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Original

THE FACES OF 1938 - 1939

A research project of character sketches

drawn by Cyril L. Smith in Okanagan centre.

-project funded by Challenge 91

by: Michelle Fiwchuk  
summer student 1991

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The following are reproductions of character sketches done by Cyril L. Smith in 1938/39, during the period when he worked for his aunt and uncle in the Glead General Store.

Accompanying the drawings are short biographies of each of the persons depicted. These biographies include facts and dates but are mostly made up of the fond memories of the people themselves; the people that knew them; their friends, families and co workers. So while the biographies may not be completely accurate when it comes to dates, times and places, they do give us the impression of what these men and women and even what life was like in Okanagan Centre in the early half of the twentieth century.

I would like to thank

Anne Land  
Doris Phillips  
Tom Collinson  
Bryan Cooney  
Mr. and Mrs. Bernau  
Margret Madison  
Ellen Baldwin  
Peter short

for their help on this paper, it was because of their time, effort and memories that this paper could be written

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"BILL" CRAIG

Bill Craig originally came from Scotland to Lumby before moving to Okanagan Centre. He worked in the orchards, the packing house and at various other odd jobs. For several years he had the contract to pick up and deliver the mail from the Winfield (Alvaston) post office station to the Centre Post office. After the contract ran out he applied to join the provincial police force.

Bryan Cooney was with Bill when he received the news that he had been accepted to the force.

"We were digging ditches when Bill received the news, I've never seen a guy drop a shovel faster and he took off down over the hill and went about a hundred yards and came back, and said to me 'do you think I'll make it?' and I looked at him and said 'with the size of your feet, it's inevitable!'"

Bill worked as a police officer in Enderby, Golden and finally in Vernon. Later when the force went federal he joined the Mounted Police (RCMP).

He was married to Hilda Copeland, daughter of Sam Copeland of Okanagan Centre.

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*Donnell*  
59

DON REYNOLDS

Don Reynolds came in from the coast by riding the rails with Chris Phillips, before world war II. He was one of the many bachelors in the area at the time that came to work in the orchards and packing house. He shared an old house near the present post office with two other bachelors. Don did all the laundry for the three men and one day he tossed in a purple shirt with the white woolen underwear turning all the longjohns purple!!.

Despite being severely cross eyed, Don was a talented artist and painted a rug so realistic on the houses' hardwood floor that visitors would rub their toes at the corner of the rug to see if it was real.

Just before he returned to the coast, he bought an old panel truck and delivered cakes and pastries to the residents.

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Ivan Hunter

Ivan Hunter settled at Okanagan Centre sometime before world war II with his wife margret (Hubert), his one adopted son and several of their own children.

He worked both as a water bailiff for the Okanagan Valley Irrigation Company and in the Centre packing house.

He left the centre shortly after the war the run the Selica Mine, an ornamental (white quartz) rock crushing outfit in Oliver.

His wife Margret was a decendant of the Shubert family who came to Kamloops with the "overlanders" sometime in the 1800's. Ivans' parents were old timers of the Armstrong area. When Margret and Ivan were first married they lived in a cabin at the intake area during the irrigation season. Later they built the house that the Burtons' live in now (1991) between the Phillips and Vanderwoods' homes.

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P.W. Pixton

P.W. Pixton was originally from England; from there it is believed that he moved to Mexico near the United States boarder. There he was employed as a bank manager. He contracted a "mexican disease" and was advised by doctors to "get out of Mexico ". He came to Okanagan Centre in approximately 1910.

In Okanagan Centre he and his wife ran an orchard where Pixton road and Pixie beach is now. He also worked as an insurance agent and "moonlighted " as Santa Clause at the school concerts and Christmas parties. He fancied himself as an amateur actor and comic and was always entertaining.

His wife was a music teacher and on the women's institute committee in Okanagan Centre.

Their original house at Pixie Beach burnt down around 1941.

