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The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

newsletter

General Correspondence to: P.O. Box 34246, Station D, Vancouver 9, B.C.

June, 1972

Volume 10 Number 2

Newsletter Correspondence to the editor,

Elton A. Anderson,

3904 Benson Rd., Victoria, B.C. (477-1132)

Trails, The Traces of History on Our Land

Trails have played a vital part in our history. Those used by the Indians were our first roads: now many are lost and many more will be if nothing is done. These and other early trails are of particular interest to hikers and historians. If we spent ten times what we do now on trails it would be a good investment.

The Parks Branch does what it can. Using Accelerated Parks Development Fund money they have three men this summer searching for the original location of the Dewdney Trail from Grand Forks to Fort Sheppard below Trail, a project advocated by the Trail Horsemen's Society.

The Branch will complete work this summer on the extension of the Centennial Trail from Manning Park to Cathedral Lakes Park—it is NOT ready for hikers yet. Canadian Youth Hostels workers expect to complete the Skagit Valley section of the Centennial Trail this year.

The narrow and beautiful Skagit Valley from the Hope-Princeton down to the new Skagit Park has historic trails on both sides. The oldest is the Ruby Creek Trail on the west side used by miners heading north to join the Cariboo gold rush. About 1900, Whitworth, a rancher in the lower valley built the trail named for him down the east side. This is still in good shape and is one of the finest easy hikes available to lower mainland people. But this fine valley is not part of the Park because the Forest Service thinks it may be needed for a logging road.

Government money helped Whitworth and was used also on a trail from Seymour Arm on Shuswap Lake east across the mountains (and the Columbia) then down the Tangier River to the Illecillewaet River. Another ran from Revelstoke west across many mountains to Mabel Lake. Shorter ones existed in almost every creek valley.

Grants are helping now. Argenta people have improved the

Earl Grey Pass trail and a Rosedale Teacher has a Mt. Cheam trail project going. Bill Foyston, a Golden guide, has reopened the Fortress Pass Trail—but he had no grant. This branches off the old H.B. brigade trail which ascends the Wood River then goes over Athabasca Pass to Jasper, historically one of our most valuable. It is now difficult to find in parts but both would become available to hikers if the area were made a national park.

We want more information on B.C. trails. Make it a project to gather accurate dope on your local trails.

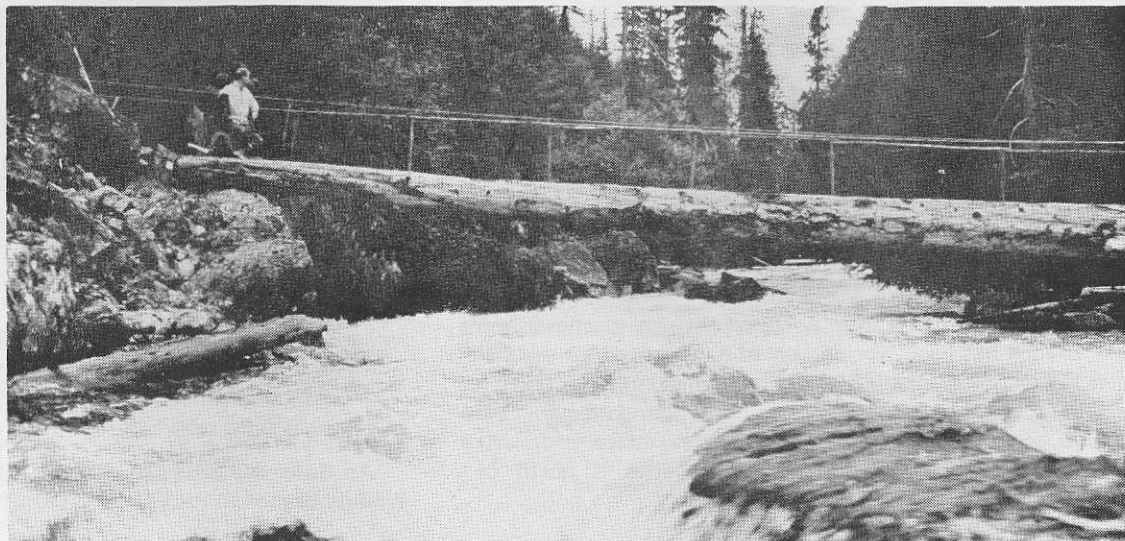
Paradise Meadows Leases Rescinded

The leases on the Dewdney Trail near Punch Bowl Lake have been rescinded so the Federation is asking that at least Recreational Area status under the Parks Act be given the area so it will have some protection.

A park reserve appears likely for the Brigade Trail which passes further to the north. A party will go in this summer to locate it in the Peers Creek timber sales.

Campfire Permits are Now Discarded but as much care as ever with fire is needed—authorities will be watching closely to see if more fires result. And those cigarette butts—better swallow them and be completely safe.

CYH photo



Chilliwack River bridge on Centennial Trail. Built by Canadian Youth Hostels.

Annual Meeting Well Attended by Coast Clubs

All but one of the coast clubs sent delegates to the annual meeting held April 15th in Vancouver, the new Mitlenatch club from Campbell River sending four people. But only the Shuswap, Vernon and Penticton clubs showed up from the interior, even though the site was their choice.

In elections, Elton Anderson became President, Dr. V.C. Brink Vice-President and Mrs. George Durand Secretary. Mrs. Nancy Anderson, David Hatler and William Merilees were re-elected as directors while Richard Wright, a well-known Port Moody photographer and writer, and Frank Paul, a Vernon teacher, were elected to fill vacancies. All other officers and directors remained in office.

A Comox resolution urging protection for the upper White River area was passed along with one asking that all logging operations leave protective green belts along major and minor streams and lakes of 100 and 50 feet respectively. Adoption of patch logging techniques across the province was asked as was cleanup of logging debris from lakes, the province to do the work where the firm responsible could not be identified. A resolution to require that all logs put into lakes be bundled so as to eliminate much of the pollution and deadheads resulting from loose log dumping was sent to the clubs for study.

It was decided to ask that the varied thrush be proclaimed as the official provincial bird. Protection from hunting was sought for rails and mountain quail and an end to collection of extra-limital rarities was sought. More parks in northern B.C. were asked for—see the report elsewhere on this. The Arrowsmith club at Parksville will host the fall meeting with October 14 as the date.

