

Biographies

The articles that follow were based on information and photographs supplied by classmates. All classmates were in our grade at some time or other although not all finished school in Vernon.

The information has been rewritten and photographs cropped or enlarged for the enjoyment and pleasure of those who are interested in what happened to the Class of 1955 since we said our sad/indifferent/relieved farewells fifty years ago.

Classmates have been included according to first names. Those who are already deceased are listed at the back. On the last four pages are pictures of classmates in a condensed format to make it easier to put a name to a face when you get a smile across a crowded Schubert Centre in Vernon.

[Ed: I've written so much from so little for so long that now I can write anything from nothing — or for real auld timers, I write aught from naught.]

Akira Sakakibara left the small town of Vernon in 1959 to seek his “fame and fortune” in the metropolis of Vancouver. He never did find “fame” but his “fortune” was meeting his wife, Mia, in 1963. Two years later they were married. Four years after that they had a son, Michael.

Once Ak had his fortune and an heir, he returned to the Okanagan where he joined his brothers at Vernon Toyota Centre to make the Toyota dealership famous.

For the last three years of his 31 years in Vernon, Mia and Ak Sakakibara have been making more frequent trips up north. Son Michael and his wife in Quesnel have given them a delightful granddaughter, Alefa Jenna.

Ak has found that the best place to live on earth with his wife of 40 years is in his picturesque hometown. His time at work is getting shorter and shorter and time on the golf course with friends is getting longer and longer. [Ed: No, I did not mean it's taking him longer to get around the course but that he gets to play more often!]



Ak is fortunate in having great golf buddies and an endearing granddaughter. For him semi-retirement is relaxing and rewarding.

Alan Treheame (Rick) is always seeking another mountain to climb, a cause to support, or a body to cover.

He was a policeman, a military peacekeeper, a community leader, and an embalmer for 40 years.

He radiates energy and intellect.

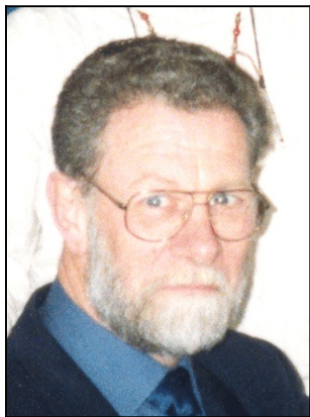
Born in England, Rick came to Canada in 1946, returned to England in 1954, spent two years as a London policeman, and served five years with the Royal Air Force. He served in Suez, Cyprus, Malta and Libya, receiving medals during the Suez crisis and the Cyprus civil war.

In 1975 he joined Vernon Funeral Home and has embalmed more than 6,000 persons. He's also a compulsive blood-donor.

Rick has also been a competitive diver, director of United Way, Sergeant-at-Arms for the Vernon Air Force Association, fund raiser for disaster relief like the burned-out family program, member of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans (for 41 years), and volunteer with the Red Cross (for more than 35 years).

He participates in Remembrance Day parades every year without fail. Rick roars to the fore on his bike each Christmas as president of Santas Anonymous, an organization that has refurbished and recycled more than 60,000 used toys.

Rick Trehearne and a clergyman friend conduct seminars on *Life Before Death*.



He has been awarded multiple certificates from various Governor Generals and special awards from Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, including the coveted Paul Harris Fellowship.

Rick reads 350 books a year.

In writing this article, I had to eliminate multifarious things from the information in *Gunderson's Funeral Journal* and add that he has a wife, three sons, two stepdaughters and nine grandchildren.

Afred

Fester has the distinction of being the only great-grandfather in our class and the only road paver who has a hobby making horseradish. Melting lead to make down riggers for fishing I can understand, but growing horse radish? Alfred sure must have a sweet wife and daughters.



Two years ago Alfred and Bev Fester celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with four very attractive daughters (Laurel, Kathy, Kerrie and Leanne). How lucky can a man get?!

They have fifteen grandchildren.

Alfred spent 50 years constructing roads to make our road system one of the best in the world. He started working for the City of Vernon as a road paver and then worked for many construction companies in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

He has always called Vernon home.



Anne Grierson (Rogers) and her husband of 49 years, Kip, have four athletic children that she said “have done us proud.” When her two self-confident daughters decided that hockey was much more exciting than figure skating, Anne became a manager of a girls’ hockey team. In the process of coaching the girls team, she noticed her two girls had a need that her two boys never had when they were active in hockey. Her daughters needed eyeliner and makeup even for 6 am practices!

Kip worked for the Department of Highways for 37 years while Anne decided to be a stay-at-home mom. Their dedication to their family shows in the four successful children they raised in Vernon.



Shawn is a foreman in a concrete company in Calgary, while his wife Leanne works for a computer software company. Jan is a safety auditor for the same concrete company as Shawn, and supplies stars for movies. Not the type that win Oscars but the type that prance around in teams in such movies as *The Thirteenth Warrior* or *Shanghai Noon*. Jan and her partner breed and train Percherons horses.

Dave is a truck repair assessor and lives with his wife Debbie and three children in Alberta. Bev lives next door so her two daughters can keep their grandmother’s tedium down and anxiety up. Later this year, Anne’s granddaughters will be off to Switzerland with the Vernon Girls Trumpet Band.



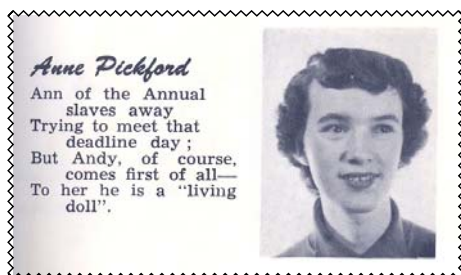
Anne spent 25 years working in ticket sales and office work for Junior “A” hockey. She cooked for cub and school camps, including being the cook for 140 kids and adults in a Barkerville camp-out.

Anne is still the occasional “store lady” for bus tours to O’Keefe

Ranch, as well as an artifacts cataloguer.

Ann Pickford (Taylor)

headed west to the cloisters of Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops as soon as she graduated from Vernon High School.



She emerged from the hospital three years later with her RN degree. Ann came back to Vernon only long enough to show Wally Taylor that RN stood for *really nice*.

Wally was employed in banking so after they married, the nurse followed the money-handler around British Columbia. Transfers every three-to-four years gave them the marvellous opportunity to live in many parts of our picturesque province and to have daughters in different places.

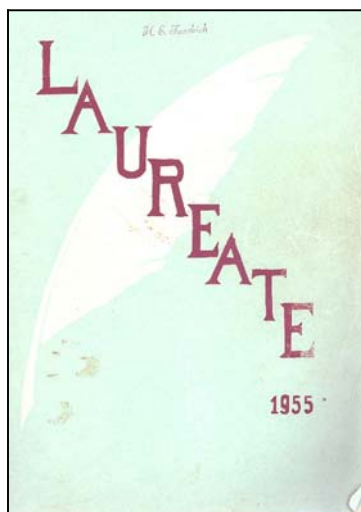
Kathy is a medical stenographer when not a mother to two beautiful daughters and a wife to Kirk.

