longacres".

1906 MR. AND MRS. TRASK. In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Trask drove up from Cashmere, Washington in a democrat and driving a "pair of Greys". They camped on the hillside now owned by Mr. C. Hembling and as the "dry-belt" can occasionally behave to unsuspecting visitors, it treated them to a deluge of rain which lasted five days. However the Trasks were so enchanted with the Oyama scenery that they bought the Sam Young Island, where the following year they built their home and lived for many years, calling it "Iris Point". Both Mr. and Mrs. Trask took leading parts in community affairs.

1907 THE WOOD LAKE FRUIT LANDS CO. This company was formed in 1907 and bought a great portion of the Range owned by Tom Wood on the East side of Wood Lake which they subdivided and sold to prospective Fruit Growers, who were fast coming into the Okanagan.

R. ALLISON and A.S. TOWGOOD. In the Fall of 1907 A.S. Towgood from California, and R. Allison, straight from the Klondyke Gold-Rush arrived in Vernon from opposite directions at the same time. They drove through the country from Armstrong to Keremeos, and decided finally to settle on the old Tom Wood property. Mr. and Mrs. Towgood and family and Mr. Allison spent their first Winter living in tents by a Spring just above the shore. (This property was later bought by J.P. Stokes and known as "Stokes Point" and is now owned by Mrs. Allison) The following Spring these two "Old timers" planted the first Orchards on the East side of Wood Lake, built their homes and are still living there and enjoying a full and happy life.

THE NEWTONS, BOWSHERS, WHIPPLES, GRIFFITHS, HICKS, JAS. LOWE, W. HAYWARD, C. TOWNSEND, GETTHY, McHARDY and DEWARS, all came to this promising area between 1908 and 1911. A little later came the NELSONS, R. WYNNE, MRS. PHILLIPS and family, and SADLER, settling in all parts of the Wood Lake District.

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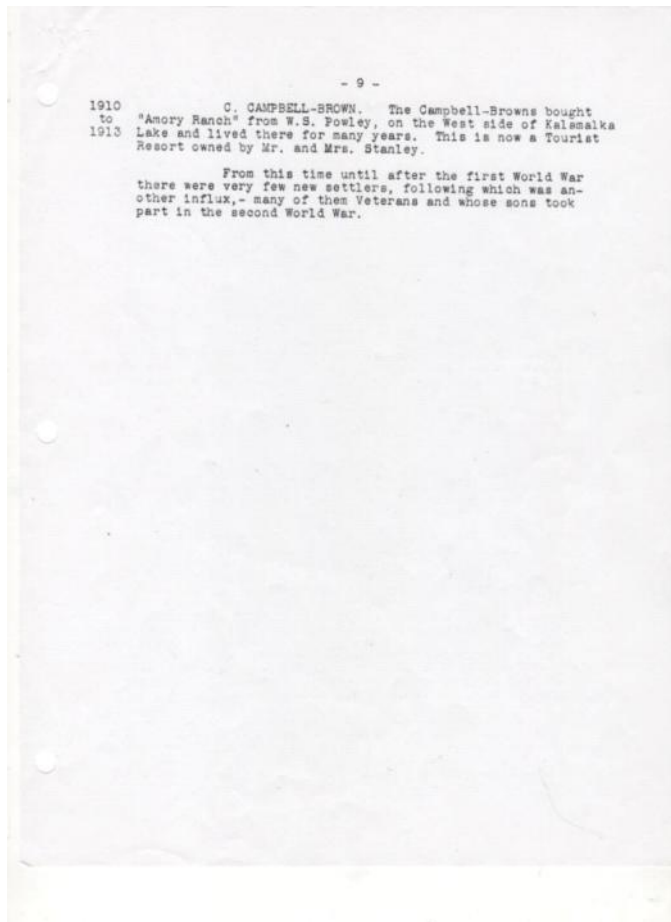
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1910-  
1913

-9-

C. CAMPBELL-BROWN. The Campbell-Browns bought "Amory Ranch" from W.S. Powley, on the West side of Kalamalka Lake and lived there for many years. This is now a Tourist Resort owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley.

From this time until after the first World War there were very few new settlers, following which was another influx,- many of them Veterans and whose sons took part in the second World War.

