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TWENTY-FIRST YEAR, NO. 5

GANGES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1980

25c per copy



Rick Hill of Ganges and his children, Sean and Jenny, enjoy the ice which covered Swanson's Pond last week. The ice was thick enough for skating and remained that way for several days.

## Eat chicken with discretion—farmers

### Opinions differ over testing

Two Agriculture Canada veterinarians have offered opposing viewpoints on the manner in which the government tested samples of fat taken from Salt Spring Island poultry.

District veterinarian Dr. C. M. Seal said that the samples of fat taken from six different farms on the island were pooled together rather than tested individually.

Seal said that this way of testing would still indicate a high level of PCB content in one sample if it existed. The whole composite sample would show a high level, he explained.

However, Dr. W. Dorward, director of the agriculture ministry's Animal Pathology Laboratory in Vancouver, disagreed with Dr. Seal.

Dorward said that any sampling procedure that pools chicken fat together would not show a high level if that level existed in only one of the samples and not the others.

BY BRIAN SOBER

Eat chicken with discretion seems to be the advice now of local chicken farmers who may have fed their birds PCB contaminated grain last summer.

Most of the farmers interviewed this week said they would like to throw out the meat which they have been keeping frozen for over four months. But none of them believes there is any hope in getting compensation from the government or from the Billings, Montana, company responsible for the PCB spill.

Pat Lee of Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply, where the grain was sold, said that his own chickens were contaminated along with an unestimated number of other Salt Spring birds.

Although he isn't happy with any level of PCB in his poultry, he has been eating the meat with care. "Don't eat the skin or the fat," he advised. "The PCB accumulates in the fat."

#### BELOW THE MINIMUM

A recent government-sponsored test of fat from local chickens showed that the PCB level was way below the acceptable U.S. minimum.

Gail Secor of Beaver Point started eating some of the meat after hearing the results of the test. She said she will also be selling meat, but "not too much to any one place".

She also agreed with Tom Gossett of Foxglove who earlier expressed dissatisfaction with the expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which fat samples,

Turn to Page Two

## Dispute over stalled vehicle delays ferry at Swartz Bay

The 9 pm sailing of the *Queen of the Islands* from Swartz Bay was delayed for about half an hour Sunday night while the ferry captain deliberated with the control tower over the fate of a woman and her stalled vehicle.

The vehicle was second in a long line-up boarding the ferry and had to be pushed on board. Some passengers and ferry crew members had evidently offered to push the car off at Fulford but the captain, who was following company policy, ordered the car towed off the ship.

The driver was told by the mate, *Driftwood* learned, that her car would be towed to the nearest garage and that she would have to pay the towing charges.

When the woman refused to co-operate the police were called. According to the woman, who wished to remain anonymous, the police only checked her vehicle registration and her driver's licence.

She told *Driftwood* Monday morning that she had driven her car from Duncan to the ferry terminal Sunday night, stopped at the ticket booth and waited for half an hour for the gate to open. When the ticket agent arrived, her car started normally and she proceeded into the line-up.

#### WOULDN'T START

That's when the trouble began. When the ferry arrived the car wouldn't start, so some friends pushed it on to the ferry for her. Not long after, all ferry-bound traffic was ordered to move back to allow a company truck access to the car deck.

When the mate told her that the captain had ordered her vehicle towed off she decided to go and see if she could reason with him. "After all,"

she explained, "the car would have started with the help of battery cables which the ferry truck was carrying."

This, she said, she explained to the captain, but he insisted that company policy would not allow it and added that the police had already been notified.

When she returned to the car deck the mate informed her that the captain had changed his mind. However, someone in the control tower had ordered the ship to remain where it was until the police arrived.

#### ANGRY, CURIOUS

By the time RCMP got to the scene, a partly angry, partly curious crowd of passengers had gathered on the loading ramp to try and get a glimpse of what was going on. The police checked the driver's registration and licence and then left.

Shortly after, a ferry employee signalled to the waiting passengers and cars that the drama was over and everyone could board the ferry.

Betty Nicholson, information officer for the ferry corporation, defended the policy which states that under normal conditions vehicles must be able to be started and restarted before being loaded on to a vessel.

Nicholson said that this policy is for the protection of the passengers and crew who could possibly suffer injury while helping someone get a vehicle started.

She added that federal regulations also prohibit a vehicle from being started before the vessel reaches the dock.

*Driftwood* was unable to reach the ferry captain before press-time Tuesday.

## Board meets at Central Hall

### Directors give reasons for relocation of Credit Union

About 50 members of the Duncan and District Credit Union attended the special board meeting in Central Hall on Salt Spring Island on Saturday morning.

The meeting had been called, explained chairman Norman Birch, to clarify the organization's situation to all concerned.

The members wanted to submit questions and to hear an explanation of the furore which had accompanied the board's decision to move from the Valcourt Centre into the Ganges central community.

No criticism of the move was heard. All speakers expressed approval of the change in location.

Doug Orr, Credit Union manager from Duncan, explained that the provision of accommodation for the branch is the responsibility of the board of directors.

The island office has been located in the Valcourt Centre since the branch was opened. The lease expired on February 1 of this year and the board had started to examine the island picture during 1979.

A committee was struck to make preparations for a new term of island activity.

#### THREE CHANCES

The three alternatives were to remain in the Valcourt Centre, to

move into a new, rented location or acquire property and build. It was early decided that the third alternative was not feasible at that time.

The office in the Valcourt Centre was "very cramped", continued the speaker. The staff could manage for another year, but a greater area would be needed at that time.

The Valcourt Centre and the Malcolmson Block had not developed as had been hoped, explained Orr, and it was felt that the office might be better located in a busier

trading area.

The committee sought to expend the lease, while in agreement that the "downtown Ganges core area" was the only other site to be considered.

The Credit Union asked for a one-year lease with a one-year option. It was declined. Phil Valcourt had explained that anything less than a five-year proposal was uneconomic in today's property market.

Turn to Page Twenty-Eight

## Dissidents form second Credit Union on island

Reports of a dispute within the provincial superintendency of Credit Unions were heard by about 50 members who attended Saturday morning's board meeting in Central Hall.

W. E. Delmonico reported that the decision of the deputy superintendent to limit free circulation of membership lists has been challenged and may be the subject of litigation.

In the meantime the superintendent has approved the formation of a second credit union on Salt

Spring Island and he already has 170 members signed up, he reported.

The deputy superintendent had agreed to restrict the circulation of lists of members, the meeting had been told. The government official agreed that many members do not want their membership broadcast.

The superintendent had not supported that view, reported Delmonico, a disaffected member of the Salt Spring Island branch of the Duncan and District Credit Union.

*Emergency Health Service report*

# Friends, neighbours play important role

The assistance of friends and neighbours still plays an important role in emergency health situations on the Gulf Islands in spite of trained personnel and more sophisticated equipment being available. This point was emphasized in the report prepared by Miss Jean Lockwood to the annual meeting of the Galiano Volunteer Fire Department on January 30.

Her report touched upon the measures taken in years gone by when there was an accident or disaster and victims had to be conveyed to hospital as quickly as possible.

In 1966 the serious need for first-aid facilities on the island became a matter of public concern when it was brought to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce that a small child had almost died because there was no oxygen available on Galiano. Miss Lockwood was president of the chamber at the time and that meeting voted to set up a community first-aid fund, and asked the late Dr. Herb Barner to assess local needs and advise on basic equipment. The goal of the initial fund was \$300 and within two weeks double that amount had been received from island residents.

**OXYGEN EQUIPMENT**

The first portable oxygen equipment was brought in, together with a supply of splints and first-aid kits. The committee bought air-viva units and stationed them at the marinas and public places around the island, and also purchased several large basket-type stretchers.

The oxygen had only been on the island 10 days when there was a call from Gossip Island. Dr. and Mrs. Barner went over and stayed the whole night with a well known radio announcer from Vancouver who had suffered a heart attack. With the Barners' help and the oxygen equipment his life was saved.

After that, donations to the community first-aid fund came in regularly, and many useful items were purchased for emergency and for sick-room needs which could be borrowed without charge.

**DONATED A TRUCK**

In 1973 Victor Zala donated a second-hand panel truck which was outfitted with ropes, tools, first-aid kits and other items useful in responding to a call to an accident scene. Victims in stretchers were usually transported to Lady Minto Hospital in one of the three station-



## New premises for Credit Union

Manager Ray Bush talks to a customer inside the Credit Union's new office on McPhillips Avenue in Ganges. Credit Union moved to its new location last week.

wagons made available by private parties for this purpose.

The Galiano Emergency Health Service was organized in December 1975 by a group consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Armitage, Dr. and Mrs. Hart Scarrow, Miss Jean Lockwood, Hall Tingley and Mrs. Betty Steward.

In the spring of 1976 the island received its first real ambulance which was housed in the new fire hall. A small number of volunteer drivers and attendants took care of the transportation needs of the sick in the community, with the assistance of willing friends and neighbours.

Last December the arrangements were completed for the Capital Regional Ambulance Dispatch Centre to take over Galiano, which up until then had been in the Nanaimo zone of the Emergency Health Service.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Senior driver Pat Weaver and Miss Lockwood, secretary-treasurer of the unit, called for new volunteers to train for the work and several meetings have been held to introduce the new members to the routine. Dr. Hugh Maclure, now a permanent resident in practice on the island, is working closely with the group, and he and five others have been supplied with pagers by the dispatch centre to facilitate communication in event of an emergency.

Peter Dunn is now co-ordinator for Galiano, and Mrs. Jeanne Dunn, a former nurse, has taken over supervision of supplies and equipment formerly done by Mrs. Steward. Three of the members of the unit are on the fire alarm telephone system which many visitors to the island contact in summer during a medical emergency.

Plans are now under way to hold an industrial first-aid training class for the new first-aid team within the next two months.

## Poultry tested for PCB

**From Page One**

provided by six different island poultry farmers, were lumped together rather than tested individually.

Secor said that she would like to take samples of fat from her birds and have them tested herself but the cost is prohibitive.

**ONLY SIX**

The tests are expensive and there are only six laboratories in Canada with the necessary equipment for measuring PCB content.

Secor, who helped bring public attention to the matter, said she would need a definite goal if she was going to continue a fight for financial compensation.

All she hopes for now, she said, is some kind of mechanism for quickly informing farmers of feed contamination. She said that Agriculture Canada should have informed the public as soon as they

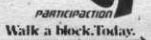
learned of the contamination.

As it was, nobody found out about it until it was publicized in the media, she added.

Some of the farmers who spoke with *Driftwood* said they were curious about what happened to the bags of contaminated feed that Foxglove Farm shipped back to its supplier.

The answer came from the plant products quarantine division in Vancouver. A spokesman for the division, Jim Taylor, said that the feed was disposed of under the supervision of the Pollution Control Branch. Taylor added that the feed was used in a sanitary land fill site in the Fraser Valley.

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# To Be Frank

by richards



Every time they want to describe something basic they compare it with motherhood and I'm not sure I go along with that. What's so all-fire good about motherhood? It starts off with a squalling brat that looks like a lobster and smells like a drain and leaks at both ends. For the first year it does nothing and for the next 19 years it does everything. It is made in the image of the Almighty and heaven help it if it doesn't grow up in the image of its parents. For two years it is busy growing hair and for 30 years it doesn't know what to do with the hair it has grown. From teaching to television, everything geared to its rearing is a multi-million dollar business and the only money it sees for the first quarter-century of its existence is Daddy's. Then this product of the unchallengeable motherhood starts the whole ball rolling again and adulates motherhood like it was magic. And neither mother nor "it" have any real idea of the mess they are getting into until they are both too old to do it again. Let's hail the sanctity of great-grandmotherhood for a change. At least it's a safer bet!

\*\*\*  
**He was a fine fellow, both prominent Brits agreed. He and his two brothers had all won the Military Cross in the First World War, which proved what fine patriots they all were, explained Speaker No. 1. And as for criticism, the law of libel should be extended to protect the distinguished dead, said No. 2. Who were these wise men? They were retired intelligence chiefs in Britain, defending a dead-and-gone colleague from hints that he had been got at by the pinkoes. The inference remains that a man with no Military Cross could be libelled freely after his death, even under the intelligence system, because how would you know him for a patriot?**

\*\*\*  
 Who wants ventilation? If the air you breathed yesterday didn't knock you cold what's wrong with it today?