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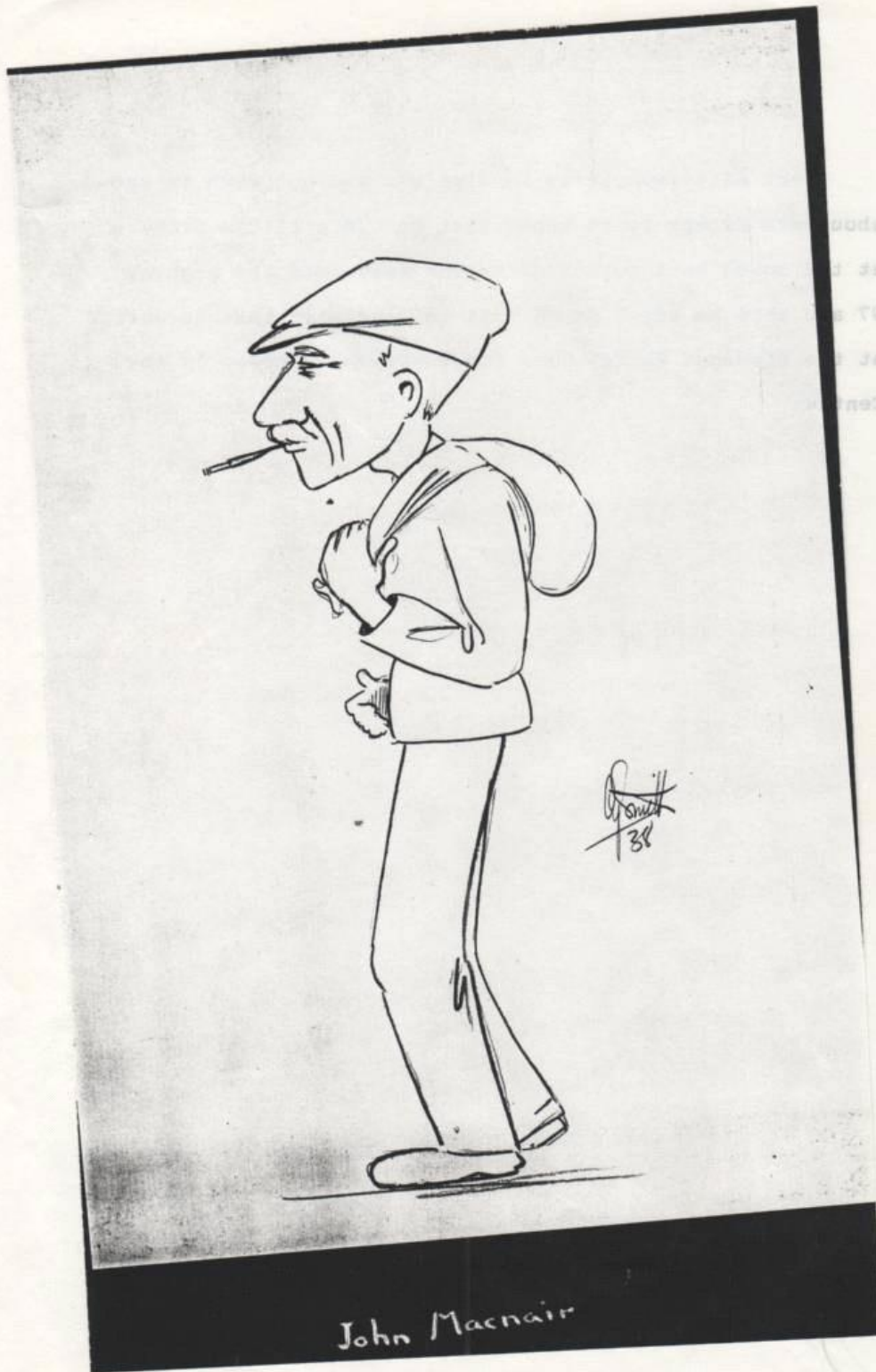
Their original house at Pixie Beach burnt down around 1941.



BERT PATTERSON

Bert Patterson lived in Winfield and not much is known about him except it is known that he had a little orchard at the south east corner of Beaver lake road and highway 97 and that he was a mason. It is also said that he worked at the Okanagan Valley land Company packing house in the Centre.

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John Macnair was a tall bachelor (well over six feet), who settled here before world war I. He was one of the several Remittance men in the area; who were gentlemen who "left" home and received and "allowance" from their family or income from a trust fund.

He lived across the lake north of Nahun until he moved to a cabin on "Cotton wood flats" (the girl guide camp). He is remembered as a loner, who built boats and sold the fish he caught to both the Gleed's general store and to a butcher shop in Kelowna.

Although he was one of the nicest guys, he had a terrible temper. Col. Brixton was fond of telling of an incident during world war I when a group of soldiers were resting in a tin shack near the front lines. One of the soldiers did something to make Macnair angry and they got into a fight that destroyed the shack. Another incident that describes the quick temper of the lanky bachelor was when a visitor dared give him advise about baking bread. Macnair took the batter he was stirring up and in a fit of anger dumped the bowl over the visitors' head.

