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2001

MUSEUM HOURS: 1-5 P.M. SUNDAY & WED to FRI & BY REQUEST WHEN POSSIBLE MAY TO OCT (306)895-4813

Dear Supporters of Bresaylor Heritage,

Once again, greetings to all of you who keep in touch with us. Somehow while this newsletter has been taking shape April has slipped into May. Oh my! Another season's promise is going into the ground hereabouts. The land is greening.

Each year we gain a few friends - often "long lost" descendants of ex-residents who decide they'd just like to make contact with their roots. And that's a good thing too! Because each year we loose friends - this year has taken quite a toll as witness the obituaries. There's a very large hole in life around Paynton these days with the recent passing of several vital individuals. We celebrate all of their lives. And we feel their loss - each one leaves a spot in the community that no one else can ever quite fill.

But, we push onward. We anticipate another season at the Museum - not as busy as last summer which was especially productive. Just more or less business as usual this year.

Perhaps by next year this Newsletter will be laid out on the preer Mac computer which has been donated to the cause by F. and Bev Davis. They who also provided this little Mac (which processed the Bresaylor history book) some 10 years ago. Instead of literally cutting and pasting (although I like that hands-on approach) I'll do virtual cut/paste on a program that hopefully I will learn to operate by that time.

For now, we wish you all a good summer, and look forward to your letters – let us know how you are doing, and tell us the history. Your words of encouragement mean ever so much to us and a good yarn never hurts either.

With sincere appreciation for your continued interest and support!

-VelmaFoster

on behalf of fellow members of the Board of Directors of the Bresaylor Heritage Museum: Marg Currie, Helena Caplette, June Taylor, Ross Currie, Don Ferguson and Marian McDougall.



MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN



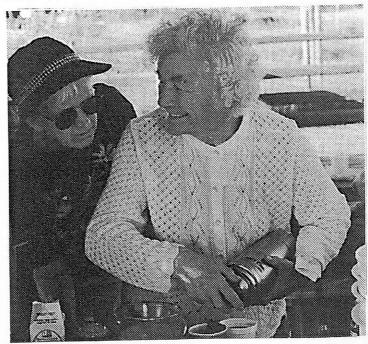
LAST SUMMER'S POT LUCK SUPPER took place at the Museum on July 30. There was a good turnout and as usual plenty of good food to enjoy. Visitors included Betty Churchman of Cut and an addughter Karen Krein of Edmonton who brought Julia Currie for what would be her last visit as she passed away suddenly in October. Lizzie Black was with us for the last time also. Ed and Peggy Zaraska, now of Edmonton, formerly of Elk Point, dropped by for a nice visit.

After supper the draw took place.

RAFFLE 2000 WINNERS were: Joanne De Savern, Rosemary Currie, Frank Hunt, June Johnston and Ken McDonald each won cash prizes of \$20. Don Ferguson won a \$20 Gift Shop Certificate, Peter Taylor and Sharon Walker won \$10 Certificates, and Ross Innes, Betty Churchman and Tom Smith won \$5 Certificates.

Ten dollar Gift Certificates to <u>someone present</u> at the supper went to Bev Davis and Beth Head. And <u>Complimentary</u> tickets for the upcoming 2001 Summer Raffle went to David Peterson, Don Light, Jean Petty, June Taylor, Ed Andrews, Elaine Brooks, Jane Shury, Bev Davis, Betty Nelson, Bertha Warner and Kay Critchley.

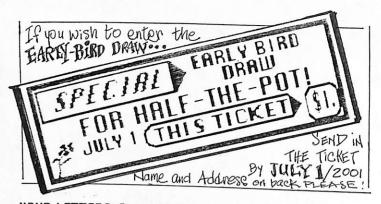
**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the raffle which netted \$375.



Lois Spence and Lizzie Black at the Pot Luck Supper. Lizzie's last visit as she passed away in October.

THIS SUMMER'S POT LUCK SUPPER WILL TAKE PLACE ON JULY 29. The 2001 Raffle Draw will take place at that time. DO PLAN TO ATTEND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. AS THE SAYING GOES - THE MORE THE MERRIER (AND THE MORE THE VARIETY OF EDIBLES).

THE 2001 SUMMER RAFFLE will once again consist of cash prizes as well as other prizes. Also, this year, notice the extra ticket enclosed for an EARLY-BIRD HALF-THE-POT draw (\$1.). If interested, sign the back and return by July 1.



