

p.1

Jumeau Doll “Roberta Susan” and her Wardrobe

Roberta Susan is a French doll manufactured by Jumeau around 1880. Her moveable joints, beautiful china face and luminous eyes made her a favourite of little girls in the late 19th Century. My mother had a similar doll in the 20's.

Roberta Susan was donated to the museum by Mrs. Dorothy Hamilton, and had belonged to her mother, Mrs. Airey. Her wardrobe came with her, and had been hand-made in the latest fashions of the day.

Roberta Susan was lovingly restored in the 1980's by the former Doll Hospital in the Slocan Valley. Her original human hair, which had sadly deteriorated, was replaced by a new human hair replacement wig in the same ringlet style and colour.

Accession.# 1983.187.001, donated by Mrs. Dorothy Hamilton, (nee Airey)

Framed portrait of Shelley Gilbert Alec Garner Pastel on Art Paper

Alec Garner is best known in Nelson for his scenic landscape paintings and his series of paintings of Sternwheelers of the Columbia River System. What many people do not know is that he first became known in Nelson as a portrait painter. His portraits of various Blackfoot , Blood and Ktunaxa leaders, of Selwyn G. Blaylock, of my friend Heather Erb, (now Clark), and this one of Shelley Gilbert (later Laughton) of Nelson, made his reputation here.

Garner was originally from England, and moved with his family to Procter from Alberta, where he had become serious about painting. He drove a school bus route from Procter to Nelson to support his family while he developed his career in the Kootenays. His son Ron graduated with me from Nelson High School in 1955.

Accession # 2007.109.044, donated by Mrs. Edna Laughton .

p.2

**Perry's Mining Map of the West Kootenay,
Southern District, 1st Edition, 1893**

Drawn by T.P. O'Farrell, this beautiful map was produced in 1893 by C.E. Perry and Company, Provincial Land Surveyors of Nelson. I loved it from the first time I saw it.

The charming inset of Nelson as the centre of the planet, the gold, silver and copper rectangles defining the mines which were making Nelson's reputation, and the old names for many of the identified places make it one of my favourites in our large collection.

Map # 10.46

**Winter Landscape, 1986
L.X. Forde**

Acrylic paint on paper

I have always found L.X.'s paintings vibrant and tender at the same time. This typical Nelson winter scene brings back memories of our family trudging up Nelson's unploughed snowy hills -- my husband hauling a sleigh carrying the current baby, and me holding another young one by the hand as we all sang or chatted.

I was very happy when L.X. donated this work to our permanent collection so everybody could enjoy it.

Acc # 2007.110.001, donated by the artist L.X. Forde

p.3

Handmade “Crazy” Quilt, pre-1900

This beautifully hand-made and embroidered quilt was brought to Nelson in 1900 by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Irwin when they were first married.

The “crazy” quilt was made of varied sizes and colours of fabric pieces and and sewn together in a random manner with embroidered stitches added to unify the design and pull it together.

This one has a special border across the bottom of the quilt which added another feature to “finish” the design.

Acc #1983.187.001, gift of Verne Irwin

Historic Nelson: The Early Years

By John Norris

Published by Oolichan Press, 1995

To celebrate the Centennial of Nelson, the Kootenay Museum Association and Historical Society invited John Norris to write a history of Nelson up to Incorporation. He had recently completed “Old Silverton” which had won the Lieutenant-Governors award for historical writing.

John consented on condition that we assist him in his research, as he lived in New Denver and could not often come to Nelson. Alan Ramsden, Henry Stevenson and I helped him, and the book was published by Oolichan Press just before Christmas in 1995.

I met a few people after Christmas who greeted me with “Damn you Shawn Lamb, I couldn’t get anything done over the holidays; I couldn’t put that book down!”. That’s what we wanted.

p.4

A Perfect Childhood: 100 Years of Historic Homes in Nelson BC

By Arthur Joyce

published by Kootenay Museum Association
And Historical Society, 1997

Arthur Joyce started a Nelson Daily News column on the history of homes and heritage in Nelson in 199 . To celebrate the Centennial of Incorporation In 1887, we published his book which expanded the stories of some of those homes.