The day concluded with a cocktail hour and dinner at which Lloyd Brooks, Deputy Minister of Recreation and Conservation, gave a fine speech outlining the need in coming years for parkland to cope with the growth of recreational demands. Field trips the next day went to the Skagit Valley (it snowed but they saw 51 bird species including mountain bluebirds and a short-eared owl) and Richmond Nature Park. Credit is due Mrs. Kay Smith and the Vancouver club for a pleasant and successful meeting.

Trumpeters Reported to be Nesting in B.C.

It has been reported to the Fish & Wildlife Branch that a pair of trumpeter swans were nesting on Holberg Inlet and that two cygnets were raised there last year. Nesting reports have also come from the northern B.C. coast so Ray Halladay of the Branch thinks it fairly certain that nesting is occurring, a first for the province.

In this case the birds were disturbed and may have deserted. Ray emphasizes it is essential that no close approach be made since not only may the birds desert but a predator may follow your trail and find the nest.

Parks for Northern B.C. Looming Out of the Fog

Up in the Territories Canada chunked 11 million acres plus into 3 parks recently. And in northern B.C. the proposals the Parks Branch has been working on so hard moved up a notch when Recreation Minister Kiernan announced in response to a story dug out by a Sun reporter that boundaries for the 600,000 acre Mt. Edziza and 260,000 acre Tatlatui proposals would probably be set this year. The latter is north of Hazelton near Thutade Lake.

Another large one coming closer is an area in the Monkman Pass — Kinuseo Falls region which would give Peace River people access to a large park for the first time. But at beautiful Atlin Lake it seems a power development is possible so a 600,000 acre proposal is stalled. So also is one for the Liard River Eskers area as studies on flooding 200 miles of the Liard River continue.

The new Forest Service bridge over the Nass near Meziadin Lake will give limited access from Terrace to the Stewart-Cassiar road this year. To survey park needs in this vast area a UBC party financed by a grant from the accelerated parks development fund will be in there this summer. The aim is to develop for the Parks Branch a computerized rapid-recall system. Some work will be done on ecological reserve and minerals assessment also.

All Unnaturally Quiet on the Western Parks Front

The Nitinat Triangle deadlock in Pacific Rim (phew) Park continues but some further compromise may be in the making. The Cape Scott park also remains in limbo.

A historic park of 1.7 acres has been established at Seton Portage on land donated by the BCR, nee PGE. No other new parks have been announced—possibly the government is too busy denying an election is imminent.

Our Treasurer Has Few Treasures

Dr. Fisher reported that Federation finances are precarious. An appeal to clubs to ask that their members take direct membership as well when able will be made. Some clubs are raising money to assist the Federation.

FBCN deals with individual club identification will soon be available IF enough advance orders come in, reported Nancy Anderson. Five clubs had not yet responded. Elton Anderson said that membership had passed 3500 with renewals coming in well and 2 new clubs forming.

Acting Chairman Dick Stace-Smith, reporting for the large Conservation Committee, said briefs had been presented on Pacific Rim Park (inclusion of the 3 Triangle lakes is recommended) and the Village Lake Louise proposal (the upper village is opposed but limited approval is given for the lower). Port development at Squamish which eliminates most wildlife habitat had been opposed with little success since the land is privately owned. Preservation of the Kettle River above Grand Forks for canoeing was supported and a public meeting seeking protection for the Brigade Trail was held. Many park matters have been worked on with some results beginning to show.

Dave Stirling's written report on Threatened Species says wolves on Vancouver Island appear to be increasing. So are trumpeter swans, 1100 being counted on the Island in the winter of '70-'71. Only 2 peregrine falcons appeared in Christmas bird counts in B.C. Dave suggests the world-wide decline in numbers is linked to the use of pesticides while illegal captures add to the problem.

We regret that Art Guppy, Chairman of the Education Committee, has found it necessary for personal reasons to resign as a director. A new appointment is being made. Following an operation for appendicitis Art prepared a Federation application to the Physical Fitness Fund for a grant but this has since been refused.

An Extensive Study on Falcons is being done by the Fish & Wildlife Branch in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Costa's Hummingbird Visits Victoria

A Costa's hummingbird, seen and photographed by many during its three-day stay, was spotted by Rob Mackenzie-Grieve in his garden at Cadboro Bay. If accepted the record would be the first in Canada.

Forebay Developments May Ease Habitat Losses

It has been suggested that shallows at the head of reservoirs might be sealed off by dykes and maintained as permanent lakes to replace wildfowl habitat lost by flooding. Now Ducks Unlimited is constructing an 80-acre forebay development of this kind at the head of the Libby reservoir—others may follow if the first is successful. Cost is about \$60,000 and the planning was done by the Fish & Wildlife Branch and Canadian Wildlife Service.

It is hoped to show that it would be feasible for B.C. Hydro to ameliorate habitat loss on the Arrow and Mica reservoirs by this means. But drawbacks do exist—birds and aircraft mix very badly and the Revelstoke airport lies beside the inviting site there. Also, seepage problems often necessitate pumping or inflow by other means.

To replace habitat lost on the Duncan River Hydro has already built a somewhat similar development at the south end of the well-known Duck Lake project at Creston where natural flooding limited nesting success sharply. Two miles of 6-foot dyke and 109 nesting islands were constructed and pumps installed. This is a fine start—we hope to see many more such developments in future.

UBC Men Go Down North on Mackenzie Pipeline Study

Three Department of Zoology men from UBC headed by Wayne Campbell are on the Mackenzie River north of Fort Good Hope assessing possible effects a pipeline would have on birds and small mammals. The study is financed by the Environment Protection Board and the effects of removing gravel from islands is a particular area of study.

Others are studying fish and caribou while the Canadian Wildlife Service has a number of men up there also.

Clubs Plan for Another Summer

Arrowsmith's rally for the Island clubs at Englishman River Park brought visitors from all over—why don't we have more inter-club affairs? They have a dozen trips listed. So has the Mitlenatch club, including a 3-day one to the Forbidden Plateau, and a club project is to study black brant over a period of years. Comox studies brant also and is doing a spring waterfowl census for the B.C. Waterfowl Technical Committee. They report raising \$100 for David Anderson's fight against the Valdez pipeline.