Shirley is a professor at Queen's University in Eastern Canada. Shirley leads a very busy life with lecturing, speeches, travel, hockey and, like her mother, thinking.

Now living in Williams Lake, Ann, the assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Vernon High School 1955 Annual, can look this booklet over and compare it with the struggles of putting the *Laureate* together fifty years ago.

Ann had to develop, draw, cut and paste by hand. [Now I just scan, click and the computer puts everything in its place.... that's if it doesn't crash first.]

Ann has had fifty years to feel the sense of accomplishment in having helped create an appealing reference book that brings back many fond memories. [In fifty years I'll be completely recycled, with or without help from the Kyoto Accord.]



Anne Firman (McNicol) has been married to the same man for 100 years. Well, maybe not that long, but Ron has come home from work about 17,000 times since they married in 1958 and bought their first house in South Burnaby near Deer Lake. Ron is still actively selling plywood after selling the plywood manufacturing plant that he started in the late 1950's.



In 1975 they moved to a Langley acreage while Anne worked for the Ministry of Agriculture. For more challenges Anne runs the annual Sun Run and the Terry Fox Run.

Anne has a Master Garden Certificate and is a volunteer at Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver. Her horticultural talent is so exquisite wedding parties arrange to be photographed in her five-acre garden estate. Plant problems? Ask Anne.

Although she lives in a magnificent garden now, Anne still fondly remembers moving to the West End in Vancouver with Loretta Urbetis during Grade 12. "Loved it, would not have missed it," she says.

Both of their sons had garden weddings. Dean and wife Deborah gave Anne the best job she's ever had – day caring for their three-year-old daughter, Adia.

Scott and wife Michelle are edging in on the baby-sitting bonanza. They are expecting twins. I'm sure Anne will live up to the challenge even if she has to shoo the slugs away so they won't be eaten by inquisitive grandsons.



The best holiday they ever had was when the whole family vacationed together in Puerto Vallarta. Nevertheless Anne and Ron McNicol had great fun on a recent vacation with friends -- a Rugby tour of Portugal and Spain.

Annette Daem (Gough) wanted to help people so she chose nursing as a career. Before she graduated in 1959 from nurses training at St. Paul's hospital in Vancouver, she discovered she had a talent for studying. Consequently, she took a post graduate course at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.

Then Annette discovered another of her multifarious talents — teaching. She came back to Vancouver to get a teaching certificate from UBC in 1962.

Annette started teaching student nurses at BCUS in Nelson. Marriage and a move to Kelowna in 1968 ended her teaching in the Kootenays but started one at Okanagan University College. The birth of two children, Natalie and Brian, relegated her teaching for a while to part time.



Three major events occurred in 1997 that changed her life. Annette's husband passed away, she retired, and she discovered another talent -- farming. Well, not the type that makes you a good living like John T or John D but the type that gives you a good living — hobby farming in Kelowna.

Annette enjoys travelling, a good game of bridge, and fishing in the Queen Charlotte Islands with her daughter, Natalie.



Arlene Biollo (DeJager)

hails from the raspberry capital of Canada and home of the Avian flu.

Before she moved to Abbotsford, she did her stint in the harsh hinterland. After training in Victoria, Arlene started nursing in Vernon but that lasted only seven months. Athletic Len Bergonder cut it short in 1961.

Len was employed by Westcoast Energy, so he carried her off to Hope. Real married life started six months later in Fort St. John, when they lived in a motel for six weeks.



Nursing was especially varied and interesting during the next five years as the three doctors on staff at the hospital weren't always around, and emergencies and births could not be scheduled very well. Darcy and Paul Bergonder were born during this exciting period.



Arlene took a full-time interest in raising her family after Len was transferred to Prince George and Kevin was born.

In 1974 the family settled in the promised land. During Len's tenure as president of

Knights of Columbus, Arlene accompanied him on many of his weekend trips around the province and into the United States as far as Virginia and Washington, DC.

Arlene and Len were looking forward to retirement in 1994 and helping at St. Vincent de Paul when they heard the devastating words: lung cancer. Len died six months later at age 59.

Now Arlene fills her life with travelling, flower gardening, music and having fun with three grandchildren.

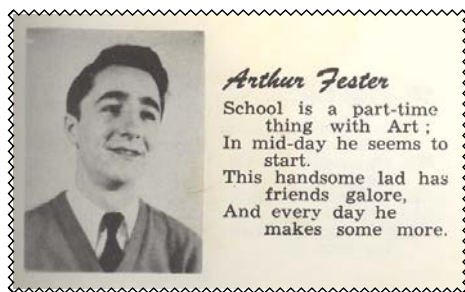


Arlene Biollo

To be a nurse is
Arlene's wish ;
To get an "A" in
Chem'd be bliss.
In leisure moments she
may
Play the piano her own
good way.



Arthur Fester was anxious to get into business so he left school early to be a mechanic. By age 19, he started operating his own service station in downtown Vernon. The venture was so successful that Art had the service station at 32nd Street and 32nd Avenue for almost 32 years (i.e., 32x32x32=\$).



Even though Art remained manager, the name on his service station kept changing. In 1959 when Art took over, he named it Art's BA. Then it became Art's Gulf Service. In 1987 when Petro Canada bought Gulf, mechanical work was discontinued and the store gas bar outlet became Mad Max.

After going to the same place to work for three decades, Art felt the need of more than a name change. He up and moved to Super Save Service four blocks away for four years.

Art was married to Elsie for 42 years and they raised four sports-oriented children. Elsie passed away in 1999.

During the winter when others curl up, Art races snowmobiles and curls. During the summer when others goof off he plays slowpitch and golfs.

One day Arthur made an amorous contact in Kelowna that made him want to goof off and curl up like the others. He married Isabel three years ago and moved 50 km south.



Audrey (Samantha)

Kosty, the president of the Future Teachers Club in Grade 12, left her name behind when she left Vernon High. She became Samantha. So if you recognize her by her compassionate face and excitedly yell, "Audrey," she'll know you haven't read this page yet.

Another thing Samantha leaves behind quite regularly is her country. She makes her home in Mexico for a large part of the year.

What she does not leave behind is her desire to help the less fortunate. Now her reputation of diligently working with needy Mexican families to better their living conditions is preceding her.



She travels the world, makes her home in Baja, yet comes back to Vernon regularly. Samantha travels to hot-spots to work but returns to Coldstream to relax.

In Canada she enjoys her family and "beautiful gouda cheddar."
[Samantha submitted her bio in artistic hand-crafted script but at this point I can't quite make out her flourishing writing so maybe she said she enjoys her "beautiful grandchildren."]

Barbara Austrup (Mackenzie-Rees) enjoys life in the Okanagan in the middle of gorgeous rural scenery, with a view of Skaha Lake and surrounding "wine country."