\*\*\*  
**What's a pognotrophist, demanded Tony, his beard bristling. It's not a man who wins prizes for cheesecake, but a man who sports whiskers on the face. He should know: with that pognotrophy!**

\*\*\*  
 St. Valentine had little to do with the foofara over February 14. There were two Valentines, both martyred and both living about the same period, according to the *Britannica*. Both were buried on the Via Flaminia, the same day, although some distance apart. What's all this to do with Valentine cards? Nothing. They probably mark the pre-Christian Lupercalia, feast of fertility. I don't even believe in Valentine's Day. I proposed to Women's Lib on February 14 and she's regretted it ever since.

\*\*\*  
**Why is everyone knocking the political ads? They all seem perfectly straight to me. Each party is telling us a simple message. "If you think we're bad, take a look at the alternative, and weep!" Nobody is asking for my vote. They're all telling me what not to vote for. So I won't!**

\*\*\*  
 More limericks? Please!  
*I can't vote for Broadbent, you know;  
 And that goes for Clark and Trudeau;  
 I'll just wait and see  
 How bad they might be  
 And I'll vote out the two who must go!*

\*\*\*  
 Twenty years ago I went to Los Angeles with my brother from Peru. A panhandler near the hotel made our day when he came along and asked, "Brother, can you spare a dime?" He did well on that deal. A few weeks ago I had another Hollywood phrase confirmed. I had a receipt from a bookstore in Henelulu. It was imprinted, "Thankyou, please!"

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## Committee prepares for Sea Capers 1980

Preparations by the Salt Spring Island Sea Capers committee are under way, and the annual event has been scheduled for June 6, 7 and 8.

Recent discussions by the committee have resulted in plans to introduce some new attractions as well as improvements to some of the events of past years.

The free Friday night concert, which successfully kicked off Sea Capers last year, is to be held again and island musician Valdy has agreed to take part.

Among the new events being considered are wind-surfing races, kayak races, log burling and jousting.

### VIEWPOINTS

The committee has decided that the most important part of the organization of Sea Capers is in providing spectators' viewpoints for the sea events. At the last meeting, it was noted that water contests have lost some of their appeal because they have been difficult to see.

It was suggested that if the log-booming area adjacent to the Gulf Oil bulk plant could be cleared of logs for the weekend, many of the water events could be held there. It was also decided that owners of the land near the K & R Store should be contacted to obtain permission to use the area for a viewpoint.

Doug Foerster suggested that island residents be urged to participate in the bathtub races and that a challenge trophy be made available for local tubs.

### NEW COURSE

The bathtub course is to be laid out a little differently this year. It will be more oval in shape with more buoys, and located where it can be seen more easily by spectators.

Various groups are being encouraged to visit Salt Spring Island for the occasion. They include the Blue Water Cruising Association, the Rainbow Sea Cadets Band and the Vintage Boat Club from Victoria.

Committee this year consists of Charles Sutcliffe, who will serve a second term as commodore; Ralph Newstead, treasurer; Arvid Chalmers, vice-commodore, land; and a nominee from the Salt Spring Power Squadron is to serve as vice-commodore, sea.

## Five impaired charges laid

RCMP report that two types of offences occurring on Salt Spring Island, breaking and entering and impaired driving, have increased during the month of January.

Sgt. Mitch Hanks said there were five charges of impaired driving on Salt Spring last month. For a community this size, he said, one doesn't expect so many drunk drivers.

Hanks said that he wished to point out to Salt Spring motorists that the police here will continue to watch for impaired drivers.

## New piano for Choral Society

President of the Pender Choral Society, Tom Madden, assisted by Lloyd Gould and Joe Billyeald, unveiled a new piano before an audience of 180 at the School-Community centre on January 25.

The money for the new Yamaha piano was raised by the Choral Society at the "Pig n' Whistle" evening last September, with a New Horizons grant and a contribution from the hall society grant.

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## Gulf Islands Driftwood

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Tony Richards, Editor



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1980

## That Sunday sailing was not at all smooth

Generally speaking, islanders have little to complain about when it comes to ferry service.

The ferries continue to run, day in and day out, despite the fact that the B.C. Ferry Corporation operates with a substantial deficit. And ferry travel in the islands during the last few months has been relatively free of the problems which we had almost come to take for granted.

But the incident at Swartz Bay Sunday night was a sharp departure from the smooth sailing to which we have become accustomed.

The incident leaves one with the impression that the ferries don't operate solely for the benefit of island residents.

A Salt Spring resident was returning home, taking the last ferry of the day. But when her vehicle had to be pushed on to the ferry, officials decided that it must be towed off. Consequently, the driver was to have paid the towing costs and then find lodging for the night.

It would be far more sensible to have the car towed off at the ship's destination and avoid causing considerable hardship to the traveller.

In addition, the RCMP were called in to investigate a dispute for which only the ferry corporation was to blame.

But that wasn't the only episode on that evening.

A group of travellers boarding the same ferry were greeted with an inexcusable display of officiousness and pomposity by a corporation employee. Seven of the nine passengers in a vehicle had residents' cards and they were produced for the ticket agent. One by one they were passed up to the driver of the vehicle, inspected by the agent and then passed back to their owners.

Almost all of the cards were back in wallets and pockets when the agent demanded to see them all again, this time all together.

It appears that he decided he was dealing with a carload of potential crooks who would stoop to anything to avoid paying the full fare.

Do islanders deserve such a reputation? We think not.

We also think that some of the ferry employees at Swartz Bay should be required to take a course in civility and good manners. They need it.

## Rumour Club is to blame

It's more than just a rumour that a Pender Island club has been actively engaged in what appears to have become a major issue: the debate over Pender School.

According to a letter to the editor of the *Pender Post*, the Pender Island Rumour Club "has had a busy time with an imaginary threat to our school".

If the writer is correct, then his letter explains why this issue, which began simply with a list of suggestions for improvement in education, has become something of a controversy.

R. W. Fearn suggests that the Rumour Club has interpreted the proposal for improvements as a threat to the Pender School's existence.

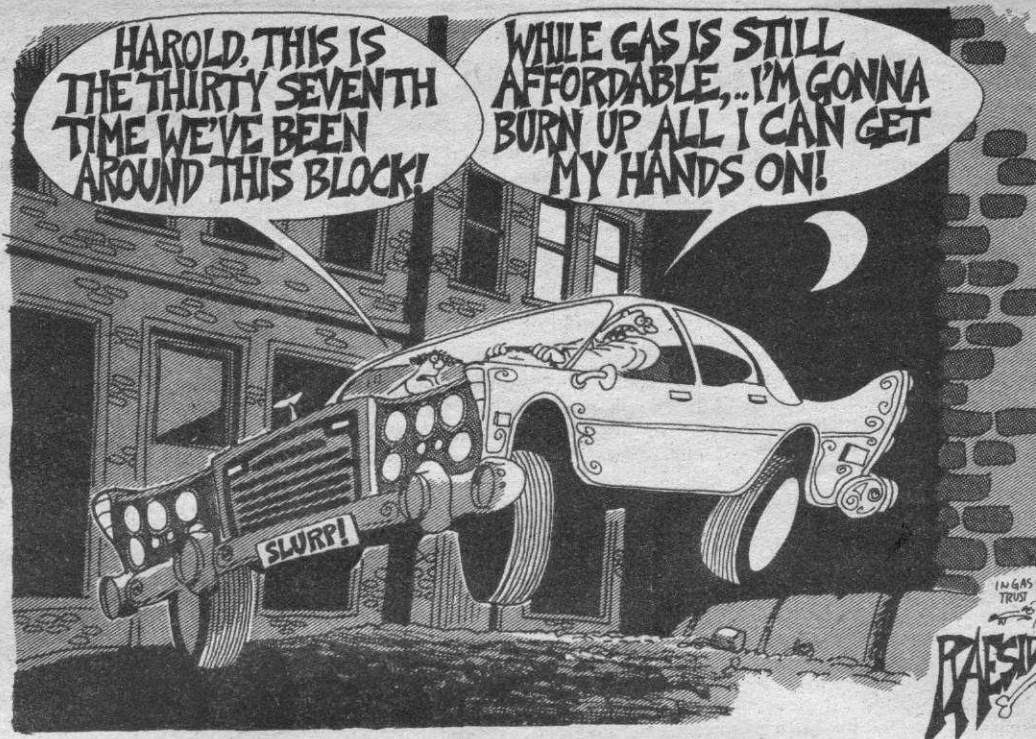
The Rumour Club, he says, has stated that the group of parents who wanted to see a few changes want to start a separate school, want a separate classroom, want all sorts of curriculum changes and want the removal of certain teachers.

And we could add to that list of rumours the one about parents being permitted to wander at will in and out of the classrooms.

Mr. Fearn concludes that the incident is another example of "a serious problem" in the community. He says that he doesn't know of any island group that has been able to operate "without serious bickering and controversy".

Unfortunately, Mr. Fearn is quite right.

We share his view that an early demise of the club would contribute immensely to attaining harmony within the community.



## Letters to the Editor

### Sewer treatment plant 'spells death' of harbour

Sir,

It seems that few of the people polled for their views on the Ganges sewer could have attended the Pollution Control Board hearing on the matter. What a pity!

I was one of the people who did attend through the five long days, almost to the bitter, boring end.

On the basis of what I heard there, I can't stress too sharply that the sewer as proposed is playing with dynamite. Far too delicate a system to make snap decision on going ahead and installing the darn thing, regardless!

The plain truth of the matter is that this particular sewer system as planned could easily end up causing Salt Spring far more problems than the present Ganges swamp. One reason for this is that the bio-disc machinery does not have a 100% clean track record, as evidenced. The Ganges system would not have major replacement parts handy. While the engineer promoting the bio-disc was ready to bet his life on its reliability and longevity, the manufacturer was not so inclined and would only guarantee it for a year!

If a bio-disc component breaks, the sewage could only be held for eight hours then, treated or not, it must be discharged out to sea. Imagine this over the several days or weeks it takes to make repairs. Furthermore, the bacterial action of the bio-disc can be stopped by toxic chemicals, grease and the like, in the sludge.

Secondly, the ultra-violet treatment system involved is an extremely delicate process it appears, which apparently only works under optimum conditions. If the effluent coming into the ultra-violet tank is murky, say because of grease inhibiting the bacterial action of the bio-disc, then the ultra-violet treatment simply doesn't work to the required specifications. This would result in infected effluent being discharged into the harbour.

Thirdly, there will not be a top-class, full-time plant operator on the island. The one that there is must be shared amongst a few dozen municipalities in the greater Victoria area. One can well imagine the scenario of a major plant breakdown, or a significant malfunction (extensive documentation by one witness revealed that such

does occur fairly frequently), at 3 am., with the requisite plant operator off in Sooke or sick or on holidays in Mexico. Then what happens to our Ganges sewer and our harbour?

Fourth, this plant operator doesn't even have experience with the ultra-violet treatment system because the Ganges plant would be the first of its kind in North America!

Fifth, there is a larger question of water. This plant would need a constant supply of 45,000 gallons of fresh, clean water every eight hours.

Where are we going to get this water? Is Maxwell Lake to be the cup of plenty keeping our Ganges toilets clean?

In my estimation, this particular plant spells death to Ganges Harbour. If the businessmen in Ganges are so terribly concerned about their sewage and also love the harbour as much as they claim, then why don't they get together and hook themselves together into a small, private bio-mass treatment system? Then they would need very little water, and could provide themselves with methane gas to heat their buildings and compost for some potted plants to jolly up the outsides.

The argument that we have already spent so much money and can't throw it away now is a sham when one considers what could very well happen to Ganges Harbour!

JEZRAH HEARNE,  
Fulford Harbour.  
January 25, 1980.

\$\$\$ U.S.

Premium  
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This Week,  
Says the Salt Spring  
Island Chamber  
of Commerce.

### Invitation to former residents

Sir,

Thank you for allowing us to use your newspaper to invite all former residents of Fillmore, Saskatchewan, home to Fillmore for our 75th birthday celebration.

This important event will encompass June 29, 30 and July 1, 1980. Many interesting community events have been planned to make our stay nostalgic and interesting. We consider this to be an excellent opportunity for the entire family to meet old friends and acquaintances, as well as to view the progress which our town and community has made since your departure. We extend to you a warm and sincere invitation to attend.

75TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMITTEE,  
Fillmore, Saskatchewan.  
January 25, 1980.