Victoria's indestructible 80-year old, Freeman King, helped their juniors hold 45 meetings during the past year. They have many bird and some botany trips planned. Vancouver's list not to hand but they have an overnigher to the Moran damsite and Lillooet and their annual camp will be July 15-22 in the Jackson Basin west of Kaslo.

Chilliwack is concerned about a stand of oaks on Sumas Mtn. and the planning for a park at Chilliwack lake. The Kamloops club is growing fast—maybe their success is due to their club newsletter, a useful feature which every club might have. They hope to see more use made of Wells-Gray Park and will help with advice if contacted.

Mrs. Beacham does a weekly column in the Salmon Arm paper for the Shuswap club—that's good too. Marjike Patterson does a nice news sheet for the Golden club, one which held a city cleanup and generally comes down hard on pollution. So does a group in Revelstoke—we hope to have a club there this year and want to hear from them.

Vernon paddled down the Shuswap River in a March snowstorm—that must be a nice river. They had 120 to see spring flowers at Niskonlith and have two week-long trips planned, one on a second section of the Great Divide Trail. Penticton has 3-day trips to Shuswap Lake and Apex Mtn. and report great numbers of sandhill cranes passing over in late April. They are also trying for preservation of a ponderosa pine stand above Naramata.

The Williams Lake club is aiming to have Boitanio Park made an arboretum for native plants of the Cariboo and have placed 35 color prints of them at the entrance. Prince George will soon present a brief on the Zelkwas Lake proposal 20 miles to the west.

Welcome to Number Seventeen

Nanaimo District Naturalists Club has had a number of outings, publishes a news sheet, and now has about 25 members. Congratulations to our newest member. Port Alberni is also forming a club but hasn't a name as yet.

Our Dr. Brink Is Honored at Kamloops

Dr. Bert Brink, long-time head of the Conservation Committee who this year became our vice-president, was named Agrolologist of the Year at the annual meeting of the B.C. Institute of Agrolologists held in Kamloops.

This is the first time such an award has ever been made. Unfortunately, Dr. Brink was still in Africa on a UN mission to increase food production there.

Some B.C. Trail Guides (all paper covers)

CANADIAN ROCKIES TRAIL GUIDE, by Brian Patton and Bart Robinson. Summerthought Publications, Box 1420, Banff, Alta., \$3.95. Pp. 207, many photos and sketch maps.

An excellent manual covering all seven of the Rockies parks plus a section on the Great Divide Trail by Jim Thorsell. Very full information for the longer trails. Photos very good and maps well done. Close to 200 trails are covered.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, by John Marsh, M. Miller and M. Lindsay. Canadian Recr. Services, Geog. Dept., Trent University, Peterborough, Ont. \$2.00 plus 25¢ postage.

A pleasant trail guide noted in Nov., '71 issue.

EXPLORING MANNING PARK, by Robt. Cyca & Andrew Harcombe, photos by Gundy & Bernie Epting. Gundy's & Bernie's Guide Books, 2315 Alma Rd., Vancouver 8. Pp. 96, \$2.95.

An excellent guide noted in May '70 issue.

HIKING THE HIGH POINTS, ed. Roland Neave. Clow Printing, Kamloops, \$1.75. Pp. 65, 13 foldout sketch maps.

A useful job covering 24 trails in the southern interior with very full information but poor maps. Not beautifully printed but valuable. A Kamloops Outdoors Club job.

MOUNTAIN TRAIL GUIDE, ed. Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (formerly Mtn. Access Committee), Box 3768, Stn. D, Vancouver 9. 1971. Pp. 64, many maps, price unknown.

A laconic but most informative guide to 47 lower mainland trails with excellent sketch maps. Appears the best for the region; all that a guide book should be.

HIKING NEAR VANCOUVER, by Dougald MacDonald. Mitchell Press, Box 6000, Vancouver, B.C. \$3.95.

Covers 20 trails. A nice book with fine photos and some sketch maps. Not always as informative as might be.

HIKING TRAILS, ed. Fred Curtin The Daily Province, Vancouver, B.C., \$1.00. Pp. 57, many sketch maps.

Brief but fairly good dope on 40 or more trails, mostly on the lower mainland. The small sketch maps are poor but the little book is a good dollar's worth.

Officers and Directors of the Federation

Honorary President: DR. RODERICK HAIG-BROWN, Campbell River.
President: ELTON A. ANDERSON, 3904 Benson Road, Victoria (477-1132).

Vice-President: DR. V.C. BRINK, 4135 W. 16th Ave., Vancouver 8 (224-7078).

Immediate Past President: Dr. T.M.C. TAYLOR, R.R. 6, Millstream Road, Victoria (478-2098).

Secretary: MRS. GEORGE DURAND, 619 Alpha St., Victoria (385-0038).

Treasurer: DR. FRED FISHER, 2988 Starlight Way, Port Coquitlam (942-0800).

Regional Vice-Presidents:

Vancouver Island: SID BELSOM, R.R. 1, Comox (334-2802).

Lower Mainland: R. WAYNE CAMPBELL, 301 - 621 Gilbert Road, Richmond (274-2236).

Okanagan: MRS. VI GIBBARD, 465 Ellis St., Penticton (496-5368).

Use of Aircraft to Hunt Polar Bears will soon be illegal in Alaska. But enforcement will remain a problem.

An Appeal for More Direct Members

Two bald facts emerged at the annual meeting: (1) we are doing a lot of useful work across the province but it is a strain on an all-volunteer organization, and (2) we are barely making enough to pay newsletter costs and postage on the hundreds of letters we write.

To tide us over we are asking two classes of our readers to consider joining as direct members. In between the old age pensioners and those who take trips to Hawaii are many who can afford this: we therefore appeal to all our clubs to find us more direct members amongst their people. Remember that the club fees really do little more than pay for the newsletter copies supplied.