For the first five years when she lived in Vancouver while working for the Red Cross blood transfusion service, life was simpler. Then Barbara and a co-worker went on a life-changing trip. For a year the two girls roamed around Mexico, Central America, South America and Europe.

By the time she got back, she was ready to be tied down. She got married and lived on a farm in East Vernon, where their two boys were born and grew up.

The family raised thoroughbred horses and German shepherd dogs for 20 years. By 1992 Barbara was divorced so she sold the farm and bought another one in Armstrong and continued to raise horses, dogs and cattle.



Farming in Armstrong did not last long. When her mother died two years later, Barbara gave up farming and built a house on the west side of Okanagan Lake



DRESSAGE RIDER Barbara MacKenzie, of Vernon, up on Rowan, a 10-year-old thoroughbred that used to race, waits in the warm-up area before competing in the Equestrian competitions at the Vernon Riding Club grounds, in Coldstream. Daily News Photo

The next-door widower was so kind and helpful that Barbara decided to start married life over again with him. They moved to Okanagan Falls to enjoy the gorgeous scenery and easy lifestyle.

When Barbara and Dennis Rees are not sailing the Caribbean, they hike, drive, and leisurely walk the dog along the lakeside trails.



Barbara and Dennis
Sailing in the Caribbean
2002

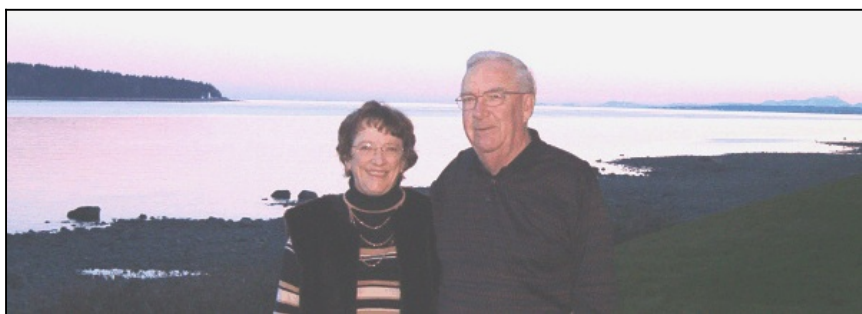
Barbara Curry (Leard) was in a big hurry to finish off at the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing so she could start working and marry John Leard.



Getting an RN degree started her on a career of nursing in the OR (**O**perating **R**oom for those who don't watch TV). Getting an MRS degree (**M**yrriad **R**esponsibilities **S**upplementary for those who didn't marry) started her on the rewarding work of raising two active sons, Donald and Stewart. Nursing lasted for 40 years but parenting does not end.

In 1968 the family moved to Campbell River, when the Island Highway was still a scenic trail along the beaches and long before the cruise ships plied through the waters and sent ripples to the boardwalk. Now Barbara can watch the love boats cruise by when she returns from her travels to sew, play bridge and read her prose and verse.

From their front yard Barbara and John Leard can hear the water ripple and watch the sun set over Discovery Passage.



[Next time I sail through Discovery Passage on a "poor man's cruise" (i.e. a BC Ferry being relocated to Port Hardy for the summer ferry season), I'll drink my White Spot coffee and look for Barbara Leard's house.]

Barbara Fishler

(Rhoades) responded by email from a tiny village in France where she is living with her husband Darryl. She regrets she won't be with us to reconnect in June, when she'll be in the throes of moving to the Garden of Canada, Victoria.



After completing a secretarial course in 1956, Barbara headed for Vancouver and three years of office work and evening ballet classes.

In 1959 she ventured to Toronto and the National Ballet, but the prospect of perpetual sore feet was not for this ballerina. In 1962 she returned to Vancouver and UBC, receiving a BEd in 1967. She married Darryl the same year, and the two set off to Ottawa, where Darryl started work with Statistics Canada and Barbara taught grades 1-6 for most of the next 21 years.

They remained in Ottawa for the next thirty-two years, except for laid-back fun during the hippie era (1970 - 1973) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.



Barbara celebrated the first day of school in 1988 by getting tipsy on champagne while cruising the Alaskan coast, and has remained retired since. Darryl's attempt to retire in 1998 was not so successful as he soon found himself working for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. Since 1999 they have lived in neighbouring France beside the small village of Ferney-Voltaire, where the philosopher Voltaire lived from 1758-1777.

They are looking forward to taking up residence on Vancouver Island this August and hoping that withdrawal from 300 or so varieties of palate-pleasing French and Swiss cheese will not be too traumatic.

Barbara Turanski (Bolton)

was too young for nursing school, at 17, so Dr. Inkster asked her to be his dental assistant until she could start training! Now 46 years after graduating from Royal Columbian, Barb is still nursing full time!



Barbara Turanski

Barb as she is, is
known to few—
But in Drama she sure
knows her cue.
A certain beau from
out of school
Takes up her evenings,
as a rule.

Because of her expertise, inquisitiveness and post-grad training as an operating room specialist, Barb was asked to be on a Winnipeg team that performed the first laparoscopic laser cholecystectomy in Western Canada, videotaped by CBC.



After Barbara married an RCMP officer in 1964, she worked in many operating rooms in BC, Ontario and Manitoba. She and Harvey escaped prairie blizzards for 12 years by routinely boarding a plane in Winnipeg on the third Thursday in January and not getting off until Hawaii.

Barb had no children. Her quiet time is spent with her books, cross stitch and hardanger.



Since 1992, Barbara has loved her garden so much in Nanoose Bay that she “gets her hands dirty in March and doesn’t get them clean until November.”

She has curled for 40 years. To increase her cardiovascular stamina while inhaling fresh sea air, Barbara fast-steps 110 stairs down from a deck to the water’s edge and then 110 stairs back up – for 30 minutes.

She regrets not being at Reunion 55 as she is actively involved in a Canadian Plastics Conference being held at the same time in Nanaimo.

Barry McGill wrote that he's "done nothin'" in his life. It took him 41 years to do that. In the mean time he worked in his father's veneer factory, spent 18 years as a consultant and staff trainer for Canada Manpower (HRDC), spent 12 years managing Co-op Education and Graduate Placement at Fanshawe College and spent nine years in retirement.



In between "doing nothin'" he got a BA degree from Western University. He was smart to pick psychology as his field – he needed to figure out what happened in the second-most thrilling experience of his life. He had gone up on a parachute jump. When he came down, things did not happen like on the brochure. As a result of the disastrous parachute jump, he spent six months in a hospital.



His most thrilling experience?
 Marrying Delores in 1960.

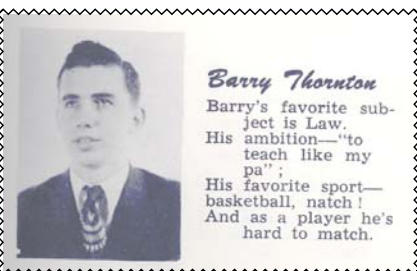
Barry and Delores McGill took special interest in raising two sons, Mike and Kevin, to be great Canadians.