### Stark family history a 'fine series'

Sir,

As one who has enjoyed a long love affair with the Gulf Islands and their people, I want to give you my personal thanks for the fine series on the Stark family which you have been printing in the pages of *Driftwood* lately. The story is an extraordinary one and says much about the compassion of the Vancouver Island colony authorities in those early days.

The reception of the Starks and their associates was a generous act of statecraft. No wonder those black families turned out to be such exemplary citizens!

It is certainly an act of public service on the part of *Driftwood* to re-acquaint those of us who love the islands with this unique story of early settlement by a group of people who felt so very insecure in their native land.

WILLIAM A. BULTMANN,  
447 14th Street,  
Bellingham,  
Washington.  
January 24, 1980.

*At Cusheon Creek*

# Protest trapping, association urges

Sir,  
A friend has just sent us the most surprising information about trapping near Cusheon Creek, and other parts of Salt Spring Island. We hope that nearby residents will protest clearly and loudly to their MLA and to the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

A registered trapline may have been granted for the area some long time ago but it certainly should not still be valid today.

A licensed trapper may set traps on private property but a registered trapline permit is granted on crown land only.

From the article in the January 9 *Driftwood* it seems that the trapper could have been using a spring pole set which is clearly against the law. Snares and leg-hold traps, however, when set on branches or on running poles are legal. If in doubt do report it to the conservation officer.

We hope that your readers will keep aware of the local trapping situation as the trapping season extends to the end of February. Some trappers may be setting their traps and snares in areas without the property owner's permission. It is not a legal requirement either.

All traps set on private property must be checked every 24 hours not the 72 hours indicated by the article. The 72-hour requirement is only for the long registered trapline.

Finally, to our knowledge there is no serious overpopulation of any fur-bearing animals on Salt Spring Island and indeed we would suggest that all wildlife is rapidly decreasing as the area becomes more populated with people. The animals are being trapped for their precious skins. The carcasses are thrown aside.

Do write Premier Bennett, your MLA, and let them know your wishes. In the meantime keep on the alert for these dangerous traps. When walking in unfamiliar areas with your dog do take special care. If your dog gets caught in one of the large Conibear traps set for otter or for beaver you probably will not be able to release it.

For further information please write to us.

**GEORGE V. CLEMENTS.**  
Association for Protection of Fur-bearing Animals,  
1316 East 12th Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
January 30, 1980.

## *Unstructured system would be cruel fate for students*

Sir,  
In answer to the editorial January 23 I wish to inform you that I am aware of the fact that "The Penders" are very proud of their School Community Centre, a unique situation brought about by hard community work by a large number of people and perhaps we would make this school a model for the rest of the province.

I know the majority of parents, let alone the rest of the Pender majority will not stand by and see the present administrator and his staff stomped into the ground by a few disgruntled people who are unable to cope with a structured system. Structure is a part of our daily living and surely these parents in a minority group would not wish to have their children thrust into the structured society of today, having come from an unstructured school system. It would be a cruel fate to these children.

I agree wholeheartedly that parents should take more of an interest in their children by being involved in various school programs and immediate community programs around the school designed specifically for children.

However, when some of these parents are approached to help they are too busy and children are being used as pawns to veto the programs they so love to be involved in. It seems some parents wish to get into the classrooms so that disruption can worm its way in thereby wresting from the teaching staff the authority of that teacher in control of his or her classroom. The school board they went to are the very ones that were elected by a majority to hire these teachers to do the job set down by the department of education and District #64. If they don't like these members then they should be lobbying for a majority to vote them out of office. I cannot see a teacher turning down any help in any program under the jurisdiction of the staff but getting into the classroom, that is a no-no, because a teacher would soon lose control of the classroom.

I agree there are a wealth of skills in the community that are precious and should be encouraged to come forth using these people but under the jurisdiction of the principal of the school.

**TED DEVER,**  
North Pender Island,  
January 26, 1980.

# Parents' freedom to visit classes would be 'impossible'

Sir,  
As an ex-teacher and father of four children I wish to point out the impossible situation which would be created if parents were permitted unrestricted freedom to visit with and participate in the learning situation of a school classroom. As a parent, I sent my children off to school each day in the sure and certain knowledge that they would, at all times, be under the supervision and control of a trained and responsible member of the teaching staff who was answerable to both the B.C.T.F. and the school trustees for his or her every action. How could that teacher be in total control of a situation where adults were permitted to enter and leave a classroom at will? What of non-parents, what of drunk parents, what of mentally unstable parents, what of violent parents? Remember the society in which we live: our jails and institutions are full of parents. There are also drug pushers and child molesters and any school board which did not run tight security to restrict entry of unauthorized persons to its schools is not a fit body to care for children.

The cup of learning is a fragile vessel for a proportion of the students in any classroom. For some, it can be cracked by an untimely knock on the door, a bird at the window; it can be shattered by an unusual and unexpected adult presence in the room. The teacher spends half his life in planning lessons so that an area of knowledge is reached by carefully

selected steps suitable to the abilities of the children. It is rarely that even the most well-intentioned help could be fitted into the plan of progress. The Pender Island teachers have tapped local talents in sewing, crafts, cooking, typing, band, industrial education, health care to mention only a few areas. This has been done in a planned, disciplined and well organized manner. I submit, the only manner acceptable to a parent, to a teacher, to a school board.

In your editorial of Wednesday, January 23, you state "the public's confidence in our educational system dropped a few points ...." To continue the same metaphor, adopt the theories published in this editorial and you will see the bottom fall out.

**D. W. DAVIDSON,**  
R.R. 1, Port Washington,  
January 17, 1980.

Letters to the editor must be brief and the editor reserves the right to abbreviate any letter in the interest of publishing a wide range of opinions. Writers must also furnish their name, address and telephone number. Letters signed with a pen-name will not be published.

# Call to police for help meets 'rudeness, hostility'

Sir,  
If you are ever desperate and in need of police assistance on this island, don't expect to get it easily.

I had always been under the illusion that all one had to do when in distress was to dial the police, tell a calm, concerned voice a few important details, and help would be on the way, pronto!

Well, forget that notion. You could be a dead duck if your situation is more serious than mine was recently.

It seems that my new neighbours had broken out into a rather noisy, drunken, family brawl. Next thing I knew, two of the battered and bleeding members were in my house shaking and asking that I get police help. They indicated also that an ambulance might be needed for another woman.

Nervous as I was at the sight, I got myself together to dial our "best friend", the trusty police officer. I was not at all prepared for what happened.

I was met with unbelievable rudeness and hostility from a female dispatcher and many nerve-racking minutes of argument with the same questions and answers repeated.

My voice was obviously shaky and I gave her what few details I knew, but she persisted in trying to extract information that I just didn't have. She became quite irate and snapped, "I'm not going to send a police officer into an unknown situation."

I felt helpless and found myself shouting at her to just please get me help and told her more than once that I was alone with a baby. At times it was difficult to speak over the loud, cursing voice beside me, which I am sure she could hear.

After having to explain where I lived again she retorted in that same rude tone, "Well, do you need an ambulance or not?" (I almost got the impression that she expected me to go next door and find out!) Once again she said that she wasn't about to send an officer without knowing the details, and then to top it all off, *she hung up on me* - leaving me no indication as to whether I was to receive help or not!

I desperately phoned a friend, asking her to call the police back for me and tell them that I really did need help.

The same dispatcher again asked her where I lived and wanted directions (surely, they must use maps!?)

So why is this incredibly rude, not to mention obtuse and poorly trained police dispatcher with what appears to be a hearing problem handling such a job? Wouldn't one expect that such a person be trained to handle phone calls of distress with utmost calmness (and perhaps even a little politeness), in order that he/she may keep the distraught caller calm rather than aggravate them even more? And wouldn't one also expect these people to be trained to extract important details quickly and efficiently?

After the police took care of the situation I spoke to them briefly about the disturbing phone conversation. They were non-committal and protective of the dispatcher saying that she did contact them immediately after hanging up on me.

Then why, I wonder, did she have to ask my friend for my address again? Why the third degree? Why such rudeness? And most important, why didn't she say that help was on the way?

Apparently, the dispatchers are instructed to get as many details as possible so that the police don't have to waste their time on "crank" calls and also for police protection. There seems to be a fear these days of police officers getting killed while on the job - particularly in family disputes.

Still disgusted with my telephone experience, I spoke to the head of the Ganges police department and filed a complaint. The sergeant showed sincere interest in keeping good relations with the public and an investigation is under way. Still though, he made attempts to cover up the dispatcher's behavior which only made their dispatch system look weak, and he also reinforced the need for police protection.

I found it somewhat consoling to hear that all the telephone calls are taped so that they can listen to the tape again for details. (Shouldn't that eliminate the need for repetition?) I wish I had known that.

I am left feeling very unsatisfied about the lack of concern for my own protection. It's the old innocent bystander syndrome.

I can't even imagine what would have happened if I was being threatened in a crisis situation with no time to explain, let alone argue.

**VIRVE RUHNO,**  
Box 732,  
Ganges, B.C.  
February 4, 1980.

# *People are no better than those who represent them*

Sir,  
No matter how corrupt and dishonest a politician may appear to be, he still is a genuine reflection of the people he represents. A person voting for a leader will unconsciously choose someone similar to himself regarding background, inclination and temperament. The voter wants a representative to whom he can relate, and for whom he feels a measure of affinity. In other words, he is looking for a mirror image of himself or, more directly, he is voting for himself! Most likely he will be disappointed in his chosen one's performance, and vote for a different person the next time, only to be disappointed or disgusted again and again! Little does the voter realize that at his present level of awareness he will always apply the same set of criteria when choosing a leader, and will therefore get one at a level of awareness identical to his own.

Better governments are possible, but not until the voting public elevates its collective consciousness sufficiently so as to produce a better mirror image. This can only be accomplished by coming to grips with one's innate lower nature, by disregarding the whisperings of the negative within oneself.

Politicians are exposed to public scrutiny, and are therefore regarded as being greedy, vain and power-hungry. They may well be, but doesn't the voter exhibit greed when he reacts to a politician's unrealistic promises? Or vanity, when someone offers him a promotion? And don't many voters, in their private lives, satiate their extreme lust for power by creating veritable personal empires?

No, the people aren't any better than the politicians who represent

them. One mirrors the other, and both are slaves to their lower nature. Anyone wishing to improve the world will have to improve himself first, and the world will soon take notice!

**W. BANGERT,**  
Ganges,  
January, 1980.

# Target can be reached with 'all your support'

Sir,  
On behalf of the Canadian Red Cross and the Salt Spring Island branch, the Royal Canadian Legion, I would like to thank the 219 ladies and gentlemen of our community who registered at the blood clinic held at the Legion Hall on January 21; 194 were accepted as blood donors.

Our thanks to *Driftwood* and all the businesses, clubs, organizations and individuals who helped us publicize this clinic.

Our congratulations to the Ganges detachment RCMP and the Lady Minto Hospital for jointly winning the Legion president's blood donor trophy. Our thanks to all who took part in this community competition.

Although this clinic did not meet the requested target of 250 pints, it is our hope that this target will be reached at the next clinic later this year. It can with all your support!

**PETER BINGHAM**  
Chairman,  
Blood Clinic Committee,  
Ganges,  
January 25, 1980.

### Liquor charge nets fine

In provincial court last week Michael Larry Fraser pleaded guilty to a charge of being a minor consuming alcohol in licensed premises.

Fraser was seen in the Harbour House pub on the night of December 7 by a policeman on routine patrol.

The court was told that Fraser had been sitting at a table with a partially consumed glass of beer in front of him.

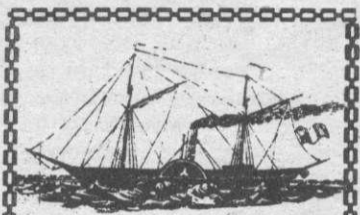
According to police, Fraser cooperated with the officer and accompanied him out of the pub.

Fraser was fined \$100 for the offence by Judge D. K. McAdam.

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# Manly: NDP offers positive alternative Barrett: Canadians not stupid but naive

The New Democratic Party candidate for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands told a meeting Saturday that those who voted for Joe Clark to get rid of Pierre Trudeau last year have found "they're out of the frying pan and into the fire".

Jim Manly told over 100 people in the Activity Centre at Ganges that his party offers a positive alternative.

And at the same meeting, provincial NDP leader Dave Barrett said it was time the Liberals and Conservatives "got into bed together".