## LIFE OF EARLY SETTLERS

The early settlers were most kind to each other, particularly in times of emergency. Mrs. Phillips, now in her hundredth year, was a midwife and attended many of the new arrivals. On one occasion however, there was no time to go for Mrs. Phillips, who lived some miles away, so Mrs. Newton, a neighbour was called. She hurried to the scene and did all she could, feeling very proud when she wrapped the baby up warmly and placed him in an open dresser-drawer, but upon returning to the mother was shocked to find that a second baby had arrived. Mrs. Newton often laughed in after years about her one and only experience as midwife.

Everyone baked their own bread and churned their butter. Vernon was a two to three hour drive, - the horses stabled and fed while shopping was done and dinner enjoyed before the long drive back; reaching home just in time to milk the cows. Mrs. Belsey opened the first store in Oyama in 1908. A year or so later another was opened by Mr. A. Aldred, and this made shopping much easier.

The Ranchers all kept chickens, - salted pork for Winter use, dried beans etc. Bottling and preserving of fruit was all done with wood ranges and by the light of coaloil lamps.

In the Summer it was possible to go up the lake in Johnston and Carswell's little Steamboat, - the "Maud Allen", and from the head of the lake a prancing pair of horses (also used for funerals and weddings as the need arose) conveyed one into Vernon. It was a very pleasant trip up the lake, seeing and exchanging news with fellow passengers, and with the Skipper Mr. Johnston.

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- CHAPTER 5 -

- CHURCHES SCHOOLS -

- LIBRARIES INDUSTRIES -

1905 CHURCHES: The Methodist Church was the first to hold services in the Oyama District. The first service was held in the open air on the Isthmus at the Point belonging to the Ensors who were pioneers there at that time. The Rev. Allan Pound was the first Methodist Minister and held services in private homes until the Little White School-house was built in 1909. The first Sunday school was organized by the late Miss Barbara Irving and conducted as a non-denominational Sunday-school until the present United Church was built as a Methodist place of worship in 1919, with the Rev. F.A. Cassidy as Minister. Since the time of union of churches, serving as Pastors have been The Rev. Hastings, Young, Dow, Tench and Petrie. At the present time the Rev. R.C.S. Crysdale is in charge.

1908 The St. Mary's Anglican Church was started in 1908, when services were held once a month by the Rev. Robertson of Okanagan Centre, in the old School-house. In 1910 The Rev. A.V. Despard came to reside in Oyama and held services in his own home and in the Agricultural Hall. Marriages were solemnized in the Methodist Church. The Rev. Despard's services were voluntary.

1920 The Anglican Church Guild was formed in 1920 and a small building erected which served as a Sunday-school, and where services were held by the Rev. Briscoe. In 1928 land was purchased and the present Church built, and consecrated in 1929 by Bishop Doull. The first Vicar was the Rev. H. Pearson, who was succeeded by the Rev. C.S. Wright in 1937 and the present Vicar, the Rev. A. Lett, in 1940.

A Vicarage was purchased from the late Col. McKay in 1925. In 1942 additional land was bought and a Sunday-School and Parish Hall Annex was added in 1949. The Font was presented by the Rev. H. Pearson in memory of his father Canon H. Pearson, of Cork, Ireland. The old Vicarage was sold in 1950 and a new one built on Church Grounds.

The late M.P. Williams, A.G. Frickard, and Canon Parrett were especially helpful in the growth of St. Mary's, and with the energetic efforts of the Guild, now the "W.A." much has been accomplished.

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- 1935 When the Power Line came to Oyama in 1935, electric light was installed in all rooms, - a wall was dug to lake level and a pressure pump brought a pure source of drinking water, - and three years later plumbing was installed in the basement.
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1915 LIBRARY: Just six months after its formation the Kalamalka Women's Institute was planning for a Library. These plans were realized February 22nd 1915, and Miss Grace Heddle, a member of the K.W.I. was appointed as Librarian. As time went on money was voted for the purpose of securing new books in order to keep up a fresh supply.

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1936 Oyama to-day, for a rural District, enjoys more than ordinary library advantages. Coming within the Geographical boundaries of the Okanagan Union Library, which was in the process of formation, in 1936, a plebiscite was held in the Oyama School-House and an unanimous vote recorded to be included in the Library scheme. The library is now located in the former High-School room and the local custodian, - Mrs. J. Butterworth, who is appointed by the head Librarian, Mrs. Muriel Foulkes, is in charge.