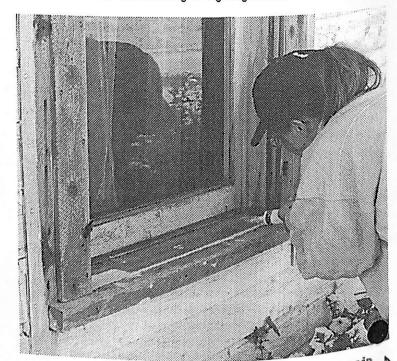
YOUR LETTERS From which we shamelessly..."borrow and steal" bits of "flotsam and jetsam" to appease the interest of fellow readers.

As always <u>Yvonne Carpentier</u> sends a "hi" to everyone. Like several other ex-Paynton residents, Yvonne has settled in to the Seniors' apartments in Maidstone. Her sister-in-law <u>Florence Carpentier</u> has been there for some time. And <u>Georgina Desmarais</u> and her sister-in-law <u>Irene McKee</u> are there too, as is Mrs. <u>Leona Bone</u>. From Montana <u>Carrie Taylor</u> sends greetings. And it's good to know that <u>Avril Spence</u> is enjoying life in Vancouver. She looks forward to visits from her daughter <u>Bonnie Schimschock</u> of Portland, and is ever so proud of her grandson, <u>Trevor</u>, now in gr. 6; gr. 7 in music.

It seems that there have been some memorable birthdays lately. Charles D. Denney, turned 100 years old on January 25. He is still writing, and we hope he will continue to do so for a long time yet. (His research on old families of this area is now a part of the Glenbow collection in Calgary.) May (Dobie) Fletcher turns 90 this year. Don Dobie writes that she has undergone major surgery. We certainly wish her well. Edith Land reports that Lorna (Land) Schrieber had a 90th birthday dinner for Florence (Land) Gorton, in Richmond, BC. A notice in the Battleford News Optimist celebrated Alice Sample (granddaughter of Peter and Catherine Taylor of the original settlement) having turned 97 last December, and on March 3 of this year <u>George Pritchard</u> (son of Solomon? Pritchard) turned 98. Bernice (Mack) McDonough and husband celebrated their 60th anniversary. So reports Evelyn (Mack) Platt from the Royal City Manor in New Westminster where she continues to work on a book about her mother Marabella (Taylor) Mack. Rose Ramsay is waiting for hip surgery, and we're glad to hear that she has "graduated from a wheel chair to a cane". (She returned her raffle winning as a donation "in memory of her parents Tom and Mary Kovolsky".) Ed and Peggy Zaraskas were guests at our Pot Luck Supper, returning from "Back to Batoche" days, which always seem to

returning from "Back to Batoche" days, which always seem to fall on the same weekend as our event. They brought news of the loss of Louis "Little Fidler" Verhagen on May 12, 2000. He had helped so much to record the history of Peter Fidler and descendants, and will be missed. [The FRIENDS OF THE FORTS SOCIETY, FORT GEORGE AND BUCKINGHAM HOUSE has a special relationship to the Bresaylor area as we too have descendants of Peter Fidler.] The secretary of the Friends, Lesia K. Sherwin, writes that they would like to see visitors from here. Near Elk Point, AB, that historic site is well worth the Bresaylor Heritage. You just might get in for free.

Ross and Eileen Innes have moved from Battleford to Medicine Hat. Ross, on returning to Battleford in the early '90s, took an active part in the preservation of its history, did his father (Campbell Innes) before him, . He remains very interested in the history of the area and is pleased that plans to save and restore Government House (at Battleford) for the Province's 100th anniversary are going ahead there.



Rosemary Currie repairing a window in the main Museum building. Broken glass and rotten wood made the task a challenge.

Kay (Leslie) Mitchell sent in a correction re: Bud Regnier's account in last year's Newsletter about skating on Muskrat Lake; she says it was Rush Lake. She goes on to mention the time when the Leslies were living in her dad's Pool Room next to the Bresauler Hatter to the Bresaylor Hotel because their house had burned down while they were at the Federal School Christmas concert (1932). Two years later the hotel burned down and their temporary home in the Pool Hall went with it. They then went to live with "Grander and the Pool Hall went with it. They and to live with "Grandma Taylor". "We had nothing. The Red Cross sent " Cross sent us clothes." In the summer Mr. Leslie hauled in the house from their feet. were tough, but "we always had food...Mother had a big garden.
Dad hauled harrological River" Dad hauled barrels of water from the N. Saskatchewan River" ....and they did a lot of canning - saskatoons, raspberries, cranberries. "Dad always grew potatoes and in the fall he would take a wagon box full to North Battleford and trade for groceries - tea control groceries - tea, sugar, salt etc."