We also hand out free copies to many non-members as an inducement to join. We want to show that there is an increasingly effective provincewide organization working to bring a better knowledge of the outdoors to all and also to retain our outdoors values and recreational opportunity. That puts it up to you non-members—if you think this is good please join us. Regard the fees schedule below as enthusiastically as you can: in return you will receive the newsletter and the satisfaction of becoming a part of a responsible and useful organization.

P.S. News has just come in that we have our first Life Member—Dr. W.E. Ricker of Nanaimo. THAT HELPS!

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| INDIVIDUAL: \$4.00 | FAMILY: \$5.00 |
| SUSTAINING: \$10.00 | ACTIVE: \$25.00 |
| CONTRIBUTING: \$50.00 | LIFE: \$200.00 and up |
| AFFILIATE: \$5.00 and up. (Non-profit organizations.) | |
| ASSOCIATE: \$5.00 and up. (Profit organizations.) | |

Send to: Federation of British Columbia Naturalists,
P.O. Box 34246, Stn. D, Vancouver 9, B.C.

(But to keep the newsletter intact just use your own paper.)

Name _____

Address _____

Membership Class _____ Amount encl. _____

Are newsletter mailings desired? _____

Directors:

MRS. NANCY ANDERSON, 2145 Lloyd Ave., North Vancouver (985-4563); FRED A. GORNALL, 4064 W. 20th Ave., Vancouver 8 (224-6973); ROBERT F. HARRINGTON, Galena Bay via Revelstoke; DAVID HATLER, Box 504, Ucluelet; WM. J. MERILEES, Biology Dept., Selkirk College, Calstlegar; FRANK PAUL, 1804 - 30th Ave., Vernon, (542-7629); NORMAN PURSELL, 2338 Ottawa Ave., West Vancouver (922-7992); GARY RUNKA, R.R. 6, Kelowna (762-6417); RALPH L. SHAW, 1031 Fraser St., Kamloops (372-3460); DAVID STIRLING, 3500 Salsbury Way, Victoria (385-4223); RICHARD T. WRIGHT, 2048 Highview Place, Port Moody (936-1723).

An Experiment in France on pheasant and partridge eggs showed that 2, 4-D spray or vapor is very toxic to them. With a normal-use solution about half of 1066 eggs failed to hatch and those that did had abnormalities.

Federated Member Clubs with Contacts for Visitors

VANCOUVER ISLAND

ARROWSMITH NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY — Parksville
A.G. Tranfield, Pres., Allsbrook Rd., Parksville (248-6607).
Mrs. H. Farrell, Secy., Box 421, Parksville (248-6789).

COMOX-STRATHCONA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Courtenay
Miss Phil Capes, Pres., R.R. 1, Comox (339-2708).
Betty or Sid Belsom, R.R. 1, Back Road, Comox (334-2802).

COWICHAN VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY — Duncan
Mrs. Betty McKinnon, Repr., Box 16, Duncan (746-7870).

MITLENATCH FIELD NATURALIST SOCIETY — Campbell River
John Ackroyd, Pres., 1720 Perkins Road, Campbell River.
Mrs. Rosemary Shipway, Secy., Gen. Delivery, Campbell River.

NANAIMO DISTRICT NATURALISTS CLUB
David C. Kerridge, 66 Cilaire St., Nanaimo (758-9727).

THETIS PARK NATURE SANCTUARY ASSOCIATION — Victoria
H.R. Matthews, Pres., 1145 Victoria Ave., Victoria
Miss M.C. Melburn, Sec-Trsr., 2397 Heron St., Victoria.

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Dr. J. Tatum, Pres., 416 - 3187 Shelbourne St., Victoria.
Mrs. G. Hooper, Secy., 2411 Alpine Cres., Victoria (477-1152).

LOWER MAINLAND

CHILLIWACK FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB
John Sargeant, Chmn., 45466 Crescent Dr., Chwk. (795-5230).
Ms. Georgie Haggerty, Secy., 75 Wellington Ave., Chilliwack.

VANCOUVER NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, Box 3021, Vancouver 3.
N. Pursell, Pres., 2338 Ottawa Ave., West Vancouver (922-7992).
Miss H. Graham, Secy., 3394 W. 7th Ave., Vancr. 8 (731-6027).

INTERIOR

CENTRAL OKANAGAN NATURALISTS CLUB — Kelowna

COLUMBIA VALLEY NATURALISTS — Golden
Mrs. C. Scheisser, Trsr., Bridge Books, Golden (344-6131).
Mrs. Frances King, Nicholson (344-2703).

KAMLOOPS NATURALIST CLUB
Slim Kemp, Pres. 2008 Valleyview Dr., Kamloops (374-1792).
Mrs. A. Embleton, 1801 Orchard Dr., Kamloops (372-2309).

NORTH OKANAGAN NATURALISTS CLUB, Box 473, Vernon.
Frank Paul, Repr., 1804 - 30th Ave., Vernon (542-7629).

SHUSWAP NATURALISTS CLUB — Salmon Arm
Derek Beacham, Pres., Box 102, Sorrento.
Mrs. Joyce Henderson, Secy., Box 730, Salmon Arm (832-2098).

SOUTH OKANAGAN NATURALISTS CLUB — Penticton
Mrs. Vi Gibbard, Arawana Road, Naramata (all correspondence to 465 Ellis St., Penticton) (496-5368).
Miss Doreen Tait, Tait St., Trout Cr., Summerland (494-1057).

CARIBOO & NORTH

PRINCE GEORGE NATURALISTS CLUB

Jim Caldwell, Pres. (563-4063).
Mrs. Jean Staniland, Secy., 5420 Dalhousie St., Prince George (964-7132).

WILLIAMS LAKE FIELD NATURALISTS

Mrs. Anna Roberts, Box 1268, Williams Lake (392-5000).
Mrs. Winifred Bennie, Box 916, Williams Lake (392-7045).

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MOSQUITOES

by Dr. Richard A. Ring, Dept. of Biology, University of Victoria

Mosquitoes are among the best known groups of insects, because of their importance to man as biting pests and as the vectors of an imposing list of human diseases. They are small, slender insects with long legs and one pair of long, narrow wings, belonging to the family Culicidae of the order Diptera (two-winged flies). They are most easily distinguished from other flies by a combination of the following characters: a long proboscis projecting forwards from the head; the presence of scales on the wing margins, veins, and sometimes also on the body; and a characteristic wing venation, the second, fourth and fifth longitudinal veins being branched.