Marriage and "doing nothin'" required compromises. Barry had to give up the fantastic Okanagan Valley for the environs of London, Ontario.

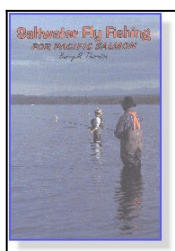
He is reminded of what he left behind every winter or two, when he and Delores have a look at the Okanagan Lake from 35,000 feet. During these times he's not clinging to a parachute but drinking Bella Vista Wines on his way to Hawaii. If not to Hawaii, then they head to Arizona to escape long months of Ontario winter.

For exciting adventures, Barry now has a 1000cc Honda RC51 sports bike, yet he spends four mornings a week working out on an exercise bike. Yup, "doing nothin'" on an stationary bike is hard when you could be roaming about on a RC51.

Barry Thornton knows fishing. He may have taught school for 35 years, including being school principal and writing many curriculum guides and professional resources materials – such as an UNESCO Educator's manual entitled *Small Stream Rehabilitation and Salmonid Enhancement* – but it is for his five books on BC fishing and 1100 articles that he is known all over the fishing world.



Some of Barry's award-winning articles are accessible on the internet at www.bcadventure.com/adventure/angling/protalk/thornton/thornton.phtml



Look at any fishing photo and it may well be one of his 1200 published photos. If you heard a talk or seminar on fishing, hunting or environmental themes in such countries as Japan, France, New Zealand, United States or Canada, it may be one of the 150 presentations that he has given.

Barry is one of British Columbia's best known and respected outdoor writers. The American Fisheries Society recognized him with their Roderick Haig-Brown Memorial Award. He was given the 2004 ANGUL Award for his "Outstanding contributions to the heritage of the Arts and Science of fly fishing in BC." Nevertheless, Richard, Catherine and Barry Jr. do not know Barry Thornton as the founding chairman of the Steelhead Society of BC nor as co-author of a dozen books, but as their distinguished father now living in the Comox Valley.



Forty-five years ago, Barry went back to a school in Vernon to select a teacher, Frances Best, to be his married partner, the mother of his three children, and the grandmother to Linda, Jack, and Ian. [Actually he only had to select Francis to be his wife; the other two things seemed to happen quite naturally on an ecologically friendly basis.]

Betty

Baird (Zahorodniuk) had planned on a nursing career but was swept off her feet just after she graduated from Vernon High School. A handsome young man had come to Vernon on a holiday. Mike has been the special man in her life now for forty-eight years.



Betty moved to Edmonton in 1956 and they married in 1957. On their first anniversary, they had a lovely son to cherish, Brian. On their fourth wedding anniversary, Betty presented Mike with twin daughters, Susan and Pat.



After staying at home to raise her family until 1972, Betty started working part-time as a pharmacy technician at Woodward's. Many of the staff stayed with the pharmacy for long periods of time but Betty stayed the longest -- 32 years.

She retired in 2003 and keeps active with gardening and hobbies.

Mike and Betty Zahorodniuk are proud owners of a 1926 Studebaker Roadster (which Mike restored). They are kept busy as members of the Edmonton Antique Car Club and the many events they attend in the old car.



Betty Mori (Morrison) was a nurse for 27 years after graduating from St. Paul's Hospital. After nursing for two years in Vernon, she took off for a fantastic eight months in Europe.

She came back to Vernon, broke. Two years later classmate Fusae Sakakibara told her of a vacancy in the oldest operating hospital in

BC. Betty's resume must have been impressive because when she phoned the Merritt hospital, the director hired her on the spot over the phone.

There she met the love of her life. Ian Morrison's marriage proposal did not come quite as fast as the job offer but by the summer of 1963, after many personal interviews, they were happily married. Her name change was as easy as getting her job in Merritt – she just added an ending.

Ian moved often with the Forest Service so Betty nursed in Surrey and Kamloops. She looked for a clinic in tiny Horsefly but found only lots of lovely people.

Then it was back to Kamloops, to Lumby, and back to Kamloops. In Kamloops they settled down long enough for Betty to quickly have two sons.

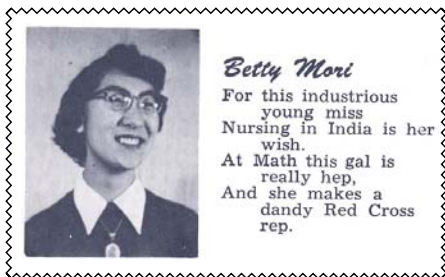


Twenty-eight years ago, Ian was offered the position of air operations manager for the Province of B.C. and Betty discovered how beautiful living in Victoria could be. Only in the Garden of Canada do trees flower on Feb 5th.

Betty stayed home until both boys were teenagers and then for 13 years nursed at Royal Jubilee Hospital. Both sons graduated from UVic, both married, both settled in Victoria and each have a son and daughter. What more could a grandma wish for!

Betty and Ian Morrison have travelled to South East Asia, including three trips to Japan and winters in the southern States and Mexico.

A widow since 2001, Betty still takes cruises and last year drove 7000 km through Alaska, Yukon, Inuvik and NWT. Her nursing is off but travelling and babysitting and exercising three times a week at Curves is on!



Betty-June Sherba (Gair) has an impressive list of recognitions for her contributions to charitable organizations in northern British Columbia. I'm no reporter so I'll just scan in what the *Prince George Citizen* had to say about her on April 20, 1999.

Among the things she's done since the article was published was to be the Co-chair of the University of Northern BC Medical School's Bursary Funds.



Betty-June Gair received the Volunteer Award of Merit for 30 years of service to the Prince George Golf and Curling Club.

Gair worked with ladies curling leagues, evening golf and the club itself, where she became the first woman president in 1994. She contributes to special events like the Scott Tournament of Hearts.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Betty-June Gair received the Volunteer Award of Merit. She has given 30 years of service to the Prince George Golf and Curling Club.

Beverly Nolan wanted to see the world, saw the world and is now living happily in northern Vancouver Island overlooking a peaceful forest.

She wisely chose to graduate as a registered nurse before she started to move around. Her first job was in California.



As a young nurse with two years experience Bev returned to Vancouver to become an open heart surgical nurse. [If I ever want my heart massaged, I know where to get meticulous handling.]

After working for a year with hearts from on top, she wanted to work with hearts from underneath. Bev liked New Zealand so much that she settled for living right-side-up down under for seven years, but not before gallivanting around Europe and Australia.

For 24 years she has enjoyed her work, hobbies, family, travels, and line dancing. For a quarter of a century deer have come wandering in from the forest to nibble at garden flowers in Campbell River.

When she wanted to show us how beautiful it is around her place, Bev visited Barb Curry (Leard) and had her picture taken with the sun setting on Discovery Passage.



