

# KING EDWARD TIMES

VOLUME V, No. 34

December 1, 1978

1) CHRISTMAS FACULTY MEETING

will be held on Friday, December 22nd. Time will be announced later. Light refreshments will be served.

J.D.B.

2) DESIGNATION

I am pleased to advise that, as of November 23, 1978, we have been designated as VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

We are now governed by a College Board whose composition, powers and duties are unchanged from its predecessor, the College Council, in accordance with the Transitional Provisions (Section 69) of the Colleges and Provincial Institutes Act.

It is anticipated that the composition of our Board will be altered in accordance with Section 7 of the Act on February 1, 1979.

Memo from A.S. Manera,  
College Principal, dated  
November 27, 1978.

H.E.P.



2) NOTE FROM TEAL:

Any ELT instructor or other person interested in ESL who would like a copy of the 'Call for Papers' for Volume 3 of the TEAL OCCASIONAL PAPERS, please contact Barbara Richards.

B.R.

3) IN SYMPATHY

For those who have not been informed already, I thought you would wish to know that Mr. Pankratz's father passed away on Monday morning after a lengthy illness. The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon. Faculty, staff and administration join in expressing sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

Mr. Pankratz will be back in his accustomed place on Monday.

J.D.B.

4) "PEOPLE TALKING BACK"

Concerned about the future?  
Join a Canada-wide telethon to examine the issues that concern you.

The Canadian Association for Adult Education and the CBC have combined forces to organize, in February, a series of television programs. Background reading materials also will be available.

Discussion groups will be formed by voluntary and other associations, as well as spontaneously in people's homes.

For more information, get in touch with: Eileen Herridge;  
Ron Fussell  
and Vance Battellella  
(228-2181)



5) A SPECIAL NOTE FOR STUDENTS:

The VCC-Vancouver Vocational Institute offers a three-month Waiter/Waitress training program.

The next class commences December 4.

Any students interested in applying for this program, please contact the Admissions Department at V.V.I.

Phone: 681-8111

M.G.

6) POSITION OPENINGS

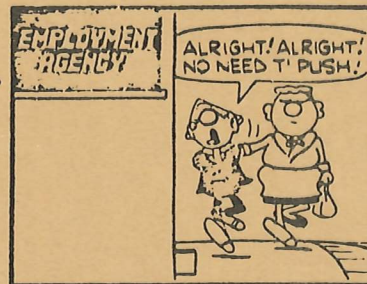
VCC-Vancouver Vocational Institute requires a Cooking Instructor. Starting Date is 1979 02 26. See faculty bulletin board for further details.

PACIFIC VOCATIONS INSTITUTE has openings for Executive Director Instructional Services, Supervisor Accounting Services, Budget and Cost Control Assistant, Board Secretary, and Senior Secretary.

Closing date for applications on the above positions is December 15, 1978.

Details posted on faculty bulletin board.

H.E.P.





# Living 65 and up

Chuck  
Bayley



## Shedding light on King Ed's fancy window

This story brings together Vancouver-born (1905) pioneer, Mrs. Marguerite Britton (nee Smithson) and a decorative three-light window panel which once adorned the stage of the old King Edward High School. Mrs. Britton has spent five months hunting for four missing facts.

It's part of the story of decorative windows in Vancouver homes and buildings, 1890 to 1940. Now, from Dec. 9 to Mar. 18, 35 of these rare windows are being shown at the Planetarium-Museum, the idea of chief curator Rob Watt. The show is free.

The search for four facts about this three-light, 8-by-12 foot panel has created a third career for Mrs. Britton. Her first was as a professional piano music teacher. When her fingers were hit by arthritis, she became a commentator for tours of Gastown. Then she helped as a volunteer docent at the Art Gallery — and lately at the museum.

### History runs in the family

You can sense that background information-sleuthing could come naturally to Marguerite Britton. History is in her family; she's been part of it even beyond being born in Vancouver.

Her father, Hillier C. Smithson, was born in Keyesville, Virginia in 1844. He fought with the 24th Virginia Regiment, Army of the Potomac in the American Civil War. He crossed the Mojave Desert in a "Prairie Schooner" to reach the Oregon coast. He followed the gold rush to Nome.