Like other Diptera, mosquitoes undergo a complete metamorphosis, passing through four distinct stages during their life cycle: the egg, larva or wriggler, pupa, and adult. They are, therefore, members of that large group of insects (the Holometabola) in which the young are very different from their parents in form, structure, and habits. All immature stages of the mosquito are aquatic, usually inhabiting still, somewhat stagnant or brackish water. During its life the larva (cover photo) sheds its skin four times, becoming a little larger at each ecdysis (shedding), but with little change otherwise. On shedding the fourth skin, however, a very different creature, the pupa, emerges. The pupa has all the adult organs, although some are in an incomplete state of development or non-functional, and is clearly a preliminary adult. During these early, immature stages mosquitoes are of no direct economic importance to man, although they do form an important part of the diet of fish, amphibia, reptiles, some birds, water spiders, and other predaceous aquatic insects (including some species of mosquito larvae that prey on other mosquitoes).

With a final moult of the pupa the completed adult mosquito appears, equipped for an entirely different, aerial life. Adult males generally feed on nectar, pollen and water, but with few exceptions adult females pierce the skin of vertebrates and feed upon their blood. This blood meal is necessary for the maturation of her eggs, but by feeding in this manner the female inadvertently acts as the vector of many diseases. Since most mosquitoes feed on the blood of monkeys and apes, ungulates, birds, reptiles, frogs and toads, only a few species are involved in transmitting disease to man--but some of these are among mankind's greatest scourges, e.g. malaria, yellow fever, filariasis, elephantiasis, dengue fever, and encephalitis.

In British Columbia we tend to think of malaria as an exotic tropical or sub-tropical disease. It usually comes as a surprise to learn that in bygone years an endemic malarial region extended from the lower Columbia Valley up Puget Sound to about the latitude of Bellingham, although B.C. has never experienced an epidemic despite the fact that the province has a widely scattered population of Anopheles (malaria-carrying) mosquitoes. In British Columbia the only potential threat is that of encephalomyelitis, a group of diseases caused by mosquito and tick-borne viruses. Three of these commonly affect man in North America, and recently the Veterinary Branch of the B.C. Department of Agriculture reported that the first cases of Western Equine Encephalomyelitis in humans in B.C. were recorded in 1971. Three such cases were confirmed by the Divisional Laboratory, Provincial Health Branch and one person died of this form of encephalitis. It is obvious, therefore, that there exists in the province the potential for an encephalitis outbreak should the right combination of circumstances ever prevail.

Many of the mosquitoes that do bite man are physiologically unable to act as vectors of disease-producing organisms. These species, however, also have an economic influence in their nuisance value. Of the almost 2,500 species known at present throughout the world, about 50 species are found in British Columbia. For further information on this fascinating and important group of insects, I refer you to "The Mosquitoes of British Columbia" by L. Colin Curtis (Occasional Papers of B.C. Provincial Museum, #15, 1967), one of the few monographs on the insects of the province.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1971-1972

When I look back over the past year, my mind is crowded with memories of delightful field trips, routine business meetings, pleasant evenings chatting with fellow naturalists and aggressive debate on constitutional and financial matters. The job of running a Society as important as ours is a formidable one, and I want to thank the Executive for the work they have done and the hours of their time they have given for the benefit of the Society. Especially do I wish to thank those members of the executive who are retiring this year.

For the past six years our treasurer Edwin Bridgen has not only kept the accounts of the Society in a thoroughly professional manner, but he has had responsibility for sales of publications, maintaining the membership list, printing of stationery, and countless other tasks, all of which he has carried out with businesslike thoroughness. It was therefore with the keenest pleasure that, a few days ago, I received a letter from three members of the Society, making the formal proposal, which will be dealt with at our next General Meeting, that Edwin E. Bridgen be awarded the Honorary Life Membership of the Victoria Natural History Society.

Other members who have served our Society well will be retiring also. The position of Recording Secretary is a demanding one, for Minutes of the General and Executive meetings must be recorded monthly, read in public and scrutinized for errors. Margaret Muirhead has performed these duties reliably and with good humour. Our Corresponding Secretary, Rita Dickson has also carried out her duties most admirably, writing a great variety of letters throughout the year, each requiring its own turn of phrase.

Rod Muirhead as our group leader of ornithology has organized so many indoor and outdoor meetings that I have lost count. In his report Rod lists eleven field trips and six evening meetings. Attendance at the field trips has been very high; indeed, when several of our outings were joined by a University class under one of our members, Allan Brooks, some organizing skill was needed to handle the large numbers.

Under the leadership of Terese Todd, six field trips - including an ambitious one to Hurricane Ridge - were made. The leadership and teaching skill of Miss Todd have been outstanding. Appalling weather forced cancellation of one evening

meeting; attendance was poor at the other. A section from Miss Todd's Report is worth reading: "We went to Rodd Hill, where a surprising number of plants were found, despite large expanses of mowed grass. Picknicking not being allowed on their precious grass, we moved on to Esquimalt Lagoon."

One of the most time-consuming duties in our Society is that of producing the magazine, the "Victoria Naturalist". We have been fortunate this year in having a magazine of excellent quality produced by Roy Wainwright and his assistant editor, Ruth Stirling. The magazine is an important part of our Society and I sincerely hope that you will continue to give it your support.

The office of Programme Chairman is another demanding one. All of us are more than grateful to Miss Jennifer Brown for the capable way she has handled this job and the excellent fare she has offered us every month.

The work of Freeman King with the Junior Members continues, and they have held no fewer than 45 meetings during the course of the year, an astonishing record. I have not visited these youngsters at Francis Park as much as I would have liked. I am very much aware, however, that they are among the most active Members of our Society and I do hope that during the coming year I shall be visiting them from time to time to see something of their activities. Mr. King has reported to me the particular contributions of Mrs. Osborne in arranging transportation, Miss Sheilah Watts in handling the Audubon ushering, and Mr. Percy Dumbleton, the caretaker at Francis Park. There were over 9000 visitors to Francis Park in the past year, including 3000 school children, as well as delegates from forty countries when the Park was host to the International Parks' Association.