Jean Petty tells of meeting Lily (Leslie) Myhre's son Allan Myhre and his wife at her hairdresser's. They had brought Allan's mother-in-law in for an appointment. The hairdresser, being from Saskatchewan was (what else?) asking the couple about crops in Saskatchewan. Jean says perked up my ears at the mention of my home province. Solve found out who the couple was and that she had taught Allan's uncle Clifford and aunt Flora at Federal School in Bresaylor in 1936-7.

Last summer we received a grant under the YOUNG CANADA WORKS IN HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS program in order to 1) hurry along some of the regular work of the museum - painting, repairs etc. and 2) initiate improvements to the Bresaylor Cemetery. We matched the grant (25%) with of our own funds. Rosemary Currie was hired for the job. It was nice to have the extra help and Rosemary dug right into the tasks at hand. Several gallons of paint were applied to both buildings, outdoor furniture, exterior & interior doors and windows; major repairs were done to weathered windows on the main building both upstairs and down; some work was done to the collection itself - more labelling etc. - and a Bresaulor-Paunton 4H presentation book from the 1940s - '60s was completely repaired so it can be displayed without further damage. Rosemary completed a map of relative positions of markers in the cemetery and documented the markers that most need repairs with photographs and descriptions. (More about the Cemetery





The YOUNG CANADA WORKS IN HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS grant certainly proved to be helpful for us and we are grateful for the assistance. It is a federal grant and comes to museums through the CANADIAN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION. We would like to apply again but will wait a year in order to build up a bit of a financial reserve. It helps make the grant worthwhile if we are able to spend a little extra for supplies and/or equipment.

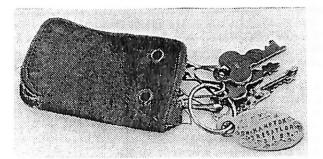
Our next major project will be to establish a Web Site, initially to post our collection of unidentified photographs, then we'll see where it goes from there. We will likely apply again to the YCW grant program in order to hire a student to help that endeavor.

Further to the Cemetery marker project... I am still working on finalizing the list of unmarked graves. That list will be placed on a common granite marker, likely supported by iron posts. I have been contacting the families involved to find out if they might be planning to place individual gravestones in memory of their ancestors.

The McDonald family, for example, decided to have the names of wife and children added to the large marker already in place (but leaning badly) for Philip McDonald. Rose City Monuments of Cut Knife removed the stone, added the names and replaced it onto a secure and straightened base. The various descendants chipped in to cover the cost.

I have not yet heard from a couple of the families contacted. But, sometime this summer we will finalize the list for the common marker.

Perhaps by the next Newsletter we will have it in place.



WILLIAM HAMPTON - A SPECIAL "SHUTTERBUG".

Last summer we received for the Museum collection a set of keys from Margaret Webb, now of Mundare, AB, formerly of Paynton and formerly one of our Museum Board members. On the keytag was the name Wm. H. Hampton, Bresaylor, Sask. The name brought back recollections of "Willy" Hampton, someone that I had never met but whom I had heard a lot about. When we were working on the Bresaylor history book, there were still people living hereabout who remembered Willy, his three cameras and his habit of taking photographs of people in the area. It was said that there was somewhere a suitcase full of his photographs, but I was never able to track down such a treasure.

However, I did meet the late Robert Leslie Jr. shortly before he died and he asked me to call around for some photographs that might be useful for the history book. I did and they were. He had glued the photos into an old machine parts catalogue which served nicely as an album. He acknowledged that most of them were taken by Willy Hampton but were only a small fraction of the photos that he had taken; that Willy took pictures of every family in the district. I then wrote down the names of people and places in the photos as Bob Leslie identified them. Two weeks later he passed away. I was always grateful for that encounter with him. We used a lot of those photos in the history book. And we have all benefited from Willy Hampton and his "shutterbug" habit. It would have been wonderful to have had access to the rest of his collection.

Willy Hampton's story is in the Bresaylor history book (p. 181). Briefly, he came from England and worked for Charlie Stephens who had a store in Bresaylor from 1926-1939. Willy never married and perhaps that's why he could afford to take photos in the '30's. When the store was sold he went to live with and work for the McMurchies at Paynton. He died in 1965 at 85 years of age and is buried in the Paynton Cemetery. (Yauna Foster)



Willy Hampton seems to have enjoyed having his picture taken as much as he enjoyed photographing others.

