

RBC PENSIONERS' NETWORK

BRITISH COLUMBIA CELL

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EDITORIAL

This Newsletter is a new venture by a group of pensioners interested in bringing RBC pensioners closer together and to try and establish some of the comradery we all have known during our working lives.

This endeavor is not sponsored or directed in any way by the Bank. The plan is to publish an electronic Newsletter each quarter, depending on the response of pensioners and the amount of material provided by readers.

The first edition features stories and images picked at random with no particular reason other than to try and present some interesting material. Those who receive this Newsletter should copy it and pass it on to any you know who do not have email, but would like to read it. If you know of anyone who would like to receive an electronic edition contact:

rbcpensionersnetwork@shaw.ca

B.C. PENSIONERS NETWORK HAS BEEN SET UP.

Readers should contact the email address shown above if you know of any pensioners in distress, or who have been bereaved or indeed to advise when a pensioner passes away. This information will be passed on through the network which at this time includes about 50 names throughout the province. Again those who receive information should provide it to others who do not have email.



A Charlie Merrick cartoon will appear in this space in future editions.



This distinguished group of Don Reed, Stan Crookston, Harvey Fisk and Len Kozar meet for lunch, with others, at the New Westminster Quay on the last Thursday of each month.



Lorne Switzer often attends the luncheons at the New Westminster Quay.



Martin Draper lives in White Rock and meets with a group of retired Royal Bankers from time to time.

"BOB CRAIG" REMEMBERS TERRACE

My first recollections concerning my banking career are when my Dad tells me - Mr. McConnell wants to see you. Why? Maybe a job. I don't want to work for no bank. Dad says "see what the man has to say and be respectful." Manager J.T.H. (Jim) McConnell finding I was soon to graduate from Terrace High, persuades me to join the bank on a three month trial basis. I see a doctor for the first time, I ask for references from people I hardly know, but they give them to me because they know my father.

Monday, June 30th, 1952 my first day of work at The Royal Bank of Canada, Terrace, B.C. I recall there was a spelling and math test to be completed and sent to Vancouver for perusal, together with the physical examination. I suspect no one ever failed one of Jim's tests.

In addition to Jim McConnell there were 13 on the staff. This included myself and two others from my graduation class. Quite remarkable as I was only one of seven graduates. The staff as I recall were: Ken Coleman, Dick MacAdam, Dennis Becker, Wally MacKay, Terry McDairmid, Joyce "Bubbles" Shaigec, Barb Reynolds, Adele Cote, Yvonne Normandeau, Rosemary Tetrault, Millie Davies, Bob Koch, Tom Richardson. The name of one teller I have forgotten.

Equipment was conspicuous by its absence. We had one electric "Burroughs" capable of adding and subtracting and one manual, add only, machine plus a manual typewriter.

After a tour of duty delivering drafts, I became ledger keeper. Ever accommodating "Jim" was a soft touch for the wheedling of the cash flow fallen, one merchant in particular was addicted to late after-hour deposits. Jim would leave for his supper around 6:00 pm and then return to check postings, while I hurried away to take sustenance. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm was pretty much the role of order for a good day.

I remember my finest hour as a ledger-keeper. It was a month-end and miracles of miracles when I listed the ledger it was in balance....it was not yet gone ten! We all stood stunned - me foremost! The universe was not unfolding as it should.

Mercifully, Saturday morning openings were discontinued during my first year. Those were long hours we toiled for minuscule pay. The number \$125 per month sticks in my mind, \$1500 per annum. That included a Northern allowance of \$400 per annum. When I was transferred to Burnaby Kingsway & McKay branch, I earned less than before my raise, because the \$400 Northern allowance was stopped.

Jim McConnell was an excellent recruiter for the Bank. Readily coming to mind are names that stayed the course

being Dennis Becker, Terry McDermid, and Larry Mathews.



Bob's first day RBC Terrace

ALICE J. CARFRAE

Compiled by C.W. Merrick

Alice started in the Royal Bank at 6th and Princess, New Westminster in 1952- but can't remember the day ... was all too exciting, eh Alice? Gibby Oliver was Branch Manager. Alice says she had many interesting and varied experiences during her banking days.

Alice retired from Vancouver, Granville & Robson Street. Branch in 1990 as Assistant Manager, a position she enjoyed immensely.

Since retiring, Alice advises she is just a wild and crazy, happy contented senior - and fully enjoying herself. In her spare time, she walks the N.W. Quay every day. You can see her there.





ELIZABETH JONES

Compiled by C.W. Merrick

Prior to joining the bank Elizabeth Jones was a highly trained Registered Nurse who worked in the operating room at the Vancouver General Hospital. She married a Royal Banker which union produced two girls. However they divorced and Elizabeth came to work for Royal Bank in 1973. The Bank provided a work schedule that allowed her to care for her young children. At that time the Bank was required by law to have a Registered Nurse on Staff. She was attached to B.C. District Personnel Department (Royal Centre location)

Elizabeth was the key to the Bank's awareness program in recognizing staff with substance abuse and alcohol problems. She helped many Royal Bankers seek professional help and kept the work she accomplished completely confidential. She also started a weight watch and exercise programs and insisted everyone get weighed and be aware of the dangers of not enough exercise. She was there if anyone was feeling sick and provided counselling to any number of people. It was part of her job to check, after a few days, on all those who had not reported to work because of sickness. Often she could provide some relief for a hangover. Elizabeth also started the very successful "Retirement Seminars" program for upcoming RBC retirees and spouses .