"I was the youngest child in a family whose living roots went back into early frontier history, and I lived a lot of that history in Vancouver. I was born down where the CNR station now stands. False Creek at that time went

right through Main Street was New Westminster Road. There was a bridge across to get up the hill."

Even though she attended the old King George High School on Burrard — the one torn down to make way for B.C. Hydro expansion — the mystery of the Kind Edward window grabbed her enthusiasm. Rob Watt needed four facts.

Strange thing about that King Ed decorative window. Few knew it was put there as a backdrop for the auditorium stage. It was there for 61 years, from 1912 to 1973. But it became hidden because the light that came through bothered the audiences. First, brown drapes were drawn across for the student assemblies and concerts; then someone decided to screen the light out and had the window covered with plywood.

### How window was saved

Then came a fortuitous decision (it must have been premonition) to uncover the window and store it at Langara Campus of the City College. It was moved just three weeks before King Edward went up in flames, June 19, 1973. Now it's part of the Planetarium-Museum show.

Marguerite Britton had four facts to ascertain: who commissioned the making of this rich decorative panel; who designed it; who made it; and who mounted it? For five months she searched and talked with dozens of persons connected with the glass industry, construction and Vancouver schools.

Mrs. Britton read through the minutes of the Vancouver School Board meetings from 1889 to 1912; until 1909 (they were handwritten and not easily read). She read through the folio of Vancouver's first archivist Major Matthews, covering 1920 to 1962. She spent a month phoning

many other sources.

You may recognize the names of some of the persons she contacted: Bill McLachlan, Jock Denholm, Bert Dartnell, Peter Pierce, John McMichael, Jack Robertson, Lou Monasch, Ken Waites, Jimmy Pollock, Doug Pollock, Lou Grant, Lloyd Pantages, Tony Pantages, and Kate McQueen. Kate was born in Dundas, Ontario, 1884, and taught at King Edward from 1911 to 1944.

She talked with Victor Cutlin, a maintenance man at the old King Edward, who washed the window a good many times. Also with Clifford Mason who apprenticed with Vancouver's first decorative glass artists and makers, James and Charles Bloomfield. They had their workshop in a shed on Columbia Street just up from Broadway.

Mrs. Britton dug back into the glass merchants. The Bloomfields who later became the Standard Glass Company, and the Wm. O'Neil Glass Company which did a lot of work around here in the early days.

### Only British need apply

Her greatest hope was in Doug Pollock, one of King Ed's veteran teachers. The story of the window was written up in a small booklet about King Ed High and its early days. But, horrors, Doug had thrown away the booklet only three or four weeks before and couldn't locate another copy.

Mrs. Britton was ready to give up her hunt for the missing facts when, on re-reading the School Board minutes, she found an October 16, 1912, "N.A. Leach, \$150 in connection with window, King Edward, same to be left in hands of secretary and architect."

At that time, the School Board had a policy that, "no firm, other than British subjects, could tender."

And this applied to the addition that had just been completed at King Edward and to the new Britannia High School.

### Still to be answered

By a process of elimination, which is the art of sleuthing, Marguerite Britton, came to the conclusion that William O'Neil Glass Company, which was British and the only one mentioned in the minutes, had the contract for the window; that it was made in Toronto by the McCausland Stain Glass Makers which did O'Neil's work; that it was mounted by O'Neil workmen. The only unanswered question is, who designed the window which has the head and shoulders of King Edward VII in the centre light, and a scroll and KE on the two side lights?

I have one question for Marguerite Britton. "What are you going to do with these pages and pages of notes you took as you talked with all these people and read minutes and

articles on early Vancouver construction?"

When all of us take in the free show of decorative glass, Vancouver 1890 to 1940, at the Planetarium-Museum, and we can look at the King Edward three-

light panel, we'll know how some of its mystery has been unveiled, sleuthed out by Marguerite Britton. Five months' work to help Rob Watt authenticate just one of the 35 pieces in his show!