In the Oyama branch there are about six hundred books and these books are fluid. A travelling van visits the branch every six weeks bringing a fresh supply in exchange for those ready to be passed on. The books include fiction and non-fiction, - the latter comprising a very wide range of subjects, - Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Fine Arts, Useful Arts, Language, Literature, Science, History, Biography and Travel. To book lovers, of which Oyama has many, and to "shut-ins" the Library as now constituted, is a never failing source of pleasure and education.

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1912 By 1912 the Vernon Fruit Union had come into existence and this co-operative was supported by the Oyama Growers. An independent Packing House erected by Stirling and Pitcairn was opened up in the same locality, and by 1916 individual orchardists entered the packing business. Dr. Irving, W.T. Heddie and R. Allison all packed their own fruit. Transportation of packed fruit was done by Carswell and Johnston's scows to the head of the lake where it was transferred to waggons and taken to the freight sheds in Vernon for shipping. As production increased hand grading had to be discontinued and the Vernon Fruit Union built a large Storage Plant and Packing House equipped with two grading machines. Stirling and Pitcairn sold out to W.T. Heddie and J.D. Quine, who continued to pack their own fruit until their building was destroyed by fire.

The Vernon Fruit Union, with its two large graders, pack three thousand boxes per day. The season's pack is approximately two hundred and ten thousand boxes of apples and from ten to twenty thousand boxes of soft fruits. Mr. J. Craig has been manager of the Vernon Fruit Union in Oyama for the past twenty years.

A new firm, - the B.C. Shippers, was organized. An up-to-date Packing House was built and many Growers, not connected with the Co-operative, shipped through this firm, - which is still in operation with Mr. Duggan as Manager. They run one large and one small grader with an out-put of two thousand boxes per day and a season's turn-out of approximately one hundred and forty-five thousand boxes of apples and twelve thousand crates of soft fruits. The Cold-Storage plant here accommodates sixty-five thousand boxes.

1920 ROYAL VISIT: In 1920, after World War 1, the Prince of Wales, touring the Dominion, was invited to visit Oyama and arrangements were made for the school children to gather and sing "The Maple Leaf" as the Royal Party drew up. An enterprising woman provided baskets of Dahlias to be thrown around the car, but the boys, thinking the Prince's shining head an irresistible target as he stood up in the car, pelted him with the flowers. An embarrassing moment was quickly averted by the Methodist Minister who pressed forward and shook hands with the Prince. The Wags of Oyama maintained that the Minister, not wishing to lose Royal contact, refrained from washing his hands for days.

Throughout the development of the fruit growing industry the growers had constant help and advice from the Horticultural Department. Two men were outstanding in this development, - Mr. Harry Evans, Field Man, was known on every orchard as advisor and friend for thirty years until his retirement recently, - and the late Morrice Middleton, District Horticulturist for the Okanagan Valley, fathered

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By 1912 the Vernon Fruit Union had come into existence and this co-operative was supported by the Oyama Growers. Independent Packing House erected by Stirling and Pitcairn was opened up in the same locality, and by 1916 individual orchardists entered the packing business. Dr. Irving, W.T. Heddie and R. Allison all packed their own fruit. Transportation of packed fruit as done by Carswell and Johnston's scows to the head of the lake where it was transferred to waggons and taken to the freight sheds in Vernon for shipping. As production increased hand grading had to be discontinued and the Vernon Fruit Union built a large Storage Plant and Packing House equipped with two grading machines. Stirling and Pitcairn sold out to W.T. Heddie and J.D. Quine, who continued to pack their own fruit until their building was destroyed by fire.

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1926 CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY. In 1920 Trucks and Motor Cars were beginning to take the place of Steamboat and Scow for transportation etc. and in 1926 the Canadian National Railway came through and was a great boon to this fast growing District. Up until this time the road leading from Highway No. 5 across the "Railroad" was a country lane shaded by trees and crossing the canal over a steep arched bridge. Now a paved road runs parallel with the Railway tracks and crosses the canal at road level.

The Canadian National Road Engineers chose a spot on the South Shore of Kalamalka Lake as the location for their Camp-site, and in 1926 when tracks were laid and works completed, this beautiful lake-shore was purchased by one of the Engineers,- Mr. M.M. Churchill,- who turned it into a Summer Home for his family. Since Mr. Churchill's retirement recently, he has had the old camp-site transformed into a permanent home.

1935 In 1935 the Power Line from Shuswap Falls was extended to Oyama, and this supplied power for machinery in Packing Houses, as well as creating great changes in our mode of living generally. Electricity was installed in all homes, and on the West side pumps put in to draw water out of Kalamalka.

