

## T H E G R A P E V I N E

January 16, 1950

### CUMSHEWA INLET FREEZE UP

January 11--Camp crews are walking between the two camps, Aero and Morgan's at the head of Cumshewa inlet, on seven inches of ice.

All camps in Cumshewa are closed because of weather conditions.

### Mosquito Lake the Warm Spot

Mosquito Lake has remained free of ice. It is thought it must be fed by warm springs issuing from deep down in the earth. This lake is now, of course, very useful to the Queen Charlotte Airlines as it is the only spot that is free from ice, thus being the only point the planes can land to service the Cumshewa camps. Supplies and personnel landed there are taken down to Aero camp by truck.

### INJURED MAN FLOWN TO CHARLOTTE

January 11--Roy Berryman, pilot of Q.C.A.'s Skidegate Queen, made an emergency mercy flight, picking up a wounded member of the Department of Transport lighthouse tender, "Alberni", Tom White, and bringing him to the Queen Charlotte hospital.

Berryman at first intended to fly direct from the "Alberni", then at Heater Harbour, to Prince Rupert; but he found there was not sufficient daylight for the trip.

### HOSPITAL NEWS

Three boys have been born in the last 7 days. Flo Chastney had a 6 lb. 9 oz. boy Jan. 2nd, Jobey Jones an 8 lb. 10½ oz. boy Jan. 6th, and Vesta Helma a 9 lb. 12 oz. boy Jan. 9th.

Our hospital correspondent informs us that Mrs. Helmer's baby is the biggest baby ever born in the hospital.

It is interesting to note that during 1949, 15 boys and 16 girls have entered the Charlotte world.

George continues to keep up the good work, and the water is still running freely at the hospital.

Mrs. Grace Kendall, RN, is once again matron of the hospital.

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Helliwell are now helping out at the hospital.

### THE WEATHER

January 12--Coldest day in Vancouver for 43 years. Official temperature 2.7 degrees, unofficially some thermometers registered 6 below.

January 13--Temperatures this morning: Ocean Falls, zero; Terrace, 20 below; Houston, 64 below.

January 14--Vancouver--Last night was the coldest night on record, when the temperature dropped to zero.

The ice is thick in the waters around Port Clements. In some places it is nearly 12 inches. However, boats can still navigate, as much of the ice is in large broken chunks.

Betsy, Mrs. Kendall's cow, was so cold the other day, that she was backing up to the exhaust of the light plant. We haven't tried

using a lighting plant to keep warm, but it may be a good idea.

In Charlotte: The weather as we all shiveringly know, remains cold. The number of hot water bottles taken to bed is startling. Mr. Hanson was heard to say, "The heck with this life. I'm going to get married." "I can't stand these cold mornings." I'm afraid what Mr. Hanson suggests is no remedy. We must pray for warmer weather. The cost of feeding a wife to keep her warm is too high these days.

#### FISHING NEWS

##### Locating Fishing Gear or Grounds by Radio Aid

Winds and gales frequently result in crews having to cut loose and run for shelter. It usually happens that when a vessel returns to recover the gear abandoned in a hurry, the exact position cannot be located and valuable time is lost in searching, often in vain. In these days of high operating costs, fishermen can little afford losses of either gear or time involved in searching for gear.

Of interest to the industry, then, may be an article in Fishing News, an English publication, which reports an invention recently patented in Scotland which enables fishing gear and grounds to be marked and located by radio aid. The device consists of a radio buoy containing an electric battery, a small transmitting set, and a short serial similar to those used on automobiles. When the buoy is set to mark a position, it gives off signals which can be picked up on a vessel's direction finder. To eliminate one vessel picking up another's buoy, each buoy is given a certain call signal. The result is that vessels can go straight to their own buoys no matter what the weather.

This invention is reported suitable for many types of fishing operations. These buoys can be used by trawlers in foggy weather to assure that the vessel continues to drag on a particular ground or in a desired position. They can set two buoys and fish between them using the call signals to keep them in the same position even in the thickest fog. Areas where fish are plentiful but which have to be abandoned on short notice, can also be marked.

#### GOSSIP COLUMN

Who was the lady when, on answering a repeated knock on her door in the early hours of the morning and seeing her husband standing there, was heard to happily exclaim, "Oh, I thought you were -----!"

Who was heard to say, "Damn, I'm mad!"

Keep your eyes on Eric Ross. We understand his temporary business is Maggie's Cafe.

Snowball has a new jitterbug partner.

Teddy B. wants a wife. It appears that if he snags one, he will hang onto his shack. If he doesn't succeed, he will go back to the bunkhouse. Come on, you girls, there's your chance!

Remember Fishery Officer Maurice Houghton? Well, he has finally been caught inside the matrimonial boundary. His affections have been confiscated by a Vancouver organization, a small blonde.