"They've been living common law for years," Barrett said, "and now it's time to tie the knot."  
**'FAIR CHANCE'**

Campaigning for the February 18 election, Manly said the NDP offers a "fair chance" for Canadians.

He outlined a number of policies that an NDP government would introduce, including a \$40 increase across the board in veterans' old-age security pensions, a renters' grant of \$50 a month and tax breaks for homeowners.

"It's not right," Manly said, "that our seniors should be living below the poverty line."

He promised a fair chance for women: equal pay for equal value, and increased funding for day-care facilities.

A program similar to one in the United States, where one-third of government contracts go to small businesses, was needed in Canada, he said.

**NEED A BREAK**  
"We don't object to people making profits, but we do object to gouging."

Manly observed that Canada was getting a great deal of credit for its role in helping six American embassy officials out of Iran. Canada should use that credit, he said, and ask the U.S. to keep supertankers away from the B.C. coast.

Routing the tankers off the coast could not be regarded as a friendly act, he stated.

Finally, he said the NDP wanted to grant a fair chance to all Canadians who want to make a living.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**  
"Everywhere people are talking about unemployment, either for themselves or for their children. It's costly in terms of what it does

to our self-respect and it's also costly in terms of our wallets."

The New Democrats, he said, would provide a full employment program and an industrial strategy.

He recalled a recent visit to the sawmill at Honeymoon Bay which, he said, had been in operation for 30 years. The mill is in the process of cutting back its operations and may be shutting down permanently due to shortage of logs, he said.

If the people of Vancouver Island had had a chance to rationally plan for their communities, Manly said, they would have done better than the large companies have done.

**HAVE THE POTENTIAL**  
"We have the potential here to create a good life."

Provincial Opposition Leader Dave Barrett told the meeting that he'd known Manly for about 12 years and forecast that "he will do a terrific job when he's elected February 18".

Looking at why the election came about, Barrett said the art of handling a minority government was in compromising.

He said the Conservative budget should have demanded that the oil, mining and manufacturing companies tighten their belts, not the Canadian people.

**ASTRONOMICAL PROFITS**  
The oil companies are making "astronomical profits", Barrett went on.

"But Hockey Night in Canada is the only thing we get back from Imperial Oil."

He recalled that when his party held office, they had formed the B.C. Petroleum Corporation. "It's your own gas company," he told the audience.

"We set up the only marketing agency for natural gas. Social Credit voted against it, fought against it and screamed against it, and now it's making money for them."

Barrett pointed out that it was making more money than B.C.'s liquor business, "which has been going up ever since Social Credit got elected".

**FEAR OF NDP**  
He said that fear of the New Democratic Party had forced the other provincial parties, the Socreds, the Liberals and Conservatives, to "jump into bed with each other."



Dave Barrett was speaking to over 100 people in the Activity Centre at Ganges Saturday.

Behind him is Jim Manly, NDP candidate in the February 18 federal election.

"They pulled the blankets over top of themselves and to this day we don't know who's doing what to who."

Barrett said that many years ago the Mexican government had taken over all the oil and gas production in the country, putting it under the control of a state-owned company, Pemex.

"Mexico," said Barrett, "found that God placed gas and oil in the ground for people, not for oil and gas companies."

The provincial leader noted that he "gets fed up" with hearing people say that "we're living beyond our means."

**CRUMBS**  
"It's a bunch of hogwash. Sure we live well: the country is so rich that some of the crumbs fall off the table for us poor peasants."

The speaker observed that people born in Canada were "the most politically ignorant people in the nation."

He recalled that people from elsewhere have asked him why Canada has a million people unemployed when the country is rich in timber, oil and mineral resources.

"And I'm embarrassed because I don't have the answer to how we got into this mess."

**NAIVE**  
Canadians aren't stupid, he said, they're naive.

Later in the evening, Barrett

referred to the relationship between the major oil companies and the other federal parties.

If a party is elected on oil company money, he said, that party doesn't work for the people.

"He who pays the piper calls the tune."

In a question period which followed the addresses by the two speakers, Manly was asked about the NDP's policy on nuclear power.

He replied that the party wants a moratorium on new nuclear power installations pending an inquiry. He said the party as a whole had not favoured an amendment to that policy which would have included a moratorium on uranium mining.

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# Thinkmetric!

## Alaskan critic convinced him it's the only way!

**BY FRANK RICHARDS**

Metric system? Or the old and tried pounds and feet and gallons?

I don't very much care. If a Canadian has considerable exchange with the United States, he probably finds the metric system something less than understandable south of the line. If he trades with Europe or the far east, then the metric system is probably most readily acceptable.

I have a miles-per-hour car that was made in a land where they wouldn't know what a mile looked like. And Women's Lib has a car with kilometers right there on the clock.

I've bought gas in litres and I've bought it in gallons. I spent dollars and cents.

It doesn't matter very much, either way.

Then last week I got a letter from an American resident of Alaska offering some very emotional reasons why Canada should not go metric. So I had to think.

If I go for metric I am offering the Canadian way of the future an easier way to calculate. I am encouraging the next generation to be calculating in gear with most of the world.

**I'M CONVINCED**

If I agree with the writer, who probably suffers sweaty feet every time he works out his sums, then I am agreeing that inches look nicer and pounds are heavier and dozens are cheaper. After reading the letter criticizing the metric system I am convinced. He has won me over. I have to favour metric measurement.

For example, the opponent of the metric system tells me that it is undesirable because prefixes are similar in some instances. He cites "deci-" and "deka-".

Feet and pounds and miles are "homey Anglo-Saxon", whereas litre, gram and metre are either foreign or awkward, multisyllabic Greek or Latin names. This is an interesting reason for opposing change. To the proponent it may even appear rational. Not to me.

He opposes the metric system because the "metric definitions have changed up to four or five times".

I think he has a point. The basic yard is the distance from the end of King Henry's arm to his nose and no way will that change!

**NATURAL AFFECTION**

The affection for the dozen is a natural one, he explains. It is natural for people to divide quantities into halves, quarters, thirds, sixths and eighths. The duodecimal system was "developed in the market place with prime units with multiples that accommodated this predilection". That's quite a reason for not going metric. It sounds profound, although I'm not sure what it means.

I know the duodecimal system for calculating masonry, but there are 12's in neither weighing nor accounting.

The metric system is evil and hides behind decimal divisions to cover its innate weakness of being

unable to add up in fractions, I learned.

The critic condemns the decimal system for using more than two places of decimals because, in the United States, only two places are normally accepted. He then advocates the old system for its convenience in having 360 degrees in a circle and 365 days in a year, which is almost the same, he contends.

**NOT SO VULGAR**

The only thing I know about the system is that in about the fourth grade I discovered decimals and thank I discovered the chore of calculating vulgar fractions. I have yet to find an effective pocket calculator which gives me the answer in thirds, sixths and 12ths, instead of the hateful tenths! And no vulgarity!

It had me thinking. This perfection of metrology that is the present foot-pounds-seconds system is worth investigation.

I ran into problems straight away. I had encyclopedias. Each tells the story in its own words. The Canadian edition tells the reader that there is an American gallon and a U.K. gallon. Although it is supposedly a Canadian reference work, it is, or was, unaware of the fact that Canada uses an imperial gallon, equal to the U.K. measure.

But if we retain the present system do we use the Alaska scale

or the Canadian. The British pound, avoirdupois, is 0.453924300 kilograms, whereas the American pound weighs 0.4535924277 kilograms, I discovered.

Do we embrace the avoirdupois or the troy weight?

**WHICH TON IS WHICH?**

Which ton do we use, the short ton of 2,000 pounds, the long ton of 2,240 pounds, the metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds? They are easier?

Do we standardize with the U.S. or the imperial gallon?

The metre is 39.37 inches. It is 39.370113 inches, according to the book. It doesn't tell me whether the Canadian system uses the short yardstick or the long one. It seems the British inch and the American inch are not the same.

The silly aspects of measurement are obvious to most of us. What is less obvious is the fact that the metric system offers a clear-cut simple means of calculation which fits in admirably with mechanized and electronic calculating devices.

If the old, traditional methods were better, why did Britain abandon its simple calculation of 12 pence to the shilling; two shillings to the florin; 10 florins to the pound system. If the old and ill-fitting traditional measurements are better, the British should still be selling feed by the peck; seed by the gallon and oil by a different

gallon for a guinea a time.

But they aren't.

**DON'T LIKE 'EM**

I don't like messing with litres and kilometres and kilograms. But that's only because I didn't start that way. My grandchildren take to the decimal attractions of the metric system much more quickly than I learned the old, cumbersome measurements.

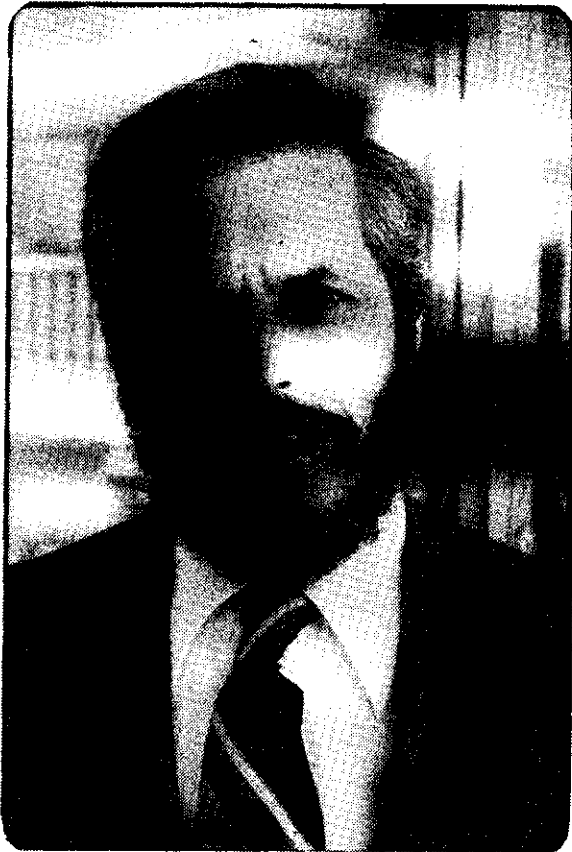
And if you want more terms for measurements, bear in mind that

the useful little crossword puzzle measurement, the en, is still used in printing. As are the pica and the square pica, or em. Then there are points and agate lines and they are easy to remember because you know there are 72 points to an inch but only 14 agate lines. Come to that, many advertisements today are measured in agate line, but an agate line is, itself, never used.

Lets think metric, for heaven's sake, whatever Alaska might do!

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# Cubs, scouts have been busy with indoor, outdoor projects

Inclement weather hasn't hampered the spirits of the first Ganges Cubs, nor the Sea Scouts.

Cubs have been busy indoors working on badges and other cub projects. Their pack howl is reaching the destruction range in decibels, and it seems strange to me that they don't even realize it.

A recent highlight was a winter camp at Camp Banard in Sooke, in which 24 cubs and eight adults participated. It was a terrific weekend, very much enjoyed by everyone except the one cub who bailed out of the loft of the new bunkhouse. (He wasn't wearing any parachute!)

We departed for Sooke on Friday after school. Big Macs were consumed in mass along the way. Camp Banard is situated in the hills overlooking the straits of Juan de Fuca. It contains some 200 acres of prime land generously donated to the Boy Scouts of Canada.

**'FINE FACILITY'**

Each year hundreds of boys and girls make use of this fine facility. Summer campouts are held in tents and tent lodges. There are several large lodges, including a new one of logs that will sleep lots of cubs. In addition to hiking, climbing and nature trails, the camp has a nice lake which offers canoeing and swimming.

Our winter campsite consisted of a nice, large heated lodge with

such luxuries as a fireplace, indoor plumbing and an excellent kitchen area that doubles as an adult refuge from the cubs. We participated in a variety of activities which centred around eating, hiking, eating, hiking, eating, hiking. Gourmet, camp-style cooking was enjoyed by all, thanks to the efforts of Barney Baines, who was our camp cook for this trip.

**WET WINTER CAMP**

Sea Scouts have also been busy indoors as well as outdoors. They had a winter camp-out on the 16th through the 18th of November at Maracaibo. They had a fine opportunity to test out their new tents, as it rained and blew most of the three days. Some of the Sea Scouts found out they prefer motor boats to the sailing version. However, I'm sure the weather had a lot to do with it. The recently-acquired motor sailor has been a well-received addition to the fleet.