The Audubon film shows have been an outstanding success. Under Enid Lemon's management, assisted by Mr. Couser, this bald statement is something we have become accustomed to. Our Annual Meeting provides an excellent opportunity to remind ourselves of how much we are indebted to these two members for the careful organization and hard work they have put into this most important part of our activities.

Another of Enid's success stories, this time in conjunction with Harold Hosford, has been the organization of a public presentation in aid of the Clifford Carl Memorial Fund. This event raised \$312.33.

I also want to say a word of thanks to all those who have served our Society in so many ways -- to the group under the leadership of Mrs. Ivy Jarvie who have addressed nearly 500

envelopes every month; to Gwen Hughes and Kay Suttill who have produced coffee and refreshments for us after every meeting, and to the many others.

The Annual Bird Report has been widely hailed as a major contribution to local ornithology and I am very grateful to all who are taking part in this cooperative project. It is disappointing that, in spite of the reduced price to members of the Society, 70% of sales have been to non-members.

Our Society continues to give strong support to the Federation of B.C. Naturalists and to the Canadian Nature Federation. These organizations deserve our support and will continue to get it. Four of our five resolutions to the F.B.C.N. were adopted, the fifth being referred to the C.N.F. Our Society contributed the princely sum of \$6.00 to the Canadian Nature Federation.

The year has seen debate on our dues. Members were told that we are anticipating a deficit of about \$380 on our General Account, and that this will necessitate a cut-back either in our magazine or in our Meetings, as well as restricting new activities.

In any Society of the stature of ours, it is important that the Bylaws be in good order, and much time has been spent making certain necessary technical changes in our own. I think there is still work to be done on them in the coming year. Nevertheless it is my hope that we shall be spending more time talking about birds and frogs and trees and butterflies, and rather less about dues and bylaws, motions and amendments and "Point of order, Mr. Chairman".

An important milestone in the history of our Society was passed on February 8, when members voted to strike out from our Constitution all reference to "the conservation of natural resources" and replace it with "the study and protection of the fauna and flora and their habitats". When European man first settled in North America, life was harsh but the future was hopeful. Harsh, because man had to carve a living from the natural resources he found on the continent; hopeful, because the extent of these resources seemed limitless. Some of these resources, such as fossil fuels, are "non-renewable", and, conserve as we may, one day we shall have to face up to the fact that we shall have used them all up. Other resources, such as water, are "renewable", and conservation implies careful management to ensure that we do not use up more than can be replaced each year.

.....continued on Page 120

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES FOR YEAR ENDING
APRIL 30 - 1972.

Receipts

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Membership Dues | \$ 1,151.65 | |
| " " paid in advance | 160.00 | \$ 1,311.65 |
| Sales & subscriptions - "Naturalist" | | 99.50 |
| Bird Check lists | | 12.96 |
| Donations | | 80.50 |
| Bank Interest | | 52.28 |
| Miscellaneous | | 8.00 |
| | | <u>\$ 1,564.89</u> |

Expenditures

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| "Naturalist" - Prod'n & Mailing | \$ 1,263.76 | |
| Cost of Meetings | 214.00 | |
| Postage & Stationery | 44.53 | |
| Bird Count | 22.50 | |
| B.C. Fed'n Dues & Expenses | 311.00 | |
| Affiliation Fees:- | | |
| B.C. Waterfowl Society | 5.00 | |
| Okanagan-Similkameen Park Society | 5.00 | |
| Canadian Nature Federation | 6.00 | |
| Friends of the Provincial Museum | 10.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | 12.50 | |
| Filing Fee - Provincial Government | .50 | |
| Bank Charges | 1.48 | 1,896.27 |
| | | <u>\$ 331.38</u> |
| Deficit | | |

Reconciliation Statement

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Bank Balance. April 30 - 1971 | \$ 1,925.76 |
| Receipts | 1,564.89 |
| | <u>3,490.65</u> |
| Transfer from Audubon Account - April 1972 | 250.00 |
| Transfer from Scholarship Account (Adjustment) | 20.00 |
| | <u>3,760.65</u> |
| Deduct expenditure for year | 1,896.27 |
| Bank Balance as at April 30 - 1972 | <u>\$1,864.38</u> |

(signed) Treasurer E. Bridgen

(signed) Auditor Nancy Cappleman

Audited & Verified Apr. 30/72

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AUDUBON ACCOUNT

Receipts

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ticket Sales & Admissions | \$ 5,279.05 | |
| Bank Interest | 120.77 | \$ 5,399.82 |

Expenditures

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| National Audubon Society | \$ 2,652.11 | |
| Cost of Meetings | 850.00 | |
| Advertising | 453.67 | |
| Tickets & Folders | 124.14 | |
| Customs Duty | 24.80 | |
| Authorized Appropriations:- | | |
| Francis Park Board | \$200.00 | |
| Francis Park Board - | | |
| Summer Student | 200.00 | |
| Annual Bird Report | 300.00 | |
| Clifford Carl Memorial Fund | 200.00 | 900.00 |
| Surplus | | <u>\$ 395.10</u> |

Reconciliation Statement

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Balance - April 30 - 1971 | \$ 2,961.28 |
| Receipts | 5,399.82 |
| | <u>8,361.10</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Deduct - expenditures for year | \$ 5,004.72 |
| Transfer to VNHS acct. | 250.00 |
| | <u>5,254.72</u> |

Audubon Reserve & Appropriations \$ 3,106.38

Cheque not presented

Clifford Carl Fund 200.00

Bank Balance - April 30 - 1972 \$ 3,306.38

Appropriations Authorized by Council 1972-1973

Francis Park Board \$200.00

Francis Park Board - Summer Student \$250.00

(signed) Treasurer E. Bridgen

(signed) Auditor Nancy Cappleman

Audited & Verified Apr. 30/72

...PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

This Society should be prepared to lead the way in showing that wild animals and plants and their habitats deserve protection whether or not they are of the slightest use to mankind. I believe that, in making this change in our Constitution, our Society has reached a new stage of maturity in its evolution.