The fruit industry provides work for a great many people. Thinners are brought in from June until August, and pickers are needed from Cherry Season until all fruit is in the Packing Houses.

EXHIBITION FRUITS. Oyama fruit is famous for quality. Mr. J. Lowe entered four boxes of Delicious apples in the Imperial Fruit Show in Manchester in 1931 and carried home the Challenge Cup, and in 1932 again at Birmingham and Cardiff, he won the Cup for Delicious. Also in 1938 at Bristol, where the Imperial Fruit Show took place he showed Rome Beauty Apples and won the Shield.

1940 CATTLE-RAISING. The Pioneer "Y bar V" Ranch carried on cattle raising on a small scale, but in 1940 Vernon Ellison, the present owner, changed the name to "Kalwood" and brought in the first registered stock. These famous Herfords have been shown at many Stock Shows in British Columbia and Alberta, where they have won many ribbons and highest bids at auction as well as becoming nationally known through their high standards at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in 1949 and 1950.

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DAIRYING. Dairying was carried on successfully in the early days here. Mr. Samuel Young ran a Dairy for many years, and Mrs. Campbell-Brown kept a herd of Guernseys on Amory Ranch. Also F. Bowsher raised Jerseys, - but as the fruit industry developed, dairying gradually died out.

TURKEY RAISING. Turkey raising has been carried on to some extent here, all through the years. In 1908 Mrs. A.S. Towgood had a nice flock of turkeys, and a little later Mrs. Bowsher went into turkey raising for a time. At the present time Mr. Jackson, using more modern methods, raises turkeys commercially.

BLUE FOX. During the depression, orchardists took up sidelines and it was at this time that R. Allison, A.S. Towgood and R. Wynne introduced the Blue Fox, however these proved to be an all time job with no returns, therefore fox raising came to an end.

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1949 TOURIST RESORTS. Increasing traffic, due to paved highways, and the opening up of the "Hope Princeton Highway" has given Oyama a brisk Tourist industry. Blue Water Lodges, Amory Resort, Kalwood Inn and Longacres Ranch Hotel are all beautiful holiday resorts.

1908 STORES ETC. Our first general store was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Belsey in 1906 on Dr. Irving's property at the "Cross-roads" and later they moved across to where the school and packing houses now stand and carried on business in a tent for many years. In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Aldred took over the store at Dr. Irving's corner and a Post Office was granted to the District, with Mr. H. Irving appointed Post Master. In 1914 Mr. Aldred sold out to Mr. F.A. Rimmer and went with his family to England until after World War I, when they returned and their son, Harry Aldred took up fruit growing and trucking. Mr. Rimmer sold this business in 1918 to Mrs. Rae and also took up fruit ranching on the bench overlooking the Vernon-Kelowna road and Wood Lake. There are now two large stores on the Dr. Irving Corner. One built by A. Beaton Smith, where Mr. and Mrs. Chapman carry on business, and one on the opposite corner, - a combined store, Coffee Shop and Tourist Camp, recently taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

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GALLERY. In 1948,- following forty years of association with producers of British Columbia in all branches of Agriculture, the late Morrice Middleton retired from the position of District Horticulturist for the B.C. Department of Agriculture, and bought the old Despard home and orchard overlooking Kalamalka Lake, with the intention of experimenting and specializing in the production of fruits for exhibition purposes. He remodelled the home and named the place "Jadebay" and in 1950 Mrs. Middleton and her daughter Janet, a well known young Artist, opened an Art and Treasure Gallery at "Jadebay" where local Pottery, Weaving, Silvercraft and Paintings in several mediums are displayed and sold.

POST OFFICE. The Post Office, opened in 1908 by Mr. Irving, was moved across in the vicinity of the new School and Packing Houses in 1920, and in 1949 to a new building with Mr. R. Brown appointed as Post Master. In 1940 a Rural Route was started in Oyama, with Mr. Gorek in charge of delivery and serving fifty-six mail-boxes, and in 1946 Mr. Sproule took over. This Route now covers the District and serves one hundred and twenty-one post-boxes.

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- CHAPTER 6 -

- POPULATION - FAMILIES -

-and-

- NEWSPAPERS -

POPULATION. It is impossible to give a correct estimate of our population before the census is taken this year. There are one hundred and sixty families, including six families of Japanese which were moved from the Pacific Coast during World War 2.