Scouts are in need of a new leader to train with the troop, and eventually to take over the responsibilities of scout leader. Our present leader, Matthew Coleman, has indicated that he would like to step down in due time. Matthew has been involved with Sea Scouts here on Salt Spring for four years, and a leader for two years. He's willing to stay on for the remainder of the year, but feels we should start our search for a new leader now.

**ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**

It would enable the new recruit to take advantage of some on-the-job training, and also to attend official leaders' training in Victoria during the summer. Any interested potential scout leaders out there can contact Matthew Coleman or Charles Bazzard.

This year's Lord Baden-Powell Banquet will take place on February 21 at the Catholic Church hall. It's a parent-son affair, with scout and cub entertainment to be provided.

Also in February is Scout Week. This takes place from the 17th to the 23rd. The Victoria Cougars will be saluting scouting during a game between the Cougars and the Seattle Breakers on February 19. Any cubs or scouts who wish to attend can take their parents and get special ticket prices by ordering in advance and attending in their uniforms.

We are searching for the scout on Salt Spring who has the longest service record within the scouting movement. If you feel you qualify, please outline details and drop them in the mail to Dave Hoslin, Chairman Group Committee, Scouts and Cubs, R.R. 1, Tripp Road, Ganges, B.C., before February 15, if possible.

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**MOUAT'S**

**What's happening at Salt Spring Elementary School?**

**BY IAN JUKES**

Look out parents, here they come again: hordes of them, out to get your money. Taxmen? The oil companies? Grocery stores? No, the Spell-a-thoners. It's that time again when we send forth our students to get your pledges in order to raise the money needed to help fund our many programs.

**SEEK PLEDGES**

In essence, the children are given a list of words to study, and seek pledges from people who will sponsor them to the tune of one, two or perhaps three cents a word. After testing is complete, the students return to the sponsor with the test in hand to collect these pledges.

Spelling lists will be out on February 8, and the test is February 19. If you find yourself inundated with children seeking your support, just leave a note by the door: that'll keep them away!

Next, the Science Fair is scheduled for March 14 (with viewing on March 20). It's a chance for all our budding, mad scientists to show their stuff. It's hard to anticipate what might be entered; anything from chick embryology to a small nuclear device, I suppose. Participants pay a \$1 entry fee to help defray expenses (mainly materials) and entry is optional. I'll have more on this in weeks to come.

**MET MONDAY**

Parents Advisory Committee met on Monday night to discuss school goings-on. Included in these discussions were preliminaries for the May Carnival (date unknown); endorsement of the Spell-a-thon for funding; discussion of the need for landscaping and drinking fountains (of which we have neither); and continued discussion of the need for full spectrum lighting as opposed to fluorescent.

This last issue is particularly interesting in that scientific study indicates a very strong correlation between the use of fluorescents and, amongst other things, behavioural problems, headaches, inattentiveness, higher than normal absenteeism, and in a current study, muscle weakness. If you are at all interested in this issue the PAC has material on the subject.

Next PAC meeting is Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 in the evening (this time has been suggested to encourage more people to attend).

**VISITS BY POLICE**

Around the school I see we have had several visits by the police of late: rising juvenile delinquency problem? No, it's the yearly police orientation course run by Glen Hanna. Now if only he wouldn't use that siren during tests....

What else? Oh yes, the grade 1's are now attending for the full school day. Very shortly they'll be seasoned veterans to the trials and tribulations of riding the buses.

Chess? School competitions are hot and heavy, hurrying to completion so that the inter-district challenge (Salt Spring Island - Lake Cowichan) can proceed.

**REAL PROGRESS**

Basketball? Four teams, two girls and two boys, are practising daily. Real progress has been made in the course of the past two years. More on this as the games start.

House activities? We've just finished pinguard with the Mustangs edging out the Stallions and the Colts for top honours. Mustangs currently lead the overall standings by four points. Next up is basketball.

That's it, I'm done for another week, having jumped from here to there and back again. Maybe I should try writing without this pogo stick. See you next week.

*Do the benefits outweigh the risks?*

# It's economics versus ethics in uranium mining debate

BY JEZRAH HEARNE

The debate over uranium mining seems to take many obscure twists and turns, but basically the argument is an economics versus ethics one. Will the mining company fork out the extra dough to implement safety measures or won't it?

Many mining officials will argue that there is not such a serious problem to begin with and therefore the precautionary measures are unnecessary. Others will say that the uranium is of too inferior a quality to warrant expensive safety measures.

But what can you do with a tailings pond which will be radioactive for half a million years?

And there are those who will put forth a well-rationalized argument using the risks versus benefits theory, where in any given dangerous enterprise, if the benefits outweigh the risks then it is all right to go ahead. These people will admit that there is a definite risk involved in uranium mining, but that the benefits outweigh the risks.

### EASY TO DETERMINE

The ordinary citizen can, with some study and reflection, tabulate his own inventory of benefits versus risks. The benefits are rather easy to determine. The most obvious one is that the big corporations stand to make a bundle, roughly \$1 billion overall, given plum prices for uranium.

Another windfall would be the profits to these same corporations via their interlocking corporate grid system, where factories now plugged into nuclear-generated electricity churn out the money-making objects for which western civilization craves. The biggest money-maker here is the nuclear armaments industry.

The truth is that most of our uranium will end up, in one way or another, in the arms race, where the truly big apple is to be found.

Norcen has already signed a contract with South Korea for its Lassie Lake uranium. South Korea is the new Hong Kong for western investors and plans are to construct eight nuclear reactors in the near future. South Korea is a military state and seeks its own nuclear weaponry.

### UNCERTAIN CLIMATE

Since the political climate in South Korea is no more certain than that in Iran, what with North Korea moving for re-unification, one wonders about the so-called benefit to us in shipping our uranium to South Korea.

Pro-mining government officials like to cite employment and the boost to the provincial economy which mining would provide.

However, the unions involved are presently taking an anti-uranium stand at the Bates Inquiry, for the reason that the workers are the ones who would run the highest risk of dying early from lung cancer and leukemia, as well as being legally unemployable for other jobs due to their background in such work.

There would be booms to local economies for the duration of the mining operation, which would no doubt be followed by a bust when the mine dried up.

This boom would be mitigated further by a loss in revenue to farmers and merchants due to a potential radioactive contamination of crops and livestock. The boom to the communities is also thrown into question somewhat by the fact that

most communities whose economy would experience this boom are opposed to any uranium mining in their areas.

### FOR FRANCE

Another benefit which some people like to dwell on is that B.C. would be fulfilling a moral obligation to the people of France by supplying them with our uranium. France has an ambitious nuclear program (33 reactors to be finished in the 1980's) for which they'll need uranium.

There are two obvious rejoinders. First, are the people of France and its government going to take any moral and financial responsibility for the people of British Columbia as we succumb to radiation-induced cancer? Will they pay for our morphine?

Secondly, why is it that the people of France haven't bothered to check out renewable technologies to see them through their energy crisis? France is a temperate, normally sunny country, and could easily use solar power. Surely if Sweden, in a far colder, cloudier location can do it and cut its energy consumption by 50%, then France could do it. The real key to France's energy policy is that it is the third biggest producer of nuclear military hardware, while Sweden is basically a pacifist nation.

The last benefit is that the B.C. government will make some money by way of mining royalties. However, most of this would probably go into incentives in the form of tax breaks.

### THEY CARRY RISKS

The communities opposed to uranium mining make short shrift of any benefits versus risks argument, stating that they are the ones to carry all the risks. The benefits versus risks theory certainly does seem to fall apart when it is found that one group, removed from the scene of danger, will accrue all the benefits, while another, just plain folks living in the vicinity of the mines, will have to live with all the risks.

There is talk of Eldorado Nuclear building a refinery in B.C. This refinery would process the yellowcake into fuel pellets.

In Port Hope, Ontario, it was discovered in 1976 that three schools, several homes and a hospital had above-normal radiation levels. This led to a full-scale investigation which found that much of Eldorado's refining residue had been mixed with landfill on which Port Hope was constructed.

### TOWN IS 'HOT'

The result is that the town is now "hot" and there is no way to change the situation. To date, there is no existing technology for ridding the planet of radioactive contamination. Residents of Port Hope could leave, but by now they have been thoroughly irradiated and it is too late to do anything for them.

The government is reported to have known of this back in the early 1950's but said nothing about it. Army trainees were evidently sent into Port Hope to learn how to use their radiation detection equipment as early as 1951.

Cancers are now beginning to manifest themselves in Port Hope among people in their 30's, but Eldorado has been unresponsive to demands for compensation. On top of this, Eldorado has disregarded a government order to move its

residue dump a specified number of miles from the town, choosing instead to move it five miles less than prescribed.

It is this company which British Columbia would be admitting into its midst if uranium mining became a real industry here. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that mining uranium would not lead to a full-blown nuclear industry in the province.

Neither Hydro nor the Socred government has seriously closed its door to nuclear development in the province. A freedom of information act would give British Columbians access to the files to substantiate these claims.

## Election at Pender

BY ELEANOR HARRISON

The North Pender Island Advisory Planning Committee election will take place on February 18 at the School-Community Centre. It is on the same day as the federal election and hours of the poll will be the same. Polling booth will be in the kitchen.

Cliff Harrison, Henry Sky, Earl Hastings, Eric Chisholm, Ian Clement, Bob Allison, Doug Keating and Gordon Harrison have been nominated.

Five members are to be elected for two-year terms and they will be appointed by the North Pender Islands Trust Committee to the Advisory Planning Committee.

There will be a public meeting on Saturday, February 9 at approximately 4 pm at the School-Community Centre when the A.P.C. candidates will introduce themselves and answer questions.

## Baha'is mark World Religion Day Thursday

The Baha'is of Salt Spring Island sponsored an evening program at the Community Centre last Thursday to commemorate World Religion Day.

After extending a welcome to everyone Connie Bergstrom spoke on the "essential oneness" of the world's religions and recalled the visit of 'Abdu'l-Baha to America in 1912 to promote that precept.

Bergstrom said that 'Abdu'l-Baha, at the age of 68, after almost an entire lifetime in exile and imprisonment in the Holy Land, journeyed to America and undertook a rigorous speaking schedule, responding to numerous invitations from university and church leaders and philanthropic groups.

For 239 days, the speaker said, 'Abdu'l-Baha spoke to "seemingly

endless" crowds of admirers and truth-seekers, keeping an "exhausting itinerary" that often called for two or three talks a day. He exhorted people everywhere to religious unity and universal peace, sharing his desire that "all religions would be reconciled and all races would come together in unity and love".

The program included the film *Summer Breeze*, about the travels and teaching activities of two Baha'is who are well known entertainers, Seals and Crofts.

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# Pender Island Lions Club stages dinner to honour Burns

BY ELEANOR HARRISON

The Pender Island Lions Club put on a traditional celebration dinner in honour of Robert Burns on Saturday evening at the School Community Centre. It was attended by about 165 people.

Lion J. Moebes, past-president of the club, presided at the head table. The master of ceremonies was Gordon Wallace.

Twelve guests were seated at the head table. They included Jack Little, president of the Pender Island branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and Mrs. Little, and Lions life member George Pearson attended from Victoria.

The traditional dinner was prepared by the ladies of the Lions

Club and served by 10 Pender Island students.

The head table guests were piped to their places by piper Rob Barrica. The traditional Selkirk Grace was given by Lion Stew Corbett.

After the cock-a-leekie soup had been served, the glorious haggis was carried in by Stew Ward to stirring bagpipe music. The address to the haggis was given by Jim Cowan and Gordon Berry gave the traditional toast to Robert Burns.

This year Pender Islands' local orchestra, composed of Manfred Burandt, Bob Allison and Geoff Kirby, did a wonderful job of entertaining the guests after the dinner.

Mrs. Millie Colley sang a beautiful Scottish song, accompanied on the piano by Douglas Harker, and Rob Barrica played special Scottish airs on the bagpipes during the evening.

The three door prizes were won by Ted Dever, Bea Chisholm and Maggie Mennie.