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*Smith*  
f39

MRS. GRAY

Mrs. Tom (Ella) Gray was an American Christian Scientist that owned and operated an orchard with her husband, Tom. They came up from the United States before World War I, in fact they were one of the original settlers in the area.

Before Ivan Hunter became water bailiff her husband held the position (around 1912). Mrs. Gray could always be counted on to call on a new resident or a new mother and baby.

She had one son ,Frank and a daughter, Sara.

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HARRY VAN ACHEREN

Harry Van Ackeren was the manager of the Okanagan Valley land Company after Marshall and before the growers bought out the packing house and changed it to the Winoka Co-op . Harry along with C.M.M. (Ted) Cooney , Ted Nugens and Ivan Hunter bought the Okanagan Valley Co. orchard and appointed Ted Cooney as orchard foreman.

After the Westbury Hotel burnt down he built the 1930's art deco house where Peter Short presently lives. His wife Gwen still lives in Kelowna.

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CHARLIE HARROP

Charlie Harrop moved from east Kelowna where he had been an orchard foreman to Okanagan Centre where he became the foreman of the Okanagan Valley Land Company. When the company sold out he went to work in the "new" Winoka Co-op packing house. His Daughter Beryl married Cyril Smith the artist who drew these sketches.

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H.B. KENNARD

H.B. Kennard was an <sup>Scottish</sup> english bachelor who like several of the men depicted, came from across the lake at Nahun where he had owned and operate a general store. Before owning the store he had a farm in the United States.

When he moved to the Centre he bought property where the Vanderwoods live today. On the land he built a small cottage, which is commonly referred to as the "Doll's house". He was known for his bow ties, his car, an Austin, and according to Mr. Cooney, his cleanliness.

"He was the cleanest bachelor I've ever known. His house was spotless. His neighbour was the dirtiest and after a visit from the man, Kennard would scrub the door handle, the chair he sat in and the corner of the table the man leaned on with soap and water. He also made the best beer in the country."

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"Bill" OLSON

Bill Olsen came to the Centre to work in the orchards. Both he and his wife were employed in the packing house. They stayed for a few years and then moved to Vancouver where Bill drove either a bus or a street car. No one is quite sure which.

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"Col" J. Brivon

"Col" J. Brixton , an English man, lived across the lake before moving to the centre where Dick Ash now lives. He took care of the light house on the island in Carrs landing.

Although , a veteran of both the Boar War and World War I he was not a real Colonel. That was a nickname given to him when he worked on the railroad, by a group of Galacians (Ukrainians) in his crew and the title stuck.

When he lived across the lake he would come over to the Centre to pick up his mail, it there was a mail order catalogue he would toss it overboard on his way home in order to prevent his wife from shopping by mail.

During the winter he fished for the market with Rheam and Macnair. They would clean and sell the frozen fish to Jim Glead who either sold it in his store or to a butcher shop in Kelowna.

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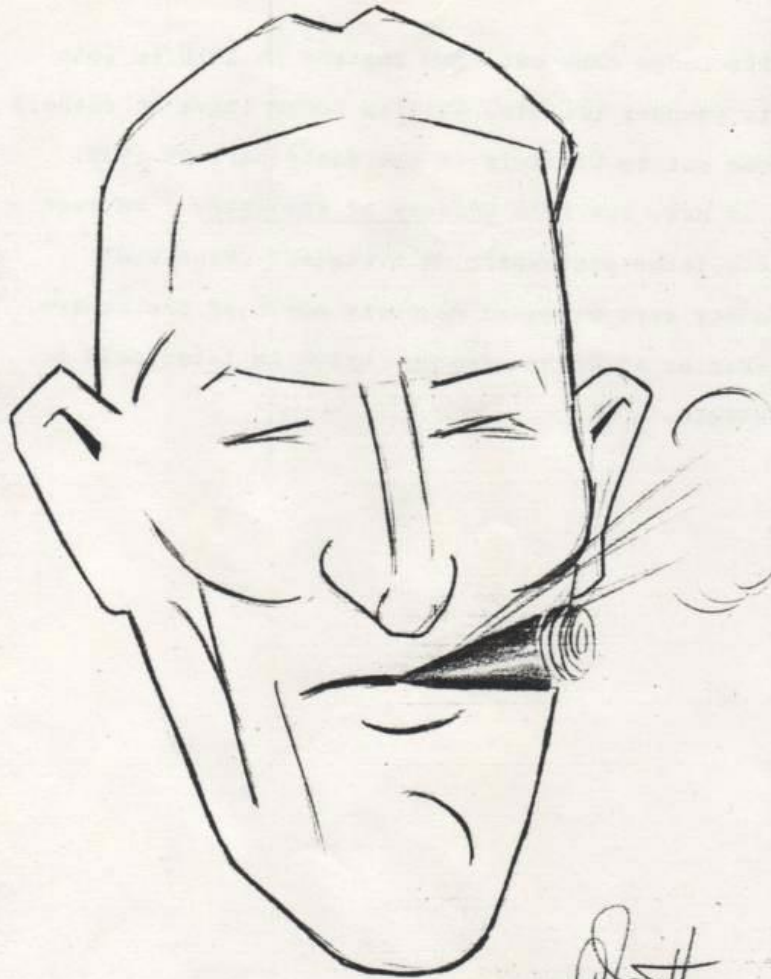
CHARLIE LODGE