Our total population is approximately five hundred and forty-four, and out of this number it is estimated that there are three hundred and sixty-eight over the age of eighteen. We have people from Austria, Romania, Poland, Latvia, Sweden, Finland, Holland and Germany, but the majority comes of British origin. Both the Community Club and the Kalamalka Women's Institute have helped in bringing new-comers of foreign origin into pleasant intercourse with the rest of the community and many are now Canadian Citizens.

NEWSPAPERS. Oyama has no Newspaper of its own. Vernon, with a population of ten thousand, only thirteen miles North, publishes a weekly paper, - The Vernon News, - and weekly notes are sent to the Vernon News by a local correspondent. A Flier is sent out by the Community Club each month announcing meetings and dates of social gatherings etc. in the immediate vicinity.

"COUNTRY LIFE" official organ of the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association, a powerful agent covering all of British Columbia, is distributed to all members of the B.C.F.G.A., a circulation of over three thousand.

The President of the local branch of the B.C.F.G.A. is Mr. C. Gallacher, and Secretary is Mr. A. Gray.

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- ORGANIZATIONS -

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IRRIGATION. Irrigation being the first and greatest need in a semi-arid climate it followed as a natural consequence that Water Companies were the first organizations of Oyama. The Wood Lake Water Co., a co-operative company, was formed in 1909 by the growers on the East side of the lake. It was arranged that they should own the storage-rights in Oyama Lake, (held previously by the Fruitlands Co.) and would undertake to convey and distribute water to individual growers. This co-operative is in existence at the present day and has proved to be a very efficient and economical system.

Dr. Irving organized the Irrigation Company of the Western lake-shore, of which he became Managing Director. This was later converted into a Water District.

1912 BOARD OF TRADE. The Oyama Board of Trade was organized in 1912, the first meeting taking place in the "Little White School-house". It is interesting to note how very well this organization was supported by the whole community, (a lesson to us forty years later) The first President elected was J.D. Quine, First Vice-president, D.H. McClure, Secretary, J. Irving, and members as follows: S. Young, L. Locke, W. McHardy, C. Moore, W. Whipple, R. Belsey, F. Rayburn, A. Geer, J.P. Stokes, W. Allison, R. Wynne, F. Bowsher, A.S. Towgood and T. Brown. Much was accomplished by this Board, - Roads were improved, and the road on the East side was linked up with Winfield, on the South, - making a complete circuit of Wood Lake. It urged the Telephone Company to extend its lines to Oyama, - arranged with the late W. Rae to settle here with his family and open a much needed Blacksmith Shop. The Board of Trade continued its activities until 1920, when other organizations were forming which could satisfy the needs of the community.

1912 FARMERS INSTITUTE. In 1912 Oyama joined with Winfield and Okanagan Centre in forming a Farmer's Institute but the needs of Fruit Growers were better filled by the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association, which is strongly supported to the present time, - and the Farmer's Institute ceased to function.

KALAMALKA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. The K.W.I. came into being in 1914. This flourishing organization has a full chapter in this History and need not be mentioned here

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THE KALAMALKA AGRICULTURAL ASSN. As our population grew, a building larger than "The Little White School-house" was needed for meetings and social gatherings, and the Hon. Price Ellison, our Member of Parliament at the time, - and later Minister of Finance, - advised us to form an Agricultural Association and thereby obtain a grant from the Government with which to build a Hall. This was done and the K.A.A. came into existence. The Hall was built, mostly by voluntary labour, and opened by the Hon. Price Ellison early in 1914. Our Hall proved to be a great asset, - Flower Shows were held here, - also Fall Fairs put on by the K.A.A.

The Duke of Devonshire, then Governor General of Canada, when touring British Columbia in 1919, visited Oyama and opened the Fall Fair. The Veterans, lately returned from the First World War formed a Guard of Honour as His Excellency entered the Hall.

The Duke was given a demonstration in Canadian democracy which appealed to his sense of humour, - While examining the exhibits, he picked out a particularly beautiful specimen from a box of packed apples and was told, - in no uncertain terms, by the woman in charge of exhibits, to replace the apple at once.

Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Newton won first prizes in butter, which was very cleverly displayed. The Duke was greatly attracted by this and highly complimented them on their accomplishment. Mrs. Rimmer also won first prize for honey on that occasion.

The Agricultural Association carried on until 1937, when the Hall was taken over by the Community Club.