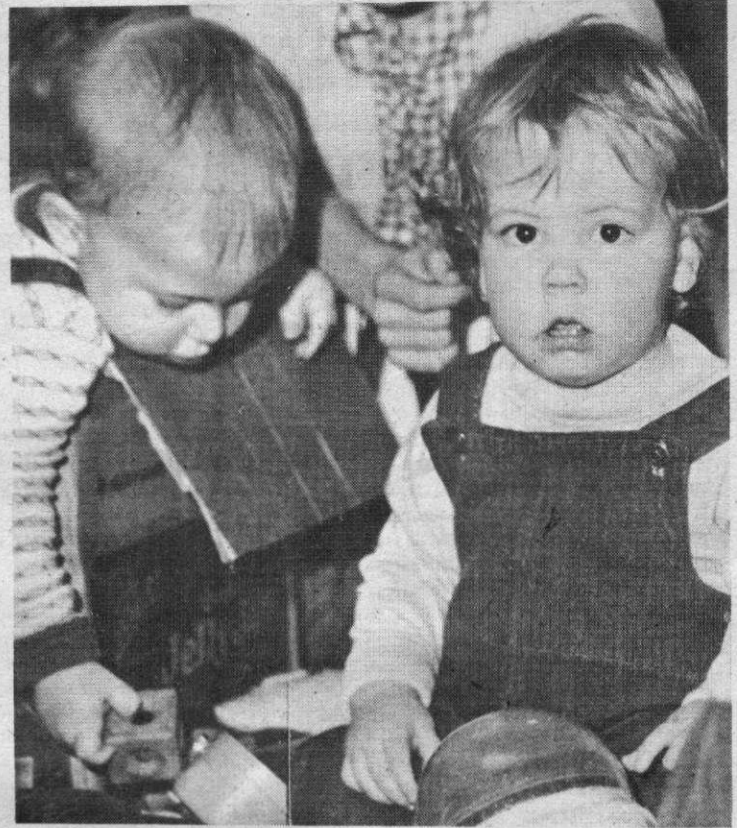
The affair was convened by Douglas Harker and his wife, Betty.

## Woodley to continue as chairman

Glenn Woodley has been elected to serve again as chairman of the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission.

Bev Unger has been named vice-chairman and Edith Sacker, treasurer. Kathleen McCurdy will continue to serve as secretary.

*It was their party too*



When volunteer workers at the Family Centre in Ganges had a party Sunday, Erik Lundstrom, left, and Andrew Vicker took part in the fun. And why not? After all, if it wasn't for youngsters like them, the need for a Family Centre wouldn't exist.

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Inserted by the PC Committee to re-elect Don Taylor

## This week at Fernwood School

Hard to believe but the first month of 1980 is already over and we are exactly half-way through the school year. Yeah!

Well, the snow has disappeared only to be replaced by Jack Frost. Let's hope he sticks around long enough for us to dust off our skates and our skating!

A busy eventful time at the school this week and some of the happenings are listed below.

### KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Highlight of the week for the children was the visit to Greenwood with Mrs. Powell. While there they entertained the folks with a play, *The Snowman*, sang several songs and several of our members showed off their instrumental expertise on the piano.

An invitation was extended to the residents to come and visit us in our school. We are proud of our school and would consider it a privilege to share our enjoyment with our senior citizens.

On behalf of the school, especially the kindergarten children, a big thank you to Jeanne McMahon for the donation of a beautiful gingerbread house for the class. Oh to be in kindergarten again. Yum!

### MILK SALES

The student council, under the sponsorship of Mr. Prendergast, is selling milk and fruit juices on a daily basis.

The student council will charge only 25c. a drink, reasoning that it is easier for young children to carry one coin to school rather than several. It is also quicker to make change and above all, it is a real deal!

White milk, chocolate drink, apple juice and orange juice are available and the idea is to offer a service to our student body and not to make piles of money. The student council will be co-signers of the bank account and Mr. Marsh has indicated that they will make the decision as to disposal of the profits. He also added that it must be spent on an item which will benefit the total school population. Now I wonder how much a small swimming pool would cost? Or maybe a trip to Hawaii for every body!

### STAFF TORTURE

It gives me great pleasure to remind all teachers that Mr. Marsh has set Thursday, February 7 as the day when Mrs. Stewart will give the staff their polio and tetanus shots. Ho! Ho! Ho! I could make a small fortune charging admission to see the great event. I'll see all you teachers there!

### CRAFT AFTERNOON

Mr. Marsh has informed me that he will shortly announce a craft afternoon for students in Grades 1 -

4. A variety of activities will be offered, from needlework to wood-working, and the program will run for one hour every Friday afternoon for a six-week period, beginning February 1.

Students will be able to choose the leisure time activity they would like to learn and will then be divided into small working groups with both teachers and parents instructing the groups.

### BASKETBALL GAME

Congratulations to five of our girls who represented the island in a recent pre-midget basketball game against Duncan. They were joined by four girls from our sister school, Salt Spring Elementary, and won the game handily by a score of 34 - 10. Well done, girls!

### LANDSCAPING

The school grounds continue to look attractive with most of the shrubbery seeming to have taken. A flowering plum tree has been added to the entrance garden and should provide a very attractive splash of colour in the spring. A plea from the younger set: when are the swings going to be put on the frames?

### FERNWOOD GRADUATES

We read the *Driftwood* with interest this past week. Three of our last year's Grade 7 students made the Grade 8 honour roll.

At the awards day ceremony in June Mr. Marsh commented that we would be hearing good things about the graduating class and it looks as if they didn't let him down.

Congratulations to Monik Nordine, Sarah Wiebe and Sandra Desbottes for making the honour roll.

We also read the comments attributed to the student council of Gulf Islands Secondary School and with due respect to their opinion, Mr. Marsh feels that Fernwood Elementary students will gain a reputation for their academic performances, their hard work and their team spirit, not for their addiction to pot! Come on, guys. You were joking, right?

Anyway, let's get serious again. Apparently the primary children and parents had a great time swimming. So did the teachers until Mrs. Smith tried to get them to do some water ballet. By all reports Canada's synchronized swimming team has nothing to worry about!

David Bremner,  
Grade 6, Editor

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# Call for trade sanctions by NDP 'irresponsible', says Gervais

The call by a number of NDP candidates for trade sanctions against the United States has been attacked by Liberal candidate Leo Gervais.

The call for sanctions has been made to oppose the routing of supertankers off the B.C. coast.

"These statements go beyond the usual irresponsible statements we have become accustomed to hearing from a party that knows it will not have to shoulder the responsibility of governing," said Gervais, who is contesting the Cowichan - Malahat - The Islands seat in the February 18 election.

"I could understand them if they were Marxist-Leninists or Iranian students," he went on, "but they are shocking coming from people who could actually sit in the Canadian parliament."

### FOOD SUPPLY

"Where do they think B.C. gets over 50% of its food supply?" he asked.

The candidate suggested that a majority Liberal government would enable the prime minister to "be free to deal with international affairs... without having to defer to small, irresponsible groups before acting."

Leo Gervais says that Prime Minister Clark's "flip-flops" over Petrocan and his government's inability to set oil prices without a major row with (Premiers) Davis and Lougheed have both undermined every Canadian's confidence in the Conservative government.

He feels the Tory approach to dealing with energy is "equally disturbing."

### SOLID RECORD

He contends that the Liberal record in dealing with energy problems is solid and that those problems have been dealt with in a responsible manner.

Petrocan, he says, "is one of the Liberal government's greatest accomplishments."

"...It proved to be an effective Canadian presence in the largely foreign-owned oil and gas industry and served successfully as Canada's main agent in securing foreign oil supplies."

Gervais points out that the Liberals encouraged insulation of homes with grants; gave incentives to the pulp and paper industry to introduce energy-saving devices; and launched a campaign to assist Canadians in adjusting to new realities in energy.

### STABLE, DEPENDABLE

Turning to international affairs, the Cowichan teacher feels that under Pierre Trudeau Canada was known as a country with a stable, dependable and competent government.

On the other hand, he says, the Tory government made Canada "the laughing stock of the international community" with its proposal to move the Canadian embassy in Israel.

"I don't want to think about what could happen with NDP policy deciding our fate in these times nor would Joe Clark's record of flip-flops, dithering and bungling, enhance my state of mind."

### DELEGATION


Gervais proposes that a delegation be sent to Moscow to resolve the question of the Olympics and to offer Canada's help as a peace-keeper in Afghanistan. He feels the

stakes are too high to consider a boycott.

"The damage to our relations and trade with Russia and Communist-bloc countries would cost Canadians contracts and jobs and possibly an increase in east-west tension that could get out of

control," says Gervais.

He says Canada should demonstrate its opposition to Russia's foreign policy, specifically with regard to Afghanistan, by presenting positive steps that are acceptable to Canada's friends and allies.

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**Salt Spring Island  
PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

- New constitution to approve
- Election of officers
- Islands Trust report
- Regional Director's report
- Discussion of new projects

Monday, Feb. 11th - 8:00 pm  
Elementary School Library

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# SPORTS

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## On wet soccer pitch

# Strikers down Sooke 4 - 2

BY STRICK AUST

A cold driving rain and an inch of water on the soccer pitch greeted the Strikers as they climbed out of their cars in preparation for a very important match Saturday.

Our opponents, Sooke, were in second place in our division with a total of 13 points for the season. Salt Spring, along with two other teams, was one point behind in a joint third-place position. The only difference between the three teams was that we had played one less game than they had, and a win or tie on Saturday would give us a definite advantage of securing second place for the season.

The last time we played Sooke they beat us 2-1, and the boys knew that they were not going to be easily beaten.

For the first five minutes, neither team could gain effective control of the game. Because of the water on the field, passes which normally might have sprung a forward for a shot on goal were falling short and being scooped up by the opposite side.

The Strikers normally push-pass the ball, keeping it on the ground for better control, but they quickly realized that under those field conditions this was not going to work.

Instead, they started to chip the ball when passing, thereby getting the distance they needed to

complete their passes. Almost immediately, they started to control the game and keep Sooke hemmed in at their own end.

Sooke is very strong defensively and having them in their own end does not necessarily mean that you are going to get many shots on goal. Their defence kept clearing the ball out and if it weren't for some very determined work by the Strikers' half-back line, they could have broken out at any time.

Our forwards were being foiled time after time just seconds before they could get their shots off, but finally their sustained pressure paid off and Stuart Lyon pounded home a rebound from a shot by Jeff Moger. Two minutes later, Jeff registered his own goal and with only minutes to play in that half, Erin Fewings registered his second goal of the season.

The score was now 3-0 for the Strikers and Sooke was unable to register any offensive drive at all.

**DID HIS HOMEWORK**  
Sooke's coach had been doing his homework during the first half, and had noticed that we used our wings almost continuously. When we started up the field at the beginning of the second half, we found that our passing plays were being shortcircuited, as Sooke had our wingers double-covered, effectively eliminating them from the play.

This tactic put the Strikers into a

bit of a panic and for the first 10 minutes Sooke took control of the game for the first time. Brian Stacey, Striker goalie, played an inspired 10 minutes, holding Sooke to only one goal and also giving the Strikers the time they needed to overcome Sooke's new tactic.

Now, instead of going up the wings, the Strikers' half-backs, Todd Chase and Mike Kruger, were working the ball into the centre and their hard work sprang Stuart Lyon for his second goal of the game.

Determination and heads-up play by the Strikers had overcome an excellent tactic by Sooke and although Sooke did score one more goal late in the game, once they had overcome that tactic, the game was virtually over.

This Saturday the premiere game in our division will be played here on Salt Spring, at Portlock Park at 11 am.

Salt Spring Strikers host the Lansdowne Mavericks, the first-place team, who are undefeated in 12 games.

They intend to make No. 13 unlucky for the Mavericks, but to do so they will need all the support they can get. If you enjoy good soccer, please come out on Saturday and root for the Strikers. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Salt Spring Island Parks & Recreation Commission

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**Down the Gutter**

With KEN COLLINS

It's always good to see some nice triples coming from the lower-average bowlers. From the Golden-Agers' league we have Bett Taylor (average 109) coming through with a 391 triple. Jim Holder (average 136) having a 491, and Anne Code (average 159) bowling a 581. From the other leagues we had June Webb (average 168) having a 689.

Here are the top scores of the week: Linda Schwagley, 713; Ken Collins, 727-736; Bob Akerman, 725; Terry Jenkins, 773; Frank Keoppel, 727; and Connie Hardy, 684.

The bowlers of the week were Linda Schwagley and Terry Jenkins.


Did you know that bowling is the biggest participant sport in British Columbia with a grand total of 144,000 people bowling every week? Another fact is that far more women bowl than men.

Many thanks to the many sponsors of the Queen of the Lanes competition. When are they going to have a King of the Lanes competition?