This past year has seen the loss of several long-term supporters of Bresaylor Heritage. A very special one was Doug Doble, and we will miss his kind and thoughtful letters - usually written on the back of

in 1937 & 38 when Doug was 13 & 14 years old, he kept a diary which is a priceless piece of day to day history of the time. When asked for a copy for the Museum, Doug took it upon himself to rewrite the whole thing so that it would copy more clearly. He elso made a map of the area around Battlebank School where the familiu lived at the time. His daughter Joanne then photocopied the diary. It will remain an ongoing treasure for all time.

At eighteen, Doug joined the army. On page 461 of the Bressylor history book is his account of "The Battle of Wehl, Holland, 1945".

The following is an excerpt from his diery, and Doug's recollection of Picking Cranberries borrowed from Don Doble's book A Potpourri.

Aug 9 Bot a barner of water to day Went hunting with my, 22 saw some children but never got and . We are going to Black river to puch crambernes to morrow. Aug 10 We want to Sash run with Beauty and got 94 han sach of cran berries. Red and Dad went to Paynton with binder. Thoseys were over the sieus Holmesam for Aug 11 Dads I fixed binder in allanoon :.
Mr. Bellavaher celled here of way horns from hospital. Terrilly hot to day Tabel lis away picking berries with Straw Fitz. Aug 12 Stot another barrel of water and a load of sained wood Stace File Myst last a lough o Rittens Here Statem locked bland stans Red. Dad gone to C. Taylor MITE Aug 13 Went to Roberto the morning and got his scyth for Dad, Returned it Whis evening bluent hunting twice Willed a partridge both times Exspect roun to note

"Memories" by Douglas Dobie

Another clear day dawns over the North Saskatchewan River Valley, the morning mists and the fogs of the night quietly fade away. A special day it will indeed be, for today the high bush cranberries are ripe and ready for harvesting.

The year is 1934 and most of the Western World is deep in the Great Depression. The Prairies of the Canadian West have also suffered through a run of drought years, lowering food production for man and beast to an alarming level. Fortunately for the residents of the Northern Parklands, the wild berries survived the dry years fairly

well. The saskatoon berries, chokecherries and raspberries have found protection from the hot summer sun by maturing deep in the shade of the poplar groves, where they are also nurtured by the dew of the night. With the Dog Days of summer once more upon us those same berries have all been picked, preserved and stored for winter use and processing the cranberry crop will finish off the summer canning program, before the start of the grain harvest.

Summertime holidays were unknown during those hard times, so a day at the river was a welcome break for everyone. A day of swimming, digging in the sand searching for clam shells and for fancy pieces of driftwood, even the time spent picking berries was enjoyable. as the moist green of the river valley is a complete turnaround from the dusty dry of the plains.

Cranberries grow on shrubs five to ten feet high amongst towering black poplar and white birch trees, beside the fast flowing river in the locale. With seasonal flooding and constant seepage, this strip of trees, shrubs, plants and just plain tanglewood is turned into an enchanting forest by the summer sun. Here are found all varieties of climbing vines, ferns, huge toadstools, puff balls and other fungal growth of all shapes and colors, displayed in a cathedral like setting by rays of dappled sunlight

Among all this splendor lingers the signature scent of the Canadian North, the aroma of the Balm of Gilead tree. A member of the Aspen family, the "Balm' is commonly known as the Black Poplar. This is the "Liard." the pungent odor so well known to Voyageurs and river men from Quebec to the Yukon.

Cranberries are a very easy fruit to pick. Growing in large round clusters as they do, it seems to take no time to fill a large pail. So the plan of the day is to get an early start and put everyone to work in the cool of the morning. Usually by eleven a m. the picking is over. And then a pleasant hour is spent in the water, wading, swimming and washing away the dest of the days gone by. The flood plain at the West end of the berry picking island is quite large, ten acres of water, sand and driftwood with many safe swim holes. Soon swim time is over and lunch is on for all, and "all" is more that ready for it. After lunch the afternoon is free time, playtime for everyone to enjoy.