Elizabeth took part in all Department functions and on one occasion volunteered to play on the Okanagan Kootenays Regional Office curling team. She suggested the rink should be distinctive and arranged for the 4 players to wear kilts. The only one on the rink that had curled before was Don Steele, the skip. One other on the team had been inside a curling rink once. The regional bonspiel was held in Kelowna. Nurse Jones recalls that Terry McDermid, skip of the Kamloops rink, had the annoying habit of lifting Steele's kilt with his broom. The rink went down to some embarrassing losses - but they looked good!!

Rule 20 (a)- Rule Book - 1917

One disadvantage of the early marriage of officers is the prevention of the frequent transfers necessary for the training and promotion of young men. In addition to this, a married clerk dependent upon a small salary must either incur debt or live in a manner unbecoming to his position. Either alternative is injurious to the bank.



L.K. (Len) Kozar

Compiled by C.W Merrick

Len started his illustrious banking career at the RBC (Vancouver Main & 25th) in June 1955.

Mild mannered Art Toomer was the Manager. Len's first move was in 1956 to the Northern wilds of Hazelton, B.C. as a Teller to serve under Dick MacAdam. To get there meant a two hour plane trip to Terrace, B.C. A long wait, then a four hour train ride to New Hazelton (12:00 midnight to 4:00 am). Len then reported for duty at the branch at 8:00 am the same day!! The Relief Manager arrived at 9:45 am (retired Manager from Penticton, Bill Hebenton). While at Hazelton branch, month end found Len working to 1:00 am preparing monthly returns and balancing ledgers. Remember those were the days of "hand posted" savings ledgers. One month end Len was out \$100 in his cash and because of the gravity of the matter the Manager was reluctant to forward the monthly returns to B.C. District Headquarters. The difference was found a few days later.

Len lived in the Sargent's "Inlander Hotel", except for September which was fishing season for tourists and there was no room at the Inn. During that month he was moved to a suite over the local Post Office. When Len wanted a haircut or booze it was necessary to travel to Smithers some 45 miles distant and of course he had no car. This may have been a blessing.

Len never missed the regular dances at the Kispiox community hall, some 30 miles North. Ladies on one side, men on the other- an old piano provided the music, with a hot rendition of "Behind the Green Door" being Len's favorite.

It was during his time as Assistant Manager in Kelowna that Len met his wife Lynn, who was the Current Account supervisor at the branch. Later Len managed Burnaby, Vernon, and New Westminster branches.

Len retired in May 1994 as Manager, Lending, B.C. District. Since retirement, Len has continued golfing and also enjoys an annual fishing trip. Len and his family holiday on Maui each February. Len remembers the 1976 PYAASI bicycle tour with some affection. Details of this event are provided elsewhere in this Newsletter.

RULES AND REGULATIONS- THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA 1917

Rule 27 (f) No officer under the rank of Manager shall issue cheques on his savings account.

PYAASI

Compiled by D.A. Lattimer

A private Club was formed in July 1976 to meet the health and exercise needs of Royal Bank employees (and their families) over 40 years of age. Walter Penner is recorded as Founder and the writer as Co-Founder. \$8.00 cash up front bought an annual membership to this exclusive riding club. Special exceptions were granted on request to by-pass the age requirement. (Kozar)

The first official event would be a bicycle marathon around Salt Spring Island. The \$8.00 fee covered ferry transportation from Tsawassen to Salt Spring Island and return, accommodation at the hotel, banquet and awards event, breakfast, wine and other refreshments. Bayne Langley, then in charge of B.C. District, covered the banquet costs fully. Ed. Lovick, also from the District office, covered all breakfast costs. Mobile transportation to carry supplies, gear, beer and other refreshments was supplied with Al Grant as official driver. This unit would also act as an emergency vehicle in case of bicycle accidents, falls, etc. Nurse Jones was in charge and supplied band aids, rubbing alcohol etc. to the participants on request.

All paid up members were issued with white T-Shirts with the word PYAASI in bold print on the front. All participants met at the Tsawassen Ferry Terminal at 9 am on Saturday morning for the trip to the Island. A traffic marshal guided everyone on to the ferry. We arrived at our destination around 10am and the journey of the fittest began. Lance Armstrong had nothing on this bunch! The Tour De France might be the main event but PYAASI was a close second. Four minutes after the event was officially started, our first accident. Peter Briscoe fell off his bike and ended up in a ditch adjacent to the steep incline leaving the ferry. But no harm done, he completed the task at hand. The journey was completed by 7pm Saturday night. The banquet was held, wine consumed and each participant received an official certificate and a "Golden Spoke" from the Master of Ceremonies, Dave Mungham, for completing the journey. The route covered 24 miles; 5 hours, 40 minutes in duration. 13 cases of beer were consumed and 33 people completed the ride (the latter number depending on who you talk to). Those completing the marathon were wives and friends of the following; Kozar, Carfrae, Rosseau, Mungham, Pollock, Lovick, Lattimer, Grant, Penner, Jones, Good, Briscoe, Reese, J. Smith, Steele, and Sine. Those other missing members are still out on the road doing their best to finish the journey in "07."

***PYAASI**

**PEDDLE YOUR ASS AROUND SALT SPRING
ISLAND**



Does anyone remember Burns Lake branch in the 50's?



An Inspection team (circa 1967) L/R Sandy MacKay, Barry Collins, Jim Simpson and Don Fisher.



Bill Anderson lives in Kelowna. Bill and his wife Alice have just returned from an RV trip that took them through Los Angeles and south to San Diego. They returned via Palm Springs and Phoenix. Bill is active with the pensioners' group in Kelowna. That group has an annual dinner that attracts some 90 retired bankers their spouses and guests.