1937

COMMUNITY CLUB. More recreation facilities were required for the increasing number of young people and an organization was needed such as a Community Club, therefore the K.A.A. was officially turned over to the Community Club, with Mr. Norman Davies as first President, and the Hall henceforth has been known as the Community Hall. This Club arranges entertainments, social gatherings, May Day celebrations etc. It sponsored the Dramatic Club, which is now an independent organization and enters a Play in the Annual Okanagan Drama Festival. The Sports committee organizes the sports for the May Day celebration.

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MEMORIAL HALL. When the men returned from the war in 1945 a Memorial Hall was added to the Community Hall, - also a modern kitchen and larger stage accommodation.

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A Badminton Club has the use of the Hall during the Winter months, and a Baseball team and Tennis Club use the grounds in Summer.

1922 BOY SCOUTS. The Boy Scouts, sponsored by the K.W.I. was organized in 1922, with Mrs. Bowsher Secretary. Mr. Airey, the only trained Scout Leader in the District, got the Troop into shape and then handed it over to Vernon Ellison. In 1925 the Troop ranked highest for efficiency in the Province. One of our Scouts, - W.K. Dobson, is now District Commissioner for the North Okanagan. The Scouts lapsed for a time, but since the second World War, both Scouts and Cubs are very active under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McClure, assisted by Harry Aldred.

1923 GIRL GUIDES. The Guides evolved from a Girl's Club headed by Mrs. Rayburn and Mrs. Bowsher of the K.W.I., assisted by Mrs. Potheary and Mrs. W. Newton who contributed by giving cooking and sewing lessons.

The Girl Guides were organized with Mrs. Airey as leader and Mrs. Vernon Ellison and Miss W. Lowe assisting. This was carried on for a few years only.

1946 CANADIAN LEGION B.E.S.L. The Oyama Legion, Branch 189, received its Charter Feb. 7th, 1946, with Mr. Bateman President. This Branch includes Veterans from Okanagan Centre, and has a membership of one hundred and twenty-one. The Legion occupies the basement rooms of the Memorial Hall. A Women's Association has lately been formed to assist the Veterans in social enterprises.

1950 PARENT TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION. A Parent Teachers Association has lately been organized, with A. Trehitt as President and Mrs. Dungate Secretary.

HOBBY CLUB. A Hobby Club, sponsored by the W.I., was organized in 1950 with Mrs. Cushing as Handicraft Instructor. This Club meets each Monday evening in the basement of the School. During the Christmas season a fine display of Coppercraft and Leather work was on exhibition at an Institute Tea held in the Memorial Hall.

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- CHAPTER 8 -

- WAR RECORDS -  
- FIRST WORLD WAR -

From a population of approximately one hundred, sixteen Oyama men left their homes to take their part in the First World War. The remaining men, women and children worked in the orchards and packing-houses to do their part.

A small but faithful band of workers turned out a continuous lot of knitted articles, pajamas etc. to the Vernon branch of the Red Cross. Dr. Morris drove down and conducted First Aid Classes in the Agricultural Hall and the K.W.I. organized a course in Home Nursing. Through the Home Comforts Club, connected with the K.W.I., parcels were sent to the men overseas containing useful articles and favourite foods. Those were the happiest hours, - when parcels were being prepared and packed.

- OYAMA MEN IN FIRST WORLD WAR -

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Mr. Sadler	J. Sadler	C. Sadler
F. Whipple	W. Hayward	E. Byers
C. Phillips	F. Belsey	G. Geer
J. Trewhitt	A. Gray	R. Tomkins
W. McHardy	D. Bell (Waac)	

- PAYING THE SUPREME SACRIFICE -

C. Sadler	J. Vockins	J. Campbell-Brown
	M. Despard	

- WAR RECORDS -  
- SECOND WORLD WAR -

Again at the outbreak of the Second World War, men and women left for duty in various branches of the services, - eight of them never to return. Two of the little children shown in the photograph of our first Baby Clinic, - Fred Belsey and Malcolm Dewar were among the eight lost. Oyama was proud to be represented in so many Branches, viz. - Navy, Army, R.C.A.F., R.A.F., Home Defence (Pacific Mounted Rangers) and Red Cross Corps.

- CHAPTER 8 -

-WAR RECORDS-  
- FIRST WORLD WAR -

From a population of approximately one hundred, sixteen Oyama men left their homes to take their part in the First World War. The remaining men, women and children worked in the orchards and packing-houses to do their part.