Charlie Lodge came out from England in 1910 to join up with his younger brother, William Lodge (Dave's father) who had come out to Winfield in the Early part of 1907. According to Mrs. Powley's History of Winfield: " he kept bees and was later postmaster at Alvaston" (Winfield).

Mr. Cooney says he owned property north of the Centre, probably near or in Carrs Landing, which he later sold to Frank Constable.

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CHRIS PHILLIPS

Chris Phillips came in on the rails with Don Reynolds around 1938. He did various jobs such as riding the irrigation ditch; working as a water bailiff and in the woodsdale packing house.

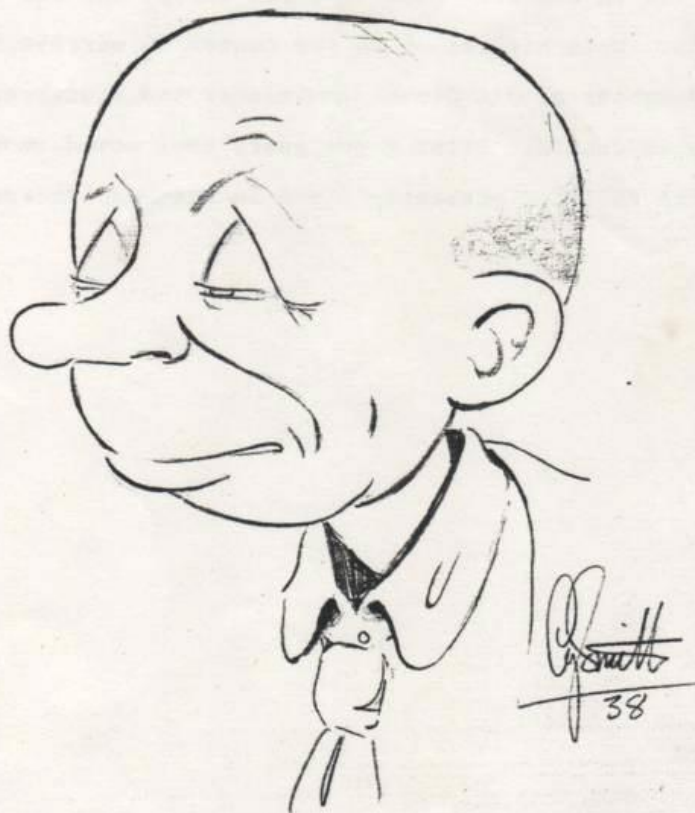
He was in the air force in world war II and was overseas till 1945. Upon his return to the Centre he married Doris Gleed, daughter of Jim Gleed, postmaster and storekeeper of Okanagan Centre. After a few years they moved to Burnaby.

Doris Phillips presently lives in Okanagan Centre.

Chris Phillips came in on the rails with Don Reynolds around 1938. He did various jobs such as riding the irrigation ditch; working as a water bailiff and in the woodsdale packing house.

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EARL COURTNEY

Earl Courtney actually lived "up on the flats this side of Falkland", but came up here every fall for several years with other bachelors to work in the orchards and packing house.

Courtney was "bald as an egg". His loss of hair occurred when he was coming over from England with his family. On the boat he caught head lice, and his mother , trying to get rid of it put kerosene on his head and then wrapped it up in a scarf. As a result he lost all his hair and was bald there after.

