

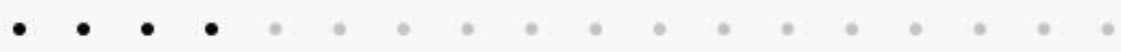
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Forward

It has taken me some time, as a recorder of local history, to realize that history is the lifestyle of the populace at that particular time period. This lifestyle is based on that era in our country's development, the location, economy, social structure, and the current technology in communication and transportation.

All history is local history somewhere. Still, no history, properly understood is of merely local significance. The mining, agriculture, and industrial history determine settlement patterns. The social and cultural



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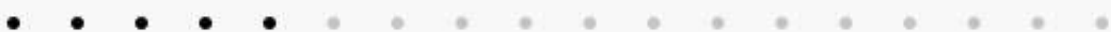


past are all significant to our present day .

The interaction of culture with environment and economics determines the economic life in a given environment, in this instance the three southern valleys of British Columbia, the Okanagan, Similkameen and Tulameen.

The economy of our valleys has changed several times. At one time it is estimated that there were 20 000 head of cattle in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys which were trailed to the mining camps. The fruit industry that followed relied on the sternwheelers and the railroads to take its product to the end consumers. The Similkameen and Tulameen valleys were predominantly mining. These same railroads took the ore and coal from the mines to smelters. Telegraph and telephone were the communication technology at that time. Communication technology has played a significant part in the valleys' development.

I started listening and recording the reminiscences of some of the folks who had experienced the 1920's, 30's, and 40's, and were able to give an account of the era before that from the stories told by their parents and grandparents forty years earlier.





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There was a time before television, cell phones, and iPods, when people listened to the stories of experiences in earlier times. This is a rich source of cultural and economic tradition.

This book is about the lifestyles of the early settlers and those people who have chosen to live in the Okanagan, Similkameen and Tulameen valleys. Whenever possible, the lifestyle is documented from the reminiscences and memories of the people who lived, worked, and enjoyed life in any particular era, from the early cattlemen and miners to the modern entrepreneur.

It is my contention that “*Those who were there tell it best!*”



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Acknowledgments

Compiling a publication such as this one is a momentous undertaking, which would not have been possible without the help of a myriad of people. I did rely heavily on the expertise of the executive of the Okanagan Archive Trust Society, of which I am a member. Many of the photos used in this publication are also from the Okanagan Archive Trust Society.



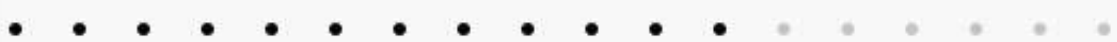
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Brian Wilson, a long time friend and photo archivist, used his knowledge and research of Southern British Columbia to prepare an overview of the history of the region and Okanagan Falls. He also selected and provided some photos from the Trust's extensive archive. Ken Mather, manager of the O'Keefe Ranch, helped with the early history of O'Keefe and the North Okanagan. Dr. David Gregory, who has completed significant original research on the Summerland area, prepared the section on Summerland. George Bergson, who has researched the history of the Canadian National Railway, documented some of the highlights of rail and water transportation in the Okanagan. Charlie Nash edited the section on the Barcelos of Keremeos. Jack Bennest, who's expertise is in radio and communication, documented the early development of radio in the area. He also outlined Oliver's early airport.

I have interviewed literally hundreds of Southern British Columbia current and former residents to document their early lifestyles. Many have since deceased, but their contribution is documented either in the form of an interview or a caption under one of the many photos in this publication.

Marvin Peters, a graphic designer and friend, who



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was instrumental in designing and formatting our latest publications, also designed this one.

The person I would most like to acknowledge is my wife, Joyce, who has supported, encouraged, and helped me with all of the history-lifestyle publications that I have compiled. She has been an editor, mentor, advisor, and marketing consultant. I could not have completed this or any other publications without her assistance.

- Doug Cox