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W.G. Allingham	A.S. Arnott	N.F. Bowsher
F.C. Belsey	A.M. Churchill	J.M. Churchill
R. Claridge	V. Craig	M.P. Condane
W.K. Dobson	D.H.A. Dewar	M.F. Dewar
S. Darville	M. Darville	J.N. Davies
R.W. Dungeate	J.H. Elliott	F.H. Elliott
L.E. Evans	R.P. Endersby	K.V. Ellison
W.P. Fleck	Otto Fols	Wm. Goulding
K.I.D. Gingell	B.R. Gray	F.P. Gallacher
W.C.D. Gallacher	M. Godfrey	D. Godfrey
H. Hargraves	J. Haug	A. Howard
Thos. Hebbert	Wm. Lovgren	E.A.A. Lees
G.F. McClure	S. McGladery	M. Oraszuk
P.L. Oraszuk	G.W.W. Pattullo	Robt. Rea
Chas. J. Potheary	Geo. A. Potheary	Jack Potheary
Thos. Polichuk	N.J. Flatt	Robt. Sheppard
F. Rawsthorpe	J.W. Stephens	Robt. Sheppard
F.V. Sargent	G.R. Shaw-MacLaren	R.A. Towgood
H.R. Thomson	I.H.B. Thomson	G.O. Tucker
A.C. Townsend	A.F. Treshitt	Wm. M. Tucker
S.D. Townsend	Rev. S.C. Wright	Reg. Wright
F.R. White	D.I. Whipple	Reg. Wright
Barbara E. Gray	Gertrude Lovgren	A.F. Dunn
Dorothy M. Stevens	Ila Shore	Maude Lloyd
		Berle E. Treshitt

- PAYING THE SUPREME SACRIFICE -

A.S. Arnett	N.F. Bowsher	F.C. Belsey
D.H.A. Dewar	Wm. Goulding	R.B. Potheary
J.W. Stephens	R.A. Towgood	

1929 RANCH WORK. As in the First World War, women girls and boys worked in the orchards and packing-houses, but when the Japanese, - living on the Pacific Coast, were sent in-land for safety reasons, - many of these families were brought here. This eased an almost impossible burden during the harvesting.

CANADIAN RED CROSS. The out-break of war saw organized groups busy again. The Red Cross Group had weekly meetings at the Hall under the supervision of Mrs. Norman Davies and Mrs. H. Aldred. The Catholic women also worked for the Vernon Branch of the Red Cross.

1940 JUNIOR RED CROSS. The Junior Red Cross did both knitting and sewing, - they put on teas, sales, concerts and card parties to raise funds for their work.

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brought in forty dollars to add to the funds.

ENTERTAINMENT OF SOLDIERS. Many Branches of the Army were in training at the Vernon Camp and Oyama did its best to provide entertainment for the men.

K.W.I. Parcels of cigarettes etc. were sent overseas throughout the years and Christmas parcels were sent with a card picturing a view of Oyama. The mother of a Navy lad, - Mrs. Allingham, undertook the job of filling Ditty bags, - each interest of the different Branches united the women and kept them closer to their boys.

"BOMB BRITAINS." "Bomb Britains" was one of our most ardent programs. Used clothing was collected, cleaned and converted into attractive and useful articles for the bombed and unflinching people of Britain, showing in a small way our admiration for them in their sacrifices and cheerfully born losses.

SCRAP IRON. House to house collections of old scrap iron, rubber and paper was also undertaken. Also a somewhat sweeter effort was each years' consignment of Jam. Fruit was plentiful but sugar was rationed, even for the Red Cross.

1940 PACIFIC COAST RANGERS. On June 20th 1940 a meeting was held for the purpose of forming a Detachment of the Vernon Company of the Pacific Coast Rangers, with T.D. Shaw-MacLaren as Commanding Officer. Section Leaders were M. Godfrey, F. Whipple, N. Davies and J.A. Trewhitt and a membership of thirty men, but as the younger men enlisted the membership reduced to ten by the end of the war.

1945 The last year of the war saw many changes in the Services. Men were returning, and the Legion began to function actively on their behalf. A welcoming committee was set up, and a Rehabilitation Committee undertook to help in securing homes, ranches, jobs etc. This work was carried on by Government Officials in the process of settlement of Veterans.

The Canadian Red Cross, with its Blood Donor Branch, - relief work, training courses, and its affiliation with St. John's Ambulance work, makes it an important part of our Community Life.

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