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"Tommy" COLLINSON

Tommy Collinson came to the Centre to work in the packing house in 1923. Before coming here he lived in Kamloops with his mother and stepfather. He returned to the Okanagan in 1926, after his sister and her husband bought an orchard in the area and has been here ever since.

Mr. Collinson has worked several jobs in the area; in 1928 he worked the ditch checking the flumes with Dave Edmunds, worked at the Rainbow Ranche with the Gibbons and ran the Okanagan Centre cold storage after Frank Constable left.

Tom belonged to the local tennis club and won the mixed tournament with his partner Grace Gibson three years in a row.

Mr. Collinson still lives in the Centre.

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"Sam" COPELAND

Sam Copeland had a little orchard on the hill just behind the school, where he lived with his son and daughter. (the original house burnt down a couple of years ago) Besides the orchard Sam kept cows and pigs and delivered milk around to various centre homes.

His brother Fred lived further up the hill above Okanagan Centre and raised foxes and mink. When the wind direction was just right, Okanagan Centre really smelled, but as Mr. Cooney says "no one ever died from the stink".

His daughter Hilda became a school teacher and married Bill Craig, they later moved to Victoria. His son became a mechanic.

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*[Signature]*  
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"Jim" GREGG

Jim Gleed arrived in 1908 and was a self employed carpenter and stone mason. He started the General store out of his house, which had been serving as the post office. It all started when some of the locals suggested that it would be nice if he had a few of the basics to sell instead of them having to order the items through the mail. By the twenties he had moved his impromptu store from his house to the original general store building where "The Store" is located now.

He was post master for 25 years. Mrs. Phillips, his daughter remembers going down to the ferry twice a day with her sister Ellen Baldwin, for the mail and ice. Mr. Gleed was the uncle of Cyril Smith the artist .

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GEO. REEVE SM:

George Reeve Sr. retired here from Alberta with his son George junior. George Jr. married Bryan Cooney's niece, Isabelle and lived two doors down from Bryan and his wife Evelyn.

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FRANK CONSTABLE

Frank Constable arrived in Winfield sometime before world war II. He had orchards in Winfield and ran the first cold storage in Okanagan Centre for many years. He trained Tom Collinson to run the storage when he quit to join the military during the war.

He is retired and presently lives in Kelowna

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G.D. MARSHALL

G.D. Marshall was manager of the Okanagan Valley Land Company for a good many years. When he retired he moved to Summerland. Harry Van Ackeren took over from him.

His sons are both doctors. One son is believed to be living in Vernon and is a medical doctor, while the other son lives in Summerland and has a PhD in entomology.

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"Jim" Goldie

Jim Goldie was driving cattle to minning camps when he met J.E. McAllister of Toronto, 1/2 owner of the Rainbow Ranche. Mr. Goldie was asked to come out to the Valley and check on McAllister's investment. He did and in 1908 he and R.S. Dormer bought out Hewer's half of the partnership in the Ranche. There was an understanding between the three partners that Jim would be the manager, a position that he held for forty years, from 1908 to 1948 when the Ranche was subdivided and sold as lots.

He married his wife Jessie Ross in Toronto in 1913 after meeting her at a party given by his partners. They returned to the Centre via the Grand Canyon. They lived here for the rest of their lives in the house on the Ranche. (1913 -1971/72).

Anne Land of Okanagan Centre is their daughter.

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He married his wife Jessie Ross in Toronto in 1913 after meeting her at a party given by his partners. They returned to the Centre via the Grand Canyon. They lived here for the rest of their lives in the house on the Ranche. (1913 -1971/72).

Anne Land of Okanagan Centre is their daughter.



Q. Smith  
+ 38

W. RHEAN

Noel Rheam was a remittance man from Liverpool who moved here in the early part of the 1900's (definitely before world war I). His father was a trader in East India. He and his wife Alice Gleed, Jim 's sister, ran the Westbury Hotel until it burnt down in the 1930's.

He is remembered by his niece Ellen Baldwin as a nice quiet man who like to watch birds. One of her distinct memories of her uncle was him going with Mr. MacNair and Mr. Kennard to Kelowna in Mr. Kennard's Austin. "It was funny to see three such tall men unfold themselves to get out of the car."

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Mrs. Parker

Mrs. Parker was one of the first school teachers in Okanagan centre. She taught eight grades in one class room. Her mother was Mrs. Fran another local resident. She had two sons, the oldest Charlie was killed in the first few months of the war (II?).