River breakup - by Pon Dobie

The warm spring days brought on an annual dramatic event, the breakup of the ice on the river. Seeing it for the first time, it was a most thrilling sight. One spring morning in April I was cutting fire wood in a poplar grove situated on the edge of the North

Saskatchewan River valley, from where I could view the river for a few miles both up and down. Early in the day I heard a most unusual noise in the distance, a sort of crunching, grinding, growling sound. Looking up river, I could see a dark line running across the river, the point at which the river ice was breaking up. At the break, the floes were being forced on end, churning and grinding making mighty noises as the solid ice of the river was being shattered into floes about ten feet across, the ice being about two feet in thickness. The breakup was moving down stream at a rate of one to two miles an hour.

Fascinated, I watched an entrancing spectacle, not remembering anyone who had described such an event, even if it did occur each year. Directly opposite from the my viewpoint was a sleigh road that ran over the ice, from shore to shore, a trail through the snow made by travellers crossing the river. The river at that point was about one quarter of a mile in width. When the breakup reached the road, the sight of the trail being broken up, with huge sections being lifted and then broken dramatized the power of the breakup forces in action.

Within a few hours the breakup line had moved downstream and out of sight, leaving behind a mass of ice blocks in the water, grinding and tossing in the current as they floated down stream. Some of them were forced onto the shore, where they would tear down trees, gouge out the banks, and in places be piled high on a sandbar, an awesome display of raw power. It would take a couple of weeks or so for the river to be free of floating ice, the last remnant of winter's shackles.

But the magic of spring was not over yet, with each passing day long lines of sandhill cranes, vee formations of wild geese and many flocks of ducks could be both seen and heard, all heading north, reminding us that spring was indeed a time of renewal for both body and spirit.

Ray Sayers, Abbotsford, BC, has these recollections of Bresaylor: "Bresaylor was a great community when I grew up, and I had a wonderful childhood there. Neighbors used to t each other, and everyone helped each other." "Eunice and Took our confirmation lessons from the Rev. Ahab Spence\* (note Obit.). He was an outstanding minister." "My mother was president of the St. Anne's Church Women's Auxiliary for 25 years." "The cemetery was on the corner of our property and Dad always helped to dig the graves, and we often went over to the cemetery during the summer to cut the grass." Ray sent some photos of his lovely prize-winning flower garden in Abbotsford, BC.

# Dr. Anab Spence (1911 - April 5, 2001) lived in Paynton from 1953-56 while ministering to the Anglican parishes of Paynton, Brossylor, Forest Bank, Maidstone and Little Pine. He schieved the status of Canon (1955-59), Archdeacon (1959-63) in the dincese of Saskatoon. During his long career he served both Indian and non-indian people with disctinction and in 1964 was awarded an honorary LLD from the University of Saskatchewan and in 1982 was made a member of the Order of Canada

SUMMARY OF BOB HENDRICKS NEWSLETTER ON THE FIRST FLUDA (Frog Lake Uprising Descendant Association) briefly. We had mentioned the gathering to take place on last May long weekend. The gathering was successful, well attended (some 70 in all), Eleanor MacMillan (Gowanlock) of Ancaster, ON, having come the furthest. It was apparently well covered in media. Several Pritchards were in attendance, cendants of John Pritchard, father of Mrs. Mary Rose Sayers. Plans were made for the site and for future gatherings. Anyone interested in a copy of the 3-page newsletter can contact us at the Bresaylor Museum or go right to the editor, Bob Hendricks, Box 9, Heinsburg, AB, TOA 1X0 (Ph. 780 - 943-2433) e-mail henbob@telusplanet.net.

PAYNTON file at the PAYNTON LIBRARY: E-mail address

is paynton.lib@sk.sympatico.ca.

• And we have a <u>Paynton file</u> at the Bresaylor Museum (address above).

• Also, Louisa (Dobie) Shermerhorn has an ongoing interest in Paynton history and encourages anyone "to write down.......what they remember the Paynton streets as being i.e. where was the Pool Hall through the years....write down the various 'rememberances' with approximate year attached" etc. Also enquiries. Send these to the library or the Museum or Louisa whose e-mail address is (luezir@mb.sympatico.ca) These two enquiries came to the Library last summer: McGuire - Wonders if anyone has a photograph of John McGuire, wife Bridget or son Edward. They arrived in Paynton around 1905. <cpmcguire@home.com>

Janice McMurchy is interested in information on William lor, wife May Lyons, son Melvin Corbett Taylor. Also, does Francisco Angles Control of the Cont Emma, brother James Monford Price? <mcmujl@uleth.ca>

