BROATCH

Tom Broatch and his family moved to Ocean Park in 1923 from Coghlan, near Aldergrove. The road we call 130th Street today was called Broatch Road, and Tom cleared many of the road allowances in Ocean Park under contract to the Municipality. Later he worked for the Municipality as road foreman.

Tom's wife, Ethel (nee Perry), had been scheduled to sail on the Titanic with her parents, brother and sister, but were delayed and, fortunately, took a later ship. Tom and Ethel had three sons, Gordon, Robert and Raymond (Pete). Ethel operated a store at the United Church Camp upon the family's arrival in Ocean Park.

The Broatch's lived first in a house belonging to Ben Stevenson on the Ocean Park Road, and later moved to five acres at North Bluff and Broatch Road. Shortly after coming to Ocean Park, Tom built a cabin below the Great Northern tracks where his family stayed during the fishing season, and Tom fished for smelt. In the evenings Tom would row his catch to White Rock in his skiff, sending it on the evening train to Vancouver.

In the Thirties Tom had a contract to haul luggage from the train to the United Church camp. From the train he would skid it up the hill on a stoneboat, and his son Gordon and the author would take it to the camp in the Model A truck.

Local mail came on the morning train. A metal stand was mounted beside the tracks, and each day the postmaster would hang the outgoing mailbag on it. The baggage master on the train would swing out a metal arm to catch the mailbag and bring it on board, but if he missed, as sometimes happened, the mail would have to wait until the next day's train. The incoming mailbag was tossed out of the train by the baggage master. Needless to say, nothing fragile was trusted to the mail!

Ocean Park residents depended upon well water. The United Church Camp west of Stevenson Road had the only water system in Ocean Park. It was fed from a tank on Broatch Road south of Marine Drive. The tank was filled by a hydraulic ram that pumped water up from a ravine between Broatch and Olympic Avenue. A pipe ran along Sanford Road to the church camp. When wells went dry in the summer, residents could get water from taps in this pipe.

Precious indeed are the memories of life in our community from the early days of its settlement, and too rare the opportunities to hear them recalled by pioneer residents. *– Bob Broatch*

MUIR

Gladys vacationed here back in the early twenties when her father rented a house each summer on Marine Drive for $25 a month. She fell in love with the locale and decided to share it with her husband Frank many years later. The price of their 70'x140' lot far exceeded what her father paid but their $3,000 investment has served them well. They built their dream house overlooking Semiahmoo Bay where they raised two sons. Gladys recalls the first time she saw the property and thought, "it's going to take a lot of work," which it did, burning scrub brush, alders, and competing with Typhoon Freda while building in 1962. They still share their original home with family.

Both Muirs were United Church Missionaries serving in Japan and China. Active in our community, they taught school, and founded the Semiahmoo Bay Senior's drop in centre. If you're looking for them these days, check out the White Rock Community Orchestra.

Somehow Gladys has found time to serve as a director of the White Rock Singers and become a published author: 'Yun-Nan, South of the Clouds' – my life in S.W. China, '39 to '51; 'Bridges to the Rising Sun' – A Canadian family in Japan, '53 to '62; 'Summer Sun and Winter Wind' – growing up in Calgary, '20s and '30s; 'Where the Rivers Meet' – a novel set in North-Central B.C. *– Dee Walmsley*

First Library

In 1927, the Community Association spearheaded the drive to have a library in Ocean Park.

The Provincial Government offered any community the opportunity of a travelling library. Seventy-five books would be loaned for a period of six months, provided that (a) ten men in the community would sign the application form, and (b) the community be responsible for the return of the books, paying the express on same.

This topic was discussed at the November 9, 1927 meeting of the Association and "was felt to be a splendid idea by all present." Further, it was moved that the 10 men who sign the application form become the library committee of the Association.

Mr. Henry, the post master, offered to write to Victoria for the application form and also take charge of the library in the Post Office.

At the December 10, 1927 meeting, Mr. Henry reported that he'd "received word that the books had been shipped from Victoria but had not yet arrived at Crescent."

Since there was a motion carried at the January 7, 1928 annual meeting that the "regulation post up at the Post Office governing the library be adopted by this meeting," it is safe to assume that the library was operational by that time. *– Researcher, Anne Helps*

B.C.'S THREE MAJOR EARTHQUAKES *by Mark Madryga*

1918 – Friday, December 6, at 12:41 a.m. of magnitude 7, it occurred near the West Coast of Vancouver Island, and awakened people all over Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland.

1946 – Sunday, June 23, at 10:15 a.m. Its magnitude was 7.3 (Canada's largest on shore occurrence), with the epicentre being in the Forbidden Plateau area, central Vancouver Island. It did considerable damage up and down the coast, and caused one B.C. death when a small boat capsized due to a large earthquake-generated wave. O. P. residents remember this one.

1949 – August 22, occurring on the Queen Charlotte Fault (Canada's equivalent of the San Andreas Fault) with a magnitude of 8.1. This is Canada's largest historic earthquake but was felt in more northerly areas.