Mrs. Parker taught at the school well into the 1940's and had many local residents in her classes, such as Anne Land, Doris and Ellen Gleed, and many of the Kobyashis. She also taught singing lessons in her home for the local children.

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Mrs. Mac (Lucy MacFarlane ), was an excellent school teacher as well as a Sunday school teacher. She originally came from England to the Centre sometime before 1910. She had married "an Irish man" and helped him run their orchard and take care of their cows as well as teaching school. She delivered milk after Sam Copeland left.

She is remembered as driving a horse and buggy around "town" and playing tennis. In fact she continued to play tennis well into her seventies. There is a Lucy MacFarlane Scholarship bursary given out by the Ocelola Art Council every year to a graduate of George Elliot High School.

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*[Signature]*  
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C. R. WENTWORTH

Cyril Wentworth came to the area in the early part of the century with his brother Joe and his sister Winnie who kept house for them. They lived in a log cabin where Rosemary Carter lives now. They started an orchard and worked in their own or others for many years. Both Brothers signed up for World War I but Joe was badly wounded and died soon after coming home.

Cyril is Rosemary Carter's and Mick Wentworth's father's uncle.

Cyril Wentworth came to the area in the early part of the century with his brother Joe and his sister Winnie who kept house for them. They lived in a log cabin where Rosemary Carter lives now. They started an orchard and worked in their own or others for many years. Both Brothers signed up for World War I but Joe was badly wounded and died soon after coming home.

Cyril is Rosemary Carter's and Mick Wentworth's father's uncle.



BRYAN LOONEY

Bryan Cooney was born in Keys Manitoba but grew up in Kilarey . He came out to the Centre in 1928 because as he puts it "I was sick of Manitoba winters". He worked a various jobs , in the orchards, packing house and at the Rainbow Ranche. He quit the Rainbow to work for the West Kootney Hydro Company. He climbed sixty five foot poles for 85¢ an hour, a big raise in pay from the 17½¢ he had been getting at the Rainbow. "I thought I had struck a Gold mine" he said.

He worked stringing lines from Oliver to Green wood and helped build the power line through Winfield to Vernon. But by World War II the work was not very steady so he quit to work at a steady job for less pay. Later he worked in the Craigmount Mines in Merrit. He worked there for 13 years and two months before he retired and moved back to the Centre. In 1978 he rebuilt his original house.

Mr. Cooney was one of the founding members of the packing house union, in fact his is the first signature on the membership declaration.

Mr. Cooney still lives in the Centre and writes for the local newspaper The Calendar. An accomplished writer and poet he has published a book of his poems , full of his special brand of humor and insight.

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"STY" KOBAYASHI

Sigh Kobayashi was born at the "Jap Camp" at Jack Seaton park in 1915 in a small cabin. His original birth certificate states that the attending physician was Dr.W.J. Knox.

"When Dr. Knox was over 80 years of age he used to related to me how he drove out in his model T to delivery me."

His father Denbei- the original Sigh Kobayashi came to Canada from Japan in 1906 destined for San Francisco. In Vancouver he heard of the fabulous fortunes that could be made in the interior. He worked various jobs before being placed in charge of planting 800 acres of new fruit for the CPR development Department in Winfield. He was in charge of Recruiting men in Japan and set up the work camp base or Jap Camp at Seaton Park.

The Second Sigh is a charter member of the Winfield Lions club; past president and life member of Oyama Royal Canadian Legion; past president of the IOF court of winfield, Kelowma shriners club #15, north Okanagan Liberal association and many more organizations.

He was the first junior forest warden in Canada in 1930 and published the Lake Country's first newspaper from 1930 to 1933 while he was still in his teens.

From 1940 to 1972 Sigh was in a dance band with Ellen Porter, Louie Singer and Pauline \_\_\_\_.

He was a charter member and one of the organizers of the fruit and vegetable workers union local #8 and served as secretary and treasurer for eight years.

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1949 was the first year Japanese, Chinese, East Indian, Native Indians and negroes were allowed to vote both provincially and federally. Sigh voted in 1947 because he was a member of the Canadian Army serving during world war II. Sigh Served with the Canadian Intelligence corps in Vancouver and was an instructor of the RCEME (reserves) in Vernon for 5 years after the war.

Sigh is now a semi-retired electrician and has operated his electrical business here since 1937. Sigh and his wife Evelyn were married in Kelowna in 1966. They celebrated their 25th anniversary in June of 1991.

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