One of the happiest groups to be found bowling at Leisure Lanes is the recreation group, which bowls every Wednesday morning. These people don't let the fact that they are handicapped stand in their way. A lot of credit must go to Donna Ford and the other girls, plus Eddie Waddell, who spend their time scoring and encouraging them.


**Tip of the week**

Try to stay cool at all times. If you tense up you will only start to push your ball.



# LEO GERVAIS





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# Gervais, Leo, LIBERAL X

Authorized by the official agent of Leo Gervais, Liberal.

**SPORTS**

# Sockeyes chalk up important win over Gordon Head Sunday

BY MALCOLM LEGG

A very wet, muddy weekend managed to close all soccer fields on Salt Spring but a couple of our local teams found fields available in Victoria, and also found their hosts very hospitable. Both the Strikers and Sockeyes found the conditions to their liking in picking up big victories, but Sunday's Sockeye victory held even more importance for our local girls' squad.

**Salt Spring Sockeyes, 3; Gordon Head, 2.**

Sunday will long be remembered by the Sockeyes not so much for the fine win over Gordon Head, but more for their maturing in attitude and team play.

All season long the Salt Spring girls have struggled with player shortages, injuries, bad luck and inconsistent play, causing the team to pick up only two ties in their last seven games. The biggest problem seemed to be the girls' lack of confidence in their own abilities both as a team and as individual players.

**TEAM MEETING**

After the previous weekend's loss the Sockeyes held a team meeting in an attempt to get at the root of this problem, attitude. Well last Sunday the rewards of the meeting were evident.

A full complement of players made the trip into Victoria and they out-played their opponents for a full 80 minutes to pick up the win. But the biggest difference came in the girls' attitudes because they went into the game believing they could win and even after they fell behind they retained their composure, rallied and forged into the lead.

For the first time this season the girls played as a fully cohesive unit, where every girl worked with one another and supported one another. Every girl came up with a solid effort, in fact no one girl was a stand-out, but rather it was a solid team effort, a reflection of the old Sockeyes teams.

**DESERVE MENTION**

From the goal out every girl deserves mention. Ruth Smith, the Sockeyes' new goalie, had a relatively easy day but in the last 15 minutes she proved her worth as she came up with several key saves to preserve the one-goal lead.

The defence had its finest match as a unit. Theresa and Sunday Byron played in the middle and controlled the flow of the game. The threesome behind them, Leanne Greenhough, Susan Spence and Karen Bird, had a tough job watching the fleet-footed Gordon Head forwards and they won out every time. The defence showed great stability as they rarely mis-cued and covered for one another excellently.

The attack had its finest day as it came up with more goals than any other league game since their opening encounter. The wingers, Vicky Byron, Cara Cruickshank, Karen Hale, and Denise de la Franiere, played their finest soccer

of the season, showing a renewed aggressiveness and ability to tie defenders in knots. For Denise it was her finest game of the season as she patrolled her wing as a possessed demon.

**MASTERFUL**

In the middle, Shauneen Spence, Brenda Akerman, Becky and Geraldine Hagan, created the masterful plays that sunk Gordon Head. Shauneen with two and Becky with a single, on her birthday yet, did the scoring but every Sockeye contributed her part to these goals.

The offence found a new spirit

and desire to want to score and also showed great cohesion which caused Gordon Head headaches all through the game.

With the victory finally in the bag the Sockeyes have proved they belong in the Division, something they all questioned earlier. Now they must try to maintain this new-found spirit and attitude.

With the realization that every player is an important part of the Sockeye unit the girls should be steady in their play and develop into a very competitive team.

# Salt Spring Kicks are victorious over Doman's

Contributed

**Juan de Fuca Doman's, 1; Salt Spring Kicks, 6**

This was the second game the Kicks played since the Christmas break. The first game, played at Portlock Park, ended in a 3-3 tie. In that game the Kicks had more scoring opportunities than their opposition, but they failed to take full advantage of those chances.

Last Saturday the Kicks played in Metchosin. They dominated the field for most of the game, but in the last 15 minutes they lost contact with the ball and with each other. During those last minutes

there were some unfortunate defensive lapses, one of which resulted in a penalty for Doman's. Jack Andrews, who played a first-class game for the full 70 minutes, had no chance against a very well-taken penalty kick.

For the better part of the game, however, the Kicks were in control. They moved well, passed well and took advantage of most opportunities.

Paul Cottrell, back in scoring form again, produced a hat-trick for the team. Andrew Hoeller scored from a well-placed free kick, taken from outside the penalty area. Jonathan Jenkins and Lyle Brown both scored similar goals, outracing Doman's defence to the ball and allowing the goalkeeper no chance at all.

There were weaknesses in the Kicks' game, but their play was better than it had been the previous week. Two players were missing, so the team played with 11 men. Everyone played the full 70 minutes, fortunately without injury.

# Women plan formation of softball association

A group of local women met to discuss the organization of the Salt Spring Island Women's Softball Association last week. Such an association would make it possible for women's softball teams on the island to collectively organize and administer their league, a spokesman said this week. It would ensure fair representation at all decision-making meetings and increased co-operation for fund-raising and promotion, she said.

Membership structure and voting policy were major concerns. Some expressed the opinion that it was important for the players to control their own league while others felt that coaches and any other interested persons should be allowed to participate in the membership. Yet others felt that there could be open membership with a player-only executive.

The next meeting will be held February 13 at 7 pm in the Salt Spring Elementary School library and will finalize the structure of the association. It is hoped that all teams intending to participate in the 1980 softball season will be represented by at least two players, *Driftwood* was told.

"Hopefully, this new organization will unite the teams in a harmonious way and generally benefit the recreational community of the island," said the spokesman. "Let's make it happen!"

# Nature Club program

The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club's program for February 1980 is as follows.

On February 5 the Strattons will lead a combined walk and hike in the Ganges Heights area. This will be followed by a slide show at Central Hall of trekking in Nepal. Participants are requested to take a lunch. Meeting place is Centennial Park at 10 am.

On February 12 Marjorie Beggs will lead a walk in Ruckle Park. Meeting place is Centennial Park at 10 am. or Drummond Park at 10.15 am.

Gerry Holland will lead a hike in the Shepherd Hills area on the same day. Meeting place, Centennial Park at 10 am.

On February 19 Anne Marie Dahlke will lead a "moss" walk in the Beaver Point area. The club advises that a magnifying glass would be useful.

Ruby Alton will lead a hike in the subdivision at Reginald Hill.

Meeting place for both walk and hike is Centennial Park at 10 am. or Drummond Park at 10.15 am.

On February 26 there will be a guided tour of the new Natural History Gallery at the Provincial Museum in Victoria. Meeting place is at the front entrance of the Provincial Museum at noon. The tour is limited to 25 members and reservations may be obtained by phoning 537-2354.

Val Keys will lead a hike and walk to Nose Point. Meeting place is Centennial Park at 10 am.

# Duplicate Bridge

Gulf Islands Bridge Club winners January 28 were as follows:

East-west: first, Shirley Love and Phyllis Henderson; second, Helen Shandro and Audrey Allan; third, Mary K. Thomas and Gordon Hutton.

North-south: first, Dr. and Mrs. Hyslop; second, Hilda Orchard and Anne McConnell, third, Irene Hawksworth and Dorothy Sneddon.

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# Panorama Leisure Centre pop



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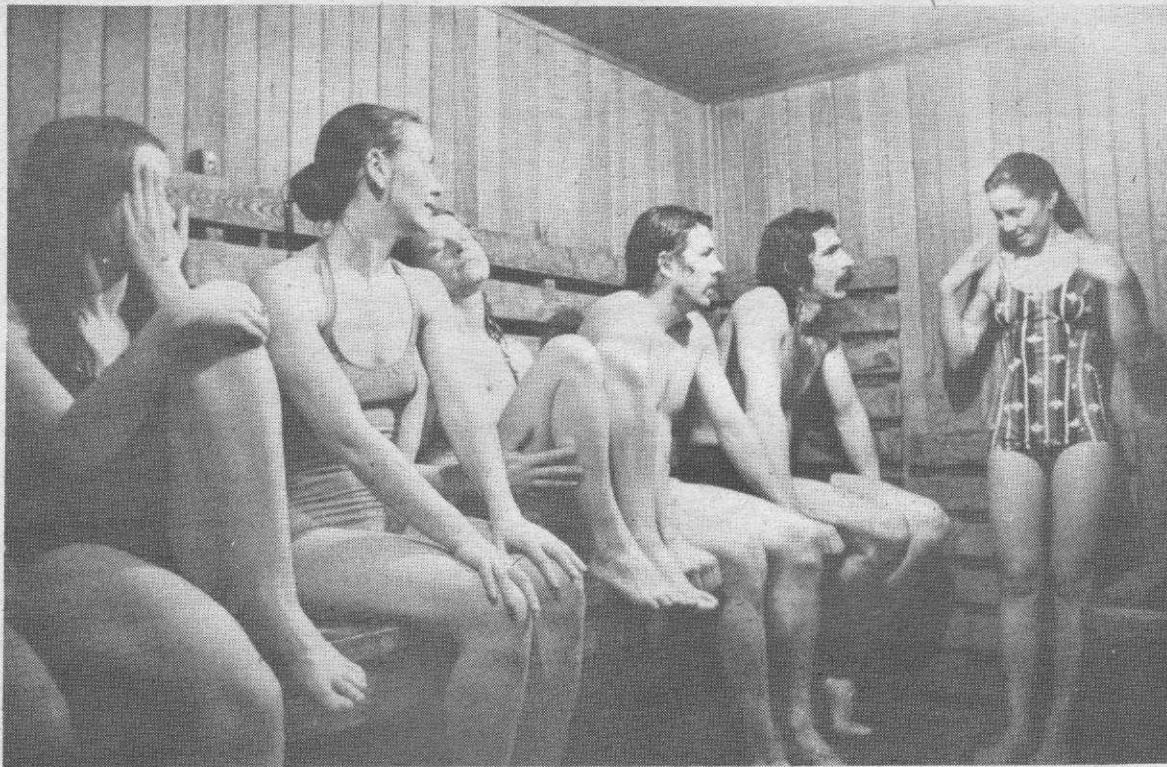
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The Recreation Commission has promoted the car-pooling concept since it discontinued the bus service.

The skating and swimming party leaves Fulford Harbour on the five o'clock ferry and returns on the 9 pm sailing from Swartz Bay.

Nan's Coffee Bar in Fulford stays open Sunday afternoon so one can enjoy something to eat before boarding the ferry. Nan's is also a good place to connect with a ride.

If an hour of soaking in the pool is not enough, there is a duffer hockey game which begins at 7 pm. The teams are made up of Salt Spring Island men and are roughly divided between those who live in Fulford and the rest of the island.

There is even hockey for the youngsters who want to play. From six until seven o'clock a team of Sidney hockey players practises. Salt Spring kids are invited to join in if they wish.

### PRINTING

Driftwood — 537-2211

## Salt Spring Island Fire Department

### PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A CHIMNEY

#### Pursuant to the Fire Services Act:

No person shall commence the work of construction of a chimney (metal or masonry) before first obtaining a permit from the Salt Spring Island Fire Department. The only exception is that a chimney permit may be included in the general building permit.