J. B. Tatum
President

NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mrs. Marjorie Bowen | 2/1370 Beach Drive |
| Dr. Arthur Brewer | 277 Arthur St. N., Guelph, Ont. |
| Mr. Brian Harding | 1855 Watson St., Victoria |
| Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Harding | 1855 Watson St., Victoria |
| Dr. D.H. Taylor Lee | 3110 Weald Road, Victoria |
| Dr. Anathalie Taylor Lee | 3110 Weald Road, Victoria |
| Mr. J.C. Roberts | 414/1433 Faircliff Road |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. Rocchini | 3336 Cedar Hill Road |
| Mr. C.W. Roberts | 2040 McNeil Street |

NEW OFFICERS

| | |
|---|----------|
| Recording Secy.: Miss M. Collins, 713 St. Patrick | 598-3432 |
| Corr. Secy.: Mrs. G. Hooper, 2411 Alpine | 477-1152 |
| X Treasurer: Alex Matheson, P.O. Box 1388, Victoria | |
| Editor: Miss B. J. McLintock, 3-1006 Tolmie | 383-3097 |
| Program Chmn.: Dr. R. Picozzi, 11-1595 Rockland | 384-4958 |
| Botany: S. R. Mitchell, 2041-B Courser, Sidney | 656-2249 |
| Entomology: Prof. H. H. Huxley, 510-1701 Cedar Hill X | 477-8905 |
| Ornithology: Mrs. R. Stirling, 3500 Salsbury | 385-4223 |
| Univ. Liaison: Dr. R. Picozzi, 11-1595 Rockland | 384-4958 |
| Friends of the Museum: Mrs. K. Sherman, 2168 Guernsey | 598-3237 |
| Asst., Jr. Naturalists: Mrs. G. Mitchell, 2041-B Courser, Sidney | 656-2249 |

"EDITORIAL REPRINT"

The following is reprinted in full from the latest issue of "Discovery", the quarterly magazine of the Vancouver Natural History Society. That Society is to be congratulated for the attractive new format of its publication and for the valuable and interesting material it contains. The Editor is Dr. L.K. Wade, 993 Wavertree Road, North Vancouver.

With increasing frequency of late naturalists are being criticized for doing relatively little to promote the conservation of the plant and animal life and the natural environment from which they derive so much enjoyment. That the natural environments with their plants and animals will continue to thrive or even exist in the face of "progress" and an ever expanding human population is, however, far from ensured. Naturalists are often criticized, and perhaps rightly so, for doing a lot of talking and "muckraking" on the subject, but all too seldom following up the talk with any concrete action.

Many people with deep interests in natural history appear content to play a passive role where conservation is concerned, apparently preferring either not to concern themselves with the issue at all, paying only lip service to it, or else assuming that others will take care of it. By contrast, many rod and gun associations have donated much time, energy, and money to projects aimed at ensuring the perpetuation of game species. Their record in conservation projects has, perhaps somewhat ironically, often been substantially better than that of "non-consumptive" naturalists.

It is naive indeed for any of us with interests in natural history to think that in today's world we can blithely go on enjoying these interests without giving serious attention to their preservation. The days when, because of smaller human populations and less pressure on the environment, one could take an interest in natural history and leave it at that are gone. Almost everywhere one looks "development" in a multitude of forms threatens to destroy, or is actively destroying, remaining pockets of natural ecosystems. Bogs are drained and filled, tidal flats, essential to many forms of life, are filled in the name of land "reclamation" or, as at Squamish, are dredged to provide bulk loading facilities. One does not have to directly assault species by killing them in large numbers to ensure their decimation and possible eventual extinction — the destruction of their habitats is usually far more effective.

If our plant and wildlife heritage is to be safeguarded for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of present and future generations, we, as biologists and naturalists, are going to have to take a far more active position than we have so far been accustomed to doing. We must become a strong united body capable of speaking and acting effectively on behalf of conservation and environmental quality. Only in this way will a counter-balance be provided to the many already highly organized and articulate bodies who favour "development" and "progress" at any cost. Speeches at the recent truck-loggers' convention in Vancouver which attacked the creation of Pacific Rim National Park as useful only to "a small group of elite conservationists", whereas logging the area would have been in the true spirit of the multi use land concept and somehow useful to all, should serve to illustrate this point.

If we are unable, be it through apathy, selfishness, or lack of expertise, to accomplish this aim, we will inevitably lose through default much of our natural history heritage and we should at the same time not be surprised when future generations criticize us for having failed to rise to the challenge.

THE EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Kleena Kleene, B.C.
April 12, 1972

The Editor
Victoria Naturalist

Dear Sir,

Re. the suggestion in the April "Naturalist" signed by Ruth Sparling. Before considering the varied Thrush as a candidate for "Provincial Bird", it should be trained to do a better song. Of all the thrush songs it has the least colourful.

Sincerely,

Adrian Paul

If we risk the metaphor, your editors wish, in this their swan song, to thank all those who have helped us to produce the magazine this year. The new editor for next year is Barbara McLintock (address and phone shown in list of new officers) and we wish her the best of success. We hope that she will have more articles than she can print, and that is all that an editor can hope for.

Roy Wainwright
Ruth Stirling

We had many favourable comments about Grace Bell's story last month about Hoca the Oriole; however two little errors have been pointed out by Mrs. Bell herself. The first one is our fault, a misspelling of "Icterus". The second is perhaps more understandable. When we read the original article, we thought that the author was a little bit "birdie" when she said that the name "Hoca" came from Ho- for Honey, and Ca- for nectar. However, we just thought the winter had been a bit of a strain on all of us and Grace Bell in particular. Now it turns out that we should have questioned that "nectar". What the author meant was "caviar", not "nectar". At 25 meal worms a day at one cent each (one day the total was 40) the total cost was rapidly approaching the "caviar" class. Hence the name. Need we say more, except to apologize to the author. Ho for honey, ca for caviar!