Bill Palmer chose to live north of Kamloops in the centre of the interior logging industry. He must have felt the heat of the forest fires in 2003 that destroyed a sawmill and many homes in his community.

In 1954 he showed his manual dexterity in sawing wood at a log sawing competition at a Kelowna Tractor Rodeo. Bill Palmer and Helmut Fandrich cut a huge log by hand in 12 minutes. [Ed: Luckily for me, Bill was on the powerful end of the winning saw!]



Also in 1954, Bill and John Toporchak's team placed second in aggregate scoring at the Vernon Junior Agricultural Fall Fair.

THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE, Saturday, August 21, 1954

French Named Top Tractor Rodeo Man

Special to The Province

VERNON — Dale French, of Vernon emerged individual top soccer in tractor rodeo held in conjunction with Vernon Junior Agricultural Fair.

Vernon Beef Club team of Dale French and Leonard Klingger headed team aggregate scoring with Vernon FFC team of Bill Palmer and John Toporchuk placing second, and Kelowna FFC team of Otto Bulach and Ed Tarasewich placing third.

Helmut Fandrich won most points in fruit and vegetable division after annexing five firsts. In honey and sewing exhibits Edith Krebs and Lorna Denchuk tied for special award for total points. Heather Thompson won Ellwood Rice Bowl for most points attained in floral

division. Jim Gordon captured first in sheep section for market lambs, and Leonard Klingger took first for breeding ewes.

Jim Gordon was first in swine section. In summer flower show, held in conjunction with fair by Vernon and District Horticultural Society, Mrs. B. K. Pickford captured three firsts with Mrs. Chas Wylie and Mrs. Carl Wylie each getting two firsts.

Birdie Cooney (Boan)

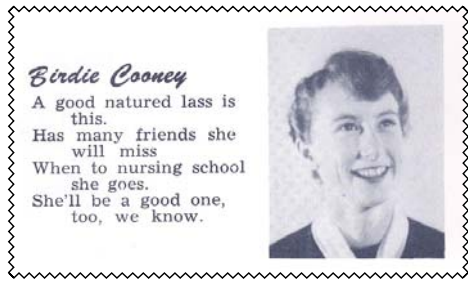
took nurses training in Kamloops, worked a year in Vernon and then moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan? That's where long underwear is in the lingerie department.

After marrying a ball player and getting settled in the Union Hospital, she started operating on her own. The procedure required cutting the caryopsis. I wondered why the operation was only done when the caryopsis was ripe. Then I read that Bryce is a grain farmer and, during the harvest season, Birdie operates the combine on her own.

Birdie and Bryce Boan have been blessed with two daughters and a son. Birdie feels blessed because she now has eight grandchildren to spoil, ranging in age from one year to twenty years.

She looks forward to spending a few months each year doing what many of you try to avoid – wintering in the Okanagan. That and designer longjohns says something about the winters in Saskatchewan!

[You may be interested to see how prairie people try to keep warm in the winter.]



Birdie Cooney
A good natured lass is
this.
Has many friends she
will miss
When to nursing school
she goes.
She'll be a good one,
too, we know.



Brian Backler probably saw more of the vast northern stretches of Canada than the rest of us put together. He left Vernon in 1953 to finish off high school in Burnaby and get a Geological Engineering degree from UBC.

Initially he worked for Inco and Placer Development before it grew up and became Placer Dome. Then he discovered that by being a mining analyst for investment dealers, he could travel the country by helicopter and get paid handsomely for it.



Brian's travels took him to most of the mines and mining communities throughout Canada. He viewed all of Canada's magnificent terrain from a very advantageous height – either at 1000 feet above the ground, or 1000 feet below it.

Brian is blessed with a very fine Bluenoser wife from Nova Scotia, Geri Rudolph, and two lovely daughters, Wendi and Sandi. Their daughters have blessed them with six delightful grandchildren.

He wandered around the wildernesses of Canada for more than 40 years, swatting black flies and muskeg mosquitos. Suddenly he remembered there was the Pacific Ocean on the West Coast. Last year he retired and came west in order to be “nearer to an ocean . . . any ocean!!!”

Now in Campbell River on Discovery Passage, Brian and Geri Backler can enjoy being near water without having to swat mosquitos or worry about sinking into muskeg.

Charlene Drage

(Yaremchuk) lived in seven different parts of the province but the most memorable was in the Yukon during 1964-66. She was frozen out of her first rental house in Dawson City, flooded out of her second, smoked out of her third, and transferred out of her fourth. She had enough of the Yukon freezing, flooding and smoking.

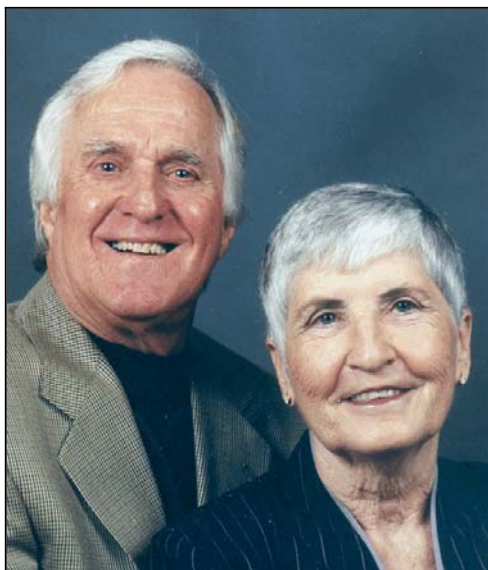


Yukon left a mark on her but she also left her mark in Dawson City. Charlene opened the first public library. She also left her mark on visitors by working for visitor information, on the river bank by panning for gold, and on needy children and youth through the IODE, a charitable woman's organization that stems from the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire.

Because her husband Ed worked for CIBC and was transferred around a lot, in addition to Dawson City, Charlene and Ed lived in Burnaby, Grand Forks, Surrey, Tsawwassen, Abbotsford and Parksville, where their daughter, Celina, was born.

This year marks their 48th wedding anniversary. During these nearly five decades, Charlene has worked for BC Power Commission for five years, Woodward's for seven years, and Delta High School for thirteen.

Charlene and Ed Yaremchuk spent more than 30 years in the Vancouver area but when it came time to retire eleven years ago, they chose the sun-drenched Okanagan. We're not surprised! Here she won't be frozen out, flooded out and . . . but come to think of it -- the smoke from the Okanagan Mountain fire in 2003 may have smoked her out in Westbank.



Dale French stayed on the family farm after high school graduation for eighteen years. When it was sold, he worked on the BX Ranch for the next seven years.



Dale French

This young lad's an
F. F. C.
A rancher's what he
plans to be.
With Dick and Walt he
often is ;
At Agi. he is just a
whiz.

