

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Early in the year, the Provincial Government announced that the Provincial Centennial project involving the \$2,500,000 from the federal government (to be matched provincially) would be used for the erection of a new facility to house the Provincial Archives and the Provincial Museum. In addition it was agreed that the Provincial Museum would be redefined in function so as to include a Human History division in addition to its long existing function as a Provincial Museum of Natural History and Anthropology. This will relieve the Provincial Archives of its efforts insofar as "objects" in the field of human history which it had attempted to cover, although never originally authorized nor equipped to do.

The site was selected - a large square, now a parking lot, adjacent to Thunderbird Park and Helmcken House Historic Museum and also adjacent to the existing Parliament Buildings - and is admirable. An architect of the Department of Public Works, Andrew Cochrane, was assigned to the project. In mid-July the Provincial Archivist, Director of the Provincial Museum and the Provincial Anthropologist in company with the Architect and two technical assistants visited institutions in the United States and eastern Canada in connection with the design of the building. The basic plans (including profiles) have been completed and approved by the government and detailed planning is now in hand. The new faculty will be a complex of three integrated structures, one of which will house the Provincial Archives.

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The Provincial Archives continues to be actively involved in the two major historic restorations in progress by the Provincial Government - at Barkerville and Fort Steele. The Provincial Archivist is a member of the Barkerville Restoration Advisory Committee and of the Fort Steele Foundation. The resources of the Archives are in constant use as developments proceed.

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During this year, Dr. Dorothy Blakey Smith was appointed to Archivist III; she reached retirement age, but is being continued on staff by special arrangement. A new position was provided in our establishment and the vacancy filled on November 1, 1964, with the appointment of Mr. David Mason, B.A., B.L.S.

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New scales for archivist positions have been announced by the B.C. government. These also involved the establishment of a new grade. The salary ranges are as follows: Assistant Archivist, \$560 to \$695; Archivist IV, \$516 to \$635; Archivist III, \$474 to \$580; Archivist II, \$440 to \$538; and Archivist I, \$392 to \$483. All are in six steps.

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The Provincial Archivist is Honorary Secretary of the Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee of British Columbia responsible for the planning for the 1967 national centennial as well as for the centennial of the union of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island in 1966. It is anticipated that the Archives will be as deeply involved in this undertaking as it was in the years preceding the centennial celebrations of 1958.

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With the final resolution of the problems presented by the expropriation by the government of British Columbia of the British Columbia Electric Company, the back records of that company have become crown property and now are held by the Provincial Archives although on deposit at the University of British Columbia.

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During the summer months of 1964 as in 1963, the Co-ordinating Committee on the History of Medicine in British Columbia assigned two students for research work in the Provincial Archives with the financial assistance of the P.A. and Marion Woodward Foundation.

ALBERTA

The Glenbow Foundation Archives and Library have moved to the former Calgary Public Library building in Central Park. The two-storey sandstone structure will be known as the Glenbow Foundation Historical Research Centre. It is being provided by the City of Calgary, which also will provide for the maintenance. With these new facilities, the Archives will have offices, reference room, receiving and sorting area, stack area, and photographic cataloguing and storage area.

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The Glenbow Foundation has obtained a collection of personal papers of Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Lieutenant-Governor and Indian Commissioner of the North-West Territories. The papers include correspondence with Sir John A. Macdonald relating to the Riel Rebellion, personal diaries of the 1880's, notes of an interview with Sitting Bull, correspondence relating to Regina townsite, and other papers. Some restriction will remain on the papers until requirements of the former owners have been met.