#### LOCAL CHATTER

Mrs. Barber in a letter to her husband states that food is still scarce in the Old Country. She requests Art to send her a food parcel every week. According to her, there is still a cigarette shortage--pretty tough on heavy smokers.

The trip across to Liverpool, she said, was very rough. It took nine and a half days and eight of those days very few passengers of the "Brittanic" appeared on deck.

Art fondly expects his wife back some time in April.

Eric Richardson, another wifeless husband, when asked when his good wife would return, was heard to say, "Gawd knows!", but we understand she may arrive at the end of the month.

Walter Klesavitch had a narrow escape when a blow torch he had been using mysteriously blow up a few minutes after he had left it. Neighbouring houses were slightly shaken by the explosion. Eleanor Bernard was quite convinced that it had been another earthquake. The remains of the blow torch is on exhibition at the hotel.

A casual conversation heard in a Charlotte household:  
Olive: "Where were you, Eli?" Eli: "I was down at Mike's."  
Olive: "Was he awake?" Eli: "Yes." Olive: "What was he doing?" Eli: "He was sleeping."

January 13--Poker players were still hard at it this afternoon after an all night session. We wondered if a guard posted at the door to redirect searching wives wouldn't be a good item.

Mrs. Davies is at present visiting relatives on the prairies. Meanwhile, Mr. Davies, with the assistance of Miss Eleanor Bernard, is carrying on nobly.

Ed Ragnery reports he has sold his mill to a co-operative organization called S.O.S. (Sons of Skidegate). It is reported they will take over the mill in June, after receiving instructions from Ed, and start cutting lumber on a co-operative basis for the inhabitants of Skidegate Mission. It is also believed that the first project will be a recreation hall. It is also learned from Ed that he has received a contract from Canadian Fishing Company to build three net floats. We wish him luck.

Kendalls have a new 1949 Chev Panel on the Alliford Bay to Sandspit taxi run.

Serg DeBucy is contemplating trading his station wagon for a regular passenger car.

Fred Walker, our former policeman, and a group of his Sandspit cohorts including that fine Sandspit cook, Morris Kelly, took an extended fishing trip to Liell River. The fishing from where they sat in Port Clements, so they reported, was most excellent.

Lydia Rausch has left for Moosehorn, Saskatchewan, to visit her parents. She formerly worked, as we all know, at W.J. Davies. We presume this is a visit prior to her marriage to A.C. Skipper. We will dance at their wedding, won't we, guys and gals?

Maggie Neuhauer has recently had to scrub the floors of her cafe daily, although water at present is hard packing.

The other night when one of our reporters engaged her in conversation (she, of course, on her knees, scrubbing brush in hand), and asked her the reason thereof, she was heard to mumble words that sounded like, "--61M stoves, soot, neighbours--!"

Friday 13th--Friday the 13th might have been unlucky for some people, or some functions, but there wasn't much sign of unluckiness at the dance held here in Charlotte. Everyone really enjoyed themselves. Just idly glancing around, we saw Art Barber, huge in smiles; Chas. Miller, agile in step; Toddy-Rags "moongazing" in earnest; and a wealth of others deep in dancing.

The highlight of the evening was a "speedball balloon dance" featuring Marge as right tackle.

The music was provided by the up and coming "Hummingbirds."

After the dance, a splendid party was held at Chas. Miller's, at which the old maestro gave forth with "Room Full of Roses", "Gold Mine in the Sky" and many more songs.

#### SHOPPING NEWS

Shoppers will note W.J. Davies has a good stock of fresh meat. For those mothers who find desserts a problem, try ice cream. At present, it comes in bricks, a delicious variety called "Christmas Special", and in bulk in the old favourite flavours of vanilla and chocolate.

KNITTERS! Even if you insist on wearing silk because you don't like the wool pulled over your eyes, look at this bargain:

ALL WOOL, including Kroy, PK, etc., on sale (At W.J. Davies', of course), at a 20% reduction. Furthermore, Mr. Davies states that if the knitter is knitting for a worthy cause, (he is the sole judge), he may even allow a greater reduction.

Do you regularly lose your flashlights? Well, have your name engraved on them at Mrs. Hammer's--charge 50¢.

#### SPORTING NEWS

Velma Fairbairn recently bagged 3 brant and 1 seal. Fishing continues to be good at Tlell.

#### PORT CLEMENTS NEWS FLASHES--JANUARY 13

Mrs. Ward wanted her chicken house fixed. She said as much. Make it coon proof, she said. Well, O.K. Three or four chickens Christmas week graced the coon's lair. Mrs. Ward was annoyed.

Today, the coons got up and chortled, or did whatever coons do, and grabbed the prize rooster.

A terrific racket was heard around the Ward home. Whether it was the chicken house being repaired or just other noises, we can only guess.

#### LATE NEWS FLASHES

January 16--George Rasmussen finally had to give in to old Jack Frost as the hospital pipes froze up last night.

Sid Crosby bought the Forestry panel delivery.

The oil drillers are now 2,144 feet down.