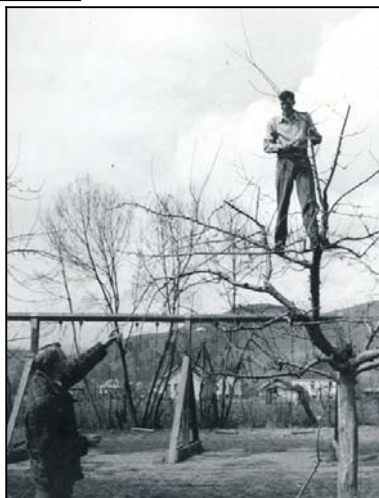


His next job lasted for 21 years – driving school buses for Vernon and District. Then he retired in Mara.

The Future Farmers of Canada student learned how to prune fruit trees from a high school agriculture teacher, Mr. Galloway. Dale learned to drive a bus by driving a farm tractor at home.

Dale and Genie French started their married life by taking vows. They started a family by having children. They started becoming grandparents by doing nothing.

Shuswap River starts its journey through rapids near Mabel Lake and empties into Mara Lake. When their three children and ten visiting grandchildren are very quiet and, sometimes, even when they are not, Dale and Genie can show them beavers, kingfishers or eagles. If they are lucky, their offspring can see deer or, occasionally, black bears on the river bank.



Dan Rippin found out that words can have different connotations in different cultures. In writing, double meanings are used to create humour. In a marriage, double meanings can create havoc.

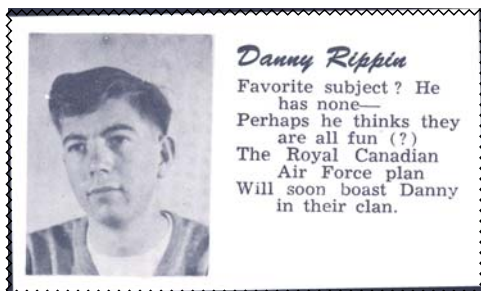
After finishing high school in Vernon, Dan went to work on the railway at Glacier, BC. It didn't take him long to realize that his talent for numbers was not being used, so he returned to Vernon to take up Accounting. Then he left for Vancouver and cities down under.

He met and married Beverley in Australia and they agreed that they would move to "Sidney." What Dan was thinking of was becoming an accountant in Sidney, B.C., while Bev was thinking of the glitzy Australian city of Sydney.

Dan did buy an accounting firm in Sidney and Bev discovered a similarity between the Saanich Peninsula on Vancouver Island and the city of Sydney --both are beautiful.

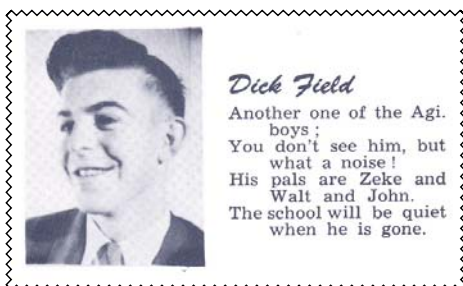
In the end, Dan wasn't too happy with accounting. When the opportunity came up to build a nursing home, the accountant added contractor and manager to his resume. In constructing and managing a nursing home, Dan discovered something he really enjoyed.

Dan and Bev Rippin have two accomplished children. Chris is a music therapist in Vancouver and Sechelt. Anthea is a teacher in Bellingham.



Dick (Richard) Field has been associated with automotive and heavy equipment industry all his working life. Since 1998 he's been living the non-working life in Calgary.

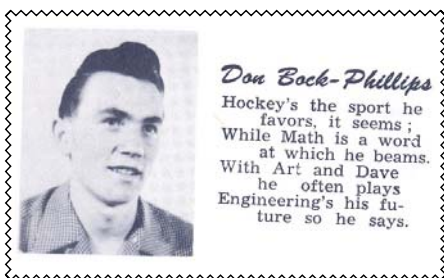
His four children (three boys and one girl) reside in Southern Alberta in summer and SunCity, Arizona, in winter.



Things have really been booming in Alberta since Dick moved there so even highways have changed. One of these photos of the foothills out of Calgary was taken in 1961 and the other thirty years later. You're probably an inveterate road traveller (or maybe like Walter Dobernigg, a bus driver) if you can tell which is the earlier picture by the progress that has taken place in the colour of highway markings.



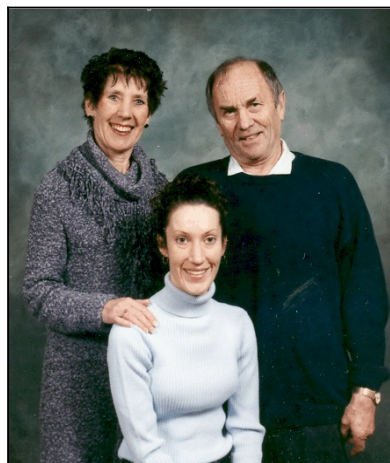
Don Bock-Phillips helped the Vernon Canadians bring the Allan Cup home while his Senior Matric class cheered.



Don took a year of engineering at UBC and then surveyed for BC Power Commission until 1959 when he started Electrical Apprenticeship in Vernon. He became wireman for BC Hydro in 1969.

Don played in hockey tournaments in California and in Arizona. [Is that like going to beach volleyball in Antarctica?]

One result of Don marrying Patricia in 1961 was talented daughter, Deena, in 1975.



Don bone fished in Belize, cruised the Mexican Riviera and Alaska and toured Europe several times, including his ancestral home in the former East Germany. Don and Pat Bock-Phillips also vacationed in Hawaii, California, Arizona, and Eastern Canada.

He fishes for fish when they bite in Kitimat and shoots elk when they get too close. Don still plays hockey three times a week.

Dorothy Dilts (Hunt) was thinking of wedding rings when the rest of us were thinking of Valentine cards. Two weeks after Valentine's Day in 1955, Dorothy married Alan Hunt. She now has the distinction of being the first classmate to have a Golden Wedding anniversary celebration.



After their wedding, Dorothy and Alan moved to Lumby where they had their honeymoon. Then they moved to Vernon where they had Darrel and Dixie. Then they moved to Calgary where Alan finished his schooling and got his certified electrician papers and they had Terrie and Steven.

In 1971 the family moved back to Lumby where they have remained for 34 years. Alan worked for Electrical Maintenance for Crown Zellerbach in Lumby until it closed and then for Weyerhaeuser in Princeton.

While some of us are still wishing our kids would get married, Dorothy and Alan Hunt have all four children married and have grandchildren from each. Dixie married first and she had three children. Darrel was next and they have one child. Then Terrie followed and she has three children. The last to get married was Steven and he has two children of his own but added two others to his flock.

In 1987 tragedy struck. Dorothy lost her Dixie in a car accident. Warm-hearted Terrie took Dixie's three children and raised them with her own three children.

Some of us already have three grandchildren. Dorothy has already been awarded the privilege of three great-grandchildren to love and to spoil.

Dorothy emailed that they had their ups and downs but "all in all it has been a good life." Now in retirement, they have a comfortable place to live, wonderful family to enjoy and fond memories to cherish.