*-Chapter 3 of the regulations governing the construction, installations, and maintenance of chimneys, fireplaces, smoke-pipes and furnace chambers.*

5-1

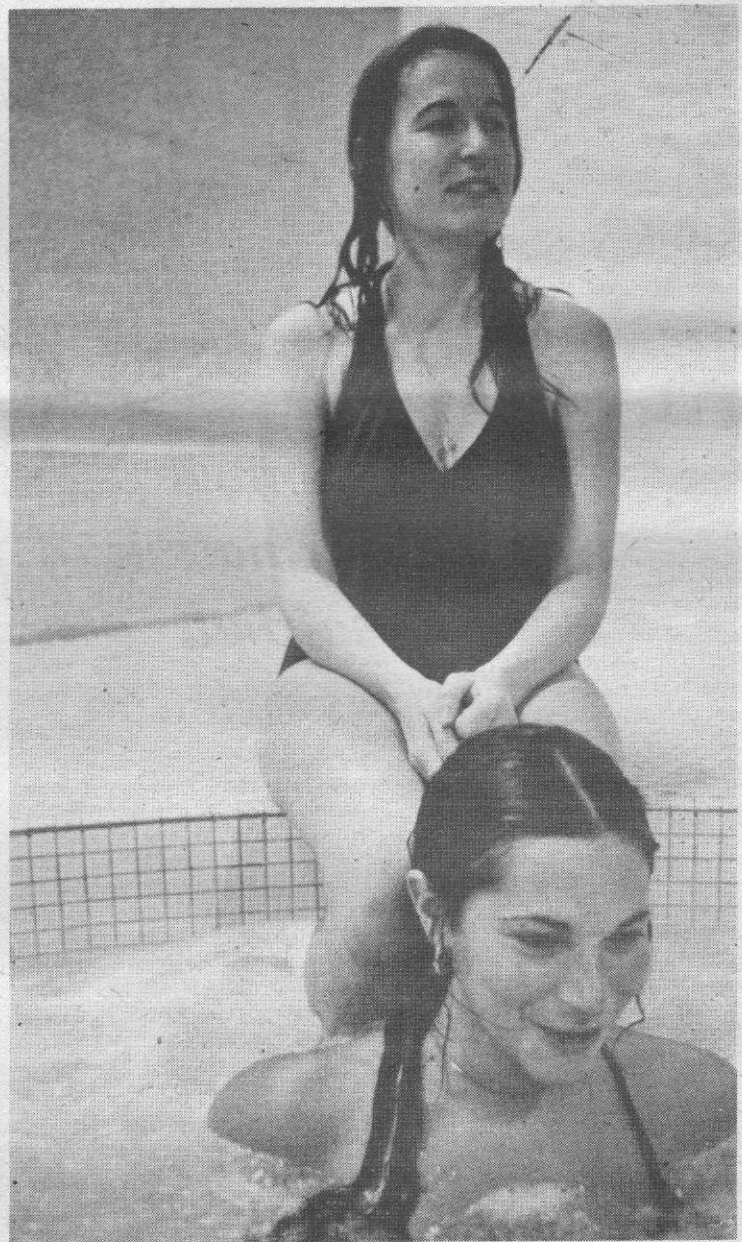
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## ATTENTION GULF ISLANDERS!

### DON TAYLOR'S

### Schedule for Saturday, February 9th, 1980 to Outer Gulf Islands:

- 7:30 am — Leave Maple Bay Yacht Club
- 9:45 am — Arrive Galiano, Sturdies Bay
- 10:00 am — Meeting at Galiano Community Hall
- 11:15 — Leave Sturdies Bay to arrive Mayne Island, Miners Bay 11:30 am.
- 11:45 am — Informal meeting at Mayne Inn
- 1:15 pm — Leave Miners Bay to arrive Hope Bay, N. Pender at 1:45 pm
- 2:00 pm — Meeting at Pender Community School Hall
- 4:10 pm — Leave Browning Harbour to Saturna
- 4:30 pm — Meeting at Saturna Community Hall

For further information phone 748-4021.

*Looking forward to meeting you.*

*—Don Taylor, M.P.*



Inserted by the PC Committee to re-elect Don Taylor

5-1

### Meet the Liberal candidate

## LEO GERVAIS

Tuesday, Feb. 12 - 7:30 pm

### COFFEE PARTY

at the home of Margaret McDonald  
170 Monteith Drive

537-2204

5-1

# ular with Salt Spring Islanders

It was Sunday night, and the Panorama Leisure Centre in Sidney was for Salt Spring Islanders only.

Each week two hours of pool time and one hour of ice time is provided for islanders by the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission.

Participation in the free program is increasing despite some minor transportation problems. A free bus service from Ganges was cancelled.

Panorama Leisure Centre is 10 minutes drive from Swartz Bay and offers a sauna, whirl pool, swimming pool and skating rink. The swimming pool has a low diving board, a slide, a rope for swinging into the pool with and a basketball hoop and ball for water sports.

### CAR-POOLING

Anyone headed for the pool without a ride can be sure of a lift from the ferry.



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# THE HISTORY OF THE STARK FAMILY

## The murder of Louis Stark

*The final chapter of Marie Stark-Wallace's family history is presented here. The manuscript, which she wrote herself, was researched by Peggy Walker, a cousin of Mrs. Frank Waterfall of North Beach Road. Mrs. Walker spent four years tracing the history of the Estes and Stark families.*

Louis Stark was born on a plantation in Louisville, Kentucky. He never knew his own age, but he remembered seeing the stars fall in 1833.

From his earliest recollections he wore a one-piece garment of coarse home-spun cloth, his only covering. It served, too, for a sleeping gown. The children's cabin was a dirt floor.

The children slept on old mattresses, with rags for a covering. For their dinner a large pot was placed in the centre of the one big room. There were no seats. Each child had a spoon and a piece of cornbread, and they all ate from that one pot of stew.

### KEPT A NURSERY

In spite of these handicaps, Louis grew up to be a strong young man. He was the son of a white slave-master who kept a nursery and taught Louis how to graft fruit trees.

Under another master, he learned the trade of a barber and worked as a barber on the boats plying the Mississippi River. It was never learned how he stood with his boss, but the slaves sometimes worked and shared their money with the boss. Otherwise they must have free papers to work for themselves.

During this time Louis shaved the notorious Jesse James, who was fleeing from the police and wanted to hide his identity.

Louis Stark went to California during the gold rush. If he was a free man, his free papers could not be trusted, for he had to pass as a Spaniard to hide his identity.

It was there he met his wife, Sylvia Estes. They were married in 1855. Their two oldest children, Willis and Serena, were born in California, the rest of the family of seven were born in British Columbia.

### TO CANADA

Because of the possibility of the laws in California being changed to make it a slave state, the Stark and Estes families decided to join a group of free slaves (Howard Estes, Sylvia's father, having bought his family's freedom) from San Francisco, and migrate to Canada.

It was learned that Sir James Douglas, whose mother was West Indian, would be partial to the petition of the coloured people. A delegation had gone before to ask permission from Douglas, then governor, to settle in B.C.

So in 1858, with a group of 600 to 800 free people, they came to B.C. and settled in the Saanich Peninsula. Different members of the group scattered to various sections of B.C., some settling in Victoria. Land could be obtained at the rate of 20 shillings per acre, one-quarter to be paid on taking possession.

### AN OATH

The taking of an oath of allegiance was required for citizens to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a British subject. In 1860, Louis Stark, with his wife Sylvia and their two children, arrived on Salt Spring Island.

In the early 70's Louis sailed from Salt Spring Island to a new home in Nanaimo. His son Willis stayed on Salt Spring with his mother, and his other son, John, was prospecting on the Stikine and Skeena Rivers.

After farming on Salt Spring, Louis moved to Nanaimo, where he lived for some time before purchasing a farm in the Cranberry district, outside of Nanaimo.



This early post card shows Willis Stark who was famous on the Gulf Islands for his cougar hunting abilities.

### A TEACHER

Emma, his daughter, trained in Nanaimo for her teaching career. On August 1, 1874 (this information obtained from school records) she was engaged to teach in a one-room school in the Cedar district.

The children who lived a long way from the school boarded with Emma. One of the students was Marie Stark, her younger sister. On weekends Emma rode home on the back of her horse with Marie riding behind her. Their legs dangled in the water of a stream they had to cross. In the winter they went back to school on a home-made sleigh, pulled by oxen.

Emma taught for several years at a starting salary of \$40 a month. On December 27, 1878, she married James Clark in Victoria, B.C.

She died on July 30, 1890 at the age of 33, and was buried on Salt Spring Island. Her grave is next to her grandfather's, Howard Estes.

### STARK'S CROSSING

About three-quarters of a mile away from the old farmsite in the Cranberry district stands the intersection of two roads known as Stark's Crossing. The size of the property that Louis owned is not officially recorded, although some area residents say the property contained two lakes.

Louis Stark's nearest neighbour was a butcher by trade. Every week the butcher killed a lamb for Stark, keeping a quarter for himself.

It was this neighbour who brought the tragic news to the authorities in Nanaimo. He said that he and Stark were out hunting sheep the day before without success.

When they came to the butcher's place they were tired. He said he tried to persuade Stark to have tea at his home, but Stark would not stop. The butcher said that Stark wished to go to his own cabin.

### DIDN'T APPEAR

So he gave him a pit-lamp to light his way. The story told was that they were to meet at the butcher's house and go out again the next day. Next day Stark failed to appear so the neighbour went to his house. The door was not locked so he went inside and felt in the ashes in the fireplace; they were cold.

Then he searched for him, but did not find him until night came on. Stark's hat and cane were found in the bush not far from the road leading to the home of a man who was unfriendly to Stark. His body was found at the foot of a cliff. The Chinese man who worked on the Stark farm had also disappeared, and his disappearance was to remain a mystery.

John Stark had written to his father, naming the day he would return. That was good news to the old man, quite naturally he would tell the butcher, as well as other friends.

### FOUL PLAY

When John came back, he took over the care of the animals on the farm and then wrote to the authorities in Victoria. He asked their assistance, as his father's death hinted at foul play.

He wrote several letters before he got an answer. His last letter said that anyone who had paid taxes in the country as long as his father had, deserved some recognition. The answer came immediately, and a detective was sent to the farm.

John never knew why the delay in answering his letters, but the detective seemed to have such small interest in the case that John dismissed him and hired his own detective and worked with him.

John and the butcher were very friendly. He told John that the owner of the mine then in operation had given him \$50,000 for some technical advantage he had shown him about the new mine.

### COAL

Louis Stark's property contained large amounts of coal which were owned by Stark but were under development by mining interests based in Victoria.

It was strange too, that the man on the street knew more about the case than John himself. One man told John he would tell him who killed his father and all about the case when he got the opportunity. That man was drowned in Cowichan Lake. That closed another avenue to the murder.

There had been a man arrested for the murder but he successfully produced an alibi and was released from the charges.

Another man who offered information to John was a Scotsman who lived in northern B.C. He telegraphed John, saying to hold the investigation until he arrived. He was murdered in Prince Rupert on his way to Nanaimo.

### BRIBES

John and the detective soon discovered that the man caught near the trail where the hat and the cane were found was not the guilty party. They also discovered that bribes were given to men whose duty was to guard the lives of the public.

Willis, John's brother, joined him at the farm. By now they were suspicious of the butcher. One day the butcher invited them to dinner. They both had pistols, so

if there was any intimation of food poisoning, they would shoot him down before they died in true western style.

The butcher seemed to be getting suspicious of John. Once he came to John's house, holding an axe handle in his hand. He was so restless, John thought he saw murder in his eyes, so he took his gun from the wall and pretended he was cleaning it, slyly watching the butcher. This lasted until the butcher went home.

### WENT HUNTING

It was strange that the butcher seemed to take John's detective in his confidence. He and the detective often went out hunting together. One night they were camping out. The butcher said to the detective, "I like Willis, but I don't like that John."

"If you will help me put him out of the way, you will be well paid for it." This knowledge came back to John. From then on he never slept in the house alone at night. Sometimes he rode his horse as far away as Wellington and stayed all night with friends, then returned the next day.

One evening John went to the butcher's to get his milk. He still continued to take milk from him, regardless of the risk, as he was still working with the detective.

He was standing on one side of the cow while the butcher was milking on the other side. Suddenly a flash from a pistol-shot underneath the cow sent a bullet whizzing past John. All John said was, "Now I know you," and left immediately.

### ARRESTED

He had collected all the evidence he thought necessary for a conviction. He had the butcher arrested, not for attempted murder of himself, but for the murder of his father.

An autopsy revealed that the tale the butcher told was entirely false. The victim had eaten his breakfast shortly before his death and the remains were three days old, instead of a night and one day.

Congelment was complete before the limb was broken. The stable dirt on his boots showed they had not gone through the bush. A single concussion showed there had been no fall from a 1,000 ft. cliff. Also a hunter gave evidence that he hunted birds along the foot of the cliff on the same day the butcher claimed that he was searching for Stark, but the hunter said he saw nothing on the rock where the remains were found.

### FREED

After all the evidence and witnesses were heard, the butcher was allowed to depart. The hunter said he would not have given his testimony if he had known the case would prove a failure, for he had to live in the district.

The last evidence, proving his tale was false, came too late to be classified with the other evidence: A cougar had caught a lamb from the barn and John thought to look in a thicket close to the barn to find it. He did not find the lamb, but he found a bundle of soiled clothing his father had been in the habit of taking to a neighbour to be laundered.

It was the belief of the people who lived in the area, and members of the butcher's family later agreed, that the butcher had been paid \$50,000 by the mining company to kill Stark. The murder was in 1895.

But he had been set free and allowed to proceed to England with his wealth.