The book was designed by Fiona Richards of Silica Design, and laid out by Angela Lockerbie. The cover photo is from the Dill/Hunter Family Fonds in the archives. We were and are very proud of this publication, which is still selling.

**A Life in the Woods: Oral Histories
from the West Kootenay Forests**

Vol 1 edited by Peter Chapman, 1993

Vol 2 and 3 edited by Joel Russ, 1994

Published by

The West Kootenay Forest History Project
of the Kootenay Museum Association
and Historical Society.

These three volumes of edited oral histories were published to present the stories of some of those residents who worked in our forests. The reports were re-printed 3 times.

In September-October, 2009, sixteen of the edited interviews were digitized by Nicole Tremblay and are now accessible with transcriptions and some images at www.touchstonesnelson.ca/forests, or follow the link from the exhibitions page on our website. We hope to add to them in the future.

p.5

The Silver King

Helen Lee, M.A.

Published by the Kootenay Museum Association
And Historical Society, 1986

This booklet was produced to accompany our major exhibition “The Silver King” presented in 1986 to mark the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Silver King Mine on Toad Mountain, which led to the founding of Nelson.

The booklet has been reprinted many times since 1886, distributed in mining stock promotional materials, and is the basis for our Community Memories exhibition on the Virtual Museum of Canada, The Silver King Mine.

Nelson and the Kootenays: A History in Pictures

Niche Productions for the Nelson Daily News, 1994

This “History in Pictures” was the idea of Colin Seed, who presented it to the Nelson Daily News as an idea for publication. It became a fund-raiser for the museum, because one dollar from every copy sold came to the museum coffers. This was the first time I had “done a deal” using our archival assets and it was an intriguing experience.

One problem was the size of the publication, as it was very expensive to mail out, and we had a number of complaints from locals who sent it to far away relatives paying more for the mailing than they had for the book itself.

Live and learn! Right?

p.6

100 Days, 100 Years: A Century of Nelson's Top News Stories
Edited by Shawn Lamb, 1997

From the introduction:

“The idea for a book of 100 significant local news stories to celebrate Nelson's Centennial came out of a conversation with former Nelson Daily News staffer, Colin Seed, who had worked with me on the “Nelson and the Kootenays” tabloid in 1994.

“In putting the book together I very quickly realized that 100 stories weren't nearly enough, and that no one wanted a book of 100 sad stories. As a result, most are positive community stories covering as many aspects of Nelson as possible and spread throughout the 100 years since incorporation in 1897. One exception is the story of Nelson business, which is mostly in the ads which made the publication possible”.

I still enjoy leafing through this publication, although I cringe because there are some stupid errors which I missed in the rushed late nights of work leading up to the deadline, and which were spotted by the eagle eye of Ted Affleck *after* publication! Sigh!

Brydges-Fisher Sawmill, Nelson B.C. c. 1899
Model by Bert Learmonth

Bert Learmonth's wonderfully realistic models have enhanced many of our historical exhibitions, including this one of the former Brydges-Fisher sawmill at the foot of Park Street. He never turned us down when we asked him to help us out.

It was wonderful to see how he would study historical photographs and information and then his creative juices would start to flow and he would come up with another beautiful recreation. This model, produced for our “Loggers, Millowners and Communities” exhibition in 1994, is one of my favourites

**Exhibition Panels from
“Forward to the Past” Exhibition
Created by Nicole Tremblay**

After the May, 2004 fire which destroyed the M.V. Amabilis II Restoration, and closed the museum for 4 months of cleanup and repairs, the Board of Directors decided that we would leave the cleaned and packed artifacts in boxes until we knew where our future home would be.

One-third of the former W.A. Fetterley Room was set up with these panels telling the story of the museum to date and a case of representative artifacts was set up. The Mildred Erb Gallery continued local art exhibitions changing monthly, and the Archives were still available to researchers.

Soon afterward the referendum approving the new Community Complex (and the museum move to 502 Vernon Street) passed, and the rest is history!