## 

George Brown no date available Ruby (Leslie) Loftus 1914 - June 1999 Albert "Bert" Steele 1922 - February 7, 2000 Gail (Dobie) Bates May 2000 Estella Janet Holmes 1907 - July 2, 2000 Morley Phillips August 2000 Douglas Dobie 1924 - September 17, 2000 Lizzie Black 1913 - October 13, 2000 Clinton I. Greenwood 1916 - October 13, 2000 Alexandra Chilibecki 1905 - October 14, 2000 William McCready October 15, 2000 Julia Louisa Currie 1927 - October 16, 2000 Eva (Sayers) Wassink 1938 - December 2000 Marilyn (Gee) Morrill 1947 - December 2000 Tillie (Chilibecki) Lychak 1927 - January 17, 2001 Jorgen Groseth 1917 - March 2, 2001 Barry Austin 1930 - March 4, 2001 Mary Lillian Fraser 1893 - March 4, 2001 Marjorie Joyce Dutton 1919 - April 3, 2001 Dr. Ahab Spence 1911 - April 5, 2001 Florence (Cook) Sylvester 1915 - April 5, 2001

I have always wanted to witness the river break-up. This year i almost made it. On April 17, as I was rereading Don Dobie's story, suddenly realized that this is the time. I hurried to the river. Ah, there was a channel open The next day I returned and - the river was open. I'd caught it before and ofter. Not quite the event? Or was it? I'd like to hear from others who have witnessed a North Saskatchewan River breakup.

## BOOKS in the GIFT SHOP



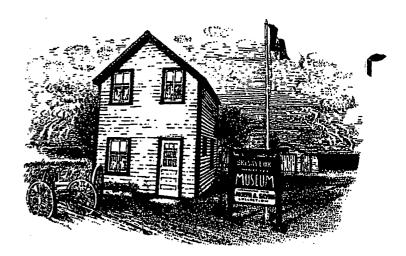
- In Search of Ancient Alberta
   a guide to the province's geology, paleontology
   and archaeology (Barbara Huck).......\$24.95
- "Peter Fidler, Canada's Forgotten Explorer" by J. G. McGregor....\$12.95
- "Gully Farm" A Barr Colonist homesteading story by Mary Hiemstra.....\$12.95
- Wheat Province Diamonds A Story of Saskatchewan Baseball by Paul Hack and David Shury.......\$25.00
- The Golden Age of the Canadian Cowboy - An Illustrated History by Hugh Dempsey.....\$19.95.
- Roots In The Rockies" by Frank Camp, 35 years Park Warden and Park Wardens Officer..........
- The Sands of Time", a reprint of the Battlefords Historical Society Publication "The Cree Rebellion". Ross Innes ......\$18.50
- e Sayers Family Recipes .... \$9.
- **© Haywire** by Jim Caplette (grandson of Louis Caplette) warm, funny, wacky tales from real life by a "natural born recycler".... \$14.95.



## MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

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AURILABLE IN OUR MUSEUM GIFT SHOP...
BOOKS, PRINTS, T-SHIRTS, CARDS AND
LOCALLY MADE CRAFT ITEMS.

Don Dobie has been self-publishing (and binding too). His books will be available soon at the Museum Gift Shop: They are: 1) "The River" (a compilation in one book of the 4 main river trips Don made on the N. and S. Saskatchewan Rivers from 1989 - 1992. 2) "My Winter as a Trapper" - a winter spent up north on the Waterhen with partner Jack Petty of Paynton in 1931-2. A good read about an area that was quite unsettled at that time. 3) "A Potpourri of Stories, Verses and Cartoons". Some good tall tales, touching recollections, verse "and worse" and now Don turns his humor to cartoons. The books hold together well as literature but tend to come unbound in the hand. Not to worry, read one page at a time for light reading (literally). Don does his own publishing and binding so bear with him in his efforts. He is to be commended. Price of the books to be announced.



\*Roots In The Rockies\* by Frank and Edna Camp of Ucluelet, B.C., in an interesting book about Frank's 35 years in the Park Warden Service. His latest book, "Sea Solos & Horse Tales" covers adventures in the years since his retirement from the National Parks Service in 1981. They are self-publishers and orders and enquiries can be made to them at Box 165, Ucluelet, BC, VOR 3AO or phone (250) 726-4207.

DONATIONS TO THE BRESAYLOR HERITAGE MUSEUM ARE TAH DEDUCTIBLE.

A DONATION OF \$5. OR MORE ENTITLES YOU TO BECON A CARD-CARRYING SUPPORTER OF BRESAYLOR HERITAGE AND TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER.