

## INTRODUCTION

This information was compiled by an informal Joe Rich Historical Society in 2004. The organizer of the group was Ann Morrison, and its members are Jim, Gert and Cam Weddell, Trudy Philpott, Stan Lindahl, Kelly Lauer and John Birch.

We are aware that the material presented here will contain inaccuracies. We would be most grateful if readers would help us to correct these and if they would also contribute any further information relevant to the Joe Rich area which they may have. The material presented does not reflect changes which have occurred since 2004. We may be contacted at [jbirch@telus.net](mailto:jbirch@telus.net) or [weddell@telus.net](mailto:weddell@telus.net) .

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## DEDICATION

This little historical archive is dedicated to Gert Weddell. Gert put more into it than anyone else. She had an encyclopaedic mind with Joe Rich's entire history inscribed in it, and she knew almost everyone who had ever lived in Joe Rich. Each Tuesday afternoon for many months, she invited them in small groups to her home. Seated around her kitchen table, we collected vast amounts of material as she kept us contented with cups of tea and her wonderful chocolate chip cookies. Many of those we interviewed have now passed on and Gert herself joined them a few months after we had completed the project.

### A. COMMUNITY TOPICS

#### A1. POWER LINE (see C3 and D44)

The story of power coming to Joe Rich is well told by Ann Morrison in C3. Mrs. Gerry Demitor has saved a fascinating pile of letters starting from 1961 requesting power

and telephone service from the BC Government, the Public Utilities Commission, West Kootenay Power, and the Okanagan Telephone Company. She also has the replies from these institutions, negative at first and then reluctantly positive after 1964, when they learned that Joe Rich residents were prepared to put the poles in themselves. Then in 1965, there are all the letters regarding customers in Joe Rich who will agree to sign on for power and telephone and more importantly to pay \$1100 each. Then, there are the lists of all those Joe Rich residents who worked putting in the line. Finally, there are letters from 1973 and 1975 requesting a lowering of rates because more customers have moved into Joe Rich and so the power and telephone companies are able to spread their costs over a larger number of billings.

Some lists of the people involved are interesting. Those requesting power in 1964 were:

Howard Demitor  
Michael Feniak  
E.R. Christianson  
T.R. Prior  
C.H. Philpott  
C.E. Philpott  
L.C. Fazan  
Mary M. Weddell  
Jas. Henderson  
R.V. McKenzie  
C. Serwa  
J.A. Olinger  
Olinger Lumber Co., Carmi  
Barbara Elsdon  
S.L. Swart  
R.C. Parkes

Those who were signed on by April 1965 were:

R.A. Philpott  
Cecil E. Philpott  
Charles Philpott  
James Weddell  
H. Demitor  
Edgar Christianson  
W. Anderson  
Veronica McKenzie  
Terry Fazan  
K. Hathaway  
J. Henderson  
E. Ritchey  
Mrs. Parkin  
Kelowna Ranches: House  
Irrigation  
O. Folz  
L.C. Fazan

By the late fall of 1965, it was possible to draw up a list of residents who had worked putting in the line and what they were to be paid at 23.44 cents per hour. Because he worked the longest, Howard earned the most, a whole \$58.

<u>Worker</u>	<u>Hours worked</u>
Howard Demitor	247 ½
Cecil and Inez Philpott	235
Monti Philpott	160
Otto and Louise Folz	153 ½
Ron Philpott	132
Mr. Christianson	124
Jim Weddell	108
Donald Campbell	100
Jim and Francis Henderson	90
Mike Feniak	86 ½
Wilf Uppenborn	86 ½
Charlie Philpott	70
Ken Hathaway	55
Ralph Philpott	30
Dave Ross	7

Monti was paid an extra \$350 for fuel for the skidder. Whillis-Harding got \$25 for insurance. Further fuel charges and dynamite were \$102. Durnin Bros. who dug all the holes with a back hoe were paid \$580.

Ten years later in 1975, a list of power customers compiled to negotiate for lower rates shows how the population in the valley had grown.

Randy Barber	Leo Griswold
P. Griffith	C.E. Philpott
C.H. Philpott	R.A. Philpott
Alan James	Garth Stevenson
Fred McKinnon	P.J. Nan
Ron Doege	George Hume-Smith
Marcia Aitkens	Leo Kleimair
Don Mullen	Frank Russell
Ken Hryshiu	Roy Travers
Wayne Henney	Okanagan Telephone
Rosco Heuser	Norman Fast
Dan Van Heest	Claude Pearce
Ruth Sjodin	Mel Carlson
Albert Carlson	H.G. Anderson
Doug Hecko	Robert Snodgrass
Dion Subdivision	Don Dion
Claude Dion	Gary Stubbington
Berkley Hall	Neil Benner
Vern Emmerson	David Pollard
J. Weddell	H. Demitor
M. O'Connell	C. Marteinson
Karl Strocher	Joe Huson

G. Mortenson  
J. Murphy  
D. Simpson  
Ken Ross  
Bruce Pearce

Geo. Saunders  
Tom Frances  
Budge Winter  
Strutz

In ten years, the number of customers had increased from the original 16 to 55, an increase of nearly 350%. The number has continued to increase almost as rapidly.

After the Joe Rich power line was originally installed in 1965, it remained relatively unchanged until recently, except for some pole replacements.

At present, both Joe Rich and Big White are supplied by the power line which runs along Highway 33 from the Joe Rich Substation. The requirement for power in Aquila's service area is expected to increase by 40% over the next 20 years and due to Big White's current growth rate of 8 to 9% per year, may increase even more in the Joe Rich-Big White Area. Already, growing power demands are increasing the number of our power outages. In order to assure more reliable service, Aquila began upgrading the line in 1999 starting from the Joe Rich Substation. They are replacing the old poles with poles 20 feet higher which will carry two large circuits; one for Joe Rich and the other for Big White. At present, the new line has been completed as far as Dion Road. This fall it should be finished through the last southeast portion of Joe Rich. It is anticipated that by the winter of 2007 – 2008 the power demand at Big White will necessitate another upgrading of that circuit. *[28,44]*

## A2. FIRE DEPARTMENT (see A6)

Prior to our Joe Rich Fire Department, residents had little hope of putting out a fire once it was established. In 1929, Charles Halby and Agnes Philpott's home burned down. The Smiths, Lamberts, Hemmings, and Carlsons all lost their Joe Rich homes in fires. A trailer at High Lonesome Ranch burned. In 1965, Pat Russell saw smoke rising from Findlay's house in mid winter. She, Frank and the Weddells rushed over to find that 'hippies' living in the house had left a fire on to heat their sauna and it had gotten away while they were out. The Russells and the Weddells managed to get it out with multiple buckets of snow. Even after the advent of the fire department, Marcia Aitkens' cottage was badly damaged by fire in 2002, after she had moved out to a long term care facility.

In 1951 and 1952, dances were held at the school house to raise money and the women collected clothing for the Lamberts, the Hemmings and the Carlsons when they were burned out.

In the mid 1970s, Duff Booth was Joe Rich's Regional Director. He found out that if Joe Rich had a volunteer fire department, fire insurance would be much cheaper for residents. Armed with this information, he began talking up the need for a fire department. His suggestion coincided with the planning of the Joe Rich Community Centre and so it was decided to combine the two functions in the same building; a community centre and a fire hall. The plans were redrawn, the financing was increased a little, and a referendum was held under the direction of the Regional District. Although the centre and fire hall would raise the tax on individual homes about \$99, the drop in the

cost of fire insurance for individual homes would almost pay for the increased tax. The construction of the fire hall also made it easier to get money to build the dual function building. The referendum passed, and the Community Centre & Fire Hall was completed in 1979.

Elections were held for a fire chief and Larry Bjur, a Kelowna fireman who lived in Joe Rich was elected. However, though he gave invaluable advice to the new department, he never acted as chief, because his union objected. Ray Wittur became the first chief and continued with the job until 1980. Frank Russell took over from him that year, and was followed by Bruce Williams, Ray Wittur again, Bob Hamm, Al Reid, Brian Morris and by our present chief, Curtis Nyuli. Being chief has always been a time consuming and demanding job. The chief is held responsible for whatever goes wrong and there is a lot to go wrong. Although chiefs are paid, the pay doesn't compensate them for the time consumed and the worry caused by the job.

In the early days, the community held a ball tournament to raise money for the fire department.

At first, fire department volunteers were not paid at all. In spite of this, the department started with 15 members. There are now 23 members of the fire department and 6 auxiliary members. Because many of the men on the department worked outside Joe Rich, some of the most reliable members were women who were more often home. There are now only two women in the department, Laurie Hubner and Shelagh Weddell, but they play a special role in emergencies involving women and children. New recruits go through a period of showing up to fire practices and watching to learn procedure and to be assessed by the officers. If new recruits like the work and seem suitable, they are then incorporated into the department. After 1985, our fire fighters were paid for one hour a week spent at fire practice on Monday evenings, and for two hours on a 'call out'. Chiefs and Assistant Fire Chiefs were paid at a higher rate than the rest of the crew. Many courses are provided and required for fire department members. These are often held outside Joe Rich so members are now paid to cover their travel costs and the registration for the course.

Besides our fire chief, there are: an Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Terry, two Fire Captains, Greg Robson and Barry Rehbein, and two Fire Lieutenants, Kelly MacMillan and Bob Wageman.

The administration of our fire department falls under the Regional District. A committee made up of some of the Joe Rich RATS executive and fire department officers makes up a yearly budget for the department. This is submitted to the Regional District as part of the community operating budget. It amounts to about \$230,000 a year for the fire department and community. Much of the fire department costs are for fixed expenses such as lease and maintenance payments for equipment and wages. A part of it is not assigned to fixed costs, but is used for emergency costs such as last summer's fire as well as a fund to be laid aside for the purchase of new trucks and equipment in the future. Bills are submitted to the Regional District which prepares a statement of expenses each month. Calls to some emergencies are paid for by PEP, the Provincial Emergency Program.

Initially, fire department members were called to fires by six 'Fire Phones'. Those who had these were responsible for contacting a short list of other department

members. Since 1984, each member of the department has carried a pager. The officers are on a separate call system.

The sophistication of our Fire Department has increased greatly since the department began. The training is much more extensive. Members have to learn a long list of procedures and have to take several training courses in First Aid, Air brakes, forest fires, working inside a burning building and etc. Equipment has become more complex and efficient. Even the equipment for a new member now costs about \$3,000 and \$5,000 for an officer. When the department began only a fire hat, rubber boots and a fire jacket were required.

By 1998, it was decided that a new fire station would be needed for the west part of Joe Rich, the Goudie Road Area. Their part of the community was enlarging rapidly. It was in a fire protection no-man's land, since much of it was over 5 miles from the Joe Rich fire station. A new station is now located at the corner of Goudie and Sun Valley Roads and has a truck housed there. Our original station is Station 51 and the Goudie Road Station is Station 52. The fire department members are the same persons for both locations. Chiefs had been elected until the Goudie Road Station was built. The Regional District decided then that they needed more control since they were legally liable for any problems and therefore they began appointing the chiefs. The fire department now services over 400 homes.

The department started with a new light green '78 GMC Fire Truck with a 500 gallon tank. If they arrived at the fire before it had taken hold of the building, they could put it out successfully. But if they arrived when it was burning hard, they might succeed in knocking it down only to have it completely get away on them when they ran out of water and had to go for more. At some fires, there was a water source nearby such as a creek, but at others they had to drive several kilometres for water. This pointed up the need for a tanker truck. An old one was found and reconditioned by Ron Philpott. Since then the trucks have gradually improved. In 1990, a 3000 gallon Crash Truck which had been used by the Vancouver Airport was obtained. Bob Hamm, the fire chief and his department decided to take on the major task of rebuilding it to make it suitable for Joe Rich's needs. Ron Philpott had died, but his large and well-equipped home mechanical shop was still used. The truck was completely stripped down and rebuilt by Ron Blaney and the rest of the crew, undoubtedly with Ron's spirit guiding them along. The result was spectacular and a great surprise to the Regional District staff and to those who hadn't believed the job was feasible. The fire department now has four trucks serving the two stations; a '99 Western Star 1000 gallon truck, a 1500 gallon tender, a '2003 Freight Liner 900 gallon truck and a 2003, 250 gallon Ford 550 multipurpose emergency truck fitted with a foam unit. At present, the department would like a better off road truck to be the next in their fleet. The department has three truck bays in Station 51 in east Joe Rich, and four truck bays in Station 52 on Goudie Road. Our department has an agreement with the Kelowna Fire Department to send up a tender truck to a major Joe Rich fire if our officers request it. We are charged for this, but calling on Kelowna is much less expensive than buying another expensive truck and the Kelowna truck is able to get here in 20 minutes.

New responsibilities have also been added for the department. Initially, it was responsible only for structure fires. Now its responsibilities encompass all emergency services from the top of Black Mountain hill to Beaverdell and up the road to Big White

as well. In the valley, a 911 call for medical help, rescue, forest or car fires, vehicular accidents or natural disasters brings the fire department first. This past summer, the department was on high alert when the forest fire was burning to the south, but fortunately the fire never got closer than 10 kilometres from Joe Rich. Over the past four years, calls have averaged about 60 per year. Of these, 45% are motor vehicle accidents, about 14 % car and bush fires, and only 1 to 2% are house fires. The rest are a variety of emergencies.

Growth and new responsibilities have required upgrading the fire hall, and new equipment. All this has been expensive. Brian Morris and the department members have put in many unpaid hours to raise the money and update the facilities.

Our fire department is one of the best in the Regional District. Our fire fighters have provided us with a wonderful service in the past and continue to do so. We owe them our thanks. *[8,34,49,50,51,71]*

### A3. LOGGING

(see D1 and D34)

Logging has always been a part of life in Joe Rich, but for many years it was done only by people gathering logs for building on their own properties or for fence posts to sell or use locally. Then John Findlay built his saw mill and logging was refined a little. However, most logging continued to be done with horses and usually with crosscut saws and axes. Terry Fazan remembers watching Ed Carlyle, a Joe Rich hand-logger and being very impressed. He was a maestro with an axe.

Into the 1940s, horses remained the main means of moving logs in the bush. Trees were felled with single or two-man crosscut saws and then bucked up and cut into manageable lengths, usually eight feet in the early days. A team of horses then dragged them out to a landing. There a large log A frame with a heavy pulley at its apex was used to load the trucks. A steel cable with a choker was run through the pulley and was fastened to the log. The other end of the cable was hooked to the team. The team then pulled to lift the log and the truck was moved in underneath so that the log could be lowered onto it. The log was then unhooked and the choker attached to another log to lift it onto the truck and so on until the load was complete.

A horse skinner had to be able to think like a horse and get these huge animals to do exactly and predictably what he wanted them to. As logging became more sophisticated better horses were bought. Great draught horses: Belgians, Percherons, Clydesdales and Shires were the pride of their drivers. Many of them approached 2000 pounds in weight and properly trained would pull tremendous loads. Both the men and the horses had to be well shod. The men wore cork boots with hob-nailed soles and the horses wore massive iron shoes with steel cleats welded into them to increase their traction particularly in icy winter conditions. Harnesses and shoes were frequently broken or broken off so a horse skinner had to be able to shoe his horse and have the equipment to do so close by. He had to be able to repair harness too. The logs were very heavy and easily rolled or fell to crush a man. Sometimes shallow ditches were created as skid trails to keep logs from rolling. But a logger always had to have his wits about him and be quick.

Over the years, the chain saw came on the scene and replaced the crosscut saw. First, the donkey engine and drag line, then the caterpillar and finally the rubber tired

skidder replaced the horse. Large expensive multi-axled logging trucks replaced the old single axle flatbed trucks and long trailers became standard. Now large excavators have largely replaced the caterpillar bulldozer for making logging roads. Loggers keep in contact with each other with two-way radios making their work much safer. Equipment has become more sophisticated, but extremely expensive. Feller-bunchers now cut trees and bundle them on flat areas where these large machines can work. Fast rubber tired skidders drag them to a landing where other machines may buck and trim them to length. Rubber tired cranes then load the massive 14 wheel, trailer trucks with as much as 95 tons of logs. The logs can be carried long distances at highway speed to highly computerized mills. With all this modernization, efficiency has improved greatly, but some of the romance of horse logging has gone. In spite of the advances, logging is still a dangerous game which seldom allows a man a life time in the woods without a significant accident.

Logging roads have improved tremendously. A cat track scratched out of a mountainside won't do any longer. Grades have improved, culverts have been placed in all the low areas and the roads have been widened and the corner angles improved. Environmental laws now carefully regulate the work in the woods and the construction of the roads. When an area has been logged the access roads are often deactivated with removal of culverts and replacement of topsoil.

Mccarthys owned land in Joe Rich where Pearson Creek comes into Mission Creek and the bridge to the Greystokes crosses. In the 1950s, Morris Mccarthy had a house near there, close to where Brundages later moved a house and lived in it during the 1980s. Morris died very suddenly of a heart attack. For several years, Justin Mccarthy operated a logging camp on Buck Creek up the hillside from Happy Hollow. Morris Mccarthy also logged poles out of the Mission Creek bottom land. He had a horse logger working for him by the name of Reginald Stubbs. Stubbs granddaughter, Lindsay Stubbs is now married to Tyler Sinclair, Stan and Marion Lindahl's grandson, and is living in Joe Rich. James Shanks, a brother of Mary (Shanks) Weddell drove a cat for the Mccarthys, and Bud Bubar was living in Justin Mccarthy's camp with Pat (Weddell) Bubar when Cyril was born. Wayne Slyter worked horse logging for Justin and later for others before he joined up with Petches to run his own operation, S & P Logging.

When he was logging near Naramata, Justin Mccarthy was bitten by a rattlesnake. He survived the bite, but his heart was thought to have been damaged in the process. He died still logging in the Joe Rich area in 1951 at the age of only 44.

In the past 50 years, many of the Joe Rich men have worked as loggers and several still do. Ken Ross worked as the woods boss for Crown Zellerbach and then Riverside Sawmill. George Walker also ran a logging operation up Mission Creek valley not far from Justin Mccarthy's work site.

Cam McClelland logged in the Joe Rich area. Mel, Don and Doug McClelland, Margaret Weddell's first husband worked for him in the bush.

Jim and Stuart Weddell both logged in the Joe Rich Area. Jim started logging in 1953 and for many years did very well with it. He logged Preston's hill and the Billy Huckle property. Stuart was once loading logs on a single axle flatbed truck and the long logs lifted the front end of the truck high in the air. A picture was taken which makes it look as if Stuart is lifting the front end of the truck by hand. Both Dave Weddell and

Cyril Bubar still work logging. They are employed by Ken Hardy who cuts for Weyerhaeuser.

The Philpott brothers, Charlie and Cecil logged up the valley behind Cecil Philpott's property. Chucky Philpott, Charlie's son was tragically killed in a logging accident. Ernie and Monti Philpott still log.

Doug Black logged for Bill Goudie on Black Mountain. In the late 1960s, he cut through his wrist with a chain saw. It was repaired but never functioned well again. He moved from Joe Rich to Rutland where he worked for the school board and later died.

Harry Band had an 80 acre woodlot behind the Fazan property and for a while operated a railroad tie mill there.

For a while the Russos from Rutland logged in Joe Rich.

Some private properties in Joe Rich have been logged, often to the chagrin of the neighbours. But in recent years, most of the logging in the area has been outside Joe Rich Valley although the logs from the Mission Creek and Belgo Creek drainage basins are brought out by truck through Joe Rich.. [1,8,11,15]

#### A4. CATTLE RAISING AND FARMING

(see D1)

The first work that attracted people to Joe Rich was trapping, but almost the first that brought permanent settlers was cattle ranching. The Prestons raised cattle and after they sold out to Cyril Weddell and Duncan Stewart, both of them raised cattle. Lee Brown had some cattle, and most of the early settlers had at least one dairy cow for milk and butter. Demitors, John Martin and others have continued raising cattle. Many residents have kept just a few cattle to get farm status for their property. Joe Rich has never been as good a hay growing area as the bottom of the Okanagan Valley. Usually only one crop of hay has been taken off each summer. However, Joe Rich does provide easier access for ranchers to drive their cattle to summer range.

At present Cam Weddell runs the largest beef herd with about 150 head. Ebony Star Ranch owned by Bob Murphy (who also owns Serta Mattress Co.) and operated by Kelly Macmillan runs the largest number of horses with approximately 100 animals here and more elsewhere. Russells have approximately twenty Morgan Horses.

Years ago in the 1940s to 1960s, Cyril Weddell and then several other Joe Richers grew lettuce and turnips commercially. At first, this was a good business, but as production increased the selling price dropped faster than the cost of production. Eventually, it proved to be hard work for very little return and the Joe Richers dropped the vegetable business.

Perhaps marijuana is now Joe Rich's most lucrative cash crop at times. From time to time "Grow ops" are discovered here, the slap-on-the-wrist fines are levied and the plants destroyed by the police, only to spring up again at another site.<sup>8</sup>

#### A5. FLOODS

(see A18)

Historically Mission Creek has often flooded in the spring. It frequently changed its course leaving stony islands and wonderful swimming holes. It steals from some people's property and adds to others. The last significant flood was in 1997 when Muttits', Millers', Marcia Aitkens', and the Morrisises' properties were all threatened.

Some dikes were built then and have been further developed since. The community rallied to the aid of those whose homes were threatened. Sand bag crews helped and no major damage was sustained.

In 1929, Dr. Shepherd's cabin on Mission Creek on what later became Marcia Aitkens' property was washed down Mission Creek in a flood. It was later rebuilt.

In 1996, Belgo Creek was blocked by a flow of ice between Birchs' and Lindahls' properties. Water backed up to flood under, but not into the cabin on the creek below Birchs' house. The Regional District administration was notified and looked it over. Hanu Saura was hired with his backhoe to reach out from the creek bank and free the ice jam with the bucket. It let go with a gush of water which surged down Belgo Creek into Mission Creek and washed out the large bridge which crossed Mission Creek on the Serwa property. [8]

#### A6. FIRES

(see A2)

Most of us live surrounded by trees in Joe Rich. Perhaps of all the features of Joe Rich, it is this which makes it so beautiful. However, in a dry climate, living amongst trees is a calculated risk. Though we can take a few steps to reduce this risk, we can never eliminate it.

There are layers of ashes in the soil of some areas in Joe Rich and a few very old trees with fire scars that suggest that a major fire has gone through the valley in the last 150 years. Jim Weddell says that in 1925 a fire burned on the north side of the valley, but did not touch the valley floor. In 1928, the year Jim was born, a fire came from the south and reached the top of the hills on the south side of Joe Rich Valley, but again did not come down into the valley.

In the summer of 2003, a major fire started in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and fanned by high winds burned through tinder dry country to destroy many homes in the Mission area of South Kelowna. It then burned east to destroy the trestles of the old Kettle Valley Railroad Line and to threaten Joe Rich. At its closest point it came to within 12 kilometres of Joe Rich, and on two occasions during the summer forced the residents of Joe Rich to be evacuated. During the evacuation, Joe Rich had a 10 to 15% non-compliance rate, higher than most other affected areas. Many people like the Weddells took all the measures they could and then decided to stay behind to look after their property and livestock. [8]

#### A7. HUNTING AND WILD ANIMALS (see C9)

Probably the first frequent visitors to the Joe Rich Valley were trappers. Some trappers have even worked here in the memory of present residents. Dave Weddell knew Sam Lee who trapped here and later logged. He lived at Reid's Corner and had a daughter that Dave took out for a while.

Mr. Bening trapped in the Greystokes from Joe Rich and when he died his trap-line was sold to Sam Lee.

For years, bears were a threat to both cattle and sheep. Joe Casorso herded sheep from the Black Mountain area through Joe Rich to the Greystokes. He hired John Linden, a bear hunter to get rid of the bears that killed his sheep. Weddells had problems with bears, usually grizzlies taking their cattle. Dave thinks they lost about 20 cows one

year. They hired a bear hunter by the name of Shuttleworth who came from Okanagan Falls. Mikey Derrickson also hunted and trapped here. He was from the Westbank Native Band, "a real gentleman" according to Gert Weddell. He frequently dropped in to visit the Weddells.

Cougars were also a problem. The Philpott boys shot many. The first when they were only 15. Cecil told me that he and Charlie occasionally used to walk to school down a trail which crossed over Belgo Creek. One day on the way home they noticed tracks in the snow that suggested a cougar had followed them down in the morning. They reported this when they got home. The dogs were used and the cougar was tracked down and shot.

On one occasion, the Weddells were losing cattle to a bear. They arranged for Adam Monks, the Game Warden from Penticton to come with his cougar dogs. They found the trail of the bear and the dogs followed the scent with Jim and Mr. Monks following them. When the trail of a cougar crossed the bear trail, the dogs preferring cougars to bears took off on the trail of the cougar. Jim and Monks eventually caught up to the dogs who by then had the cougar treed. Jim shot the cougar and Monks suggested Jim carry it out. He did, all the way back to the home place. When they got there, Mr. Monks put the cougar in his truck and took it to Penticton. Jim had shot the cougar and carried it all the way out, but Adam Monks got the skin. It didn't seem quite fair.<sup>8</sup>

In the early 1980s, the Birches bought two cute little pigs. When they went out to admire them in their log pen a short time later, the pigs were gone. They walked up into the woods behind the pen and were greeted by a young bear being chased by their dogs. A look around turned up the two pigs which had been killed and buried under leaves and a little earth. They took the bodies down to the pig pen and put them on top of the chicken house hoping that the bear would come back and they could shoot it. For the next week, they hunted the bear without success. It was smarter than they were. Don Friesen helped with the hunt. Once in the darkness, they saw a blackened stump on the hill behind the pen, but before they realized what it was, the stump ran away. One very early morning, they were hunting for the bear on Kwam's property across Belgo Creek when they heard a noise at the back of Kwam's house which could have come from the bear. They crept around the house guns ready only to find Doris Kwam creeping around in their direction with her gun also cocked. A second morning, they saw a shadowy figure approaching them in the mist. The rifles were raised to get the bear, but at the last moment the figure in the mist turned out to be Don's horse which had gotten loose and was coming to find him. Finally, frustrated they called the Conservation Department which reluctantly sent out a barrel bear trap loaded with smelly fish. The bear was too smart to be caught in the trap, but the trap did get two of the Birchs' dogs. Finally, Ron Philpott suggested that they leave the carcass of the pig on the chicken house roof, camp out in the field beside it and wait for the bear. John discussed this with Don Friesen and he agreed to help. That night they laid out their sleeping bags in the field and lay down with their rifles beside them. John woke in the middle of the night to scratching on the chicken house wall. There was the bear standing on his hind legs sniffing the dead pig. Don was sleeping soundly with his right hand still on his rifle, so John quietly reached over and touched him on the shoulder. He woke with a sudden jerk and a grunt, squeezed his rifle and it fired into the ground. The bear ran off. Disappointed but undaunted, they decided to have another try. They parked the pickup truck with its lights on the pig

carcass and waited again. The plan was that when the bear came back, John was to quickly turn on the truck lights and Don would shoot the bear. John dozed in the truck and Don waited outside. A few hours later, the bear returned. John pulled on the lights, but didn't pull hard enough and only the parking lights lit up. The bear ran off and probably had another good chuckle. By this time he knew that he was a lot safer than the fearless hunters were. A week later, Pat Russell was riding her horse through her property across Mission Creek when she came on the bear sleeping in a tree. She quietly rode back and told her brother. He shot the bear and a few weeks later Birches bought two new little pigs that grew up to be pork chops for the family and not food for bears.

For several years, the Birches kept bees. The woods along Belgo Creek and the smell of honey attracted bears. In the 1990s, two of the hives were smashed one night and the next night when the dogs barked long and loud John assumed it was the bear returned to get the remaining hives. He went out with his gun and found the bear treed by the dogs in the dark. He quickly returned to the house and coaxed Donna to come out in her nightgown to shine a flashlight into the tree. The 350 pound bear was shot. It later turned out that the same Black Bear had killed two sheep up Three Forks Road.

Cougars were also a problem along Belgo Creek. They killed two goats and three sheep as well as Birch's German Shepherd dog. In each case, the spinal cord was severed at the base of the neck by a powerful bite through the cervical spine. A bobcat was also seen by the Lindahls sniffing breakfast being cooked in the mobile home beside their house. One of the cougars was treed near Ottman's house and shot by Ken. [*8,Error! Bookmark not defined.,75*]

#### A8. ROADS

For many years, the road to Joe Rich was a winding gravel road crisscrossing the path of the present Highway 33. Many portions of this road can still be seen. Starting in Rutland (see Map 1), the road turned south at a sharp angle at the bottom of the climb up Mine Hill past the present Toovey Road. Midway along the east side of the pond it took an abrupt left turn at a dangerous corner (1) where John Findlay's truck rolled and killed him. Just before the top of the next knoll, to the right of the road, was Felix Casorso's red barn (2) beside the present Sandana house in which his family lived. The old road then crossed over the route of the present highway and can still be seen as the 'Joe Riche Road' (incorrectly spelt on the road sign). It then crossed over the highway again in front of the present Black Mountain School. On the left side of the old road, between the site of the present highway in front of the school and the old road in what is now a chain link fenced area of grass, was Joe Casorso's large tobacco barn, and a few metres farther, on the site of the present Highway 33 were another barn, some sheds and a cook-house also belonging to Joe Casorso (3) (see FA20(1)). Past these, a little farther down the small hill was the old Black Mountain School (4) which is still there on the left side of the old road. Past the school house, the road met Gallagher Road and Gopher Creek and turned abruptly left to go under where the present highway crosses the little valley on a large fill. A half kilometre up Gopher Creek, the road turned right and climbed up Black Mountain. As it did so, and this portion of the road is still present, it crossed the present Highway 33 and continued upward over the entrance to the rodeo grounds to climb around the south side of the shoulder of Black Mountain behind the present site of the Appel shop and equipment yard to the Walker Ranch (5) which is now the home of Budge Winter and is

not visible from Highway 33. The Black Mountain Hill on the Joe Rich Road was called 'Walker's Hill'.

From there, the old road wound and climbed over much the same route that Highway 33 takes past the Pyman Road. (Pyman's old farm house still stands on the high southeast shoulder of Black Mountain). Then it passed the present location of Penny's Garden Centre and continued to climb until it reached the point where the gates are now located on the south side of the highway. Initially, at this point, the road continued to climb as it does today, but at Eight Mile Creek it crossed a few metres farther up the ravine than the site of today's hairpin curve which crosses on a large fill.

Later, in the 1930s, it was decided to shorten the road by taking it down into the Eight Mile ravine near the site of the gates. That road can be seen dropping over the bank just north of the present power line. The road veered slightly to the north, dropped down the bank and crossed over a bridge just above the level of Eight Mile Creek (6) to climb the opposite bank up and across what is now Eight Mile Ranch. When the low level bridge over Eight Mile Creek was washed out, the road was routed back along its old bed to follow roughly the same route as Highway 33.

Past the upper creek crossing (7), the road climbed a little hill and then went down a much longer hill to curve left at the bottom and head east. That hill (8) was called Clever's Hill because the Clever's house (9) was located at the bottom of the hill beside where a big old Elderberry Bush that presently grows at the edge of the large field now belonging to Eight Mile Ranch.

The old road then wound eastward along the same route as Highway 33 to pass where the little house named 'Walter's Valley' is now located. Immediately before this, is a deep ravine falling down into the Mission Creek Valley. In the valley below on the site of an old homestead, the new Fred Stevens, Black Mountain Irrigation Reservoir (10) is located. Past this site, Highway 33 passes the concrete guard barrier on the right where the large Earth Slump has occurred. At the end of where this barrier is now, the old road passed the entrance of the logging road which dropped down hill to cross Mission Creek and climb the south bank of the valley up Grouse Creek.

Next, the old road arrived at tiny Second Creek. The highway now crosses this ravine on a large fill, but the old road went along the west side of the ravine, crossed the creek and came out of the ravine along its east bank to form a second hairpin curve (11). Today, that old road can still be seen on the west as the driveway to the house beside second creek and on the east as the location of a small telephone substation. From here, the old road continued on more or less as Highway 33 does today, but where the present highway cuts through banks, the old road wound around the edge of them. Past the entrance to today's Cardinal Creek Road, just before reaching Cardinal Creek, the old road passed Billy Huckle's cabin (12) on the left.

After Cardinal Creek, the road reached where Philpott Road starts today. Below this point, an old logging road can be seen south of the highway. It leads to Justin McCarthy's logging camp which functioned in the 1940s (13). The old road climbed up the first part of what is now Philpott Road, then turned to the right to parallel the present highway and then rejoin it from above after half a kilometre. It passed above Serwa's property to the location of today's Three Forks Park. Here, it was located closer to Mission Creek, but crossed the route of the present highway just before Belgo Creek to cross the creek a few metres upstream from the present highway bridge, cross the field

just behind the mail boxes at Three Forks Road and then wind around the base of the hill where Three Forks Road now meets the highway.

Three Forks Road didn't meet the highway there until the 1960s. For many years, the north side of Mission Creek Valley east of Joe Rich Road was only accessible from far up the creek where Pearson Creek enters. A good bridge was and still is located (23). Later, Three Forks Road was joined to Joe Rich Road by switch backing down to the Mission Creek level about a kilometre upstream from the present Joe Rich Mission Creek Bridge and following the creek edge west to the old Joe Rich Road (14).

The old road crossed Mission Creek on a bridge starting just upstream from the present 'Tom Smith' bridge, but crossing the path of the present bridge to join what is now Thelwell Road. There it took the route Thelwell Road does today to pass in front of Smith's (Russell's place), and on the left, pass what became Pratt's property (15). It then turned to the left and climbed the hill passing the Joe Rich School (16) on the right where the Community & Fire Hall is now located. Here, the old road crossed to the north of Highway 33 and turned left to follow Greystoke Road to where it meets Dion Road. At that point, a road continued on to Nicholases' house (17) and to Greystoke Road. The Joe Rich Road followed the route of the present Dion Road back toward Highway 33 which it crossed to turn left just past it in Weddell's field. Here, Weddell's driveway branched off to their house (18) as it still does. Past Weddell's, the road skirted Duncan Stewart's house and property (19) and reached Schram Road. Here, it was to the south of the present highway and several metres lower. Schram Road branched off to the right and a small branch road leaving its right side reached Henderson's home (20). Across Joe Rich Creek, Schram Road came to the Brewer House (21) on the left.

The main Joe Rich Road which had become small and narrow at this point, finally reached the Mack property (22) on the left. Here, it ended except for a poor quality logging road which continued on up the valley to eventually reach McCulloch Road. *[8,16,28]*

#### A9. SCHOOL

(see A11,C1,6,7 &8)

In 1921, the Joe Rich residents got together and at a series of lively meetings worked out the details of acquiring land, building a school on it and gathering a list of potential students to present to the Superintendent of Schools. The first board of trustees was composed of: James Baillie, William Black, Tom Smith, Martin E. Band, and John Findlay.

The Joe Rich School house was built in 1922 with the help of many of the local residents. John Findlay, Martin Band and William Black were the main builders. Charlie Clement did the chinking between the logs. Although costs were low by today's standards significant contributions of labour and cash were needed from the local residents. Although John Findlay was a bachelor, the largest contribution of \$206 was from him. Residents were credited with a gift to the school of \$.50 for each hour they worked on the school property.

The school was located on the site of the present community hall and was a large attractive well built one-room log building with windows along each of the two long sides. The front door entered into a cloak room divided by a partition from the main school room. In the main room, just in front of the partition was a wood heater which

took two foot logs. From the heater a stovepipe led across the room to the chimney at the other end of the building. This long stovepipe improved the efficiency of the heater. There was no plumbing in the school so the toilet was an outhouse. Jim Weddell remembers that the temperature in the outhouse was always frigid and that winter trips to it were very short affairs. He also remembers that his brother Stuart once balanced a bucket of water just above the door while the outhouse was in use. The unfortunate occupant was doused on the way out.

The school provided teaching in Grades I to VIII. Older children had to board in Kelowna for their high schooling.

Evelyn (Vanidour) Bailey described the school. "On entering, there was a small hall or cloakroom with a row of hooks on the wall, a bench with the water bucket on it (water was obtained from the creek). In the schoolroom, the potbellied stove stood in the center of the room (for maximum heat!) An older boy, in this case, Alan Smith, was in charge of splitting wood and looking after the stove. Winnifred Smith and other girls helped with the cleaning of the school. They were paid a few cents a week for this. As the school was sometimes used for meetings and other community activities, there was a gas lamp provided and a cupboard which held some dishes as well as the meagre school supplies." 'Jelly pads' were used for reproducing work sheets. The yearly allotment of foolscap was two packs. There was a little pump organ in the school for community activities, but occasionally some of the teachers used it.

Although the schoolhouse had windows down both sides, it had only one door. This was eventually thought to be unsafe in the case of fire, but the school was closed before another door was added.

The first teacher in 1922 was Myra Winifred Lang. The first students are listed in the attendance book, which the Weddells still have, as: Hugh John Baillie, James Phillip H. Baillie, Alice Margaret Band, Harold Lorne Band, Robert Martin Band, Ellen Roberta Black, Douglas Black, Audrey Annie Smith, Jenny Elizabeth Smith, Donald Smith, and George Spencer Baillie.

In 1923, the teacher was Mary M. Shanks. The school records show that Cyril Weddell was supplying the wood for the school that winter for which he was paid \$4. One can probably assume that since he fell in love with and married the teacher that year, he did an excellent job of keeping the school warm. He and Mary Shanks were married in August of the following year. Therefore, during her second year of teaching she was Mrs. Weddell. Later that year, she became pregnant with Pat and so stopped teaching after her second year. While she was the teacher in December of 1923, the Philpotts arrived at the school: Edith Annie Philpott and Kathleen Ellen Philpott .

One year, the school was closed several days because of the "flu" and several years later, it was closed for nearly two weeks because of "infantile paralysis".

Mary Shanks had boarded with the Nicholases while she was teaching before she and Cyril were married. When she stopped teaching, she and Cyril often boarded the teachers in their home. However, Mrs. Band thought that it was unfair that all the teachers were boarding with the Weddells and so boarded the teacher for a year.

Eight students were required to open and maintain a school in this province. Sometimes the number of Joe Rich students was nearly too small. Occasionally, some added students were coaxed into attending the school in the early fall in order to have a sufficient number of student names to keep the school open. To avoid closing the school

because of too few students both Cyril Weddell and John Findlay made a point of trying to hire farm hands with families to bolster the school enrolment. Jim Weddell thinks that the three Williams children who registered in the school in 1943 probably belonged to Findlay's hired man. Lollie Sankjohanser was the daughter of a woman who worked for Cyril Weddell, and the six Gillis children's father was also employed by Weddells. The Gillises lived in the Fazan house during 1939. The three Reid children who were in the school in 1941 also belonged to a farm employee of Weddell's. Their father also kept bees in the Glenmore area and brought the bees to Joe Rich during the summer.

A man from the valley, usually with a family, was hired to look after the school.

The schoolhouse also doubled as a community hall. On Sundays, it was sometimes used for church. From 1923 to 1927, the services were conducted by J. Baillie who had studied for the ministry in England. After he left, they were conducted every fifth Sunday by Rev. C.E. Davis from Kelowna. On Friday nights, community dances were usually held in the schoolhouse. Parents brought their children and taught them how to dance. Locals or musicians from town, sometimes Chuck and Sandy Howard, provided the music. Everyone had a wonderful time, so good that the Philpotts, who probably lived the farthest away usually made a point of coming. It was the event of the week.

Nearly all the children walked to school. The Philpott children had a very long trek down Belgo or North Fork Creek and across it to walk through what is now the Lindahl property to the Joe Rich Road, now Highway 33. They then crossed over the Mission Creek Bridge and walked up to the school.

Teachers at the Joe Rich School were:

1922-23	Myra Winifred Lang
1923-24	Mary Shanks
1924-25	Mary (Shanks) Weddell
1925-26	Earla H. McDonald
1926-27	Christina Jane Ferguson
1927-28	Agnes Smith
1928-29	Annie E. Curts
1929-30	Annie E. Curts
1930-31	Rosemary Fuller
1931-32	Jean M. Knight
1932-33	Jean M. Knight
1933-34	Evelyn Vanidour
1934-35	Evelyn Vanidour
1935-36	Evelyn Vanidour
1936-37	James A. Mugford
1937-38	Helen E. Humphreys
1938-39	Helen E. Humphreys
1939-40	Mary Ellergot
1940-41	Mary Ellergot
1941-42	Doris Atwood
1942-43	Doris Atwood
1943-44	Elna Cruise
1944-45	Lois M. Dawson

1945-51	? (In 1947, the school closed for a few years because of a lack of students)
1951-52	James Cornelson
1952-53	James Cornelson
1953-54	Mrs. H.J. Melsted, Ms. MacKenzie
1954-55	Mr. Sam Janzen
1955-56	Mrs. M. Frew
1956-57	Mrs. M. Frew

Other teachers were: Ginter Black, Shelagh Purvis, and Mrs. Varney.

Joe Rich school teachers were often young women fresh out of Normal School. In a backwoods community such as Joe Rich was then, they were very attractive marriageable material and so several were lost to teaching by being married to local young bachelors. The first to be married was Mary Shanks who married Cyril Weddell in 1924. The second was Evelyn Vanidour who married Harold Bailey in the 1930s, and the third was Helen Humphreys who married Bob Band about 1940.

The records show that Mary Ellergot, Doris Atwood, and Elna Cruise taught when their own children were attending the school.

James Cornelson lived in a cabin on the property where the Community Hall now stands. He had heart problems and for about 6 months was often replaced by his wife. She was not a trained teacher, but could substitute.

Mrs. Melsted boarded at the Smiths.

Mr. and Mrs. Frew came from Williams Lake and drove a little English pickup truck. By the time Mrs. Frew was teaching here, Monti Philpott had quit school, but he decided to go down to the school house for the Christmas Concert and ended up helping. He says that Mrs. Frew was a real 'battle axe' and bossed him around as if he was one of her little students.

By 1946, the teacher was being paid \$136.92 a year by the school district (probably not including board and room). The janitor got \$23 a year. Fencing around the school that year cost a whole \$16.40.

Gert Weddell has the minutes of a school house community meeting in 1954 in which Mr. Janzen, the teacher brought back news from a meeting of the school board in Kelowna the day before where the fate of the Joe Rich School had been discussed. The 18 residents at the meeting felt it was impractical to close the school and transport the pupils to Black Mountain or Rutland. They decided to embark on the necessary upgrading of the school which included completing the well, replacing the school signs, rebuilding the fence, repainting the interior in a light colour, putting down linoleum and improving the lighting. They elected Doug Black to represent Joe Rich at future District 23 School Board Meetings.

A partial list of the students who attended the Joe Rich School is:

<u>Appearing first in</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Approx. Date of Birth</u>
1922	Baillie, Hugh John	1906
	Baillie, James Phillip H.	1913
	Band, Alice Margaret	1909
	Band, Harold Lorne	1917
	Band, Robert Martin	1911
	Black, Ellen Roberta	1914

	Black, Douglas	1917
	Smith, Audrey Annie	1913
	Smith, Jenny Elizabeth	1915
	Smith, Donald	1917
	Baillie, George Spencer	1909
1923	Philpott, Edith Annie	1914
	Philpott, Kathleen Ellen	1917
1924	Bailey, Harold Lorne	
	Bailey, Verna May	
1926	Miller, Donald	1913
	Miller, Neva	1917
1927	Band, Alex	1919
	Philpott, Cecil Ernest	1919
	Philpott, Charles Henry	1919
	Smith, Alan William	1921
	Smith, Winnie Isabel	1918
	Mack, William	1915
	Mack, Catherine	1918
1928	Mack, Christine	1922
1929	Bening, Dorothy	1922
	Bening, Elsie	1924
1931	Bailey, Mary Laura	1924
	Bailey, Jack Donald	1927
	Hepton, Betty	1922
	Hepton, Earnest	1925
	Hepton, Jack	1923
	Philpott, Ronald Arthur	1926
	Weddell, Patricia Mary	1924
	Weddell, Stuart Edward	1925
1934	Coltran, Harold	1924
	Coltran, George	1920
1936	Weddell, James Murray	1929
	Fazan, Eric Gordon	1931
	Fazan, Terence Allan	1930
	Robertson, David Bruce	1931
	Robertson, Edna Isobel	1928
1937	Conarro, Ernest Clark	1931
	Conarro, Gwendoline Vivian	1932
1938	Kraft, Armella Magdalena	1929
	Kraft, Edward George	1930
	Kraft, Raymond Philip	1931
1939	Ellergot, Glennys Margaret	1934
	Ellergot, Kenneth Gordon	1931
	Gillis, Barbara May	1929
	Gillis, Kenneth John	1930
	Gillis, Malcolm Charles	1927

	Gillis, Patricia Mildred	1925
	Gillis, Terrence Frederick	1928
	Gillis, Donald Hatchford	1922
	Sankjohanser, Lollie	1933
1941	Carlson, Melvin Albert	1935
	Reid, Alice Mary	1934
	Reid, Alvin John	1932
	Reid, Norma Frances	1936
	Weddell, Margaret Chapel	1935
	Atwood, Judith Ann	1931
	Froh, Margaret Kathrin	1932
	Froh, Rita	1936
1943	Wallace, Teressa	1930
	Wallace, Donald Scott	1937
	Williams, Phyllis Irene	1929
	Williams, Thelma Fae	1933
	Williams, Elmer Lorne	1937
	Cruise, John Dennis	1933
	Cruise, Aleita Marie	1934
	Elliot, Sharon Gail	
1944	Legare, Mary	1929
	Legare, Milton	1928
	Legare, Ralph	1933
	Legare, Virginia	1935
	Mack, Vernon	
	Sanky, Doreen Marie	
	Sanky, Iris Beverly	
	Sanky, Birdie Colleen	
	Sanky, Gerald James	
	Sanky, Fay Ernestine	
	Roberts, Charlie	
	Wilkin, John Emil	
1952	Bubar, Cyril	1947
	Barder, George	
	Philpott, Edithe	1946
	Philpott, Carol	1945
	Philpott, Ralph	1942
	Uppenborn, Ivan	1941
	Uppenborn, Melvin	1939
	Weddell, David	
	Philpott, Monti	1941
	Harder, Raymond	1939
	Harder, Hilbert	1938
	Harder, Dorothy	1946
	Harder, George	1945
1953	Black, Doreen	

In 1957, the school was finally closed. Bussing had become a more practical way of getting students to school in Black Mountain and Rutland, the road was much improved. For many years the school stood empty except when it was used as a community hall. Finally, it was moved to the adjacent property of Culoses, now belonging to Cliff Pearson, where it still survives as a storage building. In 1979, the present community hall and fire station was officially opened on the previous school site. Mrs. Mary Weddell cut the ribbon.

From 1957 onward, students in Joe Rich Valley went to school on the big orange buses. For many years, the bus was driven by Reno Culos who had moved the old schoolhouse onto his property and was leasing the school property. [8,10,11,12,24]

#### A10. LIFE TIME RESIDENTS OF JOE RICH

Of Joe Rich's 1,030 residents, we have only been able to identify 22 over the age of 10 who were born and still live here. They are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of birth</u>
Jim Weddell	1928
Dave Weddell	1941
Monti Philpott	1942
Cyril Bubar	1948
Ernie Philpott	1954
Cam Weddell	1962
Shelagh Weddell	1965
Jeannie (Weddell) Frederick	1965
Pierre Dion	1968
Karen (Philpott) Ouwendyk	1969
Geoff Holman	1978
John Holman	1980
Megan Mayer	1981
Jamie Mayer	1983
Stephen Clark	1983
Matthew Morris	1983
Carmen Morris	1985
Caeli Hann	1986
Aja Hann	1989
Garrett Hunt	1990
Roslyn Huber	1990
Tess Hann	1992

Although Stephanie Appel was a little too young to be put on our list, she more than qualifies in another way. Not by design, but by accident, she was born in 2001 at home in Joe Rich where her parents, Randy and Teresa Appel live on Three Forks Road. [8,27,55,56,57,58,59,60,62,73]

#### A11. JOE RICH FIRE HALL & RECREATIONAL COMPLEX (see A9)

For several years following the closing of the Joe Rich School in 1957, the school building stood empty used at times as a community hall. The Board of School Trustees of District 23 (Kelowna) was considered to be the technical owner of the old school although the residents of Joe Rich felt that the building was part of their heritage and in many senses should be theirs. In 1964, the school board applied to the Department of Education in Victoria to sell the building. Permission was granted to the school board to dispose of the building and the land. They decided to lease the property for \$5 per year to R.C. Parkes who then owned the adjacent property and to sell him the school building for \$25 on the understanding that he would move the building and clean up the site. He moved the building to his property. In 1968, Mr. Parkes sold his property and the schoolhouse building which had been moved onto it, to Reno and Elizabeth Culos. The Culoses also continued leasing the property on which the school house had stood for \$5 per year.

This arrangement between the school board and the adjacent residents who leased the school property was continued by the Culoses until 1974. At that time, Gert Weddell wrote to the school board on behalf of the residents of Joe Rich requesting that the property be sold to the Regional District for the purpose of allowing the residents to construct a community centre on that site. Three years later, after sorting through the red tape, the school board agreed to sell the property (District Lot 4605- 2.43 acres) to the Regional District for the sum of \$1. The condition was that it would be used for community and recreational purposes and the community agreed to this in a referendum held November 19, 1977. The Regional District on behalf of the Joe Rich Residents hired the Hartley and Turik Architectural Company who appointed their architect, Derek Crawford, a Joe Rich resident to design a Fire Hall/Community Hall Complex for the fee of \$1,500. The building was designed and approved, and the Joe Rich Area residents borrowed \$80,000 upon the credit of the Regional District to be paid back through a property tax increase of 15.23 mills over 20 years (a cost to the average taxpayer of \$99 per year). This was regarded as good value since the average cost of house insurance in the area was reduced by half as a result of the presence of the new Fire Hall and Fire Department.

In 1979, the building was completed and opened. Mrs. Mary Weddell, then in her mid 70s and justly regarded as the community matriarch cut the ceremonial ribbon.

In 1994, Jules Morris and a group of interested residents with the cooperation of Ben Lee who was chairman of the regional district's parks advisory committee built a large hockey rink and playground behind the hall. Doreen Volk and a number of the other community women put in many hours creating a beautiful quilt which was auctioned to help pay for the \$63,000 job. At the same time, with the guidance of Brian Morris who was then fire chief, the Fire Hall was expanded with another bay and training space, a 14,000 gallon reservoir was built on the hill behind the hall with a hydrant at the hall to fill the trucks, and the water and septic systems in the hall were upgraded. The whole project was a great community effort and the rink and playground remains a centre of Joe Rich activity. The hall has been and still is the focus of a multitude of usually happy community events: dances, suppers, Christmas parties, card games, benefit programs, flea markets, church and of course the Joe Rich community meetings. Rick Hansen stopped there in 1986 during his 40,000 kilometre Man in Motion Campaign to raise money for spinal cord research.

Many of these events have occupied the chatty Rutland Weekly columns of Carol Reid and Mary Sibilleau. [8,54,72]

## A12. SPORTS

(see A22)

Joe Rich has even had golf. When Jim Weddell and his logging friends were young, they occasionally golfed on the Weddell's pasture. The greens were rough, but the price was right. In 1978, the radio station CKIQ and Labatts sponsored a winter snow-golf tournament on Weddell's property.

Organized sports for the children probably began in Joe Rich with Gert Weddell's Monday evening softball for the children. They grew into many events for the young people and young adults. First, there were the Ball Tournaments. Other teams came and stayed in the valley for a few days of games in the big field southwest of and behind Weddell's house. These still take place sponsored by the 'Downtown Joe Rich' team.

Volleyball also became a favourite and is still played at the hall on Thursday nights.

Some sporting events like "Tug of War" were sometimes associated with picnics for all the residents of the valley. Barbie and Ken Ross were often enthusiastic organizers. Sometimes the Tug of War took place across the Joe Rich Creek and the losing team was dragged into the creek for a wetting.

The Kelowna Metal Detector's Club has held treasure hunts on Weddell's fields on several occasions.

These events were all evidence of a wonderful community spirit. Most of the people involved had lived in this sort of setting for years, many worked in the valley or the woods and they had a "live and let live" approach to life. Unfortunately, this spirit began to break down in the early 1980s when the valley people began to show signs of splitting into two groups. One was the old timers and the other was the new residents from a more urban background who were more "environmentally" conscious and wanted a more rigid management of what valley residents could or could not do even on their own properties.

The Joe Rich environmental group hoped to be able to make the Joe Rich Fire District a 'no shooting zone' in 1998. They also hoped to be able to have some Joe Rich sites and buildings declared 'environmentally sensitive areas'.

An event which emphasized the division in community opinion was the proposal for a shooting range put forward by the 'Joe Rich Sportsmen's Association' in 1994. The association had been formed by a group of men opposed to the ill-fated federal government gun control program. They were headed by Neil Hemming. They hoped that Uppenborn's field could be developed into a shooting range in time to host the shooting events at the BC Summer Games. However, many in the community were strongly opposed. James Baker, Professor of Archaeology at Okanagan College had the area declared a heritage site because he felt that natives had come there to gather stone for tools possibly as long as 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. We have not heard of significant archaeological discoveries being made on the property, but the controversy was enough to slow up the gun range plan. However, the Sportsman's Association worked hard and persisted. They set up elaborate fire protection measures, and a warning ribbon and signs around the property. Eventually, only nine days before the BC Summer Games (July 21

– 24, 1994), the Regional District rezoned Uppenborn's field and the shooting events of the games took place there. [8,48]

#### A13. MAIL

For many years, the Joe Rich mail was collected by residents at the Post office in the back of Four Corners Market in Rutland. Joe Richers driving to Rutland would pick up everybody's mail and drop it into a very large box across the highway from the entrance to Weddell's driveway close to the end of Dion's Road. Residents of the valley sorted through all the mail in the box and just took their own and occasionally other person's mail that they found particularly interesting. Jim Weddell remembers visiting neighbours and noticing that they had Weddells' National Geographic Magazine which was clearly marked with Weddell's name. When they were finished with it, they just returned it to the box and the Weddells got it a few days late. No one was particularly concerned.

Later, the Post office moved out of the Four Corners Market to its present location on Rutland Road and some residents got mail boxes in the new building. In the 1970s, banks of mail boxes were set up beside the highway and a mail lady began delivering Joe Rich mail by car to resident's personal boxes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Recently, this delivery has become daily and now includes small parcels. [8]

#### A14. TELEPHONE

(see A1, C3 and D44)

Telephone service was established in Joe Rich in 1965 at the same time and on the same poles as West Kootenay's power service.

At first, Joe Rich telephones were organized in party lines of eight homes. Each home had a different number of rings and when the ring indicated a call for a specific household, those persons just pushed a button on the bottom of their phone and were connected to the caller. Gert Weddell remembers when community meetings could be held over the telephone by simply getting everyone to go to their telephone at the same time. Later, the party lines were reduced in size and finally all phone lines became private with only one household per line.

For years, there were 'Fire Phones'. Six members of the Volunteer Fire Department were automatically rung when a fire occurred in the valley. It was then their responsibility to notify the other members of the Fire Department that they were needed.

Recently, several new innovations have occurred in the phone service. It is now possible for many of the Joe Rich residents to sign onto ADSL, a rapid internet hook-up for computers operated by Telus, the telephone company. The phone lines to Big White, now a major village, pass through Joe Rich and these are gradually being replaced with fibre-optic cables which will run on the same new large poles as the electric power. [8,28]

#### A15. THE "JOE RICH" NAME

(see D7)

Joe Rich Valley, as almost everyone knows, was named after the first settler to build a substantial cabin and take up residence in the valley. Little is known about this man, but he may have been a bit of a reprobate looking for seclusion. He seems to have

been a squatter and to have never held title to the land on which he built, because it was eventually obtained as a Crown Grant by the Prestons, and later purchased by Cyril Weddell and Duncan Stewart.

Originally, Joe Rich Valley referred only to the land along either side of Joe Rich Creek, but by the time John Findlay owned and lived on the present Serwa property, the name had begun to be applied to the valley down Mission Creek to at least his property and to the land up the present Three Forks Road and Philpott Road. The actual extent of the land falling into the Joe Rich Area was further defined by the Fire District and the mail service. The Joe Rich Fire District extended down to about Eight Mile Ranch and Creek. The Fire Department would answer calls in all of that area as well as up Three Forks and Philpott Roads. For a while, some postal addresses were to “Joe Rich Valley”, but most if not all have now been converted to road names. The opening up of Tamarack Estates on Goudie Road has required a further expansion and now a satellite fire hall for our fire department. The fire department will now answer calls as far as the top of the Black Mountain hill. This has added more confusion to the definition of just what area constitutes Joe Rich. Very recently, a downtown reporter suggested that the name “Joe Rich” be dropped and the area be renamed as an electoral district. Because of the historical nature of the Joe Rich name and the fact that most people in Kelowna know this area only as Joe Rich, the present name is not likely to die easily. As some residents have said, “We know where we live and it is Joe Rich Valley”.

To the north of Highway 33 in the Black Mountain area there is a short segment of the old road to Joe Rich Valley still named “Joe Riche Road”. The presence of the terminal “e” on “Rich” has been a source of confusion. But a search of court records listing Joe Rich’s name show that the “e” is there in error and the real name is just simple unsophisticated “Joe Rich”. [8]

#### A16. JOE RICH PARK (see A11)

Joe Rich Park or Three Forks Park is located on the north side of Mission Creek across from the Lindahl property. Historically, it was given to the Community of Joe Rich as a Crown Grant to the Regional District and was mainly on the creek side of the highway. When the highway route was straightened and the Belgo bridge location moved closer to Mission Creek, over two acres of the park was left on the north side of the highway. When Dana Kwam acquired the adjacent property which Lindahl’s now own, his legal access to it was from Philpott Road down the steep hill on his property to the site of his home which is now the Lindahl house. Later, he was told he could access it from the Fire Road which was built up the steep hill from Highway 33 to Philpott Road just to the west of his property. Both these routes involved steep hills impractical in the winter. Therefore, Mr. Kwam began accessing his property across the park property just northwest of Belgo Creek. He applied to the Regional District to buy this piece and eventually after a lot of haggling was sold a small section of the east end of the park property on the west side of Belgo Creek. This piece is where Lindahl’s driveway presently meets Highway 33. A little two acre triangle of useless hilly park property cut off by the highway from the rest of the park still exists on the north side of Highway 33 adjacent to Lindahl’s property. Lindahls keep this parcel cleared of windfalls and lease it from the Regional District for horse pasture.

Several years ago, Gert Weddell and Diane Marlatt were walking through the main creek-side portion of Joe Rich Park looking for a site which might be suitable to build a picnic gazebo when they came on two fresh graves. Clifford Olson had just been in the news with his story of murdering children and burying them in the woods. Gert and Diane were understandably concerned and notified the Regional District staff. Together the staff and several Joe Rich residents met at the site and dug up the graves. They found two dogs buried in plastic bags, not a pretty sight or a pleasant smell. The person responsible was never identified. [8]

#### A17. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

The long drive to town and the hills and curves of the road have made motor vehicle accidents all too common in the history of Joe Rich.

John Findlay was killed when his old truck rolled over and crushed him on the way to Rutland beside the Black Mountain pond.

Bruce Page rolled the Weddell's truck over close to Budge Winter's place (which was then Walker's) on the way to town in the 1940s. There were other accidents close to the same spot. Ron Philpott was driving to town with a load of logs behind a smaller truck loaded with eight foot logs, a rather lowly rig in the opinion of the more professional loggers like Ron who drove bigger trucks and hauled longer logs. Close to Walker's Hill, Ron lost sight of the other truck, but as he came over the hill there was the driver running along the road with the truck gearshift in his hand. Ron picked him up and the fellow told him he had gone over the bank and his truck was wrecked. He seemed a little funny so Ron saw that he got to the hospital. He was in hospital for two weeks with concussion. Cecil Philpott was driving his truck close to the same spot and was on his way down the hill into town. He was travelling very slowly with a large load of logs and was rolling a cigarette when his front wheels caught gravel thrown up by the grader and he rolled over the bank. The next day, he returned with a diesel shovel on the back of another truck and was able to get his rig back onto the road.

A valley resident was killed in his Volkswagen when a horse he hit came through the windshield.

Frank Russell had a serious accident at the bottom of the Black Mountain hill.

Cecil Philpott rolled his pickup. He would have been crushed by it, but a propane tank fell out of the truck and landed beside him. The truck landed on the tank and was held off of him.

Donna Birch went to sleep driving back from town and drove off the highway just past the hairpin curve. She rolled end over end and then seven times side over side to land upright on a pile of logs in Eight Mile Creek none the worse for wear. She climbed back up the steep bank to find that no one would pick up such a bedraggled and grimy woman until a Good Samaritan in a pickup truck finally brought her home.

Tracy Fast was crushed under a car when she was a passenger coming back to Joe Rich one night. Her death occurred at the same spot where the Clark boy had been killed earlier.

Ron Graves drove off the highway into the land slide just on the town side of Bald Range. He was killed. His body and his car were not found until a few days after the accident.

In the 1990s, Carol Jancikic, who lived with her husband and family across the highway from Lindahls was killed when her car turned over on the highway close to the Cardinal Creek Road.

In 2003, a pickup truck struck a car with a mother and daughter returning to their home in Falcon Ridge. The daughter was killed along with a passenger in the pickup. The young pickup truck driver accused of reckless driving and intoxication took his own life a few weeks later.

In the late 1980s, three young men were returning to Kelowna after a reunion during a night of camping. They went to sleep as they drove through the valley, hit the guardrail and overturned into Belgo Creek at maximum high water. A passenger who was unbelted broke a leg and was thrown out into the creek where he struggled to shore. The driver and another passenger, both belted in, were drowned.

Some Joe Rich motor accidents have been almost humorous. Several years ago, Robert Birch then in his 20s was driving to town one night in the family Subaru. He was blinded by the lights of an oncoming car, but at the last minute he saw the outline of a cow walking across the highway just in front of him. It was too late to stop, and so he hit the cow in the front shoulder region with the left side of the bumper. The car veered to the right and the cow slapped against the driver's side. The impact of the broad side of the car hitting the broad side of the cow broke both of the car windows on the driver's side and produced an explosive laxative effect on the poor cow. It emptied its bowels with such force that the back window on the other side of the car was blown out by cow manure flying through the car. A large quantity was also left in the car. When ICBC was first presented with the accident report they were doubtful that such widespread damage could have been caused to the car by a cow, but a quick glance at and smell of the car assured them that the report was indeed correct. A few hours after the accident, Mr. Marshall was called to report that one of his cows had been hit and was probably dead. The following day, he kindly called back to say that he had looked over the area carefully and there was no cow around. He said that big cows were very tough and that the cow had probably just walked away. It was clearly the winner of the cow/car match.<sup>19</sup>

Doug McClelland, driving a truck to Rutland, hit Joe Casorso's sheep.<sup>1</sup>

Many if not most long time Joe Rich residents have struck deer at one time or another, and even more have skidded off the road on a slippery winter day. Fortunately, the highway is now very well sanded and graded for the school buses and the skiers going to Big White.

Our highway is now good and is kept well ploughed and sanded during the winter partly because it is the route to Big White. The disadvantage of this is that we must now contend with high traffic volumes both winter and summer. Since the speed limit has been raised to 90 kilometres per hour several of the passing spots have been eliminated making legal passing almost impossible when a long semi trailer or B train truck is in front. In frustration, many of us sometimes pass illegally. *[8,19]*

## A18. CREEKS AND WATER

(see A19 and A24)

One of the most attractive features of living in Joe Rich is that most of us live on or near a creek. Its constant gurgling seems to drown out the noisy confusion of modern life.

The total Okanagan watershed covers 6,187 square kilometres. Of this the Mission Creek watershed comprises 900 square kilometres of this. Mission Creek supplies one third of the water entering Okanagan Lake. The lake contains a very large volume of water and because of the small amount of water which runs into it, it has a very slow refilling time of 60 years (Which means that it takes that long for the lake water to run out into the Okanagan River and for the lake to refill).

Prehistorically, Okanagan precipitation levels have been as high as 1000 centimetres per year, but they now average only 37 centimetres per year in the valley and 58 centimetres in Joe Rich and other areas at a higher elevation. A large amount of this precipitation falls as snow. This runs off as melt water between April and early July. During this period the mountain lakes fill. Many of them have been converted into reservoirs by the construction of dams and so provide a steady flow of water for irrigation, industrial and personal uses during the summer. The level of Okanagan Lake drops each late summer and fall, but rises again each spring and early summer. This fluctuation in level can be as much as 1.68 metres.

Clear cut logging increases the depth of snow, but speeds up its melt time thus increasing the danger of flooding. However, this danger is offset by the reservoirs which hold back the melt water and release it gradually.

Our supply of water is taken for granted by most of us, but it is really quite limited. Lack of water may eventually limit Okanagan development because more people require more water. Already, water use restrictions are required in many valley areas during dry summers.

Some interesting schemes have been discussed to increase the amount of water available in the Okanagan. One of these involved Joe Rich. The West Kettle River coming from Big White could be diverted under the first part of the road from Highway 33 to Big White and run into Joe Rich Creek. This would run more water into Okanagan Lake, but reduce the water in the Kettle Valley. It would be a disaster for the properties on Joe Rich Creek which would be swamped by the high water level in spring. The second scheme would be larger and more practical, but is also unlikely to ever happen. It would involve diverting the Shushwap River at Enderby through the very low height of land between Enderby and Armstrong to flow south into the Okanagan-Columbia River System rather than north into the Thompson-Fraser System as it now does. The Thompson Valley residents are strongly against the scheme and the United States would have to be consulted since it would significantly increase the water flow in their Okanagan River.

Mission Creek is now small compared to its much larger prehistoric size. Still it continues to create a most interesting valley. It starts in the Greystoke area at an elevation of between 6000 and 6500 feet. Its length from Mission Lake to Okanagan Lake is approximately 50 kilometres. In the Greystokes, it picks up water from Fish Hawke Lake, Greystoke Lake, and Loch Long all of which are dammed making them high level reservoirs in which spring melt water can be saved and released gradually throughout the summer when it is needed. Mission Creek is then fed by several smaller creeks until it arrives at the mouth of Pearson Creek. Pearson Creek is approximately 15 kilometres long. The water comes to it from Foolhen Creek and several others. Immediately above Mission Creek's confluence with Pearson Creek the Three Forks Road Bridge crosses the creek where the road goes on to the Greystokes.

Mission Creek's next major tributary is Joe Rich Creek which is approximately 12 kilometres long. Joe Rich Creek arises behind the south end of Purple Mountain and at first flows south then curves to flow north. It picks up water from Tress Creek coming down from Uppenborn's old property, then from Bailey Creek, Schram Creek and Leech Creek all coming in on its south side, and from a little unnamed creek which enters it on the northeast side at the old Mack property.

A very short distance below the confluence with Joe Rich Creek, Mission Creek meets Belgo Creek (or its North Fork). Mission Creek and these tributaries form the 'Three Forks'. On a map, they form the shape of a chicken's footprint; Mission Creek flowing into Joe Rich is the central toe print, flowing out it is the posterior toe print, and Joe Rich Creek and Belgo Creek are the lateral and medial toe prints. Belgo Creek originates at an elevation of between 4500 and 5000 feet in Belgo Dam (Ideal Lake), the largest reservoir in the Mission Creek Watershed. From Belgo Dam it flows approximately 17 kilometres to Mission Creek, picks up water from Hilda Creek and is then joined by several smaller creeks. Just before entering Philpott Valley, it is met by Silver Creek and in Philpott Valley just below Monti Philpott's property, by Darley Creek its largest tributary. Lee Brown irrigated his land in the 1910s and 20s from both of these creeks. Belgo Creek then flows down its deep valley below Philpott Road to cross beneath Highway 33 and enter Mission Creek beside Three Forks Park.

Mission Creek next meets Cardinal Creek from the north and about a kilometre farther on, Grouse Creek from the south. Grouse Creek has come down from Brown Lake and Long Meadow Lake. Here, a bridge crossed Mission Creek for many years. Below Grouse Creek, it is met by Second Creek from the north, a tiny creek coming down from the Tamarack Park subdivision. Just after Second Creek, below 'Walter's Valley', is the large new Fred A. Stevens Black Mountain Irrigation Reservoir built in 2000 on the north side of the creek where an old homestead was located.

Below the present hairpin curve in Highway 33, Mission Creek is met by Eight Mile Creek an important landmark and historically an important source of water. Eight Mile Creek is formed just above the highway by the confluence of Daves Creek and Prather Creek. Prather Creek is little more than a trickle and often goes dry in summer, but it was on it that Bruce Prather settled in 1893 and from it that irrigation water was first taken in Rutland. Eight Mile Creek is eight miles from the start of the old irrigation ditch built by the Belgo-Canadian Land Company. Historically, it was the second source of Rutland irrigation water, but was not large enough to supply the need which led to the construction of the ditch. Eight Mile Creek was Walker's source of irrigation water which they took from a little dam just above the old bridge which was located a few yards upstream from the present hairpin curve. Budge Winter now owns and lives on the Walker property just over the rise on the south side of the top of Black Mountain Hill.

Just below Eight Mile Creek down the bank from Penny's Garden Centre, the older Black Mountain Irrigation District Reservoir lies on the north side of the creek. From it, the collected water is chlorinated and pumped through the tunnel under the shoulder of Black Mountain to supply Rutland. Below the reservoir, Mission Creek enters Gallagher's Canyon. It passes over a 20 metre high falls made almost inaccessible by the high canyon walls. A short distance later, it meets 13 kilometre long Hydraulic Creek from the south coming down from McCulloch Lake and a number of smaller lakes. It winds around Layer Cake Hill with its sentinel hoodoo and meets KLO Creek which is

11 kilometres long coming down from the canyons above and below the Kettle Valley Railway where it has picked up Pooley Creek.

Mission Creek then winds through Rutland around and through its high moraine and delta formed when it was first a glacier and later when it fed into the very high level Pentiction Lake. Finally, on the flats of the Kelowna delta where it once meandered through swamps and wetlands rich in wild life, it is met by Priest Creek coming from the south. Here, it is now confined between dikes and the wetlands have been drained and developed. Mission Creek then crosses under Lakeshore Road, fans out and becomes shallow and fast over the last of its delta point as it empties into Okanagan Lake.

Underneath Rutland there is a large collection of ground water in gravel known as the Rutland Aquifer. The Black Mountain Irrigation District operates several wells which tap into this aquifer. Many private wells use this ground water. It is not known what supplies the water to the aquifer, but it may be Mission Creek flowing over its upper end. The aquifer elevation is too high for Okanagan Lake to be its source.

Traditionally, Joe Rich residents have just taken water from the creeks wherever they needed it and some may still do so. However, legally a water permit, obtainable for a nominal fee, is needed. As the Okanagan population grows, taking water from the creek will almost certainly become more strictly regulated and enforced. This may affect those of us who live on the edges of these creeks.

Already, the creeks are the main points of ecological concern in Joe Rich. Are the creeks being polluted? Are logging practices on the plateaus above our valley affecting the silt content and rhythm of runoff in the creeks? Recently, Todd Cashin, the Regional District ecological planner has done a careful study of Joe Rich Creek and is concerned about the amount of erosion along its banks. With the Weddell's co-operation, Joe Rich Creek has been fenced off through their home property and cattle access limited to one site. Eroded areas of creek bank have been shored up and native trees have been planted along the creek side behind the protective fence to reduce erosion. Organic content in our creeks resulting from animal and human wastes is also a problem. It increases the chance of bacterial contamination of the water and leads to an increase in the algae living in the creeks and the lake. This sort of ecological concern may eventually lead to legislation which will move all of us and our animals away from the immediate vicinity of the creek edges as it has already done along the Okanagan River in both Canada and the US. *[8,30,31,33,35]*

#### A19. THE BELGO-CANADIAN LAND COMPANY & THE BLACK MOUNTAIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

(see A18)

Shortly after Father Pandosy's arrival in Kelowna in 1859, he planted a few apple trees and was impressed with how well they grew. By the late 1800s, the Okanagan had become recognized as an ideal fruit growing region. It was not long before land developers moved in to capitalize on the sale of Okanagan land for the planting of orchards. In 1906, the Coldstream Company was formed. Also in 1906, the Central Okanagan Land Company was incorporated. In 1908, the South Kelowna Land Company was started. Relatively late comers to the Okanagan land development scene were the Land & Agriculture Company of Canada and the Belgo-Canadian Land

Company which were formed to develop land with \$950,000 of Belgian capital, a large amount of money at that period.

In the late 1800s, some farming was begun in the Rutland area, which was first called the Black Mountain Settlement, perhaps because of the black soil around the base of the mountain. Later, the location became known as 'Ellison Flats', after an early settler by the name of Price Ellison, and finally acquired the name of 'Rutland', after John Rutland, an Australian farmer who owned a 400 acre ranch on the 'flats east of Mill Creek' around 1900. In 1892, a group of American settlers came by covered wagons from Idaho and Washington to Penticton and from there up the lake on the S.S. Aberdeen to Kelowna. These men, first Jim McClure and later, W.H. Rice, J.J. Rice, Daniel or Bruce Prather, A. Howard, George McLurr, A.J. Sproule, Prior T. Brown, and J. Clark settled in Rutland and began farming. By 1909, the cost of land ran as high as \$200 to \$400 per acre and fruit bearing orchard sometimes sold for as much as \$2,000 per acre. Hay land was selling for \$25 to \$50 per acre.

It was this land boom which attracted the Belgo-Canadian Land Company. From T.W. Stirling, it acquired a large area of bench land now known as the 'Belgo' located high above the north side of Mission Creek. Their first manager was Horace 'Shorty' Collett (1881 – 1975), a six foot tall Scot who had come to Kelowna in 1903, worked for Alister and Paddy Cameron and then had run a livery business with his brother from a barn on Lawrence and Abbot. He later took over the management of the Kelowna Land and Orchard Company (KLO Ranch) and the management of the Belgo-Canadian Land Company passed to E.M. Carruthers. Grote Stirling, who later became a member of parliament, was one of the engineers for the company. The company sold land at \$200 to \$300 per acre to investors on "easy terms" from offices in Antwerp, London, Winnipeg and Kelowna and undertook to plant and care for young orchards on this land.

The most important factor in this land boom was water. Orchards could not be grown in Rutland without irrigation. At first, a variety of small and often unreliable irrigation systems were constructed. Ditches were dug to bring water from Prather Creek which with Daves Creek flows into Eight Mile Creek. Later Eight Mile Creek itself was used as a source. These systems were not reliable enough to guarantee water in sufficient quantities all summer long. When the Belgo-Canadian Land Company purchased its approximately 10,000 acre tract, it acquired water rights on Mission Creek at the same time, but the problem was where in Mission Creek to take out the water. Large pumps were not available in 1909. Therefore, after carefully surveying the options, the company decided to build a costly but reliable system which would bring water by gravity flow the approximately 30 kilometres from the North Fork of Mission Creek, now Belgo Creek to Rutland. This required the construction of a dam at 'Belgo' or Ideal Lake, a large ditch from there to the Black Mountain station at the junctions of Joe Rich and Gallagher Roads and steel pipes from there to the orchards. The pond on Highway 33 just below Black Mountain was to be enlarged and deepened to provide a reservoir and recreational lake and a township was to be developed around it which would look out over the valley below. Belgo pond down on the flats came into existence as a result of the system.

The construction of this extensive water system involved creating Construction Camp One at the junction of Joe Rich and Gallagher Roads (at the bottom of the Black Mountain hill on Highway 33 today), a second camp close to the Philpott property where Trudy Philpott lives today, and a third camp at Belgo Dam. Cement was brought up by

four-horse sleigh in winter and by large horse-drawn wagons in summer. It took a day to reach Camp One from Kelowna's lakefront, another day to reach the camp at Philpott's and a third day to reach Belgo Dam. The trip back also took three days and so the round trip took one week. B. McIvor, Hector Johns and Jack Huston were the teamsters. Mail was delivered to Camp One by Chris Schram and Clarence Raymer. Men with horses and scoop-scrapers were hired to dig the ditch the engineers had surveyed. Construction workers at the upper camp built the dam engineered to guarantee a regular water flow throughout the summer. Many of these men lived for some time in Joe Rich. Chris Schram moved here permanently. Some Joe Rich men provided the camps with labour or supplies.

Similar irrigation schemes were launched at many points in the Okanagan and much of the irrigation water thus came into the hands of private corporations who provided water to orchardists for a profit. Irrigation water was therefore costly. An irrigation association of independent farmers was formed with Price Ellison as its chairman to lobby the government to take over the sources and distribution of water in order to make it more available at a reasonable cost. But the government refused the requests of the farmers because it did not wish to discourage the large private investors who were bringing in so much capital to the area. Feelings ran high, and in 1908 in Vernon, a farmer digging a government-authorized irrigation ditch to his property across another owner's land was shot dead. There were widespread complaints of unscrupulous land and water dealers so in 1912 a Royal Commission was set up to study and regulate the situation. With this commission, and the coming of World War I, the real-estate boom collapsed. Immediately after the war, aid from the Soldier's Settlement Board to returning soldiers who wished to buy land, temporarily revived the land business, but it soon slumped again.

During World War I, the irrigation systems supplying Rutland and Ellison were neglected and required repairs and modifications. In 1920, the Black Mountain Irrigation District, an autonomous local government body known as an Improvement District was set up by the provincial government and directed by elected trustees with the purpose of purchasing and amalgamating the Rutland Estate water system dating from 1904, the Central Okanagan Land and Orchard Company system dating from 1907 and the Belgo-Canadian Land Company's system to form the second largest irrigation system in B.C. supplying 4,500 acres with water. The first meeting of the board of directors was held on November 23, 1920 by the elected trustees: C.H. Bond, E.M. Carruthers (who was manager of the Belgo-Canadian Land Company), E. Mugford (who was to become the supervisor from whom Charlie Philpott and Ernie Hepton would take orders), W.R. Reed, and S.F. Workman. J.R. Beale was secretary and Grote Stirling was engineer. The 'B.M.I.D.' then took over the running and maintenance of the ditch which it proceeded to repair and upgrade with modifications such as the large steel pipe (the siphon) at Eight Mile Creek.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Black Mountain Irrigation system underwent major rehabilitation to provide pressurized irrigation and domestic water to all farm lands in the district. Black Mountain Irrigation District now uses storage reservoirs in the Mission Creek watershed which capture spring runoff. These are, in order of size, Ideal Lake (Belgo Dam), Graystoke Lake, Fish Hawk Lake, and Loch Long. Secondary water sources are Scotty Creek with storage reservoirs at James Lake and Little Trapper

Lake and three wells. The water released from all the controlled reservoirs into Mission Creek is collected in two settling basins on the north side of Mission Creek just below Penny's Garden Centre, chlorinated and directed through large pipes which pass under the south shoulder of Black Mountain through a 900 metre long tunnel to a point just to the south of Black Mountain hill on Highway 33 from where it is distributed throughout the area bounded by Mission Creek on the south, Black Mountain on the east, Highway 97 on the west and Glenmore-Ellison on the north. At present, the system services 5000 acres of agricultural land and provides residential use water including drinking water to 12,000 acres. To date, the spring runoff has always been sufficient to fill the high level reservoirs and satisfy the water needs of the district.

In the early 1920s, Joe Casorso bought a 16 acre orchard in Rutland and very successfully began growing fruit, loading it on freight cars and marketing it himself on the prairie. Next, he bought the last 136 acres of mostly orchard held by the then ailing Belgo-Canadian Land Company. Although the company was failing, the Belgian investors actually made money through a fortuitous trick of economics. Following the First World War, inflation was rampant in Europe and so each Canadian dollar became equivalent to many more Belgian francs. As a result, when the company sold its holdings for a relatively low price in dollars, the investors' shares were converted into a relatively large number of Belgian francs, a happy outcome for everyone. [2,26]

#### A20. THE CASORSOS AND THE BLACK MOUNTAIN CATTLE COMPANY

In the early 1920s, Joe Casorso bought the last 100 acres of orchard property from the Belgo-Canadian Land Company. At first, he concentrated on fruit growing. He opposed the formation of the B.C. Fruit Grower's Association with its government monopoly on fruit marketing, because he was loading his fruit on freight cars in Kelowna and very successfully marketing it himself on the prairies. By the time his fight against the Fruit Grower's Association had lost him a lot of friends and the Association had finally forced him to stop his own fruit marketing, he was fed up. He sold his orchard property, even the 'Belgo mansion' which he had bought from Grote Stirling, its builder. His wife, Ethel, a New Zealander suggested that he enter the sheep business which he did. Cattle also seemed an obvious choice. His younger brother, Felix also owned land in Black Mountain and had been an organizer of the Black Mountain Irrigation District. Close to each other, they set up their headquarters at the base of Black Mountain close to the school at the bottom of the long hill on Highway 33. He formed the Black Mountain Cattle Company which remained a lucrative business even after his death. He acquired 10,000 acres of range land which included the Pyman Ranch high on Black Mountain.

Joe Casorso's farm buildings were located at the bottom of the Highway 33 hill not far from the old Black Mountain schoolhouse almost exactly where the highway now runs. The old road then ran to the south of its present location on the other side of the old Black Mountain School.

For a while, the Casorsos grew large fields of onions and tobacco. Their tobacco drying barn was located in the present triangular chain-link fenced field in front of the present Black Mountain School. Joe used this for lambing. There was a red-roofed cookhouse and several other sheds and buildings close by. Older Joe Rich residents

remember seeing the lambs that had died during the spring lambing lying just outside that barn.

Felix Casorso's red barn was located just west of his house which he had bought from the Belgo-Canadian Land Company who had built it. The house now belongs to the Sandanas. It is beside Highway 33 at the low crest of the hill before the descent to the Black Mountain Pond. The barn burned down in 1943, but was rebuilt. These barns were landmarks to the Joe Rich people and they knew and liked the Casorso brothers. Many stopped in on the way to or from town or left horses, wagons, sleighs or vehicles there if the road or the weather was particularly bad.

Bill Kopetski, from Saskatchewan, started working for Joe Casorso in 1945. He became his foreman in 1951 and when Joe died he was the foreman for Jim Stewart who bought the Black Mountain Cattle Company. He didn't like riding horses and so he always drove a jeep and hired others to do the riding when it was necessary. For a while, he hired Iris Uppenborn who was a great rider and must have been a favourite with the horses. She was only 5 feet and 2 inches and weighed just over a hundred pounds. She loved horses. At times, the Black Mountain Cattle Company had as many as 30 employees particularly during lambing and sheering in the spring.

Joe Casorso also had about 400 cattle and their calves. These were driven as a separate herd to the Greystokes. Most of the cattle drives through Joe Rich occurred when the cattle business had been expanded after the Black Mountain Cattle Company had reduced the size of its herd of sheep.

For years, Casorso's men drove about 3000 adult sheep and their lambs, from Black Mountain to the Greystoke area at the beginning of July as the last of the snow was melting. The drive took two to three days. There were three shepherds, Harry Blackett, from England, Bill Tracey and a fellow named Jack. They often weren't all with the sheep at once. They sometimes lived for a while in the sheep herder's cabin in the Greystokes. It still stands, solid and low walled.

Jim Weddell says that he was always happy to see the sheep going to the summer range, because he knew they would keep the grizzlies occupied and he wouldn't have to worry about them getting into his cattle. In September, Casorso's shepherds would drive the sheep back down again and right through Kelowna to the ferry to cross the lake to fall pasture on the west side of the lake at Whiteman's Creek just south of Vernon. It was a three day drive from the west side ferry dock. The ferry took only 300 sheep at a time and therefore many trips were needed. When they had finished taking the sheep across, they took the ferry to the middle of the lake and hosed off the deck before they returned to carrying human passengers. Sheep were also grazed at Winfield, Okanagan Centre and on Vernon's commonage area. The herd of several thousand sheep was an impressive sight as it moved along guided by shepherds and dogs or in the case of the cattle, by riders on horses and by dogs.

Monti Philpott remembers the shepherd coming along in a jeep pulling a noisy little steel-wheeled trailer with a small cabin on it in which he had a stove and a cot. As they passed the Philpott house, the sheep usually ate all the leaves and the berries off Inez Philpott's blueberry bushes. She would always be annoyed, but Monti and the other children were secretly happy, because they hated picking the pesky little blueberries. The shepherd usually stopped for the night on the property where Radomskes now live. When the herd went by it completely filled the Joe Rich Road. On one occasion in the

1950s, one of the Philpotts came around a corner with a load of logs and hit the herd. Several sheep were crushed and stuck in the wheel wells. It was hot weather and after a few days, the truck had a terrible odour.

In winter, the sheep were kept at Black Mountain where they stayed outside in the valley between Black Mountain and Bell Hill. In the early spring, the lambing took place. In March, a group of sheep shearers came down from Vernon. They brought their own equipment and each man sheared about 150 sheep a day.

The cattle were handled separately. Margaret Weddell remembers seeing hundreds of cattle passing along the top of the cliff on the north side of Mission Creek where Three Forks Road now runs north of the highway. Bill Kopetski and Jim Weddell were good friends. Bill says that as his cattle herd came through Joe Rich, they usually crossed Weddell land and Jim never objected. Sometimes Casorso's cows picked up a few of Jim's and they went off together to the Greystokes to be separated later according to their brands.

Driving and pasturing their sheep and cattle from Black Mountain to the Greystokes, grizzlies, black bears and cougars were a major problem. The ranch hands often shot them, but sometimes skilled trackers and hunters had to be called in. One of these was Charlie Shuttleworth of Okanagan Falls. Casorsos also grazed some pigs, but the ferocious sows were strong enough and smart enough to look after themselves and protect their piglets from predators.

Joe's wife, Ethel died at the age of 61 in 1946. Joe never retired, but at the age of 74 on February 19, 1960, died of cancer in the Kelowna Hospital. The final event was a fall over the bed rail and down onto the floor in an attempt to get out of bed. He always wanted to keep moving. Felix died on January 18, 1973 at the age of 82. His wife, 'Ronnie' still healthy, lives on in Rutland.

After Joe Casorso's death, the Black Mountain Cattle Company was sold to Jim Stewart, an American. For nearly 10 more years, Stewart continued to run cattle and, for a shorter time, sheep through Joe Rich to the Greystokes. He stopped raising sheep in 1962, when they developed a bad problem with foot rot. The government was afraid that this might be transmitted to the deer in the grazing areas and so the sheep business was phased out. The cattle herd was increased from 400 to 600 and the cattle drives to the Greystokes increased and continued into the 1970s. *[2,3,4,5,15,28,30,52]*

## A21. JOE RICH'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

(see A26)

For those of us who have moved into Joe Rich Valley during the past 25 years, it is difficult to appreciate just how isolated Joe Rich really was until almost 40 years ago. It is this very isolation from other communities that makes it such an interesting and clearly definable historical study.

In 1895, the Joe Rich population was probably made up of only its original settler, Joe Rich himself. By 1910, there were still less than ten people here; by 1920 perhaps 20 residents and by 1930, about 35. When Howard and Gerry Demitor canvassed all the residents to arrange for electrical power and telephone to come into the valley in the mid 1960s, there were still only about 13 homes and 45 residents in Joe Rich. Up to that date, nearly all Joe Rich residents worked in the valley either farming or logging or both or else they used this area as a summertime cottage hideaway as was the case with the

McKays, Willets, Trenches, Dr. Shepherd and George Patterson. A very few, like Billy Black sometimes worked away from Joe Rich, but had their families here and came home on the weekends. Life here was quiet and peaceful, but primitive and full of hard work before electricity.

The first settlers arrived before motor vehicles were common and so often relied on horses and wagons or sleighs. The road was unpaved, narrow and nearly twice as long as it is now. Passing another vehicle could only be done at some of the wider spots in the road. The trip to town took the better part of half a day and longer if one lived where the Philpotts did.

When Cyril Weddell arrived in 1919, he had a Model T Ford, but conditions on the road especially in winter sometimes forced him to use a horse. He occasionally left his vehicle at the “red barn” in Black Mountain and came to and from Joe Rich by horse and sleigh or wagon. Later, he got a Model A Ford and the trip was more reliable, but it still took a few hours to go to downtown Kelowna. Even in 1960 when Howard Demitor arrived, it was a pleasant, but long slow drive to Joe Rich with dust from the road filtering in through every crack in the vehicle. The road ended in Joe Rich and the traffic on the road was minimal. A breakdown could mean a long wait. Today, we drive at a speed of 85 to 90 kilometres per hour in air-conditioned comfort with soft music in the background and reach downtown Kelowna in half an hour.

It was in the 1960s that everything changed. Power and telephone arrived in 1965 and the road to Joe Rich was straightened and all paved in 1968. These changes revolutionized Joe Rich life. The primitive and intimate little community began to mushroom into what it is today. By 1970, it had more than tripled in ten years with the Dion subdivision across the highway from the Weddells. By 1980, there were over 200 residents when Mr. Jerome opened up the Tamarack Park subdivision off Goudie Road. By 1990, there were perhaps 700 residents, a number which had grown to 1030 by 2001 and must be close to 1200 today. Betty Philpott once wistfully remarked to Gert Weddell, “We sold out Joe Rich when we paved the road and turned on the lights”.

The population of the valley has not only increased, but it has changed. Most residents no longer seek their livelihood in the valley. Although they both did some farming here, the Demitors and the Russells in the early 1960s, were the first to earn the major part of their income from work in Kelowna and yet come home to Joe Rich each night. Most residents now work in Kelowna and use Joe Rich as a ‘dormitory’ community. There are exceptions in addition to the ranchers and loggers who still live here. Bob Hamm produces pottery in Joe Rich. Geoff and John Holman run a successful graphics business by computer from Joe Rich. Dan Hyatt and John Wood produce furniture here. At the end of Philpott Road, Del Radomske runs a log home construction business and school. Gordie Bonn runs a ‘Joe Rich Garage’ business on Gosh Hawk Road. There are several couples who are retired here, but these Joe Rich residents are vastly outnumbered by those who drive each day into Kelowna to their work. This change in demographics has led to an inevitable loss of the community cohesiveness which was characteristic of the old Joe Rich. The more recent residents tend to see Joe Rich as a lovely setting for their home rather than as their livelihood and their whole life. Hence, the heated discussions that Regional District Planning Meetings always seem to lead to. Quite understandably the old and the recent residents view our valley differently.

The peace and silence of Joe Rich is gradually giving way to the pressure cooker lifestyle of urban work and noisy traffic passing down Highway 33 or on to Big White. Even the children now attend large schools. But Joe Rich still offers great advantages. Some it didn't offer in the past. Even with its current population of over 1000, it remains a beautiful place to live. It is now one of those rare spots from which a person can work in a sophisticated modern environment and still come home each night to a very rural setting with forest or farm surroundings; the best of both worlds. [8,19,28,62]

## A22. SKI HILLS

Skiing began in Kelowna during the 1920s. One of the first organized ski hills was located on the Weddell's property. Starting up Preston Hill on the north side of the present Highway 33, it ended in the field just across Joe Rich Creek opposite the Weddell's home. Cyril and his hired man built a ski cabin near the bottom of the hill and opened up the fence just below the cabin so that the skiers could run out on to the hay field to finish their downhill course. One of the most active male skiers of the day was Stan Lindahl's uncle, George Flintoft. During World War II, gasoline was rationed and the drive to Joe Rich took a lot of gas. As a result, the ski hill was moved to Black Mountain which continued to be used into the 1950s. Al France was a member of the executive of the Ski Club. His children wanted to get a ski pass to Silver Star which was already a good hill, but Al said, "No way". He was responsible for the local hill so the family would have to be satisfied with it. They didn't get the Silver Star passes, but they certainly weren't happy with the Black Mountain Ski Bowl. The snow was so sparse that year that they were only able to ski three times. Some skiing was tried across the lake also, but none of these locations had good snow.

Doug Mervin and Cliff Serwa grew up together. They both liked fishing and as they fished McCulloch Lake in the 1950s they often looked up at all the snow on Big White and wondered how it would be to ski there. They were not happy with the other hills. In 1958, they travelled around the world together and in 1960, they decided to cross country ski up to Big White. One ski trip to the mountain almost turned out to be a disaster. It was a long hard ski up and they were tired and sweating hard when they finally arrived. Just at that moment, an unusual storm broke and it began to rain. They turned around to ski back, but the rain soaked snow was wet and clung to their skis. It was as hard coming down as it had been going up. The return trip took hours and had there not been two of them to keep each other motivated, they might well have given up and died of hypothermia. As it was, they didn't arrive home until about 3 AM. In spite of this bad experience, the two friends were impressed with the mountain and with its statistics of good snowfall. In 1961, they began to develop it as a ski mountain. They had very little money for such an ambitious project, but Doug Mervin was a good salesman and Cliff Serwa came from a construction family and knew how to build things. Neither of them was afraid of hard work. Together, they probably could have been successful selling refrigerators to Eskimos. They were able to buy 80 acres of crown land for the town site and obtain a Land Use Permit to develop the ski slopes. At first, a road to the mountain had to be constructed. Cliff laid it out over almost the same route it takes today. By 1963, they were attracting a good group of hardy skiers. In the mid 1960, Gaglardi, the then Minister of Highways visited Big White and agreed to upgrade and

maintain the road. By about 1968, they had electric power and the road was good enough to make the trip to the mountain possible even for ordinary cars in mid winter.

In 1969, Cliff Serwa offered a building lot in the Big White Ski Village to Howard Demitor for \$600, but the popularity of the mountain hadn't caught on to the point it has today. Howard's reply was, "That rock pile. I'd have to be crazy" and he turned down the offer. With hard work and the enthusiasm of many people like the Frances, Big White continued to grow, but it wasn't always easy or even safe.

There was a danger of avalanches and this was greatest on very steep slopes like 'the Cliff' on the east side of the mountain above the small high level lake. In the late 1960s, Cliff Serwa, Doug Holmes, and Barney France, Allan and Ann France's son skied to the top of the Cliff to check out the danger. Serwa had a dozen bombs with him made from stumping dynamite. These could be thrown onto the slope in strategic spots to trigger an avalanche. The Cliff looked as if an avalanche could be a possibility, so one by one Serwa threw out his 'bombs' to trigger an avalanche. Nothing budged even when he threw out the last one near the top of the slope. They concluded that the hill was safe and decided to ski down.

The Cliff is not a hill for beginners. It starts with a nearly 45 degree slope, half way down drops over a lip and then continues on steeply to the little mountain lake below. Barney went first, then Doug and finally Cliff Serwa. Serwa had just pushed off, when there was a large cracking sound and a long fissure suddenly appeared in the snow at the top of the hill just a few feet above him. He realized immediately that an avalanche was beginning and knew he would be safest if he could stay above it so he dived uphill into the forming fissure. Doug who was just a few feet past him was able to do the same. Barney was already on his way and so continued to ride it out. The next moment, a second fissure occurred about 40 feet above Serwa and Doug and a mass of snow fell down toward them. Serwa remembered that he had heard that in an avalanche it was better to be free of skis and so he and Doug quickly released their skis and immediately sunk into the tumbling liquid snow. They stayed afloat by paddling with their arms. They fell with the speed of an express train and when they hit the lip half way down the hill, they began to tumble in the swirling snow hardly knowing which way was up. Serwa caught sight of Doug just ahead of him and Barney still skiing in the swirling breaking snow ahead of them and then he went under. He says that it was all over in seconds. Suddenly it was all very quiet and dark. He was buried. He tried to calm his breathing and reduce his heart rate to conserve oxygen and he tried to move. The snow was like concrete. One arm was up and one down and on his uphill arm he could just wiggle his fingers. As he did, a little glow of light appeared above him and he realized that his hand was nearly on the surface.

As the avalanche had started, a few skiers had seen what had happened and within minutes they reached where Serwa was buried. With their poles they dug him out. He knew where Doug and Barney must be so he led the others down to where they were. Barney was upright and close to the surface just downhill from a house-sized lump of snow and still standing in his skis which were anchored in the rock-hard snow beneath him. They dug him out and began the search for Doug. He was nowhere to be seen, so the searchers formed a row and preceded down the hill over the site where they thought he should be, shoving poles deep into the snow. Finally, one of them struck something. It was Doug's forehead over a metre below. They dug him out. He was already

inebriated with hypoxia and had a broken ankle. He would not have survived more than a few more minutes. Frances remember getting a phone call a few minutes later saying that they were all OK, but at first not telling them why they might not have been OK.

Big White continued to prosper. In 1978, Cliff and Doug Mervin decided to sell the business. Although the mountain was doing amazingly well, their debt load was increasing as further development was required.

Today, the mountain has become a major ski destination and properties are selling for astronomical sums. A few Joe Rich residents find winter employment there as service personnel, hosts or ski instructors like Ken Sinclair. There are now 112 ski runs and trails with a vertical ski drop of 777 metres and 13 lifts capable of handling 23,000 people an hour. The development covers nearly 3,000 hectares and includes 4 hotels, 2 youth hostels, 25 condo complexes, 17 restaurants, 8 bars and about 250 homes. Each winter weekend, the highway through Joe Rich is busy with the hundreds of vehicles on their way to and from the mountain and all indications are that the development will grow much larger. *[Error! Bookmark not defined.,28,41,42]*

### A23. THE DITCH

(see A19, D36 and D38)

In 1909, the Belgo-Canadian Land Company, attracted by the Okanagan land boom and financed by Belgian investors, bought 10,000 acres of potential orchard lands in Rutland and water rights on Mission Creek to irrigate them. But Mission Creek was about 350 feet below their land and large pumps capable of raising the water to their land did not exist at that time. Water had to be found high enough to be brought to the land by gravity. A team of engineers was hired amongst whom was Grote Stirling who would later become the Member of Parliament for this area and build the impressive Belgo House still in existence on Belgo Road. They adopted an expensive, but reliable plan. This was to dam Ideal Lake (Belgo Dam) to regulate the flow in the North Fork of Mission Creek (Belgo Creek) so that a good summer flow could be guaranteed, then to build a 30 kilometre long ditch to carry the water from the creek to Black Mountain from which it would be distributed to the orchard lands. It was an ambitious construction plan especially almost 100 years ago when heavy equipment and electricity were not available.

In 1910, construction was begun. Camps were set up at Black Mountain, near the area which would later be settled by the Philpotts, and at the present site of Belgo Dam. Many tons of cement and equipment were transported up from Kelowna by four-horse sleighs in winter and heavy wagons in summer. The trip took three days up and three back; a day to Black Mountain, another to Philpott's area and a third to the dam. The round trip was a week long. Chris Schram was one of the wagon drivers who supplied the camps.

The ditch itself began near where Darley Creek enters the North Fork (Belgo Creek) just below the Radomske home. The foreman for the job was Lee Brown, who pre-empted and lived on the 156 acre property presently owned by Radomskes, Philpotts, and Axelsons. (see B8) A large channel was excavated leading off the northwest side of the North Fork of Mission Creek (Belgo Creek) about 50 metres upstream from the confluence of Darley Creek. Darley Creek was carried over this channel in a flume which could be used to divert the ditch's flow back into the creek channel. About 40

metres to the southwest on the other side of Darley Creek, intake gates were built with a screw opening which could be used to regulate the rate of water flow. (Remnants of the gate and the screw still exist.) From that point the ditch was dug along the south slope of Philpott valley dropping in elevation just enough to ensure a steady even flow rate. At many places it was lined with concrete. It was carried in flumes or closed wooden pipes over several small ravines or creeks and where the terrain was too rocky to dig the ditch. The wooden pipes, many of which can still be seen rotting along the ditch edge, were large structures of high quality boards fitted together like a barrel and wrapped in an endless spiral of heavy wire. Lumber for all these structures was the best of Douglas Fir brought up from the coast. In some areas where bedrock cliffs were present, the rock had to be blasted. In other rocky areas, rock walls and platforms were built on which to place fluming. Along the ditch's downhill side, a large mound or embankment was constructed. On top of this was a wide trail which served as an access route. Along the edge, a telephone wire was run on insulators attached to poles or trees. All of this was dug with horses pulling scoops operated by strong men; a prodigious task, but the construction methods were not unique. They were being used all over the Okanagan Valley in many other similar projects.

At Eight Mile Creek, large concrete tanks were built on each side of the ravine. These opened into a large metal pipe known as 'the siphon'. It carried the water down into the creek valley below the present hairpin curve on Highway 33 and then uphill on the western side to the ditch just to the east of Goudie Road. The use of this large metal pipe was probably an innovation added to the ditch about 1920 when the Black Mountain Irrigation District took over. Prior to that the ditch probably worked its way along the sides of the ravine and crossed Daves Creek much higher up. After Eight Mile Creek, the ditch then wound around the south side of Black Mountain. Here, where there were large hay fields, three exit gates were located to allow irrigation of the hayfields below. On the west side of the mountain, the ditch descended rapidly to a concrete box which divided the water and directed it in pipes to smaller ditches and flumes. A large pipe, ditch and flume system came off and transported water down and around the south side of the Funk property to Gallagher Road past the old school house. Some of the water was used in the Gallagher Road area and some was piped west down into the Belgo area where it was supplied to the orchards. The excess was fed into the Belgo ponds.

The remainder of the water, not brought down through this system, carried on around the west side of Black Mountain to tanks above McKenzie Road where it was distributed for irrigation in that area.

The ditch required careful maintenance. Washouts could occur, spring runoff could dump sand and gravel into it, flumes and wooden pipes required maintenance, leaks could occur at any point, trees could be blow down into the ditch, gophers could burrow holes through it to produce leaks, drinking cows could fall into it, and local farmers could lay siphon hoses over its edge to steal water from it. Frequent regular checks were required to correct these problems and so 'ditch walkers' or more correctly 'Water Bailiffs' were hired for the job. They walked the ditch each day and regulated the water flow. In 1923, Mr. Charles Halby Philpott was hired to do this job shortly after he settled in the area, which would take his name. He walked each day from the intake just up the valley from his home all the way to the Eight Mile siphon which was, not surprisingly, eight miles away. Then he walked home again. Sixteen miles each day,

rain or shine for \$75 per month. Ernie Hepton did the same job from the Eight Mile siphon to the end of the ditch. Mr. Mugford, the Black Mountain Irrigation District Supervisor was connected by battery phone and the ditch-wire to both of them and instructed them on how the water was to be regulated. They informed him of any problems.

The ditch was built and at first operated by the Belgo-Canadian Land Company. With World War I the land boom came to an end and the company's profits fell. This complex irrigation system and other land company's systems supplying other areas of Rutland and Ellison were being neglected for lack of funds. A government survey revealed that an irrigation water crisis was likely to occur soon. As a result in 1920, the Black Mountain Irrigation District was set up by government and bought out the irrigation systems which several failing land companies had built, but were then glad to get rid of even at bargain prices. Belgo-Canadian's system and the ditch were thus sold to the newly formed Black Mountain Irrigation System to be run by government as the farmers had wanted from the beginning. The new combined system became the second largest irrigation system in BC, responsible for the irrigation of 4,500 acres. It employed Charlie Philpott and Ernie Hepton. (Whose children, Charlie Philpott junior and Betty Hepton would later marry.)

About 1945, a new situation became evident. Not only was the need for irrigation water increasing, but also a system was needed to supply drinking water to Rutland. An open ditch was not the answer. Therefore, a large diameter 900 metre long tunnel was dug by the Black Mountain Irrigation District under the lower southwest shoulder of Black Mountain where the rodeo grounds now exist on Budge Winter's land. This tunnel carries water from the Black Mountain Irrigation District Reservoirs on the north side of Mission Creek below Penny's Garden Centre to a point to the south of Highway 33's Black Mountain Hill above Funk's equipment yard and Gallagher Road. From it, water, chlorinated at the reservoirs, is brought by pipes down into the Black Mountain Irrigation System. With the construction of this more direct system, the ditch was no longer necessary, and in 1946 its use was discontinued. A large runoff hole was dug in the downhill embankment of the ditch about a half kilometre below the intake gates to ensure that the ditch would remain dry. The flumes, wooden pipes and supports gradually fell apart or were cannibalized for building materials. Charlie Philpott built a large part of his house, which was later destroyed in the slide, from the creosoted lumber salvaged from the large wooden flumes and pipes. Cecil used some of the 6 by 12 creosoted timbers under buildings on his property. Others did the same. Adjacent land owners sometimes filled in the ditch and appropriated the right of way which had originally been purchased through these properties.

Today, the Black Mountain Irrigation District still owns Belgo Dam and a large piece of property which includes the area around the old intake gates. Most of the ditch is still easily identifiable, but in places it has been completely obliterated as it passes through properties close to homes. Only rotting remnants of the flumes and wooden pipes remain. At the hairpin curve on Highway 33, the siphon can be seen hanging over the top of the steep bank above the highway on the east side and can be explored on foot on the west side of the ravine.

A group of Joe Rich residents have cleared the brush from the old ditch-side path and marked a walking and horse riding trail from the point where the ditch crosses

Philpott Road one kilometre up Philpott Road from Highway 33. Their trail goes in both directions from the road for a total distance of about five kilometres.

Enough remnants of this grand scheme still remain to make it a delightful study in recent local archaeology. [*16,Error! Bookmark not defined.,Error! Bookmark not defined.,29,30,31,32,49*]

#### A24. THE GEOLOGY, PREHISTORY AND SLIDES

(see A18 and A25)

The majority of the information presented in this section is summarized from the excellent book by Dr. Murray A. Roed and the geological society, *Geology of the Kelowna Area*, Ehmann Printing, Kelowna, 1995 and from a telephone conversation with Dr. Roed.

##### Smashing plates

The earth is estimated to have formed about 4.6 billion years ago. As it cooled, a hard crust of rock formed on its surface. This crust formed massive plates (Tectonic Plates) which still float on the underlying molten material much as ice sheets float on a pond. The underlying molten material is moving and as it does the plates drift slowly, crashing into each other. North America is one plate and another underlies the Pacific Ocean. The North American Plate is slowly moving northwest and the Pacific Plate is moving eastward, crashing into it. Twenty-five million years ago, Kelowna and Joe Rich were probably about 500 kilometres south of where they are today in a wet and tropical climate (Were we Americans?), but with the slow northwest drift of the North American Plate, we have ended up where we are today. As the Pacific Plate has crashed into the North American Plate, some of the material of the Pacific Plate has become 'pasted' to the west side of the North American Plate. Most of the part of BC lying to the west of us is 'pasted' material from the Pacific Plate, but here on the east side of Okanagan Lake, we have a mixture of materials from both plates. As the plates have collided, the tremendous forces involved have pushed most of the edge of the Pacific Plate underneath the edge of the North American Plate, but a smaller part of the edge of the Pacific Plate has been pushed across the top of the North American Plate. All along the collision line between the plates, their rock material has folded and cracked throwing up our many ranges of mountains running north and south through BC., and producing valleys between them which have been deepened by water erosion.

About 50 million years ago, a large crack developed known as the Okanagan Fault. It is still present today, opening below the east side of Okanagan Lake right under Kelowna and penetrating downward and westward to a depth of 20 kilometres. It runs north and south cradling the lake. Beneath Okanagan Lake, the bedrock forms a deep 'V' shaped trough extending down to a depth of 640 metres below sea level. The difference in elevation between the bedrock on the 2170 foot (784 metre) top of Little White Mountain only a few kilometres away and the bedrock at the bottom of the lake is very great, comparable to the depth of the Grand Canyon in the US. However, the lake bottom does not extend to the bedrock in the bottom of the fault. Seven hundred and fifty metres of glacial debris and alluvial silt lie in the lake bottom, filling the fault.

In addition to the Okanagan Fault, a second smaller crack, the Mission Creek Fault, running northeast to southwest, crosses the Okanagan Fault at Kelowna and passes on to the west. The land north of the Mission Creek Fault has been pushed farther east

than the land to the south of the fault. This accounts for the jog in Okanagan Lake from Peachland to the Mission. North of Kelowna, the Okanagan Fault lies more under Woods and Kalamalka Lakes than under the north part of Okanagan Lake. Mission Creek flows down the Mission Creek Fault and Joe Rich lies on top of it. At Layer Cake Hill the rock is 50 million years old, but just across Mission Creek to the south of the fault near the mouth of KLO Creek, the rock is part of the old North American Plate bedrock and is two billion years old.

#### Exploding fire and molten soup

About 20 million years ago, as this part of BC was forced upward, folded and cracked, volcanoes developed in the Kelowna area and continued to be active intermittently for about 10 million years. Black Mountain and Layer Cake Hill were formed at that time. The basaltic lava, which the volcanoes produced, was very liquid and ran out onto plains and into valleys for long distances. Layer Cake Hill is formed by the same eruptions that produced Black Mountain. Its layers may have been caused by successive lava flows or more likely by pressure and heating producing sequential layering of the different substances in the rock. It is unique in the world! Millions of years of river activity had already laid down large deposits of sand and gravel before the volcanoes began to fill the river valleys with lava. At the end of Joe Rich Valley where the road to Big White crosses over the West Kettle River, banks can be seen where lava lies on top of the gravel of the ancient river system which predated the volcanic period.

During the period when volcanoes were erupting around Kelowna, they were also occurring in other areas close by. Ash from larger eruptions sometimes drifted over this area forming thick layer deposits. These ash deposits have formed light coloured layers seen in cut banks in the Philpott Valley. They are probably the result of one of the more recent eruptions that formed Crater Lake in Oregon 6,600 years ago, the Mount Saint Helen eruptions 3,400 and 508 years ago or the eruption of Mount Meager in the Bridge River area 2,400 years ago. At the time of the recent eruption of Mount Saint Helen, the wind carried very little ash to this area.

#### Grinding ice and flowing water

About 1.6 million years ago, the climate began to cool. Ice formed on the high points of land and slowly flowed down into the valleys ripping off protruding bedrock as it flowed. The broken rock was incorporated into the glaciers where it produced a sort of giant sand paper which scoured out the valleys converting their 'V' shaped cross section to a 'U' shape. A large glacier of this sort flowed down Mission Creek enlarging the valley as it went and carrying millions of tons of rock and gravel into the Rutland and Kelowna area. The Kelowna site started out as a bay in Okanagan Lake which was filled in by glacial debris and river silt to form the Kelowna we know today. Several successive glaciers formed over BC and the Okanagan only to recede and then form again. Each ground down the mountains even further. Nineteen thousand years ago, the last glacier, the Fraser Glacier formed and reached its maximum thickness 15,000 years ago when all of BC was covered by ice. Over Kelowna, it reached a thickness of 3 kilometres and was so heavy that it actually pushed down the land beneath it. Slowly and with some advances and recessions, it began to melt. Ten thousand years ago, it had gone. As it melted, the dark rock of the hills began to protrude through it attracting the heat and producing crevices and wells around them. Gravel and silt were washed into these depressions. Huge amounts of melt water were formed and flowed down into the

valley to produce a massive lake which geologists have named Pentiction Lake. It extended from Enderby to below Okanagan Falls and its shore produced beach sand at the edge of Crawford Estates indicating that its surface reached 1,500 feet above sea level. The lake level today is only 1,123 feet. The south end of this lake was the site of a huge ice dam which broke on several occasions releasing gigantic volumes of water producing massive erosion here and in Washington (Dry Falls and the Columbia Gorge) and lowering the lake level.

During these thousands of years, the ice melt waxed and waned. During a long period of stagnation a large glacier flowed down Mission Creek Valley and produced a huge moraine in Rutland. Some of this still exists as part of the raised land on the south side of Mission Creek southwest of Layer Cake Hill on which McCulloch's Pub and the surrounding KLO orchards are located. This moraine eventually grew large enough to create a dam which held back the outflow of the very large Mission Creek which developed as the ice began to melt again. This dam produced a long thin lake which extended up Mission Creek and Belgo Creek Valleys filling Joe Rich with water. Melt water carried rocks, gravel, sand and clay down into the lake adding to the materials the glacier had already left in the area. These forces of ice and water produced most of the geological features of Joe Rich which we know today. A 240 foot deep well which we recently drilled just north of Highway 33 and Three Forks Road passes through 4 feet of organic material and glacial rocks into over 200 feet of pure blue clay and finally reaches a layer of fine sand containing water under enough pressure to rise in the pipe to about 40 feet below the surface. The rocky soil is probably the result of a last gasp of glacial activity and the clay the result of hundreds or thousands of years of fine eroded material being washed into a lake.

As the level of Okanagan Lake has dropped to its present level, Mission Creek has veered to the north and bypassed its old moraine and delta to form what was an alluvial fan of silt which is responsible for most of the topsoil of Kelowna. The creek water erosion continues to deepen Mission Creek Valley and Gallagher's Canyon and to lay down more and more delta at its mouth, but Mission Creek is now a mere trickle compared to the mighty river it once was when glaciers were melting. In recent history, it meandered through swampy wetlands, but now it has been channelled and its source lakes dammed to insure regular flow and reduce flooding.

Although the silt materials deposited by the rivers and lakes of our area are responsible for the beauty of our landscape, for the forest that grows here, and for the benches characteristic of the Okanagan, they have dangers. On hillsides, streams can undercut them, they can be saturated by water from rain or runoff, or they can be disturbed by the cuts of logging roads or the increased snow melt and reduced stability of clear cut areas. As a result, they are prone to slides.

In October, 1984, a large Earth Slump occurred at the Kelowna end of Bald Range just below Highway 33 and Graceland Ranch. Acres of land slid downhill to obstruct Mission Creek and nearly eliminate the Highway. Silbernagel's pump house near Mission Creek was buried and they were shocked to wake in the morning, turn on the water, find none and realize what had happened while they slept.

On June 12, 1990, a heavy rain and snow runoff which saturated the ground, complicated by clear cut and a logging road triggered a Debris Avalanche which travelled at 10 metres per second over 1.5 kilometres sweeping thousands of tons of mud, rock and

trees across Philpott Road to crush and cover Charlie Philpott's home killing him, his wife, Betty and their daughter, Janet. Other Philpott Road residents were evacuated because of the possibility that more slides could take place on the rain saturated hillside. Both these slides probably involved silt deposits formed at the edge of prehistoric Joe Rich Lake. Similar slides have occurred in the Okanagan Valley and are most common along the clay banks between Summerland and Penticton at the edge of prehistoric Penticton Lake.

The silt banks and delta deposits of Joe Rich and the Okanagan make us vulnerable to earthquakes. The delta plain which forms much of Kelowna would be liquefied by an earthquake of over 7.5 on the Richter scale. However, no earthquakes of over 4.9 Richters have occurred in the recorded history of the Okanagan and are unlikely to do so in the future unless a massive earthquake were to occur off the coast, where the main plate collision is occurring west of Vancouver Island, and the shock were to be transmitted here.

#### People at last

There is little or no knowledge of the people who may have passed through or lived in prehistoric Joe Rich. A lot of archaeological work remains to be done in BC to uncover such information. However, a few facts give us an idea of what may have happened. Human beings appear to have entered North America across an ice bridge or land connection between Asia and North America at the Bering Strait less than 20,000 years ago. Most of them were probably driven south quite quickly by the cold and did not return to BC until the end of the last ice age about 9,000 years ago. They would probably already have been present in Washington and Oregon 10,000 years ago, when the wall of water surged south released by the failure of the ice dam at the south end of Penticton Lake. A horrible thought!

By 3,000 years ago, there were probably more than 12,000 people living in the Okanagan as hunter-gatherers. They lived in pit houses constructed over a large flat bottomed excavation, about a metre deep, covered by a low-profile, tepee-shaped roof topped with earth and constructed of poles and branches with a hole in the top for the escape of smoke. In the summer, they lived more nomadic lives and probably carried woven tulle mats with them which they used for temporary shelters. They had no horses until 1730, but perhaps used dogs which may have pulled travois. They dug up bitterroot and balsam root which they roasted in pits before eating. They hunted bear, elk, deer, moose, mountain goat and sheep. When the snow was crusted enough for them to run on top, they very successfully hunted the deer that sunk through the crust and quickly tired. But a large part of the Okanagan Salish diet was always fish and mainly salmon. The salmon came up the river past Okanagan Falls each October, and the native people met there to fish and prepare the catch for winter storage. This was always a happy time for almost the entire population; a time when many marriages occurred. Almost certainly, some of these people hunted and trapped in Joe Rich. Perhaps some may have lived here during their summer travels in search of game. Probably none stayed the winter.

This rhythm of life appears to have continued until Alexander Ross, a fur trader came up the Okanagan through Penticton about 1810, and Father Pandosy came to stay and preach to the native people in 1859. [33]

## A25. MINING

Many areas in BC were first settled by Europeans because of mining or the fur trade. The Okanagan is an exception. Although the fur trade brought the first Europeans through the valley, it was mission work which brought Father Pandosy to live here and agricultural possibilities that attracted those Europeans who followed him. Perhaps a few wandering prospectors and trappers passed through Joe Rich Valley, but it also developed as agricultural homesteads. Later, logging became a more important vocation for its residents.

Mining was never a major factor in Joe Rich development, but it was present. Joe Rich himself was probably a prospector/miner after he left this valley and went to the Cariboo. He may have done some prospecting here. There is a shallow mine hole on Preston Mountain on the northeast side of Highway 33 above Joe Rich Valley. No one knows who dug it. At the end of Philpott Valley not far from Silver Creek are four horizontal shafts or 'drifts' extending into the western mountainside of the valley. Monti Philpott has been told that these were dug in a search for gold on or very near to the Mills property, but they were abandoned before anyone living can remember.

Jim Weddell remembers as a boy working with his father in the lettuce field when an old man came down Preston Mountain and began talking to them. He told them that as he walked down the mountain, he had slipped on the moss which had peeled off and that when he had picked himself up and looked down he had seen "pure gold" exposed where the moss had slid away. Unfortunately, Jim hasn't been able to find just where that gold was.

Gold has been found in Mission Creek and in very small quantities even in Belgo Creek. It was first discovered in Mission Creek in 1861, the same year the Cariboo Gold Rush began and just two years after Father Pandosy settled in Kelowna. Placer mining began and was still taking place just below Gallagher's Canyon when Dr. George Dawson, the provincial geologist passed through Kelowna in 1877. Many of the miners were Chinese. They lived in the bottom of the canyon and cooked in the water-worn rock depressions at the end of the canyon. Smoke stains on the rock are still visible from their fires. They reportedly were able to take out two or three ounces of gold a day.

Dan Gallagher, whose name is now attached to the canyon, settled in the canyon near the end of Gallagher Road which we pass each day on our drive to Kelowna. For years, he placer-mined the area, but never became rich. He lived an eccentric bachelor life. He apparently sometimes rode his horse wearing nothing but a loin-cloth. He entertained his neighbours by playing the fiddle at dances up until the 1930s. Harold Malik who logged with Monti Philpott used to move his loader down to a point just above the canyon, below where Penny lives now, during the spring break-up when he couldn't work in the woods. He would wash through gravel for gold and get enough to pay his wages. His work was not ecologically friendly and wouldn't be allowed today. No one seems to look for gold in Mission Creek now.

Other types of mines have been developed around Joe Rich. Beaverdell had the Highland Bell Silver Mine which also produced lead, zinc, copper, cadmium and gold from Wallace Mountain until 1991 when it closed. It was one of the longest running silver mines in North America and honey combed the mountain with shafts.

Uranium has been found in the Beaverdell area, but there has been a provincial moratorium on uranium exploration and mining since 1970.

Brenda Mine across the lake has yielded molybdenum and copper.

Today, sand and gravel are the most important items mined in the Kelowna area. The city has a great need for these materials which it is using in vast quantities for construction. A possible source for them is Black Mountain at the base of Goudie Road, where the south-easterly drift of the Fraser Glacier produced a great deposit of crushed rock and gravel, but at the present time the requirements for extracting this have not been met by the prospective developer. [8,29,30,33]

## A26. THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

(see A21)

### Past Administration in Joe Rich

Most parts of Canada are served by three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. Although the first two levels have always applied to Joe Rich, the third has been missing. Joe Rich was administered from Victoria at an impersonal distance which meant that in some ways it wasn't administered at all. It was served by federal police provincially funded. Its roads were maintained by local people at provincial expense under the direction of a locally appointed supervisor, a role Cyril Weddell played for many years. Wild life management was looked after by game wardens, but they seldom came to Joe Rich unless requested to come and deal with a predatory cougar or bear that was killing cattle. The school was funded from Victoria through the District 23 School Board which paid school expenses and the teacher's salary, but Joe Rich residents built the school, found and hired the teachers, gave them room and board, and in some cases even recruited the students to make sure that there were enough of them to keep the school open. It was not surprising that the community felt a very strong sense of ownership in the school. Government services were intermittent and distant. There were few guidelines and even fewer ways of enforcing the few that did exist. There were no building permits or inspections, no water provision, no sewerage or garbage disposal, no fire department and no environmental regulations. Land titles were obtained from the Provincial Land Registry Office of the Osoyoos District which was in Kamloops and property taxes were levied by and paid to Victoria. When they weren't paid, the land title reverted to the crown, but the owner (or another person) could buy the property back by paying up owed taxes.

The real decisions for the community were made locally by the close knit group of residents. More recently, when the community was enlarged and became less close knit, a downtown official came up to Joe Rich and went from person to person at a community meeting asking what it was that residents wanted for the community. Gert Weddell rather eloquently replied, "Well, I know what we haven't got. We haven't got street lights, sidewalks and prostitutes". The inference was, 'and we don't want them either, so why doesn't government just leave us alone and let us do our thing'.

### The formation and structure of the Regional District

In the 1960s, the provincial government began to move toward a more hands-on administration in the rural corners of the province related to the funding of hospitals and other capital construction. The larger towns could not be expected to build and operate hospitals which more rural areas would use without contributing to operating costs. As a result in 1967 the provincial government set up "Regional Districts". Joe Rich became part of the Central Okanagan Regional District in the part of the Regional District which included Rutland, the Belgo, Ellison and us. This was soon found to be too large so

Rutland and the Belgo were made into one Electoral District and Ellison and Joe Rich together became Electoral District I which has subsequently become Electoral District E. Each Electoral District is administered by an elected Regional Director. Each director is recorded as administering one vote block for each 4,000 residents in their district. When a director has more than five vote blocks a second director is added to the electoral district. Although Joe Rich might like to be represented by its own director, the provincial government tries to avoid too many small electoral districts and is unlikely to agree to Joe Rich being represented separately.

The Regional Directors are organized by a government appointed secretary treasurer who acts as chairperson of the Regional District directors and Executive Officer of the Regional District Office with its staff of planners, inspectors, secretaries and specialized workers. The Secretary Treasurer answers to an elected Regional Board of lay persons who initially were also the Hospital Board, but is now a separate board. The Regional District is responsible for creating a budget and requisitioning money to cover it from the Kelowna municipal government and the provincial government.

The first Secretary Treasurer was Cecil Sladen who was soon replaced by Al Harrison who held the position between 1969 and 1997. The Secretary Treasurer, now called the Chief Administrative Officer is Wayne d'Easum. The Regional Directors for Ellison and Joe Rich have been: Len Piddocke, George Whitaker, Mike Jennings, Colin Day, Duf Booth, Dave Burtch, Don Lever, Connie Bielert, Mary-Ann Graham and Patty Hansen who is now our director. (2010 update: Kelly Hayes is the current director.) The Regional Board has contained a variety of lay people who have mostly been prominent Kelowna citizens. The present chairman is Robert Hobson.

At present, the Regional District of the Central Okanagan serves 2,956 square kilometres, 158,562 people, 65,000 households and 12,609 businesses. Joe Rich/Ellison is by far the largest Electoral District, but with only 4,206 persons has the smallest population. The Regional District has 149 full and part-time employees.

#### Expansion of the responsibilities of the Regional District

Initially, the Regional District's mandate was limited almost entirely to hospital funding, but it was soon evident that it was in a position to handle other regional services better than the provincial government could handle them. The provincial government continued to maintain the control, but delegated increasing administrative responsibilities to the Regional District. Now the Regional District manages the Okanagan Water Board, Regional Parks, Mosquito and other insect control, Waste Disposal, Administrative Costs, the Hospital and Long Term Care Facilities, Building Inspection, 911 Emergency Services, Dog Control, Regional and Community Planning and Zoning, Fire Protection and Ecological Planning. Joe Rich is involved in all of these, but the proportion of its involvement and financial commitment varies.

The Central Okanagan is one of the higher income regions of the province and the Central Okanagan Regional District's sophistication and range of services reflect this.

The Regional District can own property on behalf of the residents in its area of jurisdiction and it can initiate referenda to provide new services or alter existing ones. It continues to create budgets and is now funded from a variety of sources. It still cannot levy taxes so in that sense is not a government, but in other senses it becomes government in most functions, particularly for areas like Joe Rich. It maintains an

extremely sophisticated website, which provides an interactive map of the entire region including Joe Rich.

Three Forks Park is owned by the Regional District on behalf of the Community of Joe Rich and is operated as a community park. The Regional District at the instigation of Joe Rich residents arranged to move the old school house off its property, acquire that property from the school district, borrow money from a provincial development fund and with that money build the Joe Rich Community Hall and Fire Hall. The cost of this work was added to the property tax mill rate applied to all the residents. A referendum was held and Joe Rich residents voted in favour of constructing the hall.

Todd Cashin, the environmental technologist employed by the Regional District has recently completed a detailed ecological study of Joe Rich Creek and with the co-operation and assistance of Cam Weddell has reclaimed the creek edges through the Weddell's home property. The banks have been stabilized, cattle access limited with fencing and native trees planted to reduce erosion.

Over the past 30 years, a polarization of opinion has tended to develop between the old time Joe Rich residents who own and live on large parcels of land and depend on the valley for their livelihood and the many newer residents who own smaller properties and use Joe Rich as a dormitory community and an attractive framework to their homes while concentrating their interest and gaining their livelihood outside Joe Rich. The newer group of residents favour regulations which will keep Joe Rich as they think it should be. The group of old time residents misses the old days of more united opinion in a close-knit community and would prefer to be left alone to manage Joe Rich as they see fit without regulations imposed from outside the valley. They tend to see people as more polluting than animals or logging equipment which have always been a background of Joe Rich life.

#### Joe Rich planning

Joe Rich is unique within the Central Okanagan Regional District because it is the most rural part of the district and one of the areas with the most difficulty in reaching consensus amongst its residents in regard to future planning. In the early 1980s, a Settlement Plan was worked out for Joe Rich by the Regional District and presented at community meetings. Agreement could not be reached and so the plan was shelved. As a result, for many years, Joe Rich planning was more 'broad brush' and not as precise as it could have been. Finally, a Land Use Committee with strong local representation was convened and as a result a Rural Land Use Bylaw has now been put in place. Land use regulation has been complicated by the presence of the Agricultural Land Reserve legislation. This has designated some areas of Joe Rich as agricultural land when in fact they could never be profitable as such. Our climate limits our growing season and makes most agriculture in our valley very marginal. The land use plan will need constant upgrading as our conditions change.

In the past 20 years, the Goudie Road area has grown rapidly. It is now referred to as West Joe Rich and the Joe Rich Creek area together with the Philpott and Three Forks Road areas are known as East Joe Rich. West Joe Rich is already the larger of the two. The total population from the top of the Black Mountain Hill to the end of Joe Rich Valley, kindly dug out for us by the Regional District from Stats Canada figures for 2001, is 1,030 people.

It is estimated that by 2020 the population of the Central Okanagan Regional District will have grown by 60%. As this growth occurs, there will undoubtedly be major pressures on water supply, air quality and transportation systems. As a result, life in Kelowna will become less attractive to many people some of whom will opt to move to Joe Rich. It is probable that there will be pressure to reduce lot sizes here while still retaining the rural nature of our area. A small commercial area with one or two small shops and services and perhaps a service station may some day be appropriate. It is unlikely that there will be major highway changes, but some upgrading will probably be needed. Big White will grow. There is a very tentative long-term plan for a major highway from South Kelowna up to and over Gallagher's Canyon to pass over Highway 33 at Black Mountain and pass along Kelowna's east side at a high level to the east side of Vernon and north. If this ever happens, it should not have a major effect on Joe Rich. It is probable that Joe Rich will remain a relatively unspoilt and very rural place to live. [8,34,35,36]

#### A27. CHURCH

Joe Rich has had four church organizations over the years. The first was organized by John Baillie who had studied for the ministry in England. The Sunday services conducted by him took place in the new school house starting in 1923 and continuing until 1927. A small pump organ was kept in the school to be used for the church, community gatherings and of course the Christmas concert. When Mr. Baillie moved away from Joe Rich, Rev. C.E. Davis, the Kelowna Anglican minister continued to conduct services which took place only intermittently. These carried on for a few years even after the school was closed in 1957. When the school was moved to its present location in 1964, a box of old hymn books was still in it.

A very long period without religious services followed; perhaps because travel to churches in Kelowna had become so easy. But in 2000 a group of Joe Rich residents decided they would like to have an Easter service and follow it with more regular church services in the community hall. They invited Pastor Ed Brouwer, a resident of Joe Rich who was conducting religious worship in the rented Black Mountain Adventist Church by the pond, to lead the service. He and his wife, Judy took over the job. A religious service was conducted in the community hall on Sunday evening once a month. These meetings were continued until 2003. They were then taken over by Mary-Ann Graham and some Joe Rich friends, but were discontinued after a few months because of difficulty raising the funds to rent the hall. Several small religious groups have continued, but they now meet in the warmer less expensive atmosphere of homes.

A Vacation Bible School was also conducted in Joe Rich by Mrs. Gerry Demitor and Mrs. Dorothy Mullen during the summers of 1974 and 1975 in the Mullens' home which is now owned by Birches. Mrs. Carlson and two women from Kelowna helped.

The kindergarten age children were: Brian and Sharon Benner, Bonnie Carlson, Timmy Demitor, Todd Francis, Tracy Fast, Tracy Snodgrass, Leroy Stubbington, Wayne Tracy, and Rardi and Troy Van Heest. Primary age children were: Sharon Avery, Bobby and Leanne Carlson, Darin Fast, Michelle Godmaire, Vicky Hall, Susie Hecko, David and Kathy Murphy, Janice Sjodin, Donna Snodgrass, Priscilla Stubbington, Roger and Sandra Tracy, Donna Travers, Peter Wergin and Jeannie and Shelagh Weddell. The juniors were: Collin Avery, Terry Carlson, Clayton Pearce, Ronda Philpott, Kathy

Russell, Brenda and David Snodgrass, Joy and Wanda Travers, and Gavin Weddell. [8,27,28,43]

A28. WEATHER

Weather is important everywhere, and in Joe Rich it is particularly important to those trying to farm or even grow a garden. It's important too, if your driveway is steep and it's a snowy winter morning. Howard and Gerry Demitor have had a keen interest in Joe Rich as a viable farming area and have concluded that for most crop production Joe Rich is marginal at best because of its very short growing season. We have just too few frost-free days each summer. Demitors and Weddells can only produce one crop of hay per year while many Okanagan Valley bottom farms produce three crops a year. Even lettuce growing in Joe Rich only thrived because farmers here could produce lettuce, a cool weather crop, after other areas had become too hot. Even though lettuce crops made money, each year 25% to 50% of the lettuce heads were eventually nipped by Jack Frost. Turnips did better, but even they are held back by Joe Rich's short growing season. Should any of Joe Rich be in the Agricultural Land Reserve? Some don't think it should.

Weather records have been collected for the federal weather office in Joe Rich since 1928; first by Jack Findlay and then by old Mr. Philpott. In 1946, the Weddells took over; Mary Weddell, then Gavin, then Jeannie and Shelagh, and now Cam for the past twenty years. We seldom see the results, but a phone call to the Canadian Weather Office, Kelowna Branch and a little kind research on their part yielded the following weather statistics about Joe Rich.

It is important to realize several facts in regard to these statistics. First, the data is collected at Weddell's place on Joe Rich Creek and the weather statistics there will be a little different than for other sites such as the Philpott Valley, the upper part of Goudie Road or particularly Uppenborn's place which is probably colder and wetter. Pat Russell has kept records of last and first frosts for years. Over a period of twenty years, her temperatures are a few degrees lower and her frosts a little later in the spring and earlier in the fall than Birch's and they are only a kilometre apart. Altitude, the slope of the land, proximity to a creek and even trees make a difference. Secondly, the data for Kelowna comes from the airport which tends to be colder and sunnier (a little closer to Joe Rich weather) than the lakeshore area. Thirdly, these statistics are averages over a long period (1959 to 1990 for Kelowna and 1928 to 1990 for Joe Rich) and it is not averages that kill your garden. It is isolated low temperatures which may occur even when the average is well above freezing.

	<u>Kelowna</u>	<u>Joe Rich</u>
	(in degrees Centigrade)	
Yearly average daily maximum temperature	13.8	11.2
Monthly highest average daily maximum temp	July 27.6	July&Aug 24.4
Yearly average daily minimum temperature	7.4	4.5
Monthly lowest average daily minimum temp	Jan -4.5	Jan -6.7
Usual frost free months	April-Sept	May-Sept
Total precipitation per year	366.4mm	579.4mm
Monthly highest average precipitation	June 36.9mm	May 59.8mm
	Dec 37.6mm	June 65.5mm

Range of other monthly average precipitations	21.9mmto37.6mm	37.2to56.3mm
Yearly snowfall	105.5cm	172.9cm
Number of days with precipitation per year	129	139
Number of days with snowfall per year	40	48
Monthly highest hours of bright sunshine	July	311 hrs
Monthly lowest hours of bright sunshine	Dec	41 hrs

Historically, there is no month of the year when on some year the temperature has not dropped below freezing in Joe Rich. Sad news for gardeners! Although the weather office lists May, June, July, August, and September as ‘usual frost free months’ in Joe Rich, for the gardener watching for frost on the ground this is not the case for most of our area. Pat Russell has kept careful records since the 1960s. Birches have paid attention since the 1980s. We both agree that on average the last frost occurs in the first days of June and the first frost comes in the first days of September, but there is wide variation.

We do not have records of the number of hours of bright sunshine in Joe Rich per month. However, in general the trend is probably the same as in Kelowna with the exceptions that (1) Joe Rich has less overcast in the winter when the presence of the lake leads to low cloud formation over Kelowna and (2) Joe Rich has slightly fewer hours of bright sunshine in summer, because of more afternoon and evening thunder clouds during the hot weather. Therefore, Joe Rich has a little more winter sun and a little less summer sun than Kelowna.

These statistics show the Joe Rich temperature to be about 2 ½ degrees Centigrade colder than Kelowna. Many residents of Joe Rich think that we are 3 to 5 degrees colder than Kelowna. These government statistics are much more reliable than our impressions, but the areas which they are comparing (the Kelowna Airport and Weddells) may not be the same as the ones we are more aware of. *[8,19,28,34,61]*

#### A29. WARS, SOLDIERS & DISPLACED PERSONS

Although Joe Rich had a tiny population at the time of both world wars, it produced an impressive number of soldiers. Also, several residents had been soldiers before they came to Joe Rich.

In the Boer War (South African War) 1899 – 1902

Martin Band

In the First World War 1914 – 1918

Allan Fazan

Gordon Fazan

Ernest Hepton

James (Jack) Hockey

Duncan Stewart

Cyril Weddell

In the Second World War 1939 – 1945

Marcia Aitkens

Harold Baillie

Alex Band  
Harry Band  
Doug Black  
Bud Bubar  
Hayden Bubar  
Harold Cundy  
Vern Emerson  
Allan Fazan  
Allan France  
Jack Hepton  
Bruce Page  
Claude Pearce  
Cecil Philpott  
Charlie Philpott  
Wayne Slyter  
Allan Smith  
Don Smith

In the Korean War 1950 – 1953  
Reg Marlatt

In the War in Vietnam 1964 -1968  
Aime Beaulieu

Gordon Fazan was killed in World War I. His brother Allan came home, and returned again in World War II. He again came home, but sadly after surviving the wars, he was killed in Kelowna by a hit and run driver. Ernest Hepton was a member of the British Forces in Ireland after World War I. Jack Hockey was a machine gunner and was wounded in the abdomen. When he had recovered, he became a motorcycle dispatch rider. Duncan Stewart was a prisoner of war in Germany during World War I and was released in 1918. Cyril Weddell, when he joined up, gave his age as a year or two older than it really was and so was sent over seas at 17. He fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and was hit by a German bomb which left him with many severe shrapnel wounds. He was evacuated to England and back to Canada in 1917 where he received a draft notice. He had just reached the age for the call-up and the recruiting office didn't realize he had already been to war and had come home wounded. The bureaucracy didn't work any better then than it does now.

Jack Hepton and Allan Smith were both killed in World War II. Wayne Slyter went through the allied invasion of Europe in a tank and was wounded in the leg. He was shipped back to England, recovered and returned to his unit to finish out 5 years and the end of the war. Charlie Philpott was sent over seas. Cecil spent most of the war in Canadian army camps. Marcia Aitkens, a nurse in the Canadian forces, was the only Joe Rich woman at war. The experience deeply affected her attitude to life and like most other Canadian women who joined up, taught her to smoke and drink. Vern Emerson fought in Holland and for many years received tulip bulbs each year as recognition of his contribution. Allan France was a bomber pilot with the Canadian Air Force during the

time when many Canadian men flew out of England to bomb Europe each night. The loss of air crews shot down in those raids was terrifying, but Allan was young and perhaps lucky. By the age of 23, he rose to be a Wing Commander in charge of 25 four engine bombers. He has met regularly with his flight crew for the past 60 years.

Reg Marlatt and Aime Beaulieu went to the Asian wars. Aime Beaulieu was with the American forces in Vietnam and survived the horror of that experience.

Although Kelowna has many old German soldiers, we do not know of any in Joe Rich.

Mr. Giesa was a Hungarian displaced to Canada by the Hungarian Revolution. *[1,8,11,12,14,22,27,30,42,53]*

### A30. LOST PERSONS AND DEAD BODIES

When Chuckie Philpott was three or four, he disappeared. A big search followed. A few hours later, he was found sleeping in a closet.

When Ryan Ross was a toddler, he got lost. A community search ensued and Pat Russell finally found him locked in the cloak room at the old Joe Rich School house.

Several hunters have been lost in the Greystokes. Nick Hush was lost there for three days. Most have come out into the upper part of the Mission Creek Valley.

One of the most dramatic events of this sort occurred in the fall of about 1977. Leo and Vivian Kleemaier had a helicopter pilot friend. One day, he landed in Joe Rich and dropped into their home. Leo was out, but the rest of the family and Vivian's brother were home. The pilot invited Vivian out for a ride and so they took off. When they didn't return, Vivian's brother, who was baby-sitting, called Gert Weddell to get hold of Leo who he thought was with Jim, but Jim was at the Armstrong Fair. Search and Rescue were called and another helicopter was sent out. They flew all over Joe Rich and the surrounding area lighting up the night with powerful search lights. Eventually, the missing helicopter was sighted beside Brown Lake and a report came back that it had been found, but that there was no sign of life. Finally, Vivian and the pilot were rescued in the very early hours of the morning. They had landed at the lake and been unable to take off again. The story made the Courier.

Perhaps the secluded nature of Joe Rich has attracted some grizzly events too. Some have turned out to be harmless such as the graves which Gert Weddell and Diane Marlatt found in Three Forks Park and that turned out to be buried dogs. Others have been more serious. Bodies of murder victims have been dumped in the Trapping Creek Road area, and near the road to Big White. In August of 1999, the Morrisons discovered the bodies of two men who had been murdered in Kelowna and dumped below Philpott Road. *[8,31]*

## **B. PROPERTIES & BUILDINGS**

### B1. Ingalls' Barn

For many years an abandoned log barn stood on the flat land now taken up by Three Forks Road at the top of the hill leaving Highway 33 in front of Volk's property.

Jim Weddell remembers the barn as a landmark, but never knew who H.E. Ingalls was although his name appears on Lot 4050 on a map before 1919. When Three Forks Road was improved and brought down the hill to Highway 33, the road passed directly through the site on which the barn stood and so the old barn was destroyed. *[Error! Bookmark not defined.]*

B2. High Lonesome Ranch  
(see D5)

High Lonesome Ranch, at the end of Greystoke Road originally belonged to the Nicholases who obtained it as a Crown Grant. They built the log home and the large barn located on the property. Both of them are still standing. The house has been renovated and largely rebuilt. The barn has lost its original roof, but is otherwise largely intact.

In 1962, after Frank Nicolas' death, the property was sold to the Feniaks. They had to take a thousand dollar loan to bring in the power and telephone and were unable to pay it back. This forced them to sell the property to the Wiens. In 1970, Doc Campbell, Phil Mobery, Ernie Winter and his son, Budge (Bill) Winter purchased the property which was then a 160 acre parcel. They subdivided off 40 acres located on the northwest side of Mission Creek and sold it to Jerry Scherl who further subdivided that part of the property. When Doc Campbell died, the Winters paid off his widow and bought out Phil Mobery. When Mr. Ernie Winter died, his share of the property came into the hands of his daughter, Valerie. Budge and she (who now lives in Merritt) have left the property to their grandchildren.

John Wood who now lives in the cabin, works as a welder in town and also works with the Hyatts in their furniture production business. *[11,17,39]*

B3. Weddell Property  
(see D1)

The Weddells have owned 6 parcels of property in Joe Rich Valley. These are:

- 1) (see D10)  
The original property on which Joe Rich squatted and built his cabin, and which was later obtained as a Crown Grant by the Prestons. The 160 acres were purchased in about 1919 by Cyril Weddell and Duncan Stewart. Duncan took the 65 flattest acres with most of the farm buildings at the southeast end of the parcel, and Cyril took the 95 hillier acres without most of the buildings. The Weddell's present home was built by Cyril on that property.
- 2) (see B4 and D27)  
The Mack property. After Billy Mack's accidental death, the family wanted to sell and leave Joe Rich. Cyril wanted to buy their property, but at that time did not have the cash. A friend of the Macks lent him the money. He bought the property and paid her back later. The property was the 160 acres of Joe Rich bottom land next to the last property at the upper end of Joe Rich Creek at the southeast end of the valley.
- 3) (see D17)  
The Huckle property. This property of about 100 acres was obtained by Billy Huckle as a Crown Grant. In his old age he sold it, and Cyril Weddell purchased it from that buyer. It lay on both sides of the present highway and

extended up both sides of Cardinal Creek from its confluence with Mission Creek. Billy Huckles old original cabin still stands roofless on this property above the highway on the north side. Cyril and then Jim used the property as pasture for their cattle. Jim also took the larger logs off of it. Eventually, when Cyril had died, Jim sold the property, because it would have required a lot of fencing if he had continued to use it for cattle, and the government was no longer willing to help with fencing even if the property bordered the highway. Jim moved his cattle to a range off Three Forks Road that Duncan Stewart had previously used.

- 4) Weddells obtained the 160 acres at the extreme southeast end of the valley as a Crown Grant. It contained 40 flat acres and some of the hill behind. They subdivided off the flat area which was suitable for pasture, and sold the hilly 120 acres at the base of which Doug Hecko built. The cost of subdividing the property was more than the original cost of the Crown Grant.
- 5) (see D6 and D31)  
The Brewer property. In 1960, the Brewers bought 320 acres southeast of Demitor's present property. It had been homesteaded by Chris Schram, had been owned by Mrs. Mabel Bright and her son, Garvin, and had been sold to Mel Bailey. He sold it to Ted and Veronica McKenzie, who sold it to the Hockey family from whom the Brewers bought it. They had not had it long when Mr. Brewer was crushed by his tractor when it rolled over backwards. He died. Mrs. Brewer decided to return to her home in the US. Jim offered her what her husband had paid for the property a short time before. She gladly accepted and left the valley.
- 6) A 20 acre parcel south of the south end of Schram Road behind the Brewer house. Jim bought this after he and Gert were married, added it to the Brewer property and now grows hay on it.

The Weddells finally had over 600 acres, nearly a square mile, but when the highway was improved several acres were acquired by the Department of Highways leaving them with their present 595 acres. [8]

#### B4. Mack Property (see D27)

The Macks owned the property (District Lot 4180) and the house which is now on the east side of Highway 33 close to and just above the road. When they had the property, the large barn which now stands in Weddell's field on the other side of the highway, was in front of their house and the trailer home was not on the property.

The log house and barn were built by Mr. William Russell Glenn who had purchased the land from Askar Tress who had obtained it as a Crown Grant in 1913. Glenn improved the farm and built the large log barn. He sold the property to the Baillies who were living there when their children attended the first Joe Rich School class in 1922. In 1930, William Mack bought the property, but the Mack family were probably already living there when their children were at the Joe Rich School in 1927. After Billy Mack's death in 1934, the Macks moved back to Rutland in 1935 and sold their property to the Weddells in 1938.

Since the Weddells have owned the property, the house has been lived in by Hayden Bubar and his wife Ethel, by the Harder family and more recently by Norman and Gert Fast. Fasts did not live in the Mack house, but in a trailer home which now stands in front of the old log house. Young Terry Fazan now lives in this trailer home.

This property had the large log barn on it which William Glenn had built. When the highway was being moved to its present location, the barn stood on the site of the highway and so had to be gotten rid of. The Department of Highways gave Jim Weddell \$5000 for the building and told him they were going to burn it down. He asked if he could keep it if he moved it and they said, "Yes". He had a big caterpillar and a friend who was working for the Department of Highways had an even bigger one. They both hooked on to the barn and pulled it toward Joe Rich Creek. It started to disintegrate so they left it where it now stands in the field to the south of the highway at the east end of the valley. That was about 40 years ago and the barn still stands in reasonable shape saved at the eleventh hour. [8,11]

#### B5. Dunworkin'

(see C2 and D11)

Dunworkin' is a log home originally built as a fishing/hunting cabin on the north side of Joe Rich Creek two properties downstream from the Joe Rich Community/Fire Hall. It was built before 1921 by Billy Black and Martin Band for the Alex McKays, P.B. Willett and Elisha Bailey, who was Willett's father-in-law and Kelowna's post-master. Dr. Knox may also have been involved. Martin Band built the beautiful fireplace. Mrs. McKay named the cabin after a cottage of her father's in Manitoba. Later, one of the family members became ill with tuberculosis and spent a long time on the property often living outside in a tent which was thought to be a way to keep healthy and cure "Tb".

The property passed through several hands as described in (C)2.

In the 1987, Dunworkin was bought by Brent and Donna Lindahl from Elliots who were related to the Willetts. The Lindahls completely renovated it, restoring it to its original appearance. Their work won them the recognition of the Heritage Society which designated the cabin as a Heritage Site in 1994.

The Frances remember a great story which took place in Dunworkin'. Four young men, all of whom later became outstanding Kelowna citizens, decided to spend some time together in Dunworkin'. On the way up from Kelowna, two of them decided they would like to do a little walking so got out when they reached Joe Rich a mile or two from the cottage. The other two went on to the cottage and when they arrived decided to play a trick on their friends. In the cottage was a good bear rug with the head still attached. One of them climbed up into a tree near the cottage and pulled the rug over himself. When the two walkers arrived he growled and looked menacing. They were terrified. The second practical joker came out of the cottage at that point and pretending to have seen the bear for the first time, he told the frightened walkers that he had heard that if a bear was angry he could be persuaded not to attack by singing to him. One of the frightened boys sang out, and as predicted the 'bear' calmed down. The two jokers didn't tell the others that the bear had been just a joke, but some time later told the story to a reporter. It was printed in the Kelowna paper and the two who had been frightened

learned for the first time that they had been the victims of a practical joke. They were so annoyed that for years they never spoke to the jokers. [6,16,27,42]

#### B6. Henderson cabin

A fine holiday cabin was built for the Trench family by Martin Band and John Findlay sometime between 1917 and 1918. It is located on the south side of Joe Rich Creek on the west side of Schram Road. The date 1928 is scratched into the foundation of the cabin, but the account of Anne Curts (C1) indicates that the cabin is older than that. It is therefore probable that the concrete and stone foundation was added some years after the cabin was built. The cabin had a high ceiling supported by large beams and a beautiful stone fireplace in front of which a settee hung supported on chains. The Trench's daughter, Frankie (Francis) married James Henderson and they inherited the cabin.

When those wanting to bring power to Joe Rich in the 1960s were looking for customers to sign up, Elwyn and Annabelle Ritchey who lived in the Hockey house were reluctant. However, they had a problem with legal access to the highway. Mr. Henderson agreed to give them an easement for access along the south edge of his property if they would sign up for power and so they did.

Mr. Henderson also owned the property part of which the Demitors now live on. He sold this 10 acre parcel to them, and another 10 acres to the southwest to Ken Hathaway. Ted and Veronica McKenzie had built a house on this property probably while Hendersons still owned it. Wayne Fletcher purchased the house and property from Hathaways and lived there several years after which it was rented. Karl and Marlene Strocher and then Jack Stewart and Jean Russell bought it and later sold it to Brian and Laurie Takoff who now own it.

The Henderson cabin has been owned by Joe Huson (Gordon Mortenson's son-in-law) who sold to Marlys and Gar Crumley. Gar helped the Joe Rich kids to learn to play ball. He was killed in a motor vehicle accident in 1985 and Marlys sold to the Clarks. Clarks built a second house on the property across the creek on the north side. When Mr. Clark was killed in a motor vehicle accident, the property was sold to Kathy Higgins and her sister. Later, Kathy Higgins and Gerry Allen lived there. It has been added to and is now a beautiful home owned by Rick Jacob and Gail Jewell who is a veterinarian. [6,8,46]

#### B7. Joe Rich's oldest buildings

Although no exact dates of construction are available, twelve buildings seem to contend for the honour of Joe Rich's oldest. They were all built before or not long after 1920. Starting from the south of the valley and following down Joe Rich Creek, they are: (1) Glenn's Barn out in Weddell's upper field, (2) the Mack House also built by Mr. Glenn, (3) the Brewer House, (4) the Brewer Barn, (5) the cabin possibly built by Chris Schram, (6) the Henderson House built for Trenches, (7) Band's House, (8) Preston's Barn, (9) Black's Barn, (10) Dunworkin', (11) Nicholas' House (very altered by restorations) and (12) Nicholas' Barn. Of these, Black's Barn possibly built as early as 1908 may be the oldest. The cabin possibly built by Chris Schram around 1912 is perhaps the next, and Preston's Barn possibly built around 1913 may be the third oldest.

Three very old buildings which are now gone are (A) Joe Rich's Cabin, (B) Dr. Shepherd's Cabin which washed down Mission Creek and (C) Leo Fazan's first cabin up Mission Creek 100 yards beyond the east end of High Lonesome Ranch on the south bank of the creek. [8]

B8. Lee Brown's Pre-emption  
(see D38)

Lee Brown was the foreman for the construction of the Belgo-Canadian Land Company ditch built about 1910 from the upper part of what is now Philpott valley to Black Mountain. On May 9, 1913, he pre-empted 156 acres designated Lot No. 1306. Both Darley Creek and the Ditch passed through his pre-emption. He and his wife settled there and irrigated the land from Darley and Silver Creeks. He raised cattle and excellent hay. His wife sold eggs, milk and butter to the construction workers on the dam and ditch. His barn was apparently situated on the east side of Philpott Road close to the brown house which Inez Philpott owned.

The minutes of the Black Mountain Irrigation District in February of 1921 mention \$33.20 and \$34.60 paid to Mrs. Lee Brown for butter and milk, \$156.50 paid to Tom Smith for hay and \$693 paid to Mr. Weddell and Mr. Stewart. \$2000 was needed to repair the flume at North Fork and the payment of \$727.90 was made to Mr. L. Brown and \$672.45 to Mr. Mugford. In March of 1921, Mr. Brown is reported to have bought a Dodge car and offered to use it instead of the company Chev. As long as he was given free gas, oil and repairs. In June, 1922, Mr. Brown was recorded as getting men and material to repair a break and later the directors expressed surprise and disappointment at the condition of the ditch while thanking Mr. Brown and Mr. Mugford for the way in which they have handled the washout. A Chev. Truck cost \$1320 with two extra rims. Mr. Brown was paid \$100 per month for the use of his car and \$200 quarterly for tires. Sometime in the later 1920s when his job as foreman on the ditch had ended, he left his property.

Cyril Weddell then bought the property. He took down the Brown's house and used the lumber to build an addition on to his home in 1928 and to build some outbuildings on his farm. He sold the property to Jim Calder, his closest friend, who ran a soft drinks business in Kelowna. Calder may have let the property go by not paying taxes. Cecil Philpott paid up owing back taxes and obtained the property for \$160.

The property is now divided between the Axelsons who are on the site of Cecil and Inez Philpott's old home, Monti Philpott, Cecil and Inez's son and his wife Gloria and Del and Helen Radomske. Monti has built a small replica of a wild-western style village in the Darley Creek valley on his property and lives with his wife up the hill above the creek. Del Radomske has built his construction yard and shop for his log home building business and its associated school farther to the north of Darley Creek. The Radomskes and Mr. Dyson, Helen's father live with their family on the east side of Philpott Road in the newer home Cecil Philpott built and some of their own log buildings on the north side of Darley Creek. [Error! Bookmark not defined.,26,29,30,31]

B9. Peggy Mayers' home

Peggy Mayers' home is located on the flats southeast of Mission Creek below Greystoke Road. It was originally built by Alex Band. It was purchased much later as a

derelict cabin by Mr. MacDonald. The MacDonalds added the second storey and back rooms. Mr. Malesko bought it in 1978 and the Mayerses acquired it in 1980. [58]

### C. SPECIAL ITEMS

#### C1. Joe Rich Jottings by Anne Curts (see C2)

My first introduction to the Joe Rich Valley happened when I was eight years old. The summer holidays had just begun and Mr. and Mrs. Trench (Known to me as Uncle Bill and Aunt Laura) invited me to accompany Frances and Wilda to their cabin.

The original cabin was a very small, two-room structure, not far from the Preston (later Dunc's) property.

The weather was perfect, Uncle Bill caught delicious trout for our breakfast, Aunt Laura cleaned and cooked, and we had fun. We spent hours playing in Mr. Preston's hay barn. He also let Frances and I ride bare-back on old Dolly when she was let into the pasture. He put on a rope halter and we spent most of our time sliding off and then coaxing her to the fence so we could clamber on again.

The 'Burn' as we called it, also provided many happy hours of play.

At this time Mr. Band was slowly building a new much larger log cabin, with a large fireplace for the Trenches. This eventually became a regular summer retreat until Frances and I went off to Business School and Normal School.

During my teen years I also spent several holidays at the original "Dun-Workin" cabin on the Mission Creek [actually it was never on Mission Creek, but on Joe Rich Creek] with the McKay family, as Iris and I were friends, and Frances had left for school in Vancouver.

There was a large pool just below the cabin so we could swim. That cabin was owned by the McKay's, Willet's and some of the boys who worked in the Casorso Butcher Shop. One distinct memory I have of those trips is being dragged away from play to pick wild strawberries on the "Black Flat". The berries were tiny and we were not to eat these as Mr. McKay's favourite winter treat was wild strawberry jam.

In 1928, I was hired as a teacher for Joe Rich Valley School by Mr. Findlay, the acting secretary. He suggested that I board with his sister, Mrs. Nicholas. So my Dad drove me to their farm and the arrangements were made. My room was a former pantry between the original log cabin and a new living room addition. It held a narrow cot with a draped crate cornerwise under the small window. It held a wash basin and a chamber pot. My clothes hung behind a sheet at the end of my cot or were in my suitcase under the bed. When the temperature dropped to -30 below zero there were icicles hanging inside the window. Mrs. Nicholas would bring me in a small wick lamp to place on the floor and a quart measure of hot water each morning. I dressed in a few seconds and after a long dash to the outdoor W.C. I enjoyed a hot breakfast. How Mrs. Nicholas provided such excellent meals with her old stove and minimal kitchen aids, I never could figure out. Although those trips to Rutland and Kelowna were rare, she always managed some small treat such as a stuffed date, a few walnuts or some fruit for my lunch box. She was a remarkable person and I grew to love her. Mr. Nicholas was a 'loner', but when visitors arrived for an evening visit he would join in the singing around the piano.

Mr. Findlay was to have built on two bedrooms, but he put off that job until it was too cold to do the work. To visit the neighbours, Mrs. Nicholas and I used to carry “bugs” (empty vegetable tins with a carrying wire and a candle inside). It was very dark through the woods and we frequently saw coyote’s eyes among the trees as they silently followed us.

There were fifteen children registered at the school: four Philpotts, four Smiths, three Macks, two Bands, and two young girls whose names I cannot remember and for a brief time a wee girl whose mother worked as Mr. Bailey’s housekeeper. [The two girls whose names she cannot remember were probably Dorothy and Elsie Bening, but we don’t know the name of the “wee girl” belonging to Mr. Bailey’s housekeeper.]

At the time there was a standing feud between Cyril Weddell and Mr. Bailey, as Mr. Bailey’s handsome black bull was frequently breaking out of his pasture to visit the beautiful ladies living down the road. Therefore when Mrs. Nicholas, Mary Weddell and I decided to establish a “family evening” once a month at the School House, we had to make the men promise first that there would never be any mention of this unseemly behaviour. It worked! The adults played whist and we provided several games for the children. Everyone in the small community attended with the exception of Mr. Nicholas, Duncan and Mr. Band. They were fun nights.

I had two winter trips to town with Mrs. Nicholas. There was heavy snow so old Sam pulled us as far as the Red Casorso Barn in the hand-made “Jumer” (a low wooden, one seated sled). It was a slow trip as Sam frequently bent his head to snap up some snow. There were always friends to take us from the “Barn” into Rutland or Kelowna.

In the spring there were several old Fords making trips but Eight Mile was always muddy and hazardous. Finally that first year ended and I went off to Summer School. At that time we had to attend Victoria Normal for two summers after graduation to confirm our certificate.

When September came, Mrs. Nicholas was in Winnipeg to collect an ailing mother, and Mr. Findlay was slowly working on the bedrooms. So I rented the Black cabin for September and my sister-in-law, Doris decided to join me for a holiday. During our first night at the cabin, an owl began to hoot in the tree close to us and Doris was terrified. The next morning, she stopped Cyril Weddell on his way to town and fled. So I managed on my own for two weeks. Then Mrs. Nicholas arrived home with her mother and I moved back to the Nicholas Farm, although the bedrooms were only lathed on the inside. Then one October, I went home to Kelowna and bought a horse. As valley hay was scarce I had to purchase feed in Rutland. I forgot to say that Audrey Smith and Mrs. Nicholas had taught me to ride on the Fazan’s lovely little horse “Lady”. I wanted to buy her, but she was not for sale as Allan Fazan had decided to bring home a bride who would ride her. Unfortunately and unknown to me, the horse I purchased had been abused and had a very erratic temperament. At times he was gentle, but often tore along the road before I could pull him up. On weekends, I often went riding with my older pupils. If my horse heard a car approaching, he would suddenly side jump off the road so I always had to remain alert or be thrown.

During the autumn, Grandma became difficult to manage and would wander down the road in search of her son. At night, as there were only curtains on our doorways, she would wander into my room and I would have to take her back to her own bed. One night I was awakened by movement only to feel a bush rat instead of Grandma.

I screamed! Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas and their lovely collie, "Lady" rushed in to see what had happened. The rat was by then sitting up in the corner trying to hide under a lathe. Mr. Nicholas shot it. This finally brought about the finishing of the bedrooms. We three women moved down to Mr. Findlay's very comfortable modernized home. He drove me to school and then went on to complete the work. However, Grandma's memory loss became so severe that it was decided that Mrs. Nicholas should take her back to Winnipeg, and her daughter there would find her a suitable home. This was accomplished, but the worry and pressure had been so great on Mrs. Nicholas that she died suddenly of a heart attack.

I then went to live with the Weddell family. This proved to be very comfortable and a happy arrangement. I still rode my horse to school. I even rode him to Kelowna. I spent the Easter Holidays in Kelowna, but had so much luggage, mainly school supplies, to take back to the valley that I did not return on horseback. Dad drove me as far as Eight Mile, but it was impossible to go further because of the massive slide. We were somehow able to get word through to the valley, and then tried again on Monday morning. I had to walk or rather wallow through the mud to reach the Mack's democrat and half my cheering class. Then we had a noisy ride to the school. The following week I went into town for my horse, but he objected to being ridden and dashed back to our barn. I pulled too hard on the reins as he reared and he fell backwards. I was able to throw myself sideways and my stock saddle saved me as the horse rolled over and stood looking down at me as though ashamed. I was under medical care for a week and then returned to school. That was the beginning of years of back trouble. I finished out the term and the next fall I began teaching in the Kelowna Elementary School.

During the thirties, friends and I spent many happy weekends in the Trench cabin. In the sixties, Frances and her husband, James Henderson made their home in the valley and I was again a frequent visitor until they finally sold the property and moved to the Black Mountain area.

Mary Weddell and I remained good friends and I have many happy memories of the life I had with the family.

(Editor's note: Frances was the Trench's daughter. They owned the Rexall Drug Store and Stationary in Kelowna. Their large and comfortable cabin with its high pitched ceiling held up by large beams had long chains hanging down to support a settee in front of the large fireplace. It is located on the north side of Schram Road on the west side of the creek.)[2]

C2. Letter from Iris (McKay) Merrill, October 20, 1996 to Anne Curts  
(see B5)

Dunworkin' cottage was built in the early 20s at the request of my father, Alex McKay, his business partner, P.B. Willett, and Mr. Willett's father-in-law, Elisha Bailey, who was Kelowna's Post Master at the time. They owned it equally and never had trouble about sharing the use of it. The turn-off to the cabin was at the top of the first rise (you couldn't call it a hill) from Mission Creek and the Joe Rich Creek ran through the property. I think the school was between the road and the cabin.

The name "Dunworkin'" definitely belonged to it as mother named it after her father's cottage at Winnipeg Beach which had been built in 1907, a year before mother and dad were married and moved to Kelowna. Her father and brother built two cottages

side by side on the lake front and called them Dunworkin' and Loafin'. My brother George, who is 87, remembers as a young lad going down a path from our property to the road where it came out not far from Black's cabin and where there was a tree with the name Dunworkin' on a piece of wood pointing the way to the cabin. Maybe that is the reason for some of the present confusion between the Black's cabin and Dunworkin'.

I remember having fresh caught trout for breakfast, cooked by my father – the only thing he ever cooked. I also remember that on the way up the valley having to honk the horn at every turn to warn oncoming traffic and father splitting wood for the huge fire-place. This was his exercise every day and I am sure it was with love as the finished stack was nothing but perfection.

Mr. Bailey left the partnership first and I am not sure whether he gave or sold his share to Mrs. Willits. Then, when dad decided to leave, he sold his share to Mrs. Willett. Rebe used the cottage a bit, but neither she nor Mary were really interested, so on Mrs. Willetts' death I believe the property went to her sibling's children. The only ones I know who are still around Kelowna are Dolly Munford's (nee Elliot nee White) two sons Allen and Douglas. Allen lives in Rutland and was in real-estate. Doug in Oyama. After Dolly died a few years ago, I lost track of the boys. I don't know what finally happened to the property.[2]

C3. How power came to Joe Rich by Ann Morrison  
(see A1 and D44)

From the days of Joe Rich himself (late 1800s) until the fall of 1965 the Joe Rich Valley stayed very rural and the population grew slowly. In 1922 with 11 school-age children living in the area the local school was built and opened.

Then in the fall of 1960 it was felt by 15 or so families living in the area that power and phone services to the valley would be a big plus. Petitions were circulated and letters written to W.A.C. Bennett, Doug McMynn, Rate & Contract Engineer for West Kootenay Power and Light Co. Ltd., Okanagan telephone, Dr. H.F. Angus, Chairman of the B.C. Public Utilities Commission and anyone they thought might help them. Mrs. Gerry Demitor's typewriter had a real work out for several years.

In 1963, there was a meeting in Penticton; WKP & L and the residents were told that there was not enough potential to warrant a power line for the J.R. Valley unless the community could pay \$81,000 for the installation of the line. This was an impossible figure and the residents suggested to WKP & L that if they cleared the brush for the line and erected all the poles maybe a more manageable cost could be worked out. WKP & L lawyers argued that this could not be done, but Dr. Angus told the power company that the "J.R. residents have met you more than halfway. You must consider it..." And so they did. By late 1964, WKP & L told the residents that if 15 families would each pay \$502 towards power (This money was reimbursed in 4 years) the company would supply 163 poles, the transformers, permits and easements and the community would be responsible for clearing the brush for the 14 mile line and the erection of all the poles.

WKP & L paid the community \$6 per hole and with this money they hired Durnin Bros. at \$8 per hour to dig 242 holes. (The extra 79 holes were for the pole anchors.) \$102 was used to pay for bank charges, postage, stationary, gas and dynamite! Most of the pole holes could be dug, but a couple needed some help! This left the Joe Richers

\$395. As they had kept very accurate records of the work hours they divided it up between the workmen and paid themselves \$0.2344 per hour!

Initially Okanagan Telephone was reluctant to provide phone service to the area even though they now had poles on which to string their lines. At the time, the phone wires were not normally strung on the same poles as the power lines, but as this was a grounded system with the 14,000 volt one on the top, then the ground wire and finally the phone line, it was possible. (A common practice today) O.T. was required to pay WKP & L \$10,000 to use the poles and so insisted that 8 families in J.R. each pay \$600 for the service; thus the 8 party phone line! Many old timers fondly remember Frank Majewski who was a trouble shooter for the phone company and was called upon to solve the static and noise problems on the phones when they were first installed. For many years, he was the only man who understood our phone service.

Now we come to May of 1965 and the community cleared the 14 miles of hydro line right-of-way. On Sept. 27, 163 poles were delivered and work started in earnest. Many of the crew took time off work so as to provide a crew of 15 men working 10 – 12 hours a day and planting 20 poles per day or covering approximately 2 miles. Cecil Philpott designed and created a cradle to hold the poles erect until they could be firmly planted in the ground. The women were kept busy baby sitting, providing food for the workers, book keeping and most importantly using their plumb bobs to make sure every pole was exactly straight! The plumb bobs were Inez Philpott, Frances Henderson and Louise Folz (sister to Inez). Family names you may recognize from the work crew are: Weddell, Philpott, Henderson, Demitor, Uppenborn, Hathaway, Campbell (nephew of the Weddells) and Christianson. It took them 11 days to complete the whole line and then they sat back and waited 6 weeks for the line men of Boundary Electric to string the wires.

Mr. Karl Wolf, a line man at WKP & L at the time told me that the power company was responsible for checking the line for safety and correct installation before the whole thing was electrified. The valley did have power and phone service by Christmas of 1965 and residents could say to themselves, “Job well done!”

Mr. Howard Demitor, a long time resident in the valley and prime mover for this event, although he modestly says that Inez Philpott was, remembers the early 60s “as the best time to live here”. The whole community worked together to achieve their goal of power and telephone services for the area.

In fact it started a trend and soon after the people in the main Kettle River area proposed a 3 ½ mile line and residents in the Anarchist Mountain region decided to erect an 11 mile line. Mr. McMynn was quoted as saying, “I think it is wonderful that these people have the ambition to do things for themselves”.

Well done Joe Richers! [31]

C4. Joe Rich News by David Holman

September 1979 saw the publication of Vol.1 No. 1 of the Joe Rich News. The Joe Rich Hall was nearing completion and the Fire Chief was Ray Wittur.

A community effort with the help of a McLaughlan donation of a Gestetner (like spirit ink and cut sheets and manual typewriters...like before word processing and laser printers). The editor was David Holman with the assistance of Elaine Williams (major typist) and Marg Benner (the home of the Gestetner printing party...all the kids had a

turn at cranking the handle. Later, help came from Doreen Volk, typist and inputs and in 1981, Joanne Beaulieu... great art pictures on the covers for a few years. Still later, Marg Benner and Debbie Lutz became the assistants.

Special moments in the newsletter like the poems from Claude Pearce, or the FREE lunch at the Hall at 11:59 AM on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1980, the struggle through CORD Bylaw 176, all the activities we used to have like, scouts, and baseball and volleyball, or parties or pot-lucks, the Christmas play with lead Derek Crawford, the many recipes, the Cluster Fly poem by Adrienne Harasin or the crazy puzzles in the newsletter by the editor that stretched the mind.

The newsletter always struggled with delivery to the residences being so far apart, but young and old, walking and on bicycles and horseback, it happened. As early 1983 arrived, the editor was able to get access to a word editor on the big computer at Okanagan College and then the first printed copy. Ken Ross' employer helped the community effort to run off the many copies. As Vol. 6 (year six) No. 24 (24<sup>th</sup> printing arrived) the lead line was..."the time between newsletters gets longer and longer..." And so it was that Vol. 7 No. 28 was the last with David as editor. It was a fun run, especially the early days. The Newsletter under different names and random in nature continues to this day...! [55]

C5. An interview with Ellen (Black) Mark by Cheryl Hann  
(see D12)

(This is a paraphrasing of Mrs. Mark's own words from an audio tape. Mrs. Cheryl Hann is a nurse and was looking after Mrs. Mark when they both discovered they were from Joe Rich. The interview took place in 1996. Mrs. Mark died in 2000.)

My first memory is of holding the lantern in the barn while father milked the cow. He wanted me to hold it in the right place. It was winter, night time and dark. He told me to open my mouth and he squirted some milk into it. I remember the smell of the barn and the cows chewing their cud.

Leo Fazan lived across the creek from us. Allan Fazan went to Winnipeg for a while in 1923. I didn't know him so well. He married and they had a lot of kids. Leo was a real fixture in Joe Rich and a good friend. When we went to town with the horse and buggy, it took a day and we sometimes stayed over night. He would milk our cows then. When he went to England for a visit, we milked his cows. His place was on the slope down to the creek; a cabin and a big barn with the meadow behind. The road ran along the top of the clay bank then turned and came straight over the fields to Fazan's place. You had to go up the road along the creek to Weddell's. We were between Fazan's and the school house.

The Fazan's had tried homesteading beyond Nicholases, but had given it up and moved closer to Joe Rich Creek. To homestead you had to put up a liveable structure and a barn and start farming the land. When you did that, you could get the land for nothing.

When the school was built Uncle Martin (Martin Band, her mother's brother), dad and Jack Findlay did it. I can't remember any others. I peeled logs.

I didn't go to school until I was 8, because that was the year that the school was built. The next year, I had to go to Vancouver for 5 months to have my hand done. When I got back, I was 9 and in Grade 2. They pushed me ahead a year. The school

classroom was spread out with all the grades in one room. It was very basic, but maybe it gave a better grounding in the basics than schools do now.

Winifred Lang was the first teacher. She was tall and she had shiny black hair done up in a bun. The first day, she wore a red and white gingham dress. She had lovely lady's hankies, small with a wide dainty border. They cost \$5 each. At first, she boarded at the top end of the valley, but then she moved to stay with us. She said that unless she could come to us she would quit. She told us they had mouse for breakfast up the valley. Mrs. Band wanted her to stay with them and she was very upset when Miss. Lang came to stay with us. It started a little feud.

The second teacher was Mary Shanks. She was very nice. At the Christmas concert at the school that winter, there was a play. Cyril Weddell and Mary Shanks were in it. We were all fascinated. At the end, they inched closer and closer together until finally they had their arms around each other and then the curtain came down. And later, they got married. Many years later, when she was very old, I saw Mrs. Weddell in Kelowna. She was very forgetful, but I think she knew she had seen me before. She talked to us very nicely. She was a wonderful woman.

When the school started, there were five Smith kids. They moved to Joe Rich from the Pyman Ranch because there was no school there. There were also five Philpotts and the Baillies. Mr. Baillie had no teeth. Once when they were eating a chicken pie that mother had made, Mrs. Baillie took out the chicken and ground it up and then she tucked it back in the pie and gave it to Mr. Baillie to eat.

New people were a big event for us. There weren't many cars. When one was coming, we could hear it a long way down the valley and we kids would run to the fence and hung on it to watch the car go by. The road was narrow. Once we were all on the democrat going down the road when a car came. There was no room to pass so Dad drove the team off the road and up the bank to let the car go by. Mother was very upset because she thought we would tip over, but we didn't.

In the fall, we went to town in the wagon to get extra hay, flour, sugar and yeast. We had to be sure to go before winter set in, because after that we might not be able to get there.

The school kids lived so far apart from each other that I didn't play much with the others after school. I knew Audrey and Jenny Smith best. Gisel Baillie was the only other girl and she was too old. The rest were boys.

The animals were my closest friends. There were the cows, and all the other animals. We bought two baby pigs each spring. Even the chickens used to let me pick them up and I would take each of them for a ride on the swing. We bought about 20 chicks in the spring. They were happy chickens. There was always a hen setting on eggs too. When a hen got old Dad would say, "That chicken isn't laying any more so we'll have it for Sunday dinner." I would feel so badly for the chicken and want to say, "He didn't really mean that." But on Sunday, I would eat the chicken too, because there wasn't anything else.

We had mice and bush rats and gophers and squirrels and chipmunks. The squirrels and chipmunks used to climb up the barn wall, come in and steel the chicken feed. It was my job to trap them. When I got one, I told myself that I was doing it for Dad to save feed. I would throw it in the field. One day, there was a chipmunk caught

by the leg in the trap. It was struggling to get free. I felt so bad. I let it go. That was the end of trapping.

When I think of my granddaughter now, I know that kids know so much more than I did, but they're not so close to animals.

We grew nearly all our own food in the garden: turnips, potatoes, onions, carrots and parsnips. They all went in the big root cellar. When our cow, Bossie got too old, Dad killed her and Mom and Dad ground her up into meat patties with lots of spice. They stored the patties between sheets of brown paper in a large can to keep the mice out in the root cellar under the house. We canned a lot of the meat. Dad used to say that we ate, "Venison, venison, venison, rabbit, rabbit, rabbit, fish, fish, fish", because we ate whatever was available and we didn't have a refrigerator. Mother had a screened 'cooler' with shelves inside it on the bank beside the creek to keep things cool. There was a lovely clear cool spring across the creek. It had a barrel sunk into it. In the spring time, when the creek was muddy, we would carry our water by pail from that spring. When my brother and his wife were living there later, he shot a deer. They cut it up, put the uncooked meat in pint jars and stored it in the cool water of the spring.

There were a lot of fish in Mission Creek. We used to go there with a pole to fish. When we left the house, mother would start getting the vegetables ready and then put on the skillet to have it ready when we got home with the fish. We used to put out turnip tops. The rabbits would come and we could catch them.

Wild animals weren't a big problem. There were bears, and I remember, when I was alone, running home yelling very loudly because I had been told that that would scare them away. We had coyotes and some lynx with tufts on their ears. There were cougars too. The Philpotts found a dead one on the way to school once.

Mrs. Nicholas was the angel of the valley. She was Jack Findlay's sister, Margaret. They all lived together in their big house on their property. When the parents moved back to Winnipeg, Margaret stayed on for a while with Jack and then married Frank Nicholas and moved to his house. I think they were a little older. They didn't have any children. Mrs. Nicholas was a practical nurse. When I got snow blindness and had to stay in the dark for several days, she came to visit me every day. She always went to anyone who was ill. She knelt by her bed each night and said her prayers.

Later, when her mother was old, she brought her back from Winnipeg to live. Mrs. Findlay was senile and would run away. Once in the winter, the Bands found her on their step. She was always looking for her home. She was very sweet. Once, we found her by a puddle on the road. She said, "See that house across the lake. That's my home." We didn't know what she was talking about, but we pretended we did. When Mrs. Findlay had to be sent back to Winnipeg, Mrs. Nicholas was exhausted and she had a stroke then. She was put in the Kelowna Hospital. We were living down in Kelowna then going to high school and we went to visit her. We rubbed her legs. The next day she was gone. She died so suddenly.

When she was married, she would go back to her brother, Jack's house to bake for him. She would stay there two or three days and make a supply of cakes and pies for him. Once she took me in the sleigh and the horse had bells. The sleigh tipped over near the North Fork Bridge. She let me lick out the bowl when she was baking and then she would wash off my face. In summer, she would take the ice that Mr. Nicholas had cut

from Mission Creek and stored in saw dust, break it up and make ice cream by spinning the liquid sweetened cream in a container immersed in the ice.

She knit me a toque for Christmas. Each Christmas, she would get a package of shortbread from England. All the adults got a little piece, but I was too young. She played the organ for the Christmas party at the school. Mother and Mr. Nicholas sang a duet. Sometimes, we would go to Nicholas' and everybody would sing. The grown ups played old fashioned games like 'Hide the button' and charades. I was too young. The kids would all be lying in a row on the bed.

When we were little, Dad would go outside and ring the harness bells and shout, "Ho, ho, ho" and we thought it was Santa. The traces hanging down from the whipple trees in the snow would leave tracks and they told me that these were the foot prints that Santa left when he was running beside his sleigh. I believed them. And all the neighbours were singing. It was wonderful.

I wish I could see it again just once more. [59]

C6. My First School (1933 -36) by Evelyn (Vanidour) Bailey

I attended teacher training at Victoria Normal School in 1931 – 32, and probably very few of us ever realized what it might be like to have to cope with "life on the job" as best we could under all circumstances. In class, we were being prepared with facts and background information, mainly subject-matter, along with a few teaching methods since our job was to teach the 3 R's.

Jobs were very hard to get, and although I sent our many applications, I didn't get hired the first year after graduation and so I did housework. I was paid \$25 per month which was good pay at that time.

My first school at Joe Rich had Grades One to Eight, but not necessarily pupils in every grade. Each year, those in Grade Eight had to write and pass government exams or they would not be allowed to attend high school. The teacher was often judged in the community by the numbers of Grade Eight students who passed this hurdle.

One factor I found most satisfying when I was teaching was the manner in which pupils helped each other. Kids can be pretty mean at times, but I remember the early days when there was such a willingness to share and respect those less able.

My first year teacher's salary was \$780, out of which I paid a small amount into the pension fund. I paid \$25 a month for room and board and so I had very little money to spend. Automatic raises and any benefits such as medical or dental were nonexistent. I was rarely sick, and anyway we didn't have any allowance for sick-leave when I started.

Probably no community activity was anticipated with as much interest and excitement as was the Christmas concert. We started practising early with songs, dances, choral speaking and plays in order to give everyone the greatest opportunity to show their best efforts.

However, the grand finale with Santa Claus and treats for all, was the crowning glory! This was a lot of work that we went to, but years later, we often hear, "Remember those Christmas concerts." [65]

C7. Joe Rich (1951 – 53) by James Cornelsen

My wife Dora, daughter Lucille and I moved to Joe Rich in the fall of 1951. I taught there for two years after the school had been closed for two years. The students had been on correspondence for that time. As there was no suitable accommodation, we opted to build a two-room cabin on the school yard. We purchased the lumber from the nearby sawmill and built the cabin with labour volunteered by friends. This cabin was demolished in the spring of 1996.

The school was a pleasant log building with big windows. Lighting was adequate for midwinter when the sun hung low on the horizon. Propane lighting was installed later.

The Joe Rich area was an unspoiled natural area with gravel roads and no hydro or telephone line to mar the landscape. There were only the small farms and some ranch land to indicate that human habitation existed. The main occupation was logging, which touched every family in the community. Certainly no water utility existed to supply the scattered homes. Most families obtained their water from the little creek that meandered through the valley. The Public Health Nurse required that the drinking water in the school be chlorinated. The students were not impressed. They immediately went down to the creek to drink at noon and recess.

The road to Joe Rich was gravel. This pleased the logging truck drivers because they would not have to chain up. Progress was inevitable, and so a paving project began at Rutland and proceeded up the hill towards the Black Mountain community. The bridge over Mission Creek was replaced. Timbers from the Kelowna Sawmill were too long to make the switchback at Eight Mile, and so an older gentleman squared the needed timbers by hand. Pioneer technology prevailed over the new.

We enjoyed the company of the students' parents as well as the neighbours. These were: the Philpotts, Cecil and Charlie; the Weddell family; the Uppenborns; Harders; Smiths and Blacks. Since several denominations were represented, joint church services were held at the school. In all my years of teaching, no community was as cooperative as Joe Rich.

We are now retired in Kelowna and drive frequently to Joe Rich to remember our very own first home, as a young married couple. [66]

#### C8. Joe Rich School (1954 – 55) by Sam Janzen

The log building fitted well in the rural setting of this logging and farming community. The one-room structure had a high ceiling of wooden board and beam construction.

One can particularly remember the sight and smell of the classroom as it was ready for the first day of school in September. The floor boards were freshly oiled, as were the desk tops and wooden ledges. This clean-smelling odour was maintained by the oily sweeping compound used in the daily clean up.

There was no inside plumbing or electricity with only natural lighting until gas lamps were installed in 1955.

Water came from a newly-dug well on the school yard. This water was also used for a winter skating rink, leaving a rectangular area of dead grass in the spring.

Since there were no school buses, pupils walked to school or were brought by their families. Pupils in Grades One to Seven received considerable individual instruction. Some grouping was necessitated in certain subject areas, there being a total

of twelve or fourteen pupils in the school. It was a challenge for one teacher to provide a range of activities in all school subjects and what later became known as extra-curricular activities.

Inspector Matheson made regular visits. He seemed to know the families represented in school. He provided helpful advice and assistance, personally tested pupils, marking the papers and interpreting results.

I have many pleasant memories of the pupils and parents at Joe Rich. Living and teaching in your school area provides experiences that are not as prevalent anymore. [67]

C9. Trapping – by Peggy Lee (see A7)

[Peggy (Bell) Lee is the widow of Sam Lee who trapped for furs out of Joe Rich. She is a small trim woman now in her late 80s and living in Fernbrae Manor in Rutland.]

I was born in 1915 not far from Glasgow in Scotland. My father had been a policeman, but when World War I began he joined up. I was born after he left. He spent most of the war as a prisoner in Mesopotamia. When he came home walking down our street, I was five. I ran into the house to tell my mother that a strange soldier was coming.

With help from the Soldiers Settlement Program my father decided we should move to Canada, and so when I was 13 we ended up in Rutland living on Fitzpatrick Road. He bought 10 acres of orchard and rented another 10. Not long after we arrived, my mother was found to have cancer when she was pregnant with my youngest sister. She died the next year and I had to quit school to look after my father and the other 5 children.

When I was 21, I married Sam Lee. Neither of us had been able to get much education and we had very little money, but we were healthy and could work hard. Sam had been born on the prairie. His mother had died when he was 13 and he had been on his own from shortly after that. He had worked a team of mules for threshing, but he was a good bush man too. In 1937, just after our marriage, Sam bought Mr. Bening's trap line in the Greystokes. As he began to collect the things that he would need to go trapping, I realized that he was only packing for himself and that he wasn't planning to take me. I asked him why and he told me that too many things could go wrong in the bush so it was better for me to stay home. I told him that I hadn't gotten married to stay at home while he went off alone and so he finally agreed that we could go together.

We packed a large pack for Sam with traps, a rifle, a long-barrelled 22 calibre pistol, an axe and some basic food. I had a smaller pack with clothes and blankets. We were living at Reed's Corner in Rutland so in the early winter we drove up to Joe Rich and spent the night at our friend's the Smiths. The next morning, we walked back across the Mission Creek Bridge, up Three Forks Road and on up into the Greystokes. I had no bush experience, just a lot of determination to stay with Sam and to learn to survive. Sam had lots of experience and he was strong. Early in the afternoon, he shot a deer, skinned it and cut up the meat to carry. By this time we were in 8 inches of snow. By the end of the afternoon as it was growing dusk, we came to a little creek. I was exhausted, so Sam suggested that I sit by the creek while he continued on to the sheep herder's cabin, left his load and come back to get me. We had one flashlight and he needed it. When he left, I

was all alone in the darkness and I heard strange noises everywhere. I was scared. After a few minutes rest, I got up and followed Sam's tracks in the snow. When he arrived at the cabin, he dropped his things and came back for me, but he only had to go a few hundred yards, because I was just behind him.

The cabin was a mess. Pack rats were living in it and their nests were everywhere. The smell was terrible. We lit a candle, started a fire and cleaned the place up. Sam got me to hold the flashlight while he chopped some fresh bows for us to spread on the wooden bed frame. We laid canvas over the bows and I made our bed. Sam set two traps for the rats. We blew out the light and climbed into bed. I could hear the rats everywhere. Then one of the traps went off. Sam had caught a rat in a length of unused stove pipe. A little later, he caught another. Those two rats were the only two we ever caught in the cabin. The rest left. Sam showed me how to chink the spaces between the logs to make the cabin warmer. From then on the cabin was liveable, but it always smelt bad when we came back after being away for a while. When we'd been back a few minutes, we never noticed the smell anymore.

There was no outhouse, so I told Sam I needed one. He went around behind the cabin and returned after a while to tell me that now I had a toilet. I went back to where he'd been working and found that he had dug a little hole and set up a log above it. Some branches made a sort of roof to keep the snow off. There were no walls. It wasn't very civilized, but I learned to use it and not complain.

The next day Sam decided it was time to set the line of traps. The snow was deep so he fitted my snowshoes on and we started out. Walking on snowshoes was hard. Before long my legs were very tired and I was far behind. I was sure that I could do better without the snowshoes so I took one off. My leg went down to my thigh in the snow. I took off the other, but it was impossible to walk without snowshoes. I put them back on and trudged after Sam.

Sam placed his traps and staked them down or tied them to a log. He was careful to cover his scent. He caught a lot of lynx, mink, martin and weasel. If they were still alive when he found them in the trap, he would shoot them with his long-barrelled 22 pistol, skin them and carry the skin back to the cabin. At the cabin, he would cut and scrape the meat and fat off, turn the hide inside out and stretch it onto a rack. When it was almost dry, he would turn it back right side out and put it back on the stretcher.

I quickly learned to live in the bush and to keep up with Sam, but there were many new experiences for me. Once I carried out a lynx skin and got fleas from it. They never bothered Sam, but they bit me all over. Sam told me not to worry, because they would die in a few days and he was right.

Later, we bought trap lines in the Belgo Dam area and up to Lumby. We usually went up to start trapping at the beginning of November and came out about March 30<sup>th</sup>. We walked long distances all winter, all the way from the Greystokes to Belgo Dam and up to Lumby. Sam had a great sense of direction, but he always carried a compass just in case. When the snow was deep, we'd take turns breaking trail. We continued to start out from Smith's place in Joe Rich. If we left there at 7 AM, we were usually at the sheep herder's cabin by 3 PM. One winter, we decided we would like to spend Christmas in our house at Reed's Corner, so we walked one day from Belgo Dam to Reed's Corner. Sam was proud of the way I could walk. He used to tell his friends that I could walk farther and faster than most men.

We tried to get back to the cabin to sleep there, but sometimes we had to sleep out. We would stop about five times a day to light a little fire and brew a can of tea. We got very good at fishing through the ice on the lakes and so often had fresh fish for supper. Sam also shot deer so we had venison. Sometimes we got a fool hen.

At the end of the first winter, Sam packed his best dried furs in a large suitcase and we went to Vancouver. We went around to all the fur dealers. At one place, they took me into their show room and showed me an expensive fur coat. They wanted us to give them our furs as a down payment on the coat, but we weren't interested in that nonsense. We kept hunting until we found the dealer we liked best. He was Mr. Whittacker and from then on for the next 20 years, we only sold to him. He used to say that Sam's furs were the best that anyone ever brought to him. Sam was meticulous.

Cougars were a problem for cattle ranchers, so the government paid \$20 for each one Sam could shoot. He got a lot of them. Once Cliff Serwa and Doug Mervyn who were then in their early 20s, decided that they would like to shoot a cougar. They got Sam to take them out with a cougar dog. All four of us started out in the snow and followed the cougar and the dog all day. Late in the afternoon, Sam told Cliff and Doug that if we continued on, we'd have to stay out the night. The boys wanted to keep going so we did. When it was dark, we finally came to where the dog had the cougar treed. I stayed back a bit and took off my snowshoes. They scared the cougar out of the tree and it ran right for me. I wondered whether I should club it with my snowshoe, because I had no gun, but it ran right past me and climbed another tree. Sam and the boys shot it, but as it fell it got caught up in the tree and they had to chop the tree down to get it. We huddled around a fire for the rest of the night and ate some army rations and soup Sam had and a few chocolate bars and raisins that Doug had. Our fronts stayed warm, but our backs were very cold. Cliff's snowshoes got burned a little, but I managed to rescue them. About two years later, when we were out one evening, Cliff brought some visiting big wigs from Vancouver over to where I was sitting and said, "This is the lady I was telling you about". They all seemed very impressed. I guess Cliff had been telling them about our hunt. Cliff and Doug went off to Australia to hunt kangaroos that had become a problem there.

Once Sam caught a live wolverine in one of his traps. He looked like a giant weasel. The trap was anchored to a log and the wolverine had dragged it off through the bush until the log got stuck between trees. Sam brought him home and tried to sell him to a zoo. Meanwhile, he lived in a cage in our house. He hated Sam and would go crazy even when he heard him approaching the house. No zoo would buy the wolverine, so we finally had to shoot him and sell his pelt.

After five years of trapping with Sam, I had to spend less time in the bush when our daughter, Jenny was born in 1941. I still pulled her up to the Greystokes on a toboggan when she was 1½. Later, when Trish was born in 1945 and Dorothy in 1946, I didn't go back to the bush to work. When Sam had the contract for measuring snow about 1955, we fitted the girls out with snowshoes and all walked up to the Greystokes once.

For the first few years we made good money trapping, but later the prices dropped. Sam got a contract trapping muskrats in Glenmore and another contract for measuring snow depth and water content in the Greystokes. Eventually, he went into the sawmill business in Rutland with several partners one of whom was Chuck Reed. He did

some logging too and for a while I set chokers. Ron Philpott hauled logs for him. In the 1970s, Sam finally sold his trap lines and stayed in the lumbar business.

Bert Chichester came up to the Greystokes with us once and took a lot of pictures, but he got very sick before he could give them to us. When he died they were put outside and all got spoiled. As I think back to our trapping days and the winters in the bush, what I remember most clearly is how beautiful it was, the clean snow, the ice crystals on the trees, the moon reflecting off the snow, and all the stars. [75]

## **D. FAMILIES & PEOPLE**

### D1. Weddells

Cyril Charles Weddell 1897 -1946

Cyril was born in Kelowna December 10, 1897(3). His father had been born in Hawick, Scotland and immigrated to Kelowna. James Weddell (1787 – 1834), the British explorer of the Antarctic and the Weddell Sea, which bears his name, is thought to have some relationship to the family.

Cyril was 16 years old when World War I began. The next year, still under age, he joined up on November 8, 1915. He was sent first to Vernon, where he met another young soldier by the name of Duncan Stewart. From Vernon, he was assigned to the 172<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and then the 72<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Kamloops. With the 72<sup>nd</sup>, he was sent to Europe where he fought in the Canadian infantry at the famous Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. During the battle or shortly after it, a German plane was bombing the Canadian forces from a low level. Cyril was firing at the plane when it dropped a shrapnel bomb. He was wounded by 22 shrapnel fragments from the bomb. That ended the war for him. His family received word that he had been severely wounded and had been shipped to Calais. He was then sent to England where some of the fragments were removed and his wounds were treated. He was finally returned to Canada where he was discharged in New Westminster, BC on March 28, 1918. A leg brace was fitted and he was sent home to Kelowna. Some of the metal fragments were still visible under his skin. He was supposed to be wearing the leg brace, but soon wore it only for his check-up visits to the doctor. His discharge papers describe him as medically unfit to fight, 5 feet 10 ½ inches in height, fair skinned with brown eyes and dark brown hair.

When he had been home a short time, he received a draft notice. He had just reached the age for the regular call up and the bureaucracy had not realized that he had already been at war nearly three years, had been wounded and was home again no longer able to fight.

Back home, one of his first jobs was in a Vancouver Island saw mill. But what Cyril thought he would like to do most was to get into cattle ranching. The last months of the war were still playing out and Duncan Stewart was a prisoner of war in a camp in Germany. When the war ended in 1918, Duncan returned to Kelowna. He and Cyril renewed their old friendship. Duncan was also interested in cattle ranching. Both of them were eligible for a Soldier's Settlement grant from the Canadian government, and so they began looking at potential properties together. They settled on a quarter section

ranch with a log house, barn and farm buildings in Joe Rich Valley. Mr. Preston, the owner was asking a high price, but the veteran's assistance program helped negotiate a fair deal and assisted with the payments.

The 160 acres were divided with 65 acres of the flattest land with the house and most of the farm buildings going to Duncan Stewart, and 95 acres of the hillier part with only a barn (the shake-roofed barn which still stands just to the north of Joe Rich Creek across from the Weddell house) to Cyril. Preston's shorthorn cattle were divided between Cyril and Duncan. And so at 22 years of age and still single, Cyril found himself settled in Joe Rich as a cattle rancher with his war-time friend as neighbour and his parents and siblings a half day's journey away in Kelowna.

For a while, Cyril and Dunc lived together in the original Preston farmhouse which was a small log cabin on the south side of Joe Rich Creek, but Cyril needed a house of his own. Therefore, he felled trees on his land close to the site of the present Weddell house and with the help of John Findlay and Martin Band, built the log house which now forms the west part of the present Weddell home. It probably dates from 1921. Findlay and Band were both good builders and Band was a stone mason as well. They built many of the homes and barns in Joe Rich: Dunworkin', the High Lonesome house and barn, the large two storey house on Findlay's own property, perhaps the Brewer house and barn and several others. Findlay had a saw mill on the present Serwa property and from there Cyril purchased some of the lumber for the house. He had also bought the Lee Brown property and house which was later to be owned by Cecil Philpott. He probably used some of the lumber from Brown's house to build and perhaps also add to the southeast end of his new home. The rest of the lumber was used for farm buildings.

The minutes of the Black Mountain Irrigation District show that in 1921, \$693 was paid to Cyril Weddell by the irrigation district. The family no longer knows what this payment was made for. It is possible that Cyril did some work for the irrigation district in order to augment his income. It is possible too though perhaps less likely that he sold beef or hay to the construction camps.

Cyril was also responsible for the maintenance of the Joe Rich road for the government. He couldn't do all the work himself, but acted as the foreman for the local men who helped keep up the road. The Weddell family still have the 'Time Books' which he kept for the government listing the men who worked on the road and the numbers of hours they put in. Some brought their tractors. Sometimes this road maintenance work was used to cancel or reduce the worker's taxes. Payment seems to have been made by the government at a daily rate of about \$4 per man or \$6 for a man and a team of horses or on other occasions per mile of road graded, gravelled or ditched. Sometimes, the road work went only as far as '8 mile' and sometimes it continued on down the 'Walker Hill' to the 'Red Barn' (Felix Casorso's landmark barn located where the Sandanas live today on Highway 33 between the Black Mountain School and the pond). Occasionally, the work continued all the way to Rutland. The distances were much longer than they are today, because there were a lot of curves and twists in the old road which the highway has now eliminated. There were mud and rock slides and ice jams at Eight Mile Creek to be cleared. The bridges and adjacent road sometimes washed out at Eight Mile Creek, Second Creek, North Fork (Belgo) Creek or Mission Creek and had to be rebuilt often with cribs to support the bridge. In the list of road workers are:

T.W. Smith, A. and L. Fazan, R. Locock with his tractor, J. Spencer, A.V. Alexander, H. Glenn, J. Swanson, R. Cousins and his tractor, H. Bailey, A. McEachern, A. Ongaro, A.J. Buttici, D.J. Kirkpatrick, F. Saucier and his truck, F. Nicolas, C.H. Philpott, W.J. Edgell, B. Band, D. Stewart, W. Mack, E. Petch, V. Ambrose, E. Zimmer, B. Postill, W. Huckle, R. Mitchell, C. Douglas, and J. Hamilton.

By 1933, the work is listed as 'relief work' and the daily pay rate has dropped from \$4 to \$2.50 or \$2.80. This was the effect of the 'Great Depression'.

After several years in Joe Rich raising Preston's original Short Horns, Cyril bought some Hereford cattle and these became his predominant stock. Duncan, a loyal Scot, switched to Aberdeen Angus and took pride in his bulls which he always named "John Bull". Cattle ranching was never a big money maker in Joe Rich. Almost by accident Cyril got into vegetable growing and this earned more than the cattle. It started when he took a few heads of lettuce he had grown to a wedding which he attended in the early 1920s. A guest from Washington remarked on the tasty crisp New York Lettuce heads and told him he could sell such lettuce for a good price in the U.S. Cyril grew more the next summer and began delivering them locally and then as far away as Washington and Kamloops with his small truck. The price was good at 12 ½ cents per pound. The profit was as much as \$200 an acre if planting was started about May 20<sup>th</sup> and continued at weekly intervals until mid summer in order to harvest the last crop just before the first frost in September. Soon, he was growing 15 acres of lettuce in the spring and 10 acres of turnips in the fall. News of his success spread and so other Joe Rich farmers, and later many Japanese farmers in Kelowna began producing lettuce and turnips. . As a result, the lettuce had to be shipped to more distant markets in Eastern Canada and required refrigeration. It became necessary to sell through a packing house, Kelowna Growers Exchange or Cascade Packers. Cyril had as many as five hired farm workers and the expense of their wages kept increasing. As more and more lettuce and turnips were grown, the price the produce brought dropped and more had to be grown to make the same profit. Eventually in the 1950s, the price dropped to the point where the small profit no longer justified the expenses and the labour in the production. Joe Rich fields reverted to pasture again.

The Weddell's home was always a centre of community activity. The family grew and was added to by hired hands, boarding school teachers and frequent visiting friends. Most of these ate at the Weddell's table which often fed a dozen people in the summertime. Harold Cundy and the other hired men lived in a cabin by Joe Rich Creek just below the Weddell house. The hired girl who sometimes helped Mary Weddell with the children and house chores and the school teacher, who sometimes boarded with them, lived upstairs. For years, the house was the polling station and Mrs. Mary Weddell was the polling officer. From 1946 to the present, it was a weather observation station for the government after the Philpotts and John Findlay had passed on the job.

Mary Margaret (Shanks) Weddell 1903 – 1984

The second teacher in the Joe Rich School was Mary Margaret Shanks of Winfield then 20 years of age. She boarded with the Nicholases and became a close friend of Mrs. Margaret Nicholas, Jack Findlay's sister. In Joe Rich, Mary Shanks met Cyril, they fell in love, and were married the next year on August 22, 1924. She was just 21 and he was 26.

Mary had moved with her family to Winfield when she was a little girl. The family home was between the present highway and the Winfield creek toward the north end of the town. Their orchard was on the present Shanks Road named after them. After high school, she attended Normal School and then came to teach in Joe Rich in 1923. Cyril, a most eligible bachelor was living on his ranch not far from the school and conveniently bringing the fire wood for the schoolhouse stove. No doubt he warmed not only her school room, but also her heart. After their marriage, she taught a second school year as Mrs. Weddell. During that year, she became pregnant with Pat and stopped teaching when the school year ended.

Gert has kept Mary's Account Book and Diary covering 1925 to 1928. At that time, "Patsy Mary" was a toddler and the diary tells the story of the joy and pride of a young mother in her sweet little daughter. It tells also of her busy life and her visits from and to relatives and neighbours. It took more than half a day for the Shanks relatives to come from Winfield to Joe Rich, but there were frequent visits both ways. Often the visitors stayed overnight and sometimes for a few days. Then there were shorter visits to and from the neighbours. Sometimes a group would come to play cards or to listen to the radio. Cyril and Mary had a hand-cranked music box which played metal record-shaped discs to produce a great variety of tunes for the amusement of the children and visitors. Neighbours also came to get butter, milk or bread and sometimes to help butcher animals or lend a hand with other farm jobs. In the fall and early winter, neighbours and the male relatives often came to hunt. The hunters left the house in the early hours and arrived home after dark often without the deer they needed for the family larder. Shanks and many of the other people from town came in cars; upright flivvers with narrow wheels, not fast, but probably better on very rough roads than our present day family cars. The neighbours usually walked or occasionally rode over on a horse. In winter, they often came in sleighs. The road to town was precarious at times so that in winter it was sometimes impossible to get there.

Sometimes church was held in the schoolhouse and Mary went with some of the neighbours. At Christmas, there was a wonderful community celebration with all the children in the schoolhouse which everyone referred to as the Christmas Tree. But the most important social events of all were the regular Friday night dances which took place in the schoolhouse. The children were taken and taught to dance to the accompaniment of local musicians who lived or worked in the area.

Although Mary did not teach after the children were born, she continued to be very active in the community life. Minutes of the school board in 1954 show that she was then the Secretary and Doug Black the District Representative. She was tireless and efficient in her community work.

After Pat's birth, the other children arrived; three in a little over three years and then two more much later. Looking after a young family involved many chores which would not be necessary today. Electric power did not arrive in Joe Rich until 1965, so water had to be carried up to the house from the hand pump by Joe Rich Creek. Hot water was heated in the tank on the side of the cook stove or on top of the stove and poured into a galvanized tub for the children's baths. Clothes were washed by hand with a wash tub and scrub board. They were dried on an outside line depending on the weather. Ironing was done with flat irons heated on the stove. (Gert still has these.) Sometime before Gert and Jim were married in 1961, the family had purchased a gas

washing machine and a gas iron, which must have revolutionized wash days. Milk and food that needed to be kept cool was kept in a milk house down by the creek until 1931 when the luxury of a kerosene fridge was purchased. It was still working well when Gert married into the family in 1961. Kerosene lamps had to be filled, the chimneys kept clean and the wicks trimmed. Later, gas lamps were used until the power came to the valley. Wood for the cook stove had to be split and piled and then carried from the woodshed which still stands behind the house. Behind the woodshed was the family outhouse. A trip to it was a bracing experience when the temperature was 30 below. Hair was cut with scissors and hand clippers which sometimes felt as if they were pulled out as many hairs as they were cutting. Many of the family clothes and bed clothes were sewn on Mary's sewing machine by her and sometimes by her mother or by friends.

There were always a number of animals close to the house which Mary took much of the responsibility for. Dairy cows produced milk from which she made and sold butter at 45 cents a pound and later milk. In the early years, the family had as many as 12 milk cows and Mary made as much as 94 lbs. of butter a month with a hand cranked churn and a wooden mould into which the butter was pressed to form one pound squares. Weddells still have the churn and mould. The skimmed milk and whey were fed to the pigs. She separated the cream and shipped it and milk as well. A large number of chickens produced eggs which she sold at 30 to 35 cents a dozen. There were pigs to be fed. And she made and sold bread to the bachelors at 10 cents a loaf. Neighbours often didn't pay at the time they picked up milk, butter, bread or eggs so the purchase was marked in the book. Sometimes the cost of the purchases was cancelled out by things the Weddells got from the neighbours, lumber from John Findlay or vegetables from the Fazans, or by work which the neighbours might do on the Weddell farm. All this elaborate system of trading off goods and services is marked in the record.

From her very large vegetable and fruit garden she canned all summer. She even canned meat, often venison brought home from Cyril and the boy's hunting. On Saturdays and in later years on Fridays, she went to town to do the week's shopping. Sometimes these trips were combined with selling produce, usually turnips which were stored in the root cellars in the hill behind the house and on the bank below the house as well as under the house. (Many of the Joe Rich people cut ice in the winter and preserved summer food in their ice houses, but the Weddells were storing a lot of turnips and preferred root cellars.)

But most rewarding and demanding of all, she routinely fed and cared for as many as 12 people during the summer and almost that many even in the winter. These were the family itself, the hired men, the hired girl and often the school teacher from whom she earned a little board money.

Bill Goudie, when he was in his 60s, had a Christmas tree business. It was before Christmas trees were cultivated. The trees were sold mainly in the U.S. For a while he owned the property on which the Volks now live. Mary made arrangements for him to harvest trees on the Weddell property which also gave the family a little added income. This stopped in the 1950s.

Cyril died on March 15, 1946 at the age of 48. The cause was heart trouble, but perhaps his early war wounds had played a part. Mary lived on with Jim and Gert for another 38 years to die at the age of 80. She continued to keep very busy and to enjoy reading. She was a long time subscriber to the Daily Double Book Club. She remained

a good seamstress and an ardent bridge player. She had always been on good terms with all the neighbour women, Mrs. Band, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Philpott, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. Fazan, Mrs. Nicholas and Mrs. Smith and this continued to be the case. In the early 1970s, she visited all her relatives in Scotland with whom she had always kept in touch. After she returned home, she began to lose her memory. Gert cared for her, but she continued to fail and required chronic care in Cottonwoods before her death in 1984. She and Gert had become very close.

Patricia Mary (Weddell) Bubar 1925 – [2010]

Pat was the first of Cyril and Mary's children.

Like the later children, she attended the Joe Rich School. She boarded in Kelowna with her grandmother Weddell while she attended high school. She was a great skier and as part of the Kelowna Ladie's Ski Team successfully competed not only locally, but also in Penticton and Vernon. For several years, the ski hill was located on Preston Mountain just northeast of the Weddell's home and so Pat had easy access to lots of practice.

After high school she took nursing at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster.

When Pat returned home after her father's death, she met Bud Bubar who was logging with Jim and living with his mother in the Brewer house. They were married. After their marriage when their son, Cyril was born, Bud was logging up on Buck Creek on the south side of the present Three Forks Road where Justin Mccarthy had a camp. They lived in this camp. During the winter, Pat would load baby Cyril into a sleigh and pull him down where Three Forks Road now goes and then up Joe Rich Road to the Weddell house and back again. Once she saw a cougar on the way. It was a trip of four miles in the snow.

When the marriage ended, Pat was on her own with Cyril to look after. Pat cooked in several logging camps, and eventually went back to nursing. She worked as a nurse at the Kelowna General Hospital for years and for many of those was a nursing supervisor. She had a reputation as a good nurse who could keep her head in emergencies.

Pat and David bought the old Band property where Dave now lives in the Band house. Her son, Cyril lives on the other end of the property on the north side of Greystoke Road with his wife, Alex.

Stuart Edward Weddell 1926 –1990

Stuart was the oldest boy in the family. He and Jim grew up to be tall good looking boys who acted as formidable protectors for the two smaller children, Margaret and David. They were a handful for the young lady teachers at the school. Terry Fazan remembers one of the young female school teachers, Miss Humphreys having an argument with Stuart and deciding to give him a strapping. She walked up to him with the strap and asked him to put out his hand. He just smiled and continued leaning on his desk with his hands down. The teacher eventually began to cry and retreated to the cloakroom. She returned later having regained her composure. Stuart never received his strapping. Jim remembers on another occasion she attempted to strap Ron Philpott. He didn't get his strapping either.

In 1951, Stuart and Jim went to town for a party on Christmas Eve. Christmas day, they had not returned. The family were wondering where they were, when they listened to the radio and heard a message which Stuart had arranged to have broadcast. They had tried to get home, but a heavy snow fall had forced them to turn back to town. The broadcast requested that Margaret and Dave feed the cattle which they did.

Both Stuart and Jim logged. In the 1950s, Stuart took over the Weddell farm, but when it lost money. Jim eventually paid off the bank loan and took over the farm. Stuart then drove a logging truck.

Stuart died in 1990 at the age of 64.

James Murray Weddell 1928 -

Jim was born in Kelowna, the third child of Cyril and Mary Weddell. Mary went down and stayed in Kelowna for a short time before the delivery. The road was too bad and too long to drive once labour pains started.

He took the first 8 years of his schooling in the Joe Rich School where his mother had been the second school teacher. By the end of that period, he and Stuart were big boys. In Grade 8, the teacher, Miss Atwood moved a small cot into the classroom and spent most of the time sitting or lying on it. According to Jim, he did most of the teaching.

Life for the children in Joe Rich was good. Most had dogs and horses. Weddells always called their dogs 'Paddy'. At first, the dogs were all Collies, but later they were Boarder Collies as they are today. Jim remembers hiking with other Joe Rich young people to the top of Purple Mountain, the mountain at the end of Joe Rich Creek close to the Big White Road. There was also hunting for deer and for grouse with his father. Jim seldom went to Kelowna, but someone from the family always went to do the family shopping each Friday or Saturday. Shopping was usually done at Hardy's store in Rutland. It became "4 Way Market". Buck Hardy often came up to Joe Rich. He had a threshing machine and the boys sometimes worked helping him threshing.

When the boys were small, their father cut their hair, but when they were older a real barber did the job in town.

The children all walked to school. The Weddells crossed the Black's property to get there.

Cyril smoked a pipe, but when Jim smoked a cigarette as a boy, he didn't like it and never smoked again. Perhaps a healthy childhood accounts for Jim's 6 feet and 3 inches.

Jim took Grades 9 to 12 at the Kelowna Secondary School. It was too far to go into town each day so he boarded with the Carhilton family (Mrs. Carhilton was a Byrne, now remembered in 'Byrne Ave'.) Pat Weddell also attended high school in town and boarded with Granny Weddell next door to the Carhiltons on Cadder Ave. On the weekends, Pat and Jim usually caught a ride home to Joe Rich on the family farm truck returning from the packing house or a shopping trip. On Sunday night, someone drove them down to town to be ready for the next week of school.

Until World War II, Joe Rich was the site of the Kelowna Ski and Toboggan Club Hill. The hill was located on the slope of Preston Hill across Joe Rich Creek facing the Weddell house. In the winter, the Weddells opened their large gates in the fence at the bottom of the hill and pushed snow over the small gravel road at the bottom of the hill to

smooth out the run. Some great skiing and good competitions took place on the hill. When he was 8 years old, Jim won the Jock Stirling Trophy Cup, but the next year to give others a chance, Jim was not allowed to compete even though he was still younger than most of the other contestants. A newspaper clipping from Jim's late teen years describes him as 'one of the best cross-country men in the Interior', and tells of him winning a first in the combined downhill and slalom race in Penticton. The Joe Rich Ski Hill continued to be used until gas rationing during the war led to the use of the Black Mountain Hill which was closer to town. The log ski cabin at the bottom of the hill which had been built by Cyril Weddell and his hired man, Harold Cundy, was left unused for many years. Recently, it has been moved to the Pandosy Mission where it is to be a blacksmith shop.

In 1953, Jim began logging. His father had done a little logging with horses on their property. Jim soon began logging with caterpillar tractors, bought a truck and hired a driver. At first, trucks were just single axle flat bed units, and then tandem axle trucks replaced them. Trailers were added and eventually the large trucks used today. Terry Fazan remembers when the DOT didn't inspect any of the logging trucks, and overloaded single axle trucks made their way from Joe Rich to either the Rutland or Simpson's mill. They often looked and probably were top heavy. But there was money to be made in logging. Jim did well and eventually had a large bank balance.

Life in Joe Rich was sometimes a little wild and dangerous. In the 1950s, Jim was attending a New Years Eve Party in town and the roads were slippery with new snow. On the way down the hill his truck skidded off the road, rolled once and hit a power pole. He was thrown out and the truck came to rest on top of him. His right shoulder was crushed and lacerated and his right hand was badly injured. An X-ray revealed that most of the bones in the right hand were fractured. His doctor decided just to let it heal on its own; a wise decision because the hand works well today. But, the shoulder developed a staph. infection. He was hospitalized from January 1<sup>st</sup> to Easter. On one occasion when the doctor was changing the dressing on his badly infected back and shoulder, Ron Philpott walked in. He walked up behind the doctor, looked over his shoulder at the ugly sight and said, "Good God Doc, he's gone rotten".

Six weeks after Jim and Gert were married in 1961, Jim had an accident in the woods which made Gert think that she might not have him for long. Sometimes the but-ends of logs were rotted out at the centre and these rotten sections were cut off and left behind. Jim was working on a steep hillside with his chainsaw, when a caterpillar bulldozer working above him hit one of these large but-end sections and sent it tumbling end over end down the mountain. One end of it hit the ground just above him and the other end rotated through the air to smash down on top of him. He was pushed face first into the ground, and his chainsaw with his left hand that held it were smashed. By the time Gert saw him in hospital, his face had swollen to become hardly recognizable and his left little finger and part of the hand above it had been amputated. Logging is a risky business.

But in most ways, work was so good as a logger that he had no plans to return to farming in Joe Rich. This changed when the farm ran into money problems and Jim decided to rescue it and so became more of a farmer than a logger. He gradually built up the herd of cattle again. When the ranch was functioning again, Stuart suggested he would like to have it back, but since Jim had paid off the large loan and restocked the

cattle herd, Stuart didn't get it back. He got a job driving a logging truck, and much later a large truck for Chapman at Brenda Mines.

In 1960, the Brewers had just purchased what is now the property southeast of Schram Road. Jim frequently had to cross their property on his way to the site that he was then logging and so offered to build a tractor road across the property for Mr. Brewer. He had not yet started the road when Mr. Brewer on his Ford tractor drove up Preston Hill to tell Jim where he had decided he would like the road located. But he never spoke to Jim. When Jim was returning home from his logging site for lunch, he discovered Mr. Brewer lying dead crushed by his tractor. Grief stricken at the loss of her husband, Mrs. Brewer decided to return to her original home in the States and sold the property to Jim.

On two occasions, the Weddells have been involved in making movies. The first was when a movie producer used their home and property as the setting for 'In Exile' later renamed 'Time Runner' in 1991. Some of the movie was shot at their home. One scene was shot at the barn in the field up the valley and the horses were run in front of the barn during the shooting. Jim played the part of Farmer Dan. He was asked to go to Vancouver for a 'fitting'. His response was, "I'm playing the part of a farmer. I've got enough of my own farm clothes. I don't even like going to Kelowna. I'm sure not going to Vancouver". Jim was also filmed in the 'Oh So Good' Café in Peachland for the same movie. It has been shown on television. The second movie was done last summer and so far none of the family has seen it. It is to be called 'Sunrise', and involved the Weddell grandchildren.

#### Gert (McLennan) Weddell

Gert grew up in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. In her middle 20s, she ran a grocery store owned by the mayor. When she had an appendectomy and got pneumonia, her employer suggested that she take a rest. He would lay her off so that she could collect Unemployment Insurance, and when she felt recovered she could return and he would rehire her. She followed his suggestion and came to recuperate in Kelowna where her father's sister, Mabel Howard lived. Mabel's husband, Sandy Howard was a logger and had logged in Joe Rich and played for dances in the old schoolhouse. Sandy's brother, Chuck, also a logger knew Jim Weddell and brought him home on several occasions. Jim asked Gert out and the romance that began led to marriage in 1961.

After their marriage, Gert moved to Joe Rich to live with Jim's family. She had been a busy city girl and the move to Joe Rich was a rapid immersion into country living. She got on well with Mary, Jim's mother and the two women were soon great friends. Gert remembers Mary telling her not to take out the discs in the cream separator to wash them because they were very difficult to get back in. She found this instruction amusing because she hardly knew what a separator was let alone that it had discs. The family was down to two milk cows by 1960, but Mary was still involved with a myriad tasks around their home and farm and Gert soon learned to do all of them too.

The next year, 1962, Cameron was born. In a little over three years, the other three children arrived: Gavin, and the twins, Shelagh and Jean. Gert was busy organizing their lives and in the process arranged many community events. The twins were born in June of 1965 and in August the community worked together to bring power and telephone into the valley. Gert remembers laying the twins out on the kitchen table for

the community work crew to come in and see. She also remembers seeing “fire” travelling along the power line on New Years Day when lightning hit the line. When the children were small, she organized community softball games for all the Joe Rich children on Monday evenings. Other parents brought or sent their children and they all took turns supervising the games. Gert would write a little note to send home with a child if their parent’s turn to organize the game was coming up the next week. The ball games became an institution and tournaments were organized. Money was raised at the games to buy dishes and supplies for the Community and Fire Hall. Ball games still continue on summer evenings although the players are now young people rather than the children.

On several occasions, Gert and Barbie Ross noticed a strange truck parked near the games. Eventually Barbie got the license number and they checked it out. It turned out to be a man with a history of child molesting. After that, they suggested that all the children involved should be accompanied by their parents when they came to the games.

Basket socials, dances and basket auctions were also organized. They often took place in the large garage belonging to Marlene and Karl Strocher on the Pseudosuga property on Schram Rd. Occasionally, they were held in the barn in the Weddell’s upper field at the east end of the valley. The women brought baskets filled with tasty goodies which were auctioned off to the men. Norm Fast was usually the auctioneer. Everyone had a good time and the community spirit was great. Gert remembers one occasion when an attractive basket was being auctioned and Frank Russell shouted that he would give \$5 for it. Norm shouted, “Sold” and Frank got the basket. It was a bottle of wine and a lovely lunch carefully packed in a large 48 pack Kotex box, and everyone got a good laugh. Later, there were also auctions of donated items from the community, held in the community hall to raise money for the Fire Department.

Margaret Chapel (Weddell)(McClelland) Hine

Margaret was the fourth of Cyril and Mary Weddell’s children and 10 years younger than her older sister, Pat. She remembers starting school in the Joe Rich schoolhouse. When she was about 6, she climbed up on the woodshed roof at the back of the school and told Jim she was going to jump. He didn’t think that she would, but she did and as she hit the ground her leg broke with an audible snap that even Jim could hear. Jim carried her home.

When Margaret was in Grade V in 1947, the Joe Rich School was closed during the second half of the school year, because there were too few students. Eight were required to keep it open. Margaret finished the year by correspondence and did the same for Grade VI. She was sent to Kelowna for Grade VII and from Grade VIII to XI went to school in Rutland; the first year in the brick school on the west side of Rutland Road and the last three years, in the present Rutland Secondary School across the road. In both Kelowna and Rutland, she boarded with friends or family during the week and come home on the weekends.

Margaret remembers that when she was about 12, she and a girlfriend went skinny dipping in a Mission Creek pool below what is now Scherl’s property. They were in the water when Harry Band and Doug Black showed up and waited on the bank to watch the girls get out of the water. Margaret and her girlfriend were too shy to get out and so

stayed in the cold pool. Finally the boys left, afraid that Stuart and Jim might get after them if they harassed the girls. The half frozen girls climbed out and got their clothes.

Jim had a peep-sight 22 rifle and Margaret used to take this and go grouse hunting by herself. Margaret loved horses and horseback riding. Her first horse was 'Midnight'. She remembers riding through beautiful fields of 'Fairy Slippers' or 'Lady Slippers' behind Leo Fazan's cabin and that he told her never to pick them because they wouldn't grow back.

When Margaret finished Grade XI, her older sister, Pat was nursing at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. She went down to New Westminster and got a job as a nurse's aid.

When Margaret was older, she and Dave were often the only young people at home. Pat was married and away with Bud. Stuart and Jim were away logging. In the winter, it was often Margaret and Dave's job to feed the cattle. After she was married and pregnant with her first baby, she still lived at home for a while. She and Dave rode together up to Dunc Stewart's barn to feed the cattle. She would pitch down the loose hay from the loft and he would spread it out for the cattle.

One winter, the family ran out of wood during the winter. Margaret and David had to go along the creek finding old logs that they could bring back to the house for fuel. Leo Fazan helped them saw the logs up. Uncle Leo, as all the young people called him, was often very kind and helpful.

Margaret married Doug McClelland in 1953. By then her father, Cyril had died and her mother was alone with Dave in the house. Doug was logging with Jim and Stuart. Doug and Margaret moved into the Weddell home with them. As their children began to arrive, Margaret and Doug moved into Rutland to live in Mccarthy's cabin at the Four Seasons. They raised 5 children. Doug died in 1974, and later Margaret married Les Hine, but did not returned to live in Joe Rich.

#### David Bruce Weddell

David was born 5 years after Margaret. He was delivered in Kelowna General Hospital at 2 AM New Years Day in 1941 and as the first Kelowna baby of the year, won the following prizes: from Ritchie's Dry Goods, a baby brush and comb set; from Mor-Eeze Shoe Store, baby slippers; from Bulman's Dairy, \$2 worth of milk tickets; from P.B. Willits & Co., Puretest Cod Liver Oil; from Kelowna Bakery, \$1 worth of bread tickets; from Ribelin's Photo Studio, a free portrait; from Kiddies' Toggery, a surprise gift; from Copp the Shoe Man, baby moccasins; from Empress Theatre, two tickets; from Kelowna Sawmill, two ricks of wood; and from The MacKenzie Co., twelve tins of Heinz Strained Baby Foods. Like the rest of the family, he attended the Joe Rich School. His best friends were Monti Philpott, who was almost his age, and Cyril Bubar, his nephew who was 7 years younger.

Jim taught Dave to drive and to use a chain saw and fall trees. Jim told him he'd never make a faller, but in spite of this discouraging prognosis Dave has now been a faller most of his life. The family remembers that with this history, when Gert wanted to learn to drive in the late 1950s, she asked Barbie Ross to teach her. Barbie did and the lessons were "a lot of laughs".

After both his sisters had married and the older boys had moved out to log, Dave was left as the only one at home with his parents. He was responsible for feeding the

cows and the pigs. He remembers that the pigs loved rooting under the fence of their pen. Once they got into Dunc Stewart's garden and he was very upset.

Dave, with his sister Pat, bought the Band property. Dave now lives there with his wife, Donna. [2,8,9,10,11]

## D2. Fazans

Allan Ernest Fazan 1886 – 1947 and Leo Fazan 1886 - 1967

The Fazans were from London, England. Their father had done well in the meat business. He was butcher to the Queen. He wanted Allan to follow him in the business. Allan and Leo who were twins had had good educations in England and in Europe. Leo had spent two years with a tutor in France and spoke French fluently. Elsie Gardner remembers that he often quoted Shakespeare. He was trained as a master finishing carpenter. Allan and Leo came out from England about 1906. They came up the lake by steamer from Penticton and landed at Okanagan Centre where they were met by the George and Kathleen Mccarthy. They fixed up an old chicken house on the Mccarthy property and for a while lived there. Then they began farming, a mystifying experience for London boys. They got property on Dry Valley Rd in the Glenmore area, but it was too dry for the alfalfa they tried to grow, and so after a few more moves they eventually ended up in Joe Rich on the 80 acre property just down the creek from the Weddell's home. Their friends the Mccarthys also had property in Joe Rich near the Mission Creek Bridge. Fazans' first cabin was up Mission Creek above High Lonesome Ranch and was made from Jack Pine logs stuck in the ground vertically with mud between them and an earth floor. The remains of this cabin are now almost gone except for a few timbers and a rusted old sheet metal stove.

Allan went off to work as a high rigger at the coast in order to earn money while Leo stayed in Joe Rich. Eventually, Allan, Leo and their older brother Gordon, who had joined them by then, bought lumber from John Findlay and built a large house close to Joe Rich Creek.

When World War I began in 1914, Allan and his older brother Gordon both joined the army. At first, Allan was in the Rocky Mountain Rangers, but was later moved to another unit. He and Gordon were both sent to Europe where Gordon died after being shot in 1917. Allan returned to Joe Rich. Leo had the property up Mission Creek, but after Gordon died, he gave up that property and moved onto the Joe Rich Creek property with Allan.

Allan continued to work away from home, and got a job in a fruit cannery in Penticton. There he met Florence Lynch or Flossy as she was called, who had also come from London with her family just a few years before. She had not wanted to leave England where she already had a boyfriend, but had been persuaded to come with the rest of the family. Although she was 25 years younger than Allan, they fell in love and in 1929, decided to marry. After their marriage, Allan and Florence moved into the Joe Rich house and Allan and Leo built a cabin for Leo on the hill behind the Weddell's house. For a while, Allan worked in the cannery in Kelowna.

Terry, their first son was born to Allan and Florence the year after their marriage. He was followed by Eric, Brian (1934 -2001), Colin, Bruce, Eileen and Sylvia. The family was very musical. Florence composed music which she sang and played on the

banjo. Eric sang too. Collin and Bruce played the guitar and Bruce seemed to be able to play anything he could get his hands on. Florence (Flossie) wrote the popular Kelowna ditty, 'Land of the Ogopogo'.

Florence arrived in Joe Rich after Mary (Shanks) Weddell was well established. Mary Weddell taught her how to bake bread. For years, they both raised their families beside each other. Neither had extra cash and life was simple. One of the great joys was the Friday night dance at the schoolhouse. Flossy always wanted to look her best, but couldn't afford new clothes. To get around this problem, she frequently ripped out her wool sweater and knitted it up in a new style to be ready for the dance. She must have been a great knitter.

In 1939, Terry became ill with a severe Streptococcal throat infection and nearly died. Florence had already been thinking about moving the family into Kelowna and this illness precipitated the move. For a while, the family home was rented or at times stood empty until in the early 1940s, Leo moved out of his cabin and down the hill to the larger house. His cabin was later moved north closer to the house. Water was obtained from springs behind the houses or pumped up from Joe Rich Creek. Leo kept two milk cows, a few horses and no wife. He occasionally did carpentry work.

During World War II, Allan again enlisted. This time as a guard in a prisoner of war camp in the Kananaskis area near Calgary. He returned from the war, and two years later on October 5, 1947, at the age of 61, he was killed when a hit-and-run driver struck him on Pandosy Street.

As Allan and Florence's children grew up, they frequently came back to Joe Rich and stayed with Leo. Although he often seemed gruff and grumpy, he was good hearted and kind to them. He was "Uncle Leo" to all the children including the Weddells. Often with one of his friends, Terry would get a ride up to Joe Rich to visit Leo. They frequently couldn't come with Duncan Stewart until the pub was closed and Duncan was forced to drive home. It would be the middle of the night and the boys would look at Leo's house to see if the coal oil lamp was still on and Leo was reading as he so often did. If it was out, they were in trouble. Terry remembers waking Leo in the middle of the night, receiving a gruff response, but being invited in to go upstairs and get some sleep.

Leo sometimes did a little bit of horse logging. On one occasion, he was skidding out a log behind his horse when the log rolled pinning one of his legs below it. He held the reins and was able to stop the horse. Fortunately, his nephew and another boy soon arrived and were able to get help. The horse was disconnected and with the help of a cant hook the log was rolled off his badly bruised leg.

Leo lived on in the house until August 15, 1967 when he died at the age of 80. The property was sold to Jim Grindley, and the house was eventually used for chickens. It was never cleaned or repaired and fell into terrible shape. Finally, it was burned down as a fire practice for the Joe Rich Fire Department.

#### Terry Fazan

Terry spent his childhood in Joe Rich and attended the Joe Rich School with the Weddells and Philpotts. When the family moved down to Kelowna, he was about 11 and had had four years at the Joe Rich School. He continued to visit Joe Rich often staying weekends and spent several summers here. Sometimes, he rode his bicycle up the gravel

road to Joe Rich before the relatively straight and paved Highway 33 existed. The ride took 4 hours up and about 1 ½ hrs down. It was a long hot ride and Terry remembers stopping to rest under the trees and get a drink where the little bridge used to cross Eight Mile Creek just below Walker's irrigation dam. Sometimes, he was able to hitch a ride up to Joe Rich on either Weddell's or Stewart's truck after they had taken lettuce or turnips down to Kelowna. Terry's mother, Florence concerned with the scrapping between Eric and Terry, sometimes sent Terry to Leo to have peace in the house. As a result, Terry saw as much of his uncle Leo as he did of his father who was away in the army for several years. Terry thinks that he would never have gotten through high school French without his uncle's help.

Terry married Marie Newcombe and they had Adrienne in 1953 followed by Judy, Terry, Karen, Brian, Brenda, Corrine, and Diane.

In 1963, he and the family moved back to Joe Rich. They built their new home on the foundation of Leo's cabin up the hill from the old house and raised the family there. For 35 years, Terry drove a truck for Canadian Freightways and the several other companies which subsequently bought it out. At the end of his career, Terry drove large Western Star Freight trucks for Columbia Driveway and delivered these all over North America.

Terry's daughter, Adrienne married Bob Harasin and they built the large lovely house in Joe Rich in which the Egans now live. Adrienne is herself an accomplished carpenter. She and Bob have a son, Bob. They have now moved away from Joe Rich.

Terry and Marie's son, Terry Fazan junior has recently moved back to Joe Rich and lives in the mobile home belonging to the Weddells on the old Mack property on the north side of the highway past Weddell's home. [2,12,37]

### D3. Findlays

John Findlay came from Ontario. He owned the property now known as the Serwa property. He seems to have acquired 160 acres on the south side of Mission Creek (DL4091) about 1910. In 1929, he acquired a second Crown Grant, (DL 3753) on the north side of the creek which added another 160 acres to his holding. On his first quarter section, he built a saw mill and then a fine large two-storey house which was moved to the Silver Lake Fish Camp where it burned down in the fires of the summer of 2003. His mill was apparently a masterpiece of hand-made often wooden equipment. He was a very hard worker and a very handy man. He remained single, but for several years his parents lived with him and his sister, Margaret. He and Martin Band built many of the Joe Rich homes and buildings and did not only the log and lumber work, but also the stone work.

John Findlay also brought water to his property by digging a very long ditch from Joe Rich Creek on Black's property (now Dion's) along the edge of the hills on the south west side of Joe Rich Valley. This was all done with a horse and scoop and was not financed by the government. It was an impressive piece of work, but apparently was never very functional.

Findlay, though a bachelor, was very active in the community. He helped build the schoolhouse, was a big contributor to the school and for a time was the school board secretary. He was also generous with his fine home. When the Philpott home burned down in 1929, he had the Philpott family stay with him while he and others helped build

them a new home. Mary Weddell's diary indicates that he was a frequent visitor to the Weddell family. He was a busy and well-liked man.

John Findlay's sister, Margaret married Frank Nicolas. Mary Shanks who became Mrs. Cyril Weddell lived with the Nicholases during the year she taught at the Joe Rich School, and as a result became a close friend of Mrs. Nicolas.

Findlay had an old flatbed truck with which he hauled lumber. In 1949, he had injured his leg and was wearing a cast. He was used to figuring things out for himself and so took his own cast off and was driving to town past the pond below Black Mountain on the Joe Rich gravel road. He may have stressed his leg and passed out. No one knows, but in any case, at the bad corner beside the pond his truck rolled over. Its wooden cab collapsed. He was crushed and died on June 1, 1946 at the age of 69. 3

Findlay's mill was left. When Jack Serwa and Harry Gibbons bought the property in 1946, Gibbons tried to get it working. He couldn't figure it out and so ended up pushing it into a pile and setting fire to it. Later, Mr. Serwa operated a small mill on the property in the late 1940s. For a while, the Serwas considered moving to Joe Rich to live on the property, but Mrs. Serwa had grown up in a very small prairie town and had no desire to return to rural living. Various people lived on the property. Amongst them were horse loggers, Albert and Slim Coghill. Later, Peter Griffith lived in the house. He was a skilled log house builder and in 1977, built the house for the Hanns in which the Sinclairs now live.

For a while, hippies lived in the old Findlay home. When a couple of them decided to get married, they arranged to have the ceremony in one of the meadows. Gert Weddell was invited with her mother-in-law, Mary and the children. One of the couple's parents was a Toronto doctor who also came for the wedding. He was not used to the life style his daughter had adopted. He had not been told that a crow lived in the house and was a little upset to find that his good clothes for the wedding had been splotted when the crow found them a convenient place to relieve himself. Amongst the hippies was a young woman with a new baby. During the festivities, she undid her top and nursed the baby for all to see. The doctor remarked to Gert, "I guess that's what they mean when they say, 'Letting it all hang out'". For the wedding, the bridesmaid wore a blouse made from a gunny sack, and completed her ensemble with grey socks and boots.

On a winter day sometime later, Pat Russell contacted Weddells to report that smoke was coming out of the Findlay house. The Weddells and Russells quickly drove over and found that the hippies had been heating water for a sauna and had left the house with the water still heating. The heat got too much and the house caught fire. Weddells and Russells found a bucket and with snow managed to extinguish the fire, but not before the windows broke from the heat. [8,41]

#### D4. Schram

Many of the early Joe Rich residents were of Scottish descent. Chris John Schram was an exception. He was a bachelor who had come up to the Kelowna area with a wagon train from Pulman, Washington in 1893. (Although we have a list of the settlers who arrived in the wagon train to Black Mountain, he does not appear on that list. Perhaps there was more than one wagon train.) When Belgo Dam was being constructed and the irrigation ditch was being dug, he worked for the Belgo-Canadian Land Corporation hauling mail, supplies and groceries to the construction camps. Camp One

was located at Black Mountain near the school, and the second camp was located near the Philpott property. Workers were also located at the dam site itself. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 1912, he obtained a Crown Grant of what the Weddells now own and call the Brewer property which is located on the south side of Schram Road on both sides of Joe Rich Creek. He lived alone there in a cabin near the end of the present Schram Road. When Mr. Schram had not been seen for several days, some of the neighbours, probably Leo Fazan and another went to investigate. They found that he had died at the age of 57 on January 5, 1916.

Behind the Brewer house is an old barn which is probably as old as the house. The bottom has rotted out so that the barn walls are 6 feet lower than they were. Perhaps, Findlay and Band or Black built the house and barn for Schram. Both are skilfully built with saw-cut dovetailed corners.

Behind the barn is a low roofed very old log cabin just 50 metres from where Schram Creek meets the valley floor. It is of a different and probably older construction than the house and barn. The logs in the walls are notched together with an axe. The windows are low to the ground. The floor is laid directly on the earth. It is dilapidated, but intact. Although Jim Weddell has owned this cabin for many years and knows it to be very old, he does not know who built it or when. It seems to him and to us that it is very likely the cabin that Chris Schram built in 1912 and later died in. If so, it is one of the oldest buildings in Joe Rich, but those who could verify this fact are all dead. *[8,15,63]*

#### D5. Nicholases

Frank (Francis) J. Nicholas was another Scotsman. He lived with his wife, Margaret in the log home on what is now High Lonesome Ranch. He had built a log cabin there which he enlarged when he married Margaret. Probably John Findlay, his wife's brother actually did most of the building. Later, after Margaret died he moved back into the small original cabin.

Mary Shanks, Joe Rich's second school teacher and the eventual Mrs. Cyril Weddell lived with the Nicholases during the year she taught school in Joe Rich. She was a close friend of Margaret Nicholas.

On January 9, 1934, when Frank Nicholas and Billy Mack were butchering a steer in Nicolas' barn, Frank slipped on the ice and his rifle discharged shooting Billy in the thigh. Bleeding was severe and a tourniquet was used. A stretcher was improvised and Billy was moved to the back of a truck and then driven over the bumpy road to town. Unfortunately Billy died that night in the hospital from a blood clot almost certainly originating in the injured leg. Billy was a favourite of all the residents in Joe Rich Valley and everyone was devastated by his death.

In 1938, Frank bought a Plymouth car and decided to teach himself to drive. He drove around the field behind his barn, but when he hit the barn, he decided that driving was not for him. After that he often caught a ride to town with Mrs. Uppenborn.

Many years before it was decided to build Highway 33 through from Joe Rich to the Kettle Valley, Frank Nicholas and Cyril Weddell rode their horses up the valley and up the hill where the highway presently goes to the Big White turnoff and on to McCulloch Road and decided that this would be the best route for a future road connection. For years the government disregarded their opinion and concentrated on the

road up the south side of Mission Creek Valley to McCulloch Station. But much later, the road builders decided they were right and built the road where they had envisioned it.

When Mrs. Findlay, who was the mother of John and Margaret and their six siblings, became very elderly, she lived with the Nicholas' for a few years. This proved unworkable, when she became very senile and required constant care. Not long after she was moved to a chronic care home, Margaret Nicholas quite suddenly died from a stroke on March 14, 1930. She was 54. (14)

Frank had become a close friend of the Clements while they had lived in Joe Rich. This relationship continued after Margaret died and the Clements moved back into Kelowna. After the older Clements had died, he continued to maintain a close friendship with Clement's daughter, Ettie and her family, the Adams. They always spent Christmas together. Years later, Frank became interested in flying saucers and heard about people in California with information about them. He traveled to San Francisco to check this out and was killed when he stepped off a curb and was hit by a car. He was deaf and probably couldn't hear it coming. In his will Frank left his hand-cranked gramophone and some old paintings to the Adams, and Charlie Adams still has these. [8]

#### D6. McKenzie

Mrs. Veronica McKenzie, was Mrs. Wallace when she came to Joe Rich with her two children. Here, she met and in 1951, married Ted McKenzie. He was a good mechanic and worked in the Beaverdell Mine, in the Kelowna Machine Shop and later in Enderby where he died in 1984. Mrs. McKenzie was an attractive vivacious woman, fun to be with and straight forward in her approach. Everyone liked her.

Mrs. McKenzie sometimes walked in the hills close to Joe Rich. On one occasion she had the feeling that she was being watched and turned to see a cougar staring at her. She screamed and it ran away.

The McKenzies at first owned the 'Brewer property' where Ted had a small saw mill. He was both a good mechanic and a good builder. They sold to the Hockeys. They then built a home on the Henderson-Hathaway-Takoff property, but perhaps never owned it. Later, she bought the 'Dion property' which then included the 'Ross property'. She finally lived in the small cabin behind Ross's house and later moved to Alberta where she died.

Mrs. McKenzie's two children were Tessy and Scot, who was called Don.

When Duncan Stewart died, he left a quarter his estate to Tessy. Tessy now lives in Burnaby. [8,12,28]

#### D7. Joe Rich

Joe Rich is said to have been a trapper and miner who was the first settler in the valley to build a substantial cabin and live here. Trappers had probably preceded him, but had not stayed. He built a log cabin on the southwest side of Joe Rich Creek which stood well back from the creek on what is now Murphy's ranch between the present location of the Red Star barn and the hill. It apparently survived until the 1930s, but no trace of it remains today. Joe Rich's name never appeared on the list of titled owners of the property. Presumably he was a squatter. His name was almost certainly spelt without a terminal 'e'.

He apparently left the valley before his death and was never seen by anyone presently living here or even by their parents. Alice Lundy, a schoolmate of Stan Lindahl's, says that he went mining in the Cariboo and was killed there.<sup>2</sup> A Medical Certificate of Death for a Joseph Rich age 77 who died of chronic bronchitis on 24 June 1901 in Victoria has been obtained and the record of an 1897 Cariboo County Court case of Joseph Rich vs. Willow River Company. If these are the Joe Rich of our valley, it would seem that he had left our valley before 1897, and that the land was abandoned when Bill Preston obtained it as a Crown Grant in 1911 and 1913. Joe Rich may have been primarily interested in prospecting, and have decided to move on when he had thoroughly explored the area by 1895. [8,13,15,28,32]

#### D8. Bands

Martin Band, his wife Margaret Elizabeth (Black) and their family came to Joe Rich Valley soon after World War I. Martin, a Scotsman was a stone mason and builder. He had gone to South Africa during the Boer War and had worked there as an engineer building bridges. Then he had immigrated to Ontario where he had met Margaret Black. They had been married in the Vernon District on March 10, 1908. They settled on the north side of the present highway where Dave Weddell now lives. On the way to their property, they had to ford Mission Creek with a wagon. They were helped by the Fazan brothers on horses, but in spite of this some of their possessions were washed down the creek.

Martin built the present log house in 1917. It was built with fire killed cedar logs. Margaret Band, Lettie Band's mother-in-law later told Lettie that when the family first moved into their new house the windows weren't even completed and it was already cold. The family had canaries and in the morning the water in their birdcage would be frozen. In spite of this, the birds would be singing. Mrs. Band thought they were encouraging her to be happy even if the circumstances were uncomfortable. In 1925, Martin Band built a barn near the house for his team of horses.

Martin often worked with John Findlay or Billy Black and together they built several of the buildings around Joe Rich some of which are still standing (e.g. Dunworkin').

Margaret (Weddell) Hine remembers that when she was a little girl, Mrs. Band used to baby-sit for them sometimes. On one occasion, she told Margaret that her ears were burning which meant someone was talking about her. She said that if you wet your finger in your mouth and rub it on your ear, the person who is talking about you will bite their tongue and stop talking. Sometime later, Margaret was talking to a school friend about Mrs. Band and she bit her tongue. Margaret was convinced that Mrs. Band had been right and had made her bite her tongue.

The Bands were related to the Blacks. Mrs. Band was Mr. Black's sister, and Mr. Band was Mrs. Black's brother.

The Band children were: Alice Margaret born in 1909, Bob born in 1911, Harry born in 1916 and Alex born in 1919. Alice, Bob and Harry were students in the Joe Rich School when it opened in 1922. Alex started in the school in 1927. On January 21, 1927, Alice who was then 17, married Camille T. Gilkin and left Joe Rich. Later, she married Mr. Parkin.

Bob fell in love with Helen Humphreys who was then the teacher at the Joe Rich School during the two years from 1937 to 1939 when she taught here. He then moved to Ontario and sent for her. They were married there and did not return to Joe Rich.

Harry joined up in World War II and went to Britain where, in 1945, he met and married Lettie, a Scottish girl from Dundee. They returned to Joe Rich in 1946 and moved into Leo Fazan's cabin where they lived for two years. Margaret Band, Harry's mother was still alive and living in the family home. Martin had died of a stroke on July 8, 1929 at the age of 54. For nearly twenty years, Margaret Band lived on in Joe Rich as a widow.

When Lettie became pregnant, she and Harry moved into Rutland. While they were living there, Mrs. Band died of a stroke on July 13, 1947 at the age of 63. In 1950, she and Harry with Martin, their first child who was just starting to walk, moved back to Joe Rich to live in the family home. Harry was logging and had an 80 acre woodlot behind Fazan's property. Lettie remembers that life in Joe Rich was very quiet then. The highway didn't go through yet and Joe Rich was a dead end destination for most people. They stayed here until 1952 and then returned permanently to live in Kelowna. They left the family home still furnished, but unoccupied.

A few years later, a group of hippies moved into the house. They even took down a wall and used it for firewood and shot a hole in an old picture of Margaret. Around the same time, Harry and Lettie made arrangements for Howard Demitor to put a new roof on the old house. At one stage, Lettie remembers that a cow was somehow gotten up onto the second floor of the house and appeared very strange looking out one of the windows. When it was finally removed, it was thin and sick because it had been up there several days. Perhaps a practical joke on all but the cow.

In 1969, Dave Weddell began renting the house and in 1970, he and Pat (Weddell) Bubar purchased the 96 acre property. Dave Weddell and his wife, Donna (Ablett) Weddell still live in the house today. Two acres of the property were taken by the Department of Highways when the highway was straightened and widened in 1968. The property extends north along Dion Road and then turns north east and extends to Mission Creek. Cyril Bubar, Pat's son has moved a house onto the property on the creek side of Greystoke Road and now lives there with his wife Alex (Emsley) Bubar.

Alex Band built the house on the flats just southeast of Mission Creek where Peggy Mayers now lives. He married Olive. She and her sister, Marjorie had worked for the Weddells. Alex and Olive had a daughter, May while they were living in the house. Eventually, they sold the house to Bucklands and moved to town. *[3,8,11,14]*

#### D9. Stewart

Duncan Stewart was born in Killan, Scotland on February 10, 1895 and moved to Canada as a child. He first met Cyril Weddell when they both enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1915. They were both sent to Europe, but in separate Battalions. Duncan was taken prisoner, interned in Germany and only released at the end of the war. He returned to Kelowna and again met Cyril Weddell. They renewed their friendship and began looking for ranchland which the Veteran's Allowance would help them purchase. They eventually decided to buy the Preston's 160 acre parcel in Joe Rich and to divide it between them.

Duncan ended up with the smaller part of the property, but most of the farm buildings, the house and the flat land as well as the majority of the cattle. He got 65 acres and Cyril got 95 acres. Duncan, a loyal Scot always preferred Aberdeen Angus Cattle even though Herefords were more common and probably better suited to BC. He was well organized and a good planner. When Cyril Weddell found lettuce growing profitable, Duncan Stewart soon followed suit. He was the first to make a specialty of growing turnips, but grew good lettuce also. They both trucked their produce to Kelowna and the packing house. Duncan often took advantage of the trip to make a long visit to the pub.

Duncan remained a rather stubborn and irascible bachelor. He usually came out on the good side of any negotiations he undertook. He talked little and never committed himself to an agreement in any way that he could not back out of. But he could be charming.

Margaret (Weddell) Hine remembers that for a long time Dunc used to get his bread baked by Mary Weddell, but in later years the Weddells sometimes bought bread in town for Dunc. On one occasion, when Margaret was small, she was given the job of taking Dunc his bread. As she walked up the valley to his place, the bread smelt so good that she dug a hole with her finger through the wrapping and scooped out a little piece to eat. When she gave the loaf to Dunc he noticed the hole and asked how it had gotten there. Margaret told him that a mouse had eaten it. She thinks that he never quite believed her story, but he didn't scold her anyway.

The Preston's log house that Duncan Stewart first lived in, was located on the southwest edge of Joe Rich Creek just upstream from the present Red Star barn. Dunc eventually built the 'new' home which still stands across the creek from the Red Star barn and across and downstream from where his old place was.

Dunc remained a bachelor. In his old age, he developed cancer of the lip. He had no close family in this area. He died of a heart attack at age 63, on March 3, 1958.<sup>3</sup>

Duncan Stewart's property was sold to Armstrongs who sold it to Demitors. When Demitors bought it, the creek had moved southwest and Dunc's old garage was hanging over its bank. The old log house originally built by the Prestons was also in bad shape. Howard had to get rid of both of them. Gerry Demitor remembers that the house still contained some old lamps and a Bachelor's Pantry, a decorated painted metal cupboard with shelves and bins. She wishes now that she had kept some of these antiques, memorials to Dunc's good organization. [8,10,11,28,47]

#### D10. Prestons

William Preston was the first to hold title to the property on which Joe Rich had squatted and built his cabin. He appears to have obtained the land as two Crown Grants, Grant Number 4598 in 1910, and Grant Number 6169 in 1913.

Prestons were also the first to sell milk and butter in Joe Rich. Cyril Weddell and Duncan Stewart bought his quarter section and divided it into what is now the Weddell's home property and Bob Murphy's horse ranch.

Mrs. Preston always referred to her husband as "Mr. Preston", and he referred to her as "woman". [8,15]

## D11. Lindahls

### Jean McCreary

Jean McCreary is a cousin of Stan Lindahl. She grew up in Kelowna, but came up to Joe Rich to work for the Weddell family. She lived in their home and helped Mrs. Weddell with the chores and the children. After she left the valley, she married George Parks who built a sailboat with the hope that they would sail it around the world. When it was launched, they sailed to California by which time Jean had had enough. They settled there and George got employment caring for the sailboats of wealthy owners one of which was John Wayne.

### Tuney (Turnrose) Lindahl

Tuney Lindahl came with his family, which included 9 other siblings, from Minneapolis to Saskatchewan back to Minneapolis and finally to Kelowna in about 1926. The family settled at Five Bridges in Kelowna just off Sutherland Ave. with the other Lindahl families including his recently arrived Swedish grandparents. In his teens, Tuney came up to Joe Rich to work for two summers on the Weddell farm. While he was here, he lived in a cabin the Weddells owned on the edge of Joe Rich Creek.

Tuney's family had a machine shop in Kelowna. Tuney and his brothers had a Model T Ford in the 1930s. Tuney asked Annie Philpott out on a date. He picked her up in the car and took her to a revival meeting. Tuney's family was very religious, but Annie's were not. The meeting must have been a bit of a shock to her. She later said, "I'll never forget it. Thank God I got out of there".

Tuney is Stan Lindahl's cousin and now, in his 90s and still a bachelor, lives in Vancouver.

### Stan Lindahl

Stan Lindahl's family had migrated from southern Sweden to Minnesota, on to Saskatchewan and then Kelowna in the generation that preceded him. They had been farming in Saskatchewan and Stan's father, John had been sent to San Francisco to buy farm equipment in the 1920s. When he got to Sicamous, the railroad line had been shut down for some reason. He was told he could reach San Francisco by taking the train to Okanagan Landing near Vernon, the stern wheeler to Penticton and the Grand Trunk Railway from there to the US and so he did. It was August and when he was on the 'Sicamous' steaming down Okanagan Lake, the valley was full of smoke. He asked where the fire was and no one seemed to know or care. They told him the valley was often filled with smoke in the summer because there were so many forest fires and nobody tried to put them out. He stopped overnight at Kelowna before proceeding to Penticton. He liked the place in spite of the smoke and later came back to stay. Stan was born in Kelowna. He worked haying and doing farm chores for Duncan Stewart in the summers of 1950 and 1951 when he was 16 and 17. He was paid 75 dollars and board per month. Duncan had a little cabin on Joe Rich Creek where Stan stayed. Duncan irrigated his hay from a ditch coming out of Joe Rich Creek and running behind his hay field. They cut the hay with a sickle bar on Duncan's Ford tractor, raked it with a buck rake to dry, forked it loose onto a wagon, drove it to the large, now Red Star, barn and hoisted it into the loft using a team of horses attached by a rope line to a large hay

hook which dropped from a pulley running on a track along the ridge of the barn. Stan remembers that Dunc had lots of cows.

It was just after World War II and Duncan also had a Dutch 'Displaced Person' working for him who was always referred to as just "the Dutchman". The government paid his salary. One day, Stan and the Dutchman decided they would explore the source of Joe Rich Creek, but the bush was so thick that they only made it the short distance to the mouth of Tress Creek and gave up.

The second summer, Stan sometimes helped building the white house Duncan was constructing on the edge of the creek. Occasionally carpenters came up from town to help.

Stan's parents drove him up to work in Joe Rich and then left him to live at Dunc's place. Occasionally during the summers, they would come up to see him and sometimes picnic together by Mission Creek close to the property Stan and Marion now own. Sometimes Stan would go to town with Dunc on a Friday afternoon and then spend the weekend at home in Kelowna with his parents.

Stan married Marion and worked for the Department of Highways as a mechanic. When the children had grown up and left home, he and Marion bought their present property from Dana Kwam. The property was part of DL 4052 which had been 160 acres obtained as a Crown Grant by Charles Sutherland in 1911. It had passed to Sutherland's son, Ian and then to George A. Patterson. Patterson had a cabin on Mission Creek across the highway from Lindahl's property where Joe Keeley and Vicky Barrows now live. Patterson used to spend holidays in the cabin. He never lived there permanently. The cabin was burned down during a teenage bush party several years ago. DL 4052 had then been sold twice and finally belonged to the Heins after 1963. Heins made a pond next to Belgo Creek and framed in Lindahl's present house. Dana and Doris Kwam then bought the property, and finished the house in 1981. Doris had a strong territorial sense.

She was upset by the Weddell's four legged trespassers who occasionally wandered onto her property, and she didn't want the expense of putting in a good fence and cattle guard. So she persuaded the cattle to stop bothering her by shooting one of them. She said she had hit the cow by accident, but even accidentally she was a good shot. The cow was hit right between the eyes.

The Kwams placed a mobile home beside the house and Reiner Bauer lived there. They then subdivided the property and sold the upper 10 acres to Reiner. He built a home on part of this property and subdivided off 5 acres which he sold to Greg and Heather Robson who have built a house on it. In 1985, Stan and Marion bought the 15 acre property which Kwams owned close to Belgo Creek.

A few years after Lindahls moved to Joe Rich, their son Brent, his wife, Donna, their son, Nelson and daughter, Laura moved into the mobile home and then bought Dunworkin' near the Community Hall. When Brent had renovated Dunworkin', he and his family moved in there. In 1996, Stan and Marion's daughter, Lana, her husband, Rob Anderson and their sons, Troy and Jason moved into the mobile home where they still live.

In the 1990s, Stan and Marion's daughter Fay, her husband, Ken Sinclair and their sons, Brock, Tyler and David bought Patty Hann's home and property just east of the Serwa property on the north side of Mission Creek. This beautiful log house was built by Peter Griffith in 1977 while he was living on the Serwa property.

Ken runs his gardening and landscaping business from their home. Ken's parents have built a house on the property just below the highway. Fay and Ken's son, Tyler has married Lindsay Stubbs and they have built a new log cabin right on Mission Creek on the foundation where Patty Hann had a log cabin which she moved to Idabel Lake. Tyler and Lindsay are now living there. Lindsay's grandfather, Reginald Stubbs horse logged for Morris Mccarthy in the early days of Joe Rich. Brock is working as an aviation mechanic out of Calgary. Nelson and Tyler are working as carpenters for Mike Harman at Big White.

In 2002, the year before Marcia Aitkens died, she gave the Lindahls the little A-frame cabin that she had lived in when she holidayed in Joe Rich on the Serwa property. Stan moved it from her property on Mission Creek to the Lindahl property where it is now. [16]

#### D12. Blacks

(see B7, C5 & D29)

Blacks were related to the Bands. They came to Joe Rich about 1908 at almost the same time as the Fazans, before the Bands. William (Billy) Black was a carpenter who often worked outside Joe Rich. He doesn't seem to have built as much in Joe Rich as did Findlay and Band, but his old barn still stands on Dion's property as a memorial of his skills as a builder.

His sister was Margaret (Black) Band. His wife, Roberta who was usually called Bertha or Bethie was a Band before their marriage, and was the sister of Martin Band. Thus the two families were a Black brother and sister married to a Band sister and brother. The Blacks had three children: Ellen born in 1914, Doug born in 1917 and Jean, who became Jean Walsh and is still living in Kelowna.

Blacks owned the property now owned by the Dions and Don Friesen. In the 1930s, John Findlay built a irrigation ditch from Joe Rich Creek to his property. It apparently never worked well, because it ran through an area of shale near the end and this allowed the water to seep out.

The Weddell children walked across the Black Family property to get to school.

Ellen and Doug Black were two of the first Joe Rich School students in 1922. In later years, Doug married Marie and the couple lived in the house which later became the Dion's. While Doug was on the family property he grew good turnips and potatoes on the part of the property down near Mission Creek where Norm Fast later lived. At the same time he was logging. Ellen married Art Mark. (See C5 – An interview with Ellen [Black] Mark.) [8]

#### D13. Clements

Charlie Clement and his wife Alice (Baskerville) Clement moved to Joe Rich in about 1916. They preempted land and built a cabin above the north edge of Mission Creek just above the present Three Forks Road, close to where the Sibileaus now live. They probably accessed there property through Nicholas' homestead (now High Lonesome Ranch) and across a bridge over Mission Creek. They lived in the valley for only three years and then moved back to town where they could make a better living.

They let their property go for taxes. For many years their log cabin remained empty and eventually collapsed. Charlie later ran the brick works in Kelowna.

They had three children: George, Ettie, who married Slim (Eldred) Adams, and Alice.

During their three years in Joe Rich they became very close friends of the Nicholases. Frank continued to celebrate Christmases with them and then with Ettie and her husband Slim Adams who ran Jenkin's Cartage and later employed Terry Fazan. [8]

#### D14. Smiths

Tom Smith, his wife, Isabella and their five children moved to Joe Rich in 1922. They owned the 160 acres on the south side of Mission Creek where the Russells now live. Their property also included all the properties between Thelwell Road and Mission Creek, the property now subdivided to Ken and Madeleine Hryciw, the Dunworkin' property, and the Graham's and Miller's properties on the north side of Mission Creek. The remaining 120 acre portion is now owned by the Russells.

For a while Tom worked as foreman on the road. The highway bridge across Mission Creek has sometimes been called the Tom Smith Bridge. The Smiths also grew turnips and lettuce. They had milk cows for family use, but didn't raise cattle. Mrs. Smith sold milk and eggs to whoever was living at Dunworkin' which the family called 'the Willett's'. The children, Audrey born in 1913, Jenny Elizabeth born in 1915, Donald born in 1917, Winnie born in 1918, and Alan born in 1921 all attended Joe Rich School.

In 1922 and 23, they were living in town and the Philpotts lived in their house while Mr. Philpott built a log home for the family on the present Philpott property. The Smith house must have been hard to heat, because the Philpotts always remembered being very cold that first winter in Joe Rich. Later, the house burned down.

Tom Smith died of cedar poisoning and septicaemia in 1956.

Alan was killed in Italy while fighting as a Canadian soldier in World War II. Don died in 1983 and Jenny (Smith) Giggy died in 1991 in Kelowna.

In 1958, the Smith's place (Russell's) was sold to Mr. Christianson. [Error! Bookmark not defined.,12,38]

#### D15. Patterson

Mr. Patterson acquired District Lot 3753 as a Crown Grant in 1924, and in 1933 bought a further 160 acres as District Lot 4052 from Ian Sutherland, who had acquired it from Charles Sutherland, his father who took it as a Crown Grant in 1911. The Patterson cabin was located on the north side of Mission Creek on the downstream side of the present Three Forks Park. In 1931, the Heptons lived there with their children, Betty, Jack, Ernest and Vera. The older three were in the Joe Rich School. During a high school bush party several years ago, the cabin was burned down.

Patterson was a contractor in Kelowna, and built the present Anglican Cathedral. He was a deacon of First Baptist Church. [3]

#### D16. Shepherd

Dr. Shepherd's cabin was just upstream from Patterson's cabin on the north side of Mission Creek and on the upstream side of the present Three Forks Park (District Lot

2182). Dr. Shepherd had purchased the property from Tom Smith in 1925. Tom Smith had bought it from Arthur Evans who had obtained it as a Crown Grant in 1921.

The cabin was built about 1920 and washed down Mission Creek in a flood in the spring of 1929. It was rebuilt between 1932 and 1934.

Marcia Aitkens was related to Dr. Shepherd and bought his cabin which her younger sister, Elizabeth Sager had inherited. Marcia had previously spent a lot of time in Joe Rich first as a child when she used to come up to Dr. Shepherd's cabin, and later as an adult when she had a small A Frame cottage on Findlay's property. After she retired, she enlarged the Shepherd cabin and lived there almost until her death in 2002.

Shortly before her death, while she was living in a care home in Rutland, a large part of the cabin, which was then empty, burned down. [8,64]

#### D17. Huckle

Billy [William Isaac] Huckle who came from Ontario was one of the early settlers in Joe Rich. He acquired District Lot 4051 as a Crown Grant in 1921. His old roofless cabin still stands just above and to the north of the highway at Cardinal Creek. He was a bachelor who had a team of horses with which he cleared his land. He hauled out fire wood which he cut on his property and sold in Rutland. He cut hay in the bottom land beside Cardinal Creek where he had his barn. He planted a small orchard, but many of his trees did not survive.

In 1921, Billy Huckle sold a right-of-way to the Black Mountain Irrigation District.

Billy Huckle was a bachelor, but he attended the schoolhouse dances. As a bachelor, he had always cooked for himself and had worked in a candy store where he had learned to make candy. He was apparently a sociable man who liked visitors and kept a clean and tidy cabin. Ellen (Black) Mark remembered him inviting the Blacks to his cabin for dinner one Christmas. It now looks so small that it is hard to imagine all the socializing that once took place in it.

When Mr. Huckle was an old man, he sold his property and moved to Kelowna where he worked as a security guard at the Rutland Sawmill where Mara Lumber is today. Perhaps he was not used to the town traffic and still behaved as he had in Joe Rich. On December 20, 1945(3) while at his work, he walked out into the road and was struck and killed by a car. He was 67 years of age.

After his death, Huckle's property was sold to the Highs who sold it to Jim Weddell. When the Weddell children were still small, Gert would take them up to his then deserted property and shake the apples off the trees. They would collect them to make apple sauce. When the property was being logged some of the trees were pushed out with a cat.

Jim logged it and ranged cattle there, but when the government gave up helping with fencing, he sold it to Elwyn Cross. A few Yellow Transparent Apple Trees still struggle to survive beside his roofless cabin. [8,70]

#### D18. Pearces

Claude and Betty Pearce lived in a cabin close to where Tanya Grafton's house now stands on the southeast side of Mission Creek not far from the north side of the highway. Claude had served in World War II, and then driven a taxi in Kelowna. He

loved to be with the people of the valley. He showed up at every fire practice though he couldn't really participate. He was made a member of the Fire Department anyway and looked after some of the 'Joe Jobs'. On his birthday, the Joe Rich people put on a party for him. He was overwhelmed and said that if he lived a hundred years that would have been the best day of his life. Claude kept diary goats that he loved.

He and Betty had two children: a son and a daughter who became Mrs. Laboucaine.

Claude died in 1988 at the age of 69. [8]

#### D19. Bubars

Abe Bubar and his wife had two sons, Hayden and Bud.

Bud and his mother lived in the Brewer house. When Pat Weddell came home to her father's funeral she met Bud and they were married. Bud was a logger and a good friend of Jim Weddell. He logged for Justin Mccarthy from the Buck Creek camp shortly after he and Pat were married. During that time, their son, Cyril was born. They lived in the camp near what is now Three Forks Road.

Pat worked cooking in logging camps and later returned to her nursing. She worked many years at the Kelowna General Hospital.

Cyril grew up in Joe Rich surrounded by many relatives and close friends. He began school in Joe Rich School in 1952 when he was just 5 years old. His presence was needed at the school in order to have enough students to keep the school open. He remembers his first school day. The teacher, Mr. Cornelson asked him his name and Cyril told him it was Cyril. Mr. Cornelson then asked what his family name was. The pressure of the first day of school and this direct questioning was too much. He couldn't remember his family name. Edithe Philpott, who was two years older, was sitting close by. She whispered in his ear, "Say 'Chocolate Bar'". Cyril blurted out, "Chocolate Bar" and the teacher who thought he was trying to be smart was not amused. School was not off to a good start. 2

Hayden Bubar went to World War II and brought back Ethel, his Scottish war bride. They lived in the Mack house on the northeast side of Highway 33 on the Weddell's property.

Pat (Weddell) Bubar bought the Band Property with Dave Weddell in 1970. Her son, Cyril moved a house up from town to the Mission Creek side of Greystoke Road on the property. He and his wife, Alexandra Greer (Emsley) Bubar now live in the house. Cyril works for Ken Hardy logging with his uncle, Dave Weddell. Alex is currently taking further training in fine arts. [2,8]

#### D20. Harders

The Harder family moved to Joe Rich in about 1951, at about the same time as the Hockeys came here. They rented the Mack house on the northeast side of Highway 33 from Weddells and worked for them. Abe Harder, the father had a small mixed farm there. The Harder children were Hilbert born in 1938, Raymond born in 1939, George born in 1945, Dorothy born in 1946 and Richard (Paul), the youngest.

The Harders lived very simply. Other schoolmates of the children still remember that they had a very aggressive billy goat which terrorized children who visited the Harder home. It did other unpleasant things too. Doug McClelland had just purchased a

brand new pickup truck and was chatting with Jim Weddell when he turned around to see the goat standing on the cab roof of his truck.<sup>1,4</sup>

The Harders moved from Joe Rich to the Arrow Lakes area in the 1950s. There they bought a farm. When the Hugh Keenleyside Dam was built in 1968 and the level of the Arrow Lakes rose, their farm was flooded out. Mrs. Harder is still alive in her mid 80s and living in Salmon Arm. Dorothy also lives there. Raymond drives trucks for Petches in Rutland. Hilbert, worked for a while in a saw mill with Dave Weddell and is now retired in Blue River. George drives a truck in Kamloops. [11,53]

#### D21. Baillies

John and Gisel Baillie and their children lived in the Mack house on the northeast side of Highway 33 before the Macks had the house. Their children were: Hugh born in 1906, George born in 1909 and James born in 1913. They were three of the students in the first class of Joe Rich School in 1922.

John Baillie had trained as a clergyman in England. He conducted the Joe Rich school house church from 1923 to 1927 when the family moved away from Joe Rich. [8]

#### D22. Baileys

Mel Bailey and his family owned the Brewer property. The property had been taken as a Crown Grant by Chris Schram in 1912, sold to Mabel Bright and her son, Garvin after Schram's death in 1916 and then sold to Baileys. We do not know whether the Brights or the Baileys built the present Brewer house and barn. They were probably built by John Findlay and Martin Band.

The Bailey children were Harold born about 1917, Verna May born about 1919, Mary born in 1924 and Jack born in 1927. They attended the Joe Rich School. Harold married Miss Vanidour, one of the schoolteachers. [8]

#### D23. Uppenborns

The Uppenborns lived with the Hockeys on what is now called the Brewer property. They moved there when Hockeys bought the place in 1951. They had two small buildings moved onto the property's north end on the east side of Joe Rich Creek. They joined these two buildings together and used one as their kitchen and the other as living quarters. Later, they moved these to their property up Tress Creek.

Wilfred Fredrick Uppenborn's wife, Iris (Hockey) Uppenborn was a sister of Mrs. Thelma Feniak. Mr. Uppenborn was from Prussia and had been a boxer and a wrestler in Germany. He was an inventive man who loved the backwoods life in the most isolated part of Joe Rich. For a while, Wilfred worked with Harry Gibbons at the small mill he had set up on what is now the Serwa property.

Iris Uppenborn lived much of her life in very rural settings. She loved horses and was a very good rider. She worked as a rider for both the Bowman and Casorso cattle ranches.

The Uppenborns had two boys: Melvin born in 1939 and Ivan born in 1941. When Iris Uppenborn's parents, the Hockeys became too old to care for themselves, they moved in with the Uppenborns.

In the mid 1960s, the Uppenborns bought property high up Tress Creek on the northeast side of the upper end of the valley. They called their property 'Hill Top Ranch'

although the name which has stuck with it is 'Uppenborns' property. It was isolated and beautiful with several springs on it. They lived there in a small house with a large garden which they tilled with a big Belgian strawberry roan horse named 'Snort'. They had an old truck which they used to go to town. They were friendly people well-liked by everyone. Mr. Uppenborn hoped to open a gas station and a little store at the corner of Big White Road and Highway 33, but was never able to do it. In May of 1990, a group of Kelowna business men had the same idea and obtained a crown grant of five hectares there. However, their plan never materialized either.

The Uppenborn's driveway from Highway 33 to their property was over a kilometre long and steep in places. Snow removal was a problem and so they would place a flag at the downhill end of their drive and the highway grader would plough out their road when he was passing. It cost a bit, but the grader did a good job.

When Mr. Uppenborn died, Mrs. Uppenborn continued to live alone on the property for short periods until about 1980. She then moved into Kelowna and lived with Melvin. Ivan took over the property and lived there for a while, but eventually sold it to the Lehays from North Vancouver. The shooting range is now located on the property.

The property has some unusual rock on it which was possibly used by native people for the production of tools. However, since no archaeological work has been done there almost nothing is known about this.

Melvin now works for the post office, and Ivan is a grader operator in Kamloops.  
[11,53]

#### D24. Fasts

Norm Fast grew up in Kelowna. He and his wife, Gert moved to Joe Rich and bought land on the southeast side of Mission Creek just upstream from Pearces. Norm worked for a paving company and for a while raised pigs on his property. He was active in the community and liked by everyone. When the Community and Fire Hall was being built, he drove the Weddell's cat to do the earth moving. Often he acted as the community auctioneer.

Norm liked a party and was a colourful character.

Norm and Gert had two adopted children, Darren and Tracy. Tracy was a lively girl who everyone liked. She was coming home from a party in town one night when the car in which she was a passenger left the highway and she was killed.

Norm and Gert eventually moved into the Mack property trailer home. When Norm died, Gert lived on alone there. She could not drive, and was therefore very isolated. She later moved into Kelowna. [8]

#### D25. Millers

Jonathan and Marie Miller moved to Joe Rich 16 years ago. Marie died this summer. Jon lives on their 1 ½ acres on the north side of Mission Creek just south of the highway bridge. Their parcel was once part of the Smith Property. It was sold to Spencers who in turn sold it to Christiansons who sold it to Pratts. Pratts subdivided off the portion of the property across the creek. Marlatts and Kings bought the portion on the north side of the creek which has now been sold to Millers who live on the east end of this property, and Grahams who live on 1 ½ acres on its west end. McInneses live next to Grahams between their house and Marcia Aitkens' cabin. Russells have the major part of Smith's property on the south side of the creek. Muttits have the portion on the north

side of the highway closest to the bridge, and Tanya Grafton has the part on which Pearces and their daughter, Mrs. Laboucaine once lived.

Many years ago, probably in the 1960s, Jon Miller worked for one summer improving the road to Belgo Dam. At that time, he used to hunt for deer on and behind what is now the Volk property. Before moving to Joe Rich, he worked on the lake boats, ran a zoo in Kelowna, and was the game warden in the Lillooet area for many years. [20]

D26. Ron Cherry

Ron Cherry and Dorothy (Livingstone) have the property just down the creek from Marcia Aitkens' cabin. Ron is a mill-wright and works installing heavy machinery in mills and factories. Dorothy is a nurse at Kelowna General. For many years this property had a house on it built by Josie Rosy with a fine fireplace and hardwood floors. He sold to Bob Parke who sold it to Vern and Dorothy Emerson. Vern worked for the school board. When he retired, they left Joe Rich and bought a home in Carmi. They sold to Leo Kleemaier and his family who in turn sold to Ron Cherry. Ron and Dorothy moved into the old house, but eventually tore it down when he had built the present new house and raised the level of the property with fill to meet Regional District Guidelines to avoid flooding. [19]

D27. Macks

William Mack and his family lived on the north east side of the highway on the property now owned by the Weddells. William had married Mary Jane Fraser July 21, 1914 in Kelowna.(3) Mrs. Mack was from England and very well educated. They had three children: Billy, born in 1915, Cathy, born in 1918, and Christine, born in 1922. Mr. Mack operated a mixed farm on the property which they had bought primarily for Billy's sake. Billy was a community favourite. When he was accidentally shot and died on January 9, 1934 at the age of 19, the Macks sold their property a few years later to the Weddells and left the valley.

Mr. William Mack died in Kelowna on January 4, 1973 at the age of 85.

Cathy married Mel Marshall, whose son, Bill and grandson, Tim run the feedlot below Dillworth Mountain and ran cattle on Black Mountain. [8,11,3]

D28. Marlatts

The Marlatts owned the property on the north side of Mission Creek in which the Grahams now live. (Sheila) Diane Marlatt was an active community worker and a great friend of Gert Weddell. Mr. Marlatt was a city fireman like his neighbour, Ed McInnes. Diane Marlatt died in 1998 at the age of 63. [8]

D29. Dions

(see B7 & D12)

Claude and Margot Dion bought the Black Property in 1967 from the McKenzies. Mrs. McKenzie kept the portion which became the Rosses' and lived in the small cabin there until she left the valley. Dions owned and ran the Dion's Grocery Store (Four-Way Market) in Rutland.

The year after the Dions arrived, the highway department showed up with plans to construct the present Highway 33. This plan affected them more than anyone else in Joe

Rich. The plan they were presented with was to build a major highway right through the middle of their property and cut off their house and barn from the largest portion of their land. The way in which they handled this bad news and turned it into good news for the highway people and themselves is a lesson in diplomacy. Their response to the highway department was, "Yes, you can build the highway through our property, but the land across the highway from the house and barn will be difficult for us to access across a busy highway. Therefore, we would like permission to subdivide the area cut off from us." Their request made sense and so the Department of Highways agreed. "But", said the highway people, "You will have to maintain the roads." "No", said the Dions. "The roads are the old Joe Rich Road and you have the equipment. We would like you to maintain the road." Again, the highways department saw the logic and so they agreed. Mrs. Dion then offered to feed the Dawson Construction crew who were building the highway. The food must have been good. Certainly, the construction crew were grateful. As a 'thank you gift', before they left the valley, they paved the Dion's very long driveway. And so, the property was divided. The portion northeast of the highway extended down to Mission Creek. The creek-side part was divided up and sold to Norm Fast and the Farrows. The rest of the property northeast of the highway was subdivided into the Greystoke Subdivision in 1969. A large well with a pump and cisterns was set up close to Joe Rich Creek, south of the highway and is used to supply water to the subdivision.

Claude Dion's parents, Donoza and Alexia Dion, known to the community as Grandpa and Grandma Dion, lived in the home the Blacks had built. This later became the house and property of Don Friesen. He has now built a new house close to the old cabin.

Claude and Margot renovated several other buildings to the north and made them into a pleasant home. Their children are: Dennis, born in 1958, Claudine, born in 1965 and Pierre, born in 1968 in Joe Rich and still living here. Claude had now died and Margot is now living downtown where their daughter, Claudine also lives. Pierre lives in the house on their remaining 17 acres of Joe Rich property.

Still standing on the property is one of Joe Rich's 12 oldest buildings, the barn built around 1908 by Billy Black. [8,11,57,74]

#### D30. Vanderwerf

Fred Vanderwerf bought Reno Culos's property in 1977. Culos had purchased it from R.C. Parkes. Fred subdivided the property and sold half of it.

When he first moved onto the property there was a collapsing old cabin on it close to Joe Rich Creek. In the cabin was copper tubing which appeared to be part of an old still. Dave Weddell suggests that this was probably where Mr. Giesa made his fortified and very tasty wine. Giesa was a Hungarian refugee who had come here in 1956 at the time of the Hungarian Revolution. [8]

#### D31. Hockeys

James (Jack) Clifford Hockey was a Canadian soldier in World War I and served with the T. Eaton Machine Gun Battery. He was wounded in the abdomen. When he had recovered he returned to duty, but as a motorcycle dispatch rider. In England, he

married. He and his wife, Dorothy Alice remained there for a few years. Iris, their first child was born in London.

In 1951, Jack Hockey and his family bought the Bailey House from the McKenzies (now owned by the Weddell's and called the Brewer House by them). They lived there with their four children: Iris, who became Mrs. Uppenborn, Marion, who was Mrs. Rogers and later became Mrs. Karran, Thelma, who married Mike Feniak, and Nathan, who was a great guitar player. Jack Hockey raised cattle and sold Christmas trees; 5,000 of them one year.

Jack Hockey also grew turnips and to irrigate these, he set up the first sprinkler system in Joe Rich using water out of Joe Rich Creek.

The Hockeys sold their place to the Brewers. They obtained DL5110 at the end of Schram Road as a Crown Grant in 1961. There, they built a house which they moved into. They sold it to Elwyn and Annabelle Ritchey in 1967. It was then sold to Elmer James Goerlitz. Roy Harold Gordon Mortenson then bought it in 1968. He sold to Brian Lovig in 1990, who sold to Joe Steinklaebl who now owns it.

When Hockeys sold out in Joe Rich in 1958, they bought 30 acres in what is now the Toovey Road area. Many homes have now been built on the property which they bought there and which they sold to Mr. Toovey. James Hockey died in Cottonwoods, six months past his one hundredth birthday, nursed by his daughter, Mrs. Uppenborn.

Iris and Wilfred Uppenborn lived most of their married life in Joe Rich. Mike and Thelma Feniak bought the Nicholas place (High Lonesome Ranch) and lived in Joe Rich after they were married. They sold out in 1966 and bought a small farm in Beaverdell where they now live.

The Hockey girls, especially Iris and Thelma, were great singers. *[8,28,53]*

#### D32. Laboucaines

Mrs. Laboucaine was the daughter of Claude and Betty Pearce. The Laboucaines owned the property and built the house in which the Muttits now live. *[8]*

#### D33. McInneses

McInneses lived in the house between Marlatt's and Marcia Aitkens'. It was owned by Marvin Dick and then Ron Graves and his parents. Ron ran a back hoe business. Graves sold it to McInneses. Ed. McInnes worked in Kelowna in a wheel alignment shop and then in the fire department. He played the bag pipes. When Ed. died in 1996, his daughter and son-in-law, Bill Wiggin took over his house and property. Bill works at Kelowna Flight Craft. *[8,20]*

#### D34. Slyters

Wayne Slyter was born in 1919 and grew up on a farm in Rimbey, Alberta about 50 miles northwest of Red Deer. His father, Wes was a logger and expert with horses. He introduced Wayne to the woods and to horses and inspired him with his work and his stories of horse drawn trains of sleighs loaded with logs and skidded in ice ruts down to the mill.

At the age of 20, Wayne was called up and went off to Europe for over five years in the Canadian Army with the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. He was at Normandy beach on D-Day in a Sherman Tank. Going through Holland, he was shot in the leg, transported out

to Ghent and back to England to a military hospital. When he was healed, he returned to his outfit and finished the war with them in Germany.

Back in Canada after the war, Wayne began logging first in Winfield, Alberta. His parents were working for Justin McCarthy and living in his camp in Joe Rich in March of 1948, when his father died. A woman was cooking for the camp, but was not aware that she was a typhoid carrier. She infected milk which Wesley Slyter drank. He died of typhoid in Kelowna before the doctors were sure of his diagnosis. Wayne came out for the funeral and never left. His mother, Lena also stayed in Kelowna until her death in 1963.

When Wayne arrived in Kelowna, he was a 26 year old, medium-sized, red-blond headed, wiry young man who during the war had learned how to look after himself and work with other men. He liked people and he liked horses. Justin McCarthy had a logging camp just down hill from where Philpott Road now joins Highway 33 and Wayne began work there with a bay team that belonged to 'Shorty McClelland'. There was lots of work in the woods and many of the workers were inexperienced. He remembers working with a novice Englishman they called "Upside-down Thompson". He put a horse collar on upside-down and wondered why the horse didn't work. Occasionally, he worked with 'Red' McCulloch, a son of the engineer who had designed the Kettle Valley Railway. 'Red' built two donkey engines which he mounted on the backs of large trucks and used to skid and lift logs.

The trees were felled with crosscut saws, limbed and cut to length and then Wayne and other skidders dragged the logs out to the landings with their teams. There the logs were loaded onto trucks and taken down the Joe Rich gravel road to Rutland Saw Mill which stood where Mara Lumber is now situated in Rutland. A French Canadian fellow owned the mill and sold it to John Olinger. The trucks were loaded with a cable from a pulley on an A frame. The team pulling on the cable lifted the log and then the truck backed under the A frame and the log. The team backed up to lower the log onto the truck. The cable was then detached from the log and at this point Wayne's helpers often let the cable go. It would race back through the pulley and fall to the ground. Wayne would then have to climb the A frame with a line and haul the cable back through the pulley before he could lift the next log with his team. It was a big waste of time and energy. It happened frequently enough so that he threatened to quit, but of course never did.

Logging was always dangerous. Once Wayne was working in the bush when another skidder riding his large draught horse with its harness still on with a singletree attached rushed down the mountain to find him. He told Wayne that a driver who had been loading his truck on a side hill landing, had been crushed by a log. Wayne and the other skidder rushed up and found the driver under a large log which had rolled down on top of him. He was dead.

The loggers were a close group of men. There was Dick Wigglesworth, a good skidder, but a man with a temper and a large vocabulary of shouted curse words which he continuously used on his horses. There were Gerald "Leather cock" Brooks and his brother, Glenn, the High brothers and sometimes their dad, Ivan and Norm Prosser, Clarence Favel, a native logger, Jimmy Lind, who got the first tandem axle truck in this area, Larry Layden with his hippy long hair, Gordy Niel, who was electrocuted when he felled a tree across a power line, Ray Nichols, Oley Larson, Reg Stubbs and many others.

They sometimes didn't all work together, but even when they were working in different camps, each usually knew where the others were logging.

Sometimes they relaxed together with a beer. Wayne remembers when a group of them got into a batch of home brew beer he was making with a recipe he had gotten from Mary Weddell. It had only been brewing for six days, when Stuart Weddell suggested that they try a little. It tasted good so he, Stuart and a friend by the name of Cleveland got the whole crock, ladled it into cups and drank it sediment and all.

For a while, Wayne and his wife lived in a cabin with a barn on the property where Lindahls now live.

From the camp below Highway 33 and Philpott Road, Justin Mccarthy moved his camp up to Buck Creek on the northwest side of the Mission Creek valley on what is now the downhill side of Three Forks Road. They logged out of that camp for a long time. Bud Bubar and his wife Pat (Weddell) Bubar were also there when Cyril was a baby. Wayne remembers that there was a women cooking for the camp who had a cat. The cat had just had kittens when Ivan Prosser showed up one day in a logging truck with his Black Labrador Dog sitting beside him. The dog ran into the cookhouse and was snooping around when he was attacked by the mother cat. The terrified dog left right out through the screen door with the cat riding on his back firmly attached by her claws.

From the Buck Creek camp, Wayne moved over to a camp at Foolhen. Finally, he started his own logging operation at Grouse Creek on the south side of the Mission Creek Valley across from Bald Range and the present Saura place. For a month or so, they camped out there and then built a permanent camp. They trucked the logs down hill, across the creek and up to the present Highway 33. For years, he managed his crew there. He and the Petches became partners in what they called 'S & P Logging'. They logged Mildred Wardlaw's Property beside McCulloch Lake. She was living alone with her animals. One day when he was visiting with her, he noticed three pots on the stove; one for her, one for the dogs and one for the cats. He asked her if she ever got the pots mixed up and she replied, "Sometimes".

When Wayne retired, he bought and built a home on property right across the Mission Creek valley from where he had worked for such a long time. Quite naturally, he called his place the Grouse Creek Ranch, the property which Hanu Saura now has. Also quite naturally he bought horses. Two of these were a beautiful red roan team of big Belgians just 18 months old and full of energy. Wayne had a steep switch back road down through his property to Mission Creek where the old road crossed the creek. One day he harnessed the team to his rubber tired democrat wagon and with his dog on the seat beside him set off to drive the team down to the creek. When they got onto the steep part of the hill the young horses were upset by the wagon pushing forward against their legs and so went faster. They were soon out of control. The wagon shaft broke. The wagon then lost normal steering and pushed harder against the horses. They responded with even more speed. Wayne knew a sharp corner was coming up and that the horses wouldn't make it, so he bailed out on the uphill side. He landed on a pile of rocks and the empty democrat went over his legs. The horses, the democrat and the dog still on the seat disappeared around the corner. Bruised, Wayne climbed back up the road to his house and drove his four-wheel drive pickup down where he'd been. The horses had made it around the corner, but the democrat had rolled over down the bank. One of the horses had shed all its harness. The other had some harness and broken equipment still attached.

The democrat had come apart. The wheels and chassis were in one place. In another was the upper part of the democrat with the seat attached and the dog sitting on it. He had a look on his face that seemed to say, "What the hell is going on here". [1]

#### D35. Benings

The Bening family lived for a while in a cabin on the Black's property. Mr. Bening who was Swiss and sometimes referred to as Herr Bening. He had come to Canada in 1912 and at first worked as caretaker for Mrs. Mabel Bright and her family who had a lovely home in the Belgo. Later, he had a thirty mile trapline which stretched from Big White to Little White. The Bening children were Dorothy, born in 1922 and Elsie, born in 1924. They attended the Joe Rich School in 1929. The family spent the summers in Joe Rich so that Mr. Bening could get home at night from his trap line. They did this until Elsie was 16.

In 1926, their friends, the Millers lost their Kelowna home to fire. The Millers moved up to Joe Rich and stayed with the Benings. Donald and Neva Miller attended the Joe Rich School from Christmas to spring time.

The Bening girls were good friends with Christine Mack and Elsie has fond memories of the Philpott twins. They played cards with Leo Fazan at the Macks. On one occasion Leo tipped his chair back and went right through the window behind him.

Elsie remembers great fishing in the Joe Rich Creek and even caught 8 to 12 inch trout in the V – shaped irrigation troughs in the lettuce fields and then kept the fish alive in the horse trough!

She remembers having an alarm clock that Cecil Philpott really wanted – she thinks he may have needed it to get up for work – and she traded it for a tobacco can of fish hooks!!

At the Belgo home they had a horse named 'Flossie' that the girls thought they had bought for 5 pennies (all they had), but actually Mr. Bening had bought it for \$5. Flossie never came up to Joe Rich, but Elsie remembers being very excited when they heard that Allan Fazan was bringing Flossie up to Joe Rich. They were very disappointed when they realized it was his wife who was called Flossie.

Elsie married Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Bening died on Abdication Day, 1936 at the age of 56. He was up at his trap line with Harry Band. He had a trapper's cabin at the end of Three Forks Road across Mission Creek. It seems he became ill while on the line and made his way to the cabin dropping his gun on the floor and falling into bed. Harry Band came in soon after and thought he was sleeping, but he had passed away. [8,37]

#### D36. Heptons

The Heptons were Irish. Ernest had been a policeman in England. He had gone to Ulster with the 'Black and Tans' after World War I and from there had decided to come to Canada with his family in 1928. He was eligible for help from the Soldier's Settlement Board and also had a small pension from his time in the Black and Tans. In Kelowna, he worked a year in orchards and then was hired by the Black Mountain Irrigation District. He was the ditch walker for the lower section of the irrigation ditch and did the same job there that Mr. Charlie Philpott did for the upper end of the ditch. The lengths of ditch for which they were responsible met at Eight Mile Creek at the

present hairpin curve. For two years, the Hepton family lived in Joe Rich; for a year with Mr. John Findlay and then in the cabin belonging to George Patterson. Later, they moved to the Eight Mile Creek area where they had a small home just to the northeast of the present highway, on the right side as one drives to town, and near the top of the Clever's Hill.

Betty born in 1923, Jack born in 1925 and Ernest born in 1926 attended the Joe Rich School in 1931. Vera was born in 1927. In 1934, Jack, Betty and Ernie were in the first class at the Black Mountain School which opened that year. They travelled to school in a two-wheeled cart in summer and a cutter in winter, down the big hill from Eight Mile where they lived. The school had a shed where their horse could wait for the trip back up the hill when school got out.

Vera remembers walking the ditch with her father carrying his .22, one Sunday morning. The gophers sometimes dug holes in the bottom of the ditch and their burrows could create a water leak or even a wash out. When they came to a gopher, Mr. Hepton gave Vera the gun and told her to shoot it. She replied, "Dad, I can't do that. It looks like an old woman". The gopher survived, and Vera never walked the ditch again with her father.

Betty married Charlie Philpott. Jack Hepton was enlisted in the Canadian Forces and was killed overseas.

Gert remembers the New Year's Eve parties which Inez Philpott used to put on. The guests dressed up for the occasion. Gert went in high heeled shoes and a stylish short dress which was in fashion then. During the evening, she noticed that Betty was looking very sad and asked her why. Betty said it was because no one would ride with her. To cheer Betty up, Gert offered to go for a ride, but neglected to ask what the ride would involve. Betty led her outside to her skidoo and in their party dresses and shoes they roared off into the snowy night.

On September 8, 1950 when Ernie was 23, he, Allan Frost and young Jacky Frost went fishing in the Greystokes. Ernie and Allan made a log raft and pushed off the shore of one of the small lakes to fish. While Jacky watched from the shore, Allan who couldn't swim well because of a polio damaged leg, fell into the lake. Ernie jumped in to save him and both were drowned.

Mr. Hepton lived in Kelowna until his death in 1982 at the age of 81. His wife, Jane died at the age of 78 in 1977. *[8,15,22,69]*

#### D37. Highs

Billy Huckle sold his property to Ed Sullivan who sold it to Andrew High. The High family moved into Huckle's cabin where they lived for 4 or 5 years before selling to Jim Weddell.

The boys in the High family were Robert, Stan and Cliff. Both Andrew and his son, Cliff worked logging for Jim Weddell. Cliff and his brothers also worked for Wayne Slyter logging Grouse Creek on the south side of the Mission Creek Valley. *[22]*

#### D38. Aitkens

Marcia Josephine Aitkens was born in her family's Cadder Avenue home in Kelowna. Dr. Shepherd was her uncle. He owned property and had built a cabin on

Mission Creek just upstream from Ron Cherry's present property sometime around 1920. During her childhood Marcia visited the cabin often and learned to love the outdoors there. When she had finished her high school in Kelowna, she took nursing training at the coast and later went on to post-graduate degrees. When World War II began, she joined up as a nurse and travelled with the army. After the war, she entered the academic side of nursing and held many important positions as head of schools of nursing both in Canada and the United States. She was bright, well-educated and a clear thinker who wasn't afraid to speak her mind. She was active in the Girl Guide Movement and continued to enjoy the out of doors.

When she finally retired, Marcia acquired her uncle's cabin which her sister, Mrs. Sager had owned. Dr. Shepherd's original cabin had washed down Mission Creek in a flood that occurred in 1929 and had been rebuilt between 1932 and 1934. She built an additional part onto the cabin in 1970 and also moved a small A frame onto the property. She eventually gave this to the Lindahl's who have rehabilitated it as a cabin for their grandsons.

As she aged, her mind remained perfectly clear, but she became very frail. Eventually, she became confined to a wheel chair. She began giving her houseful of treasures away and moved into a nursing home where she died about a year later. Just before her death, her then unoccupied cabin partially burned down and the property was sold. In her will, she left a large amount of money to charities. Her Joe Rich neighbours enjoyed her straightforward approach and broad knowledge and miss her. *[19,64]*

#### D39. Leitch

Bill Leitch arrived in Joe Rich about 1908. The small creek which flows through Russell's property into Joe Rich Creek may be named after him although the spelling is different. It seems unlikely that the creek is named after the blood sucker, because no one seems to have seen a leech in the creek. *[15]*

#### D40. Pearson

Bob Pearson arrived in Joe Rich about 1908. Pearson Creek, which enters Mission Creek where Three Forks Road crosses it, is named after him. *[15]*

#### D41. Darley

Charlie Darley settled in Joe Rich about 1908 according to the cryptic statement in 'Rutland History', but we have no record of him until May 23, 1921 when Charles Beauchamp Darley took DL 4053 as a Crown Grant. That lot is now owned and lived on by Ernie Philpott. Ernie says that there was a very low dirt floored log cabin in the northeast corner of the property which he and the other children played in and called 'the fort' when he was small. This may have been Darley's cabin. Mr. Charles Halby Philpott acquired the property many years later, passed it on to his son, Charlie from whom Ernie has it. The creek which flows into Belgo Creek passing through Monti Philpott's property is named after Darley. Unfortunately, no one can remember him now. *[40]*

#### D42. Tress

Oscar Tress was a homesteader and trapper. His property was obtained by him as a Crown Grant in 1913, and he sold it to William Glenn in 1915. Glenn built the log house and barn. The property was later purchased by the Macks who sold it to Weddells who still have it. [15]

#### D43. Demitors

Howard and Gerry (Geraldine) Demitor moved to Joe Rich October 25, 1960. They had grown up on the prairie where they had married, but they had moved to Toronto to earn enough money to buy a farm. There Howard had worked as a hydro lineman and Gerry as a secretary. After four years, they had enough money to start looking for the farm they dreamed of. Howard assumed they would buy on the prairie, but Gerry talked him into having a look at B.C. They looked at Joe Rich and immediately loved its back woods setting and the idea of farming here. Duncan Stewart's property had been bought by John Armstrong who had it for sale. The down payment was a little more than they could meet and so their offer was turned down. They returned to Toronto disappointed, and Gerry told the story to her employer there. He suggested that they offer to pay one thousand dollars over the price Armstrong wanted, but reduce the down payment to what they could afford. They telephoned Armstrong and he accepted their proposal.

Howard continued the cattle farming which went with the property. Their first year here, he also worked in Kelowna for West Kootenay Power. Then for two and a half years, he worked with the Electrical Department of the city. After that, he started a septic tank business with his large red tank truck euphemistically named 'Petunia' and continued that until 1990. In 1969, he had 140 head of cattle, but sold them and paid off his mortgage. Since then he has raised hay. In 1967, he bought 10 acres from the Hendersons and built the new house on that property in which he and Gerry now live.

Hendersons sold the adjoining 10 acres to Ken Hathaway whose family owned a grocery store at the corner of Highway 33 and Gerstmar. The Joe Rich property was sold by Hathaway to Fletchers, then to Stochers, and then to Jack Stewart and Jean Russell. They sold it to Brian and Laurie Takoff who live there now.

Howard also sold a small parcel of hillside land on the east side of Highway 33 to Rick Kuchter, a good looking bearded young man who had just been discharged from working with the U.S. naval engineering corps. Rick's friends bet him that he couldn't build a house for himself without help. He bet them that he could. By hand, he cleared a small area of land high up the hill above the highway, carried up cement and lumber by hand, poured his foundation and then built a geodesic dome. (Buckminster Fuller had also once been with the Navy). He won his bet and in the process built himself a very unique cozy little home which became known as 'Rick's Roost'. When he was nearly finished, he told Howard that he was running out of money. Howard told him not to worry about late payments, but just to get a job and pay when he could. Rick did, and finished the payments and the house. Suitable work was hard to find for him here so he eventually left, but returned from time to time to his home and to see Howard. Finally, the house was vandalized by vagrants. One of the Demitor boys noticed a pile of used lumber on a Greystoke property, checked out Rick's house and found that the lumber had been removed from it. They suggested that it be returned and it was. Rick finally sold the property to Dan and Sandi Hyatt who built the large home and shop in which they

now live on the site of the 'Roost'. They also built a good driveway to it to avoid having to carry supplies up and down as Rick had originally done. For the past several years, Rick has not returned to Joe Rich, but Howard still has his surveying instrument and so he may be back to claim it someday.

Demitors moved an old house built by Paddy Cameron from Guisachan Road to their property in 1967. It is located between their present house and Duncan Stewart's 'new house' on the property now owned by Bob Murphy.

Howard and Gerry have raised three children in Joe Rich: Monica born in 1960, Dave born in 1963 and Tim born in 1971. Monica is now married and works as a haemodialysis administrator in the U.S. Dave works and travels for Dupont International and until recently lived on Huckleberry Road in the Tamarack Park subdivision. Tim is a mechanic just married and about to move to Walla Walla, Washington. For years, Gerry worked at Okanagan College, but both she and Howard are now retired. Most of their property has been sold to Bob Murphy who operates it as a horse ranch. He also owns the Serta Mattress Company. He has beautifully renovated Duncan Stewart's old barn originally built by John Findlay in 1938 and keeps 100 horses there.

In 1966, when Howard was haying, the cover on his mower caught in the sickle bar and was shot off into his face producing a severe injury with major facial fractures and a very large laceration. Don Campbell, Gert Weddell's nephew was working with him and came running down to Weddell's to get Pat, the community nurse. Howard's eye was torn out onto his cheek and he remembers pushing it up into place with his hand. He was told he would have very little vision in that right eye, but fortunately the prediction was incorrect and his vision has returned to near normal.

The Demitor's greatest contribution to Joe Rich was the work they both put into getting power and telephone services to Joe Rich. Gerry wrote the many letters which were necessary. Inez Philpott helped. Howard, with his experience as a lineman organized the practical work of bringing in the line. When they first applied to the Public Utilities Commission in the early 1960s, they were told "no way", but in 1964, they reapplied on behalf of Joe Rich. Most of the commission was reluctant to consider Joe Rich because the residents couldn't afford the cost of having the line put in. However, Howard volunteered to get the residents to put the line in themselves if West Kootenay Power would give them the poles. The board chairman, Dr. Angus was impressed and sent Mr. McMynn out to look the situation over. He and Howard walked the whole proposed line from Black Mountain to Joe Rich and Mr. McMynn stayed with the Demitors over night. He agreed to recommend the project. When the poles arrived in the early fall of 1965, the residents all pitched in with enthusiasm. A hired backhoe dug the holes and a skidder of Philpott's with a home-made steel frame built from an old car chassis fastened to one end picked up the poles and dropped them in the holes. The women cooked up food for the community crew and brought it out to the work site. They worked on the crew as well. In only a week all the poles were in. During the next six weeks the wire was strung by Betts Electric. Howard climbed every one of the poles. Near the end of Philpott Road a wire got away, caught him and spun him round, but fortunately his belt held and he did not fall. By late autumn, the power was connected and most homes had light. Telephone wires were strung on the same poles, but the power and phone hook-up cost Joe Rich residents \$1,100 per family, a lot of money. It was all

an impressive piece of work written up on the front page of the Vancouver Sun as a demonstration of just what a great community spirit could accomplish.

Howard helped individual homes to bring the power in from the line. Everybody's hook-up was passed by the inspector for West Kootenay except for Howard's own hook-up. His chimney was too close to the wire and the wire had to be moved.

It was only after power had come to Joe Rich, that Big White decided to extend the line on to the ski village and mountain. [28]

#### D44. Russells

Frank and Pat Russell moved to Joe Rich in 1962 and purchased the property which the Smiths had originally owned. Here, they raised their daughter, Kathy who is now an archaeologist and cartographer in the U.S. Their property had passed from the Smiths to the Spencers and then to the Christensons from whom they bought it. The original 160 acres had been subdivided and the parcel on the north side of Mission Creek, the property on which Dunworkin' has been built and another across the Joe Rich Road had been sold. They sold a small parcel to Pat's brother and sister-in-law, Ken and Madeleine Hryciw. They still have 120 acres through which Leech Creek flows.

The original Smith home burned down about 1925. Russells have totally renovated the log house built after that. They have added barns and outbuildings in which they have raised Morgan horses since 1965.

Frank, who is now retired, worked for many years in the design department of Western Star Trucks. Pat once worked for the Courier, but for many years now has raised their horses and grown a very large garden. She undoubtedly knows more about riding trails in and around Joe Rich than anyone else. The Russells have always had a lively interest in both organizational and social community activities. [34]

#### D45. Muttits

Muttits property across the highway from the Russell's property was also originally part of the Smith's 160 acres.

In the 1960s, this property was owned by Mr. Pratt. When the proposal was presented for the construction of the present highway, right through the middle of his property, Mr. Pratt said that he would use his gun to stop anyone who began the work. Some took him seriously. One of the highway surveyors, Orlando Hepner refused to go near Pratt's place and even threatened to carry a gun himself. Eventually the problem was settled, but only after the highway people threatened to build the highway a few feet from his front door.

Bob and Verla Muttit ran a trucking and mobile cabin business from their property. Some neighbours objected to the business, but Muttits were able to get commercial zoning of their property which allowed the business to continue. Bob retired and died in 2004 [34]

#### D46. Rosses

Ken and Barbie Ross were active and popular residents of Joe Rich for many years. They owned property on the southwest side of Highway 33 next to the Vanderwerf property. They built a beautiful log home there and welcomed bed and

breakfast guests to an adjacent cabin. They also had an antique shop and a little museum. Barbie worked as an interior designer and Ken was wood's boss for Crown Zellerbach Mill and later Riverside.

They raised a family of four boys: Ryan, Michael, John and Steven. Gert Weddell and Barbie organized many of the sporting activities for the children.

When Ryan was a toddler, he disappeared and the community was mobilized to find him. Pat Russell finally did. He was locked between the two doors in the old schoolhouse.

Their children have now grown up and left home. Ken and Barbie have moved to her father's property on the Kelowna lakeshore. *[8]*

#### D47. Mullens

Don (Moon) Mullen was a heavy-duty mechanic who bought the property at the base of Three Forks Road where the Birches now live. There was already a little cabin on the Belgo Creek. It was said to have been built in the late 1920s, to have burned down and then to have been rebuilt as a concrete block structure. Just above it and up the creek a few feet, Mr. Mullen built the present house in 1973. It is closer to the creek than would be legal now. There, his wife, Dorothy ran a Vacation Bible School one summer with Gerry Demitor. The Mullens sold to Ken Titus and his wife, who sold to John and Donna Birch in 1980. *[19,28]*

#### D48. Pratts

Fred and Isabel Pratt owned the property across Thelwell Road and immediately north of the Russells. Both properties had been part of the original 160 acre Smith property, but it had been subdivided and the Pratts owned the portion north of the Joe Rich Road. The Pratt children were Ken, Diane, Jimmy and Doug.

In 1968, the Department of Highways began planning the building of the present Highway 33 and decided the best route was right through the middle of Mr. Pratt's property. Negotiations took place, but Mr. Pratt was not happy with the offer and refused to let the highway cross his land. He put up a large threatening sign and warned all who would listen that he would shoot any highway employees who tried to cross his property. But the Department of Highways was determined to follow what they thought was the best route, even if it cut Pratt's property in half. According to other Joe Rich residents, the highway people didn't show much respect for the opinions or property of local people affected by the construction. Never intending to use it, the highway planners surveyed a phoney route through Serwa's and Russell's property and up the old Joe Rich Road (now Thelwell) passing only a few feet in front of Mr. Pratt's front door. Their ruse worked. Mr. Pratt finally agreed to let them cross the middle of his property where the highway goes today. His property was eventually subdivided to separate off what is now the Muttit's property on the north side of the highway. *[8,16,28,34]*

#### D49 Prathers

Daniel (Bruce) Prather was the first to homestead on the land later known as the Pyman Ranch on the southwest shoulder of Black Mountain.

He came to this area by covered wagon with a group of eight wagons from Lewiston and Clarkston in the Snake River country on the boarder of Idaho and

Washington. They travelled overland, crossed the Columbia River, arrived at the boarder on June 27, 1893, continued on up to Penticton and from there took the S. S. Aberdeen to Kelowna. The Okanagan Valley bottom land was already taken so the group settled in the Black Mountain Area.

Prather was the first to use irrigation in this area. He took water from the little creek on the west side of the Goudie Road area which now bears his name. Prather Creek now flows across Goudie Road to join Daves Creek and with it to form Eight Mile Creek.

Prather Road branches off Jack Pine Road west of Goudie Road.

Others of these American settlers also located in the Black Mountain area. Jim McClure and his family took land where Gallagher Road and Highway 33 now meet. *[3,68]*

#### D50 Morrises

In 1982, Jules Morris, a school teacher and his wife Pat, a Home Care nurse moved into Joe Rich and purchased a property on the flats south of Mission Creek that had been part of the Black property. There they built a prefabricated Swedish home and raised their family, Matthew, born in 1983 and Carmen, born in 1985.

In 1987, they were joined by Jules' older brother, Brian, his wife, Darlene and their daughter, Susan. Brian and Darlene bought a more westerly portion of the same Black property and designed and built their own home there. Brian is in real estate and has been involved in construction. Darlene is an ardent horse back rider.

Both families have continued to live in Joe Rich and both have been very actively involved in the community. Jules, with his interest in environmental issues and recreational activities has been part of several groups dealing with those subjects locally. He was the leading organizer behind the building of the rink and recreational area behind the hall in 1994. Brian has contributed more to the Fire Department than anyone else. He was a member of the department for 15 years and was Fire Chief for 12 years during a period of rapid expansion. *[71,72]*

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## H. FOOTNOTES

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*I Wayne Slyter*

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  - 5 Veronica "Ronnie" Casorso and her daughter Diane Loseth
  - 6 Anne Curts
  - 7 Iris (McKay) Merrill
  - 8 Jim and Gert Weddell
  - 9 Pat (Weddell) Bubar
  - 10 Margaret (Weddell) Hine
  - 11 David Weddell
  - 12 Terry Fazan
  - 13 Alice Lundy
  - 14 Lettie Band
  - 15 British Columbia Archives
  - 16 Stan and Marion Lindahl
  - 17 Charlie Adams
  - 18 Edithe (Philpott) Ross
  - 19 John and Donna Birch
  - 20 Jonathan Miller
  - 21 Fred Vanderwerf
  - 22 Cliff High
  - 23 Kathleen (Philpott) Krieger
  - 24 Sherry (Philpott) Adhikary
  - 25 Black Mountain Irrigation District
  - 26 Trudy Philpott
  - 27 Brent Lindahl
  - 28 Howard and Geraldine Demitor
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  - 33 Murray Roed: *Geology of the Kelowna Area, 1995*
  - 34 Frank and Pat Russell
  - 35 Al Harrison
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  - 38 Doreen Smith
  - 39 Budge (W.E.Bill) Winter
  - 40 Ernie Philpott
  - 41 Cliff Serwa
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  - 43 Amanda Graham
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*61 Canadian Weather Office, Kelowna Branch*  
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*63 BC Registry of Crown Grants*  
*64 Susan (Aitkens) Van Hees*  
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*66 James Cornelsen*  
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*68 Art Gray*  
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*70 Ellen (Black) Mark*  
*71 Brian Morris*  
*72 Jules Morris*  
*73 Teresa Appel*  
*74 Margot Dion*  
*75 Peggy Lee*