BIRDS REPORTED

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Townsend's Solitaire | (1) | Apr. 15 | Pike Lake |
| Common Scoter | (1) | Apr. 18 | Terese Todd |
| Wood Duck | (2) | Apr. 20 | Ogden Point |
| Purple Martin | (1) | Apr. 22 | Ron Satterfield |
| Myrtle Warbler | (2) | Apr. 23 | Lohbrunner's |
| Western Kingbird | (1) | Apr. 26 | Cy Morehen |
| Savannah Sparrow | (1) | Apr. 28 | Thetis Park |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | (1) | May 1 | Stuart Johnston |
| Bl'k-thr'ted Gray Warbler | (3) | May 1 | Lochside Drive |
| Nashville Warbler | (2) | May 1 | Ron Satterfield |
| Lincoln Sparrow | (1) | May 2 | Braefoot Road |
| Cinnamon Teal | (2) | May 6 | Mike Miller |
| Solitary Sandpiper | (1) | May 6 | Exeter Road |
| Blue-winged Teal | (2) | May 7 | Mrs. Roy Wainwright |
| Green Heron | (1) | May 9 | Lochaven Drive |
| Vaux Swift | (8) | May 14 | Kaye & Dennis Suttill |
| | | | Arden Road |
| | | | Arden Road |
| | | | J.B. Tatum |
| | | | Henderson Road |
| | | | Linda Slocombe |
| | | | Panama Flats |
| | | | Hastings Pond |
| | | | Ron Satterfield and Stuart Johnston |
| | | | Hastings Pond |
| | | | Ron Satterfield |
| | | | Shawnigan Lake |
| | | | Lorraine Fontaine |
| | | | Goldstream |
| | | | Ron Satterfield |

ADDENDA

Our thanks to everyone who has called us. Remember to phone in your reports in August for the September magazine. We wish you all a happy summer and good birding.

M. and L. Slocombe, 3134 Henderson Road (592-9047)

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1972

- Saturday June 3 Salt Marsh Field Trip. Meet at picnic site, Goldstream Provincial Park 1.30 p.m. Leader: Jennifer Brown 382-8006
- Saturday June 17 Combination Field Trip - Birds, Bugs and Botany. Meet at Mayfair Lanes parking lot at 8.30 a.m. or at Skutz Falls (15 m. west of Duncan) at 10.00. Leader: Mrs. B. McKinnon
- Saturday June 24 Botany Trip - East Sooke Park. Bring lunch - one mile walk to Iron Mine Bay. Leader: Stephen Mitchell 656-2249
- Saturday June 24 Bird Field Trip: meet at Mayfair Lanes 9.30 a.m. or at Francis Park at 10.00 - members of bird recognition Course are invited. Bring lunch. Leader: Ruth Stirling 385-4223
- Sunday July 16 Bird Field Trip: meet at animal pens Beacon Hill Park 9.00 a.m. This bird trip is for absolute beginners. Bring lunch - Leader: Jeremy Tatum
- Sunday July 23 Botany Trip to Jordan Meadows. Bring lunch, insect repellent and good footwear. In case of forest closure, alternate trip will be planned. Leader: Stephen Mitchell
- August 19-20 Botany Trip. Green Mountain overnight trip. Be prepared to camp-gentle 1000' climb from parking lot to meadows. People not wishing to camp can make day trip.
- Sunday August 27 Bird Field Trip to summit of Mount Finlayson (fair climb). Bring lunch. Leader: Jeremy Tatum

All trips - except those noted otherwise, meet at Mayfair Lanes Parking lot (north side-corner of Oak & Roderick at 9.30 a.m.)

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Honorary President

Honourable W.K. Kiernan, Minister of Recreation and Conservation

Honorary Life Members

Freeman F. King, Albert R. Davidson, George E. Winkler,
Miss M.C. Melburn, Miss E.K. Lemon, Mrs. L.E. Chambers

Officers 1971 - 72

President

Dr. Jeremy Tatum
#416-3187 Shelbourne St.
592-1332

Vice-President

K.R. Beckett
4484 Markham St., R.R. 3
479-5548

Immediate Past President

Mrs. F.A. Sherman, 2168 Guernsey St. - - - - - 598-3237
Recording Secretary: Mrs. R.C. Muirhead, 3431 Salsbury Way - - 384-6005
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. H.F. Dickson, 2084 Neil St. - - - 592-1862
Treasurer: E.E. Bridgen, 2159 Central Ave. - - - - - 598-4025
Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. E.E. Bridgen - - - - -

Programme Chairman: Miss Jennifer Brown, 809 Selkirk St. - - - 382-8006
Audubon Wildlife Films: Miss Enid Lemon, 1226 Roslyn Road - - 598-3517
A.H. Couser, #403 - 435 Michigan St. - - 384-0832

Group Leaders

Botany: Miss Terese Todd, Barker Road, R.R. 6 - - - - - 479-2816
Entomology: Dr. R.A. Ring, 1467 Jamaica Road - - - - - 656-2246
Ornithology: Rod Muirhead, 3431 Salsbury Way - - - - - 384-6005
Marine Biology: Freeman F. King, 541 McKenzie Ave. - - - - - 479-2966
David Stirling, 3500 Salsbury Way - - - - - 385 4223
Junior Naturalists: Freeman F. King, 541 McKenzie Ave. - - - - 479-2966
Mrs. E.C. Osborne, 1536 Vining St. - - - - - 385-8164

Ornithology Records: Dr. Jeremy Tatum, (see address above)
University Liaison: Dr. Jeremy Tatum (see address above)
Membership: Mrs. A.R. Davidson, 2144 Brighton Ave. - - - - - 598-3088
Librarian: A.R. Davidson, 2144 Brighton Ave. - - - - - 598-3088
Federation of B.C. Naturalists: Kerry Joy, Millstream Lake Rd., R.R. 6 478-5093
Friends of the Museum: Dr. D.B. Sparling, #9-1354 Beach Dr. - - - 598-4262
A.D. Turnbull, 3614 Cadboro Bay Rd. - - - 592-6025
Publicity: Harold Hosford, 450 Tipton St. - - - - - 478-5794

"The Victoria Naturalist"

Editor: Roy D. Wainwright, 3250 Exeter Road - - - - - 592-1310
Assistant Editor: Mrs. David Stirling, 3500 Salsbury Way - - - - 385-4223

Annual Dues, including subscription: Single \$3; Family \$5; Junior \$2
Junior Membership is restricted to those not under 9½ years and not over 18 years.

Financial Year is May 1 to April 30.

New members joining after January 1 - half fee.

Dues and change of address should be sent to the Treasurer.