Edeltraud Karius (Otten)

has been retired for 49 years. She entered Grade 11 in Vernon from Germany with excellent English comprehension but limited verbal experiences. She left Vernon for Vancouver the day before graduation with a job in a bank and grad requirements in hand.

She worked only long enough to meet Greg Otten in her church, fall in love and marry – that took a year. Soon she was caring for a lovely family of four wholesome children.

After 11 years, she started on her second round of children. That round was quickly limited to one.

Karen is preparing to teach English in an Arabic country. Ben was a technician in Swaziland but is now with a local airline repair shop. Angela, like her mother, married young and stayed home to raise a confident family. Rainer has his own delivery business. Monica is in banking.



Edeltraud Karius
French is the subject
that she enjoys.
She holds interest in
very few boys.
By reading, she her
time does pass ;
But the future's not
certain for this
lass.



In 1980 Greg started a designer goldsmith shop where, for 18 years, he could spend 12 hours a day using his creative talents and Edeltraud could sell his and other creative crafts.

Until 1990, Edeltraud and Greg Otten moved around a lot, from Vancouver, to Victoria, to North Vancouver, to Langley. After 1993 they cruised around a lot, around Norway, the Baltic Sea, Alaska, and the Carribean.

Concurrently they visited places in Europe that Edeltraud only dreamed about when she was living there due to severe post-war conditions. It has been a good retirement!

Edgar (Ed) Hunter would like to start out with a question. "In 1955, who among us ever thought about the year 2005?" It was so very *far* away! But now we are looking *way back* to what has happened since. Many of us will have interesting (even amazing) stories to tell. Some have suffered great pain and loss. Some, like Ed, will say that "nothing noteworthy ever happened".



But first, Ed wants to remember four friends who got very short runs. He fondly recalls **"Curly" Lawrence Downer** - a young man eager for life; a promising athlete and singer. **Philip Bulman** - a solid, happy, going places, young man. (Ed made a bow and set of arrows for Philip, and recalls the great times spent together.) **Johnny Yarama** - a super, natural athlete. (Who can forget his flashing, infectious *smile*?) **Jack Craig** - a very close friend of Ed's in the Bearisto Elementary school days. Others who died too young, include Ed's only sibling, **Byron**, the RCAF Sabre Jet pilot who survived a crash, only to die at 51 of heart failure.



Ed was introduced to the wonder of nature by his mom at Kal Lake, where he was born (much too quickly - a long near-death battle for her.) He has a love of wood and stone, carving, and running. Married to Dorothy in 1962, Ed has two single sons in Victoria. He attended UBC and UVIC, then taught grades 1 to 8 on Mayne Island, before teaching high school English in North Van. (Who would have guessed it? The English 425 "Milton" course must have helped.)



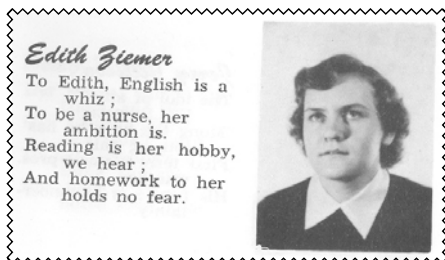
Dorothy retired from teaching in 1968, and Ed in 1975 in order to devote more time to their tree & bonsai nursery at Jubilee. They retired again in '93 to build a timber-frame house on their Mayne hill top.

Ed acknowledges his great good fortune: still able to jog the quiet country roads, and to thoroughly appreciate "what peace there may be in silence."

[There you have it, just the creative way Ed wrote it.]

Edith Ziemer (Trowers)

moved to the Eastern Seaboard to practice nursing after graduating from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing and working a few years in Quesnel and Vancouver. The move to sophisticated New York was not without its consequences. She is now surrounded by specialists whenever the family gathers.



Edith's husband, Dr. Neville Trowers, is a microbiologist and hospital laboratory administrator. Their older daughter Sonja is an attorney in Texas and married to Marty; they have two children. Their younger daughter Andrea is a dermatologist in Miami, specializing in pediatric dermatology. Edith herself has spent 21 years in the operating rooms of hospitals in the suburbs of New York City before retiring in 2003.



Edith and Neville Trowers live in a suburb 20 miles north of New York City. [Note the distance is given in miles, not kilometres – there are still some places on earth where people still know how long a mile is.]

On their travels they often visit family in Jamaica and Canada. Nevertheless, while touring Japan in 2000, Edith's entire family burned impressions of spectacular cherry blossoms into the CD's of their mind.



Eleanor Hatten has lived in the same house in Vernon for more than 50 years so she can take the garbage out with her eyes closed.



She shares the family home with her 95-year-old mother, who still bakes

scrumptious bread for loads of nieces, nephews, brothers, sisters, cousins and an assortment of friends who find the family home a welcoming place to hang out!

Eleanor taught in elementary schools as far away as Prince George and North Vancouver. She stimulated more than a thousand Harwood School pupils in the 32 years she taught in Vernon.

"I divorced a couple of fellows before marrying them" Eleanor jokes. "I felt it was cheaper that way."

She keeps busy with volunteering in the community such as at Vernon's Visitor

Information Centre during the jovial Carnival time.



Eleanor has taken herself out of school after 39 years, but she didn't take herself out of teaching. She was given a BC Women's Institute Service Award for working for three years encouraging rural families throughout the province to *Teach Kids About Safety on the Farm*. For 28 years of service to this group, including being president of the local branch and the district, Eleanor was given a Life Membership Award in 2004.



For 25 years Eleanor has been involved with Kalamalka Toastmasters, including president and Area Governor. She's directed Speechcraft for such groups as Lumby Queens' Excellence Program for many years.

Travelling gives her pleasure but it has to be on something concrete, like pavements. She has *rubber-tired* her way through Alaska, across Canada, and into the US as far south as Louisiana and Texas. *Rubber-tubing* down the Fraser River is a possibility now that there is less life to lose.



E lizabeth (Liz)

Krestinski (Currie) worked as a nurse in surgery and critical care while living in Prince George, Coquitlam, Chase, Kamloops and Victoria. After retirement nine years ago she moved to White Rock.

*Elizabeth
Krestinski*

Liz is the only girl in
Phys. 91 ;
It's easy to see she has
lots of fun.
With Shirl she's often
seen about.
I wonder with whom
she's going out ?



Liz married after a few years of nursing and became a happy stay-at-home mom to raise her four children. Her joy was not to last. At age 12, her youngest daughter died of cancer.

After their children left for university, she and her husband divorced and Liz resumed nursing.

Liz has travelled the world. Riding a camel in the desert in Rajasthan with a 6 year old driver and a five day trip on the Mahakam River in Kalimantan, Indonesia, are favourite memories.



Daughter Julie and husband Nick with pug Chester reside in Gibsons. Calla and husband Hal with cat Cocktail live nearby. Don and wife Liz with children Jaclyn 2½ and Aiden 6 months and poodle Bailey live in Victoria.



