

CENTURY PARK MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER, 1973

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With another successful year behind them the Century Park Museum Association is now deeply involved in planning for the coming year of operation at Heritage Village. Members of the Board and Committees of the Association, along with Village staff, are giving much time and thought to their responsibility of presenting to the public an educational and recreational attraction worthy of being part of Burnaby.

In the past year the Village administration did not always run smoothly but suffice to say that difficulties were diligently pursued until solutions were obtained. The turnover of seasonal staff has been an unsettling factor in the Village operation but since employment can be guaranteed only on a casual basis this situation is to be expected. While the situation put a distinct strain on administrative personnel the problem was coped with satisfactorily with the help of volunteers who gave so generously of their time and knowledge.

It is regrettable that Mrs. Phyllis Harris, Museum Curator for the past season, has left to accept another post. The position she vacated will be filled as soon as another suitable person is found.

Again, this past year, much of the physical work in the Village was accomplished through the financial assistance of an L.I.P. grant. A second L.I.P. grant project resulted in the C.P.M.A. taking on a new dimension in their endeavor to preserve local historical records. A Burnaby writer, one full-time and one part-time researcher and a stenographer were employed for five months gathering together, for the first time under one cover, resource material relating to the history of the Municipality. Also, a book tentatively titled "The Bygones of Burnaby" has been completed and plans to publish this book are being formulated by the Board of the C.P.M.A.

With the formation of an Education Committee a program of instructive tours of Heritage Village for certain school grades has been laid out with hopes that this type of educational program will be ready to commence early next year. First, however, it will be necessary to recruit and train volunteer docents who will be available on a regular basis to guide and inform the school children as well as other scheduled groups. For any adult, either man or woman, interested in taking part in a worthwhile project in the community, the role of docent would be most rewarding. A docent training program will be set up to start in January 1974. A publicity campaign for volunteers is planned for November but in the meantime Mrs. Kay Zimmerman, Co-ordinator of Volunteers, will happily take names at 298-7925.

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For a look at what transpired in the Village itself during the past season, Tony Scott, Executive Director, summarizes:

"With the completion of display changes and improvements, including: Elworth House, the Automobile Shop, the Dress Shop, the North West Mounted Police Post, the Gift Shop and the Ice Cream Parlour, Heritage Village opened for the 1973 season on Easter Sunday, April 21. Acting on behalf of the Mayor and Council

of Burnaby, Alderman Doreen Lawson officiated at a brief opening ceremony which was highlighted by the presence of the Burnaby Firemen's Band and members of the Burnaby Detachment RCMP including a mounted member in the uniform of 1873.

"During the summer, the Tram was sufficiently completed to be opened for public display with artifacts of B.C. Electric Railway days and partial interior restoration. Later, a short length of miniature railway track was laid by one of our affiliated groups: the B.C. Model Engineers Society, and steam-operated train rides were run by members of this group for the free enjoyment of our visitors. From the early part of the summer, a fine old Nickelodeon, on loan, provided music of the early nineteen-hundreds in the Ice Cream Parlour.

"Late September saw the installation of the old saddle-tank steam locomotive CURLY, formerly displayed at the P.N.E. grounds. This steam engine, originally used in the building of the Panama Canal, and in the U.S.A. and British Columbia for industrial and railway building was transported and installed at Heritage Village through the efforts and kind support of the Burnaby Jaycees, another of our affiliated groups. While acknowledging affiliated members we should not forget to mention the original one: the Burnaby Historical Society, which has provided much of the furniture and furnishings on display in Elworth House.

"Up to the time of writing, total visitor admissions at Heritage Village this year have been 50,000 persons. For July and August, admissions were up more than 6,000 persons over the same months in 1972 our first year. The general response has been most encouraging, particularly to our improved Gift Shop, operated by a well-supported Gift Shop Committee. One display that has proved of great visitor interest is the N.W.M.P. post, established for the RCMP's Centenary year in our log cabin and staffed by members of the 9th Burnaby Centre Venturers, Boy Scouts of Canada, as a summer project."

A big round of applause should certainly be given to the Venturers whose faithful attendance, colourful appearance and courteous manners were definite assets to the Village scene.

** Mrs. Rosemary Burnham, Chairman of the Gift Shop committee, extends on behalf of the Committee, grateful thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Shop a successful venture this past season. Three "Buyer's Marts" held this year all produced worthwhile hand-crafted items for sale in the Shop. Commercial outlets were also searched for saleable items that were in keeping with the era which the Village depicts. Fresh ideas on any aspect of the Gift Shop operation are invited and welcomed by the Committee.

** What is the good word on things to come? An attractive Five Year Master Development Plan has been worked out with further building and landscaping to be completed as soon as funds permit. One of the most welcome additions to the Village will be the replica of an old church to be built through the community interest and sponsorship of the South Burnaby Men's Club.

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In recognition of the valuable contribution of time and effort by volunteers during the past season, the Century Park Museum Association is holding a Christmas Tea. Any member who would like to drop in to meet the volunteers and help to express appreciation for their efforts is cordially invited to do so during the two hours the Tea will be in progress. The committee planning the Tea would be greatly assisted in its preparations if those members who plan to attend would call Mrs. Marg Beattie, Chairman of the Membership Committee; at 433-0148.

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In closing, it is only fitting that the President of the C.P.M.A. should have the last word:

"I would like to thank Pixie McGeachie for editing and Don Copan for producing this newsletter.

Volunteers help to make Heritage Village a unique and exciting place. I thank you all.

If you need transportation to the general membership meeting on November 29th please give me a call at 298-8861.

The access road off Sperling Avenue and the parking lot at the Burnaby Lake Pavilion do not have curbs so drive carefully particularly if it is foggy."

John Thomson,
President.

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*          COMING EVENTS          *
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* GENERAL MEETING .....November 29th at Burnaby *
*                               Lake Pavilion - 8.30 pm. *
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* CHRISTMAS TEA .....December 9th, between 2 pm *
*                               and 4 pm in the Ice Cream *
*                               Parlour at Heritage Village. *
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