Ellen Hein (Tingey)

loved art and now she's decorating cuts of meat with artistic flourish and evocative spices.

In her daughter's meat shop in Port Alberni, Ellen spices up Cordon Bleu chicken and West Coast pork cutlets.



Ellen and Cliff Tingey don't travel much, but why hop a plane when a few minutes' drive allows you to witness a powerful storm in Tofino or hike along West Coast Trail in spectacular Pacific Rim National Park?

Why spend time in congested cities when you have two lovely daughters and four grandchildren to cherish and enjoy at home in the majestic forests around Port Alberni?

Ellen has made some wise choices to live a meaningful life.

Ellen Hein

Now here's a girl that's
not so dumb.
Going out with Bill is
lots of fun.
June may bring art
school, so,
There her talent she
will show.



[The next time I'm heading to Ucluelet to experience a perfect West Coast Storm, I'll have to stop for a deli sandwich and eat it standing insignificantly beside one of the world's most massive spruces. Foresters have left huge trees standing on Vancouver Island to die of old age or be blown over, instead of having them sawn up and built into houses for homeless persons.]



Eugene Weleschuk has been living beside the Columbia River for 35 years. Most of this time he has worked in the forest industry by operating equipment and supervising projects.

He married Joyce and moved with her to Revelstoke where they raised three sons and one daughter to appreciate nature, work, and life.

Even after retirement, Eugene and Joyce stayed close to the Columbia River. Why move when retirement is so thoroughly enjoyable? There are lots of fishing, lots of opportunities to go camping, and lots of back-country for ATV'ing. [What sort of TV watching is that?]

Tourists spend lots of money to go to Monashee Mountains to do what Eugene and Joyce Weleschuk can do all the time. They do travel for a change of scenery but quickly return to have fun with their seven grandchildren and enjoy life in Revelstoke some more.



[Ed – Eugene, do you remember the rides you gave me from Vernon to my summer surveying job on the Trans Canada Highway on the Rogers Pass? Well, when I saw so much white on your page I just had to go to my colour slide file and scan in a picture to show our classmates how beautiful the Illecillewaet River was in 1957.]

Francis Smigol (Dale) is not the only classmate to marry a classmate sweetheart; Jack Dale is the other one. They married in 1959 after Fran finished Home Ec training at the Victoria Normal School and taught in Salmon Arm and Rutland for several years. They moved to Calgary when Jack wanted to take land surveying training at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.



Fran managed to get in several years of Home Ec teaching in Calgary before daughter Toby was born in 1963. While Fran was creating a new baby, Jack was building a new house.

Even the arrival of a son, Kirby, two years later didn't stop Fran from teaching. Nevertheless, when Kirby was nine, Fran was ready for a change. She took a two-year contract to teach in tropical Queensland, Australia.

Jack did not need much persuasion to stop work in the Arctic and move the whole family close to the Great Barrier Reef in Townsville. To have a drawing card back to the tropics when Fran's contract was over, they bought a building lot near Cairns.

In British Columbia, Fran worked in a Tsawwassen dress shop, Elegance With Ease, that Jack promptly dubbed "Elephants with Fleas." Sand, sunshine and an empty beach lot beckoned so the family moved back to Australia in 1981 to build their dream house on beautiful Clifton Beach.

Fran taught Home Ec and Drama to high school students while working on a degree. She retired from teaching in 1988 so she could finish off being taught how to teach. University of Queensland awarded her a BEd degree in 1991.



Now that Fran knew how to teach, she became a bookkeeper in her daughter's optometry practice.

When Dr. Toby Dale sold her practice after nine years, Fran "retired to living in tropical paradise." Last year they moved to Paradise Palms Golf Course.

The handsome couple that was inseparable in Vernon High School has now been happily married for 45 years.

Fusae Sakakibara

(Yasunaga) fulfilled her high school dreams to become a nurse and happy wife. Over forty years ago she also became a very happy mother to two adorable sons.



Fusae Sakakibara

A happy smile she
always wears,
A grudge of gripe she
never bears.
Three years from now a
nurse she'll be,
And a good one too,
it's plain to see.

Fusae retired from nursing at the Merritt hospital 16 years ago. Now she's a very happy grandmother of three, having some of the most beautiful grandchildren in all of Nicola Valley. It's amazing how parents all over the world have beautiful grandchildren. Without the responsibilities of parenthood, grandparents can see more clearly the innocence and charm of early childhood.

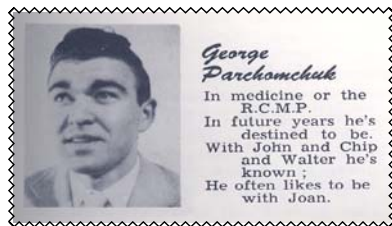
Over the years Fusae has taken trips to places she only dreamed about when growing up with her siblings in Vernon. She travelled north to Alaska, east to Japan, west to Europe and south to Hawaii. These were wonderful trips.

Although she is doing very well now, 12 years ago the energetic nurse suffered a cardiac arrest and a heart attack. In spite of the physical setbacks and the limitations imposed by diabetes and a problem back, she stays physically active. She especially enjoys playing golf.

For exercise she shuffles cards, and for entertainment she has weekly curling games. [Ed – Maybe it's the other way around-- my reading is a bit dyslexic. Perhaps I should not participate in the Merritt Mountain Music Festival's camaraderie of cooling off by sipping beer in flowing streams.]



George Parchomchuk, one of eleven children, was sent home on his first day of school because he did not understand English. A good neighbour interceded by explaining that staying home was not the answer -- neither of his parents spoke English.



George joined the RCMP in 1957 and quickly grasped what was important: salute everything that walked, and polish what didn't. He wanted to marry his best friend, Ellen, but RCMP regulations required him to have \$1200 in the bank, his future mother-in-law security checked and five years of service. They married in 1961; you do the math!

When their two sons, Ron and Gregg, took off to university, Ellen solved the empty nest syndrome. She followed, completing a BA in history and political studies.

George was a good negotiator. In a labour dispute during the filming of *The Canadians*, the local aboriginals who had been hired as extras to sit around sat around demanding higher wages. George called in the Minister of Indian Affairs.

George was involved in more than 24 murder investigations, including Clifford Olson and the murder of two fellow officers. In a dramatic arrest, a fugitive holding a policeman hostage in a fleeing vehicle fired at officers hovering in a helicopter. The bullet from the high-powered rifle grazed the fuel tank inches from George's head. There were no trauma counsellors in those days so the only thing the nervous officers could do after crash-landing was to pee!



After being transferred almost bi-yearly for 14 years, George became the NCO i/c Yorkton City Detachment for 10 years. By erecting signs in Ukrainian all over the city, he got even for his Grade 1 experience. Still, he went around to sweet old Ukrainian "babas" telling them they could not grow marijuana plants in their gardens. [Ah, come on, George!]

Before he finally retired to a life of travel and leisure in Saskatoon, George became an investigator for Saskatchewan Government Insurance.